



Summer 2016 report for ENC 3250-523(56054) Professional Writing (Thorold Roberts)

USF Student Assessment of Instruction

Project Audience: 22

Responses Received: 19

Response Ratio: 86%

Subject Details

Course Name: Professional Writing

Section: 523

College Name: Arts & Sciences

Department Name: English

Term Title: Summer 2016

First Name: Thorold

Last Name: Roberts

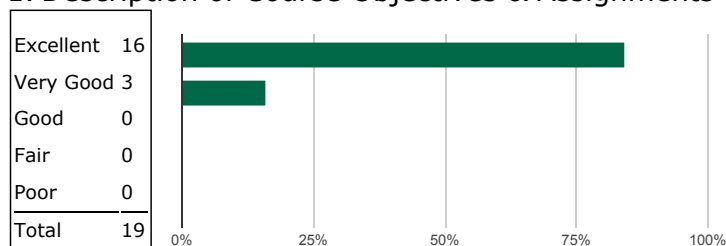
Section 1. Frequency Statistics

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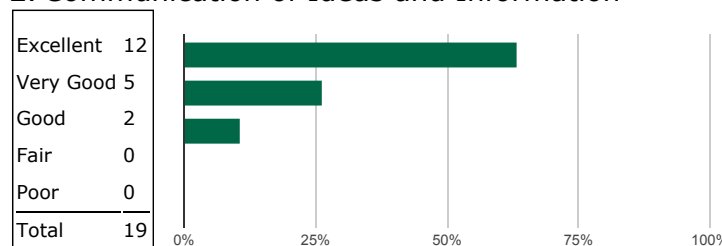
| Competency Statistics | Value |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.6 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.8 |

1. Description of Course Objectives & Assignments



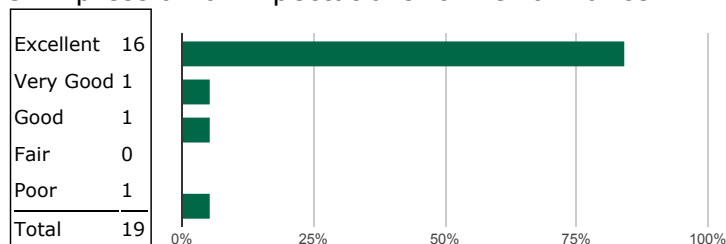
| Statistics | Value |
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| Mean | 4.8 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.4 |

2. Communication of Ideas and Information



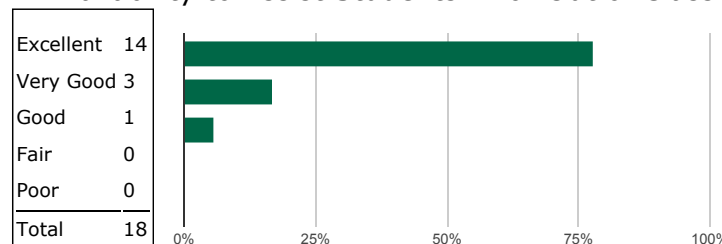
| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.5 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.7 |

3. Expression of Expectations for Performance



| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.6 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-1.0 |

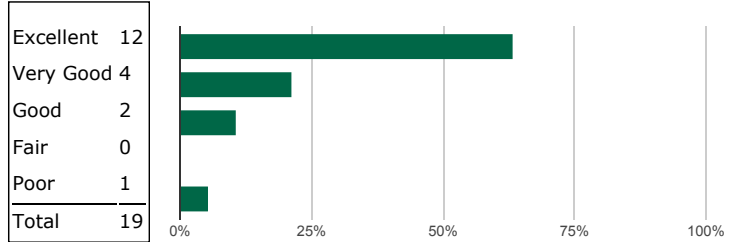
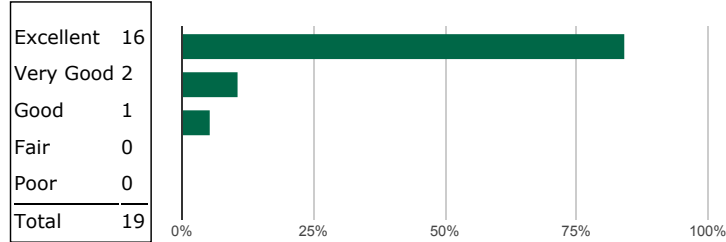
4. Availability to Assist Students In or Out of Class



| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.7 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.6 |

