

### Political Philosophy, Notre Dame, Spring 2017

The following scores are from what is, so far, the only class I've taught at Notre Dame (Political Philosophy, Spring 2017). All eleven questions in the main section of Notre Dame's evaluations are included, and scores are rounded to the nearest tenth of a point (which is how the information is presented to instructors.) All scores are out of 5, with "5" being "excellent" and "4" being "very good." **My scores exceed both university and departmental averages in every category.** Raw data are available upon request. Complete comments for this course begin on the next page.

Item:	My Score:	Department Avg:	University Avg:
Overall Effectiveness of Teaching	4.6	4.2	4.3
Overall Organization of Course	4.6	4.2	4.3
Preparation for Each Class	4.8	4.4	4.5
Clarity of Communication	4.7	4.2	4.3
Fairness and Impartiality	4.8	4.5	4.5
Availability of Learning Resources	4.4	4.2	4.3
Assignments Facilitate Learning	4.4	4.1	4.2
Usefulness of Feedback to Students	4.2	4.0	4.1
Help Students to Develop Mastery	4.6	4.3	4.4
Stimulation of Interest in Subject	4.3	4.0	4.2
Promotion of Critical and Creative Thinking	4.5	4.2	4.2

## **Complete and Unedited Comments for Political Philosophy, Notre Dame, 2017**

### **Question 1: Please comment on how well the activities, readings, lectures, and assignments helped you learn in this course.**

The readings and lectures gave me great knowledge on the basics of political philosophy, and the papers we wrote allowed me to dive deep into philosophical thought and apply this newfound knowledge.

The readings at the beginning were a good starting point for going into a political philosophy class. I liked how we got an input in what topics we could talk about later on. Overall the readings and topics covered were interesting and relevant.

The lectures were a perfect mix of content and insight. If the readings were very confusing, I could always rely on the lecture slides to aid in my understanding, as well as Professor Crummett's explanations. One thing I would have liked was to engage in more activities like had done on the first day of class: moving to different positions of the room in accordance to where our political views aligned. If we could have done more stuff like that for the material later on, that would have made the material more alive and engaging.

all of them helped me learn more about political philosophy

Great

The lectures did a good job of helping us to understand the readings.

The papers and exams were great ways of assessing knowledge in different ways by asking us to first engage in a philosophical way in the papers and then testing knowledge of the subject matters in the exams.

Every activity helped me learn in this course.

The readings were well-chosen in that they interacted with each other and challenged each other. Dustin's lectures were well-written and helped me make sense of any reading I didn't quite understand.

The only activities were readings and two papers. Reading the material and talking about it clearly helped me learn it.

Interesting readings and lectures helped prepare for exams. Paper allowed for me to "do philosophy" which was worth while.

**Question 2: Please identify what you perceive to be the greatest strengths of this instructor's teaching.**

Crummett's greatest strength is his ability to concisely summarize each author's arguments in his lectures while at the same time providing us with a complete understanding of what each author thought and meant. This is to say, although readings were assigned daily, and we had to do them because of pop quizzes, one could easily skip all the readings and still come away with full knowledge from this course, thanks to Crummett's lectures.

It is obvious that Professor Crummett is really committed to the subject of political philosophy. He challenges us to think about certain topics through class discussion. He also chooses interesting topics and even if they aren't as interesting, he has a way of making them more fun to learn.

Professor Crummett does a fantastic job in finding engaging material. Albeit, much of the material can be hard to understand at times, he does a good job in class explaining them and making sure that people understand them. I also think his passion for philosophy makes the course much more engaging. Professor Crummett's strongest suit is his ability to provide insight on the idea and relate to the students. I found myself often questioning the nature of the material based off the questions he would ask in class or the real world examples he would use (for example, the Westboro baptist church having the right to protest funerals). I also think Professor Crummett does a fantastic job in being available to students. He is always more than happy to stay after class to discuss about topics, or send email correspondences to explain novel ideas or different types of philosophies.

Good depth on a lot of topics and catered to what the class wanted to learn as well

Knowledge

The lectures were very informative and did a good job of breaking down the readings so that they were easier to understand.

