

Transcription of Student Comments (Spring 2017)

At LMU, in addition to the numerical summary, we are simply given scanned copies of the entire course survey (2 pages per person). To save you time combing through them, I provide here any and all comments from Spring 2017, edited only for punctuation (along with minor context clarifications) and grouped according to theme.

What did you find most beneficial about the course?

- *The instructor's genuine passion for the material, and the argument outline assignments.
- *Having to get to know the students in the class and meeting up with them outside to discuss topics. In class, helped to build a community feeling within the classroom, which made it easier to express ideas.
- *Professor is passionate and very knowledgeable. Helped me tap into my inner philosopher.

- *The most beneficial thing about the course was how strongly it developed my reasoning skill and ability to create an argument.
- *Taught me how to form arguments well; made me interact with my classmates.
- *How to understand and structure arguments
- *Learning to form better arguments
- *Making more valid arguments
- *Structuring argument outlines

- *I loved this class: became much more confident; enjoyed discussions. Discussions and office hours were most helpful.

- *One on one time to speak with my professor and learn more.
- *One on one discussions
- *Office hours helped me tremendously.
- *Office hours

- *The structure of the class and assignments was very beneficial, as I knew there would (usually) be a quiz I needed to study for on Wednesday, etc.

- *The depth of the in-class lectures.
- *The detailed explanations of the readings.
- *The conversational lecture style.
- *The lectures were helpful
- *His lectures
- *Class lectures; the group time we had enabled me to practice rationalizing text/arguments.

- *In the beginning of the semester, we had students act out stories that we were focusing on at the time. I found that to be helpful because it was visual.

*I found the activities in class, like using people to [act out] the people in the cave, to be helpful in actually visualizing what was read.

*The in-class discussions and activities as well as the music videos or artwork to get our attention and simplify difficult concepts.

*Our class discussions opened my mind to new ideas/opinions

*Group activities and examples that made the course material more relatable/accessible

*Readings, discussion questions

*The readings and questions given

*In-class discussions and feedback on assignments.

*In-class discussion and reading guides.

*Discussions as an entire class.

*Teacher was encouraging. Class discussions were effective in helping me better understand the material.

*Conversation

*The class discussions

*The access to necessary information online. In-class discussions were fun, engaging, and really got me thinking.

*The group discussions, lectures, and feedback on assignments.

*Class lecture, feedback

*Weekly reading quizzes helped me stay up to date with the important material in class – professor's sense of humor and laid-back approach made the learning experience more comfortable

*The teaching style! I found the quizzes super helpful.

*Open book, open note quizzes in which we were given possible quiz questions to study ahead of time.

*The reading quizzes with the review questions. All of the assignments.

*The weekly quizzes forced me to do the readings; without them, I probably wouldn't have read.

*I found the weekly quizzes beneficial.

*The quizzes

*Weekly quizzes

*Weekly quizzes

*The written assignments, and also the reading guides and quizzes.

*The reading guides [that were] provided, to help understand the text and do well on the quizzes.

*The reading

*Quizzes and imitation papers

*N/A

*Professor Britt is a really cool guy and makes learning fun

What would have made this course more effective for you?

- *Maybe if there was a bit slower pacing for the course.
- *Maybe less content. I would have understood the content better with more time to let it sink in and be explained.
- *Less reading.
- *Less emphasis on historical figures and more emphasis on philosophies themselves.
- *Summary reviews at the end of each author section [of the course].

- *Teacher is extremely difficult

- *The time [of day] was not good for it. It requires a lot of concentration, and that's hard to do at night.

- *No meetings with other students required for quiz to be graded.
- *The course would be more effective if we did not have to meet with another person [to be allowed] to have our quizzes graded.
- *More engagement from every student, and more student to student engagement.

- *Possibly group projects, enables students to connect and share/express ideas outside of the classroom
- *Less busy work

- *Just personally for me, it would've helped if we did some grammar quizzes in class or reviewed the rules - because I actually would've had to do them. (The times I did, I found them very helpful.)
- *Smaller groups for discussion
- *Increase amount of in-class activities to keep the students actively involved.
- *More group work. I think there was too much lecturing for me, personally.
- *I'm not a fan of reading philosophy, but I would have enjoyed more activities and less normal lecturing.
- *More in-class group assignments. Engaging in group settings is how I learn best
- *More group work/interaction.
- *Maybe more group discussions/group work
- *More active learning methods - student interaction was pretty good, but I felt that some lectures that dragged on would be benefitted by an exercise/game/etc.
- *Slightly more interaction, or large group discussion.
- *Less lectures and more interactions with other peers discussing the material.
- *More interactive, less lecture

- *Different approach to lectures: some visual aid, for example.
- *More visuals (lectures are hard to get through)

*Perhaps, the use of more technology.

