

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2018

Christopher Howard, PHIL 165-001 BIOETHICS

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.	4.67	5.00	0.53	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	27.8 %	69.4 %
2. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.81	5.00	0.40	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	19.4 %	80.6 %
3. Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.	4.80	5.00	0.41	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	20.0 %	80.0 %
4. The instructor was one of the best I have had at Carolina, fully deserving of a teaching award.	4.28	4.50	0.85	36	0.0 %	2.8 %	16.7 %	30.6 %	50.0 %

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.	4.64	5.00	0.54	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	30.6 %	66.7 %
2. I was able to get individual help when I needed it.	4.58	5.00	0.50	33	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	42.4 %	57.6 %
3. The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	4.64	5.00	0.49	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	36.1 %	63.9 %
4. The instructor showed concern about whether students learned the material.	4.64	5.00	0.54	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	30.6 %	66.7 %
5. The instructor expressed ideas clearly.	4.72	5.00	0.45	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	27.8 %	72.2 %
6. The instructor showed enthusiasm for the subject matter.	4.86	5.00	0.35	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	13.9 %	86.1 %
7. The instructor showed enthusiasm for teaching the class.	4.81	5.00	0.40	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	19.4 %	80.6 %
8. Members of all races, ethnicities, and gender identities were respected by the instructor in this course.	4.86	5.00	0.36	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	14.3 %	85.7 %
9. The instructional techniques engaged me with the subject matter.	4.57	5.00	0.65	35	0.0 %	2.9 %	0.0 %	34.3 %	62.9 %
10. The instructor provided me with helpful feedback on my performance.	4.53	5.00	0.51	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	47.2 %	52.8 %
11. The instructor handled questions well.	4.69	5.00	0.52	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	25.0 %	72.2 %
12. The instructor used examples that had relevance for me.	4.64	5.00	0.49	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	36.1 %	63.9 %
13. The instructor used class time well.	4.56	5.00	0.50	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	44.4 %	55.6 %
14. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.53	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	27.8 %	69.4 %

	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.	35	100.0 %
3. Is this a required course for you?	36	77.8 %

Course

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.89	5.00	0.32	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	11.1 %	88.9 %
2. The course material (e.g., coursepack, website, texts) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.72	5.00	0.51	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	22.2 %	75.0 %
3. The course assignments helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.69	5.00	0.47	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	30.6 %	69.4 %
4. This course was very exciting to me intellectually.	4.72	5.00	0.51	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	22.2 %	75.0 %
5. This course was designed to keep me engaged in learning.	4.50	5.00	0.56	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	44.4 %	52.8 %
6. The workload was appropriate for what I gained from this class.	4.60	5.00	0.50	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	40.0 %	60.0 %

	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.	3.11	3.00	0.40	36	0.0 %	2.8 %	83.3 %	13.9 %	0.0 %
2. Rate the workload required in this course compared with others you have taken at UNC.	3.00	3.00	0.59	36	0.0 %	16.7 %	66.7 %	16.7 %	0.0 %

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	2.8 %	44.4 %	47.2 %	2.8 %	2.8 %	0.0 %
2. About how many times this semester have you met with the instructor outside of class?	36	66.7 %	27.8 %	5.6 %	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	57.1 %	40.0 %	2.9 %	0.0 %	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.	4.38	4.00	0.65	34	0.0 %	0.0 %	8.8 %	44.1 %	47.1 %
2. I increased my ability to work on a team with students from different backgrounds and perspectives.	4.19	4.00	0.67	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	13.9 %	52.8 %	33.3 %
3. This course exposed me to points of view different from my own.	4.78	5.00	0.42	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	22.2 %	77.8 %
4. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues of diversity.	4.57	5.00	0.56	35	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.9 %	37.1 %	60.0 %
5. The instructor, Christopher Howard, valued the diversity of life experiences among students.	4.72	5.00	0.51	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	22.2 %	75.0 %
6. The instructor, Christopher Howard, saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.61	5.00	0.55	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	2.8 %	33.3 %	63.9 %
7. In-class activities were organized to value the diversity of life experiences among students.	4.44	4.50	0.61	34	0.0 %	0.0 %	5.9 %	44.1 %	50.0 %

