

*Periodisk emnerapport*

NORAM 2575/4575  
Tragedy and American Film  
Fall, 2008

Important facts:

NORAM 2575:  
20 enrolled; 12 took the exam.  
The vast majority of the students were outside EAS.  
2 students were international.  
The average mark was “B.”

NORAM 4575:  
8 enrolled; 5 took the exam  
The average mark was “B.”

Comments on attendance and participation:

Attendance was poor both in class and especially during the film screenings leading me to wonder whether some students were even familiar with the films we discussed. Whether they were or not, students clearly did not read written materials for the day assigned and vocal students chose to concentrate on the films at the expense of the readings. I chose not to take attendance and this may have contributed to the problem.

Comments on student performance:

Students are generally poorly unprepared and have little idea of what a seminar entails. Class discussions occurred but they hardly ever incorporated the readings for the day. Students didn't seem to recognize the importance of the readings.

Appraisal of student evaluations and the course:

Only 7 students—4 for 2575 and 3 for 4575 bothered to fill out the form. This says something about how they view their responsibilities. The results were good to poor—much better for the 4575 students than for the undergraduates.

Evaluation of the course and resolutions for improvement:

(1) Students may have gotten the wrong impression because I was lenient in regard to attendance. In the future attendance will be taken. (2) Many students came from Media Studies and complained that the course was too “sociological” and not focused enough on film technique. The course description needs to be re-written to emphasize that it is a course in culture studies rather than film studies, per se. (3) The course may range too widely and lack structure. This style suits me and some students while leaving others behind. The purposes of the course should be more clearly laid out and the class should be more structured. (4) There may have been far too much material and not enough “coverage” of material in class. Though I believe that a university class at this level should require students to read texts on their own and come prepared to discuss them, I will have to spend more time reviewing the texts. This is clear. (5) Requiring ten films in the course (or one film per week)

may have inadvertently given the wrong impression about the course. By reducing the number of full viewings to, say, 5 per semester I should be able to turn attention back to the readings.

Final Thoughts:

In the past this has been one of my most successful courses. Many students then came out of the English program as the course was numbered “ENG2575.” I had no literature students this time and only 1 student from NORAM.

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