



## Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences

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Dear FWS instructor,

As a result of the shift to electronic surveys in Spring 2018, the formatting of the report of your FWS course-teacher evaluations has changed. Here are a few tips about profitably interpreting the results:

- 1) “Mean” responses for each question are prominently displayed in the leftmost column. The lower the mean figure, the more strongly students tended to agree with the corresponding statement about the course or instructor. You should focus mainly on those specific learning outcomes (questions 6-19) and those specific qualities of the course/instructor (questions 20-33) that were most important to you: Did the students’ responses match your intended goals? Where do you want to maintain, and where improve?
- 2) Remember that questions 1-5 are “scaled” differently from questions 6-33, so the mean figures are meaningless there: attend instead to the specific responses, if these questions are important to you.
- 3) In general, you can ignore the “standard deviation” value, which after all only indicates how relatively clustered or dispersed were your students’ responses to any individual question (you can see this for yourself by glancing at the “1-5” columns). This aspect of clustering or dispersal might be significant for you on some questions more than others.
- 4) The written responses at the end are conveniently grouped according to each question.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us—or to consult your course leader—with any questions or concerns about your “Course Evaluation Response Summary.”

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Faulkner".

David Faulkner  
Walter C. Teagle Director of First-Year Writing Seminars  
John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines

Cornell University

Course Evaluation Response Summary

Semester: Spring 2018 Course Owner: FWS

Course: ROMS 1102 SEM 101 CID: 17670

Title: FWS: Victors, Virgins & Villains-Gender/Sex/Pwr

Instructor: Sieffert

16 Responses, 16 Enrolled, 100% Response

For your First-Year Writing Seminar, please answer the following:

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
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.	1.81	1.42	16	12	0	0	3	1
2) How much reading did you do? (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.56	0.99	16	10	5	0	0	1
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.) (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.56	1.32	16	13	1	0	0	2
4) How much time was spent learning about writing? (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	2.19	1.18	16	7	1	7	0	1
5) How much time was devoted to learning how to revise essays? (FWS guidelines suggest that a minimum of three essays go through a process of guided revision.) (1=An appropriate amount, 2=Too much, 3=Too little, 4=Far too much, 5=Far too little)	1.94	1.29	16	10	0	4	1	1
6) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized choosing the words that best express ideas.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.44	0.86	16	1	9	5	0	1
7) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing grammatically correct sentences.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.38	1.16	16	5	3	6	1	1
8) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized structuring sentences carefully.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.19	0.94	16	3	9	3	0	1
9) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized providing appropriate documentation for sources  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.56	1.05	16	11	3	1	0	1
10) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized developing a strong argument.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.73	0.99	15	7	7	0	0	1
11) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing well-focused, coherent paragraphs.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.63	1.05	16	10	4	1	0	1

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12) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized making transitions from one paragraph to the next.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.25	1.34	16	6	5	2	1	2
13) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized focusing an essay on a significant problem, hypothesis, thesis, argument, or idea.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.69	0.98	16	8	7	0	0	1
14) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized supporting claims with pertinent, substantive evidence.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.75	0.96	16	7	8	0	0	1
15) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized incorporating and analyzing source material and quotations.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.75	1.03	16	8	6	1	0	1
16) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized editing essays to eliminate flaws of grammar, word choice, spelling, and format.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.13	1.26	16	7	4	2	2	1
17) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized revising essays to enhance interest, clarity, and persuasiveness.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.81	1.01	16	7	7	1	0	1
18) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing in a style appropriate for a particular purpose.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.31	1.21	16	4	7	3	0	2
19) In class, in conferences, or in paper comments, the teacher emphasized writing in a style appropriate for a particular audience.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.50	1.17	16	3	6	5	0	2
20) In this seminar, reading and writing assignments formed an understandable progression.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.00	1.06	16	5	9	0	1	1
21) In this seminar, the level of difficulty of the readings seemed appropriate.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.75	0.96	16	7	8	0	0	1
22) In this seminar, I learned to read with care in the discipline of the seminar.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.81	0.94	16	6	9	0	0	1
23) In this seminar, informal/preparatory writing assignments helped me understand the readings and write an essay.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.88	1.05	16	7	6	2	0	1

