Student Response to Instruction Report

Instructor: MCCARTHY JOHN
Department: LINGUIST
Course/Sect: 101 1 Schedule Number: 73882
Semester: Fall 06
Forms returned: 133 Total Enrollment: 210 Response Rate: 63.33

About the Instructor and the course: 5 4 3 2 1 OMIT N SD MEAN

1. The instructor was well prepared for class.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   121 12 0 0 0 0 133 .29 4.91

2. The instructor explained course material clearly.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   107 26 0 0 0 0 133 .40 4.80

3. The instructor cleared up points of confusion.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   98 33 2 0 0 0 133 .48 4.72

4. The instructor used class time well.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   104 26 2 0 0 1 132 .46 4.77

5. The instructor inspired interest in the subject matter.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   97 28 8 0 0 0 133 .59 4.67

6. The instructor showed a personal interest in helping.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   96 30 7 0 0 0 133 .57 4.67

7. I received useful feedback.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   75 34 20 2 1 1 132 .85 4.36

8. The methods of evaluating my work were fair.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   104 22 6 1 0 0 133 .58 4.72

9. The instructor stimulated student participation.
   (5=Almost Always, 1=Almost never)
   63 42 27 1 0 0 133 .80 4.26

10. Overall, how much do you feel you learned?
    (5=Much more, 1=Much less)
    56 56 19 2 0 0 133 .75 4.25

11. Overall rating of instructors teaching.
    (5=Almost Always Effective, 1=Almost Never Effective)
    97 33 3 0 0 0 133 .50 4.71

12. Overall rating of this course.
    (5=One of the best,1=One of the worst)
    74 42 17 0 0 0 133 .71 4.43

This course is: Major Req. 6% Expected Grade: A 33% Gen. Ed. Req. 68% A- 18%
Other Req. 7% B+ 20% Elective 14% B 12%
Missing 5% B- 9%

Student class level: Freshmen 38% C+ 1%
Sophomore 28% C 3%
Junior 19% C- 0%
Senior 11% D+ 0%
Graduate 0% D 0%
Other 0% D- 0%
Missing 5% F 0%
Other 0%
Teaching Evaluations  
Name: McCarthy 
Linguistics 101 People and Their Language Fall 2006 

