To: Anne-Caroline Sieffert, Romance Studies

From: David Faulkner, Director of First-Year Writing Seminars

Date: June 19, 2017

Re: Course Evaluations, Spring 2017

Enclosed are the student evaluations (written and numerical) from the course you taught in the Spring 2017 semester. We hope that the information they provide will prove useful for you.

Here is some additional information that may interest you as you examine the summaries of the bubblesheet responses:

For Spring '17 FWS, the median score for instructors (half of results above/half below) was 1.71.

Ranking (including only questions 2–33):
First quarter: less than or equal to 1.53
Second quarter: 1.54–1.71
Third quarter: 1.72–1.89
Fourth quarter: 1.90 or greater

Further information about how to read the summary appears at the bottom of the sheet.

Thank you for your work; please let us know if we can be of help during the coming semester.

ROMS 1102.104   Sp17 -- First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluations

Course: 17497   The Craft of Storytelling: The Cannibal and the Explorer—Ethics of Travel Writing

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
1	1	1	2	3	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
2	2	4	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
3	3	1	2	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	2	4	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	2
4	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3
6	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
7	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
8	4	1	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2
12	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1.54	1.15	1.31	1.62	1.15	2.15	1.92	2.00	1.62	1.38	1.31	1.85	1.69	1.46	1.46	1.85	1.38	1.46	1.54	1.69	1.31	1.77	1.85	1.00	1.23	1.08	1.00	1.31	1.62	1.23	1.46	1.54	1.62

mean for questions 2-5:   1.31

mean for questions 6-19:   1.65

mean for questions 20-33:   1.41

overall mean for questions 2-33:   1.50

The table above provides an overview of responses, and the mean for each question, on the computer-scored section of evaluations for your FWS.

HOW TO READ THE TABLE:

Each question is listed on the top horizontal axis, starting with 1 on the left and running to question 33 on the far right.

The students are listed on the left vertical axis; their responses to each question run horizontally.

The mean for each question appears at the bottom of each column of responses for each question.

What the numbers mean: an "A" answer on the bubble sheet equals 1 on the table above; a "B" equals 2, and so on. (The evaluation questions and possible range of responses are reprinted on the back of this sheet.)

To interpret questions #2–#33, you will need to compare student opinions about what your seminar accomplished with your own goals. You will naturally have stressed some areas more than others. In some instances, a question may not be relevant to your seminar: for example, in a film course, questions about "the readings" may not apply. In general, finding a significant number of "4" and "5" responses for a question (question 1 aside) may be a cause for concern.

To remember: The purpose of the table is to alert you to possible strengths and weaknesses, not to measure all courses against a single inflexible standard.

We hope you will find the evaluations to be informative. Please contact David Faulkner or Paul Sawyer at the Knight Institute (101 McGraw Hall) if you would like to discuss them.

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.

For the following questions:

(1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)

2)   How much reading did you do?

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.)

4)   How much time was spent learning about writing?

5)   How much time was devoted to learning how to revise your essays? (FWS guidelines suggest that a minimum of three essays go through a process of guided revision.)

How much do you agree with the following statements?

(1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)

In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized

6)   choosing the words that best express ideas.

7)   writing grammatically correct sentences.

8)   structuring sentences carefully.

9)   providing appropriate documentation for sources.

10)   developing a strong argument.

11)   writing well-focused, coherent paragraphs.

12)   making transitions from one paragraph to the next.

13)   focusing an essay on a significant problem, hypothesis, thesis, argument, or idea

14)   supporting claims with pertinent, substantive evidence.

15)   incorporating and analyzing source material and quotations.

16)   editing essays to eliminate flaws of grammar, word choice, spelling, and format.

17)   revising essays to enhance interest, clarity, and persuasiveness.

18)   writing in a style appropriate for a particular purpose.

19)   writing in a style appropriate for a particular audience.

In this seminar,

20)   reading and writing assignments formed an understandable progression.

21)   the level of difficulty of the readings seemed appropriate.

22)   I learned to read with care in the discipline of the seminar.

23)   informal/preparatory writing assignments helped me understand the readings and write an essay.

24)   I had opportunities to confer privately with the teacher.

25)   the teacher was well-prepared.

26)   the teacher directed discussions well.

27)   the teacher treated my writing with respect.

28)   the teacher graded my papers fairly.

29)   the teacher returned our papers within a reasonable length of time.

30)   comments on each returned paper helped me improve the next assignment.

31)   I felt intellectually stimulated.

32)   I became a more confident writer.

33)   I became a more skillful writer.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name _Anne-Caroline Sieffert_

Department _ROMS_   Course Number _1102.104_

Course Title _Cannibal and Explorer_

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

I found this course extremely interesting. I liked how it incorporated reading, writing and history as a way to provide context for our reading and writing. I liked the pacing of work in the class though it originally had a lot of work at the beginning. I would suggest that writing and reading assignments be more spaced out at least initially.

