<u>**Student Evaluation Summary**</u>

Course: FWS 1101.105 – *Orbis Terarrum: The Medieval World was a Globe*
Semester: Spring, 2018
Institution: Cornell University
Number of Students: 15

Most Common Positive Comment:
– Course materials were generally engaging, esp. in the later part of the semester
– Class discussions were important in understanding the texts
– Feedback on assignments was helpful and specific

Most Common Suggestions / Complaints:
– Student engagement declined near the end of the semester
– Readings were long and difficult to understand
– More attention to teaching close reading would be helpful

Excerpts of Student Feedback:
– "I really enjoyed this class in totality. Every day the teacher was prepared to lead discussions, the readings built on the topics we were learning sequentially, and the manner in which the teacher directed the students on how to writes essays effectively was impeccable."

– "I believe that my writing has improved since taking this course as I felt like I was held to a high standard. The course promoted this improvement because of the availability and engagement of Professor Greenlee."

– "The course had engaging readings and unique writing assignments that challenged us to write in ways that are uncommon."

– "I really enjoyed the material (even though I was not overly excited for it at the beginning), and I enjoyed the way in which Prof. Greenlee directed discussions. I learned a lot about a topic that I had never had an opportunity to carefully look at."

– "This course was not what I expected, yet it turned out to be fruitful in its own way. I enjoyed our class discussions on maps and certain texts because the instructor was so knowledgeable and the content was well-connected."

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Course Evaluation Response Summary
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14 Responses, 15 Enrolled, 93.33% Response

For your First-Year Writing Seminar, please answer the following:

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
1) The most important reason I chose this seminar: 1) I liked the course description. 2) I thought it would be challenging. 3) My advisor recommended it. 4) It was offered at a time I had open. 5) I could not get into one of my top preferences.	2.50	1.5	14	7	0	0	7	0
2) How much reading did you do? (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.36	0.81	14	11	2	0	1	0
3) How much out-of-class writing did you do? (First-Year Writing Seminar guidelines suggest a minimum of five essays and a maximum of eight.) (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.36	0.81	14	11	2	0	1	0
4) How much time was spent learning about writing? (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.36	0.71	14	11	1	2	0	0
5) How much time was devoted to learning how to revise essays? (FWS guidelines suggest that a minimum of three essays go through a process of guided revision.) (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.77	1.24	13	9	0	3	0	1
6) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized choosing the words that best express ideas. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.64	0.71	14	7	5	2	0	0
7) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing grammatically correct sentences. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.71	0.45	14	4	10	0	0	0
8) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized structuring sentences carefully. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.64	0.71	14	7	5	2	0	0
9) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized providing appropriate documentation for sources How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.36	0.47	14	9	5	0	0	0
10) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized developing a strong argument. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.43	0.62	14	9	4	1	0	0
11) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing well-focused, coherent paragraphs. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.00	0.92	14	4	8	0	2	0

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Question	Mean	SD	N	1	2	3	4	5
12) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized making transitions from one paragraph to the next. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.36	0.89	14	2	7	3	2	0
13) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized focusing an essay on a significant problem, hypothesis, thesis, argument, or idea. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.36	0.61	14	10	3	1	0	0
14) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized supporting claims with pertinent, substantive evidence. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.29	0.45	14	10	4	0	0	0
15) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized incorporating and analyzing source material and quotations. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.71	0.58	14	5	8	1	0	0
16) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized editing essays to eliminate flaws of grammar, word choice, spelling, and format. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.75	0.59	12	4	7	1	0	0
17) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized revising essays to enhance interest, clarity, and persuasiveness. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.86	0.83	14	5	7	1	1	0
18) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing in a style appropriate for a particular purpose. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.43	0.49	14	8	6	0	0	0
19) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing in a style appropriate for a particular audience. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.92	0.82	13	4	7	1	1	0
20) In this seminar, reading and writing assignments formed an understandable progression. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.71	0.58	14	5	8	1	0	0
21) In this seminar, the level of difficulty of the readings seemed appropriate. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.00	0.75	14	3	9	1	1	0
22) In this seminar, I learned to read with care in the discipline of the seminar. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.14	0.98	14	5	3	5	1	0
23) In this seminar, informal/preparatory writing assignments helped me understand the readings and write an essay. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.85	1.09	13	6	5	1	0	1

