

## DiPaolo Spring 2014 Phil 343 Philosophy of Art: Humor 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. This course was fun and comprehensive, with a focus on applying philosophy everywhere. Unlike other philosophy courses I've been in, Josh kept control of the class and didn't let us get too stuck on minute details and definitions. We always made sure we all "got it," but the course kept moving—essential for any learning.
2. First of all, I took this class b/c Josh was teaching it and I really like how he explains philosophy. I think everything was explained clearly and the exams reflected all the major topics we covered in class. His grading is fair and he's a good guy in general.
3. The instructor's way of effectively presenting and relaying material.
4. Given the material, I think it was presented in the best way, always very organized and logically structured.
5. The course addresses very interesting philosophical topics, and does such in a way that the material seems more friendly than intimidating. Open discussion is almost always productive, and thorough knowledge of the material/responsiveness of the professor is appreciated.
6. I like how opened the paper topics are. I enjoy being able to pick my own paper topic since it's something I find interest in.
7. The subject of the class was awesome. Really appreciate the grading w/ consideration of improvement (totally agree!)
8. Interesting subject matter for the most part. Prof was not afraid to stray from the schedule for good discussions.
9. I liked how the professor was comprehensive and good at clearing up confusion.
10. I felt as though the instructor was fair. He was receptive to the needs of the students.
11. Josh kept things interesting by providing examples of jokes and analyzing them in terms of what a particular theory would say about said joke.
12. The emphasis was on the material, not performance which is a welcome change. It was also very much about personal experience which was nice.
13. I liked Josh's somewhat informal attitude and the encouragement of classroom discussion
14. The material was quite relevant to my everyday life. As a philosophy class, I feel that this is very important for me because it actually engages me more.
15. The subject matter is unique and interesting and Josh's teaching of it is enthusiastic, thoughtful, and engaging. Josh's sense of humor is apparent but does not attempt to sway anyone's beliefs, which is perfect.

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

1. As I said on the test, I'd make it clear it was a course IN the philosophy of art, not an overview—it would get even more people involved!
2. My only suggestion would be to focus a lot more on the content of exam 2. I think we may have spent too much time on the material on the first exam and rushed through the 2<sup>nd</sup> section to ensure we had ample time for ethics.
3. The dryness/order of topics discussed. The classes seemed to jump around in time a lot and was not linear.
4. Sometimes things felt repetitive; everything was presented in the same way and we almost never deviated from the standard class procedure. More time in groups or changing up the lectures might help.
5. [blank]
6. Class discussion could have been conducted more orderly. I feel like sometimes we might have gotten a bit off topic and confused when having discussion.
7. Handouts of arguments
8. Less time spent on early theories, more time spent on morality
9. I think the teaching is good and I don't see any noticeable changes that need to be made in terms of teaching-style.
10. Nothing
11. For some of the more technical parts, powerpoints may have been useful
12. There were times where I would space-out during class causing me to miss important information. While this was partially my fault, the pacing/delivery of the material could be improved.
13. Maybe a redistribution of how much time is spent on each unit/how much material was in each one
14. Maybe more of an lean towards class discussion because a lot of the material bodes well for this.
15. With time and more experience teaching this particular course, Josh will have more of the answers to students' more "out-there" questions.

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

1. I wish I had a suggestion, but honestly this course was one of the best I'd taken.
2. That one exam w/ the annoying singing kids was less than perfect but otherwise great job.
3. Changing the order of subject matter to be better be engaging.
4. Some of the theories we learned about were so transparently implausible from the get go that they felt like a waste of time. Maybe cut some of those out.
5. [blank]
6. [blank]
7. provided printouts of readings
8. Less emphasis on the final—the first two exams are worth the same as the last one when you combine them. The first exam score seems pointless as 10%

9. I think it is important to present both sides of prejudice in situations of where there's racial or gender prejudice. For example there is racism against whites and there is sexism against men also.
10. Nothing
11. Maybe have more grades (quizzes on the readings?) Also maybe have slightly stricter guidelines for the [phi symbol] of life papers (i.e. have them pertain to a certain topic or choice of topics that we are covering in class).
12. Basically what I said in the previous question. Personally, I felt I couldn't process the material well at certain points.
13. Having a teacher lecture on a topic and then opening it up for class interpretation is honestly my favorite way to learn.
14. Maybe a couple more powerpoints to save time on the more mundane stuff, so there is more time for discussion.
15. I really don't think anything about the course made it anything but a fantastic learning experience. Just keep teaching it and it will keep getting better.

**Question 4: Any additional comments?**

1. I like to hear a teacher's pedagogy and plan at the beginning of the course/lesson—something Josh did a great job of (better than even the Education courses I'm taking!)
2. Josh-if you're teaching any classes next fall/spring, let me know. I am not an "art" person and this is the Phil. Of Art and has been my favorite course all semester-TM
3. [blank]
4. Pretty good class, I usually looked forward to it.
5. [blank]
6. [blank]
7. Thanks for a great semester!
8. Good class
9. I thought the course was informative and enjoyable learning experience on a topic of interest.
10. No
11. T/F questions are tough on exams and maybe don't accurately judge someone's understanding.
12. More clips, I liked seeing the implications the material had in the real world
13. I really enjoyed this class, thanks.
14. Great class Josh, as always. Always like taking your classes. You're always fair in your grading and bring great topics to discuss.
15. Josh DiPaolo is the best professor I have ever had, hands down. I am so inspired to learn and then go forth and teach what I have learned.