

**Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara****RUSS 252: Love, Death, Justice, & Russian Literature (Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Course)****Bryn Mawr College****Spring 2023**

“Prof Vergara is good at setting very clear expectations for assignments, encouraging interaction between the outside and inside students, having class be interactive including discussions in pairs, discussions in groups, class debates, peer review, class discussion, etc.”

“Professor Vergara obviously cares very deeply about the content, and that passion reflects easily through his teaching. His enthusiasm for the readings clearly shows, which makes learning the content that much easier.”

“Jose is really great at uniting a class around a topic. Even if there were split opinions or no one was feeling enthusiastic about a reading or assignment, Jose’s energy and passion made us all participate and have fun. We were in a very new environment and there were often changes being made at the last minute, but Jose made sure that no one was confused or got behind. I felt confident in my ability to succeed in this class because I knew Jose would be the professor and I trusted him to make such a different experience feel comfortable and safe. Jose also does a great job of making himself and our TA Colleen part of the group discussion and not always just leaders. They both participated alongside us and welcomed our questions towards them openly without trying to steer us away from a conversation if it was taking up more class time than they expected. I think Jose (and Colleen) were the right team to teach and administer this class.”

“This course is the most interesting class I have ever taken. I am so upset I won’t be able to go into SCI Chester after the semester ends and continue reading different pieces of literature with the people inside. Jose somehow made literature interesting and never makes me want to fall asleep with my eyes open.”

“This class was very organized and well structured. Professor Vergara designed this class to support students and also challenge them.”

“Professor Vergara is very knowledgeable and easy to approach. He gives really great feedback on writing and creates an environment where discussion is encouraged. Specifically due to the nature of this course, the welcoming environment he created was key to having a good class experience.”

“This course was a special opportunity and also one that needed to be approached with a lot of care and compassion and Jose did this extremely well. He brings a calm and a practicality to his work and also a very clear passion. He prioritizes and encourages discussion and wants us to challenge ourselves and each other.”

“Jose is a very kind and approachable professor who made an effort to connect with each of his students. He explained theories and historical context, when necessary, in a way that was easy to understand for those of us without backgrounds in Russian. He selected texts for the course that initiated lively conversations.”

“José is a really amazing teacher. I especially appreciated how in depth he responded to our weekly writing assignments and essays, I could tell he cared, and I think my writing improved!”

“Very patient and open, no obvious needs for improvement at the moment.”

“Prepared! No knowledge of Russian literature was necessary.”

“I felt prepared in that I felt that there was little preparation needed. Jose ensures that everyone is on the same page with conventions of Russian literature that people might not be familiar with, so there was no need for any kind of preparation. This class works well as a 200 level.”

“I did feel prepared, I think it is accessible and listed appropriately especially since I have no prior experience with Russian lit.”

“The class environment consistently felt inclusive and welcoming to all students. If issues arose throughout the semester, I felt comfortable bringing them up to the Professor.”

“Having us peer review, providing examples of critiques he’s received, including clear instructions for each assignment, providing clarifying communication when possible (it is sometimes difficult to reach the inside students but he did coordinate for them to have a TA session of sorts once a week), providing feedback and the chance to re-write, providing context information about the texts, etc.”

“Jose made sure that the Inside and Outside students were all equal in the class in regards to deadlines, requirements, and assignments. Most importantly, he advocated for the Inside students to receive proper credit for their work in the class. His ability to go with the flow and keep everyone on the same track was very impressive and the class couldn’t have functioned without him.”

“We sat in a circle so we all equally faced each other and chatted easily about different prompts.”

“Professor Vergara was great with communication and also worked to change the structure of the class after receiving feedback. Professor Vergara made the classroom a welcoming environment that helped students to engage with the works we were discussing.”

