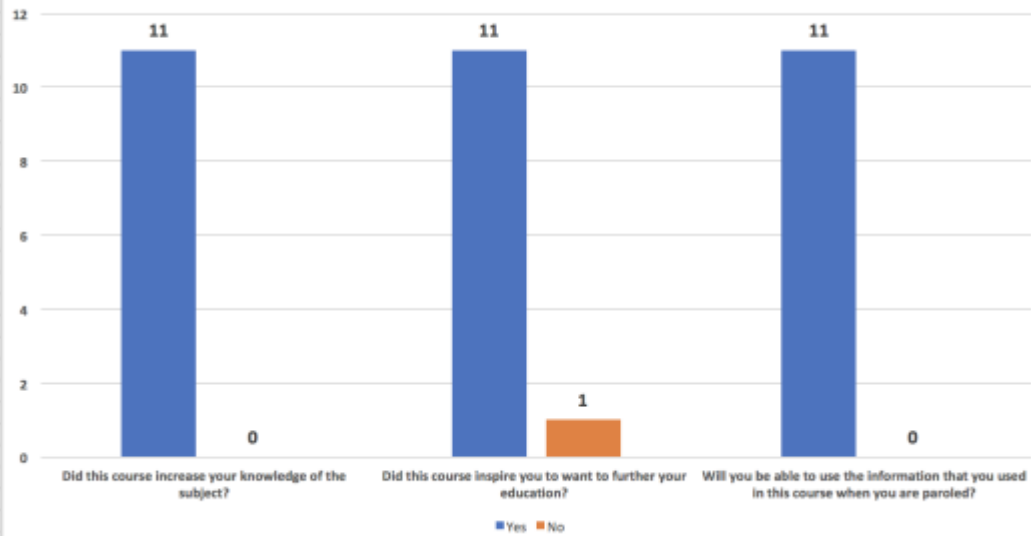


Prison Education Project Course Evaluations

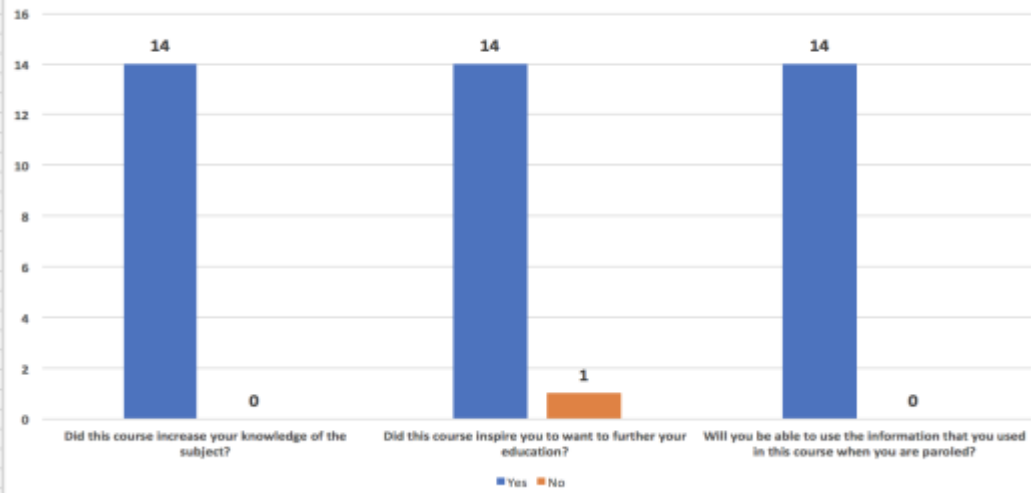


Calipatria State Prison: Spring 2017

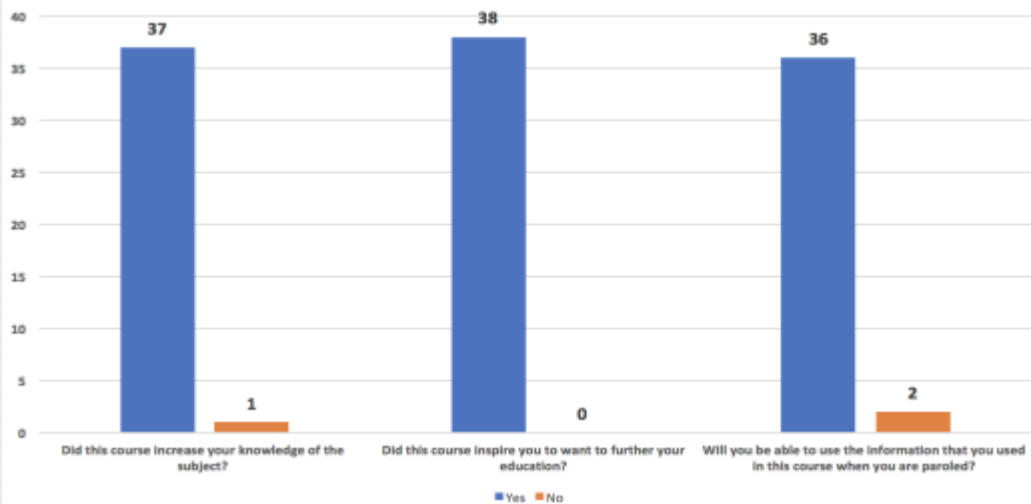
Calipatria: Creative Writing, Spring 2017