5. Respect and Concern for the Students

6. Stimulation of Interest in the Course

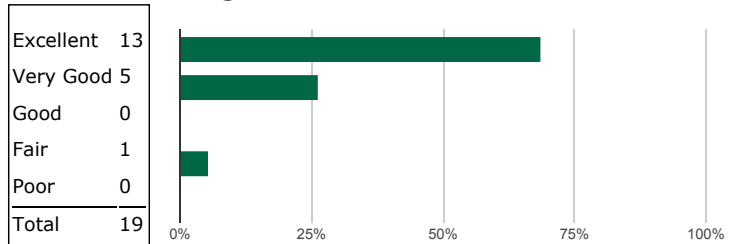
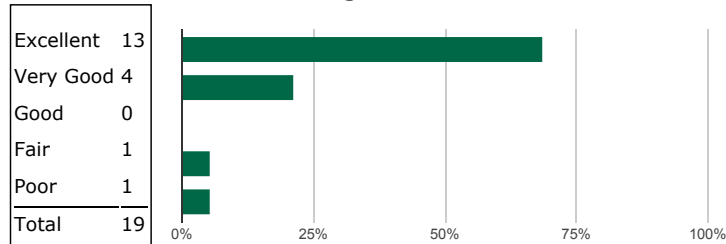


| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.8 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.5 |

| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.4 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-1.1 |

7. Facilitation of Learning

8. Overall Rating of the Instructor



| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.4 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-1.1 |

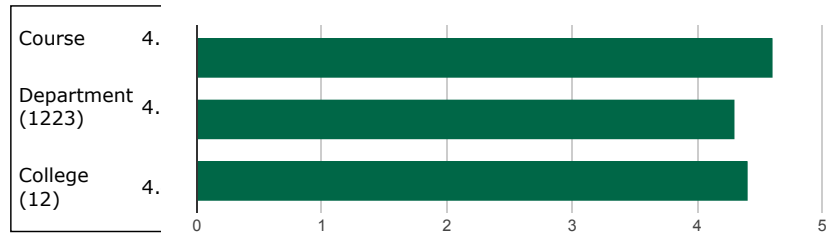
| Statistics | Value |
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| Mean | 4.6 |
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| Standard Deviation | +/-0.8 |

Section 2. Comparative Section

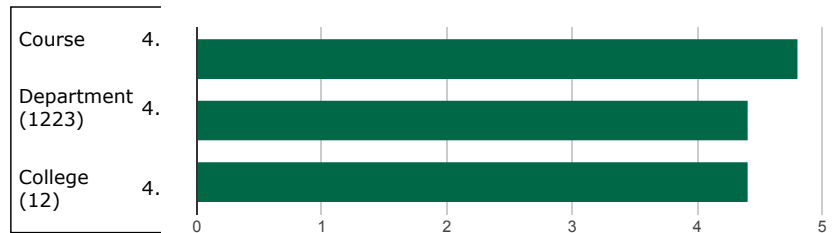
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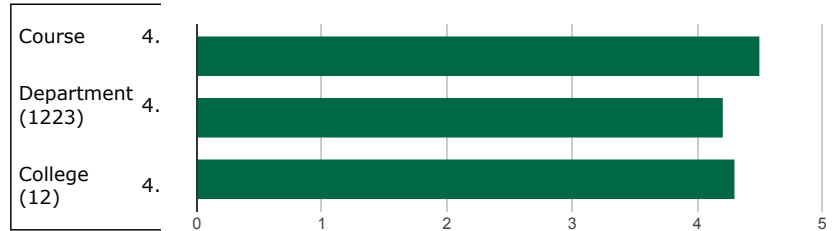
Overall



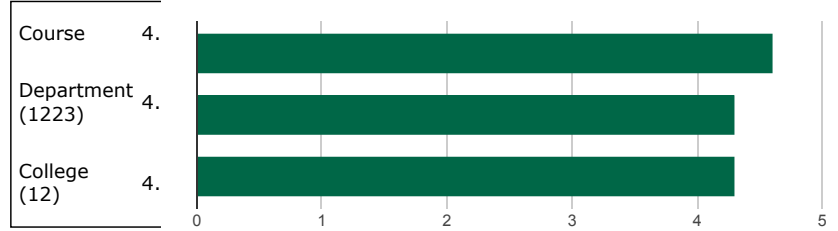
1. Description of Course Objectives & Assignments



