

Student comments- PAR 101: Intro to Philosophy (Fall 2018)

-I always leave this class with the biggest smile or confused about my life's purpose, there was never an in-between. Loved this class and how the material was presented. Favorite class of the semester!

-Really enjoyed his sense of humor and enthusiasm for the subject! You can tell he really enjoys philosophy and wants everyone to do well. Also really great about helping his students out when they need extra help - he's always encouraging everyone to email him with questions! Overall, great course and glad I took it with Dr. Smithson.

-You make every class enjoyable with your jokes and just overall personality. Class is so much fun I laugh more in that class than all my others combined. thank you for really making me think and making class so much fun.

-This was my first philosophy class ever and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I had no idea how information would be presented in this type of class- I was expecting it to be pretty lecture heavy, so I was pleasantly surprised at how dynamic it was. This was by far the most fun class I took all semester. I looked forward to coming to class and usually left questioning things so deeply that nothing made sense in my head. I really enjoyed this class and your enthusiasm. Thank you!

-Dr. Smithson is one of the most involved professors I have met thus far. He does everything he can to get students interested in the topic of the day.

-My favorite teacher this semester, even though the course itself may not be the best I am always excited to show up to class and Mr. Smithson has definitely done a great job of engaging the class and helping people understand different ways of thinking. The information I learned in this class would not have caught my interest if it wasn't for Mr. Smithson's enthusiasm and passion on the topic

-Great professor, really interesting topics talked about in the course. Not the hardest course ever but the way of thinking and writing is something most people have never done. I thought the papers were interesting and more exciting to write than most English papers

-Awesome teacher and I love the way that the class is taught.

-nice guy for sure

-One of my favorite teachers this semester. Thank you

-I liked doing more small groups and hearing the others opinions.

-Philosophy may be particularly fascinating to some students, but Dr. Smithson made a point of engaging us and challenging us to think thoroughly about each topic. Even the more "dull" topics were at least entertaining to engage because he went above and beyond to get us involved in a discussion each class period.

-Really enjoyed all of the in class discussions.

-You have a great sense of humor and you are an awesome professor!

-Mr. Smithson is a great professor he kept class interesting and made sure everyone understood what was being discussed. I would definitely take another class he teaches in the future.

-I found it a little bit unorganized and hard to see the overall meaning of each topic.

-Writing the papers were a little difficult but they helped my understanding a little more.

The examples used in class discussions were helpful and I liked how we only had to write a couple short papers.

-Dr.Smithson's class is by far the best because he knows how to teach the topic and make it understandable, while still keeping class fun and interesting. He replies to emails fast and is always there to answer questions or help with anything you need.

-Philosophy isn't my personal favorite subject but I think you made it seem interesting! I understood the topics more than I thought I would.

-He was a great teacher who is very passionate about the subject and that made him fun to listen to. I don't think I would enjoy this class nearly as much with a different teacher.

-Overall I enjoyed this course a lot, it ended up being my most challenging one this semester, the papers challenged me a lot. Writing definitely is not my strong suit and our grades are heavily reliant on writing assignments, I would have personally preferred more weight to be placed on participation since this was a very discussion-based class! Dr. Smithson is a very kind, understanding and funny professor and I'm glad I got to explore the field of philosophy with him as my guide.

-amazing teacher really gets the students involved with discussions and is helpful with any questions about the subject we are learning. he was a little vague of how to write the papers during the course at the beginning but i soon caught on with his help. overall a fun and helpful class.

-I dont think this class is taught as a introductory level course, the professor doesn't really differentiate the material is students aren't understanding. The only opportunity for grades are writing papers, he says he gives feedback on what you are doing correctly or incorrectly but its more like his personal opinion on whether or not that's how he would set up his argument.

-Very thought provoking class but the paper were very difficult coming from someone who had never written a philosophy paper before. Dr. Smithson is a really good teacher. I feel like he has a really good grasp on what he wants his students to learn.

-Dr. Smithson has a really good way of directing his students to the points he needs them to see in a given topic. He is also super helpful with helping us establish outlines for our papers. I think that the PAR department will benefit from his being there. Dr. Smithson is extremely knowledgeable. Dr. Smithson is also very receptive of emails and office hours (super important). Thank you for your time.

-great work

-Interesting class! I enjoyed the debates we had. The subjects were very thought-provoking. Papers were graded a bit harshly for an entry level course.

-Very relatable to students and makes the material very clear through examples.

-Thank you! I enjoyed your class and our discussions This course was hard to follow. It was difficult, if even possible at all, to take notes just because of how the class was set up. The only grades were a few papers which made it difficult. Dr. Smithson also graded the papers very harshly for an intro course. However, the content was interesting, and the class was bearable.

-I thought this was an extremely interesting class. It allowed me to open my opinions towards certain things in everyday life and view the other side. I really liked having Dr. Smithson as a professor and would highly recommend him to other classmates.

-I enjoyed the spontaneous conversations and attention getting antics.

-Great class! Occasional homework's would be helpful.

-This is a good class, and Dr. Smithson helped a lot with philosophy paper writing. However, he doesn't like to use slides in class which is helpful for me to understand the topic.

-You have a very energetic style to teaching and I enjoyed every class. Sometimes you could go slightly over the top, however it was never boring and you clearly have great passion for this subject. I'm a finance major and took this class as a learning experience and I feel like this was the perfect taste of philosophy I was looking for. Cheers

-He found ways to make the class interesting every day and really cared about what he is teaching. Amazing teacher all around.

-Great Teacher, very friendly and willing to help students.

-Robert Smithson is a great teacher. He genuinely cares about our classes feedback to how the course is going. Class is always interesting and applicable to everyday life. He is respectful and amazing at what he does.

-Awesome class with one of the best Professors for the subject

-I really enjoyed how you made it a relaxed learning environment. Very easy place to interject ideas.