“With the nature of this course, Professor Vergara made sure to make an environment where everyone felt comfortable sharing and discussing their opinions. He even was incredibly accommodating and worked with me to find alternatives to my academic accommodation that was not allowed inside the prison. He is also very kind and understanding when it comes to extensions and absences due to illness or other extenuating circumstances. The one area I could see improvement in is the depth of instruction given for assignments, as I felt like some of my classmates were confused by their open-ended nature, but this was actually something I saw great improvement over the course of the class, so I was impressed by his ability to listen to student feedback and adapt as the class was still going on. He did not wait to make changes and I really appreciated that.”

“Yes definitely. Since half of the students are incarcerated at SCI Chester accessibility and equity led the ways Jose assigned work to us. He always tried to make sure assignments were challenging but that we were all doing the same work.”

“Jose did all that he could to create an accessible and inclusive course experience. As this was an Inside Out course, most issues with communication that impeded accessibility or inclusivity had to do with the structure of the prison, as getting information to the inside students was sometimes difficult. However, for the outside students, he was very communicative and made sure to email us with updates when needed.”

“In a very untraditional class environment he made the class feel very under control even if we were on lockdown or got classrooms moved etc. He also offered some flexibility with due dates and moved things around to work with our schedules.”

“He was open to all ideas, and calm even during intense discussions.”

“Yes! This was definitely one of the best courses I’ve taken at Bryn Mawr. I think that incarcerated people are forcibly isolated in our society and having consistent and repeated interaction with the inside students helped me to understand more about their lives. I think that the conversations we had were brilliant and it was great to learn amongst people who have a very different life experience than the majority of the bi-co community. Additionally I think the class topic was really interesting. Not only did we get to read some great literature that I never would have read if I hadn’t taken this class, but we were able to draw ties to historical trends, current issue, societal norms/moral codes, and personal ideologies. I would encourage everyone I know to take this class.”

“I would. It was a very unique experience, and allows you to interact and exchange ideas with a community of people you would usually not have access to. The Inside students were all incredibly nice and grateful for the opportunity to learn, as were the Outside students. All factors made for a special learning environment.”

“Absolutely. I know that if anyone ever tells me they have an open spot in their schedule that they should take a class with Jose. The Inside Out class specifically was even more special, and I hope they will continue to be offered here. I would tell anyone to take one even if it wasn’t with Jose.”

“Literally anyone who is able to apply should try. It is an amazing experience.”

“Yes, this was one of the best classes that I have taken. The chosen texts and assignments worked well together and challenged me to have a deeper understanding of the texts.”

“Absolutely! Professor Vergara is one of the best professors I have had at Bryn Mawr. Even though this is the one class I am taking this semester that does not help move me towards a degree, it was by far my favorite. He is so excited about the topics we are discussing that it’s hard not to become engaged yourself. In addition, the experience of an Inside-Out course was incredibly impactful and I hope that Bryn Mawr can continue to offer these going forward.”

“Yes definitely, I think this was a pretty invaluable experience and Jose made that possible.”

“Yes, I would! I feel like I learned a lot and expanded the ways in which I think about literary texts. I also appreciated being a part of the Inside Out program, and I would hope that Jose teaches Inside Out courses in the future because he did a great job teaching this one.”

“Yes. The inside out course style is amazing, and this class was probably my favorite I have taken at Bryn Mawr.”

“Yes. It is an amazing experience.”

“Amazing course. Highly recommend. I hope that there is at least one Inside-Out course taught at Bryn Mawr every semester. I think it would be great if other departments had courses like this.”

“Thanks for leading such a great course. Your time and effort was always appreciated.”

“Inside/Out courses are important and so is building connections across prison walls. I also think to do this in a way that is mutual beneficial to inside and outside students and avoids volunteerism and savior complexes is also crucial. In other words it needs to be done right and coming from good motivations. Jose was someone who could make that happen and I am grateful to him for all he brought to the course.”

“Great prof! Really invested in the inside and outside students having genuine discussions and interactions. Great at leading discussions, never had a class where he just talked to us the whole time, very flexible when things didn’t go as planned (ie materials not sent through, lockdown meaning syllabus re-adjustment, etc), great at having lesson plans with a range of activities, clearly passionate about Russian literature which always makes a class better.”

