

Informal Learning for Children

Enrollment: 61 Respondents: 45

**STUDENT LEARNING**

1. What are the most valuable things you have gained from this course? (Possibilities may range from acquisition of very concrete skills or knowledge to changes in perspective or ways of thinking.)

Doing the pitch was great experience. Understanding the importance of research to back proposals.

Learning about media campaigns. Learning how to do formative research.

How to pull together a pitch and work with a difficult group member.

This class gave me hands-on experiences with the entire process of pitching a new media venture. I feel that I gained a sense of the importance of formative research.

Sesame Workshop model of integrating production, research AND content.

Information and insight into the way media can be used for educational purposes.

Insights into media development for kids, effects of media on kids. How to develop an idea for a large-scale media campaign, from concept through content, research, business issues, etc. Knowledge of excellent and reliable resources regarding nutrition and health. Valuable insight into Sesame Workshop, its products and programming, and an example of a non-profit doing truly amazing and admirable things.

Understanding of Sesame Workshop, how to create/design an intervention geared at young children, better understanding of current obesity literature, great group work experience despite initial reservations of this format.

The presentation about/from all the various aspects of Sesame Street was not only fascinating, but introduced valuable understanding of the multitude of ways in which children. ...

Putting together a professional presentation. Taking an idea from a glimmer to a polished product. Finding a good idea and having the research to back it up.

I learned a lot about creating children's programming and all the various factors that go into it. The whole process from beginning to end was very valuable – to see how an idea goes from a vague concept and turns into something feasible.

I learned a huge amount about how a company like Sesame functions and how they combine education with media to become so powerful. Applicable education ideas and psychology ideas in a business situation – very valuable.

How to write a proposal, the process of creating a show, what it takes to make a good project, how to work in a group and be transparent and how it helps the group as a whole.

Preparing and delivering the group pitch in front of the Sesame Workshop executives was the most valuable aspect of the course.

I gained a true understanding of the Sesame model, specifically the time, effort, passion, and dedication it takes to create quality children's media.

Experience and knowledge of working/designing with/for children.

Pitching and creating a product for Sesame Street was so valuable! I learned about all components of product development and health messages!

(no comments)

I learned a lot about Sesame Workshop and all the work that they do. I also learned about the childhood obesity problem and other issues in children's health. I learned about the important components of a media campaign and about formative and summative research for program evaluation.

I really enjoyed this course for its guest speakers and range of perspectives (from a business standpoint) from Sesame Workshop employees. Lectures were most helpful and sections were least helpful.

I have gained a greater understanding of the tremendous amount of thought and research that goes into a project/intervention to make it successful. The research model and outside perspectives were really helpful in terms of building a workable idea.

Deep knowledge of Sesame Street as an organization along with experience pitching.

Very hands-on experience working in a group, putting a proposal together.

Knowledge about health requirements for kids, mass communication, PSA's, interventions, outreach, how an educational program is designed from start to finish.

Learning about pitching, health issues, transmitting health messages.

Learning through group work.

The concentration of one project and one product was unique and enjoyable.

Working in a group. Creating a project that covered so much material. Learning to pitch.

Increased learning regarding: developmental characteristics of young children; how to use informal learning techniques.

Planning an entire health campaign that was developmentally and socially sound.

Learned how to create and pitch a product and all that this encompasses. Learned valuable information about formative and summative evaluation, distribution channels and partnerships.

I loved learning about how Sesame Street – the show and the organization – works.

This course showed me that group work really can work.

I learned how to create an educational/marketing concept for children based on social, psychological, educational and developmental research. I learned the importance of formative research on programming for Sesame Street.

Multi-faceted approach to health campaigns. Role of research in these campaigns.

I learned the value of the group process. Though it was challenging at times, it was great to learn how to incorporate everyone's ideas. I also enjoyed learning about the Sesame Workshop method: research and creative.

How to present a pitch, all the factors you need to take into account in creating a project.

