

OLIVER BENDORF
Student Evaluations
Fall 2011, UW-Madison
ENGL 203 – Beginning Fiction & Poetry Workshop

Total enrollment: 15 students
Response rate: 93%

Please note that the scale runs from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree).

CATEGORIES	AVERAGE
The instructor communicates ideas and concepts clearly.	3.9
The instructor explains the material in an interesting way.	3.6
The instructor fostered a welcoming/inclusive environment.	4.0
The instructor stimulated my interest in the topic.	3.6
I would recommend this instructor to other students.	3.9

Student Comments:

General comments:

“Oliver was an amazing teacher! I truly feel I have grown as a writer.”

“Keep Oliver teaching the course for as long as you can convince him to stay. Before I came into this class, I enjoyed writing fiction, but only tolerated poetry, and, while I can't say I'm a poetry lover now, Oliver's passion for writing/teaching this class helped me to see beauty in poetry.”

“Oliver is great, he thinks up lots of interesting ways to challenge our creativity. We did unique, fun things as a class, and it was fun to experiment with different writing styles. Oliver is very encouraging, and he gives good feedback. He seemed to really care about our opinions and our development as writers.”

Q: What did you expect to learn? What did you actually learn?

“I expected to learn about creative writing. I almost learned more about myself as a writer, which was an interesting process.”

“I can more widely appreciate different styles/forms now. I recognize certain distinguishing characteristics. I also learned how to revise just enough; not too much.”

Q: Has the course irritated you? Stimulated you? Touched you personally? Are you the same person who began the class 13 weeks ago? What's different?

“It has made me seriously consider becoming an English major, actually.”

“I find that I'm writing more for enjoyment now. I've always loved writing and this class stimulated that love even more.”

“I feel like I’m a better writer than I was at the start, mainly because I enjoy the process a lot more now.”

“The course made me think—in a good way—and made me write stuff outside my comfort zone. I really enjoyed it. I have more tools now.”

“This course helped me be more willing to put myself on display for critique.”

Q: Were new topics introduced in an order that facilitated your learning process?

“Yes. Each week I learned something new and was able to incorporate that into my writing.”

“Reading and discussing [the readings] along with reading and discussing workshop work was very complementary to the learning process.”

Q: Do you have any suggestions for how this course could be improved in future semesters?

“None. Keep teaching it, as long as you’re willing. This class will lose a lot when it loses you.”

“Meet more often, because going to class is enjoyable.”

“No—I genuinely enjoyed this class the way it is.”