

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara
Russian 4005/7205: O, Father Where Art Thou?: Generations of the Twentieth-Century Russian Novel

“You are too dedicated – always patient and willing to help. I don’t know if anyone with less enthusiasm could have got us through the material.”

“I truly enjoyed all aspects of the class, most importantly the class discussion. It is an open forum for everyone to contribute and have their voice heard in a welcoming, non-judgmental setting. Dr. Vergara is the best professor I have had throughout my learning career in terms of creating a welcoming and free learning environment while encouraging critical thinking.”

“Commented back every time and actually responded deeply [to online responses].”

“Awesome. Always felt valued!”

“You are always available for extra help! Essays or understanding – go above and beyond to help your students.”

“It was really great getting other people’s points of views and it would help me form better ideas about the book.”

“You did it [feedback] in a timely manner and were very, very descriptive. Nice!”

“You are great! Favorite professor!”

“Overall, I felt I had all the opportunities to express ideas, though opening class with the question ‘general thoughts/feelings toward today’s reading’ might help even more.”

“I know understand metaliterary techniques and intertextuality.”

“Reading literature that I probably would never read otherwise. It was interesting to engage with a style of literature I never really experienced before.”

“I found the discussions extremely helpful, because there were almost always parts of the readings that I’d miss or not fully understand and having a discussed allowed me to recognize meaning.”

“[Feedback] was very helpful, especially for essays. I think Canvas is a good way to provide feedback.”

“The presentation we had to give helped organize my thoughts.”

“[Feedback] helped clear up any questions I had and helped me write better.”

“Learning how to tie everything together in *School for Fools*, realizing it was the author’s different personalities [was an exciting “aha” moment].”

“10/10. Great teacher!”

“Exploring *Pushkin House* [was an exciting “aha” moment]. And meeting for research paper.”

“Yes - the [feedback] comments aren’t about anything silly like grammar, but actually a response to what’s been written...more of a conversation than an evaluation. In this way, he helps foster an environment in which your responses aren't thrown into a void, but handled.”

“Dr. Vergara provides detailed feedback about my writing that helps me understand what is right and wrong with it, which facilitates self-reflection.”

“Dr. Vergara is very open to helping each and every student on an individual level. The comments on the papers are also appropriate and helpful.”

“As often as I find myself almost forgetting to write weekly discussion posts, I also find myself thinking critically about the texts because of them. Keep the weekly discussion posts - they're a great component of the course.”

“Writing essays helps me to organize my thoughts. Even the short responses force me to put into words what it is that I am thinking. The openness of these responses is great because it does not put any limitations on what I am thinking.”

“The comments stimulated my thinking, included interesting follow-up question.”

“Dr. Vergara’s comments clarify any misconceptions I may have accumulated while reading. His feedback is always very positive, which encourages my participation in the class and allows me the freedom to participate even if I may have misunderstood the questions.”

“The way the reading responses are organized is great. Reading secondary sources is extremely useful!

“I absolutely adore the fact that Dr. Vergara responds to all our comments and engages us. I feel that everyone in the class has an equal opportunity to speak.”

“I love our discussion. Dr. Vergara provides such a comfortable and welcoming environment which allows everyone to participate. I think Dr. Vergara’s teaching is perfect. He is kind, welcoming, but also knows how to take control of the classroom. He is aware of all his students, our reading levels and easily adapts to our diverse class body.”

“The general discussion is very good. I feel that everyone is able to voice their opinion and we have plenty of time to make sure no one is left out.”

“Honestly, this course is indescribably better than similar courses I've taken at another university.

This puts me in a position where I think everything is going well and I have no idea what can be improved. To reply with something of substance, I will say that the selection of texts is wonderful, and I'm very glad to be reading the books that we're reading.”

“I like the dynamic of the class. Everyone is comfortable with each other and Professor Vergara helps make it an inclusive space.”

“When class discussion is well managed, even being able to connect two disparate ideas is fantastic - if I had my notes on me, it's whenever my handwriting gets large and sloppy, and vaguely manic. This is when I'm at my most actively engaged.”

“This is the first literature class where I've felt like I'm understanding literature on a level higher than just a story or a text itself. Maybe it's just the text selection, but I feel the way the class is conducted is the dominant contributing factor. Specifically, I'm learning how to interpret themes and symbols and how to recognize metaliterary concepts, something that hadn't happened in 2-3 other lit courses.”

“Contrary to what I expected, this has turned out to be one of my favorite classes this semester.”

“He cares so much about both material and students.”

“You are *too good* for this world! Kind, understanding, & patient!”