

Transcription of Student Comments (Fall 2017: Ethics)

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 Fall 2017, edited only for punctuation (along with minor context clarifications) and grouped according to theme.

What did you find most beneficial about the course?

*I decided to minor in Philosophy because of this course. It caused me to think critically about morals and ethics.

*Challenged me to read outside of the classroom and find answers to questions in the material on my own, and then discuss it in class. Also, working on grammar was good!

*The grammar.

*How it made me question my own ethical framework and my choices. Not exactly changed them, but made me understand motivations and goals. I think that when a course changes your outlook as a result of the understanding of the material, then it's done its job.

*Mr. Britt is a fantastic professor. He is engaging and smart, but also has a sense of humor. He was able to explain very complicated topics and ideas in a way that I was able to follow and understand. He is also incredibly understanding and empathic, while still holding students to high standards. You don't find these qualities in many professors.

*Professor Britt always encouraged question asking and comments in class and would make sure to properly and thoughtfully respond. He has been one of my favorite professors in my undergraduate career, and I have developed genuine interest in philosophical inquiry through his classes.

*The professor's availability for questions and the discussion-based nature of the class.

*Professor Britt puts a great deal of care into instructing students well and continually bettering the class, the students, and himself. He is a professor who truly lives by *cura personalis*. He cares for students both in the class and beyond.

*The personality of the professor was very approachable and made the class a community/comfortable place.

*The friendly class environment, which promoted constructive and productive discussions on philosophy and ethics.

*The professor was very kind and open to discussion. The handouts and discussions were beneficial.

*The teacher was very smart, down-to-earth, and real.

*The names quiz [when students were required to learn each other's names] was hilarious. I also liked that the outside-of-class discussions increased my understanding and freed me to make new friends.

*I found Professor Britt to be a very engaging teacher. He made things interesting with songs and modern applications to philosophical/ethical dilemmas.

*The professor's ability to explain and break apart complicated readings.

*The most beneficial was definitely the lectures on material we read. Professor Britt was truly helpful and took difficult subject matter and related it to all of his students and assured everyone's understanding. The reading quizzes were also extremely helpful in my understanding of the material. Professor Britt is a wonderful teacher and is extremely helpful and increases interest in the subject matter.

*Discussing/breaking down what happened in the readings. The professor was very clear in explaining.

*Lectures on readings were pretty good. Prof. Britt knows his stuff.

*Professor Britt is a very engaging speaker. I really enjoyed how this course challenged us to discuss outside of class and apply what we learned and think critically.

*It gave me a better understanding of how to think critically.

*I found the lectures most beneficial because they were interesting and engaging.

*Instructor was very accommodating when it comes to explaining concepts.

*I enjoyed the lectures and when the readings were explained by the professor.

*The lectures because they explained the readings.

*The direct lectures based on the readings helped me understand the material better.

*Class lecture.

*The way material was presented, and how we as a class/as individuals interacted with that material, greatly enhanced my understanding overall.

*Lectures were very helpful. Student presentations were both interesting and beneficial.

*I most enjoyed lectures, which clarified a lot of the readings and ethical frameworks, and the presentations, which called for a practical application of the concept learned in class.

*Class discussions and explanations of reading from professor.

*Really great discussions; learning from peer insights was nice.

*The open discussions.

*I enjoyed the discussion, which, personally felt practical in the sense that it was very adaptable to my outlook on what I judge to be my values in life.

*I liked the discussions because it made the readings more understandable.

*Discussion and presentations in class.

*The in-class presentations that helped relate the coursework even more to today's situations.

*The presentations, reading guides, and discussions were all very helpful.

*Moral dilemma presentations and group discussions. Answering questions before reading quizzes.

*The student presentations brought modern examples to the table, and I found that very interesting to look at, rather than old-school philosophers. I very much enjoy [investigating?] ethical dilemmas and [considering?] what I would have to choose when put into certain scenarios.

*I think this course has helped with bringing up and attempting to answer ethical issues we will all have to tackle in our lives.

*The variety of philosophical perspectives examined.

*Reading guides and thorough lectures.

*The reading was interesting, and I liked that we could discuss what we read or were confused by during class.

*Reading guides. Otherwise, would have no clue how to decipher half of the texts.

*The readings and reading guides.

*Reading guides.

*Reading guide questions.

*The weekly quizzes helped with staying caught up on the reading.

*I found the reading quizzes most beneficial because they forced me to do the readings and I learned a lot of interesting things.

*The review before the quizzes.

*The reviews before quizzes.

*Accessible office hours and time to ask questions before reading quizzes.

*The time we spent prior to quizzes clarifying anything the class was unsure about.

*Office hours, lecture, and class discussion are great.

*Office hours really helps.

*Reading guides, *class discussions*, office hours.

*The feedback given by professor and peers. How he set up [varying] levels of [grammar review].

*Quality feedback. Thoughtful/thought-provoking assignments.

*The comments on our assignments telling us exactly what we did or did not do correctly.

*Very clear in discussions. Made very old text relevant. The course spans many genres of philosophy. Professor was clearly passionate and knowledgeable about the text and application.

*Hearing ancient opinions or beliefs about ethics and how that shapes us today.

*Writing assignments and weekly quizzes.

*Learning how to construct and analyze an argument.

*Argument outlines and weekly quizzes because it enhanced my knowledge of the material on a deeper level. It challenged me to know beyond the surface. I took Philosophical Inquiry last semester, and I liked it, but I enjoyed this one much more because we went more in-depth on topics this time.

