

Periodic report
ENG 4436: English Literature and Human Rights
Fall 2016
Instructor: Rebecca Scherr

This was an MA seminar offered for the second time at UiO. The pensum was almost identical to the first seminar; the only thing I changed was to take off one novel, as I found I needed some more time in the classroom to address issues such as writing and research for the seminar paper.

- The pensum seemed to interest the students, although the vast majority of students wrote their research papers on the same novel (*Anil's Ghost*.) The theoretical / secondary readings were also covered in class and used effectively by the students in class discussions and in their research papers. The only thing I found strange was that 4 people who followed the course did not turn in their exam / oppgave. I know that two of the cases dealt with students who were having personal issues, but to have 4 students fail to complete the course is unusual for me. I guess it happens sometimes! I believe the students were quite satisfied with the teaching of the course, if the 4 students who answered the evaluation are indicative of the larger class and based on my experience of the classroom energy.
- The course was a typical seminar-based discussion with a bit of lecture. The student evaluations were very positive to the way the course was taught, so I would continue to do the same. I had the students participate also by having them provide discussion questions every week (each student was assigned a week), questions I incorporated into the classroom discussion.
- The students also report that they received the information they needed from the emne site and from me. I also use Fronter to keep them updated, which functions well.

I am quite happy with the way this course went, although initially surprised that 4 did not turn in their papers. However, I was very pleased by the report and the students' very positive feedback. This is definitely a course I would teach again in the future. One of the students who took the class changed her MA thesis topic to something related to this course.