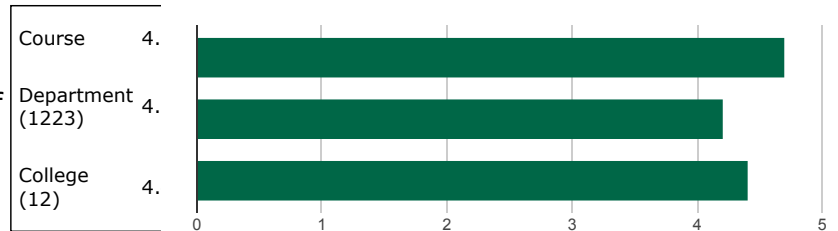
2. Communication of Ideas and Information



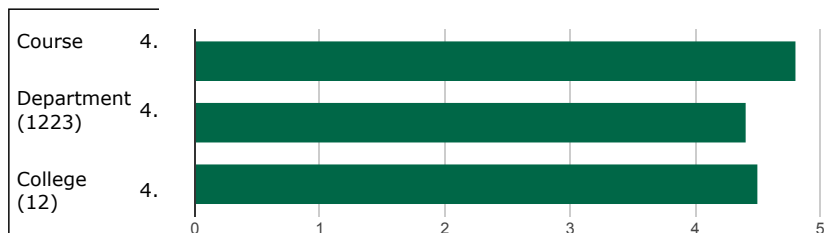
3. Expression of Expectations for Performance



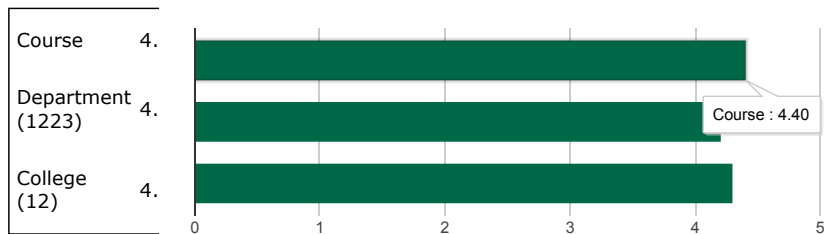
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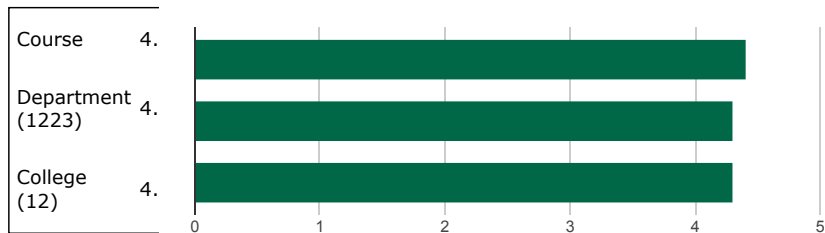
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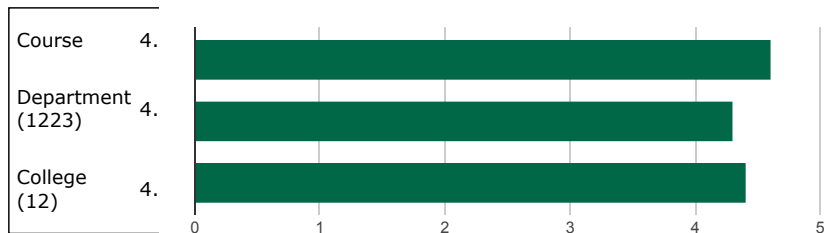
6. Stimulation of Interest in the Course



7. Facilitation of Learning



8. Overall Rating of the Instructor



Section 3. Comments

The following are responses to two open-ended questions from your students pertaining to you, and the course.

Please provide any additional comments with respect to **Thorold Roberts**

Comments

Dr. Roberts was extremely responsive whenever I had a question via email. I also felt that the assignment instructions were very clear and that they were graded based on what I deserved. I highly recommend this professor.

He is an excellent instructor, very happy to have him in this course.

I enjoyed the lectures, but I felt that there was a lot of excess talking in the lectures each week.