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?

I do believe my writing has improved. I learned to move away from the formulaic and rigid nature of high school writing ~~and true~~ to the more fluid style of academic college writing. More emphasis on writing structure might have been useful.

(over)

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

Yes, they were extremely helpful. Dr. Sieffert was very thorough in her comments and feedback which helped me improve my writing significantly.

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

I enjoyed class discussion of the assigned texts ~~textures~~ and they were moderately useful in understanding the texts and analyzing them.

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

My greatest strengths as a writer are content and argumentation but my greatest weaknesses are ~~being more~~ being lacking conciseness and some structural clarity.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name Anne-Caroline Sieffert

Department ROMS   Course Number 1102.104

Course Title Cannibal & Explorer

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

It was overall good. The beginning of the course was very work-heavy, but by the end, it was manageable
I wish we had studied more writers, though.

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?

I think my writing has improved by getting more specific in my arguments & sources.

(over)

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

Yes, very helpful. They outlined how I could better improve my writing very clearly.

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

Discussions of text were helpful. I also liked the peer reviews we had

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

Strength: Finding an argument
Style

Weakness: Being detailed enough with my arguments

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name ___Sieffert, Anne-Caroline___

Department ___ROMS___   Course Number ___1102.104___

Course Title ___Cannibal and Explorer___

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

> I did enjoy this course. The topic was interesting and the instructor was enthusiastic. Although there seemed to be a lot of unnecessary work. I would recommend decreasing the amount of papers and blogs.

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?

> Yes I think my writing has improved. I think reading professional essays has helped expand my vocabulary and the professors comments have helped as well.

(over)

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

Yes very helpful and insightful.
Long and detailed comments helped
to precisely describe errors and
potential improvements

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

Class discussions were pretty
insightful. However, I think
this is due in# part by
the students who genuinely
wanted to learn

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

Strengths : - ability to describe
scenes
- vocabulary
- organization
Weakness : - originality / creativity
- repetition

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name Anne-Caroline Sieffert

Department ROMS   Course Number 1102.104

Course Title Cannibal + Explorer

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

This course was very helpful in developing my writing. I was better able to write focused + specific papers responding to the class material.

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?

Yes, I do believe my writing improved. This course helped me to become more specific in my writing and utilize helpful quotes from the text to maximize the reader's comprehension. I think that citations could have been stressed more heavily.

(over)

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

Yes - this was one of the best parts of the course. The professor was able to add a lot of commentary on my writing. The feedback provided ideas of where I could take my writing to improve the overall quality of the paper.

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

The class discussions were very helpful in understanding the assigned texts & writings. Having input from the professor + students allowed for greater comprehension on my behalf.

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

Strengths - Introduction & setting the stage for the paper's topic

Weaknesses - finishing the paper on an equally strong note that it started on

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name Anne-Caroline Seiffert

Department ROMS   Course Number 1102, 104

Course Title Cannibal & Explorer

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

I enjoyed this class overall. It exposed me to types of reading I did not have any clue about before. Interesting information was covered in the class and I feel as though the workload was completly do-able.

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?

I feel as though my writing has improved a little bit. I have never been a good writer and I never will be, but my professor did her best to help me improve my writing.

(over)

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

Very helpful. They explained what I did and gave examples as to ~~how~~ how I could improve my writing.

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

Not only did I enjoy the class discussions but they were also very helpful. They outline the readings we were ~~also~~ doing and also gave other info that could be used in our writings.

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

Weakness = writing in circles

Strengths = incoorporating my citations better into my writings.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name __Anne-Caroline Sieffert__

Department _____ Course Number __ROMS 1102.10H__

Course Title __Cannibal and Explorer__

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

I thought the course was very interesting and caused me to think critically.

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?

Yes, my writing improved mainly from the peer reviews I did for the class.

(over)

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

Yes, they were very helpful in showing me where I needed to improve on my writing.

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

I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions of the assigned readings and found them very helpful when writing papers.

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

My ability to use past studies to influence my writing and support my arguments.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name _Sieffert, Anne-caroline_

Department _ROMS_   Course Number _1102.104_

Course Title _cannibal & Explorer_

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

While the course gave me a different perspective on travel, it was not what I expected. I thought the material would be less grounded in older texts and more in pop culture. I wish the readings had been shorter or more modern.

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?

I believe my writing has improved due to my improved ability to analyze texts due to feedback from the instructor.

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

The written comments were helpful to an extent but I wished they offered more suggestion.

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

Class discussions on both were useful for getting more perspectives.