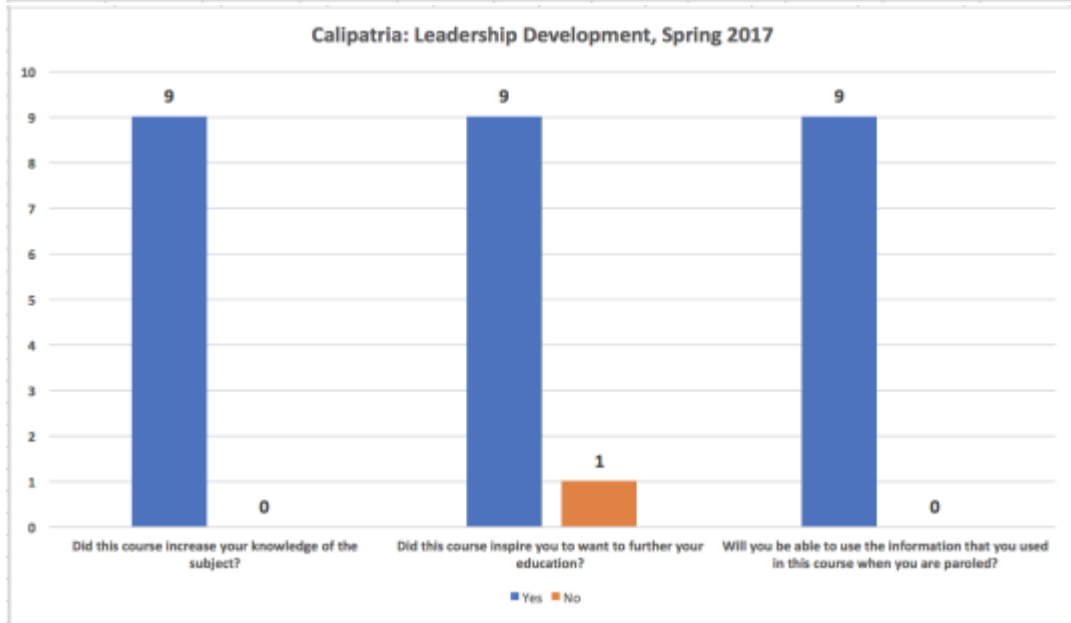
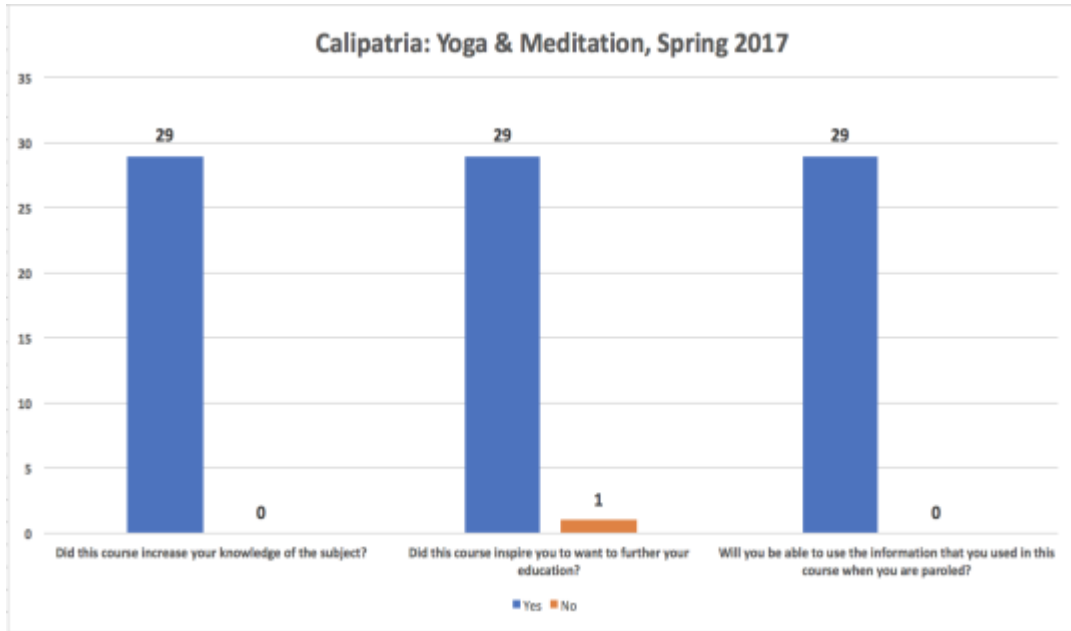


Calipatria: Forgiveness & Healing, Spring 2017



Calipatria: Academic Orientation, Spring 2017





See inmate-students' comments below.

