

Spring 2015  
Croxall  
ENG 389-000

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Comparison Key:  
A - Same Size Sections (21-45) 262 sections  
B - Same Level (300) 309 Sections  
C - Same Format (LEC) 767 Sections  
D - Same Subject (ENG) 53 Sections

											S C A L E O F R E S P O N S E S									COMPARISONS						
											1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NA	Total	Median	A	B	C	D
Evaluation of the Instructor																										
How well organized was the class?																1	5	4	10		20	8.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Was the instructor enthusiastic about the material?																	1	2	17		20	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
How concerned was the instructor with what students learned from the course?																	4	5	11		20	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
How clearly did instructor explain specific concepts relevant to the course?															1	5	6	8		20	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
How clearly did instructor communicate course objectives and requirements?															1	3	6	10		20	8.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
How well did the instructor respond to the students' questions?															1	3	5	11		20	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	
How accessible was the instructor for individual discussion about the course?															1	4	2	12	1	20	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	
How well did the exams and/or assignments reflect the course material?															1	5	1	10	2	20	9.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
Was feedback on exams, papers, performance useful?												1		2	4	3	3	2	4	1	20	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Were the grading criteria for the course clear?															1	3	5	5	6		20	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
How much did the course promote your progress on these learning objectives?																										
Acquiring factual knowledge.															3	3	4	3	5	2	20	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Understanding basic principles and concepts.															2	1	5	2	7	3	20	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Being able to apply facts, concepts, and principles to specific questions.															1	1	4	4	7	3	20	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Being able to assess or critique ideas and arguments.													1		1	3	5	5	5		20	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.0
Being able to integrate and synthesize information.															2	1	7	4	4	2	20	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0

Evaluation of the Instructor										
How well organized was the class?	1	5	4	10	20	8.15				
Was the instructor enthusiastic about the material?		1	2	17	20	8.80				
How concerned was the instructor with what students learned from the course?		4	5	11	20	8.35				
How clearly did instructor explain specific concepts relevant to the course?	1	5	6	8	20	8.05				
How clearly did instructor communicate course objectives and requirements?	1	3	6	10	20	8.25				
How well did the instructor respond to the students' questions?	1	3	5	11	20	8.30				
How accessible was the instructor for individual discussion about the course?	1	4	2	12	1	20	8.32			
How well did the exams and/or assignments reflect the course material?	1	1	5	1	10	2	20	8.00		
Was feedback on exams, papers, performance useful?	1	2	4	3	3	2	4	1	20	6.42
Were the grading criteria for the course clear?		1	3	5	5	5	6		20	7.60
Weighted Mean (* Omitted from computation)										8.03
How much did the course promote your progress on these learning objectives?										
Acquiring factual knowledge.		3	3	4	3	5	2	20	7.22	
Understanding basic principles and concepts.		2	1	5	2	7	3	20	7.65	
Being able to apply facts, concepts, and principles to specific questions.		1	1	4	4	7	3	20	7.88	
Being able to assess or critique ideas and arguments.	1	1	3	5	5	5		20	7.30	
Being able to integrate and synthesize information.		2	1	7	4	4	2	20	7.39	
Weighted Mean (* Omitted from computation)										7.48
Overall Weighted Mean										7.86



English Department  
Course Evaluation

Semester and Year: Spring 2015

Course: English 389

Section: 000 (OPUS #5777)

Instructor: **Brian Croxall**

1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, *and* the reading.

Dear future students,

Professor Croxall is ~~undoubtedly~~ surely one of the most quirky and funny professors I've ever had. Especially considering the fact we are watching ~~domestic~~ astronauts in a movie while we write these. This class is enjoyable and very different than any other class you may have taken in the past. Don't come into this course expecting to simply read, discuss, and then write a paper. Those things will be done, sure, but you will go in-depth in ~~the~~ literature like you never have before. Some people found it frustrating, but I found it enlightening because it was a way of looking at things that I never ~~experienced~~ experienced. That is the digital humanities part.

