Appendix E

Students’ Understanding of Professor’s Goals: Students’ Perception of What They Have Learned

Students were asked to complete the following prompts:

1. What do you think my teaching goals are for this class?
2. What do you think you have learned in this class?

Student A:

1. I think you are trying to teach us a new way to look at poetry. You try to make the readings that we are assigned related to our everyday lives. It seems like your want us to see the big picture while reading literature.
2. I have learned how to look deeper into the readings and how to pull out material that I can relate to my own life. I have found a way to really start to enjoy reading things that have a quality in them that I can relate to.

Student B:

1. In this class I feel like you are trying to teach us how to understand poems and books and not just read them. Also, you are trying to get us to give different works a chance.
2. I’ve definitely learn what I wrote above. I feel like I know how to decipher something that might not make sense to me (even if I don’t always do it...I know how to). I also feel like I have a new appreciation for the works we’ve studied. I know now that even though it may have been written hundreds of years ago, it (the thought or idea the writer is expressing) it can still apply to me (namely Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s poems and the idea of the one we read last time).

Student C:

1. You are trying to teach us how to think critically. You are also teaching how we all have similar characteristics.
2. I have learned how to interpret poetry better, by analysing passages and breaking them down line by line. I have also become more interested in poetry and the ideas expressed in it. I have learned the value and importance of poetry in that we can still apply it today.

Student D:

1. To look more deeply into poems, but more than that, how to look more deeply into life. To not live on just the surface.
2. I’ve learned how to read a poem word-by-word and that each word means so much to the poem as a whole. And with that idea each person means so much to making up society as a whole.
Student E:

1. I think that you are trying to help us understand and decode poetry. I really feel that I understand poetry better than I ever have.
2. I have learned a lot of history behind the poetry we have read and that makes it a lot easier to understand what a poet has experienced or is going through. I have also learned to take it slow and read the poem piece by piece so I don't get overwhelmed with trying to understand with only one read through.