

Summary of Teaching Evaluations

Teaching evaluations are given to students during the last week of the semester to provide anonymous feedback on their instructor for reviewing purposes. The instructor is not present while the students are performing the evaluation, and they are told that the instructor will not see these comments until their grades are finalized. Students are asked to respond to each question on a scale of 6-1. A response between 6-4 indicates that the student agrees with the statement, where 6 signifies the strongest agreement. A response between 3-1 indicates that the student disagrees with the statement, where 1 signifies the strongest disagreement. Students are encouraged to write specific comments on the back of their surveys.

Spring 2009 – Introduction to Philosophy (21 Students Surveyed)

**Note: class met at 8:30 in the morning!*

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.57
This course is intellectually stimulating.	5.48
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.38
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.33
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.43
Class time is used efficiently.	5.52
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.38
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.71
Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	5.36
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.67
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.76
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.62
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.29
Class presentations are organized.	5.52
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	5.33
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	5.43
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	5.29
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.57
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.43
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.43

“You were such a good teacher, top 5 for me. I loved how you never made anyone believe what you did, and presented everything in an unbiased way.” (page 7)

“I thought this was an excellent class and that the instructor was very knowledgeable and interested in the well being of his students. Good job!” (page 8)

“I really liked how passionate Mr. DePoe was about teaching this class. It is a lot easier to learn from someone who cares a lot about what he or she is teaching. I also thought he was very approachable and understanding. This makes a world of difference!” (page 11)

“This course caused me to have a greater respect for philosophy b/c [because] originally I didn’t care too much for it. This is because the instructor was passionate about the material and presented material in an unbiased way.” (page 16)

“Very approachable teacher. Helpful both in class and outside of class. Presents the material in a clear and understandable manner.” (page 18)

Fall 2008 – Introduction to Philosophy (21 Students Surveyed)

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.86
This course is intellectually stimulating.	5.95
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.67
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.86
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.67
Class time is used efficiently.	6.0
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.67
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.95
Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	5.52
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.90
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.95
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.81
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.67
Class presentations are organized.	5.90
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	6.0
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	5.95
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	5.76
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.90
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.80
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.97

Notable student comments:

“This is the best class I have taken at the university. ...” (page 8)

“I really loved how you made such a great effort to get each student involved and spark thoughtful and in depth discussions. I felt comfortable asking questions and liked how you were so willing to make time for students in and out of class. Class was always interesting, insightful, and fun!” (page 11)

“You did a great job teaching each view objectively. ... overall you are one of the best teachers I have ever had.” (page 12)

“Paper comments were the best I’ve ever gotten.” (page 13)

“I really enjoyed my time in this class. To me it epitomized what is always shown as a college class in the movies, where people are genuinely involved in class discussions and have real feelings about the topic at hand, and I give all the credit to you.” (page 15)

“Best teacher (professor/TA) I have had so far this year. ... You grade fairly. ...Class time was never wasted... You explain concepts well... You teach w/o [without] showing bias to your beliefs or students. You are always organized and ready to go, and always available outside of class.” (page 16)

“Probably the most vivid and precise teacher I’ve had in terms of his knowledge and presentation of subject material. His essay critiques were probably the most thorough I’ve ever had and permitted my ability to write better. He inspires pursuing philosophy as a major – just like Fumerton.” (page 21)

Spring 2008 – Introduction to Philosophy (31 Students Surveyed)

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.52
This course is intellectually stimulating.	5.87
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.23
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.81
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.48
Class time is used efficiently.	5.61
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.52
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.94
Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	5.45
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.87
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.81
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.81
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.68
Class presentations are organized.	5.45
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	5.58
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	5.57
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	5.39
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.58
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.19
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.55

Notable student comments:

“I thought John was a great teacher—he was very interested in the class and you could tell he really wanted everyone to understand what was going on. He did great w/Descartes and Nietzsche, which I thought were 2 of the more difficult philosophers to explain. He made philosophy interesting and is an awesome guy.” (page 5)

“This course was very insightful and it gave me an interest in philosophy. John DePoe is a great teacher and he easily explained the hardest concepts in ways that were easy for me to understand.” (page 11)

“This was a very well taught class. The instructor was very knowledgeable and always prepared. He seemed to have a vast stove of personal knowledge and an uncanny ability and willingness to put himself in the shoes of the philosopher were studying to give us that insight. Very well taught course.” (page 16)