I really appreciated the practical nature of the course – how to create, develop, pitch, fund, etc. an educational media intervention/campaign.

Knowledge about behavior change; early childhood education and development; formative research in curricular development. This course has been directly applicable to my job and I have loved being able to learn and straightaway use my skills.

Insight into all of what goes into programming and incorporation of educational initiatives.

How to develop and pitch a research-based program.

Knowledge of development and mental health issues in children, how to spot and approach such problems, treatment possibilities. A greater appreciation of media as a vehicle to understand the words of children and adolescents.

Knowledge about how young kids learn and how to get to them.

Working in the group was good but otherwise I didn't gain much.

I learned that there are a multiple, seemingly infinite, entry points to positively influencing the lives of children as well as the people in their lives. I learned that while a campaign requires distribution of roles across members of a group ~ collaboration among members is key to developing a successful and highly impactful campaign.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES

**2. What specific course activities and materials did you find most valuable? (Consider lectures, section discussions, case studies, guest speakers, readings, field activities, written assignments, feedback from the instructor(s), etc.) How did these activities or materials help you to learn?**

I enjoyed the group project and especially the pitch. Sections were also helpful.

The readings were interesting. Almost all of the lectures were great. Joe does a great job of connecting and contextualizing different topics in the course.

Videos from Sesame. Best lecturers/guests: script writers (and research people). James Spader look-a-like for presentation tips.

The guest speakers were an invaluable source of information and insight into all aspects of our project.

The guest speakers were the most valuable part of the course. No other course brings together so many experts from so many fields into one class. Really appreciated experience from Sesame Workshop members.

Guest lecturers were wonderful. They gave exceptional insight into the process of media development.

Most of the Sesame guest lecturers, though the last few got a bit tedious – not in content, but just because we followed the exact same format for class all semester. The project, of course, was a huge learning opportunity. Section were so good I actually liked them! Excellent and quick feedback was always provided by TFs and Professor Blatt. Also, all materials/assignment were clear and beautifully organized.

I really appreciated the information/speakers/reading that focused on the creative components of the show and how those people work to integrate all of the research and information.

The general format of the class of presentations was great. Kurt Mueller in particular was very influential.

Guest speakers. Our Overweight Children. Having periodic due dates to refine our vision – abstract, pitch in section.

Section discussions were great way to bring what we learned from class down to our level. The guest lecturers were engaging and shared their knowledge with us. The group pitch and proposal was challenging but meaningful.

Guest speakers and the pitch were so fun, educational, and inspiring. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and a great new subject within education to learn about.

Loved the lectures on curriculum and how to present a pitch. Also on why Sesame does the work they do, how many people they impact, very inspiring. Section that discussed ethics in health issues very useful.

The guest speakers and section were helpful. The guest speakers provided strong background information and section was valuable because it allowed me to discuss course topics in more detail.

The lectures were completely amazing. The knowledge base from the workshop was astounding.

The videos in class, section discussion, and assignments.

The Sesame Street visitors and pitch were the best learning experiences.

Section was really helpful and well led by Shira. It helped to relate the readings to the lectures. It was great to hear from the Sesame Workshop speakers though 2 ½ hours was a lot of pressure for them. I think the class could have been shortened.

I really liked the speakers from Sesame Workshop who talked about international programs, shows and outreach.

I found lectures to be helpful although the range of speakers seemed to be a bit broad (!) and occasionally irrelevant to the work/assignments (ex: international material was interesting but never incorporated into the assignment). Class sections rarely helped me at all – in my section, we had classmates facilitate (I would have preferred the TF to guide us more).

I loved the presentation by Lou, Carol-Lynn, and Rosemarie. I gained a lot of insight into the Sesame Street process by seeing these three interact. Obviously, the project was an incredible way to utilize our knowledge.

I thought the lectures that were specifically linked to parts of our project were effective, as opposed to some lectures (e.g., international) which seemed more like a “Tour de Street” than useful.

All of the assignments were great. Lectures were hit and miss (drop the international stuff!!).