As far as the reading and assignments go, don't start off too much and you'll do just fine. You will read a ~~wide~~ ~~variety~~ variety of different things: poetry, a ~~horror~~ horror novel that is written like an academic journal with commentary from a drug addict, and of course classic literature. I enjoyed this class and if you work enough you will have the same experience.

The assignments as well are obscure. ~~unlike~~ But they will change the way you think about reading. None of them are particularly hard, but tedious at times. You will do great. Have fun!

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

I think the Duffy assignment should absolutely be kept. I felt like it was the most effective in showing what digital humanities was all about. The House of Leaves book was my favorite reading out of this class but I feel like the assignment ~~showed~~ was not as ~~successful~~ successful as some of the other assignments in showing what DH was about.

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Instructor: **Brian Croxall**

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Dear Future Students,

Definitely take this class. This is one of the few English classes that could be useful to any major. Professor Croxall is very open to all kinds of interpretation about literature as long as you're able to back it up. This class allows for a lot of experimentation that you don't see in other English classes. There are a lot of group assignments, so if you don't like that, here's that warning. The reading is challenging, but interesting.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Kept - The House of Leaves "A Million Blue Pages" project because it was a good integration of literary understanding and using digital platforms. It felt like actual world contribution.

Cut - The Duffy word analysis project because I feel that the tools used to analyze the text were not formed in a way that could help us actually learn something about the text. I was trying to find something meaningful but ultimately failed.



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Dear future students,

Always do more than expected. Not in a bad way, just in a life kind of way. Croxall can tell when you're half-adding and he will reward you for your engagement. This isn't a normal class wherein this engagement is difficult - It is totally manageable purely because the work is useful, entertaining and exciting. Don't expect to come in here and sit in the back of class and skim the readings. Prof. Croxall won't go too fast and class discussions are always welcome. The assignments are relevant to our modernizing world and the way that literature plays a role within it. This class is less of a class and more of an exploration. Don't come if you're not ready for delving into literature by seeing it through a multitude of mediums and perspectives. Welcome class. I feel grateful to have been able to take it. ~~unimpressed~~ He cares about his teaching, his material and his students, you really can tell. Thank you for an awesome semester.

impressed  
unimpressed  
at growth

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

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Dear future student:

First of all, you're #blessed to have

Professor Croxall as your instructor. ~~He~~ He is the kindest, most understanding individual I have ever come across at Emory. I hurt myself terribly earlier this semester, and he has been the most sympathetic & caring teacher & person ever. He's hysterical & witty & has an ~~abundant~~ abundance of random knowledge relevant to most every subject.

This class is a lot of work that you have to stay on top of. Do your readings, bring them to class. It's not hard, but it is time-consuming.

The reading is AMAZING. House of Leaves changed my life - don't SparkNotes it.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

If Mrs. Dallaway is kept as a text, definitely the mapping project should also be kept. It was so much better seeing the material in another context at a time of removal.

Absolutely be cut - I dunno, I really loved all of the assignments, super beyond the traditional paper.

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Future students:

The most important thing to know about the instructor is that he wears bow ties, but not because he's old. That sums up his character pretty well.

The course is about as interesting as it sounds in the description, with a few disappointments. If you wind under a rock, this course will be fresh and exciting. However, if you have varied interests you might wish for some updating and new ideas.

Regarding the assignments, GROUP WORK!! Not because anyone likes it or gains anything from it at this point in their careers but because your professor has a life, which maybe you understand or maybe you resent.

I took this class only because House of Leaves was being taught and you should, too. ~~It~~ It makes up for the disappointments if you're cool enough to like it.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

The House of Leaves assignment should be kept because the book is great and everyone should be required to be creative.

The Mrs. Dalloway assignment should be updated with a new book because Mrs. Dalloway is an annoying old woman and Virginia Woolf thought she was cooler than she is. Also, group work sucks.

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Dear future student,

If you're planning on taking this course there are a few things you should know/do. First off, forget everything you think you know about English or literature. It's not that they're not valid or relevant... but in this class you'll examine these topics in a completely different way! If you don't like to talk, work in groups or be creative/open-minded then this course is probably not for you!