*Clearer explanation at times

*Clearer indication of what we were supposed to take notes on.

*More structured notes.

*Didn't find imitation papers as helpful, but it was a good review on writing style of [various] philosophers.

*Less writing assignments and more in-class group discussions counting towards participation.

*More discussion [of]/work on the writing assignments during class

*More instruction with writing activities

*More constructive criticism, rather than just ridiculing the work of the student and not saying how to improve.

*More time on quizzes

*No quizzes; they ruined my grade. Less participation expectations, because I couldn't follow along.

*Having interest in the subject matter. Philosophy doesn't interest me, so it was hard to be engaged a lot of the time.

*To bring out more lifelike examples.

*More activities relating/connecting the subject to modern events.

*Nothing. A+, one of the most effectively instructed and structured classes I have taken.

*Nothing by the teacher; learning inhibited by other things.

*Nothing

*Not sure.

*No change, was already effective.

*N/A

*N/A

Assorted (appended to other questions; each entry is from a single student)

*Prof. Britt encouraged us to ask and answer questions. Was always available for help outside class. Always wrote a lot of helpful commentary on my papers and graded quickly. The weekly quizzes made me read when I probably wouldn't have before. Always answered [questions] in a way to help and was honest.

*Took student questions seriously; sometimes even took highly philosophical questions VERY seriously.

*I like how organized each assignment was, always clear. Asking the class questions before writing stuff on the board helped me be more active and engaged in class because it required me to think, unlike other classes of long note-taking. Instructor was always available for office hours, and even stayed over time if he had time. I loved the detailed comments on quizzes, imitation papers, and argument outlines, because they helped me see what I needed more help on.

*Probably had the best feedback of any teacher I've had for assignments.

*He is one of the few professors that take giving feedback to students to another level!

*Accessible to talk about course and material not in the course. Very good feedback. Inspired to think about and further develop my own philosophies.

*Instructor was rude on comments and feedback. Feedback made me feel uncertain about my knowledge; therefore, I was apprehensive about [philosophy as a] subject.

*Philosophy gives me anxiety. No matter how much work I put in, I still really struggled in this class, which was really frustrating.

*The instructor was very helpful. Feedback helped me try harder. My experience in the course helped me appreciate philosophy.

*Did a good job of encouraging people to speak without forcing them to. Did a good job of commenting on all our writing assignments. No one can say they fully understand philosophy; it's interesting, but I'm not great at it.

*Really passionate professor; [but] too much content, too little time. Required more time to fully understand/do well than I could spare.

*The learning outcomes were stated in the syllabus and in class. Every week we did work coming from the learning outcomes.

*Interacted very well with the students and really gave all students individual attention, especially [in] office hours! Always left comments on quizzes and assignments which really helped. I just find philosophy very difficult, but Dr. Britt was an amazing teacher. He is very passionate, which I love!

*Strong interaction between the teacher and students. Teacher was more than happy to send feedback for anything I sent him.

*I met with my instructor regularly in office hours; he was very helpful.

*Office hours were based around students' availability and were always very helpful. Reading quizzes and argument outlines especially challenged me. I feel like I understand everything and am much more confident! Quite enjoyable

*I really appreciated the opportunities we were given to ask about readings before the quiz. The activities and videos were really helpful in explaining and entertaining. [The instructor took student questions seriously] more than any teacher I know.

*Britt was very pleasant and optimistic about philosophy. You can tell he's passionate. He is very sincere. The discussion board and Brightspace input both helped my understanding of philosophy.

*This professor is incredible at engaging with his students. He is always available during office hours. All of my questions have been answered in the best way possible. This was one of the most difficult classes I have ever taken. I tried my absolute best. I showed up to every office hour. Great instructor.

*I hate the class, but I love the teacher. I do not care enough to completely learn everything.

*I do not detest philosophy anymore ☺

*Now I love philosophy. Two thumbs up.