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24) In this seminar, I had opportunities to confer privately with the teacher. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.14	0.34	14	12	2	0	0	0
25) In this seminar, the teacher was well-prepared. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.36	0.47	14	9	5	0	0	0
26) In this seminar, the teacher directed discussions well. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.46	0.49	13	7	6	0	0	0
27) In this seminar, the teacher treated my writing with respect. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.36	0.61	14	10	3	1	0	0
28) In this seminar, the teacher graded my papers fairly. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.43	0.62	14	9	4	1	0	0
29) In this seminar, the teacher returned our papers within a reasonable length of time. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.36	0.47	14	9	5	0	0	0
30) In this seminar, comments on each returned paper helped me improve the next assignment. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.69	0.82	13	7	3	3	0	0
31) In this seminar, I felt intellectually stimulated. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.79	0.77	14	6	5	3	0	0
32) In this seminar, I became a more confident writer. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.71	0.79	14	7	4	3	0	0
33) In this seminar, I became a more skillful writer. How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.64	0.71	14	7	5	2	0	0

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C01. What are your overall impressions of the course? Please be as specific as possible in analysis of strengths and/or suggestions for improvement.

24117. Great teacher and interesting materiel. Readings were long so not everyone did them which showed in the class discussions. It took a while to get the discussion to go beyond the surface.

17210. The course material was engaging and really painted a good picture of common misconceptions that people nowadays have of the medieval period.

3588. Overall, I thought that the idea of this course was good. I liked learning about the thought processes and how medieval people viewed the world in their times.

20672. I really enjoyed the course in totality. Every day the teacher was prepared to lead discussions, the readings built on the topics we were learning sequentially, and the manner in which the teacher directed the students on how to write essays effectively was simply impeccable.

1035. I enjoyed this course. As far as writing goes, I think the essays about Cornell were most useful because they required students to think differently. Students are usually used to analyzing one or two texts, but these essays forced students to look at different types of evidence. I think the readings from Hjortshoj were least useful. At least in my case, writing is a very hands on activity, and "reading about writing" isn't helpful. As far as content goes, I enjoyed looking at all the maps and I felt like I learned more about medieval culture and perspective.

3533. I really enjoyed the material (even though I was not overly excited for it at the beginning), and I enjoyed the way in which Prof. Greenlee directed discussions. I learned a lot about a topic that I had never had an opportunity to carefully look at.

17276. Overall, I'd say the thing I liked most about the course was examining medieval maps in class. I thought the course spent a bit too much time on religious topics, especially near the beginning of the semester, with the readings related to Genesis.

33491. This course was not what I expected, yet it turned out to be fruitful in its own way. I enjoyed our class discussions on maps and certain texts because the instructor was so knowledgeable and the content was well-connected. I thought the progression of essays sometimes felt disconnected from the course materials, particularly when writing about Cornell geography. It was difficult to shift gears from reading about medieval travelers and then writing about the Ithaca area.

33564. The course had engaging readings and unique writing assignments that challenged us to write in ways that are uncommon. The informal writing assignments made us write in a way that highlighted the potential problems of relying on a particular writing style. The book on college writing we read was good because it presented a multitude of useful ideas, and we discussed the books suggestions in class which furthered my knowledge of writing for the class. The course material and topics were interesting and sparked thoughtful discussions.

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C02. Do you believe your writing has improved? If so, how did the course promote this improvement? Are there aspects of writing we should have stressed more heavily?

24117. Yes. The teacher was very critical of my writing which helped me improve. Word choice and grammar seemed to be primary focuses.

10357. I'm always a fan of informal writing assignments and story craft, but obviously that's not really relevant to the course so otherwise I think it was pretty good, and I believe that I've developed as an essay writer.

17210. I focused more on the structure of my writing and made it sound less noncomittal.

3588. I think my writing has improved. I have become more aware of "to be" verbs, which I did not know were a problem in writings prior to this course.

20672. My writing has certainly improved. The course promoted this improvement because periodically there would be in class exercises working on the convents of essay writing. In addition, the comments provided in individual meetings as well as on papers definitely helped develop critical thinking and writing skills.

1035. I think my writing improved. I can't think of any aspects I would like to have seen more.

3533. Yes. I am a lot more careful with the way I structure sentences and paragraphs, and I cite much better.

17276. I think the course has helped me expand the types of essays I feel comfortable with writing, and it has definitely pushed me to write longer and more focused essays.

33491. I believe my writing has improved since taking this course as I felt like I was held to a high standard. The course promoted this improvement because of the availability and engagement of Professor Greenlee. He facilitated efficient communication and tangible advice that often directed my writing when I felt lost.

33564. I believe my writing has improved. This course made me see some of the common mistakes I can make in my writing. It also stressed the importance of the revision process. I would have liked to have seen perhaps more examples of papers of the field. One thing taught in the course is that, for college writing, one could choose to write without a pre-made format. While I did enjoy the freedom associated, I would have liked to have seen strong papers related to our study.