I really enjoyed Professor Roberts' class. He is an excellent teacher and by far the best professor that I have ever had in an online course. His years of teaching experience is apparent and well recognized in his class format and instructions. He is very accessible to student questions or inquiries in multiple different formats, which is not always the case in online classes. It is quite apparent that he truly cares about the success of his students, well beyond just the scope of the class.

I think he is a great instructor i just think that his voice is somewhat off-putting and irritating which made audio lectures uncomfortable. Although his grading was fair and the objectives clearly stated.

Mr. Roberts is a great teacher. His class is a little intense, but if help is needed, he will help as much as possible.

Mr. Roberts was a great instructor and was there to help me whenever I had any questions about an assignment or the course.

Professor goes above and beyond to provide adequate material for the class - curates an entire website with information! There are plenty of examples and articles to reference. Seems extremely concerned with the success of his students. It's obvious he very much so believes in the purpose of this class and tries to make sure his students understand the importance of proper communication as well. I was -very- impressed with this class.

The ability to reach out to Professor Roberts and receive precise clarification kept the pace of the course consistent.

Very helpful and gave good advice.

You are an excellent teacher and I feel you really do your best to help your students succeed. Thank you for a great class.

Please provide any additional comments with respect to **ENC3250-523 (56054) Professional Writing**

Comments

At first, I thought this course was just like any other introductory writing course. However, I found the assignments and concepts to be very pragmatic towards communication skills that I could actually use in my future career.

Great response time to emails and thorough explanation of the course.

I believe that it would be better for online students to have to send in audio codes weekly versus the times were multiple audio codes were due at the same time. This will keep online students more engaged and less prone to procrastination.

I enjoyed the assignments and found them helpful, but they were also difficult because I have very little professional/job experience and knowledge. I learned a lot from this course and know to be more careful with writing and proofreading.

interesting.

Made me feel more confident for my professional career.

The ability to complete the course without the extra cost of a textbook was very much appreciated. The assignments were designed more toward real life and work as opposed to theological work experiences. Thank you!

The syllabus was confusing at times, but overall it was a great class.

The topics that were learned in this class will greatly help transition to the communication skills needed in the professional world.

This course was one of my favorites. I was able to improve my writing abilities and enhance my knowledge throughout the course.

This is a wonderful course to practice real life writing skills in regards to different areas of business and employment.

This writing course was a good one to take if one is interested in learning more about becoming a better business person.



Summer 2016 report for ENC 3250-524(58436) Professional Writing (Thorold Roberts)

USF Student Assessment of Instruction

Project Audience: 23

Responses Received: 22

Response Ratio: 96%

Subject Details

Course Name: Professional Writing

Section: 524

College Name: Arts & Sciences

Department Name: English

Term Title: Summer 2016

First Name: Thorold

Last Name: Roberts

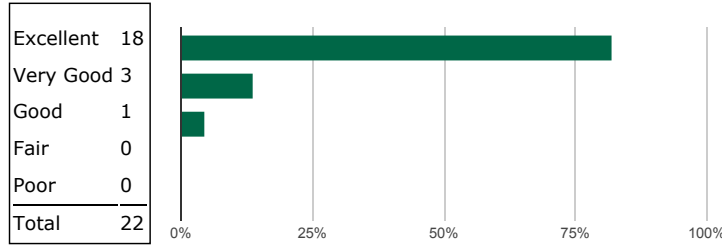
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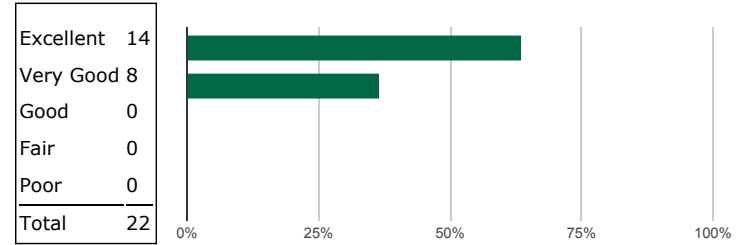
| Competency Statistics | Value |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.6 |
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| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.7 |

