

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

POST OBSERVATION CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

Date of Discussion October 19, 2018

Observation date Oct 4, 2018

Candidate's Name Prof. Rebecca Mazumdar

Department English

Representatives Present _____

Course & Section ENG 3401 Prof. Nina Barnett
D 614 Name of Observer

Name of Observee _____

Date Observation Filed 10/9/2018 with Chairperson _____

P&B member or other assigned by chairperson _____

(Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Signed Nina Barnett Dept Chair
Title

I understand that my signature means only that I have read this memorandum and that I may attach any comments I wish.

Staff Member's Signature [Signature] 10/10/18
6/96 date

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
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FACULTY CLASS ROOM OBSERVATION REPORT

Year 2018

Tenured

Untenured

Department English

Course/Section ENG 3401/D614

Name of observee Mazumdar, Rebecca
Last Name, First Name

Rank Associate Professor

Name of Observer Nina Bannett

Rank Professor/Chair

Date of Observation October 4, 2018

Room Midway 307

Lesson Topic & Brief Summary: Review of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

Please complete each item. This report will be returned unless each category contains supporting comments. Use additional pages if necessary.

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1. CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT (prompt start, efficient attendance check):
 Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Class started promptly with Prof. Mazumdar giving out and going over a revised schedule for October. Prof. Mazumdar took attendance verbally at the start of class (approximately 20 students came on time, with the remaining 10 students arriving shortly thereafter) and welcomed each student by name.

2. PROFESSIONAL TRAITS (professional appearance and demeanor, clarity, volume, and pace of speech; establishment of rapport with students)
 Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Prof. Mazumdar was chatting with students before the class got underway, and she maintained a friendly, professional, encouraging demeanor throughout the entire class period.

3. SUBJECT MASTERY (accuracy of presented material, use of appropriate terminology, competence in use of equipment)
(X) Excellent () Very Good () Satisfactory () Unsatisfactory

Prof. Mazumdar reinforced a wide variety of literary, historical, and legal contexts through a range of classroom activities. Through a brief student presentation, students heard about the American women's suffrage movement, the #Metoo movement and the Supreme Court confirmation battle. Through the *Handmaid's Tale Jeopardy* game the students played, Prof. Mazumdar discussed concepts such as feminism, rape culture, narrative, genocide and dehumanization. As this is an upper-level literature course on law and literature, these concepts are relevant not only to Atwood's text but inform current events at home and abroad.

4. ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIAL (clear statement of objectives, logical sequence, budgeting of time, review, summary, and outside assignments as appropriate)
(X) Excellent () Very Good () Satisfactory () Unsatisfactory

This class session was exceptionally well organized in the following way:

- review of how to post students' Oppression journals on the course's OpenLab site and how to find the Alibi podcast (the next text students will be analyzing)
- student's Powerpoint presentation on the suffrage movement
- *Handmaid's Tale Jeopardy*-students competed in three teams to answer questions in five categories: Offred's Story, Gilead, Themes, Connections, People of Giliad.

Class time was allocated clearly and every activity moved the class forward. See #5 for discussion of student engagement in *Jeopardy*.

5. PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL (level and clarity of presentation, appropriate use of learning aids)
(X) Excellent () Very Good () Satisfactory () Unsatisfactory

Prof. Mazumdar's learning aids were highly inventive (*Jeopardy* game) and led to an outstanding level of student participation. The course's OpenLab site was projected on the screen to help students understand how to post their oppression journal assignment. Prof. Mazumdar took the time to show students how to find the correct podcast (from South Africa), their next assigned text. She also encouraged them to read ahead, since the Doctorow novel *Daniel*, the last reading of the term, is a challenging, postmodern text.

6. STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION (relevance, variety, and clarity of questions, appropriate recognition of student contributions)

(X) Excellent () Very Good () Satisfactory () Unsatisfactory

Rarely, if ever, have I seen students so engaged in a class activity as *Jeopardy*. Prof. Mazumdar expertly led the game (which included Daily Doubles) and students were so involved that one started playing Final Jeopardy music on his smartphone. Beyond this, Prof. Mazumdar handled student's many questions about upcoming assignments very effectively, saying at one point, "we'll figure it out." Prof. Mazumdar let students know that they will be generating essay questions for upcoming exams, and that the Jeopardy game would later be posted on OpenLab to help students review. She did a wonderful job anticipating student problems, and facilitated questions for the student who gave an oral presentation. Prof. Mazumdar's sense of humor and fun helped balance the serious nature of Atwood's novel, which dramatizes a dystopian society in which women have had their political and reproductive rights eliminated.

7. OVERALL EVALUATION (categories 1 through 6)

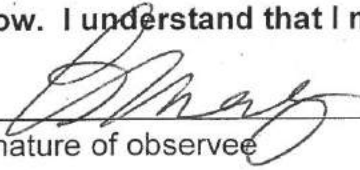
(X) Excellent
() Very Good
() Satisfactory
() Unsatisfactory

This was an outstanding class, among the best I have observed in my fifteen years in the department. As one student said during *Jeopardy*, "This is awesome." I have to agree.

8. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (use additional pages if necessary)

None.


I have read and have been given a copy of the above report, and so signify by my signature below. I understand that I may attach additional comments to this document.



Signature of observee

10/10/18

date



Signature of observer

10-10-2018

date