

Student comments- PHIL 103: Intro to Philosophy

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

-Dr. Smithson is excellent at explaining philosophical concepts and thoughts in a clear, logical manner. He approaches the class with excitement, enthusiasm, and a wonderful sense of humor that makes each class lively and enjoyable. His critiques on my writing are constructive and have helped me understand how I can improve in writing philosophy papers. Dr. Smithson is also very caring and considerate of his students, often going out of his way to lighten our burden so that we are not overwhelmed. I greatly enjoyed Dr. Smithson as a professor and I hope he goes on to teach for a very long time!

-This course inspired me to take on a philosophy minor!

-This was my first philosophy class ever and it was amazing. It definitely sparked a desire to learn more about the topic.

-Im interested to continue philosophy

-Introduced me to the world of philosophy not only as a scholar but also in life.

- I found this class extremely helpful for both my life and my classes here at Rollins. The material is embedded in the frameworks of life and is a foundation of my major (CMC).

-Dr. Smithson is so cool and his relationship with the students is perfect, I kind a see him as a friend because he is so easy to talk and he is open to every conversation and I feel like he is so helpful I always go to office hours. I enjoy this class a lot but sometimes the topic is so confusing.

-My professor made the class a positive learning experience for me. The topics are interesting but he found a way to keep everyone involved in class and made it fun.

-The profssor was very knowledgeable and passionate in the subject. He also offered and was more than willing to spend time with students outside of class for assignments or merely to talk philosophy. He is also very funny which makes students want to go to class.

-Dr Smithson is the best!

-The professors humour and engagement with the class.

-I found all of the material we covered to be very interesting. Taking this course was beneficial to me because I can apply many concepts of Philosophy to my every day life. I appreciated my professors passion for philosophy, his sense of humor, occasionally having class outside, and the fact that he listened to my "more group discussions" suggestion.

-The lectures were interesting and easy to understand, made the readings make a lot more sense. Brought more depth.

-The professor had a great attitude

-I always found it very interesting to hear everyone's input.

-Learned how to write a philosophy paper and I learned about a lot of interesting topics! Very insightful.

-Even though my grade is not perfect in this class enjoy the discussions and I feel like if I work hard my grade will be good in the final too.

-Sometimes we would have lively discussions. I liked the little science experiment but forget the purpose of it (time travel?).

-...I thought the professor was amazing at explaining the concepts with great enthusiasm to keep everyone interested.

-Learned a lot.

-different perspectives and insights were gained

-Professor genuinely loves what he does and has a high knowledge of the topic.

-professor was extremely funny and kept the class interesting when talking about rather boring or dark material

- This class was an all around positive experience. Everything about it was extremely useful for my career here at Rollins and for the future years to come. I loved the atmosphere, the style of the course and the Professor.

-He was extremely lively and passionate. He also connected with us well. I think it was a perfect energy for the class and it was very helpful with learning the material. I can't think of a single con for Dr. Smithson. His class was amazing and he was a huge contribution to its influence on my career here at Rollins.

-Strengths: Very Passionate. I could tell he loved the material and was very excited to teach it. I enjoyed every second of this class and it was due a little to the material but much more to the professor.

-he is amazing , honestly, amazing.

-he is a really good speaker and an instructor but I think he needs to write or make us write some facts more.

-strengths: was very helpful with one on one questions. explained topics clearly sometimes even with pictures on the board. extremely witty. could definitely tell he loved philosophy and cared about his students. even had class via online when he just had his first born.

-I believe my professors major strengths include: his passion for philosophy, and his openness to suggestions on how to make his class better. I believe my professor didn't display any weaknesses. I just personally found the readings to be a tad bit confusing so it was helpful that we discussed them in class.

-Strength: knowledgable on subject. Weakness: none

-Sometimes I felt as though the readings or large portions of the readings were extraneous. Sometimes there would be significant sections of readings that I would struggle through to comprehend, only to have them never addressed in class. It was also somewhat frustrating that the lectures would essentially convey everything within the reading, sometimes clarifying concepts that I failed to understand but oftentimes just repeating back to me what I already read. I feel as though the class time should be more student directed, involving more discussion rather than direct lecture (although the lecture is sometimes very necessary for clarification).

-The one and only thing I would change would be the amount of grades. I felt as though the ways we were tested were too limited. There wasn't a lot of diversity in terms of the assignments. A little bit more flexibility in this area would be nice. Maybe presentations, group projects, stuff like that as opposed to only essays.

-Dr. Smithson is obviously very knowledgeable in his field, is very good at explaining and clarifying concepts, and is very good at pacing a class period. However, sometimes he allows the extraneous comments of students to turn him onto an entire side tangent that has little to do with the topic at hand. Although enjoyable, this can take up a huge chunk of time within the class period and often results in what point he was trying to

make earlier to become muddled as students have often forgotten what he was talking about to begin with.

-Engaging and enjoyable.

-Strengths: passionate, knowledgeable, funny and genuinely interested. Weaknesses: Can't think of any.

-Strength: Always showed up to class early and was available for help. Weakness: class was kinda boring and we didn't really need to do the readings since we weren't tested on the material.

- Sometimes talks about one thing too much and fails to move onto further points.

- One strength was that he could lecture while still keeping students involved.

-This was one of my favorite courses this year and even high up on my list for classes overall here at Rollins. I thoroughly enjoyed the material and the professor. I am excited to have class with him in the upcoming semester. I highly recommend people take this course.

-Helped with writing.

-great professor

-He is engaging, and funny, clear and very good at explaining

-Overall, I believe he's a phenomenal professor, I just simply didn't always understand a theory the first time he explained it but thankfully, he always clarified any questions that the class had. My only comment would be to say that I wish writing philosophy papers came easier to me. Personally, they aren't the easiest to write.

-Extremely interesting.

-He is an excellent professor and deserves a lot of credit for his contribution here.

-He seems too clever and always have a counter arguments which is exciting but sometimes if I can't come up with something I feel nervous. and he needs to write more in order to make us memorize things easily because when the thing is on the board you automatically want to write it on your textbook.

-Overall excellent professor.

-Good professor

-Play educational games like kahoot or break up into small groups to discuss the readings.

-we always discuss, but sometimes they are hard to memorize so I feel like we need more facts in the class because I sometimes everything is hanging and sometimes I forget what we have talked.

-More classes outside.

-If anything, I believe that if we would have had group discussions instead of just lecture since day one, it might have improved my learning experience.

-i loved the course