“Jose is lovely! So was our TA Colleen! I am appreciative to them both for the time, care, and energy they have given us.”

“Jose is an amazing professor!”

“Please let him to continue to teach this course, it means the world to him, his students, and the students on the Inside.”

“José had a good attitude, controlled the class well.”

“José made great assignments and made a very comfortable environment. I feel José did all they could.”

“Yes, [the course] was great and most people should read these books.”

“I had a lot of fun and enjoyed this class. I never thought I would do this in prison.”

“José, you did a great job! I thought you a very capable instructor.”

“His control over the class in an inclusive way.”

“He was very effective at creating inclusiveness.”

“Yes, it is taught in a fun and engaging way.”

“He stays on course and he is serious about his coursework. No improvements.”

“Hell yes. Because it’s on a college level. We need to be challenged.”

“I loved the course because we had to read for contextual content.”

“I really enjoyed the work.”

“Jose Vergara major strengths are working with everyone with patience, time, and the energy that’s needed. I don’t think there’s room for improvement. Jose did a very good job.”

“I struggled a little in getting interested but I’m elated I took the course and the more classes attended the better it got.”

“Yes, I would recommend this course. Why? Many people don’t find Russian Literature interesting. But hearing others’ experiences, I believe many people would take it.”

“Thank you, and I fully appreciate your time and patience, coming and going from the prison to teach us Russian literature.”

“Attention to detail, structure of the class, the prompts used to encourage deep thought.”

“Jose used unique teaching techniques and group activities to include everyone and encourage everyone’s participation. I commend the outside of the box style.”

“Absolutely, because I think everyone should experience something different like this to get them to think outside the box and view things differently.”

“The course and the subject matter will stay with me for a long time.”

“I’m grateful to have been a student of his.”

“His strengths are his control of class, time management, and including all students and participation encouragement.”

“By welcoming everyone in a kind and professional manner.”

"I strongly recommend it. José is a great teacher and has strong methods of showing you the bigger picture."

"I believe this course needs to continue at SCI-Chester and offer us more credited courses (not just Russian Lit) so we can expand our educational/collegiate credits."

"He is a good speaker, calm manner, soft spoken, and a generally pleasant person. I appreciate you, José!"

"José's major strengths: 1) His passion for Russian Literature. 2) His patience in instructing. 3) His clarity in critiquing."

"Through ice breakers and rules of engagement, José created an accessible and inclusive course experience."

"YES! Of course I would recommend this course, as taught by José, to other students! I would recommend it because it was one of the BEST experiences I've EVER had while learning."

"I don't have anything except for PRAISE for this course."

"He is an amazing educator."

"He knew the material as a true professional. He has spent the time to review the material to establish the right curriculum."

"He came up with the learning experience which was informative and fun. The ability to make a student want to attend class."

"Yes, because it has the ability to make one think about aspects of the texts one may not have thought of previously."

"A professor who needs to be involved with other aspects of the Inside/Out curriculum."

"Jose has a strong sense of detail and inclusion. The content had value especially if we relate the content to today's reality."

"I truly think Jose had good structure which made a time and place for everything."

"Yes I would recommend this course because literature and literacy is important and learning to read deeper into things."

"Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it."

"You're a warm and welcoming teacher, and it was a pleasure to learn from you."

"José major strengths are his vocal instruction and genuine care for the students inside and out."

"I surely would recommend this course to other students. It was an eye opening to another country's early literary world, and the way of life in a certain area."

"The course is fun and challenging."

"Jose is a good dude and excellent teacher. But I'd also like to acknowledge Colleen Daily's participation. I thank them both greatly."

"He was the best out of three other courses."

"Yes, the best I experience I had in education."

"It was dope."

"I was afforded an opportunity to experience a group of great individuals."

"Honestly, the course was perfect."

"The overall experience was a serious outlet for me. I believe that the outlet of this course will be a benefit."