Section and readings. Some lectures.

The pitch, section meetings, all non-international focused Sesame presentations.

Feedback was incredibly important. It'd be great to get more throughout the semester individually also.

Neat that so many voices from the Sesame Workshop lectured. Definitely a comprehensive look at the organization.

Guest speakers. Watching Sesame.

Some of the readings (not that many though). Several of the lectures.

Presenting to Sesame Street executives was fantastic. Also producing 'individual' project proposals at the beginning of the group project.

All the lectures – awesome and most of the readings and the overall project.

Certain lectures were wonderful: Kurt Mueller; the day we had one person from each of the three aspects of the workshop, but some lecturers were not very good or helpful.

(no comments)

Lectures/guest speakers/readings on website provided volumes of information – (more so than the textbooks).

Putting together (and pitching) pitch. Joe's syntheses of speakers' talks help us internalize a lot of information.

I really enjoy the creative side of things so I had an awesome time when Kurt Mueller came, as well as when the head writer came.

Expert presenters giving their experience and advice.

I thought the weekly guest speakers were fantastic – made the process very concrete. The group process was difficult at times, but a good learning experience.

All the readings were really helpful – directly relevant. There was a good balance between theory of child development and behavior change; with production issues and research issues.

Dalton readings and the international campaign speakers.

Section discussions were helpful in processing readings/lectures and getting feedback on projects.

Video segments were always enlightening, particularly the discussion that followed. Lectures are always clear, detailed, and presented in a fun and engaging manner. Section discussions seemed a bit repetitive – we did the same activity week after week.

When the guest speakers explain why Sesame did certain things.

Some lectures but there was too much reading, too scattered – boring speakers.

The organization of my section was valuable. Section members is pairs of singularly “hosted” a section based on the readings. The hosts had to post questions on the readings and the remainder had to respond. I would not have read the readings as thoroughly if not for this requirement.

**2b. In what ways does this course introduce and encourage consideration of diversity and/or diverse perspectives? (Consider content and process.)**

The balance between research, content, and production brought a diverse perspective. The international perspective also promoted diversity.

(no comments)

(no comments)

(no comments)

Sesame Workshop model of production, research, and content.

(no comments)

Lots on content on and experience with Sesame research and materials made for widely varied populations, both international and domestic.

Sesame Street is very sensitive to national-international issues of diversity and this class thoroughly addresses that.

Determining how media campaigns can reach a diversity of children.

It's built into the SS model and is the nature of group work.

Not so much.

The course hugely considered diverse perspectives with international components and varied business ideas/perspectives.

Gives a range of speakers from CEOs to professors and deans, to writers and directors.

The class discussed perspectives of the different roles at Sesame Workshop (research versus content versus production). As well socio-economic diversity was discussed in relation to health.

(no comments)

By sharing all perspectives of working that Sesame Workshop does.

Talking about global outreach and co-productions through Sesame.

The diversity of lectures and the content of Sesame Workshop's messages address diversity.

We learned about outreach programs around the world and the specific needs of different countries.

Very encouraging of diverse perspectives! The course asked us to consider all types of groups and perspectives and think about how we could effectively target and help them.

The international co-production speakers raised issues in this area.

(no comments)

We had good diversity of opinions in section, but I wish we were able to explore more perspectives outside of the Sesame model in class.

International information, reaching all kids and families.

In considering who needs health messages the most and how to convey that message.

Struggling with populations that we may or may not know anything about.

The Sesame executives were from all layers of Sesame Workshop.

Working with random people.

The course introduced us to both the domestic and international side.

All the different lectures were able to attend to and address diverse interests and populations.

(no comments)

We can all present our own ideas.

(no comments)

We were made aware of cultural/ethical considerations in the development of our project/campaign.

(no comments)

The international co-productions definitely emphasized diversity and I really enjoyed that.

(no comments)

The interventions and readings are often focused on targeting low-income and/or minority audiences.

Great.