*This was a very tough class, but it was taught very effectively.

*I think he did a great job teaching this course and that all the lesson plans felt extremely well planned out. He definitely knew what he was talking about.

*The teacher's passion and unique approach made this course enjoyable.

*Engaging discussions, especially when we looked at song lyrics. Britt is a great discussion leader, funny, and insightful.

What would have made this course more effective for you?

*More philosophical reflection and practice by students.

*Possibly less interaction with classmates, as I'm more of an independent person.

*Class was mostly discussion-based, and I am not a big talker, so I didn't participate very much.

*More group activities.

*Maybe more interactive class-time assignments, rather than just lectures.

*I think if we did a couple more debates against each other, it would have helped.

*I would have liked more discussions, rather than some lectures.

*Some class days needed more class discussions and less lecturing. Less readings, more active class discussion/group work to understand readings.

*More interactive assignments; no [grammar] assignments.

*Perhaps more outlines and presentations on a philosopher's arguments to take notes on.

*Being forcefully called on to participate, rather than just voluntarily.

*Being able to choose my peer-review partner.

*More explanation of commonly missed questions on the quizzes.

*Sometimes quiz questions were confusing. Even if I did the reading, I was unsure how to answer.

*Discussions before quiz instead of quiz then discussion.

*I would have liked more specific prompts for the [required] discussions with peers before the quiz.

*Slightly less reading, but then again, everyone probably says that.

*Less readings, so we can focus in-depth on specific ones more.

*Less reading, so I could focus on each subject more in-depth, instead of being kind of rushed.

*Sometimes, I wish we had more time to discuss certain topics, but overall I never felt rushed.

*Although I enjoyed reading numerous philosophers, maybe if we read fewer we could have gone deeper.

*I'd be more encouraged to do all of the readings if [the reading guide] didn't say where [on what page] the answers were. But then that would be quite a bit of reading, so I don't know.
*Maybe a change in the pacing. Having a quiz and a writing assignment on alternating class days was a bit tiring. *Might be more biased due to other class workloads.*

*Not having to do the Kant, but that's just my brain not liking the reading.

*More varied grading/ assignments.

*More assignments.

*More projects (real-world dilemma presentations) and less writing.

*More focus on concepts than arguments.

*Some learning aids outside of solely discussion and verbal lecture.

*Maybe not have an essay, or, if you do, maybe have multiple, so we know what you are looking for by the final essay.

*I would have liked more help with the argument outlines.

*Explaining writing assignments more.

*If the professor spent more time explaining argument outlines.

*More explanation on argument outlines.

*Needed more detailed feedback on outlines and more class examples [of them].

*Maybe more time/examples of argument outlining. I had a general understanding, but wasn't confident about how I was completing the assignments.

*Not an oral final.

*More handouts with notes. Or write more notes on board earlier on.

*Writing down on the board what was said in discussions.

*More comparison to modern day when discussing old texts.

*More examples and applications to everyday life.

*More real-world/modern applications.

*More conversation of how we could apply the concepts learned to our own lives.

*Some PowerPoint slides during the lectures could have made learning the material a bit easier.

*Somehow introducing a small video component to each class (5, 10, or 15 minutes) that would enhance the overall experience of trying to understand ethics.

*More engaging lectures and class discussions.

*Some lecture form that is easier to pay attention to and learn from. I have a short attention span and have a hard time paying attention in some lectures.

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

*I believe the course in some ways could have pushed self-reflection and demanded that we ourselves partake in philosophy. The professor always made himself available to discuss issues studied in class and pursue elements beyond the class which helped for deeper understanding and learning. We weren't able to share much of our own work; it all seemed quite standardized.

*Britt was always good at answering our questions and being patient while encouraging us to work them out.

*Always available to help. Inspiring topics. Professor Will Britt makes everything so interesting!

*Very engaging. Always accessible and willing to provide needed assistance. Feedback from instructor was very helpful.

*Always available during office hours, with very helpful comments and explanations. I received comments and critiques on almost all assignments turned in, which was great!

*The office hours were SUPER helpful.

*Office hours were like life-coaching sessions. It was great!

*Whenever I went into office hours, I received feedback that helped me in my assignments. I wanted to do my best, but I have many projects and major requirements and other commitments that took priority.

*Professor is well-organized with nearly all assignments posted weeks in advance. Interactive presentations on [ethical] dilemmas helped a lot. Professor was always available after class if students could not make office hours.

*He was constantly asking for student input, and would never outright tell someone they were wrong. This course was easy compared to my engineering courses, but I still needed to make an effort to participate and succeed.

*Professor Britt left very thorough and helpful feedback.

*There were comments I got from the professor about how to do better. I like the discussions we had in class.

*Honestly, the most generous office hours I've seen in a while. I hadn't encountered Kant yet, so now I'm interested in deontological shenanigans. I am happy I took the recommendation to take this professor. The inclusion of meeting a partner outside of class was a little tough sometimes.

*Professor always energetically engages in class discussion. The course gave me an eye-opening experience and helped me to understand the way things are for questions I have. I enjoy learning the why/explanation of how things came to be or what they are. I enjoy the class a lot. Due to my art class, I need to strip study time from philosophy.

*Needed more communication on what is due the next class. Was confused multiple times.

*Well-structured and clear schedule. Hard to be lost.