

Course Evaluation Instructor Detail Report for term 1231, PHIL-17A-1 Introduction to Ethics (Jordan Kokot)

Instructor: Jordan Kokot
Course: PHIL-17A-1 Introduction to Ethics
Term: 1231
Home Department: Philosophy Department

Raters	Students
Responded	26
Invited	43
Response Ratio	60.5%

Key: # = Total Responses; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral;
4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly Agree; N/A = Not Applicable

Course Structure and Grading

General Structure

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The course syllabus was comprehensive, clear, and accurate.	26	0	1	2	8	15	0	5.00	4.42	0.81
The learning goals were clearly stated in the syllabus.	26	0	0	0	5	21	0	5.00	4.81	0.40
Classes started and ended on time.	26	0	0	0	5	21	0	5.00	4.81	0.40

Grading

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
Content of tests and assignments was consistent with content of lectures and/or reading.	26	0	0	0	5	21	0	5.00	4.81	0.40
Assignments and/or exams were returned promptly.	26	0	2	3	11	10	0	4.00	4.12	0.91
The grading policies were clear and consistently followed.	26	0	0	2	10	14	0	5.00	4.46	0.65
The graded assignments allowed me to demonstrate what I learned in the course.	26	0	0	1	7	18	0	5.00	4.65	0.56

Content and Workload

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The content covered in this course was challenging.	26	0	0	5	13	8	0	4.00	4.12	0.71
This course requires a lot of work.	26	0	2	7	13	4	0	4.00	3.73	0.83

Student Responsibilities

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
I completed the course readings.	26	0	2	3	15	6	0	4.00	3.96	0.82
I kept up with work as it was assigned.	26	0	0	3	12	11	0	4.00	4.31	0.68

Instructor Responsibilities and Skills

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	26	0	0	0	2	24	0	5.00	4.92	0.27
The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	25	0	0	0	7	18	0	5.00	4.72	0.46
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	26	0	0	0	2	24	0	5.00	4.92	0.27

Responsiveness of the Instructor

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	26	0	0	0	4	21	1	5.00	4.84	0.37
The instructor respected students' ideas.	26	0	0	0	1	25	0	5.00	4.96	0.20
The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	26	0	0	0	0	26	0	5.00	5.00	0.00
I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	26	0	0	2	6	18	0	5.00	4.62	0.64

Overall Instructor Rating

Question	Course Average		
	Response Count	Mean	Median
The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	26	4.92	5.00
The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	25	4.72	5.00
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	26	4.92	5.00
The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	25	4.84	5.00
The instructor respected students' ideas.	26	4.96	5.00
The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	26	5.00	5.00
I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	26	4.62	5.00
Overall	-	4.85	-

Contribution to Learning

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The stated learning goals for the course were met.	25	0	0	2	6	17	0	5.00	4.60	0.65
This course improved my writing ability.	26	0	0	4	12	10	0	4.00	4.23	0.71
This course improved my oral communication skills.	26	0	1	6	8	6	5	4.00	3.90	0.89
This course improved my quantitative skills.	26	0	3	3	3	1	16	3.00	3.20	1.03
This course helped me develop my creative abilities.	26	0	0	2	8	8	8	4.00	4.33	0.69
This course helped me to analyze, interpret and synthesize information.	26	0	0	1	12	13	0	4.50	4.46	0.58
This course helped me to reason better and to think more critically about its subject matter.	26	0	0	1	5	20	0	5.00	4.73	0.53
This course helped me to consider alternative perspectives on complex issues.	26	0	0	0	8	18	0	5.00	4.69	0.47

Overall Quality of the Course

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The overall quality of this course was excellent.	26	0	0	0	6	20	0	5.00	4.77	0.43

Student Demographics

Your class standing?

#	First Year	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Master's	Doctoral
26	13	7	5	1	0	0

What is your school of major?

#	SCI	SocSCI	HUM	ART	Undecided
26	9	8	4	0	5

Why did you choose this course?

#	University req.	Major req.	Minor req.	Interest
26	7	2	0	17

Course and Instructor Comments

Please identify those aspects of the course you found most useful or valuable for learning.