"I am looking forward to the challenge of higher learning."

“This class made me look into the mirror.”

“I really appreciate this opportunity and meeting all of you.”

“It was a great time for all to have a learning experience.”

“I thought it was run great, and I had a lot of fun. Thank you.”

“It was not overwhelming, but we still learned.”

“It was prepared me for the workload of [OTHER UNIVERSITY].”

“I learned about something (Russian) that I was totally unaware of.”

“I really enjoyed working with college students that were just elated to work with the men at SCI Chester.”

“Unique.”

“How the subject matter correlated with today’s issues and everyone’s personal experiences.”

“It opened my mind to different ways of thinking and writing and discussing different issues.”

“People should explore the literature and working on it through writing.”

“I felt like I learned things I wouldn’t have typically.”

“I do not feel it needed improvement.”

“I would take it again if possible.”

“I believe this was a top course out of all of my collegiate level courses I have taken.”

“I learned a bunch of new writing techniques and received great feedback from Outside students.”

“I think everyone was professional, kind, and welcoming.”

“I feel like I learned something that was foreign to me, but it was made to be easy and fun.”

“It opened up my mind when it comes to morality, generational gaps, cultural gaps, etc.”

“I don’t have the words to explain how wonderful this course was!”

“Challenged my thinking.”

“Education is power, and I feel powerful from this experience.”

“Thank you for allowing me to participate.”

“To help see life from a different aspect and another country.”

It pushed me to try and complete projects I would have never done.”

“This course humanized in the eyes of today’s college students, whereas I’m usually represented as some form of miscreant, savage or animal.”

“It was challenging but in a right way and I loved it.”

“It helped me develop social skills and breakdown my own biases and prejudices.”

“It’s a healthy learning experience.”

“The major strengths of Jose is his patience and understanding.”

“Mr. Jose is very helpful. Great man!”

“The round tables (discussions). They help me get my views out, and I get multiple other aspects of the same literal piece. Also like the writing assignments. These also help with better understanding other views.”

“I enjoy the reading. I also enjoy the honest feedback. You are teaching me how to read critically and formulate an essay. We haven’t been challenged that way in an inside out course.”

“I like classroom debates! I like the responses, I feel like small group split up to go over them is good before the full class debate. All has been very interactive and well structured!”

“I’d say all of what we’ve been doing have been engaging. The reading material, class discussions and the writing assignments. I could say writing assignments are the most enjoying part because I like writing more than speaking. But they’re all useful and engaging.”

“One on ones with your partners. Also group discussions because you get to see everyone’s paradigm shifts.”

“The critical thinking and the daily response, because it reflects what ideas everyone has on the materials, as well as on the writings which are required.”

“I feel like the most useful aspect of this course is the collective interacting, breaking the subject matter down which has been mostly moral issues, issue about character and points of views of peoples responses to circumstances.”

“The aspects I found most useful in the course is the syllabus, the clear explanations, and partner review and advice on my writing. It helps me to better understand what I’m assigned to do, as well as get another point of view.”

“I have not found a least useful aspect. Jose and the students motivate and engage, so there is no least useful.”

“Everything to me is of benefit in a learning environment. The writing, the digestion of the literature, the conversations are all useful. Of course I like to correlate the subject matter to reality, our realities.”

“The spacing and structure is on point. The time or assignments is enough but the weekly due dates keeps me on top of it.”

“I believe all the assignments and the way it is spaced is very appropriate and right on schedule.”

“The professor and staff are wonderful.”

“I really enjoy this section. I must do better, and you and Colleen are helping me with that.”

“You guys give good direction and good feedback and pointers in responses to the writing assignments.”

“I enjoy the challenge of the writing assignments. I find myself evolving as I leave my comfort zone and learn to express myself in more detail.”

“I enjoy all of the writing assignments.”

“I enjoyed the assignments plus the choices I’ve had instead of just one topic. Also the peer revisions helped me a lot on a better perspective.”

