

**Student Evaluations for Phi 10100: Intro to Philosophy (2 sections)**

Brendan Murday

Spring 2008

Ithaca College

Given the nature, level, and size of class, please indicate your overall opinion of the job this teacher did. Check **one**.

<i>Excellent</i>	27
<i>Very Good</i>	12
<i>Good</i>	1
<i>Merely Adequate</i>	0
<i>Inadequate</i>	0

Please mark each statement with one of the following:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	
1.	The instructor was well-prepared for class.				
	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 38	<i>Agree</i> 2	<i>Disagree</i> 0	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0	
2.	The instructor's presentation was well-organized.				
	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 36	<i>Agree</i> 4	<i>Disagree</i> 0	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0	
3.	The instructor was interested in the subject matter.				
	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 36	<i>Agree</i> 4	<i>Disagree</i> 0	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0	
4.	The instructor was approachable and willing to help (please mark N/A if you did not ask for help).				
	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 25	<i>Agree</i> 5	<i>Disagree</i> 0	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0	<i>N/A</i> 10
5.	In courses that require written work, the instructor's comments on my work were helpful (please mark N/A if you have not received comments on written work.)				
	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 19	<i>Agree</i> 12	<i>Neutral</i> 1	<i>Disagree</i> 0	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0 <i>N/A</i> 8
6.	I would recommend this course to serious students interested in the topic.				
	<i>Strongly Agree</i> 29	<i>Agree</i> 10	<i>Disagree</i> 1	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0	

Please provide comments or suggestions about the instructor:  
Good man, good humor, keeps things interesting.

I thought the instructor was great.

He is a nice person, shows a lot of dedication. Excellent professor.

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He was highly interested in subject matter.

The review sessions that he has for the tests were really helpful.

Engages students very well. Creates great working environment for study.

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He was very funny and presented the information in a clear and organized manner.

Change course structure a little. Not same thing/structure each class.

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Intelligent and knows how to convey the material. I would recommend a class based solely on this instructor.

The class is well organized and is helpful in building problem solving and critical thinking skills through the medium of philosophy.

Murday made intro to philosophy interesting.

Lectures were well-organized and accessible. Always organized. Used class time efficiently.

I think Murday did a good job relating the subject matter to his students – the examples he provided were numerous and relatable. It was good to have such lofty concepts brought down to a level that can be easily understood.

Good jobs. Enjoyed class, bring food next time. Buy a new mug.

Shows personal interest in subject matter well. Uses great examples to explain difficult theories good use of media. Funny, kind. Fair grader.

Prof Murday was passionate about philosophy and made the content enjoyable and understandable through organized lectures and relatable examples. The review sessions in

particular were very helpful.

Needs a new thermos, his actions just aren't as strong and his speeches not as convincing when he isn't slamming around his mug. Wonderful teaching, awesome teaching style, fair grader.

The cup banging gets old pretty fast.

At first Brendan's mug slamming habit was intimidating, but you can tell he is passionate about the subject and relays it to students. Uses a great open style of teaching and real-world examples.

I really enjoyed the way Brendan taught our class. The powerpoints allowed us to follow along, plus I enjoyed our class discussions.

Good job, enjoyed the class.

He did a very good job at making the topics interesting by using examples that are based on young students.

Good instructor, good course.

Really good professor, one of the best I've ever had.

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Very approachable, helpful, and knowledgeable.

He's a cool guy.

Murday is a great professor, he made the class as entertaining as educational.

Brendan Murday is one of the most amazing professors at Ithaca College. This is my second course with him and I would have no problem taking more courses with him because he makes any topic interesting and exciting.

Relates topics to interests of students, making class more enjoyable and understandable.

Excellent teacher. It's clear he cares about both students and philosophy, and the class was rarely boring.

Amazing – extremely intelligent and made me love his class.

Great enthusiasm and very funny. Taught in a unique way and helped me understand everything.

This instructor was great! I loved his examples, everything was explained really well. I learned

a lot and had so much fun.

Brendan is a cool guy and is very knowledgeable about the subject matter of philosophy. He is very energetic and has a wonderful sense of humor.

Very helpful and knowledgeable. Made the material very interesting and engaging.