Creative Writing Course Comments

Overall, what do you think about this course?

- a) I truly enjoyed this class and learned a lot as well as opened up my mind and thoughts to further not only my education, but my overall hopes, goals and thinking more outside of this box.
- b) I think that this class helps you to learn how to express yourself, it helps you to dig into your past and confront some issues you might not have dealt with. I think everyone should have an opportunity to take this class. It has helped me to open up and find out more about myself and my life.
- c) It is very helpful because it taught me to really dive deeper into myself. Ms. Bodus has really made me comfortable enough for me to open up my personal story and show that rare side of me.
- d) This program is excellent, many others wish to participate, my cellmate being one of them. Ms. Bodus and Ms. Quan were excellent teachers and kept us very engaged and actually made us open up. Which is a difficult thing to accomplish in this type of setting.
- e) This course made me humble than before. Over the last seven weeks, I started writing more than I usually do. Writing has become fun all of a sudden. This course can teach others who is not good at expressing themselves. This class will bring it all out of you, I know because it works for me. Thank you.
- f) This course has given me the ability to strive and to look into others' minds through creative writing. Through creativity we can all become better within ourselves.
- g) This course and the way it was brought enlightens and helps you reach insights about yourself that is extremely beneficial.
- h) This course helped me and inspired me to start writing more, now I write to my family more. Although it wasn't long enough to learn more from Ms. Bodus and Ms. Quan. I really liked this class.
- i) I'm very appreciative and glad that I took this course. Not only was it fun and enjoyable, but it was very interesting and helpful and our instructors were amazing. I'm glad I had this opportunity.
- j) I think everyone should have a chance to take the class. It is a mind opening experience. I would like to take it again.

- k) Overall the course was enlightening. I enjoyed the interaction as well as the course outline. It was something new for me that I could see myself doing again and would recommend to others.
- l) I think this course was therapeutic and helpful. The memoir I read during the course allowed me to have a better understanding of my situation (incarceration). I wish the course was longer instead of an 8-week program.

Forgiveness & Healing Course Comments

Overall, what do you think about this course?

- a) I think this course showed me how to look at things and situations from a different point of view
- b) It helps people be aware how to forgive & live a healthy life.
- c) It was very informational, thinking exercise...acceptance.
- d) It is very productive and very helpful! Thank you!
- e) It was fun & very informative. The facilitators were awesome and made the group fun. I would recommend this course to others
- f) I think it's a great course. It helped me to open up in front of people.
- g) It was a good course to take so thank you for that.
- h) I think this course was helpful because I've learned to always remember that we are all human being and that everybody is going through something and everybody needs love.
- i) This course was a good way to interact outside of my comfort zone. Also, it helped me see there really are people outside of these walls. Thank you.
- j) The course was awesome! I was pleasantly surprised by the subject matter. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to learn some awesome and important things about myself/life.
- k) I think this has helped me out with speaking out in groups.
- l) I think this course was very helpful and informative. I look forward to attending others.
- m) Overall, this course does a lot of good to inmate like myself. It really helped me to be opened minded, how to accept responsibilities, be humble. I learned how to forgive and how to express love to others.

- n) I think this course is yet another lesson that can be used to give insight, perspective and guidance on how to adjust and live a healthy life for oneself, family and community.

Academic Orientation Course Comments

Overall, what do you think about this course?

Facility A

- a) I can honestly say this grp has been the best I have participated in while in prison. All of the four university volunteers have been great in sharing their own knowledge and experience with us. I have gained tremendous insight into the normal questions like: how does a scholarship function, how to apply, and what can I pursue an education in.
- b) It was very informative. All of our instructors did a great job. Everything fell in line with my future plans. I want t hit the ground running and I am grateful for the insight I received. Thank you.
- c) I enjoyed the course, it was a pleasure to learn more about psychology, counseling, legislation of the law and a further understanding on how to apply for scholarships and grants. The team was well put together and they show a genuine interest in our well-being. I look forward to the next opportunity. Thank you.
- d) I really liked the program, it answered a lot of my questions and made me want to go back to school. I like knowing that there are people around me that will help me expand my education.
- e) To me it was very interesting and educational. It made me want to enroll in a college so I can further my education.
- f) I enjoyed this course, it broadened my outlook of college as well as the hard work and dedication one need to complete this journey. I admire the teacher because of what they opened up my mind to.
- g) I think this course is very beneficial to oneself because it allows a person to know more about school and education.
- h) This course was inspiring to me to further my education and it opened my eyes on how college is. It also showed me that there are people out there that really care about us inmates, so thank you for this class and the volunteers who took their time to come here and teach us. I hope there are more classes like this in the future.
- i) I think this course opened my eyes more about how important education really is.