Creativity and global perspectives were pervasive throughout especially when talking about indigenous co-production.

The international component encouraged diversity and promoted a different perspective.

Content promotes inclusion and understanding of those facing mental illness.

I like the business people – need more of them.

Sesame Street seems to do so but otherwise not so much.

The Sesame Workshop model, which we are to assimilate, reflects sesame workshop's commitment to providing and reaching children of low socio-economic status and celebrates diversity.

## **INSTRUCTOR(S)**

### **3a. In what ways was the instructor most effective and why?**

I was really impressed by how well organized Joe was during classes and especially in arranging all of the guest speakers.

Always summarized key points. Always reminding us what to keep in mind as we listen to a speaker. Helping to navigate the readings in his weekly email.

Joe is passionate about his subject matter and it shows in his teaching.

Joe was instrumental in harnessing all of the various pieces of the media/health proposal puzzle. He is a great lecturer, and goes out of his way to assist students.

Asks good questions. Wealth of experience in the field.

Joe was always accessible and gave excellent and appropriate feedback.

The format of the course provided for very little direct teaching by Professor Blatt, which was too bad because he's an excellent facilitator and extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic about his topics and his students. Feedback was always wonderful, as was his ability to single you out on a break or before class to thank you for a particular contribution or to let you know his thoughts on your ideas.

Joe is extremely enthusiastic and that's catching. He's especially helpful in synthesizing material at the end of class to create a "take home" message.

Joe was very open to student ideas and extremely supportive throughout the development of our media campaign.

Joe is incredible, and his ability to create a classroom community and direct a large class is a key reason I took this course.

Joe was very personable and accessible, and brought great guests in as well as his own expertise. He made the time to meet with all the groups and provide feedback on our ideas multiple times.

Joe is so dynamic and enthusiastic (why I took this course). His input and vision are what makes HT-123 so great.

Wow. Amazing man, so open to meetings that he explicitly told us to make sure that we met with him. During the meeting he was very helpful in helping us through the processes of our show.

The instructor was most effective by introducing a variety of components to the course (speakers, proposals, pitch, ...).

This course was most effective in presenting a lot of complex material in an easy to understand way.

Very organized class sessions and in \_\_\_\_\_ [illegible] the semester.

Very effective in highlighting key points. Very positive and supportive!

He arranged a lot of great speakers and provided a plethora of reading and resources.

He was effective in organizing the whole course and putting all the guest speakers together. He was helpful when our group met with him to discuss the group project.

While Joe didn't lecture as much as I would have liked, he was helpful giving guidance on the final project.

Joe is a fantastic teacher, and his expertise and interest in the subject he is teaching is apparent. Putting together the set of presenters was an amazing feat.

Joe was great. I wish we got to hear a bit more from him.

Joe's incredible at organizing the course – he's a dynamic lecturer, too, and I wish we had heard from him more!!

Everything was very well thought out and Joe puts so much effort into this class to make sure we have a good experience! Thank you! Also, he makes a real effort to know who people are even though the class is so big.

Joe was a very friendly presence but I feel like we didn't get enough of him!

Bringing everything together for us.

Joe combined a stellar cast of lecturers. He is well-informed on the topic and clearly well-regarded in the field.

He is charismatic and encouraging. Joe learned our names which made a big class seem intimate. He just seems like a fun great guy who loves his work and who works hard at it.

We did not hear that much from the professor: mostly guest lecturers.

Joe was an amazing facilitator. Incredibly organized, efficient, practical, and down to earth.

The course heavily relied upon guest lectures, but Joe really helped facilitate those and integrate those into our learning throughout the class.

He got amazing lecturers for us. Great guest speakers and really positive and useful feedback.

Joe is so clearly invested and interested in the course and in our ideas. He is enthusiastic and is great at keeping the conversation going, and going in the right direction.

Joe is friendly, engaging, personable, knowledgeable.

Joe's ability to frame the smaller issues in the course. It is a lot to digest and Joe is a big help in this department.