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24) In this seminar, I had opportunities to confer privately with the teacher.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.63	1.31	16	12	2	0	0	2
25) In this seminar, the teacher was well-prepared.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.50	1.06	16	12	2	1	0	1
26) In this seminar, the teacher directed discussions well.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.88	1.05	16	7	6	2	0	1
27) In this seminar, the teacher treated my writing with respect.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.50	1.06	16	12	2	1	0	1
28) In this seminar, the teacher graded my papers fairly.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.31	0.98	16	14	1	0	0	1
29) In this seminar, the teacher returned our papers within a reasonable length of time.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	2.47	1.08	15	3	5	5	1	1
30) In this seminar, comments on each returned paper helped me improve the next assignment.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.81	1.01	16	7	7	1	0	1
31) In this seminar, I felt intellectually stimulated.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.73	1.18	15	9	4	0	1	1
32) In this seminar, I became a more confident writer.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.69	0.98	16	8	7	0	0	1
33) In this seminar, I became a more skillful writer.  How much do you agree with the above statement? (1=Very strongly, 2=Strongly, 3=Somewhat, 4=A little, 5=Not at all)	1.75	0.96	16	7	8	0	0	1

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**C01. What are your overall impressions of the course? Please be as specific as possible in analysis of strengths and/or suggestions for improvement.**

8806. I could not be happier with my FWS selection! I learned so much about analytical lenses and found myself applying them to things I was reading and consuming in my personal life as well. Everything we learned was very applicable and helped me grow as a reader and as a person in general.

29300. Excellent course, sometimes too much workload

29402. Enjoyed; Entertaining but also educational

5300. I loved this course. The readings were very interesting, and I became much more comfortable in a discussion-based setting.

12110. The overall theme of the course was really interesting and touched on so many different types of literature that it really helped widen my horizons.

29356. Great. Everyone should take it to learn more about myths and movies and analyzing them through a scholar's lens.

25916. Too much reading, but also i'm a slow reader.

32527. The topic of the class is interesting.

29309. I really liked it. It helped me understand how to analyze literature better. There were some points that all of the writing assignments made me feel bogged down with work and it made me anxious.

25934. My biggest critique of this course is that way in which the professor facilitates discussions. She usually comes into class with a specific topic she wants to discuss, already knowing her view on the topic. This is fine, but she directs the class to this view and corrects students who disagree. This means that the professor is getting more speaking time than students. It tampers healthy debate in the classroom. It's fine for the professor to have her own opinion, but the class discussion (and honestly the class as a whole) should not be about convincing the students that her opinion is right.

In addition, I felt that the topics we were allowed to write about for essays was too limited. During one of my essays, I wanted to write about something other than the hero/feminism/etc as it related to a work we read in the course but was shut down, which frustrated.

22487. The course was not what I expected it to be. It took an unexpected turn at one point when we moved on from mythological literature and started focusing on movies. The conversations we would have about characters were deep and always pertained to issues we see in our world. It was exciting to see art imitate life and life imitate art as we analyzed things in this class.

5403. I think that the course content is very interesting and that is very important especially for a course like FWS. At times, it feels as though the course-load is a bit too much but I enjoyed doing it most of the times. The teacher was well prepared and is able to lead discussions well.

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**C02. 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?**

8806. Yes! This course helped me with framing my arguments and theses within a certain theory and with organizing my ideas. Dr. Sieffert helped me focus in on a specific argument and taught me how to develop it in depth from there rather than taking on too much at once.

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29300. Yes

Improved:

1. Structuring paragraphs

2. Secondary sources

3. Intro and conclusions of essays

Could improve:

1. Finding sources

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29402. Yes

5300. Yes. I know how to structure my essay and develop an outline, and in general, I just like writing SO MUCH MORE as a result of my great teacher.