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.	4.72	5.00	0.45	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	27.8 %	72.2 %
2. My writing skills have improved significantly as a result of taking this course.	4.19	4.00	0.79	36	0.0 %	2.8 %	13.9 %	44.4 %	38.9 %
3. My critical reasoning skills have improved significantly as a result of taking this course.	4.47	4.00	0.51	36	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	52.8 %	47.2 %
4. In general, the topics that philosophers discuss are valuable and worthy of discussion.	4.58	5.00	0.69	36	0.0 %	2.8 %	2.8 %	27.8 %	66.7 %



Open-Ended Responses

Comments on Overall Assessment of This Course.

Comments

One of the best courses I have taken at UNC by far.

I enjoyed the readings although some were long but it wasn't overwhelming.

Chris was really enthusiastic about the material! It was really enjoyable, and I learned a lot of how to express and develop my experience.

I absolutely loved this course, and Mr. Howard is an excellent professor.

I just loved this course and absolutely loved Christopher Howard. He's an excellent professor who demonstrates his passion for philosophy every single day. One of my favorite classes ever.

This is my favorite class that I have taken at UNC so far. After taking this class, I feel compelled to continue to grow my knowledge of the topic and potentially turn it into a career. Chris is a very passionate instructor which makes him very easy to listen to and learn from. The articles were all relevant and enjoyable to read for the most part.

I really enjoyed the course. I've always enjoyed being a part of debates so to be able to constructively talk within an environment that did not seem to allow for judgment was very nice.

I enjoyed this course

This course was truly a great course, and I highly recommend it to anyone, even those not pursuing pre-health tracks, but especially those who are. This course has made me rethink and reassess certain values I believed I would never change. It also made value opinions that I always thought were in opposition from my own. I began to realize that the reason why people thought differently than I did had true, sound reasons. This made me approach the argument more critically instead of with hostility. Professor Howard created a safe and comfortable environment to engage in critical discussions with others and to voice our own opinions about the subject. He also showed extreme enthusiasm for the class, which made his lectures much more engaging.

I really enjoyed this course and the instructor made it a great experience as it was obvious he was passionate about what he was talking about and really wanted students to learn and grow from what we were learning.

I loved this course and think that I took it assuming it would be most beneficial to STEM majors, but now I see how applicable it is to everyone's lives. As a biomedical engineering major and more generally a citizen, I think I really value and will use the information from this class.

I wish we could talk about more controversial topics

Great class overall! The reading material got a little dense at times, but I like how you were able to sift through each material

It made me think a lot and I liked having the many different readings that gave different perspectives. The amount of reading and opposing perspectives made me more open minded

Good course! Lots of interesting material.

This course allowed me to engage with many controversial medical topics, develop my perspective, and enhance my writing skills.

It was really interesting

This was an excellent introduction to the study of bioethics – I thoroughly enjoyed this class!

I am really glad I took this course. :)

I wasn't sure what kind of class this was going to be and I wasn't looking for a philosophy class, but I am glad that I took it. I enjoyed reading 98% of the material and would definitely recommend it to other students, even if it is just as an elective.

The professor was very knowledgeable about the subject and was very excited multiple times throughout the course. His passion reflected and rubbed off on his students. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and want to take another course in philosophy.

The course on the whole was awesome. Thought-provoking material combined with an atmosphere that promoted (and required) thoughtful discussion led to students developing not just a baseline knowledge of the material covered, but an in-depth understanding of the concepts being taught.

My only negative comment on the course structure would be the peer review process. While I found the peer review process very helpful, I think the timeline should be altered. Most students like to provide a fairly well-polished draft as their rough draft if their peers are going to read it, so I think it would be more useful to have more time to spend on the rough draft, and less time between the peer review and the final draft.

I thoroughly enjoyed this class

It was the first philosophy class at UNC and I really enjoyed it and I feel a lot of that is because of the professor

Very good!

Christopher Howard was a real treat. I enjoyed his personality and I recommend him as an excellent teacher.

