Using Course Evaluations to Tell the Story About Your Teaching

Using Mid-Term Evaluations to Make Changes During a Course

- shows you are interested in student feedback
- gives you a chance to make changes but also to explain approaches that you thought students understood
- consider having students reflect on their own contribution to their learning
- ask students to consider what they are learning, not what they like or dislike

A. **Open-ended approach:** ask students to comment in general terms on their learning. This will get you the things that are most on students’ minds. It is often useful to ask students to go back to the syllabus and look at your course goals so that they can reflect on progress they are making toward meeting course goals.

**Example:**
1. Please describe three things that you find the most valuable in learning the course concepts so far.

2. Please offer suggestions on changes I could make to increase your learning in the course.

3. What might you yourself do to make more progress in the course?

B. **Specific prompts:** include questions about approaches with which you are experimenting or specific questions you have about things you are doing.

**Examples:**
- You are about to turn in your rewrite of your Marie de France paper. What did you learn about your skills in writing about literature in the process of rewriting? In what way did my comments on your draft help you? How might you go about writing your next paper for this course differently?

- One goal of the course is to increase your ability to deal with ambiguity, to think on your feet, and to be creative in getting your points across with limited vocabulary and structures in French. How much progress do you think you’re making in this area? What could you do more to improve in this area? What could I do more?
End of the Course Evaluations

Add supplementary questions to the SIR

k. supplementary questions

46. As a result of this course, my ability to find resources (library databases and internet) in the French language improved:

5  strongly agree
4  agree
3  somewhat agree
2  disagree
1  strongly disagree

47. As a result of this course my understanding of values outside of my own culture increased:

5  strongly agree
4  agree
3  somewhat agree
2  disagree
1  strongly disagree

Solicit Narrative Evaluations

Example:

I would greatly appreciate your feedback on the course. Your comments will help me in deciding what changes I can make to improve the course the next time I teach it.

1. Thinking back on your goals for taking this course and the course goals on the syllabus, what are the two or three things you have learned the most from this course?

2. In terms of the ways you achieved those goals (class activities, assignments, feedback on work, etc.) what two or three things did you most value about this course?

3. What two or three suggestions could you offer that would have made the course more effective in meeting your goals?

Revised by A. Hark 1.30.12