

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2018

Joanna Lawson, PHIL 101-001 INTRO: MAIN PROBS

Raters	Students
Responded	36
Invited	38
Response Ratio	94.7%

Overall

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.83	5.00	0.45	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	11.1 %	86.1 %
2. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.75	5.00	0.50	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	19.4 %	77.8 %
3. Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.	4.88	5.00	0.33	34	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.8 %	88.2 %
4. The instructor was one of the best I have had at Carolina, fully deserving of a teaching award.	4.63	5.00	0.55	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.9 %	31.4 %	65.7 %

Instructor

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The instructor clearly communicated what was expected of me in this class.	4.89	5.00	0.32	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.1 %	88.9 %
2. I was able to get individual help when I needed it.	4.94	5.00	0.24	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	5.7 %	94.3 %
3. The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	4.78	5.00	0.54	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	5.6 %	11.1 %	83.3 %
4. The instructor showed concern about whether students learned the material.	4.86	5.00	0.42	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	8.3 %	88.9 %
5. The instructor expressed ideas clearly.	4.89	5.00	0.32	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.1 %	88.9 %
6. The instructor showed enthusiasm for the subject matter.	5.00	5.00	0.00	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	100.0 %
7. The instructor showed enthusiasm for teaching the class.	4.97	5.00	0.17	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	97.2 %
8. Members of all races, ethnicities, and gender identities were respected by the instructor in this course.	4.97	5.00	0.17	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	97.2 %
9. The instructional techniques engaged me with the subject matter.	4.78	5.00	0.42	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	22.2 %	77.8 %
10. The instructor provided me with helpful feedback on my performance.	4.81	5.00	0.47	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	13.9 %	83.3 %
11. The instructor handled questions well.	4.83	5.00	0.38	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	16.7 %	83.3 %
12. The instructor used examples that had relevance for me.	4.83	5.00	0.38	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	16.7 %	83.3 %
13. The instructor used class time well.	4.67	5.00	0.53	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	27.8 %	69.4 %
14. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.97	5.00	0.17	34	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.9 %	97.1 %

	N	Yes
1. The instructor provided regular assessment of my work throughout the semester.	36	97.2 %
2. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the course syllabus and the official schedule published for this course.	36	100.0 %
3. Is this a required course for you?	36	50.0 %

Course

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.86	5.00	0.35	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	13.9 %	86.1 %
2. The course material (e.g., coursepack, website, texts) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.78	5.00	0.42	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	22.2 %	77.8 %
3. The course assignments helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.75	5.00	0.55	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	5.6 %	13.9 %	80.6 %
4. This course was very exciting to me intellectually.	4.76	5.00	0.55	34	0.0 %	0.0 %	5.9 %	11.8 %	82.4 %
5. This course was designed to keep me engaged in learning.	4.89	5.00	0.32	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.1 %	88.9 %
6. The workload was appropriate for what I gained from this class.	4.72	5.00	0.51	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	22.2 %	75.0 %

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Very Easy	Easy	Average	More Rigorous	Most Rigorous
1. Rate the grading standards of this course compared with others you have taken at UNC.	2.97	3.00	0.70	36	0.0 %	22.2 %	61.1 %	13.9 %	2.8 %
2. Rate the workload required in this course compared with others you have taken at UNC.	2.89	3.00	0.75	36	5.6 %	13.9 %	69.4 %	8.3 %	2.8 %

Reported Engagement

	N	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	12+
1. Please estimate the average number of hours per week that you spent outside of class on work related to this course.	36	0.0 %	44.4 %	47.2 %	5.6 %	2.8 %	0.0 %
2. About how many times this semester have you met with the instructor outside of class?	35	34.3 %	51.4 %	14.3 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %

Expected Grade

	N	A- or A	B or B+	C+ or B-	C- or C	F or D	Pass	Fail	H	P	L
1. What grade do you think you will get in this course?	35	65.7 %	22.9 %	8.6 %	2.9 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %

Diversity and Inclusion

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The diversity of my classmates enriched my learning in this course.	4.22	4.00	0.80	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	22.2 %	33.3 %	44.4 %
2. I increased my ability to work on a team with students from different backgrounds and perspectives.	4.14	4.00	0.83	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	27.8 %	30.6 %	41.7 %
3. This course exposed me to points of view different from my own.	4.69	5.00	0.58	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	5.6 %	19.4 %	75.0 %
4. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues of diversity.	4.47	5.00	0.70	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.1 %	30.6 %	58.3 %
5. The instructor, Joanna Lawson, valued the diversity of life experiences among students.	4.78	5.00	0.42	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	22.2 %	77.8 %
6. The instructor, Joanna Lawson, saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.74	5.00	0.51	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.9 %	20.0 %	77.1 %
7. In-class activities were organized to value the diversity of life experiences among students.	4.53	5.00	0.70	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.1 %	25.0 %	63.9 %

Department Specific

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. My knowledge of the field of philosophy has significantly improved as a result of taking this course.	4.83	5.00	0.38	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	16.7 %	83.3 %
2. My writing skills have improved significantly as a result of taking this course.	4.33	5.00	0.79	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	19.4 %	27.8 %	52.8 %
3. My critical reasoning skills have improved significantly as a result of taking this course.	4.61	5.00	0.55	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	33.3 %	63.9 %
4. In general, the topics that philosophers discuss are valuable and worthy of discussion.	4.58	5.00	0.65	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	8.3 %	25.0 %	66.7 %

Open-Ended Responses

Comments on Overall Assessment of This Course.

Comments

I think that the classes are too short for the discussions that take place, this class would be much more suited to a TuThr setup.

Mrs. Lawson is a passionate teacher and student of philosophy who is completely deserving of a PhD. This class was wonderfully organized and any changes to the syllabus were communicated with the class weeks in advance and a brief explanation was given. Mrs. Lawson was always in control of the classroom and kept us focus and engaged. Her enthusiasm in the subject matter and in philosophy as a whole helped keep me engaged and excited about lecture. I enjoyed her lectures as she worked to get the class to come to a conclusion as opposed to telling us the most agreed upon view in philosophy. Her powerpoints were easy to follow and included the most important parts of our reading. For the more challenging readings, it helped to have Mrs. Lawson "translate" portions and walk through the argument with us. Most classes students were randomly broken up into groups to discuss big topics or complete small exercises. This helped me better understand and interact with my classmates as well as get a better grasp of the material. Lastly, Mrs. Lawson was always available to meet outside of classes, even outside of office house. I really felt like she cared about me as a person and a student. I will miss her as a teacher and wish her the best.

Really enjoy this class

Phenomenal course. I did not expect to enjoy the intro philosophy course, but I found it fascinating and really engaging. I think Joanna's energy really helped to make this course enjoyable and the subject matter relevant to our lives.

Some of the grading was really harsh on the papers, especially but once I got a handle on what you were looking for it made it easier

Great introduction to a wide range of philosophical topics

~~was~~ Considering becoming a philosophy major, and after this class, I officially added it as a major. I just wish there was more class time to continue talking about the topics we were discussing.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course, the subject matter, and the teacher. I would definitely take it again!

It was a great class to take and I would take it again if I could.

Very fair grading and sufficient feedback was given on each and every assignment.

One of the best courses I have taken so far, and this is mostly done to the instructor

As an introductory to philosophy course, this class was very informative and set up a good foundation for anyone wishing to pursue future philosophy classes. The material was engaging and the discussion in class was always entertaining. Being an early class, the structure of the class and presentation of the material really made it worth while to wake up and go to class. I feel that the course changed my perspective on certain topics and opened my mind to different interpretations.

The grading was a little tough, but that made me try harder to earn a good grade.