12110. Yes, I think that we wrote so many essays and reactions and whatnot that all the practice helped me to realize my strengths and weaknesses so that I could capitalize on my strengths and fortify my weakspots.

29356. Yes my writing has improved as i am now able to understand and create the overall blue print of an essay before beginning to write one.

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25916. Yes

32527. Yes. I learned how to structure my essay, and how to write introduction and conclusion.

29309. Yes I wish there was a little more emphasis on conclusion structure

22487. I think my writing has improved. I have learned how to analyze things more closely and how to gather evidence to prove a point.

5403. I have improved in the way I formulate my arguments and also transition from one paragraph to another. Through getting feedback in writing and student-teacher conferences, I am able to learn from my mistakes and accept new advice onto how to improve my writing.

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**C03. Were written comments on papers helpful? If so, why? If not, why not?**

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8806. Yes! Dr. Sieffert helped me catch connections in my argument that I had not noticed and expand upon them, strengthening my writing.

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29300. Very helpful

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29402. Yes

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5300. Yes; they helped me with syntax.

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12110. Yes, the comments at the end were very detailed and helped me determine how to fix my thesis or my evidence.

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29356. Yes they were helpful as they helped us improve for future essays.

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25916. Yes

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32527. Yes.

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29309. Yes they made me understand how to focus my essay and not just grammatical errors

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22487. Written comments were helpful. I wouldn't know where my paper was lacking if I was the one to read it to check it.

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5403. Yes, written comments were helpful. However, I feel like the best way to have a student improve their writing is from student-teacher conferences.

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**C04. How useful were class discussions of the assigned texts? of writing?**

8806. Class discussions were very helpful because my classmates all had interesting perspectives on the texts, and Dr. Sieffert did a good job of structuring the discussion around specific theories we had been learning about in class.

29300. Somewhat useful

29402. Quite helpful

5300. Discussions were extremely useful. Through this, we connected readings to various themes, and I could get inspiration for my next essay.

12110. I think that the discussions could have been a lot better if it were harkness style. We are already sitting in a U shape, so we could easily just have a free for all discussion. Sometimes the teacher talked a little too much, and the whole raising hands thing really takes away from what could be stimulating and eye-opening discussion. Also, discussion-based classes help students to develop skills on conversing, which is honestly something that is really lacking today.

29356. Very useful as i often included class comments into my essays.

25916. Not really for me necessary ut would could discussion to understand topics and have examples but I never actually put them in my essays.

32527. The in-class discussions are not very helpful to develop my own thesis.

29309. They we're very helpful for the writings

22487. The discussions were enlightening. Hearing everybody's different viewpoints was interesting and helped me learn something

5403. At times they were quite useful to help me get ideas. But i also think that the discussions in class very intellectually stimulating and interesting.

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**C05. After taking this course, what do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses as a writer?**

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8806. I think my greatest strengths are I am able to come up with very strong ideas and do a good job of supporting them with relevant evidence. A weakness would be I try to write about too much at first. This course is helping me learn to focus in on specific arguments rather than large concepts.

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29300. Strengths:

1. Writing academic essays

Weaknesses:

1. Finding sources

5300. My greatest strengths are organizing my essay and getting research to back up my claims. However, sometimes my sentences are too wordy, and I still have trouble with transitions.

12110. I think my strength is just my ability to formulate a strong argument, but I have trouble putting said argument into words and making everything clear to the audience, not just to me.

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29356. Strengths - understanding the underlying structure of an weakness.

Weaknesses - i still have to work on showing progression in my essay.

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25916. Analysis is a weakness

I don't know if I truly have strengths in writing, she always told me i'm not a poor writer or have glaring grammar mistakes.

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32527. Integrating ideas together would be my strength. Explaining things in a reasonable way would be my weakness.

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29309. Strengths finding a good argument

Weakness pulling the structure of my essay together to prop up the argument

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22487. Analyzing is my strong point. Research is my weak point.

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5403. Greatest strength would be being able to write even though I do not like the topic. Weakness is the formulating of a central thesis and argument.