Question 1: What do you like most about this course and/or instructor’s teaching of it? 
- I loved the lectures. The movies were always very interesting 
- The course packet was very helpful for taking notes and studying 
- Notes available online 
- Notes are clear and available all the time. Very helpful when studying for an exam. He is great when lecturing. He includes fun stuff like movies which make the class much more entertaining. 
- The use of videos in lectures 
- I enjoyed McCarthy direct and humorous manner. He mixed a lot of information with real life examples 
- John’s friendly and easy-going attitude made this course very enjoyable. Often asking the students for input keeps them involved and interested. 
- He is a friendly, enthusiastic guy that loves what he’s doing. 
- The material is interesting to and John is always prepared for the lesson w/ excellent notes to the exams come strait from the notes 
- Liked subject material 
- Uses videos and examples, the question book that guides note taking. 
- Made the content fun and interesting 
- I like how you put the lecture notes online. For me to take them on my own and write them thoroughly was helpful. 
- Very down to earth and provided examples that were currently relevant. 
- Interesting material, instructor made class as enjoyable as possible. 
- Very interesting. Keeps me awake which is hard to do. 
- Prof. makes it interesting, video and slideshows keep you awake. 
- It is interesting, he is really nice. 
- It was easy 
- It’s EZ 
- He uses examples we can relate to – from music and movies etc. He wears interesting ties. 
- John was very laid back and knowledgeable 
- John picked interesting video clippings. He had good examples I could relate too. 
- The lectures were interesting and never boring. 
- The instructor has a good grasp of what he teaches and makes it plain. I had trouble keeping up sometimes, because the class moved so swiftly, otherwise I liked the class and my instructor was very knowledgeable on the subject. 
- I really enjoyed both the huge scope of topics covered and the very Prof. McCarthy presented different theories and the controversies surrounding them. Very off a solid relatively unbiased covering of a large subject 
- John is very straightforward about the class – there are no pretensions. He is clear with the material and very approachable for confusions. 
- The material we cover is great! 
- Everything
• Enthusiastic. Likes to teach, videos and slideshow online
• He made it very interesting I really enjoyed this class. He’s a good professor.
• John made the topics of the course interesting and taught in a fun way that made info more understandable
• John used examples that related to the students today and made it easy to understand.
• I liked how systematic and organized the lectures are. Very easy to understand and helped in grasping of basic concepts.
• He made it fun with an excited attitude and jokes.
• Interesting topics
• The examples & videos that the professor shows the class
• I really liked how John used video and sound clips to assist in his explanation of class material. I also thought he made class very interesting and involved his class in the learning process very well. I also likes that he gave us a detailed study guide before every test.
• I likes how John gave us a well detailed study guide before the test (telling us the essays and so forth)
• I like how he tried to relate to the younger students with his examples. I like the tests (b/c they include essays). I liked the topic of how vocab is different in various parts of the U.S.
• John stimulated interest in the class discussions. He did so in a way that really got me thinking outside the box and about new and different ideas. Great Job keep up the good work.
• It was interesting and we’re constantly learning new materials and information.
• The class is fun and educating
• I learned a lot about other cultures as well as the origins of many English words.
• He used video clips and demonstrations to help explain his point. He was very enthusiastic :)
• The class was very interesting and the instructor is intelligent and knows how to teach
• John’s engaging lectures and flawless use of PowerPoint actually had me considering a change of major halfway through the course. In addition, the smattering of humor he included kept the mood light and the topics enjoyable.
• The material in interesting.
• Very interesting material and very engaging professor.
• I liked most about this course is the information is interesting and the booked notes.
• Makes topics interesting and easy to learn/relate to
• I like his use of movie clips.
• The instructor is straightforward and puts the material in easy terms so students can easily understand.
• It was different than any other class I’ve taken
• It is interesting stuff
• He was clear, brief and got to the point using a lot of examples to relate to.
• John makes us get involved in class.
• John is a personable, funny guy who makes the class enjoyable. His use of audio and video is conducive to learning the material too
• The material was interesting
• It is a fun course and I felt that I learned a lot.
• He made the class very interesting, kept it moving well. I liked the course pack, it helps organize your notes well, and it makes it easier to study
• It was taught well. Notes & lectures were covered in class & tests were not too hard.
• The topic itself is interesting and the way the instructor incorporates media to show examples.
• Professor is enthusiastic and into the subject he teachers which makes class informative yet interesting. Love that he provided us with slides online and class packet
• The lectures were interesting
• Great teacher always had an interesting lecture prepared
• Great lectures
• Professor McCarthy has the best combination of a strong passion for linguistics as well as a commitment to teaching.
• The instructor is very organized, energized and coveys the topics well. The course material has been fascinating and like ho it has turned out to be a very eye-opening class.
• I liked how passionate John was about the material. He brought life to the subject matter and sparked my interest.
• I enjoyed the videos that went a long with lectures and how the lectures were kept interesting
• Clear on important topics and manages to cover all that is in the course pack.
• He presented the material well and his examples were always helpful and gave me a better understanding of the material, especially the videos he’d use
• I thought he was great! Always had things that were used for examples. Related things to “our era”
• The material is very interesting
• His lecture the way of teaching gave a lot of interests in Linguistic. I would ever consider myself changing major.
• Awesome class, very interesting and informative, great teaching method; allowed for those who put the time in to do well
• John was funny and showed interesting videos during his lectures
• Lectures were interesting
• The lectures were lively and interesting. He used a good combination of videos and pictures in addition to the points to make things interesting and to teach.
• The use of slides which can also be accessed online
• Explained course material extremely well with humor as well
• His teaching method was very upbeat (used fairly interesting clips to support his claims)
• John is excellent. One of the best professors I’ve ever had. He’s funny, well-prepared and eager to help students. You really can’t ask for anything more in a professor; he’s exemplary/
• All notes are online so you can prepare for classes and exams
• I enjoyed the language acquisition lectures. John gave lots of examples to support the daily topics. I also liked the multimedia approach (used video clips and song lyrics)

Question 2: What about this course and/or the instructor’s teaching of it needs change or improvement?
• For the dialect area should look outside of America as well to mix the information for foreign students and Americans.
• Information on PowerPoint slides is sometimes too watered down. Make it more concise
• He sometimes used to students’ opinions in class which I found good but could do this more of them. However, I don’t believe this is necessary. I love it!
• Sometimes he talks way too fast
• Nothing needs improvement, his ways of presenting the material are great
• Nothing, overall an awesome professor.
• Very little
• Stimulate more class participation
• More student participation
• The instructor could go slower for note takers
• More student participation
• Do more than just read off slides
• Maybe more effective explanations of the videos.
• Attendance is bogus. I understand the films are part of class, although if one feels they understand the material well enough without going to lecture, then attending lecture shouldn’t be mandatory
• No, it was one of my favorite class : )
• Attendance policy- instead maybe some short occasional quizzes for attendance. Or not quite a strict policy effecting your grade.
• Slow up on the slides
• More videos
• Discussions are boring.
• Slow down on slides.
• He needs to slow down. He goes though the slides too fast. It’s very frustrating. Maybe he should cover less material so he can go slower. The stuff at the end of the semester was boring anyway.
• The discussion sessions seemed pointless- we learned it all clearly in lecture
• John should speak slowly at times.
• Some videos shown were a big superfluous, but still enjoyable overall I think the use of videos was definitely effective and fast for getting peoples interest
We didn’t get the exam multiple choices back – we couldn’t tell how or why we went wrong. Also, when hw assignments are due, they are based on the Wednesday’s lecture maybe 2 days before they are due *

More participation points, subject can get redundant

Needs more points, more student participation (maybe a CPS Format)

Confusing multiple choice questions on the test, made to trick you.