The assessments were fair and manageable

BEST CLASS EVER. But really, I never thought I would enjoy a philosophy 101 class so much. Professor Lawson has made this a great experience.

This was a great course. Joanna is really passionate about philosophy and it comes out in the way she teaches.

I enjoyed this course MUCH more than I thought that I was going to! I think that was a great deal due to Joanna...she really made learning philosophy enjoyable, and not overwhelming!

This course was great. I could not see me loving this class as much as I did without having Joanna Lawson. Coming into this class I was nervous about how certain topics would be communicated but Mrs. Lawson did a fantastic job and really inspired me to look deeper in the philosophy world. She challenged me every day with great reading and participating in class. Any ridiculous idea or comment I had she was there to listen and talk deeper about.

A useful introduction to philosophy, introduces many concepts that challenge some of the usual ways of thinking

The course was eye-opening to problems in philosophy and the way they were presented by the professor made each interesting in their own unique way.

Thought provoking and enjoyable course.

This class was the BEST that I have taken at UNC so far! This was made possible equally by the teacher and the material. The material was interesting. I never wanted to miss my 8am because this was my favorite class. I appreciate the readings because they caused me to think s much! This course covered a lot of material but it did not feel overwhelming the least bit.

I think mrs lawson is awesome professor to teach about philosophy.

Loved it. Looking forward to another philosophy course!

I really enjoyed the variety of topics discussed, how everyone was willing to share their thoughts and ideas. Joanna was an excellent professor, both in engaging the class and in the knowledge of the topics discussed. She was very understanding of the diversity of the students (willingness to speak up in class, cultural backgrounds, etc.) and accommodated everyone as much as she could. She was also very fair and as unbiased as possible when grading papers and exams. Overall, it has been one of my favorite classes here at UNC, despite the early hour.

Comments on Overall Assessment of This Instructor.