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

I think that the Mrs. Dalloway mapping project should definitely be kept. Without this assignment this book would have just been yet another novel that I quickly skimmed through. This project allowed me to analyze & understand the text and characters in a completely unexpected way.

None of the assignments should be cut... except maybe the 6 page paper!



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Students of the future,

If you want to reduce stress in your life brought upon by this course, just do your reading and TRY! You'll get a good grade and you'll walk away with valuable knowledge and skills. I took this course because a Texas medical school I applied to told me I needed two semesters of English to matriculate and this English course seemed to be the least pretentious of all the classes offered in the English department. If you try to make the best of this class even if you're kind of bored into it, you'll have a good time and be more well-rounded.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Keep: website building project. It is a useful skill to have.

(cut): Poetry paper. Formal essays are unpleasant and a formal essay on poetry is even more unpleasant.

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Dear future students,

Professor Croxall is, by far, the best professor I've had in college so far. I have yet to meet another college professor as cool and fun as him. I learned more in this class than my physics class (probably not a good thing). I was very narrow-minded about English in general when I came into the class, but Professor Croxall opened my eyes to another side of English, a side that didn't contain boring papers. I was able to build and create in an ENGLISH class.

The course was great, I would highly recommend it to other students.

The assignments could be heavy at times—the only flaw I recognize about the course. The readings were quite overwhelming at times, but the projects were so fun! It's important to not fall behind in this class though.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

My favorite assignment was the House of Leaves project. Although it was a pain to read the book, I've never read a book like that before. The social media aspect was also fun - I didn't realize how creative me and my peers could be.

My least favorite assignment was the Dalloway assignment. Attempting to work with Google maps was way too stressful and I didn't learn as much as I did with other projects.

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Dear future students,

I feel obligated to tell you this class has a ridiculous amount of group projects, but no system to rat out lazy classmates who will take credit for your hardwork. In addition, the blogging requirements for this class are painful and annoying.

Besides those points, you should know this class has been quite an amazing journey, and if you decide against taking it, you are missing out. Dr. Croxall is incredibly and infectiously enthusiastic about the class, and there is no way you won't enjoy the class at least once throughout the semester.

ending notes -

- House of Leaves is really creepy, and I can't stop jumping at my own shadow now.

- Mrs. Dalloway is a very boring novel, but there is no way you can complete the attached project with an internet summary.

- Duffy is an awesome poet, so appreciate the opportunity to study her!

— the end.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

As much as I enjoyed the House of leaves project, it should be either sized down (to not be a group project) or cut. This was a very stressful time for me.

Also, as much as I hate Mrs. Dalloway, the project was very useful in interpreting the book.

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~~NOTE~~  
Attend the classes. I've been absolute shit at attending them, which I regret. Don't ~~bother~~ bother to try to get your way through the House of Lords. This was my third time reading it and I still had trouble discussing it in the days I fell behind on the readings.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

To be kept: A Million Blue Pages. I'm pretty sure that I am really just biased b/c I enjoyed ~~HMU~~ House of Lords so much, but I thought it was a fascinating concept - to be able to see and compare notes from other students across the country.

To be cut / modified: Mapping Mrs. Dalloway. A quick google search after our class did the project revealed that previous classes had done the exact same thing. (Which doesn't necessarily take away from the merit of the project) I just thought I would be nice to try something new w/ the same tools, i.e. maybe bigger groups that are assigned 2 characters and asked how their paths reveal something about their relationship.



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Future Students,

I would like to tell you that if you take a course taught by Brian Croxall, you should expect a fair amount of work. If you are also the type of student who does not engage with the material or who likes to participate, I would pick another class. That being said, this was my favorite class for all the reasons I listed above. Although there was a lot of work it was very manageable, and Professor Croxall was very good at enticing us to remind us of deadlines - something none of my other professors do. I liked how much discussion we had and I felt like it was a really comfortable atmosphere where I got to know my classmates. Professor Croxall is a great teacher who puts a lot of work into his class, you can see how much he cares about the material and that in turn made me care. I wholeheartedly wish I could take another class with him.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

English Department  
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This class will both frustrate and bother you. You'll end up wondering "WTF" on most projects, but it will be one of the best courses you'll ever enroll in. We fall prey to taking traditional courses as students — the British Literature or the American Literatures, etc. Taking this class will help you break away from that shallow shell of "esteemed literature", and you'll sometimes question whether or not there is a real course. If you're hesitant about this class, don't be. Dr Croxall is madly dedicated to making your experience in DH fun and rewarding and inspiring.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Keep

Mrs Dalloway was a great  
visit to the class & clarified  
what Digital Humanities really  
means

Cut

I really liked the flower of  
leaves project but the book?  
Ugh....