1. Description of Course Objectives & Assignments



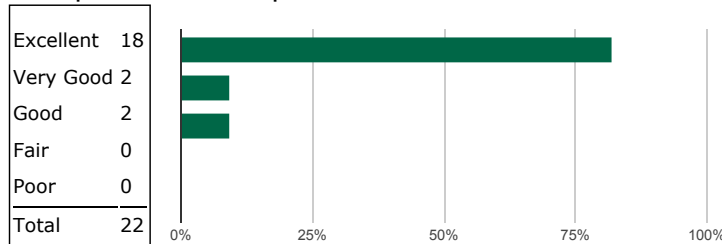
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|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.8 |
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| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.5 |

2. Communication of Ideas and Information



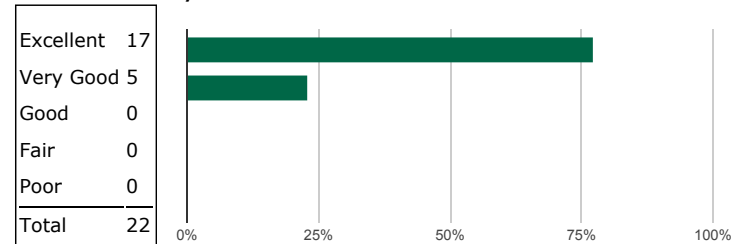
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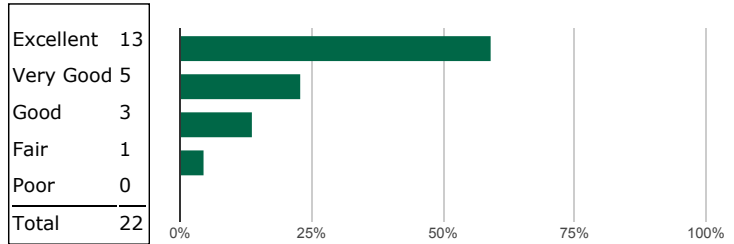
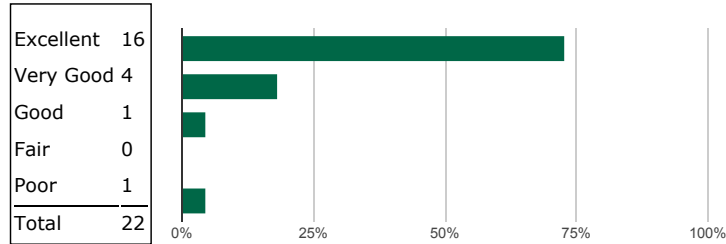
4. Availability to Assist Students In or Out of Class



| Statistics | Value |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mean | 4.8 |
| Median | 5.0 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.4 |

5. Respect and Concern for the Students

6. Stimulation of Interest in the Course

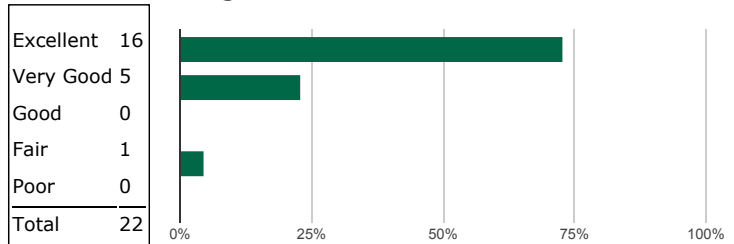
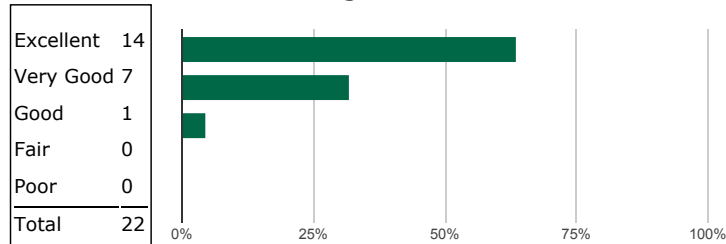


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| Statistics | Value |
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| Mean | 4.4 |
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| Mode | 5 |
| Standard Deviation | +/-0.9 |