I think that Joe Blatt is so friendly and approachable. He's also very funny and engaging to listen to.

Seemed genuinely passionate about topic and in helping out groups.

He was very clear, supportive, and accessible. The objectives and structure of the course were also exceptionally clear, which was very helpful.

Joe was very approachable and very open to comments and questions. This makes quite a change at the Ed School.

Friendly, accessible, helpful, creative, high-energy, knowledgeable, and funny.

His energy was endlessly helpful.

FUNNY! Obviously cares so much about what he does, and about sharing his expertise with education practitioners. Very responsive to requests for extra resources.

Great lecturer – clean, clear, to the point.

His energy and enthusiasm.

The course was highly organized via the course i-site - where the weekly readings and videos were posted and links to websites and other related media were available. Weekly emails from Joe about the week's focus and work were helpful reminders and clarifiers. It was fantastic having a group site for my group to post working documents.

#### **INSTRUCTOR(S) continued**

**3b. What recommendations would you make to the instructor to strengthen his or her teaching and/or make the course more valuable? (Consider content, materials, activities, assignments that should be dropped or added, grading procedures, amount and kind of feedback, utilization of TFs, as well as changes in instructor behavior.)**

My biggest complaint was that there were too many guest lecturers. I would have liked to hear Joe lecture more. I would have liked to dive into the project a lot sooner in the semester.

More clear upfront about assignments – what they are, what entail, when due. Including steps we will take to reach the final paper (e.g., conducting research). Some time spent thinking about generalizable skills and ideas outside of context of Sesame.

Three hours is a loong haul when the material is so dense and rich. I understand that with guest speakers it's tough to coordinate.

I would have liked to have had 30 minutes of each class devoted to group work. It was difficult to find time to meet with my team, and this would have helped tremendously.

Section – not all that much value added to course. Would have rather spent the time working on individual project with maybe a few times of coming together to hear what other groups were doing.

I would love to see other group's pitches.

Cut down on the Sesame lectures by one or two and teach some whole classes yourself! I would've loved that! Nothing else, honestly – you're great! You obviously care so much about the students and are genuinely excited by their ideas.

The last few lectures began to feel a little repetitive re: international Sesame. I would have really loved to get a visitor or two from the actor/muppet performer perspective in lieu of one of those classes, earlier in the semester, maybe to hear more about their experience in working with Sesame and adapting material and children's reactions. I would also reduce the reading a bit more for some weeks. I felt that I was broadly skimming vs. reading a few pieces well.

(no comments)

I love the range of guest speakers, but I would like some class time to synthesize what we've processed so far. Having a break at 5 and come back for another 10 minutes was tough. It would be better to push through and then allow students more time between class and section (or another class).

I think the multiple assignments like the abstract, outline, table of contents were great, and I would only add that I wish they could have contributed more to our final proposal, or been built into the final proposal. This would help scaffold the final as well as provide built-in deadlines.

I would have liked a little more input from him in lecture. I feel that I may have missed out on all he has to share.

Maybe he can give us a presentation on his experience or a project he did from start to finish in the beginning. Field trip would be great.

(no comments)

I found section to be incredibly valuable and felt they weren't long enough. The class lecture would have been shortened to allow more time for section.

Joe should conduct some of the lecture sessions himself and draw parallels to work outside of Sesame Workshop.

I would like to see more of Joe in the class and maybe less speakers or have them speak for a shorter amount of time.

It would be helpful to have more benchmarks throughout the course for the group project. I also would have liked if a few classes had been set aside for Joe to lecture, reflect on speakers and readings and just sort of be the glue between the different parts of the course. The course readings were also very front-loaded which was discouraging to keep up with.

I felt like getting more feedback along the way for our group project would have been useful and made it easier for us to get organized and make decisions about the direction of our project. If possible, take into consideration students' schedules when making up the groups because it was nearly impossible for us to find a time to meet. Also, I think group members should get to evaluate each other because there was definitely uneven division of the work. Make all the requirements of the project explicit early in the semester. I definitely was confused sometimes and didn't realize what needed to get done all the time.

