

Reader Observations for ASTR 351L

Two separate readers were assigned to review all of the responses for the course. The following are what each considers the most important statements made by students:

Reader 1:

Reader observations: Not a single student used the numerical evaluations (1-4). Instead they opted for qualitative comments, which have been highlighted in the response pdf.

A number of students praise their classes (especially Hawaiian 'Ohana) and the University Astrophysics Club, foreign exchange programs and International Night as spaces to learn about diversity. Many majors voiced the need to offer ASTR 381—which seems to be the one key culture-based course in the program. Why it has not been offered seems problematic to more than half of the respondents.

Most notable quotes:

- “Some of my Astro classes mention/talk about Hawaiian culture. We need more Astro-elective, like 381 or the elective about exoplanets/exobiology or something.”
- “All of these points [Sense of Place, Sense of Humanity, Sense of Others, & Sense of Self] would be likely taught and understood through ASTR 381: Cosmos and Culture. In 3 years, I haven’t had the opportunity to take this class, and myself and many of my peers are very frustrated by this. ASTR 381 is “everything you need to know to be an astronomer, without the math and science.” My understanding is that the class focuses on the politics and history of astronomy, telescopes, and the Mauna, and thus would greatly contribute to all points of this rubric, and would do so in a scientific context. As part of the class discusses the Mauna, it is of the interest to far more than just astronomy majors, especially given how politically active the situation is right now. The class would likely have no trouble gathering enough students, yet it hasn’t been taught in the time I’ve been here. . . . The board in the library with thoughts on Maunakea is, despite intentions, detrimental to [our] sense of humanity and others. The card on it are poorly managed and they are often so rude, hostile, and arrogant that they compel one to close their mind, not open it.
- “With the current climate surrounding Astronomy in Hawaii, all of my classes have inadvertently shown the importance of understanding diversity. . . . Through the UAC (University Astrophysics Club) I have had several talk sessions where I’ve learned about Hawaiian history and the cultural importance of Maunakea.”
- “ASTR 111 goes to Imiloa regularly to spread the cultural side of Astronomy historically (knowledge from Indigenous People & Immigrants). ASTR 380 doesn’t get offered which is all about understanding each other.”

Reader 2:

The most notable quotes were:

- HWST 111, Hawaiian Ohana “a: We learned alot about traditional Hawaiian culture and customs, and I feel that I gained a greater understanding of home of the indigenous people, as well ass the Hawaiian history of immigration. b+c: Both of these areas were coverd in teh course I took, and we had several discussions/presentations/projects where we learned more about these

relationships. d: We also shared from our own cultures, and that allowed me to “see myself” in light and context of other cultures.”

- “Global Exchange & International Student Association do a great job of this as well as housing making people interact and talk is the first step.” Astr351L p34

Strengths

- HWST 111 ‘Ohana is a popular HPP
- ASTR 110/150 - Utilizing ‘Imiloa to supplement course curriculum
- Mixture of other courses

Weakness

- Seems like they do not know what GCC course vs HPP courses
- Some assumed HPP was Hawaiian Culture, some did not know it was broader with regards to "cultural" courses