“These discussions are valuable tools to experiencing the college aspect.”

“I enjoy the fact that you allow the students to critique each other’s papers. I learned a lot from A and C.  
😊”

“Great, want more time.”

“All has been very well!”

“I like the atmosphere of the classroom and how we go about expressing ideas and group discussions. Everybody gets a chance to speak and an opportunity to express their personal ideas with no negative feedback. Everything is positive.”

“I love the discussion portion.”

“The discussions are great.”

“Very good. I like the personal and weekly feedback.”

- “The feedback that I’ve received so far during the course so far is constructive to me because I don’t really know a lot about essays and things like that and the feedback is guiding me in doing better with my work like the things I could improve or what I’m already doing good.”
- “All the feedback I have received has been very constructive and the criticism has been a benefit to me.”
- “Very constructive. It cannot be improved other than more allotted time with partner for constructive criticism.”
- “When we were discussing Bazarov’s death, I was pro accidental, but with the other points of view, I seen the likeliness of suicide.”
- “There are old ideas that I have forgotten, so I don’t really have an aha moment. I am upset that I didn’t give *Crime and Punishment* a chance years ago.”
- “Nihilism was a concept I wasn’t inform or knowledgeable about. It was enlightening to learn about this and how it played out in the character of Bazarov.”
- “Bazarov’s ambivalence towards life (not his nihilistic beliefs) helped me connect with my son. I understand him (my son) through examining *Fathers and Children*.”
- “When the grave of Bazarov in *Fathers and Children* was discussed. I never grasped the significance of that moment until then. I appreciated that.”
- “Keep up the good work.”
- “I just want to say thank you for giving me a chance to learn more and further my education.”
- “Continue to be helpful and be patient. Thanks for the opportunity!”
- “I would like to thank you firstly because your presence means a great deal. I would love to see how we can make change be a reality with love and justice, key components mentioned initially in the course.”
- “Keep doing a great job.”
- “Sitting in a circle is fun, I think it makes conversation easier”
- “I find the small group discussions to be the most productive and engaging. Working in smaller groups (not necessarily just groups of 2 but larger ones of 4-5) allows everyone to participate comfortably and especially hear from students that I don’t hear from in whole class discussion. With smaller groups, conversation feels more engaging and less ‘formal’ in a way, which I think is why people like to express themselves more in them. Moreover, the specific activities I have enjoyed in the small groups have been zoning in on one specific quote/passage from the readings. Because we can’t come in with our notes and books, the selected passages to read together is an easy way to remember specific moments from the text without having to find them again in a new book without your notes.”
- “I really enjoy small group/partner discussions because I feel like I get to hear opinions that people may be too shy/nervous to share in front of the entire class. I felt as if the sinking ship activity was very engaging and everyone had very strong opinions that they wanted to express. I also really like when the potential discussion topics are written down (like what we did with ‘Hygiene’) because it gives us things to think about, even if we don’t make it to discussing it as a class. It also potentially gives people ideas of new topics to switch discussion to. Finally, as always, I love peer-review and the feedback that you and Colleen give because I feel like it helps me improve.”
- “I think group fun and educational activities are really good, as well as the discussions we do every week!”
- “I also appreciate the context given on each novel and I especially liked reading ‘Hygiene.’”



