

Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating

(Online Survey - Sakai)

Syrett Kristen syrettk Spring 2018, 01:615:350:01 — Pragmatics (index #09532) Enrollment= 29, Responses= 20 Part A: University-wide Questions:	Student Responses						Weighted Means			
	Strong Disagree 1				Strong Agree 5	No response	Section	Course	Level	Dept
1. The instructor was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	0	0	0	2	18	0	4.90	4.90	4.42	4.47
2. The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions.	0	0	0	3	17	0	4.85	4.85	4.40	4.38
3. The instructor generated interest in the course material.	0	0	1	1	18	0	4.85	4.85	4.35	4.35
4. The instructor had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	0	1	1	18	0	4.85	4.85	4.50	4.54
5. The instructor assigned grades fairly.	0	0	0	2	18	0	4.90	4.90	4.53	4.42
6. The instructional methods encouraged student learning.	0	0	1	4	15	0	4.70	4.70	4.24	4.22
7. I learned a great deal in this course.	0	0	1	4	15	0	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.33
8. I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	0	1	2	8	8	1	4.21	4.21	4.17	3.95
	Poor				Excellent					
9. I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as:	0	0	0	3	17	0	4.85	4.85	4.25	4.25
10. I rate the overall quality of the course as:	0	0	0	3	17	0	4.85	4.85	4.25	4.25

What do you like best about this course?:

“the professor was extremely knowledgeable ”

“Professor Syrett was a great professor and she was always ready for the class. I loved the course in general, and I liked how Professor Syrett would thoroughly talk about the articles that we had to read before class. It made it easier to understand if you were confused while reading. ”

“I loved how we had the forum postings - usually in my classes, it is sometimes a bit of an annoyance to be very honest, because it becomes something you have to do for a grade. Yet with these posts, it really helped (I feel at least) to clarify lectures, because we could put up any questions we had, see how others interpreted the lectures, and it really created that type of environment where we helped each other. Discussions like this are really my favorite part of a course, and I love being able to do them. I especially like how we could start to make our own connections to the real world, because that made it so much easier to understand the content in a way we could relate to”

“I loved this class with Dr. Syrett because she was just so enthusiastic about the course and I think that made all of the students feel comfortable about geeking out about Pragmatics and linguistics. The forum postings weren't a chore - they were so fun to do, especially with Dr. Syrett encouraging us the next class, saying how she loved reading them. She made the class very interesting and fun! I usually barely go to classes, especially if professors do not require attendance. Pragmatics captured my attention from day 1, and I actually wanted to go to class twice a week. Overall, everything about Dr. Syrett's teaching methods and her enthusiasm was what I liked best about this course.”

“The professor was always prepared, very intelligent and also fun and engaging, and encouraged student learning. ”

“The student involvement in learning the different pragmatic theories.”

“Seeing the concepts from earlier in the semester play out in psycholinguistic experiments”

“Material, professor, assignments, all of it! There really wasn't anything that I didn't enjoy.”

“I like that there are a great deal of in class discussions. Also the use of visual examples (like charts, studies, empirical evidence) , rather than straight lecture one hundred percent of the time. It really helps to keep my interest (I am a very visual learner) and comprehend the material.”

“ The way it was taught and how interactive it was! Made it so much fun to learn pragmatics”

“This is one of the best courses I've taken at Rutgers! Professor Syrett is fantastic, and I'm really happy I had the chance to take this class before I graduated.”

“Although I did not always enjoy having to read long linguistics papers, I liked that doing so each week and engaging with the material improved my critical reading skills. ”

“I've never felt so engaged in a class! It was extremely inviting for the students to ask questions and comment on the material. Prof Syrett knows how to run a classroom.”

“I liked when we watched videos to corresponded to what we were learning because it helped me grasp the material in a fun way. I also found that the in class exercises were extremely helpful in seeing how much I had learned for each topic. ”

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?:

“more class discussion/conversation”

"I don't think I would do anything differently in this course! I think Professor Syrett did a great job in teaching this class! "

"Spend a little more time on the experiments portion of the course - this was my favorite part because it really helped tie in all the definitions and theories to real-life application. Sometimes doing all the readings, I was super confused coming in and I really didn't feel like I took much away from them because they were so dense. The experiments really helped me understand the lectures better"

"I'm really not sure how you can make this class more perfect. Maybe a little project at the middle of the semester in the form of a forum posting would have been fun? I enjoyed the meme-posting assignment very much."

