

Student comments- PAR 101: Intro to Philosophy

(Spring 2019)

The comments provided below are complete and unedited (except when needed to protect anonymity).

- Love waking up on TR knowing I get to go to this class. So engaging, also hilarious!
- This best class I have taken at UNCW. Dr. Smithson was a brilliant professor. I would record all of his lectures and listen back to them when I would do the homework and I would notice my friends listening to it as well and then asking what class it was, who taught it etc. I have recommended so many people to take this course. It is explained and taught in a very interesting and fun way so students have an easy time understanding the few complex topics. Again, By far my favorite Class and professor at UNCW.
- I really enjoyed coming to class and it was one of the only classes I have taken where I felt like I knew the material well enough to be actively involved in class discussions. I enjoyed and appreciated how he took the time to make sure we really understood the material we were learning and used examples we could all relate to. Overall, I wouldn't change much about the course. The only thing I would change would be getting more help with the papers earlier on in the course. However, we had already mentioned how as a class we would like more direction for this and he immediately took action and revised parts of class to help us on those accounts. Amazing professor would take any course he taught.
- Dr Smithson definitely makes the course much easier to understand. Connects with students and makes content of class easier to imagine/understand
- Professor Smithson is such a great teacher. He makes class incredibly fun and entertaining, while also clearly going over course material and concepts. He really cares about every student, and gives so much passion to his class.
- I really enjoyed this class and the passion that Dr. Smithson had for this subject matter.
- My favorite professor I have had so far.
- This class has definitely been one of the most interesting ones I have taken so far at UNCW.
- Dr. Smithson has exceeded my expectations in every way. I had no idea what to expect with Philosophy and he made it interesting, thought-provoking and fun. We did have papers we had to write and they helped me develop my writing skills for philosophy classes specifically. The class discussions were my favorite. Although he was lecturing he was always open to hearing students thoughts and he would incorporate them into the lesson. There is nothing I could think of that he should change about this format.
- Best teacher I have had in college thus far. Encouraged group work and came up with ideas and solutions that made the class very entertaining.
- Amazing class, always engaging and makes you think about real life possibilities. Professor Smithson always makes class interesting and fun, yet productive.
- I really enjoyed the class. He cares a lot about the course and his students.
- You were definitely my favorite professor this semester. I came into the class not expecting much, but your class made me love it. Thank you for an amazing semester.

-I appreciate how Dr. Smithson is willing to unbiasedly present all the sides of a topic. Get the students more involved throughout the class. Some days it just felt like you were talking at us the entire time and only paused for obvious responses, right? RIGHT! Overall though it was a somewhat fun course and I enjoyed your perspectives on the subject matter.

Phenomenal professor with tons of passion. I think it would be interesting if you could somehow implement video from movies or TV shows to further supplement some of the examples of situations given in class.

-Dr. Smithson from what I can see truly cares about his students. He makes great efforts to see his students succeed and understand the material. He illustrates his examples thoroughly and they are thought out. Excellent professor.

-The course was a great introduction to philosophy. I loved that we didn't simply memorize specific philosophers and the philosophical ideas they came up with. Instead we discussed important philosophical topics from many different perspectives and wrote papers, instead of tests, to show we truly understood the topic. Overall great class and I highly recommend people take it with Dr. Smithson, he's engaging and makes all the discussions interesting.

-Personally, I would put more assignments in the class, and put a little less weight on the papers?

-This was a wonderful class. An excellent class with an excellent teacher! Good job Smithson! Thanks for a great semester, Dr. Smithson!

-Best philosophy teacher ever super engaging and fun while also very educational.

-This course was interesting. I appreciate your understanding that it is an intro class and therefore there isn't that much work. Thanks for making class interesting. He is a great teacher and person.

-I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the content of the course, although for some topics it seemed that if you didn't agree with what the majority of the class agreed on (for example the meaning of life, or genetic screening) then rather than having a different opinion, it made you wrong.

-Dr. Smithson brings energy to the class that I've rarely encountered in my 3 years here at UNCW. His passion for philosophy and teaching blend in a way that makes learning intro philosophical concepts fun and inviting. He always presents new topics in a easy to understand manner that pan out into more complex topics as the class starts participating and goes down different paths of thought. Overall I would recommend this class to anyone.

-Dr. Smithson is a very passionate professor and he teaches it very well while making it fun and interesting. He's very kind and understanding of every student and I would recommend many to take this course.

-Thank you! Loved your energy and enthusiasm (also, your humor is so underrated by this class, I was laughing my ass off)!

-Loved the class!! Would take Dr. Smithson again!

-I like it best when we make what we are talking about relevant to our lives outside of class. Like talking about world news or what shows on Netflix demonstrate things we talk about in class. I also love your jokes.

-Really Great Teacher!! He wants us to have fun, learn about philosophy, and to pass easily as long as we put in effort! I enjoyed this class this semester!

- Fun and engaging, I like how we drew on current events as part of our discussions.
- Thanks for teaching this course!
- I think the essays, compared to the actual class work, are graded way too harshly. And if they are not, comments are often misleading, and they leave you disappointed once you find out your grade. The work and effort I put in this class is definitely not reflected in the grades. But other than the grades, the class environment is very nice. The teacher makes class time fun, for a subject that has lots of heavy content. He provides many examples to make sure you understood the material.
- Overall I enjoyed the class very much because it was very humorous. Though, the online notes are great I enjoy taking more notes in class so that I have a better understanding of the material. One thing that was very helpful was relating confusing theories to funny extreme stories.
- I feel that the teacher was entertaining and keeps me engaged during class. The scenarios he give are very relatable and controversial which makes it easier to speak on it.
- Mr. Smithson is an awesome teacher and taught this course well.
- Professor Smithson is most definitely my favorite professor at UNCW so far. The lectures were very interactive and his passionate way of doing things made the course far from dry and would even keep you on you toes at times.
- Great class, I enjoyed it and Dr. Smithson is a great teacher.
- I really enjoyed this course! Prof. Smithson made it very engaging for everyone and it's one of my favourite classes so far. I was happy that the course was light on work so we could focus on really learning and going in-depth on topics. I also enjoyed the class discussion - prof. smithson let us (students) talk to and work with one another to better understand whatever we were going over that day. He was always quick to provide help to students when they needed it. I would definitely recommend this class! p.s. I now have an appreciation for basketball because of this class!
- Entertaining and stimulating, great approach to class topics and controversial ideas
- Thanks for a good semester Professor Smithson, have a good summer!!
- Great professor. Professor Smithson is really funny and I enjoyed listening to his lectures.
- Good Stuff!