

Sample Student Evaluations
Natalie

French 132: Revolution, Literature, and Change in 19th and 20th Century French Literature, Spring 2017

Please comment on your instructor's: a) concern for student learning b) ability to engage and challenge students c) ability to inspire and motivate

Natalie is amazing. she is so approachable and easy to talk to, she helps a great deal and has innovative and interesting ideas; she cares SO much about us students and we are lucky to have her as a teacher

Natalie was an excellent instructor! She was passionate about the subject matter and that was inspiring for the students. She also offered a nice variety so nothing got repetitive. She was friendly and encouraging, and gave feedback in a very uplifting manner.

This is a fantastic class! It is a great way to get exposed to some of the most celebrated literature in the French canon, and learning about their historical context gives you a richer understanding of the significance of these texts. Natalie is an amazing teacher, and the class is very enjoyable overall. I learned how to perform close readings of texts in French, and how to structure arguments based on these close readings. My French writing improved tremendously - the final paper for this class was the longest and most involved paper I've ever written in French. I also learned a lot about the social, political, and technological developments of the 19th and 20th centuries and how they affected the imaginations of writers at the time. I really appreciated how this course situated French literature within a historical and cultural context. Prior to this class, I was familiar with some of the French literary greats, like Hugo and Baudelaire, but had only encountered their work in a purely literary context. It was interesting to learn about the historical, social, and political forces that shaped these authors' writings, like how much of Baudelaire's work was a reaction toward technological progress and the Haussmannization of Paris. I came away from this class with a much richer understanding of French literature and how it reflects the great changes of the 19th and 20th centuries. Visiting the library Special Collections and actually seeing historical editions of these works was incredible as well - that was one of the coolest experiences I've had at Stanford! Natalie was a fantastic teacher! She was clearly very interested in the content of the course, and her passion for the material made the class incredibly engaging. She always made sure the class moved at an appropriate pace, and would not move on to a new topic until we had discussed the previous one at length. Her feedback on our essays and her comments during in-class debates and discussions always challenged us to improve our writing and the quality of our argumentation. I felt that Natalie was truly invested in my growth as a student of French.

What was your favorite aspect of this course? (Please be specific and give examples)

Writing the final paper was a very productive and useful experience. Getting to write the paper in multiple versions and receiving feedback on each draft was a great way to learn about the writing process and to ensure a great final product. It was really helpful to have time to think about my writing between drafts and to be able to talk about my ideas.

The readings were all interesting and the fact that we started our finals early meant we had a lot of time to improve it and understand the mistakes we tend to make.

Intermediate French 21C Fall 2016

Please comment on your instructor's: a) concern for student learning b) ability to engage and challenge students c) ability to inspire and motivate

"Natalie was very concerned about student learning, and did a great job accommodating student learning needs--even holding virtual office hours over google docs. Natalie was able to engage students in class very well and challenge us with difficult listening assignments, etc."

"Very passionate and genuinely excited about helping us improve"

"Natalie cared greatly about our understanding of the material. She was patient and also wanted us to ask questions"

"a) it was very obvious that Natalie cared that we learned the material b) she gave us challenging assignments knowing that they were challenging and encouraged us to push through them"

"This is a great course that I would definitely recommend. The material felt quite difficult to understand at first, but sticking with it was very rewarding and I learned a lot about some of the parallels between the issues we face in America today and those similar issues in a Francophone context."

"Natalie is so concerned with student learning and very available to help. She knows exactly how to engage students and challenge them in an approachable. Her love of the language and love of teaching make her very inspiring and motivating."

What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

"Take it! You learn so much about French culture and you really improve and build on skills learned in the first year curriculum. Also Natalie is an amazing instructor."

“It's a great learning atmosphere for the language! Fun and not bogged down with a lot of grammar.”

Beginner French Language 3 Spring 2016

Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

“Natalie is such an engaging teacher with an amazing attitude. She is so patient and truly cares about our learning”

“The best (of 5 now) french teachers I've ever had. Great at explaining language concepts and communicating effectively to a full class. Natalie always made herself available, and was an overall great teacher.”

“Natalie was an absolutely fantastic teacher who cared very dearly about her students and was extremely effective at teaching French.”

Beginner French Language 2 Winter 2015

Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

“Natalie was very energetic, very positive, and very encouraging. She was also very patient with repeating different grammar and structure nuances of French.”

“Natalie has the best attitude. She is such a wonderful teacher because she is so kind, engaging, thoughtful, and she truly cares whether or not we are learning.”

Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

“This course is well structured with well timed exams that are difficult enough to encourage learning while not being overwhelmingly stressful. They do not just make us memorize, but rather they encourage us to apply our learnings to real world situations.”

Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all? Strengths

“Overall, I enjoyed the class. Material was presented well, and the various projects and activities were enjoyable and contributed well to understanding to understanding of the

material.”

Beginner French 1 Fall 2015

Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

“All of the exams were extremely fair. Natalie set out clear goals for us, and the assessments matched those goals perfectly. We frequently had some form of assignment, which I think is super important for learning a language, so that was great. Natalie was readily available outside of class to help with any questions on assignments, and she provided great feedback.”

Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

“I know I gave Natalie all of the highest marks, and I swear I mean it. Natalie was such an effective teacher. She had high energy and strong pedagogical content knowledge, and I loved the community centered learning environment of our class. Merci!”

Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

“Natalie was a great professor for French 1. I took the class because I was interested in beginning another language while a lot of students just needed to fulfill their language requirement. It can be pretty difficult for a teacher to motivate that type of class but I always had conversations with several of the other students about how much they enjoyed Natalie's energy.”