

Selected comments from end-of-semester student evaluations for PIK:

- 1) “The readings caused me to experience several ‘Oh, I get it’ moments. I appreciated how much I learned, because that is one important factor leading me to take the course. ...The course allowed for me to apply my new ‘integrative knowledge’ to other subjects and to apply new insights to my education. ...I greatly enjoyed the course material and how much I learned about the world.”
- 2) “My expectations were to talk about many disciplines and integrated them in an exciting way. I heard many great reviews of this class and these expectations were met. ...The course made me think in a new way about science and the culture of today. Of importance I learned to appreciate music and art that I never knew existed. It also contributed to my knowledge in all the disciplines that we discussed. What I liked most is the integration at the end; the presentation and analytic paper (though hard work) incorporated this integration in a new and exciting way.”
- 3) “I found the readings very interesting. I believe they articulated the ideas of the course very well. ...I received what I expected in the class. I expected an in depth study of modernism and postmodernism focused on ‘why’ questions. ...I learned about the modern mind and how it influences our perception. I encounter clashes between humanism and modernity everyday now that I look for them. ...I enjoyed the class discussion greatly and found the topic engaging.”
- 4) “[The course affected me] immensely. The course helped me gain appreciation for cultural criticism. Many ideas will carry on to the rest of college and life in general.”
- 5) “I have learned more life-altering, earth-shattering information in this course than in any other I’ve taken in college. More than anything, I learned to appreciate subjects I normally could care less about, and connect each and every subject we learned.. As a person living in the 21st century, this course contributed to my life along with my liberal arts education. This class affected how I think. It taught me why I think the way I do, and alternate ways of thinking. It affects how I think about life and see the culture around me. ...Overall, this has been one of my favorite courses. I have already recommended the course to everyone I talk with, including students from other schools.”
- 6) “The amount of reading was extremely difficult and was almost a disenchanting factor about the course. What I read and understood I loved, and I came to at least appreciate that which I did not understand if not also turn to love/enjoy. ...I loved what we learned, and the conversational format was awesome!”
- 7) “I appreciated being graded on my ability to grasp concepts. ...I came out learning more than I ever could have expected. ...This course gave me a well-rounded education in many academic subjects as well as an education on life. I have a new outlook on life and ‘intelligence’. ...I could not be more glad that I took this course.”
- 8) “I was able to make connections from one topic to another from what the readings focused on. ...I was worried that the topics would be over my head, but once I got into it, I was very surprised to realize that I understood what was going on. ...The fun thing about this class during this particular semester is that it was relevant to all my other classes: drawing, music, and intro to religion. I was ‘making connections’ all over the place. This class also gave me a better understanding of why things are the way they are, and where it’ll go in the future. ...While the class seemed choppy at

times, and I wasn't sure where we were going, everything eventually came together and made sense."

9) "This class gave me new insight and connections from one discipline to another. This has helped me better understand the evolution of knowledge. In fact, I use what I've learned to question, challenge, and evaluate what I'm being taught in other courses."

10) "Increased awareness of my culture and society. Tied in nicely with anthropology and history classes. ...Essays helped keep the focus of the course readings and strengthened understanding of course concepts. ...I learned so much of importance that I can't even begin! Because of PIK, I can look at our society and think and understand this world on a much, not deeper, but clearer level. I feel more aware of problems, reasons, causes, and even am able to articulate possible solutions. This course feels like the only meaningful part of my education, coupled with anthropology. This course has completely changed my view of our world."

11) "The level of challenge was very high, but I found the work enjoyable. ...In seeing culture as a continuum and as something that is fair to critique, this course has been very valuable."

12) "The readings helped me understand the impact of our modern worldview and how it is present in every area of culture. ...I enjoyed finding connections between seemingly disparate disciplines. ...I learned that our modern worldview has really caused our culture to become fragmented and purposeless. This class helped me see connections I had never seen before. ...This class went beyond meeting my expectations."

13) "The readings helped me to understand and follow the class discussions. ...What I liked most about the class was the fact that the class really depended on our knowledge and opinions. I prefer classes where I can think and react rather than just sit there and take notes the whole time. ...Things that we have learned in this class just aren't taught enough today."

14) "Most courses teach students as if the discipline was a completely self-contained system, but they're not. ...I expected for my horizons to be expanded and they were."

15) "I learned about the integrative ideas of twentieth century culture and a lot about the twentieth century in general. I learned why art and music became 'weird'.

16) "I think the weekly writings were very effective for learning. ...This course has made me look for more connections in all of my classes and across my classes."

17) "This course truly makes the student think, and it is neat to see how this course relates so much to the real world. It is an eye-opening course. ...It really made me think and make connections I had never made."

18) "It helped me understand how the disciplines evolved in a congruent manner and how various disciplines have similar foundations in thought."