English Department  
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1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, *and* the reading.

Dear Future Students,

If you're unsure whether or not you should take this class, put aside your uncertainties and take it. Intro to Digital Humanities has been unlike any other class I've enrolled in before, mainly because of Croxall's interactive, engaging teaching style. He forces you to throw yourself into the text in a way that no other English class will ever do. This class is innovative and enjoyable, but still challenging. There is constant pressure to keep up with the reading in order to efficiently execute projects and follow class discussion. Furthermore, it is up to the student to manage his/her workload to ensure deadlines are met. A lot of responsibility is put into the hands of the student, and there are hefty consequences for late/forgotten assignments. Don't save things for last minute - this is not the kind of class you can do that in!

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

**English Department**  
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Dear future student,

• Just because this English class only has 1 "real" essay, it still has a lot of assignments so don't be fooled.

• Read before class

• Blog often/early in semester

• Don't skip class

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Kept: House of leaves project

Cut: Dalloway mapping



**English Department**  
**Course Evaluation**

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1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, *and* the reading.

This class is all about the effort. I came into this class not knowing what to expect. It really is different than any other English course you will ever take. If you stay on top of assignments, blogs and readings especially, you will be fine.

Most important of all, have fun experimenting and don't be afraid of a bad grade if you fail. Failing is actually smiled upon.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Kept: House of Leaves A Million Blue Pages

it was fun being creative in my own unique way

cut: Duffy project.

didn't really help us learn anything new

Congrats on your new job at Brown!  
They're lucky to have you.

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Surprise is half the fun of  
this class. Just keep on top of  
the assignments and everything should  
be fine. Also, don't be intimidated,  
the class is unusual by design.  
Enjoy

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

I personally loved the House of Leaves assignment, though big projects in general don't do wonders near the end of a semester. No assignments stick out that need to be cut, but consider what needs to be streamlined for better "screwing around."

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Professor Croxall is very entertaining and interesting to listen to. The course is neat, definitely unlike other English classes at Emory. Readings were good not great and some assignments were trivial. Perhaps I just prefer the structure and style of a more standard English class.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

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1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, *and* the reading.

Dear Future Student,

More important about the instructor is he is a nice guy it  
you take this seriously and treat him like a human being  
It won't be hard to do well if you do these from the start.

About the assignments, just do them and do them earnestly.  
The class is fun and the assignments tend to teach more than  
in class.

Finally, just do the reading with an open mind. Usually  
it is not stupid but has something meaningful to  
communicate. Just find the profound message.

Current Student

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Absolutely keep AMBP until the website is full.  
But is there a way for the website to cache entries? Some are already missing!

Absolutely cut.. I know. "Sexy." Maybe cut Mapping Mrs. Delaney and find a new book to map.  
It's too easily googled.



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1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, and the reading.

Dear future classmates,

Professor Croxall was a great professor who displayed enthusiasm in teaching his course, which was by itself unique and different from most English classes at Emory. Many group projects are assigned in class, and regular blogging is required in order to do well, so if these are aspects which you may not be comfortable with, it would be advisable to reconsider.

Other than these, I would definitely recommend this class if you'd like to approach English literature from a different perspective and enjoy class

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

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1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, *and* the reading.

Dear future students,

Put some effort into your blogs and make them thought-provoking. Don't just write plot summary. It makes you look stupid. And yes, other people do read your posts. If there are no comments, it's not because no one read it, it's because your post sucked.

Much love

Spring 2015

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Keep: House of Leaves

Cut: Mrs. O'Leary