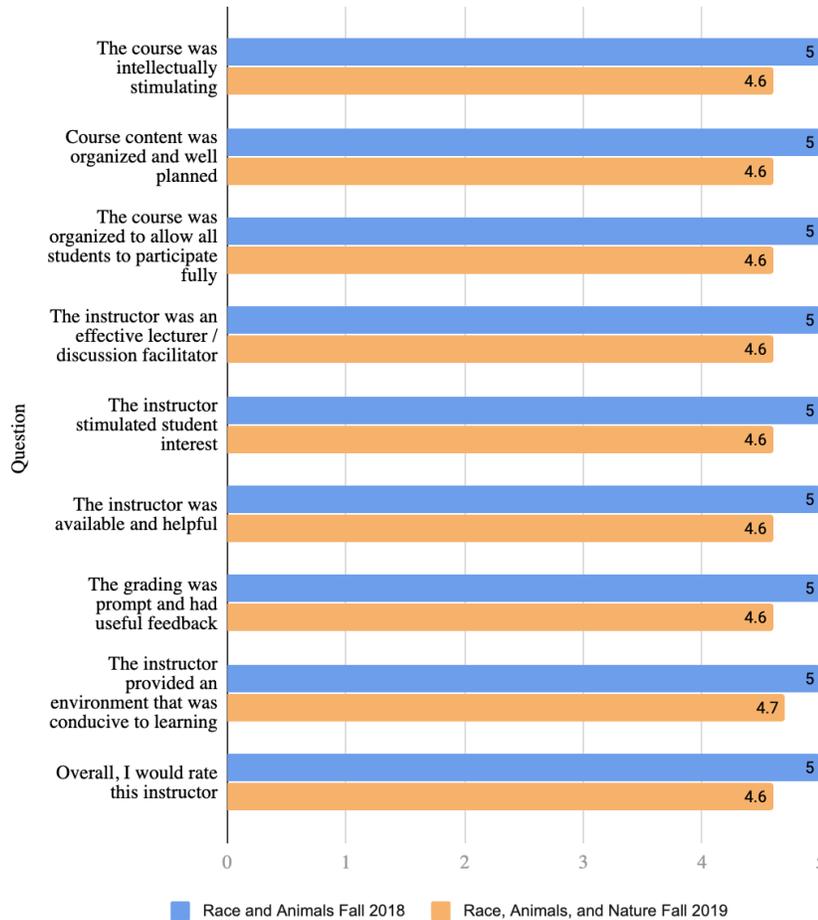


## Student Evaluations | Graduate Courses | NYU | 2018-2019



### Student Comments

Below are selected comments from students' evaluation forms for my graduate courses taught at NYU in Fall 2018 and Fall 2019.

#### Graduate Seminars

- **Human and Animal Others: Reading Race, Animals, and Nature, Fall 2019:**

“Nandini is an exceptional professor who has totally changed the way I think about life and about learning. She facilitates class discussion thoughtfully, striking the perfect balance between offering up her own expertise/ideas and allowing other students to offer their perspectives. The texts and topics she focuses on are refreshing, unique, and urgently important--every college should have a teacher like her and courses like hers.”

“This course is one of the most important classes I've ever taken. The thinking I did in this course is necessary to animal liberation that works in solidarity with human groups. I am so grateful to Nandini.”

“It was a truly inspiring syllabus, and the course has significantly influenced the direction of my work. Nandini is a brilliant lecturer and such a kind, grounded, inspiring person. It was a pleasure to be around her.”