7. Facilitation of Learning

8. Overall Rating of the Instructor



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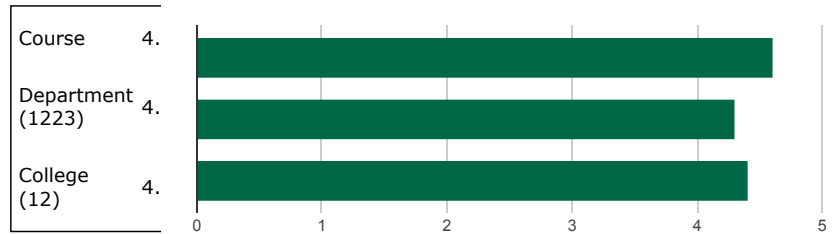
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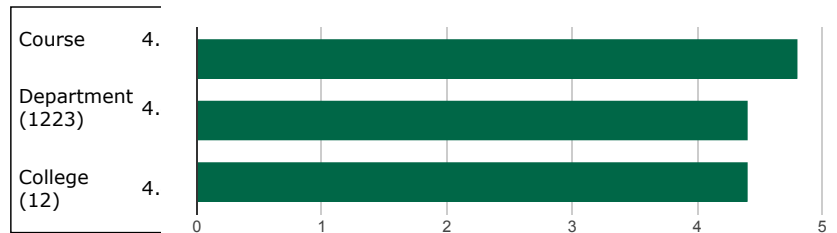
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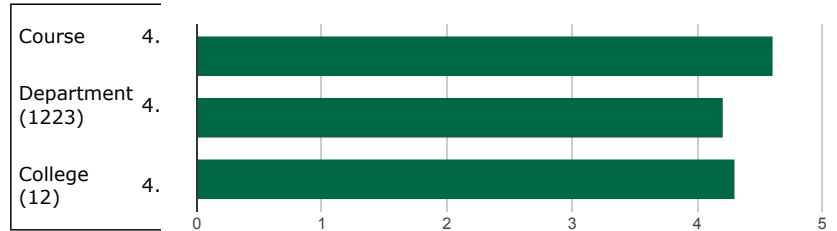
Overall



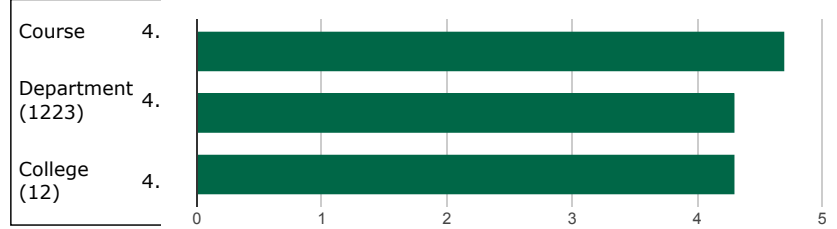
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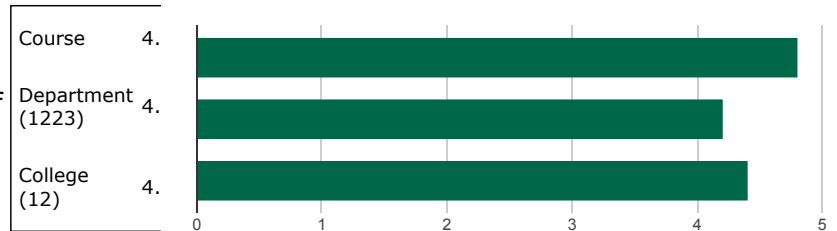
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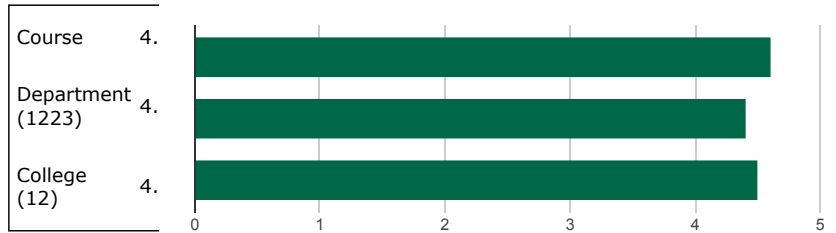
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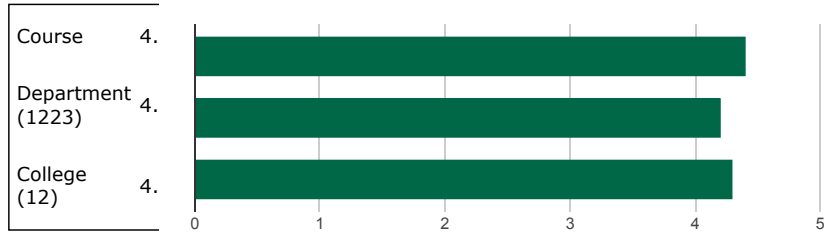
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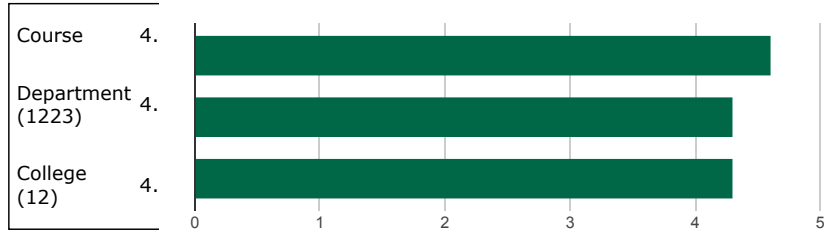
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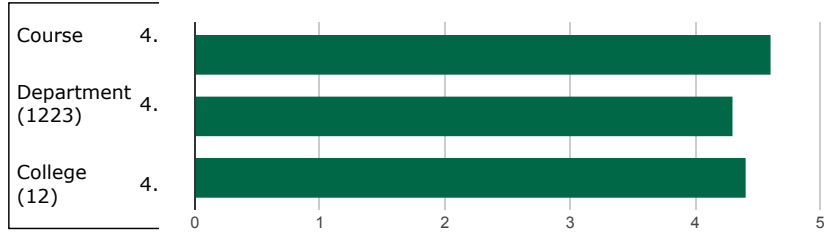
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Comments