Comments
She made it interesting and didn't show any significant bias in what she proposed.
Joanna was an incredible Instructor, one of the best I have had at UNC or at my home university. Her enthusiasm is infectious and takes the course to a whole new level. I did not think I would enjoy taking Philosophy, but I found I was looking forward to learning every class because of her.
Mrs. Lawson is a fantastic instructor. I would love to have her again. She truly improved my understanding of philosophy.
So awesome! Always making sure to keep students engaged in lecture and always willing to help when we need it. Also very respectful and values what every student has to say. Great professor.
She's just great. Tons of energy, passion for philosophy, and high respect for students and their opinions.
Professor Lawson is an amazing teacher. She made learning philosophy interesting and showed a lot of passion and interest in the material. I was able to learn and understand concepts I didn't think I would be able to comprehend. Professor Lawson is also very understanding of students who are quiet, which is very helpful.
I really enjoyed this glad. I love your enthusiasm for the subject and that is really something that I look for in professors because it makes me value the subject more if the professor wants to be there, instead of just showing up every morning without really putting effort and love into the subject.
Great attitude every day, especially for an 8 AM. It is easy to see her passion for the material and that pushes her students to want to learn more about philosophy. Also, she gives specific great feedback on papers to help her students improve. Lastly, by the first week of class she had every students name memorized, just shows how much she CARES about her students. Would take another class with her.
Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the subject matter. Cared about the students and made each class interesting.
Joanna was a great teacher. I came in for office hours often, and she helped me delve further into the issues in that time.
She is very approachable outside of class and she explains concepts clearly if I am having trouble with the subject matter. She also was very understanding when I would have to miss class because of sporting events and made it easy for me to catch up.
Very enthusiastic teacher with great energy and passion for teaching.
Very dedicated professor that really enjoys sharing the world of philosophy with others and does so in a fair, interesting way.
One of the best I've had at UNC because she is fair and communicates her expectations clearly.
Joanna is a great lecturer and will make an even better professor.
Professor Lawson is an amazing professor. It is very clear that she has a deep understanding of the material that we go over, and the readings that are posted prior to class discussion, I felt, were very helpful in gaining a preliminary understanding of the topics. Overall, I thought she was a fantastic professor, and should be hired on the spot.
She is very helpful, easy to access outside of the class, and actually cares that her students understand the material.
Professor Lawson was engaged in the material and her passion for the subject made the class that much more enjoyable. She graded fairly and always gave constructive criticism when needed, as well as credit where it was due.
Joanna is an excellent professor. I am grateful for her hard work to help me throughout the semester. She is approachable, which makes it easy to get help when you need it.
I met with Joanna several times outside of class, and she was incredibly helpful, insightful, and understanding. I was very comfortable meeting with her outside of class to discuss anything because she is incredibly warm and welcoming!
In addition, she was a fantastic lecturer. She explained ideas very clearly and made learning philosophy very fun!
She has been one of my FAVORITE!!!! Not because of the topic or the class. I came in thinking I made a mistake taking this class but since the first day I have been excited about this class and the topics we would learn and talk about in class due to her pure enthusiasm. She has such a love for the class and topic, and does a great job communicating to the students. I don't know how much she gets paid but no matter how much it IS NOT ENOUGH. A teacher like Mrs. Lawson is rare to find and I'm glad I had her as my professor.
Teacher really made it, her energy and excitement for the topics made the class much more interesting
Excellent instructor who seems to genuinely care about exposing future generations to philosophical problems that will help guide our decisions and consider options when going forward with our own careers.
She was a solid instructor who cared that her students were learning the material.
She is a fun, passionate, knowledgeable instructor.
Joanna Lawson is clearly very passionate about her job, is very transparent about her expectations, clear with her words, and very thought-provoking. If I don't do my plan A career choice, I'd love to teach this class just like she did! With the amount of material that we covered, it would be easy for some professors to make everything to feel so cluttered but she did not at all! Joanna Lawson clearly cared about her students and whether or not they were actually learning.
Thank you for your help on open my eyes on philosophical thoughts.
Really great energy, her enthusiasm is contagious.
Joanna was a great professor; I really enjoyed coming to class because of her personality and how she engaged in the topics. She made what could have been a very dry topic much more interesting and engaging to the students. She also researched supporting materials (videos, outside knowledge, etc.) which added to the class. She was also very supportive of student participation; I appreciated the notes/emails I would receive after class thanking me on my participation or thoughts about a particular topic. All in all, a great professor!
Really good teacher!!
Easy to listen to during lectures

Comments on: The Instructor Provided Regular Assessment of My Work Throughout the Semester. (Comments)

Comment

- I would have liked comments of my second paper, but Mrs. Lawson did give me feedback on every reading assessment throughout the semester.
- She is a very fast grader as well.
- In addition, she provided prompt grading of all assignments, so that was greatly appreciated!!!!
- Papers got great feed back. Reading responses were returned the following class and was able to talk to about them
- Reading responses with feedback, papers with feedback, etc.

How Did the Diversity of Your Classmates Contribute to Your Learning in This Course?

Comments

It didn't, not until the end, which is fine. When it did, I'm not sure how much it helped contribute to the learning of the material, but it certainly had an influence on broadening perspectives about certain things.

The diversity of my classmates added to the depth of discussions in class and introduced me to new ideas and points of view. Especially in philosophy, I think it is important to include a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to have meaningful and productive discussions.

We talked about race and gender towards the end, so different backgrounds especially in regards to race and gender were very valuable.

Were able to see different points of view from different people.

It provided different bases of knowledge for different issues. For example, when discussing feminism, the mixture of men and women allowed us to bring both experiences to the table when discussing the issues.

The diversity of my classmates allowed me to see their perspective and their thoughts that may have been influenced due to their background.

Their diversity was shown throughout some of their answers and it enhanced my knowledge of some of the material.

Intellectual discourse during class was much more enjoyable and varied due to the diversity of my classmates.