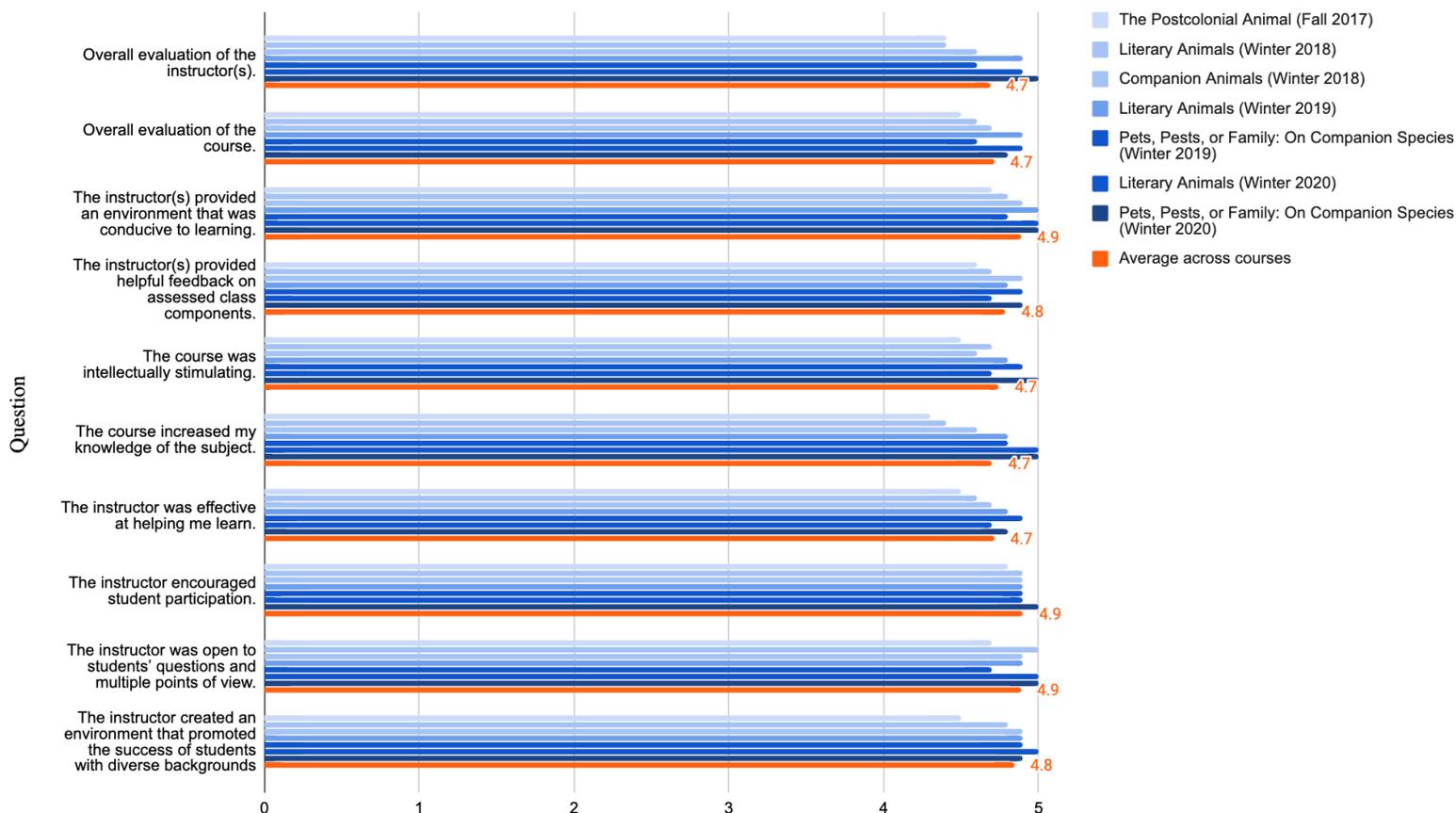
**- Race and Animals: Colonization and the Discourse of Species, Fall 2018:**

“Prof. Thiyagarajan completely transformed the way I read literature, and overall, the way I look at any kind of narrative to focus on the animals and the ways in which they are functioning in relation to the rest of the story.”

“It was fantastic. Nandini is so brilliant and reliably supportive of us as students. This course made me feel so challenged in the best ways possible. It was an amazing experience and I would recommend it highly.”

“I feel that I learned so much about becoming a better writer in this course. I am now inspired to read more in this field. I think that Nandini is a fantastic thinker and she gives amazing feedback. It is clear that she really cares about her students & about making us better thinkers and writers.”

## Student Evaluations | Undergraduate Courses | NYU



## Student Comments

Below are selected comments from students' evaluation forms for my undergraduate courses taught at NYU from Fall 2017 to Winter 2020.

### Undergraduate Courses

#### - Literary Animals, Winter 2020:

“Professor Thiyagarajan provides such a pleasant learning environment for her students to discuss animals in literature, and has done an incredible job transitioning to online teaching this semester. She's always available for office hours to discuss assignments and check in with students to ask how we're doing during this difficult time. I loved this course and wouldn't change a thing about it.”

“Professor Thiyagarajan always made the classroom feel relaxed and like an open discussion rather than a rigid lecture with no room for the input of students. She was helpful whenever I came to her with a question or concern and overall, was very understanding and just a great professor overall.”

“Professor Thiyagarajan is a gem. She created a space that felt free of judgement, and she

incorporated peer review and collaboration seamlessly into the course. Being completely unfamiliar with the topic, I felt comfortable going into class each day knowing that I would be introduced to fresh and current topics.”

