

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara
Russian 106: The Culture of Dissent in Russia (Seminar)
Swarthmore College
Spring 2018

“I have found the writing exercises and discussions of the text the most useful. Both writing and speaking have helped me to better understand the coursework and grow in my analytical ability.”

“I’ve really enjoyed practicing grammar. I also just generally like discussing the works in Russian, both as a way of figuring out more about the works and a way of practicing Russian.”

“Writing assignments have been helpful in keeping us accountable for the readings and theme analysis. Also appreciate the comments and corrections that you add to each one.”

“I have enjoyed the weekly writing assignments, as they give me a chance to synthesize my thoughts about the readings.”

“Discussion is great. Good discussion organization and leadership. Interesting to express our views and hear others’ thoughts.”

“While it is occasionally difficult to express the thoughts I would like to express, I enjoy discussions as a way to practice ‘speaking around the idea’ and improving my Russian.”

“The feedback is helpful, especially with helping to guide a focus for the final paper.”

“The instructor gives feedback in an extremely timely manner, usually the same day or next day as an assignment submission.”

“I often hear interesting takes on the reading in discussion from my peers that I had not thought before.”

“I learned analytical writing in Russian, learned many turns of phrases and was better able to add nuance to my speaking.”

“I already had a decent knowledge of Russian history from prior coursework - I loved learning about how literature responded to important events, and how the history is centered around the experiences of people.”

“I particularly enjoyed reading the dissidence work from experiences in the Gulag.”

“I really enjoyed gaining a better grasp of key dissidents works and better understanding the literature, history, and cultural context.”