

DiPaolo Fall 2013 Phil 342 Epistemology Student Comments

[All typos are from the original comments.]

Question 1: What do you like most about this course and/or the instructor's teaching of it?

1. Epistemology is my favorite type of philosophy, so naturally I liked the course content. Josh is a fantastic teacher, one of the best I have ever had. He is so clearly brilliant and speaks conversationally so as to engage the students in very intelligent and thoughtful discussion.
2. He showed a high level of interest in the topic of instruction and was very clear/knowledgeable. He always lets the student know exactly what he expects from them.
3. Exam was fair; study guide was useful. I enjoy the promotion of student involvement in discussions, rather than it being lecture-based.
4. The material was placed fairly straightforward, and almost everything about each argument that could cause confusion was cleared up. A well presented class in general!
5. Class size, material, making sure everyone understands, going over tests and homework.
6. He sets the arguments up in a nice way. He answers questions well.
7. The paper is broken up into 2 parts. Problem sets & in class reinforced papers.
8. Back home in Ireland, introductions like this were not really offered for my sort of degree. Josh made epistemology interesting, accessible, and understandable. The small class size allowed for discussion without disruption.
9. I think the course material is interesting and Josh does a great job explaining it. His notes are useful and he encourages everyone to go to his office hours.

Question 2: What about this course and/or the instructor's teaching of it needs change or improvement?

1. Honestly, I do not have any complaints or criticism. Perhaps more frequent/regular problem set assignments would be helpful.
2. [blank]
3. I like the topics that we've covered, but wouldn't liked more exposure to, say, group theory.
4. I don't exactly know for sure; however, what I do think is that the class could use a little more dynamic in the presentation. I mean, the presentation worked, but I do feel maybe so sort of media or something could have helped.
5. [blank]
6. Readings seem pretty useless since we never talk about them in class. It's more about memory than learning skills, yet he gives us problem sets to practice our skills w/o really teaching them. I felt lost during most problem sets.
7. [blank]
8. The only change I can think of is maybe find ways to incorporate other media. Besides that, nothing.
9. The classroom. It's either 100 degrees or there are people singing next door during our exam time.

Question 3: What suggestions can you offer that would have made this course a better learning experience for you?

1. The only things of I can think which would have made this course a better learning experience for me are improvements to myself and not the course.
2. [blank]
3. I feel as if the in-class writing assignment portion of the grade should either be dropped or built upon, considering we only did 2 assignments thus far. I also feel that reading should be more strongly encouraged, perhaps via these assignments.
4. Some sort of media infusion would have helped, but the arguments placed on the board did just fine. A decent portion of students are visual learners, so it helps to have the information written in front of you.
5. [blank]
6. Engage more w/ reading throughout semester not just first week. Have relevant problem sets. Grading on papers can get very detailed and sometimes I feel it's unnecessary to be so picky about points even if proper language in philosophy is important.
7. [blank]
8. I cannot think of a way to improve it, it was a great class!!
9. Maybe a little more work/incentive to do the readings. I found myself getting lazy and not doing the readings b/c I didn't really have to.

Question 4: Any additional comments?

1. This is my favorite course this semester and one of my favorite courses I have ever taken. Much of this is thanks specifically to Josh. He really, truly does everything right. I have enjoyed every moment spent in this class and that is not something I say almost ever.
2. Nice guy, very approachable and friendly.
3. [blank]
4. Great class Josh! I really enjoyed it. I'm excited to be taking another class with you next semester. Good luck!
5. Loved it!
6. I just feel that I came out of this class knowing names for terms and ideas but nothing useful or that I can incorporate anywhere else in my studies. Pretty much I am stuck on the same things I knew about epistemology prior to the class.
7. [blank]
8. [blank]
9. Overall, great class with a great professor. Looking forward to taking classes with Josh in the future.