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C03. Were written comments on papers helpful? If so, why? If not, why not?

24117. Yes they were very helpful because they would often explain why what I had done was wrong and would even sometimes include a potential better way to accomplish what I was trying to do.

10357. The written comments were specific and helpful.

17210. The written comments were helpful in making me realize that my tone in papers was generally too passive, and also that I usually don't develop my argument in papers fully enough.

3588. The majority of comments on papers were helpful.

20672. They were very helpful. It was clear, straight-to-the-point, and the comments certainly helped with writing better argumentative essays overall.

1035. Yes the comments were useful and specific. For example, they helped me cut down on "to be" verbs, hedging and generalized statements, which were three pitfalls of my writing.

3533. Yes. They all provided me with advice that I could use on future assignments, and they all made sense when I looked back at what I had written.

17276. I think they were helpful, in the sense that they were very detailed and gave an honest opinion of my essays.

33491. Yes, the written comments were helpful because they were always concise and direct. I understood my mistakes and how I could improve. I appreciated the honesty and constructive criticism.

33564. Yes. They pointed out the repeated mistakes on my paper, and when working on future papers I kept the suggestions in mind throughout the writing process.

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C04. How useful were class discussions of the assigned texts? of writing?

24117. They were not always that great because the readings were so long and complex. Discussions often started very vague and when they moved into analysis not that many students felt confident enough to contribute.

10357. Usually they were useful, sometimes could drag on a bit, but otherwise interesting and engaging.

17210. Discussion was helpful in understanding the logic behind some of the more confusing readings like Plato's Timaeus.

3588. Class discussions were very useful in understanding maps and the assigned texts. It is often difficult for me to understand the readings and what the author is trying to convey. It is also sometimes difficult for me to understand the maps. However, class discussions were useful because they allowed me to hear what my peers picked up.

20672. The class discussions of the texts were pretty useful. For me, it kind of tailed off at the end in terms on interest level but the information discussed during these classes were eye-opening nonetheless.

1035. Class discussions were my favorite aspect of the class, since they enriched my understanding of the texts. Since many of the texts were older, the writing style could be difficult to decipher. Even if I thought I had a good grasp on the text, listening to other people's opinions and analysis was always fun.

3533. Discussions were stimulating as I had an opportunity to look at what everyone else had to say. Everyone had interesting interpretations that I could later use to build up on my own arguments.

17276. Discussions of the assigned reading materials helped me understand them better, and in some cases gave ideas for essays about these texts.

33491. I thought the assigned texts were better clarified by the words of the instructor rather than my peers. I

Sometimes I felt like I missed the point of the assigned readings, but the class discussions often brought the real arguments to light.

33564. They were incredibly useful. They allowed for a more meaningful understanding of the text. There were not too many discussions of writing, relative to the reading, but they were nonetheless helpful.

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C05. After taking this course, what do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses as a writer?

24117. I think I am very good at using evidence to make a point. My greatest weakness is probably relying to heavily on a few select words or sentence structures which makes my writing more boring and repetitive.

10357. I use too much passive voice and over use to be verbs / other phrases and words, but I consider myself to have strong structure and prose, as well as good textual analysis.

17210. I have a decent structure when writing papers, but I need to work on the finer details of the essays more.

3588. I think my greatest strengths are brainstorming and outlining. My greatest weakness is actually writing and constructing sentences. It takes me a while to construct sentences because I usually try to make sure each sentence is strong as I write, instead of making sure each sentence is strong at the end.

20672. Strengths: creating a cohesive argument, implementing and finding evidence to support argument effectively, logical organization of ideas.

Weaknesses: NONE

1035. I think I'm an eloquent writer, and I can make a clean argument. My greatest weakness is collecting research evidence and narrowing down my focus of study.

3533. Strengths: My writing flows well and my sentences have a coherent structure. My writing is not necessarily a pain to read through.

Weaknesses: I write too much—some of my paragraphs run on and on. I also tend to provide too much evidence and not enough analysis, and expect the reader to see exactly what I mean without explicitly stating it.

17276. I'd say one of my strengths is my ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences. One weakness is that I sometimes have difficulty in constructing a focused argument for my essays and finding adequate evidence to support it.

33491. My greatest strengths include incorporating evidence and engaging the reader with my language.

My weaknesses include clarity and communicating the importance of my argument.

33564. I think I still need to work on things like verb choice, but my skill in formatting and argumentation have greatly improved.