

Summary of Teaching Evaluations

Rachel Keranen

Courses Included:

- Beginning Nonfiction Workshop, Columbia University Undergraduate Creative Writing (2021)
- Introduction to Creative Writing Craft Class, Columbia Pre-College Program (2021)
- Introduction to Creative Writing Seminar, Columbia Pre-College Program (2020)

Beginning Nonfiction Workshop: Evaluation Statistics

Point-based scores are out of 5

What is your overall assessment of the course in the current modality?	4.56
What is the overall teaching effectiveness of Rachel Keranen in the current modality?	4.78
Would you recommend this course in its current modality to another student?	<i>Definitely: 77.78%</i> <i>Probably: 22.22%</i>

Beginning Nonfiction Workshop: Selected Student Comments

“Honestly one of the best professors I have had in my time at Columbia. Cares for her students, wants us to succeed and goes above and beyond in time, help and resources. Genuinely an incredible professor that I am lucky to have met during my time here. Would highly highly highly recommend Rachel to anyone who is interested in writing. She has helped me grow so much as a writer / student / human and is just so awesome!!”

“I couldn't put into words how much I enjoyed this class and how glad I am that I took this class before graduating. I loved the assignments and readings, I loved the class structure. This class pushed me in the very best ways and I'm so grateful for the writing journey and for all of the new friends I have made. This class has genuinely inspired me to continue writing after graduating and has been the most impactful class I've taken in my four years here.”

“Amazing class that had great workshop discussions as well as helpful feedback.”

“Helpful, clear with expectations, understanding”

“Professor Keranen really knows what she is teaching and always provides thoughtful and insightful feedback! She is great at generating enthusiasm and facilitating discussion.”

“Rachel was a great teacher for the semester - she gave great reading selections and very helpful comments that were always given in a timely manner. I truly learned so much from her and this course greatly improved my writing skills and approach to writing.”

Introduction to Creative Writing Craft Class: Evaluation Statistics

Point-based scores are out of 5

The instructor made the course content interesting	4.70
Presentation of the material was organized	4.60
The instructor explained the material well	4.60
The instructor demonstrated expertise in the subject	4.60
The instructor encouraged questions and participation	4.60
Critical thinking was encouraged	4.70
The instructor was approachable	4.60
Overall I would rate this instructor	4.70
Overall I would rate this course	4.80
Would you recommend this course to a friend?	<i>Yes: 100%</i>

Introduction to Creative Writing Craft Class: Selected Student Comments

“Professor Keranen was one of the best, most knowledgeable, and most helpful teachers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I was lucky enough to have her for Conference as well as Craft, and she always gave helpful and in-depth feedback on assignments, responded to questions promptly and thoroughly, and was understanding and kind with all of the students in her class. Her skill in creative writing came through in her lectures, she selected wonderful samples for discussion, and was overall an amazing instructor that made this course all the better.”

“Rachel was one of the best instructors! She appreciated all our work and her suggestions were very insightful and enlightening! I found so much about my work through Rachel and her explanations and perspectives on our readings were awesome!”

“I loved the materials that we reviewed, as well as the writing assignments. The samples were always fascinating and the free writes were always challenging. Professor Keranen made this class so wonderfully enjoyable and there were no shortcomings in any topic.”

“She gave us a lot of information on how to improve our writing, examples of the new skills, and time to practice them in class with exercises. She also gives very detailed feedback and genuinely seems interested in our writing and helping to improve it.”

“I was pleasantly surprised by the in-depth way we went over written work. I had never done anything like that before, but I found it to be really helpful. It gave me a full understanding of the piece and how to apply it.”

“The exercises surprised me (in a good way), because I think they were all very interesting, including story swap, revision exercises, ekphrastic essay, and exquisite corpse group exercise. I really enjoyed spending time in this class.”

“I was surprised by how in depth and enlightening this class was beyond anything I could have expected. Creative Writing is a lot to try and teach in three weeks, and we near fully covered all of the topics that were included.”

“The examples given were perfect and educational and the discussions shed light to elements and meanings of the poem I had not discovered.”

“I liked most that we had a lot of discussion time in small groups. This was a good way to organize our thoughts before we talked as a class, which made the full group discussions more effective and meaningful.”

“I enjoyed the exercises and group discussions the most, because I was able to discover different ways to interpret a text other than my own, which was very interesting.”

“I enjoyed doing the writing exercises, they were fun and helped me produce more writing material.”

“I loved the interaction between all the peers and instructors. No one was shy to give their opinions and everyone shared their work with the whole class.”

“This course was so enjoyable and I am so sad that it is over.”

“I learned a ton of new information about the writing process and the revision process. I was able to both see it done from different works and do it myself. This was a complete process of learning, and it really improved my writing.”

“It was an excellent experience! I loved getting suggestions and opinions on my poems and writing pieces and being able to share my works and give constructive criticism to those who needed it!”

Introduction to Creative Writing Seminar: Evaluation Statistics

Point-based scores are out of 5

The instructor made the course content interesting	4.42
Presentation of the material was organized	4.58
The instructor explained the material well	4.58
The instructor demonstrated expertise in the subject	4.75
The instructor encouraged questions and participation	4.42
Critical thinking was encouraged	4.50
The instructor was approachable	4.50
Overall I would rate this instructor	4.67
Overall I would rate this course	4.75
Would you recommend this course to a friend?	Yes: 91.67%