Brendan was a great instructor; he made a course with such boring material that much livelier and concrete. Two thumbs up!

B-Murday is a enthusiastic and enjoyable instructor.

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What did you find most educationally valuable about this course?

Thinking logically, and performing logical arguments.

The class goes into major issues about life.

There is a wide variety of topics covered that I hadn't thought about before.

Ability to support beliefs confidently through research and critical thinking.

How he thoroughly goes over the slides that he has set up for the class.

The powerpoints that aided the lecture and class discussions.

It's enlightening.

I found the theories very interesting and how people went about objecting to the theories.

I thought thinking outside the box was interesting for problem solving in the future.

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Learning the various philosophy principles.

Use of critical thinking and problem solving skills.

We can argue about anything we are told w/ linguistics.

Definite value of reasoning and logical argument.

The ability to explore problems of the mind and personal identity, and the ability to formulate cohesive arguments.

Helps you learn how to think. Theories on free will, God, and personal identity were interesting.

The idea of questioning our free will, and the existence of a God.

The professor actively engages students in discussions and asks us to form our own opinions.

The reasoning skills I learned and the ways it made me start thinking about how to successfully argue something (recognize opposing views and respond).

The philosophies that cross over to my field (theater).

Variety in views on different philosophical problems.

Stimulating critical thinking / open discussion style classroom.

I found all the information to be valuable.

Great discussions in class helped lead to a better understanding of the information covered in class.

The way this class causes you to think critically.

The readings made you think, question, and re-think in order to understand them.

Learning about all the different philosophies and trying to reason through them.

Made me think about life.

It was easy to control your own grade.

Emphasis on abstract thinking.

The ability to look at abstract concepts and analyze them.

The entire course was educationally valuable because it was a topic I had never really explored prior to taking the course.

How to argue your point effectively. You might interpret something differently, but if you can back it up then you aren't wrong.

Class discussions that allowed different viewpoints. Murday did a good job of covering all the bases for each topic.

I really liked that it taught critical thinking. It was nice to do it through discussion and not a ton of papers also. And the discussions allowed for a broad array of ideas and thoughts to be used in class.

There are so many different viewpoints in this class and its hard to choose only one. But the topics meshed together for me, but my professor had a great way of teaching me everything. Believe what I want to and have reasons to back it up is what I found most valuable.

It taught me how to argue and reason better.

It teaches you to look at things more critically. It gives you a sharp contrast on ways of thinking and overall was an interesting course.

Taught me how to think about things in a new way.

Even though I think philosophy is a bunch of nonsense, there's something about it that really triggers your mind. Therefore, I think this is one of those courses that should be required all across the board. It really can help you figure things out behind the way people think, psychology, business, acting, speech, etc.

Discussions were very interesting to have. I was able to view topics at different persepctives.

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How could this course be improved to increase its educational value?

It is pretty good where it stands.

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More hands-on stuff.

Keep review sessions, very useful.

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Encourage students to print out powerpoint slides to take notes on them.

Slower pace, explain things better.

It's fair as is.

More grades into final average.

More debates on sides of philosophical views, more interaction.

Not sure.

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More written assignments (ungraded) so we can learn how to write for philosophy; I was unable to answer test questions fully because of this absence.

More emphasis on the “big name” philosophers?

More emphasis on the reading, perhaps? I hate to do reading responses, but that kind of thing, assigned maybe once a week or so, would ensure people did the reading fairly often, at least.

The course could have been a little bit more structured so we could cover more material.

Written homework. Could have more grading opportunities / checkpoints of class progress.

Sometimes I confused the different theories and philosophers, so it would be helpful if the heading of every slide was the theory (sometimes the slide just said “objections” instead of “objections to compatibilism”).

I think it effectively accomplishes its goal and doesn't need to be changed.

Don't really know, learned enough as it is.

Do not know.

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Encourage the readings to be done (more hw based on reading).

Not requiring the text, it is very confusing to read, Brendan does a good job explaining it at a student-friendly level.

More papers assigned.

Not really anything; very good class.

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Focus on students' opinions more?

Change it up. It's just a powerpoint every class,

I'm not sure.