“John is obviously very interested in the subject of this course, which makes class more enjoyable. He goes out of his way to help clear up confusing aspects of topics we’ve covered (both in class & in office hours) & gives excellent feedback on papers, which is rare. John clarifies difficult concepts with entertaining verbal illustrations, which helps me learn & makes class more fun.” (page 21)

“I have yet to have another professor as willing to make time for me outside of class as Mr. DePoe. I probably spent about an hour outside of class with him every week. He is very enthusiastic about the material and presents it well. Some of the text was rather difficult, but that’s just philo. I guess.” (page 28)

Fall 2007 – Introduction to Philosophy (28 Students Surveyed)

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.68
This course is intellectually stimulating.	5.71
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.54
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.93
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.71
Class time is used efficiently.	5.54
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.68
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.96
Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	5.50
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.79
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.96
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.86
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.61
Class presentations are organized.	5.61
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	5.39
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	5.32
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	5.41
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.79
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.25
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.79

Notable student comments:

“John, you truly were a great teacher this semester. The notes we did in class were so easy to follow and were indicative of what tests would be like.” (page 20)

“Great job! One of the best courses and instructors I have had.” (page 40)

“I signed up for this course as a gen ed requirement but it quickly became one of my favorite courses. John’s method of teaching and often funny examples aided in learning even difficult material. The exams were always fair and I felt like I was able to adequately display what I learned. I would highly recommend this course or any course taught by John. It was an enjoyable experience and I have learned an immense amount about philosophy.” (page 54)

Spring 2007 – Principles of Reasoning, Section 2 (26 Students Surveyed)

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.65
This course is intellectually stimulating.	5.19
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.27
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.62
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.19
Class time is used efficiently.	5.42
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.19
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.88

Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	5.65
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.65
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.92
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.46
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.23
Class presentations are organized.	5.73
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	4.81
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	4.69
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	5.04
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.38
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.62
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.50

Notable student comments:

“The instructor really cares about his students understanding the material.” (page 16)

“Good job on making a boring subject mostly enjoyable.” (page 30)

“Excellent instructor! He is very good at explaining the material for this course & takes pride in the success of his students.” (page 40)

“I loved this class. You did a great job teaching it. I especially loved your easy-to-follow teaching style and your enthusiasm. Thanks for a great semester!” (page 46)

Spring 2007 – Principles of Reasoning, Section 4 (23 Students Surveyed)

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.87
This course is intellectually stimulating.	5.78
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.59
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.57
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.65
Class time is used efficiently.	5.83
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.74
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.96
Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	5.52
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.74
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.87
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.91
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.13
Class presentations are organized.	5.83
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	5.26
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	4.83
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	5.3
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.61
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.52
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.82

Notable student comments:

“John is very organized & helpful. It’s also very easy to meet w/him outside of class.” (page 12)

“This was the best course I ever took that was entirely taught by a TA. John was great, made class fun, and learning easy. Also, his powerpoints really clarified difficult subjects.” (page 24)

“Very intelligent instructor... Seemed to be a flawless presentation of information & surprisingly remained interesting...” (page 48)

“John is always well organized, enthusiastic, and interested in students’ progress. He makes himself accessible outside of class to those who are struggling, and he is very good at clarifying material in language that is easy to understand. (page 54)

Fall 2006 – Principles of Reasoning (17 Students Surveyed)

Survey Question	Mean
This course is well planned and organized.	5.22
This course is intellectually stimulating.	4.94
Problem solving rather than solutions is emphasized in this course.	5.17
Adequate time for questions is provided.	5.44
This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.	5.17
Class time is used efficiently.	4.78
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	5.00
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	5.44
Questions are answered clearly and concisely.	4.89
Help is available outside of class if I have questions.	5.44
This instructor speaks clearly.	5.50
This instructor creates an atmosphere in which ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	5.22
I am encouraged to participate in class discussion.	5.33
Class presentations are organized.	5.17
My work is evaluated in ways that are helpful to my learning.	4.83
I know what improvement is needed from feedback on tests/assignments.	4.56
Exams allow me to adequately demonstrate what I have learned.	4.89
Exams reflect what is emphasized in class.	5.17
Assignments contribute to my learning.	5.11
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	5.00

Notable student comments:

“The powerpoint presentations made class easier to understand.” (page 17)

“Depoe was well-organized, clear and helpful. I felt lucky to have him as an instructor.” (page 19)

“Awesome teacher, really learned a lot. Always well-prepared and was easy to understand. Didn’t mind doing work for him b/c [because] he made the class enjoyable.” (page 31)