Comments on Overall Assessment of This Instructor.

Comments

An extremely passionate teacher that wants his students to truly gain an understanding and appreciation of the material covered in class.

Very enthusiastic!

Mr. Howard is very knowledgeable about philosophy and bioethics in particular, and he values all perspectives.

amazing. 10/10. 2 thumbs up. Would take again. Brilliant.

Christopher Howard is one of the best professors I have had at UNC. He is very passionate and organizes his lectures so that they are easy to follow. I learned a lot from his assignments, they all felt very relevant. He was accessible the entire semester and made sure that we were aware of office hours and additional opportunities to learn more about the field. He is a GREAT teacher.

I really enjoyed having him as an instructor. He clearly understood what he was teaching and made it easy to understand the material within lecture.

I enjoyed this class and the free flow structure

He is really passionate about bioethics, which can be seen in every lecture. He not only teaches and recounts the ideas mentioned in the readings, but he also engages with the reading along with the students. It sometimes seemed like he was another student trying to understand the topic along with us.

I really enjoyed his teaching style and his enthusiasm as well as his desire to get to know students outside of class.

Professor Howard is simply incredible. Our class really benefitted from his organized lectures as well as his open-ended questions about the material and his demeanor and responses to our questions. Not only is he great with the material, but he gets excited about the things we talk about. He is so helpful in office hours and cares about his students learning the material. This was one of my favorite classes this semester mostly because of Professor Howard.

He was passionate about the topic and did a very good job in getting students to engage in class discussion .

I liked how he gave a summary of the article that was easier to understand and had discussions with the class.

Passionate about the material

Prof. Howard did a great job of explaining philosophy, respecting everyone's point of view, and taking genuine interest and concern in the success of his students. He rocks.

He was really good

Dr. Howard had great energy and met students where they were. Our class consists of many majors, ages, and backgrounds, and he was inclusive of ideas and comments shared by each of us, elaborating further and encouraging participation. He had an excellent balance of readings that stemmed from authors positing different arguments on key topics such as abortion, paternalism, and organ markets. I appreciate his assignments as they also allowed us to incorporate ideas from the readings we engaged in, as well as build on these ideas utilizing other resources, data, and texts.

Professor Howard is an intelligent instructor who understands his bioethics craft very well. His enthusiasm about the topics we discuss in class interests me tremendously.

He was really great; the way he teaches makes difficult topics easier to understand and keeps you interested.

One of the best courses that I have taken at UNC. He loves his work and loves teaching it to others.

Very easy to approach, teaches topics in a relatable way

Best instructor I have had at UNC. Your teaching style does a great job of helping to develop more complex understandings of difficult topics, while still handling the very basic questions and responses we often have. You did an awesome job of making both very basic, simple questions and more complex questions feel welcome in the discussion without either type being brushed over.

He is very energetic about the topics and made sure to get all points across clearly.

He is obviously very excited to teach and definitely uphold the old saying "no question is a stupid question" and really made me feel comfortable participating in class even though I lack experience in the philosophy department.

Great professor super friendly

Very engaging and always showed enthusiasm, never a dull moment in class. Clearly loves the subjects he teaches and always made sure the students were understanding and following the discussion.

Awesome guy

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

Comment

- Grades released quickly, helpful personalized feedback

Comments on: The Instructor Held Class Meetings Consistent With the Course Syllabus and the Official Schedule Published For This Course. (Comments)

Comment

- Lectures always on time and interesting

- I might suggest having office hours at different times, rather than at the same time on both Monday and Wednesday. The way it is currently set up, if a student can't make one of the office hours, they can't make it to either. If they were at different times, or one was on M/W/F and the other was on Tu/Th, it might be easier for all students to find a time to attend. That said, you were awesome about finding time to meet people outside of your office hours, so I think everyone who wanted to meet about things likely could.

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

Comments

There were some students that had opinions that were very different from the general class, which forced us to think beyond our pre-determined opinion.

N/A

There were quite a few students who were strongly opinionated and expressed differing ideas. It really added to my understanding of topics and the oppositions.