Keep doing what you're doing!

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If doing the readings carefully had more of a grade impact I would have been more inclined to do them.

Not in many ways – maybe more required writing, but it's so nice to not have to worry about papers in this class.

Branch out even more and not have five different views on the same theory. A little bit more diversity would help.

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Not at 9 am! It is a great course with great material and a great professor.

Perhaps something more than just presentations.

N/a.

The material covered in class was mostly interesting but perhaps a larger variety of topics would be more educational.

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Please provide comments or suggestions about assignments and exams. [For instance, were the reading reflections worthwhile?].

The readings were informative but complicated to understand. Worthwhile if we talked about them more in class.

I didn't find the reading reflections helpful. Maybe a topic reflection would be better based on lecture material.

Yes they were worthwhile.

All assignments and exams were fair.

Between reading and powerpoints I was prepared for exams. Review sessions were a life saver.

I like how we had an option to either take a test or write an essay.

None. Review sessions make a world of difference. Perhaps more than 3?

Reading reflections were pointless.

The reading reflections were worthwhile because they forced me to engage with the texts where I

otherwise would not.

More grades into final average.

Yes, they made sure students understood material. Not all the readings were the easiest to understand and comprehend. Good feedback to know one is on the right course in understanding the reading as well as thinking in depth about the topic.

Exams were fair and readings were worthwhile.

If tests were reproduced online, the comments received in the email with our grades could be used more effectively. This would be especially true when the student feels their answer may be worth more credit than they are given, as they can respond to the instructor in a more timely manner.

Multiple choice exams for superficial info. Open-ended for more abstract info.

The reading reflections were kind of pointless. I understand their purpose but I don't see them as necessary. Testing format was fair, I liked it a lot.

The exams were fine, not too hard, but absolutely made easier by going to the review sessions – sometimes, the testing topics were very broad, and it was hard to keep it all in your head.

I enjoy the test. They are helpful and at an acceptable difficulty.

Could have one of the tests be multiple choice / fill in the blank for beginning of semester, so it wouldn't be so daunting for each new test.

Although I understand that we need grades, I did not necessarily learn anything special from the assignments. There was a perfect amount of work – not too much and not too little.

The reading reflections were helpful and made me read and think critically. Maybe a mandatory philosophy essay?

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Perhaps more assignments would help me keep up with the course flow rather than cramming before an exam. I am bad at exams.

I thought the exams were very fair, and that we were well-prepared for them.

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They were worthwhile.

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Reading was just the right amount. Exams were manageable; everything was alright.

I found the readings and reflections to be very confusing. Mostly because I find the topics confusing, not a reflection of the material itself.

Readings were somewhat hard to understand. I like how you could choose between exams or papers.

No idea, I haven't done an reading reflections.

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The class overall was extremely worthwhile and I will certainly be recommending the course to my peers. Thanks Brendan!

I did not open my textbook after the first day. The readings were confusing, so instead I paid attention in class. Exams were difficult, did much worse than expected.

Reading reflections were good because they made me think harder about the topic. He's a hard grader on exams but he explains his reasons and always makes it clear what material will be on the test.

The reading reflections were not worthwhile for course content but worthwhile if you wanted to think more deeply about the reading. Assignments and exams made you think a lot, but they were not overwhelming.

The reading reflections worthwhile. They helped me become more prepared for class and benefitted me in the long run.

Shorter review sheets. Otherwise it was fantastic!

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Exams were good assessment of knowledge.

I don't think it was worthwhile to read the textbook – it was the most confusing b.s. textbook ever! The sentences had so much fluffy nonsense, and I'm one of those that can't learn with fluffy wordy nonsense. Brendan did an excellent job explaining the material in class. The exams were nothing surprising; however, it was hard to memorize 50 questions on the review sheet for a 15 question test. Therefore, it'd be better to only have 30 review questions.

The readings were very informative and worthwhile. Assignments were fair and Murday's responses to assignments were great to have.

The main reason I'm taking this course:

- 14\_ *Interest in the topic*
- 3\_ *Required for major*
- 7\_ *Fulfills distribution requirements*
- 6\_ *Fits into my schedule*
- 0\_ *Other*