

Transcription of Student Comments (Spring 2018: Philosophical Inquiry)

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 2018, edited only for punctuation (along with minor context clarifications) and grouped according to theme. ("xN" eliminates identical comments.)

What did you find most beneficial about the course?

*A new understanding on what life is. Something I'll carry with me for the foreseeable future. I know a lot more than I did in December.

*I liked the way this class was conducted. The Socratic style is much more engaging and effective compared to the lecture style.

*The professor genuinely cared about the subject matter and genuinely sparked my interest in it.

*The examples the professor used and how involved he made his classes.

*How calm, patient, and laid-back his teaching style was; I thoroughly enjoyed it.

*The professor's attention to detail and ability to specify [= answer?] any questions the class had about the readings.

*The professor was always willing to help clarify confusing things about the material.

*Professor was passionate... made it a great class even if you're not interested in philosophy.

*Teacher's passion for the subject.

*Instructor was very passionate and knowledgeable on Philosophy.

*The application of modern-day things (such as feminism) into philosophy discussions. I also liked the student presentations a lot.

*Class presentations

*The work was clearly defined and reasonable. The teacher was helpful, and it felt like he wanted us to do well. This was a "no surprises" class, which was very nice - if you do the work, you'll do well, at least in my opinion.

*It was very structured; we always stayed on schedule, which was very helpful.

*All of the writing assignments were very beneficial. They all increased my interest in Philosophy. The grammar assignments were great!

*The study of arguments and our work with grammar. I feel that I can now better understand the writings of people who are far more intelligent than I.

*Grammar lessons.

*Imitation papers. [Writing a short piece about a big philosophical question the student has in the style of a Platonic dialogue, a medieval *quaestio*, etc.]

*The application of taking knowledge of philosophical writing styles from the texts and having to write your own.

*The homework.

*Lectures!!

*The class is discussion-based, and I found that the discussions made it easier to understand the course material. We were easily able to communicate with our instructor.

*Structure of class made it fun.

*The open discussions during all the lectures and the reviews before reading quizzes.

*I also liked when you would openly explain answers before quizzes.

*Questions before reading quiz. [x5]

*Engaged conversations. [x2]

*The discussions in class and instructor's explanation of the reading.

*Class discussions. [x4]

*More interactive discussion.

*My brain has a lot of trouble with philosophy, for whatever reason, but I really appreciated our professor. Discussions about things outside the course material were my favorite part.

*The feedback given on assignments.

*Promotion of philosophical inquiry, analysis of philosophical works, insight into context of texts, and the writers [assigned].

*Learning about different philosophers.

*Interesting topics.

*Engaged learning activities.

*Group activities/physical activities.

*It taught me some in-depth thinking skills!

*The reading guides were nice to have.

*Discussing things with my peers outside of class.

*Going over quiz questions with others before [class] as required by professor.

*Reading quizzes pushed me to really know my stuff.

*Weekly readings, papers, and quizzes gets you in a routine.

*Although there were a lot of quizzes, it was helpful for forcing us to stay in the loop.

*If I enjoyed philosophy, it would've been cool, but I probably won't benefit. Teacher is a cool guy.

*Everything was good; the professor was always helpful.

*Easily accessible prof. Nice guy. Helpful. Learned a lot. Overall a really good experience.

*Lovin' life.

*Did my work; came to class.

What would have made this course more effective for you?

*Reading.

*I think the teaching style was confusing and didn't benefit me. Talk about each week as we read it, instead of going back to other things.

*A more cohesive timeline/layout of how all the readings from the entire semester are connected.

*Probably if you paid me.

*More chances to get to know classmates and teacher as soon as course began so it's easier to get comfortable right away.

*Debates.

*More discussions with the class.

*Less lectures.

*More engaging lectures, maybe a powerpoint/any visual.

*A little hard to understand, maybe more engaging lectures.

*Needs slides with written down points to guide flow of conversation.

*More activities/presentation opportunities.

*Presentations should have started earlier [in the semester. This is quite true.]

*More small group discussions.

*Organizing the desks in a circle and having open discussions with all students.

*More open discussions... they are fun and interesting.

*Less grammar exercises. [Fewer?]

*Extra credit opportunities.

*A little easier; no contribution grade.

*[Having a] midterm, maybe.

*Maybe less reading. I get that's what philosophy is, but having the feeling of always needing to read makes me want to do it less.

*Less difficult reading, clearer explanation of the points in the reading, similarities and differences between writers [articulated].

*Less reading/workload (or maybe I was just super busy, I don't know)

*Less reading, honestly. [x2] It was a lot with the writing assignment and quiz every week. Although the reading was insightful.

*Easier readings. [x5]

*Perhaps some different translations or going over readings specifically in class.

*This final worries me.

*More preparation for the final exam, and a clearer picture of what it will be like.

*Probably not going over the quiz sample questions before quiz.

*Less weekly reading quizzes, but more group homework assignments.

*The quizzes make sense, but printing all of the articles [for open-book quizzes] costed a fortune.

*Not having to print articles - very expensive! So using laptop in class!

*A bit more direction on certain writing assignments.

*More interest in subject matter/philosophers in the writings.

*This course was effective enough. Anything lacking was my own fault.

*Nothing; everything was perfect. [x3]

*N/A [x5]

*More relation to real life.

*More practical and current issue-related topics? I don't know, really.

*This is more a comment for the university - but I have a general distain for survey classes. I would have liked to spend more time on one specific topic.

*Possibly more time with less philosophers and more in-depth.

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

*Best proffesor I have ever had. Cared about every single student. Would always make time for students. Would always leave feedback. There are quizzes every week that would always keep you on your toes.

*I actually received sincere feedback on a level no other professor has offered to me. This is the only class where I cared more about the subject matter than the grade I would receive for seemingly knowing it.

*[Interactions between instructor and student were the] best of any class at LMU so far. No question was treated with anything less than the full breadth of Prof. Britt's knowledge.

*Every [student] question was treated [as] important and given a thoughtful answer to the best of his abilities.

*Great at answering questions. Encouraged attending office hours to talk about anything. Assignments were great in length and difficulty level. [The course] taught me that my idea of philosophy wasn't really what philosophy was.

*Instructor was very good at explaining concepts that students were uncertain about.

*Open to discussion and rarely ever disregarded a question/comment.

*Always cared about student comments.

*Absolutely most thoughtful prof I've had. [From a sophomore]

*He is relatable and easygoing. The class dynamic is personable and fun. Always [available for discussions]. [Feedback was] long responses on Brightspace [the learning management system]!

*I would have liked to try to write a short essay about topics that seemed interesting.

*[Feedback was] given for most assignments, not all quizzes. [The course] taught me a lot I did not know before; did not have much interest coming in. Writing assignments took the most time.

*I didn't absorb the material very well, but I was only as engaged as I was because of Professor Britt's passion for the subject. He was a good instructor, but philosophy didn't work with me.

*[The course did not increase my interest in the subject matter.] Not by fault of the professor, but by nature of the material.

*Instructor provided feedback for all assignments. I enjoyed most the in-class conversations we had.

*Actually cared and wanted to help; barely any of professors here do. One of the only professors here who cares and helps. You should have him back! [From a freshman]

*[Learning outcomes were] on syllabus but never gone over.

*Philosophy isn't my thing. But I still had fun.

*Philosophical readings aren't my specialty. He's passionate of what he teaches and also fair.

*I only went to office hours once, but I found it very helpful.

*[The instructor was] always available for discussion. Extremely knowledgeable about every piece of material. [The course increased my interest in the topic,] especially phenomenology. I wish we had more discussions where students shared their opinions.