None!

My one complaint is that I wish we got more time with Joe. I feel as if he commented in the first 5 and last 10 minutes of class, and we didn't get the full benefit of having him as a teacher.

Have interim assignments that build to final presentation/project. Speed up the first few classes so that we get to project groups more quickly. Also, I think that aligning projects to Sesame people who deal with the area in question (shows, licensing, outreach, themed entertainment) would result in better feedback.

Drop international stuff. Try to trim the overlap between presentations (it's hard because you don't know what they will say beforehand...) – how many times did we need to see that research graphic?

I'd love to hear more from Joe and less about international Sesame. I'd love for lectures to be shorter ... almost impossible to sit for that long.

More Joe; less emphasis on international.

More group norming scaffolding.

Joe seemed unaware that the components of this course function almost independently and kind of cancel each other out! The reading is unimportant for the lectures. The lectures are like "performances" that have little to do with the projects.

Three hours is a loooong time at the end of a day. Can the class meet earlier? Maybe a two-hour class and then one hour later in the week.

Fewer international speakers.

Please make more activity-based lecture sessions, or break up lectures in some way. Feedback and facilitation was great, though.

Section could have been better organized, and I don't think our time was best utilized in them. Take a look at the format of this part of the course and expectations of it.

Certain lectures were not effective (while others were very). And with the length of the course I needed a break halfway through the class, not towards the end because I lose focus after such a long time. With all these group meetings I did not find weekly sections helpful.

Make the classes require our presence, make us active participants. Cut back on guests – we came to hear you, Joe!

Shorten lecture portion to two hours. Use third hour for group project meetings. Establish a synch discussion at beginning of course.

More Joe – some of the talks were a bit long.

While I liked some of the presentations from Sesame Workshop people, at times it was repetitive. I would have liked to hear more from Joe himself.

I would have liked it had Professor Blatt presented more, instead of only having guest lecturers every week. Maybe if there was [had been] less content overlap in the presentations, they would have [been] more scintillating.

None – I thought this was one of the best-organized and most useful classes I've taken here.

I feel that it might also be useful to broaden out from the Sesame Workshop focus. How about hearing about other educational TV for children producers? I would have appreciated more "lecturing" from Joe, to synthesize Sesame's inputs and presentations.

More explicit logistical information. Break earlier than 10 minutes prior to class time. More framing of speakers with Joe's voice more in class. More unpacking of readers.

Split up the lectures – two-hour lectures, one hour of Professor Blatt. We need to hear more from him.

I'm not sure – I loved it as is. Even more video discussions and real stories from Dr. Schlozman's practice are encouraged!

More talking from Joe.

Do some teaching and rely less on speakers.

Often I felt that the presenters did not add much more new information, beyond the readings. Perhaps providing more experienced-based stories or lessons learned would enhance the presentations. All sections were not alike in terms of workload and expectations. I recommend making all equal and/or letting students know why there are differences.

#### ADVICE TO STUDENTS

4. To help prospective students choose wisely, what advice would you give to students who are thinking of taking this course (about its level, the amount of work required, any prior training needed, ways to get the most out of the course, etc.)?

(no comments)

If you love Sesame, take this class. Unfortunately, there was not much else go get out of the class.

Work it in the end.

(no comments)

No prior training needed. Can be from any program – in other words, applicable to international issues as international coproductions are discussed.

Excellent course. Moderate/light workload.

I would recommend this course specifically interested in the course's age group focus (this year it was kids age 2-6, but it changes) or taking a media concept from idea to semi-fruit: a pitch to Sesame representatives. Reading can be heavy, but mostly interesting. I'm the first to admit I didn't do all of it! If you get a good group of people with varied expertise, the project can be great fun – this was the first group project I've done where the process didn't feel like a chore.