- “I really enjoy the layout of the classroom and how all of us are able to address one another. The flow of conversation works very well this way and I don’t think we hit many issues with not knowing what to talk about.”
- “I really like when we do discussion questions in class and discuss what each of us thinks of the questions. this helps me get a better understanding of the text.”
- “We don't have much time and it's used very efficiently.”
- “Honestly, so far everything has been fine for my learning!”
- “Honestly this course has been going really well for me so far and I’ve felt that the varied types of engagement have helped me to consistently learn new insights from my peers that I didn’t have while initially reading.”
- “I don't think there has been anything that's not productive or engaging! I think the structure we've come to is working really well.”
- “I think the pacing is good and not overwhelming without being underwhelming either.”
- “I think the pace and structure is working well. I think the amount of reading and writing is very fair.”
- “I’ve found the pacing and assignments to be appropriate, and I appreciate the adjustment on the essay.”
- “I think the spacing and assignments is very good. It is a literature class so I expected to have to read larger chunks of writing per week, so having the amount we do is very reasonable.”
- “I really like this course’s structure and think the assignments and homework are appropriate for the course level.”
- “Yes, I have found the assignments to be well-spaced and not too overwhelming. Sunday night works well to turn in work, as it keeps me from procrastinating too much, and the amount of pages we have to read/write have been manageable.”
- “I think all of the writing assignments have been conducive to personal growth and class discussion. They focus our thoughts before in-person class and give us guidance on how to improve.”
- “I do greatly appreciate how the essays are broken down into a draft and then a revised essay. This structure allows me to write more freely in the draft, focusing mainly on crafting my argument/idea, and then refine those ideas in the revised essay.”
- “The weekly responses have been useful in helping me digest the reading before entering the classroom. They also then allow for good discussion in class when we share our work with our partners. Essay 1 allowed me to reflect on the class so far and our discussion, as well the work I’ve submitted through my weekly responses. It was difficult to choose just one passage to focus on for the close reading, but once chosen, it was interesting to try and incorporate topics from class discussion and my own interpretations into one essay.”
- “I really like the weekly responses, because I feel like it allows me to condense my thoughts on the texts to one page or focus on one part I found important I thought the instructions for the essay were very detailed, which I enjoyed, probably because again I worry that I am focusing on the ‘wrong’ thing when given an open-ended topic.”
- “I think the discussion questions and weekly responses are helpful. Doing a draft and revision with peer review involved is not something that I normally do, but I appreciated being able to see another person’s writing.”

“I think they've been great! I like the mix of open write or specific prompt response for the weekly responses. I really enjoyed reading an inside student's essay and giving and receiving feedback.”

“The weekly responses have been really helpful to bring to class, as it means I have not only read the work assigned but thought critically about it before class. It makes me feel more prepared to participate, even just when it's in pairs or small groups. All the steps so far for essay 1 have been helpful, especially the peer review. I really valued the feedback my partner gave and it will definitely help me to improve my paper.”

“I think we have built a positive discussion environment where many people feel comfortable speaking and even disagreeing with one another. I am positively surprised.”

“Overall, my impression of the classroom environment is very positive. I feel the classroom atmosphere is always respectful and engaging.”

“I feel the classroom environment has become more comfortable, and when people share their thoughts it has become more of a conversation between classmates rather than individual responses. Knowing everyone's names, I think, has allowed for a deeper communication method within the class.”

“I find that I have plenty of opportunities to express my opinions freely and really like the popcorn style discussion.”

“Now, it feels that everyone is very comfortable in the class. I have noticed that in discussions that I have found myself and others more willing to push back, then offering a different perspective.”

“I like the variety in activities.”

“Really well done! I feel like everyone gets a chance to be heard and that people that have talked less the first few classes are talking more now. I am often in classes where the same people talk all the time and shy students never come out of their shell so it's been really cool to see how everyone is participating.”

“I love the classroom atmosphere and how things flow. As I said, speaking over people gives me the heebie geebies but other than that I love how we interact and flow as a group. People have some really great ideas and hearing what others think about a certain topic or area of discussion is so fun.”

“I love the discussion component of the class, I love hearing what everyone else thinks about the reading.”

“The discussion has been my favorite part of class. I think everyone has become comfortable speaking up and sharing their ideas in the group. I really enjoyed the lifeboat exercise and the discussions on paragraphs of *Crime and Punishment*. Sometimes I can tell we aren't going in the direction planned for class, but I don't think we ever go off track and it always ends in interesting conversation.”

“I like how specific [feedback] is and how you don't hold back from positive criticism.”