A good professor who responds quickly to all questions, open to suggestions and very understanding of the fact that student's have lives outside of the classroom.

Dr. Roberts is an absolutely amazing teacher. He has weekly Power Points that you must watch to get audio codes, and in these he explains in great detail the assignment, the expectations, and resources that you can use to complete the assignment. He is a very educated man, and you can tell he is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the subject he teaches. I feel like I actually learned things in this class that I will continue to use to achieve my career and education goals going forward.

He did very well with the course, and his willingness to help us as students is above and beyond any other professor I have taken at USF. Occasionally he may ramble on about a topic during a lecture, though I am sure he was just making sure his students fully understand the material he was teaching. I would gladly take him for another online course, or recommend him to other students.

He is a very no-nonsense teacher. He may work well for some, not well for others. The lecture mp3s were a bit long, and his voice is kind of hard to listen to for long periods of time, but it's only an hour per week, so students should be fine with that. All of the required information for our assignments was very easy to find, and I didn't need to ask any questions about what I was doing. He is a great teacher. The only real criticism I have is that the mp3 files were very quiet, so I had to put in headphones and turn the volume all the way up. However, the PowerPoint transitions were incredibly loud, so when I had my headphones in and volume at max, my ears would start bleeding (figuratively).

I really appreciated the time Professor Roberts took to create a helpful and useful learning curriculum. The lectures were a big help. He answers emails promptly and provided feedback on assignments.

I really like the way Professor Roberts made himself available and responded to emails quickly. Thank you.

Mr. Roberts was extremely clear with respect to the course and its material. His expectations for the class and the assignments were laid out clearly and simply. The assignments were helpful as they were geared towards an office or business type environment. Although I did not use it personally, I understand that his assignment mark-up process was extremely helpful in improving ones writing skills. I was not confident in my writing skills before I took this class, however I can now say my skills have improved, and that I thoroughly enjoyed this course.

Professor Roberts has tremendous respect for his students. It was a privilege to be under his teaching and guidance. He has a true heart for teaching. He is straight forward about his expectations for assignments and also highly committed to help students post assignment through "detailed markups." I am grateful for the tools Prof. Roberts has instilled in me and I know that I have become a more professional writer because of his leadership. Tod Roberts brings this course its credibility.

Professor Roberts is excellent. His way of delivering the content of this course was definitely unique in its way. I would absolutely recommend him to other students.

Professor Roberts was an amazing teacher. He actually made writing interesting. I learned a lot of great things that I will be able to use in all future professional endeavors. He responded in a timely manner and you can tell he is devoted to his students. A++ for him!

Professor Roberts was the most involved teacher I have had at USF. He responded to everything with care and concern for my understanding of the course. I really could gush about his attentiveness, but I will keep it concise. ??