Especially in a class where there is no clear-cut right or wrong answer, the diversity of my classmates helped highlight the different perspectives and interpretations of the topics presented in this course. Overall, I felt that the environment was open for discussion and was respectful of others' opinions and it is in this way that I felt that the diversity of my classmates really bolstered my learning in this course.

We were able to get different perspectives of the various topics we talked about such as race and gender.

I was able to see other peoples perspective and see how peoples backgrounds affect their viewpoints and philosophy

We did a lot of group work which allowed different perspectives to come together. We also discussed intersectionality as a topic which encouraged discussions about diversity

My classmates all brought different perspectives to class enabling me to see topics beyond my own understanding.

N/A

Since this is a philosophy class where it teaches the aspects of meaning of life. The diversity of my classmates brought in different aspects to culture and meaning of life in different cultures.

Others were able to speak up about their own experiences, some things that I would have not thought of or known about on my own.

It really didn't until the unit on oppression.

The various backgrounds of the individual students weighed heavily on the discussion topics.

Didnt affect it.

Different points if view.

Everyone had different experiences and therefore different viewpoints in the class discussions. Although they were different, we were always able to make connections.

We have learned how diversity matters in our life

Critical thinking is really imperative to this subject matter, and when others have different ideas or come from different backgrounds, it's conducive to sharpening critical thinking. I also have more fully developed beliefs because of the diversity found in class.

Different opinions and backgrounds; different ways of thinking about a particular topic

Give a lot of new thoughts

Very inclusive of everyone

How Might the Class Climate Be Made More Inclusive of Diverse Students?

Comments

Why does this matter? UNC is 70% white, 60% female. If you're looking for racial diversity look elsewhere, if you want diversity of opinion you're already doing the best you can.

Style of lecture room/classroom. Hard to have discussions with the lecture-style room as opposed to like a classroom

Mrs. Lawson did a wonderful job ensuring that all students felt included. The only thing I could think of would be to dedicate a portion of lecture some days (or a whole class once a semester) to students with diverse backgrounds who wish to talk about how their backgrounds/roots have influenced the way they think and what holds meaning in their lives. As a way to prevent these students from being put on the spot, an email may be sent out at the beginning of the semester to gauge the interest in this idea and who would be interested.

I think it already was very inclusive.

Some of the articles made me not want to speak up because of my views, but then again I spoke up a majority of the time, or at least I was tried to

It was ideal. The presence of diversity was addressed, but our conversations were based on the intellectual merit of our ideas rather than our identity.

I think it is very inclusive, we read a multitude of philosophical articles and some deal with diversity.

It was very inclusive of diverse students!

Professor Lawson has created a class climate were there is complete inclusion. I don't think any improvements are needed; the climate is already quite good.

The climate, as is, was very very respectful of different opinions so I don't think that anything needs to be changed.

There would be a wider range of varying opinions.

nothing it was great

A lot of the class is discussion-based, so diverse perspectives are welcome. Joanna already recognized the fact that some people may not have the opportunity to speak up in class each day, so she encouraged everyone to participate at least once a week. So, I would say the class climate is very inclusive!

This class was very inclusive.

N/A

The class climate is super inclusive to every student in the class Joanna Lawson does a great job not separating people but just making everyone feel 100 percent the same during the class

I think it did pretty well, all were encouraged to speak and weren't ostracized or anything

It can't. What I appreciated from Ms. Lawson was that she treated everyone equally. Therefore, students felt included because they were all treated as equal students on the same playing field. I think this University has a lot to learn from Joanna Lawson.

I genuinely don't believe that much more could be done to be inclusive. It is a very inclusive class.

Not much to do

It was inclusive

I'm not really sure

I have learned about others diverse thoughts about philosophy

Maybe more surveys or polls. More of a draw on current politics.

I thought it was a very approachable environment where anyone could feel comfortable in sharing their ideas and thoughts. I don't think I would change anything.

Group activities

It already is