- j) I think it gave a wide range to choose from, which was very good. To show different perspective.
- k) I didn't think I would like it when I first signed up for it. I did enjoy the program! I wish it was longer than what it was. I learned a lot and it made me come out of my comfort zone on week six reading in front of the class. Thank you.
- l) A motivation and inspiration to proceed further with my education! I have a passion for learning, which is an essential part of becoming a better man and a better person
- m) I feel that this course was very informative and interesting. It gave me a better understanding of what college can do for me and how I could benefit from furthering my education.

Facility C

- a) I think this course was very insightful. I think this class should be longer.
- b) It was very helpful. And I really appreciate and value you guys taking the time to make us more aware.
- c) It was helpful in many cases. Gave a better understanding in almost every question asked. I've been in Coastline College for over a couple years and they helped a lot. Thank you all for your course and help.
- d) I believe that this course is educational and informational. I enjoyed it and also learned a lot. I can't wait for me to finish my G.E.D. so I can get started on my college courses. Thank you truly for the inspiration. Without you guys, i would have simply gone through life without giving it a second thought.
- e) This course let me know that even though I'm a felon, doors are still open for me to pursue goals and dreams.
- f) This course is very informative, and provides great interaction on subjects I'm actually interested in. It has opened my mind to the possibility of leaving prison and furthering my education to find a career.
- g) I think this class has given me extra tools to use in furthering my education and wanting to explore different avenue. I feel the course should be longer.

- h) Very helpful and the instructors were knowledgeable.
- i) I thought it was interesting.
- j) It's a pretty good basic course, could be more information and detailed.
- k) The course was eye opening and inspired me to plan long term and short term goals.

Facility D

- a) Informative
- b) This is a great course. However, we really need to work on how questions are approved. We had many questions that would help us further our education, but the content was not able to get the cleared. But, our sponsors and teachers were very good and it really was a good class.
- c) Overall I feel the class itself was fantastic! The subject matter was very helpful, and each of the teachers brought information to the course that inspired positivity as well as an interest to further our education.
- d) Excellent.
- e) It was great! I was truly surprised and thankful to the PEP staff. They're respectful and insightful knowledge assisted my college goals. Thank you.
- f) I know that this course opens our minds to try new things, and now I know that after listening to the people who took the time to talk with us and teacher/ show us that we as inmates can go to college and make something of ourselves. I thank you all for your time and help.
- g) It has taught me a lot. It gave me a lot of insight on materials in educational things that I didn't know about.
- h) Was a good, informative and motivating program. Thank you for your time.
- i) It was great to see that students are interested in helping convicts that are on the right or getting on the right path.
- j) It really helped me carve a math mentally on where I want to go with my education in the future.
- k) I think this course is very good to prepare inmates on getting out, getting a job, and getting education.

Yoga & Meditation Course Comments

Overall, what do you think about this course?

- a) Well, it eliminates a lot of restriction, within the body, mental and emotion. I learned a lot more awareness and feel that I'm more at peace. It's brought more joy to my life and I'm happy for that. It's another tool I can use every day.
- b) I believe that this help me to become a better person and I know that it will help the rest of the people.
- c) I resisted naturally because of the stereotypical language that's been associated with yoga, by those of us who has been ignorant to its benefits, or how effective it truly is. It's been the best decision I've ever made participating in yoga class.
- d) I think this course has increased my will to pay attention and focus on my action and reaction.
- e) This was the best class I have taken. It's a very positive thing to have in this negative environment.
- f) This should be a part of the rehabilitation education for all inmates if possible.

Leadership Development Course Comments

Overall, what do you think about this course?

- a) It's a course that helps you get on the right track staying positive focusing on your legacy. And I feel like this program needs to expand because we should have more programs like this not just in Prison but in the world.
- b) I felt that the course is so much more than leadership development. The instructor can relate very well with us and mold our thoughts from one perception to a different and positive one. I enjoyed the class.
- c) It was well thought out, organized and inspiring. The life vision plan and the recommended books was exactly what I needed to give me a foundation; a place to start. I've always considered myself a leader and this 8 week class gave me the tools that I needed to further develop my leadership skills. I'm looking forward to "Leadership Development 102". Also, to have a former felon teach the class, share his experiences and how he overcame them was remarkable. Thank you.
- d) This course help me open more my life vision with tools to be able have me do my goal when I parole. Leadership inspires me!
- e) I think this course can and will help those who are ready to be open minded and truly give themselves a chance on succeeding through obstacles on parole and the hurdles of stereotyping as convicts and criminals.