

Bulletin of

Yale University

Series 92 Number 7 September 2, 1996

**COURSE
CRITIQUE**

**Yale College
Programs of Study**

Fall Term

1996

THE YALE COURSE CRITIQUE

Volume 3, Number 2
September, 1996

Editors

Mike Kestenbaum
Neal Mitra

Publisher

Rachel Annunziato

Managing Editors

Paul Degenkolb
Diane Tran

Business Staff

Brett Prior
Elite Chak
Julie Shin

Departmental Coordinators

Nick Bowerman	Mike Milliken
Joyeeta Dastidar	Michael Nabavian
Aaron Epstein	Kevin Nickerson
Sharat Gadde	Mai Nguyen
James Ho	Kami Reza
Sharon Hwang	Julie Shin
Paul Lai	Dan Sommers
Sam Lam	Tania Valdemoro
Camilla Lyons	Kathryn Wilson
Joanna Mazur	Ramon Wilson

Polling Assistants

Seth Altman	Enio Park
Liora Brenner	Crystal Rose
Lara Coggin	John Yang
Marc Jacobson	Daniel Grossman
Rebecca Merz	

Contributors

Tracie Acquavella, Wei-Tang Huang, Mark Hsu,
Marc Jacobson, Indraneel Sur, Josh Davis, Ahmed
Ismail, Damon May

from the editors

The staff of the *Yale Course Critique* is proud to present you with our expanded, user-friendly issue for the Fall semester, 1996. Within the following 84 pages you will find more classes (157) than in any of our five previous issues, and a new, clearer format to make it easier for you to find the information you want. Among these new features are "hours per week" and "number that recommend the class" as well as specific ratings on the instructor and material for each course.

It is our goal to be an information source for the Yale students, providing data that we have collected in a way that can most help you in course selection. In some cases we have printed reviews from previous years because a professor who taught the class in 1994, for example, is teaching it again this Fall. But we remind you that the *Yale Course Critique* is not an absolute authority of any kind—professors often change various aspects of their classes from year to year, and the reviews you read may not fully represent what the course will be like this semester.

Also, we highly recommend that you access YaleInfo on the network for updated course descriptions and syllabi. Using that information in conjunction with our publication will greatly assist you.

It is our ultimate goal to print reviews of every medium to large size class (over twenty people) each semester. With your help filling out surveys, and our continued effort to compile as much information as we can, we hope to realize this goal in the near future.

Good luck shopping.

Mike Kestenbaum, Neal Mitra
Editors

Note: The editors of the *Yale Course Critique* take reasonable steps to check the general accuracy of the information contained in this book. The book is intended for use only as a guide, and no guarantee of its accuracy can be made by the *Yale Course Critique*. The opinions contained in the articles in this book are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Yale Course Critique*, the editors of this publication, or of Yale University. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for publication. This magazine is published by Yale College students and Yale University is not responsible for its contents.

Special thanks to: the following departments for allowing the Course Critique access to departmental evaluation forms: American Studies, Biology, Computer Science, History of Science, History of Medicine, MB&B, and Physics. Also thanks to Laraine Garitta, the Registrar's Office, and Kathy Blackman.

The Yale Course Critique, Volume 3, Number 2, September, 1996

The *Yale Course Critique* is published two times a year by members of the Yale undergraduate community and is registered with the Yale College Dean's Office. The *Yale Course Critique* is affiliated with the *Yale Herald*. Three thousand copies of each issue are distributed free to the residential college dining halls and common rooms. Address correspondence to The *Yale Course Critique*, P.O. Box 204997 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520. We welcome donations to support our publication. Gifts are tax-deductible. Printed by Turley Publications, Palmer, MA.

THE BEST AND WORST OF THE YALE COURSE CRITIQUE

The Best Classes

(with more than 5 responses)

Italian 310a: Dante in Translation	5.0
Near Eastern Languages and Civ. 421: Elementary Modern Standard Arabic	5.0
History of Art 166a: The Art of Classical Greece	4.8
Physics 260: Intensive Introductory Physics	4.8
Architecture 150a: Introduction to Architecture	4.7
Astronomy 140a: Frontiers and Controversies in Astrophysics	4.7
Computer Science 323a: Intro to Systems Programming and Computer Organization	4.7
Psychology 359a: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology	4.7

The Worst Classes

(with more than 5 responses)

Chemistry 116L: General Chemistry Lab	1.9
Computer Science 202a: Mathematical Tools for Computer Science	2.0
Anthropology 110a: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	2.3
Economics 251a: Portfolio Theory and Financial Markets	2.3
Biology 242a: Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior II	2.4

"Best Quotes"

"I am very impressed that Math courses here at Yale are taught in Chinese." —Math 115a

"The only connection to Forestry is that the pace is like watching trees grow."
— Forestry & Environmental Studies 199a

"My brain has learned to associate Nihongo (Japanese) with excruciating pain." —Japanese 120

"My section leader was about as helpful as a Republican Congress." —English 120