“Yes, I find that the feedback I receive is very constructive and I'd like to praise this course for the fact that I do not have to seek out office hours or a meeting with the professor if I want to know generally what I can improve. I really appreciate that you take your time to give us constructive feedback, and also appreciated that you shared feedback you have received.”

“Overall I think the feedback is great!”

“The feedback that I have received has been very specific and helpful. In my essay, both after discussing it in class and receiving written feedback, I very clearly understood what things I needed to change in my

work. The feedback has also helped me better understand how I could have been more specific and clarified my arguments.”

“I enjoy receiving email feedback, and I was glad to get feedback from my partner. Talking with each other was nice, and I’m glad he felt like he could give me constructive feedback.”

“Yes - feedback has been specific and actionable as well as timely.”

“I believe the feedback I have received has been constructive. Everyone is very helpful and positive and the constructive criticism is clearly stated so that I can understand how to improve and look at certain corrections differently. I think emails regarding our writing is very efficient and peers have been doing a great job sharing thoughts.”

“Yes, it helps me think more about what I am writing and how I can improve of my writing.”

“Yes, it’s always constructive and helpful. I like how both Colleen and José give more questions to us after they read our work to challenge us further and make us think more about what we read and what we wrote. I can take these comments and think about them before we meet in class to prepare and make sure my analysis is deep and insightful. I don’t think the feedback system needs any improvement!”

“I don’t think we have many moments in this class when we are doing solo work and I love it. I like that we are constantly doing an activity or discussion, as it keeps me engaged and awake. I am not huge on lecturing and this class keeps it to a minimum, likely due to it's nature, but it is still something I really appreciate.”

“It is an open environment where people are given the space to express all their thoughts, and for classmates to consider those thoughts as legitimate ideas worth thinking about. (Which we def have!)”

“I hadn’t even considered Bazarov killing himself as a perspective in *Fathers and Children*. Discussing that point of view in class was definitely eye opening and allowed me to think about the character and his behaviours in a new light.”

“I’ll be honest, by the time I reached the end of fathers and children, I just skimmed the epilogue because it felt less important. The close reading in class got me to think more deeply about why the author included that section and what he was trying to tell the reader with it. I learned a lot and it sparked an interest to both delve deeper into that passage, and look more closely at author's word choice in the future, as it may be purposeful.”

“Conversations around what we would do to protect our family during ‘Hygiene’ discussions were really interesting and insightful.”

“When we were discussing ‘Hygiene’ I had my ‘aha’ moment. During that class, the perspectives that were being offered by the inside students changed how I understood the story. It made me rethink the actions of the characters and then reflect if I were in their situation what would I do. Because I have never been a high-stress, life or death situation, I have not been forced to make a difficult discussion where ethics and morals do not matter.”

“I thought our conversation on ‘Hygiene’ was very beneficial. Everyone has different perspectives, and hearing those and being able to understand where people came from stood out to me as sort of an ‘aha’ moment.”

“When we were discussing fathers and children I had a very negative perception of Bazarov and after speaking in a group and with my partner I opened my mind to the positives in his character that I did not see before talking to anyone.”

“When we read the first part of *Crime and Punishment* I felt that I could relate somewhat to Raskolnikov's feelings of anxiety about his future and worries of burdening his family. Obviously I have never felt the nervousness of waiting to kill someone, but the vivid descriptions made me feel nervous as well as reminding me of my own anxious feelings. This moment was pushed further when my partner in class told me how he had related to this feeling in a much closer way in relation to a personal experience more like Raskolnikov's than my own. It was crazy to think about how someone could find the text so intimately relatable and how Dostoevsky could invoke such a visceral feeling through just words.”

“Thanks for a great class so far!”

“Loving the class!”

“Great class, thanks for all your hard work!”

“I am just generally appreciative of the time and care and practicality that you give to this course. I think we can all feel it and it does make a difference.”

“I think the class is going really well and I have enjoyed it.”

“I've really enjoyed the class so far and I'm excited to keep learning!!”