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

My greatest strength is my analytical abilities. My greatest weakness is structuring my argument in a reasonable organization.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name **Sieffert, Anne Caroline**

Department **ROMS 1102.104**   Course Number _____

Course Title **Cannibal and Explorer**

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

I liked the class. There was an appropriate amount of reading but there was a lot of writing.

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?

Yes, I think the opportunities to work provided a lot of opportunity for improvement. Good mix of creative/analytical writing

(over)

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

Yes, I found the comments to be helpful when revising my papers

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

I liked the class discussions. good use of small groups and participation. maybe more class led discussions.

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

I think I'm a good creative writer but I still need to work on developing a strong thesis

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name ___Dr. Anne-Caroline Sieffert___

Department ___ROMS___   Course Number ___1102.104___

Course Title ___Cannibal & Explorer___

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

I liked parts of the course and disliked other portions. I thought that there was a lot of work and writings that made it difficult to balance with other courses. It felt like this was more than just a 3 credit course. Lower the workload by getting rid of some projects or decreasing number of blogs would be helpful.

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?

Yes! Dr. Sieffert gave wonderful feedback that helped me improve my writing. More in class writing workshops would have helped me to improve upon my writing even more.

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

Extremely helpful! These really helped me improve my writing. If we could get these back closer to when we turned them in it would help us improve even more.

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

Yes! The discussions were great additions to understanding the readings. We could have talked more about how to improve writing in-class

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

Strengths: creative idea generation

weaknesses: repetition.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation
Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name _____ Sieffert, Anne - Caroline _____

Department __ROMS__   Course Number __1102 . 104__

Course Title __Cannibal & Explorer__

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

→ Course strong in exposing students to content concerning cannibalism, mapping, travel, colonialism, and storytelling, and creative writing.

→ Exposure to Rare Manuscripts was especially interesting

→ Course generally needs little improvement → perhaps greater organization of calendar/blackboard needed

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?

Yes → many peer-revisions and conferences were offerred (with writing workshops)

→ writing aspects all stressed well as is

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

Yes, all address structure and content well

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

Useful → understood historical context/advanced interpretations of text

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

Strengths → clearness, grammar, conciseness of writing

Weaknesses → take too few risks

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name ___Anne-Caroline Seiffert___

Department ___ROMS 1102.104___   Course Number _____

Course Title ___ROMS Craft of Storytelling: Cannibals and Explorers___

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

I loved this course. Everything we read carried alot of meaning and I learned so much every class. The lessons I learned from this class have broadened my perspective greatly.

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?

Yes, by alot. My writing improved because of Professor Seiffert's tireless work ethic. Not only was she very critical of my writing, she also was extremely helpful in improving my writing. Because of this, I wrote in the best way I could for every single essay. I am a much better writer now than I was before this course.

(over)

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

Very much so, they identified the problem area, recognized why it could be better and then offered suggestions to fix it.

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

Both were very useful. I learned so much from my many overwhelmingly intelligent peers.

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

My greatest strengths are originality and clarity. My weaknesses are grammar and interesting conclusions.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name _SIEFFERT, ANNE-CAROLINE_

Department _ROMS_   Course Number _1102.104_

Course Title _CANNIBAL & EXPLORER_

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

⊕ Helped me question things & not just accept things as they are.

⊕ Great readings from Léry & Verne!

⊕ Expanded my ability to think about other cultures & perspectives.

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?

⊕ Rewrites, comments from professor were _very_ useful & helpful in improving our drafts. Professor Sieffert _really_ took the time to meet with us and read our papers.

⊕ Good balance of curriculum content & writing mechanics.

(over)

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

1) _Very_ helpful! They pinpointed flaws _and_ offered suggestions on how they could be made better.

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

2) Very helpful. Everyone in the class brought a unique perspective that helped to fuel the discussion.

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

(+) Greatest strength: organization, able to 'feel' a if my paper is clear.

(-) Greatest weakness: Articulation of my thoughts sometimes (I cannot exactly word) what I intend to say.

First-Year Writing Seminar Evaluation

Spring 2017

Part I: Written responses

Instructor's Name ___Sieffert, Anne-Caroline___

Department ___ROMS___   Course Number ___1102.104___

Course Title ___Cannibal and Explorer___

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

I really enjoyed this course. The reading material was sometimes dense (moreso towards the beginning) but usually manageable and interesting.

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?

Yes I do, I feel like I had to critically read the text and I became more adept at interpreting it. Class discussions really helped.

(over)

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

Very helpful. Dr. Seiffert obviously takes a lot of time to read the essays and puts a lot of thought into her responses. She gave a lot of feedback.

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

Very useful. I feel like most of my ideas were developed through the discussions. Also, the peer reviews were very useful and small discussions.

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

I think my greatest strengths are interpreting texts and ideas while my greatest weakness is organizing my ideas into a coherent essay.