The diversity in perspectives and backgrounds contributed to a more substantive discussion, and I was able to learn more about all of the aspects worthy of consideration in different topics.

Yes! Chris did a great job of making sure every person in the class felt comfortable voicing their opinions. He facilitated healthy debates between students. This class does have a decent amount of controversial material, and Chris did a great job of presenting it without bias. I learned a lot from my peers during our group discussions that happened every Friday.

People with different backgrounds and moral beliefs helped to shape my perspective on certain topics that were discussed.

the different ideologies helps see different perspectives on topics

I began to consider my values and decisions I had believed to be immutable in the perspective of those that opposed my own. This really helped me to critically assess my opinions as well as value and understand the perspectives of others a lot better.

A lot of my classmates had very different views than I did, and a lot of them were views I had actually not been aware of before so it exposed to a lot of different dynamic views that made me question a lot about what I already thought.

This was a discussion based class so we were constantly talking to one another about our opinions on difficult topics like abortion, surrogacy, and health care. I think this class would be substantially less valuable if we all agreed on everything discussed. I believe it played a large roll in thinking deeply about the subject matter.

It allowed for different perspective about certain topics

Diversity of perspectives allowed me to gain a richer understanding of the course material

People have different backgrounds and experiences that contribute to different perspectives

Different points of view allowed me to learn about new perspectives

Many different points of view were introduced in class discussion that reflected the diversity of the class.

I got more perspectives

It offered different perspectives and ideas.

When collaborating in group discussion sessions on Fridays, members of our course had multiple perspectives to share, which was greatly appreciated. The diversity allowed us to bring different cultural and political contexts to the issues debated in philosophy (which, interestingly enough, are often elaborated by white authors). Having diversity was essential to testing these hypotheses.

It provided new perspective on important bioethics topics that I had not been exposed to that open my own eyes.

There would be times when I heard POV's that were different than my own and that made me reflect on my own values and opinions further.

Different viewpoints allowed for better discussions. More opinions were voiced and topics were either argued or refuted.

People often had very different experiences from each other that came up in discussion

Since this is a very discussion-based course, and because of the inclusive learning environment, everyone's experiences and backgrounds seeped into their beliefs and statements about every topic we discussed.

in class discussion, everyone had a chance to voice their concerns.

We talked about different political views a lot and it was helpful to understand that peoples views were a product of their life experience and when we had different views it was just because we had led different lives.

It helped by allowing us to hear different perspectives and see how different backgrounds though.

With the diversity present amongst students in class, class discussions were engaging and though-provoking in that many people had many different opinions yet remained respectful and exposed me to new and different ideas.

i just got more of a perspective

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

Comments

It was already very inclusive.

N/A

We could try to keep one opinionated from dominating the class.

Everyone was welcomed and considered, so I do not know how that could be expanded.

Chris is already very inclusive.

I thought the class was inclusive.

n/a

Stress that the topics we are discussing do not have a clear answer and that it is a continual conversation. Like we already do, read about and analyze the many sides of the argument.

I thought it was very inclusive and all views were challenged but accepted.

I think it was about as inclusive as it could have been with opportunities for small and large group discussion. I think professor Howard did a fantastic job at presenting both/multiple sides of an argument and very rarely if ever did students feel alienated about a point of view.

Calling on students from time to time instead of letting certain people dominate class discussions

It is already.

n/a

The class climate seemed fairly receptive to multiple students' backgrounds, opinions, and stories that they desired to share. Dr. Howard did an excellent job of setting the tone from the beginning of the semester to have students debate in open-minded manners, being receptive to the ideas we each had to share, and being respectful in the dialogue ensuing.

I cannot think of more ways to make the class more inclusive than it already is.

Sometimes it is hard to engage students who are quiet, like myself, so if there was an online discussion I feel like that could help.

N/A

The elevator in Greenlaw Hall could be updated so as to not seem like a death trap to people in wheel chairs who have to use it.

Have more discussions about different ethnicities or nationalities

I think it was really good

I feel like it had a well-balanced sense of diversity within both class and readings

i dont know