This course is taught in guest lecture format, with different Sesame Workshop visitors every week, and Joe guides the after discussion. Be aware that class is VERY group work intensive, but I personally had a wonderful experience. Might consider taking it Sat/Unsat if that will relieve pressure of academic grade and help you focus on the process.

The strong group work component base of the class was very informative and fun, however, it is time consuming and intensive.

If you don't enjoy group work, this class is not for you. The speakers are interesting, and this gives you a good overview of a slice of media.

Be ready for heavy group work and multiple meetings throughout the course.

Take it!

Even if you're not into media, this class is a great experience. I learned a lot about the process of pitching and proposing something I felt passionate about which is a skill that can transfer across domains.

The class is very project-oriented and involves many group meetings. Students who prefer a lecture from the professor may not get as much from the course.

Take this course only if you are extremely interested in the research and production of quality educational media. The class can get long, and the time it takes to create an original project is massive.

If you are interested in children and media, this course is a must-take.

Take this course if you are interested in making an impact on young children through media and outreach.

It's important to know that you are essentially graded on one project, a group project, and that's it.

I enjoyed the course and learning about the Sesame Workshop. It was also fun creating the proposal and developing an idea. My advice is to start early because the end of the semester gets crazy and the proposal takes a lot of work. Also, it's a group project and that means that you need to worry about group meetings and group members that slack off.

This is a great course for those who are thinking about a career in this field. I learned a great deal about children 2-6 years old as well as different aspects of business modeling and outreach. The course is also great practice for writing a solid proposal and practice pitching to a committee.

I would tell them to be prepared to focus equally on the intervention topic as well as the media component.

Lots of fun – but more of a tour of Sesame Street than a hard-core academic class.

If you are at all interested in creating educational media, take it! It's not like a typical HGSE course, though, so be prepared for some frustrations along the way.

(no comments)

All guest presenters, all group work, not a lot in terms of reading/writing, but if you don't work well with others or if you get a bad group, this could be painful.

It's tons of work and really tough to work with a group on something creative for so long; especially if other group members act like their teeth are being pulled.

**DO NOT TAKE THIS CLASS. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE GRUMBLING THROUGHOUT:** Joe doesn't "teach," the readings are disconnected, you can just "make stuff up" and it will fly. This class is about you designing a project. This class is not about Sesame Workshop. Don't let that cloud your decision.

The project is a lot of work; get started early.

Good course to take.

Make sure you are ready to collaborate completely with people you don't know. Also, to let go of ideas you have at the beginning. Also, despite lots of interesting lectures, they are LECTURES for three hours and are not very interactive.

I really enjoyed the class, the amount of work required is manageable, but one must be prepared and ready to work in a group or else they will not enjoy this class.

I loved the opportunity to see some amazing speakers from Sesame Street, but if you are not interested in group projects, just audit the class for the lectures.

Be aware that the entire course is based on group work – it's a risk. My group was awesome!

Anyone with any background can benefit from this course – but they have to be able to appreciate the value of Children's Television Workshop and the work it does for children.

Make sure you are interested in the topic.

You really have to love group work to enjoy this class. Almost none of your work will be individual, so be prepared for that.

If you want to see Professor Blatt lecture, do not take this course, since most lectures are all guest presenters.

A significant amount of independent group work and group meeting time is required.

This is a really useful, practical course. It is not just about media for children, and it is not just about Sesame. I took this class because I wanted to learn about early childhood education and using media as an educational tool. The course filled all my personal learning objectives.

Take this class if you care about kids and the power media can bring to them. Great fun!

It's a lot of information and not a lot of time to process ... it's a huge time commitment.

Super course for those who will be working directly with kids or planning programs for them. Light reading, take home midterm and final. No prior knowledge needed. This will be an introduction, not in-depth course.

Sesame all the time, but can get stuff from that for all kids.

Don't take it.

If you are a perfectionist, understand that you can aim for perfection in the sections you work on but that you can only encourage perfection in the sections worked on by your team-mates. Team-work is sometimes about compromise.