"Try to emphasize / separate the difference between a lot of general terms, because many of them have similarities that can be difficult to decipher. Maybe provide a study guide for exams. "

"Potentially provide my own examples of pragmatics in play in media at the beginning of class to get the students excited about the course. Maybe focus in more on Donald Trump's tweets"

"Please don't scare us about the exams, saying they'll be awfully difficult, if they won't be. I can understand wanting us to study, but scare tactics don't work that way - you'll just make the students who would have studied frightened and stressed, so they'll study even more, and you won't affect the students who wouldn't have studied to begin with. I don't need that - I'm anxious enough to begin with, and getting me frightened and then giving a relatively simple exam doesn't make me feel better for having studied, it makes me feel conned and leaves me with high blood pressure and a feeling that I've been patronized, which I get enough of from other sources, I don't need it from my teachers."

"Maybe slightly shorter readings, but the students will survive. "

"I would add either more assessments or maybe take-home assignments and homework to have more chances to raise grades. "

"No reading Quiz"

"Nothing."

"Perhaps I might offer a brief study guide for what might be on the exams - does not need to be in-depth, just an overview. "

"Nothing."

"Instead of having pop quizzes on the weekly readings, I would assign a short homework assignment for the week, similar to the in class exercises, to help students understand what they need to become more familiar with. "

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?:

"the professor was enthusiastic about the course material, making the content interesting and accessible. She was supportive and encouraging "

"I learned a whole bunch from this class and it made me want to test out some of the experiments with friends, or even find examples of pragmatics in TV shows !! "

"I loved being able to learn about certain phenomena which we tend to take for granted without knowing the "why" of how it works - to me, this is always exciting! It's very eye-opening and I can go around now and be able to recognize these pragmatic occurrences in the wild and explain why they occur to others!"

"I came to love Pragmatics, it has taken over Phonology as my favorite Linguistics course. I started applying the maxims and the implications to my every day life, trying to analyze what people say and all that. It's become really fun to be a linguist!"

"I am more interested in pragmatics than I was before!"

"Made me think more about why certain things are said certain ways in media. "

"Real-life examples of these linguistic phenomena have really helped us all to grasp the explanations and analytical methods we've learned about in the course. Professor Syrett has been encouraging even when we were wrong, and addresses our questions and mistakes with a desire to lead us in a better direction. "

"Professor Syrett is fantastic, albeit a bit intimidating. It is quite clear that she has high expectations and expects nothing short of your best work. She always comes to class prepared and in an upbeat mood, ready to teach. Professor Syrett is very helpful and takes the time to answer everyone's questions; it is obvious that she genuinely enjoys her job and cares about her students. She takes the time to get to know every student's name, and treats every student equally, no matter how they are doing. She makes sure that everyone is included in discussions and doesn't leave students behind that need a bit of extra help with the material. Although the material is very difficult and I struggled a lot during class, due to Professor Syrett's teaching I looked forward to going to class everyday and it pushed me to work even harder. When a professor dedicates 150% for every 1% of effort that a student puts in, it really motivates a student to do well. Professor Syrett is this type of professor, and the epitome of someone who should be teaching. "

"Made me excited about linguistics again"

"I've just been made aware of a lot of aspects of human language and human behavior - it's interesting and I definitely won't forget it."

"Again, I learned how to read and understand research papers, which is important for me if I decide to pursue research in the future. The forum posts also helped me apply pragmatic theories and lessons to real-world scenarios in my daily life."

"The comfortable atmosphere was great for participation. I am usually shy and it's helped me speak up even in other classes."

"I have learned so much from Professor Syrett. She was engaging in every class and used many outside resources to help move her power points along. "

Other comments or suggestions::

"Professor Syrett is an amazing professor and if I could take another class with her, I would for sure take it!! "

"Thank you so much for a wonderful semester! In some of my linguistics courses, I've felt a little overwhelmed by the vocab and format, but I really appreciate how our class environment was very relaxed in a certain way - we could really bounce ideas off each other, help each other understand, and I am better able to remember what I learned from the course content as a result. I hope you have a wonderful summer!! :)"

"I just want to thank Dr. Syrett because she made the class just so interesting - it wasn't just powerpoints on top of powerpoints. We learned so much, and I've never been in a class that was so involved and so passionate about the use of language. The debates and conversations were all very fun to listen to! "

"Thank you for being a great professor! :) "

"Professor was super nice and engaging. I wish I had participated in this class but my feelings of low self-esteem stopped me"

"I usually don't like slides-based lectures but you use them well! "

“The class exercises and bingo were helpful.”

“If I could take pragmatics again, I would. It has been my favorite linguistics course so far.”

“Sometimes it is hard to take down everything that is said in class that may be pertinent information. Maybe add some of that information onto the slides if it is very important.”

“I'm going to be a senior and this class is in my top 3 favorites that I've taken. I struggled with some of the information, but none of that was due to her teaching style, and an average grade somehow didn't diminish my interest. like it usually does.”

“One thing I would suggest would be to add a little more information to each of the slides because there was always so much that I wanted to write down, but had trouble remembering what Professor had said after she explained her slides.”