Making some lectures less monotonous (although video clips helped a lot)

Some exam questions were confusing. Making sure the questions aren’t confusing would help.

Definitely change the final – if you have an A/A- then it should not mandatory to take a final, or at least change the paper option to about 4 pages instead of 8 pages because paper option instead of written final is ridiculous

Sometimes he speaks too quickly or will sporadically jump from slide to slide. Some of the history topics of language are boring.

Feedback on test

I don’t think anything should change

I wish it counted for the Linguistics major…

Go over more of what will be on exams in the lectures

Occasionally I found myself lapsing as if the one point he’s drilling dragged on and on.

At times, I felt as thought John was talking at the class during lecture and sometimes he dragged the topics

I think it’s great. No changes need to be made!

Question 3: What suggestions can you offer that would made this course a better learning experience for you?

Instructions more with group; ask more questions

Slightly slower slide changing. Sometimes too much info to get.

Um. More specific information more detail about important stffs

Make absences worth less points

I think it’s fine the way it is

Having more questions answered instead as so much straight lecturing

I think I learned a lot.

A better classroom.

Nothing I learned a lot

The discussions were repetitive, I didn’t really learn from them.

Control the class too much shuffling was made 5 min. before it ended.

More links to outside sources or topics covered! They are so many that it’s impossible to cover them all fully, and I really appreciate the extra info posted occasionally on the site.

It was great!

Less note taking

The course needs no improvement

Continue with the modern examples that are used to connect points.
• More hands on experiments, and maybe a “homework” where we had to test our own theory of language (or even as an extra credit assignment)
• No mandatory final – make optional! Please! Also wish some test questions (multiple choice) was worded more clear and concise.
• Discussions seemed almost pointless. The TA was nice and was being helpful, but it seemed like all we accomplished was dropped off our papers.
• It was good, no suggestions
• Offer the course in a more comfortable classroom
• More class participation (more spontaneity)

Additional Comments:
• Congrats on making me a linguistics major / minor
• One of the best, most interesting classes I’ve taken at UMass. John McCarthy is a great professor
• Great class
• This class is very interesting!
• Thanks for putting the lecture slides online before the actual lecture- this helped because I could focus more on what is being said instead of scrambling to write the notes
• John is a very good teacher, Thank you. Great all around
• I’ll recommend this class
• Interesting class – now I finally know what linguistics means!
• John is a very good instructor with a good sense of humor that keeps the class entertaining.
• Wish the final contained essay questions just b/c we are familiar w/ that format from previous 2 exams
• Enjoyed the material discussed in class.
• Go Sox 07. I love John’s ties!!!
• He is a very cool guy with a funny sense of humor.
• The work was not too much. I felt I learned a lot.
• I learned a lot in the class. I enjoyed the class.
• I’ve been recommending this course A LOT. The apprehensive intellectually challenging course that remains enjoyable. I was able to take in the subject without either over extending myself or feeling sold short.
• That effectively gives us only the one day – Thursday- to work on them, even though they were distributed the week before.
• Thanks!
• The discussion section for this class was pointless and I feel I learned or gained nothing from it
• It’s a good class; you’re a interesting professor who keeps us interested on the lectures.
• Thank You!
• I really enjoyed this class. It was one of my favorites.
• Very interesting class!
• Overall, excellent GenEd class, almost always enjoyed attending class.
• I really enjoyed myself in the class and learned a lot about the subject. I thoroughly enjoyed John’s manner of teaching and found his love for the subject very intriguing. Great Job overall! I had a really positive experience.
• This class made me consider a minor in Linguistics! I really enjoyed this class and thought the professor did an excellent job in conveying the information.
• One of the best classes at UMASS!
• Good class — enjoyed information
• Dresses very appropriately
• I think Professor McCarthy is one of the best dressed professors I’ve had at UMass. His wardrobe is classic, yet modern. I especially love his tie choices – they are bright and shining like his personality.
• Good teacher! 😊
• Awesome job!
• Best class, best professor I’ve ever had
• One of the most interesting classes not to mention well organized, I have ever taken
• No complaints about this class there is a fair attendance policy. Everything is grades fairly, overall best class I took this semester.