

Department of Modern and Classical Languages

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Dear Munib,

Attached is the summary of the GIFT session with your class. It was compiled by a student in the class, and, with the exception of a few minor clarifying edits, left pretty much in the students' language. In other words, their reflections have not been filtered or shaped in any way. With that in mind, I would encourage you to "close the loop" by discussing the results with them and thanking them for participating. Not only will this clarify for you what their concerns are, it will also give them a sense that the process had a purpose. You might also emphasize to them that while you are open to hearing their thoughts (because their learning is your primary concern), there may be some changes you are not willing to make. Let them know what those changes are, if any, and why you are not willing to make them. We always tell classes that instructors do this because they are conscientious educators, not because they are insecure or lacking knowledge about teaching. You can reaffirm that in subtle ways.

As you can see from the last two questions, one of the goals of the GIFT is to make students aware of the role they play in their learning. We do not, after all, want them to think that *we* are the sole determinants of that. You might want to reemphasize that point in your discussion with them.

If you have any questions at all or want to talk further about the results, by all means get in touch. Thank you for participating. I hope you find the experience a helpful one.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will Nichols".

William Nichols
Associate Professor, Spanish
Director of Graduate Studies, Modern and Classical Languages
Associate Director for Graduate Teaching Development, Center for Instructional Innovation

Center for Instructional Innovation

Group Instructional Feedback Technique

Munib Rezaie

- What does the instructor do that helps with your learning?
 - Gives historical background on time period before and after films.
 - Gets students involved in discussions.
 - Asks what we are unsure about and gives us the answers during next class.
 - He is more knowledgeable than the readings.
 - Gives POV of the Chinese but still allows us to form our own opinion.
 - Flexible, willing to change.
 - Sense of humor.
 - Thorough powerpoints.
- What changes/improvements to the course would promote your learning?
 - More solid answers rather than opinions.
 - Give main points to focus on in the readings and films.
- What do *you* do that facilitates your learning?
 - Engage in discussions.
 - Ask questions.
 - Take good notes.
 - Write reading/film discussions.
 - Attend class regularly.
 - Take notes during films.
 - Watch films we discuss outside of class.
- What might *you* do to improve your learning?
 - Watch films outside of class.
 - Do external research, if something is unsure.
 - Read.
 - Ask more questions about films/readings.
 - Complete assignments on time.
- What has been the hardest thing for you to learn in this class?
 - Put aside cultural biases to further understand another culture.