Comments
I think the lecture slides were well organized, as well as the lectures themselves being stimulating and informative
This course was an amazing introduction to ethics and taught me how to formulate an argument based in the ethical arguments of those before me, while criticizing them simultaneously. I couldn't have asked for a better instructor for this course.
I found the amount of discussions built into the course stimulated a lot of interest for the material.
I enjoyed the different discussion prompts in class and loved participating in debates with my peers
The lectures were presented in a way that I could easily follow along and held my interest, and helped a lot to clear up things I didn't fully understand in the readings.
I thought it was valuable to hear the opinions of my classmates as we explored new ideas and material.
I thought the discussion-based design that Professor Kokot carried out was incredibly engaging and helped motivate my interest in the material. I also genuinely appreciated the short-answer assignments that we were given outside of class and thought the prompts were very effective for eliciting genuine thought.
Class discussions were really awesome in this course, really helped me understand the material as well as really learn for the sake of learning.
This class was awesome. I loved the class discussions we would have about the material. Jordan would keep the content engaging and respectful—especially when we were discussing sensitive subjects. Class often moved at a quite fast pace, but as the semester went on, taking notes got easier. The pace of the class made me a better and more efficient note taker. Jordan clearly cares about the content he is teaching, and he cares that his students feel comfortable within the classroom to have hard discussions about course content. I'm really glad I took this class
Readings following the introductory texts of a given unit sparked really engaging and interesting class discussions. During the class, professor Kokot was very knowledgeable and well articulated in his words, finding ways to keep a conversation going to subtly direct it in another direction.
The content was really interesting and the discussions were really engaging and thought provoking. It was a really great class overall, and I would highly recommend the course and the professor, he did a really good job of teaching complex topics.
The mix of lecture and conversation in all of the classes allowed for student to interact with the high level and dense ethical readings. Additionally, this lead to well articulated critical conversations between individual students in and out of class.
As someone who has never taken a Philosophy class before, I was initially really nervous about not being able to understand the topics we were going to cover this semester. That being said, Professor Kokot's talent for explaining difficult material and his passion for philosophy made it easy for me to not only understand the material, but also be excited about every single framework and thinkers we discussed. Overall, I am very happy with my decision to take Introduction to Ethics this semester, and i am very grateful to Professor Kokot for all his dedication to our class.
The part of the course I found most valuable were the in-class discussions. Debating over ethical principles helped me retain information better and consider a multifaceted perspective to complex issues.
I found the readings really valuable and relevant to the course, and helpful in framing issues within ethics. I also found the professor and the course to be very engaging.
The open forum format of the class
I think I found in-class discussions to be incredibly valuable and engaging.
The slides are very helpful as well as the midterm review session. He is also an amazing professor and does an amazing job at explaining class material.

What suggestions would you make to the instructor **Jordan Kokot for improving the course?**

Comments
If possible there tend to be a lot of content sometimes at once, and it can become a bit boring a times with the whole bunch of content.
I would like for the grading system for some assignments to be a little clearer
Pacing
I am not sure.
My favorite day of the class was day 1, where we had an entire class discussion about a variety of ethical issues. I would have liked for more discussions to occur in class, rather than lectures. I understand that discussions can get sidetracked easily and that lecturing about the different readings is important, but discussions are the cornerstone of philosophy and I wish we would have devoted more time for class discussions in each class.
I don't think the small group discussions ended up being all that effective. As much as I tend to like those sorts of things, I often found myself disagreeing with my groupmates but not really having much time to explore that disagreement and come to any sort of satisfying conclusion before it was time to report to the class.
Honestly nothing. Dr. Kokot is hands down the best teacher/professor I've ever had. It's clear that he genuinely cares about us as students and as people, and seems to really live up to the ethics he teaches us in class. He always made us feel comfortable sharing our perspectives on ideas, and the way in which he facilitates class discussions is super natural and helped me really understand both the material and why it matters (which is an important part of ethics/philosophy in general, as well as something that helps me as a student grasp subjects better). One of the main reasons I came to Brandeis was to have smaller discussion based classes, and although Intro to Ethics was a relatively large class, I never felt out of place answering questions or sharing ideas. Dr. Kokot even knew all our names which was really cool for a big class. All in all, I really grew a lot from taking this class, both as a student and a ethical person, and I really hope to take more classes with Dr. Kokot in the future.
Although it does not really align with his teaching/learning philosophy, having a more outlined grading criteria would help future students have a better idea on what they are doing well on as well as what they could improve on.
I know that there is a lot of material to cover, but sometimes it would be helpful if some of the lectures moved a little slower. The topics were complex and sometimes when we covered a lot of information so quickly, it was difficult for me to make all the connections in my brain that I needed. Also just to have a more clear overall structure of the course, but I understand that it has to be flexible since discussions depend on the class. Overall it was a really great class.
Provide more feedback on written assignments.
Because I am the type of learner who likes to take brief, direct notes, my suggestion pertains more to a class style that would suit me more (and I recognize that other students may disagree). My only suggestion to improve the course would be to concise the slide decks. They were very dense with information and quotes from the text, which I personally found overwhelming as I took notes. On multiple occasions, I found myself just copying the slides word-for-word rather than actually absorbing the information and re-phrasing it in my own words.
Minimizing the amount of reliance on slides, specifically the amount of text on the slides. They were very text-heavy and it felt like the class was structured around the slides, rather than the other way around. Although Professor Kokot was an engaging lecturer, the slides made the class less interesting and engaging. Alternatively, I'd ban electronics in class and have people either take notes by hand or take no notes and just rely on the slides for notes, which would allow people to pay more attention in class and not feel like they had to write everything down from the slides.
n/a, Prof. Kokot is stimulating and thought-provoking
Maybe just making the slideshows available as soon as we start covering them so it is easier to follow along in class, and to review.
I started the class late so it was kind of hard for me to keep up with the readings. There were also a lot of readings to do and I found myself struggling to finish them all as a stem major only because of my other classes.