- **Pets, Pests, or Family: On Companion Species, Winter 2020:**

“She is the only instructor I have ever had at NYU that understands what it is like to actually be a student, and she never assigned hundreds of pages of reading or ten movies. She assigned just enough amount of work where it is manageable when juggling three other courses, and just enough work where you were able to finish it in the allotted time. Also, she transitioned us to online learning better than all my other instructors. It is incredibly difficult working from my hometown, but she extended deadlines, changed the syllabus, and rearranged the structure of the course to make it so much easier to attend classes and finish all the assignments on time. I loved the course and have no suggestions on what she needs to improve.”

“Prof. Thiyagarajan is a wonderful professor; her teaching style is very accessible and she makes complex and challenging ideas easy to understand and engage with. Her choice of texts are very thoughtful and intellectually stimulating. She is very attentive to students and really treats everyone like an individual. Her assignments are a great balance of creativity and rigorous academic thinking. It's impossible to take one of her classes and not feel more passionate about the subject at the end-- she can really change how you think about the world.”

“I enjoyed the challenge of thinking differently and how Professor Thiyagarajan made everyone who spoke feel heard and she just made it so that you did not have to feel embarrassed in what you were saying. It was just a good environment for discussion.”

- **Literary Animals, Spring 2019:**

“Nandini is incredible. She is brilliant and kind and comes at the subject matter with true care. Discussions were always stimulating. I care deeply about animal rights, and the class and readings have helped me be even more thoughtful and informed. If anything, I wish everyone in my class cared as much as Nandini does.”

“She really opened me up to a whole new school of thought pertaining to animals and the world. Nandini Akila Thiyagarajan was seriously one of, if not the best, professor I have had so far. I would love to take more animal classes in the future.”

“Prof. Thiyagarajan is an incredible professor! The subject matter is fascinating; her teaching style is clear, thoughtful, and accessible; she clearly cares about the students and the content of the class. Couldn't ask for more! To improve the course, perhaps there could be a class trip to something animal-related to offer some more real-world examples to complement the theory.”

- **Pets, Pests, or Family: On Companion Species, Winter 2019:**

“The class discussions were consistently excellent, and I loved the mix of getting into groups, presentation discussion questions, and professor-led discussion. It helped keep the class interesting, although the works we read did that on their own, and the class always ended with everyone wishing it was longer! I don't think I would change anything about this course.”

“I could relate to her experiences and teachings in a way that I would not with another professor and she makes an effort to include multiple perspectives from people of multiple and diverse backgrounds.”

“I expected this course to be a bit more relaxed, however it really did push me to new limits and challenged my understanding of the field of Animal Studies. Through this class, I've had one of the most positive experiences I've ever had with a professor in NYU. Professor Thiyagarajan is extremely accessible, helpful, and understanding when it comes to her students. Often times, I find myself reaching out to her for guidance and critique of my assignments. She never fails to offer me solid and credible advice that does my ideas justice and prompts me to think further. While I wish this class wasn't so reading heavy, it truly did offer me with new perspectives and ways of thinking about Animals.”

- **Companion Animals, Winter 2018:**

“The class had open discussions that reflected the readings but also led to us coming up with new ideas. These discussions were mandatory but not intimidating, so it was easy to join in.”

“The Professor was extremely engaged and excited to be teaching and her enthusiasm was infectious.”

“Loved how small the class was. It made it easy to really get into a discussion, and the prof made an effort to make sure we all got to know each other at the start of the semester which I really think helped make discussions better.”

- **Literary Animals, Winter 2018:**

“I have only good things to say about this course, from the effective choices in reading material to the discussion in class and the videos we watched to supplement the readings. I loved it!! The course material was really excellent, fun to analysis [sic], and involved. I have no improvements to offer.”

“Nandini was incredibly thoughtful, open, kind, and overall wonderful teacher. She led the class in a really casual yet intellectually-stimulating manner and she encouraged class discussions every day which really moved the class into interesting areas that we would not have gone into if it was pure lecture. I loved this class and Nandini is amazing!!”

“Prof. Thiyagarajan is super approachable and easy-going. Class had a relaxing atmosphere but yet engaging enough for intense discussion.”

- **The Postcolonial Animal, Fall 2017:**

“The best thing about the course was the really diverse kinds of reading that we were exposed to; we read highly academic and scientific articles that were really connected to movies and fiction novels and poetry, so no matter what kind of studying style you best learned from, you learned the material and got to really sink into it.”

“Nandini was really kind to every student and never made me feel guilty or inferior when I was struggling or falling behind. I think that's really important because a lot of my academic teachers in the past have picked their favorite students and been completely uninterested and quite judgmental of

the others in the class. The vibe of this classroom was always very welcoming and encouraged me to show up ready to learn, even if I was confused or not quite on top of things.”

“The best thing about the course was the syllabus. It was a creative and new way of thinking about post-colonial studies, and I loved the fiction aspect of the course. The texts were wonderful and I really loved the variation in places and authors.”