Professor Roberts, You provided incredible detail in your course description of assignments and samples to help complete each of the assignments. I believe your instruction has helped me further my professional communications skills. Thank you very much.

Really enjoyed what I learned from this class.

The lectures that you provided are extremely articulate in an acedemic manner and by that inspired me to continue learning greater into the complexities of my languages. These are English, Spanish, and German.

Thorold Roberts has an easy to follow and clear way to conducting the course. Power points with guided audio files make lectures a great learning tool. A more organised layout for the website would benefit students navigating for specific information. Otherwise, very good teaching style.

What a great professor! Very understanding and he does a excellent job of relaying the message. My only concern was that some questions on the final and some of the entire course, was based on business. Being a non-business student, I find it counter-intuitive to focus so much on business when in my professional writing class. Understandably, that is the way the course goes.

While I think Prof. Roberts is very knowledgeable and a great lecturer, I had several issues with his behavior that I will outline below: - He is the only teacher I've had thus far to describe the evaluation as a "course requirement" and request a screenshot of the evaluation dashboard upon its completion. As I understand it, teachers are not allowed to mandate evaluations. - On one occasion, the tone he used in e-mail communications with me was inappropriate for a teacher-student relationship. It wasn't egregious enough to consider reporting him, but it bothered me (especially coming from a teacher with a plethora of experience in professional communications), and the members of the faculty and administration with whom I spoke about this said it was completely out of line. - He sometimes takes an adversarial position against students. To quote his syllabus (Page 7, second paragraph under "Advice About Grades"): "Any student who writes an anonymous negative review of my teaching or course content at the end of a term but who has never communicated with me in person, by phone, or by email about specific issues lacks credibility. Such a person demonstrates immaturity, ignorance, cowardice, and indifference regarding professional and ethical standards of conduct. That person should in turn expect similar disrespect from others." This is wildly uncalled for and shows no understanding of or respect for the evaluation process. I do not feel comfortable or safe communicating directly with a teacher who puts a passage like this in the first document I read for a class. This kind of language is part of the reason non-retaliation clauses exist (although good luck enforcing that in something as subjective as a writing class, which is why I've waited until now to say anything). Overall, I think he excels at the technical aspects of teaching, but I believe some of his behavior promotes a hostile learning environment, and if this is indicative of the quality of online lecturers at USFSM, I will not be taking any classes there in the future. **See instructor response on next page.**

The student who wrote this comment is obviously easily intimidated and ought to read more carefully the message to which he or she objects. He/she demonstrates the very reason for my comment about students who fail to communicate directly with the instructor -- that is, if he/she had bothered to talk with me by phone or in person, he/she could have easily put aside the worries. If this person carries this hyper-sensitive mentality into the workplace, he/she is likely to live in perpetual fear of criticism from co-workers, bosses, and customers.

Please provide any additional comments with respect to **ENC3250-524 (58436) Professional Writing**

Comments

An overall easy course for those who have at least some background in business-related topics. However, for students who aren't majoring in business nor have had any classes in business, it's quite a struggle. Though there are good examples on the website, they're very limited and specific that it's not very helpful to some who have no business background.

I feel like this class will help me greatly in my professional future.

I really enjoyed the lessons that this course offered.

If a course is centered around a certain area of professional writing, such as business, that information should be provided when registering for classes.

Professional writing is more important than what most people think it is.

Professor Roberts gives this course its credibility.

The assignments of this course were relevant to a workplace environment, so as someone who will be trying to enter the workplace after graduation these assignments were very helpful in developing my skills in writing these documents commonly found in the workplace. The pace of the course was fair and did not overwhelm if the workload was managed efficiently.

The class itself is definitely a good course for students to take. It teaches students how to write in a business setting.

The curriculum has obviously been refined over several years and is all relevant to professional communication, so I wouldn't change anything here.

The formational settlement for this entire course is just phenomenal. Completely, coherent to the syllabus's description. This course has indeed provided me with lasting knowledge that had many positive progressive possibilities.

The only issues I had in the class were in the beginning trying to figure out the syllabus. It was long and intimidating. But once I got the hang of the course expectations it was smooth sailing.

This class was incredibly beneficial for my future. It allows the student to use writing for real life situations. It was well organized and fun. I will be able to use the skills I learned in the future.

This class was very educational and taught lessons about writing in a professional aspect.