Professor Crummett is relatable and engaging, and allows students to express their opinions in what could potentially be a contentious class, but guides them such that they are discussed in a respectful way. He is good at relating course material to today's political atmosphere, and helping students understand how abstract theories could be applied to contemporary political realities.

Professor Crummett clearly had a strong grasp on the material he was teaching, and this made it very easy for him to communicate clearly to the students.

Dustin is very effective at making philosophy comprehensible for non-majors. He is extremely knowledgeable and is able to come up with demonstrative examples on the spot to help the

class make sense of seemingly complicated theories. He is also a very entertaining instructor which I think helps those who are not interested in philosophy stay engaged in class. I struggle with philosophy in general as a non-major and I'm very glad I took my second philosophy course with Dustin.

He knows everything we talked about inside and out. This helps him think like each of the philosophers we studied so that when we ask how x would react to y, he can answer as if he were w.

**Question 3: Please identify areas where this instructor could improve his/her teaching.**

No complaints. Perhaps it could be a little more interactive of a class, but I have no concrete ideas of how a lecture-based class like this could become so. Crummett did his best to prompt us on asking questions, and sufficiently answered every one to the best of his knowledge.

I wish there was a little bit more class discussion. Also the power points are really long and have a lot of info. I'm not sure there needs to be such long quotes from the readings on the power points. I'd rather them be only an explanation of the readings and have less quotes from the readings.

Sometimes Professor Crummett gets too carried away in reading quotes from the material. Although this is very important for us in understanding the material, I loved it much more when he related the concept to real world examples or used analogies to explain them. I always looked forward to his insights on the material or when he started the class by posing a specific, controversial problem. I think if he did this more it would make the material even more engaging and allow students gain a better grasp of it.

None

Don't know

Could have done more to foster discussion besides just leaving it open for us to ask questions.

N/A

Perhaps a variety of lesson plans, rather than regular lecture every class period, might engage students more.

Less cat references (just kidding, they're adorable).

His lectures often rely on massive block quotes from the texts we read for the class. It is hard to keep paying attention when he is reading directly off the screen for a prolonged amount of time.

More regular reading quizzes would be beneficial.

### Introduction to Ethics, Ivy Tech Community College, Spring 2016

The following scores are from the most recent class I taught at Ivy Tech Community College (Introduction to Ethics, Spring 2016.) Every question from the evaluations is included, except for three which are not relevant to evaluating philosophy classes (e.g., a question about developing quantitative reasoning.) In the results, all scores are out of 5, where a 5 represents “strongly agree,” a 4 represents “agree,” and a 3 represents “neither agree nor disagree.” **Ivy Tech does not provide instructors with average evaluation scores, but my scores are very positive, with a 4.25 or above on 19 out of 20 items, and a 4.5 or above on 16 out of 20**, including “I would recommend this course to others” and “I would recommend this instructor to others.” Raw data for the evaluations are available upon request. **There is no qualitative portion on Ivy Tech evaluations, so I cannot provide a selection of comments.**

Statement:	Score:
Instructor uses all course time effectively	4.75
Instructor is prepared for course	4.75
Instructor presents course materials in a well-organized manner	4.5
Instructor presents concepts clearly	4.5
Instructor is available outside of class	4.25
Instructor returns and provides feedback on assignments and examinations in a timely manner	4.25
Instructor clearly emphasizes course objectives/competencies	4.75
Instructor relates assignments and projects to course objectives	4.75
Instructor relates quizzes and exams to course objectives	4.75
Instructor clearly defines student responsibilities in the course	4.75
Instructor utilizes learning resources (books, software, etc.)	3.75
Instructor encourages questions and discussions	4.5
Instructor clearly explains the grading system	4.75
Instructor treats students and their contributions with respect	4.75

Contents of the assignments contribute to my understanding of the subject	4.75
I would recommend this course to others	4.75
I would recommend this instructor to others	4.5
This course improved my skills in written communication	4.25
This course improved my skills in speaking and listening	4.75
This course improved my skills in basic humanistic and artistic theory and practice	4.66