

Student comments- PHIL 231: Modern Philosophy

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

- Fantastic professor, 10 out of 10 would learn from him again.
- Dr. Smithson genuinely cares about his students. I would take any course with him in the future and hope he gets to stay on as a faculty member. I feel as if I have so much more to learn from him.
- A very good professor; Rollins ought to hire him long-term so that the philosophy department adds another fantastic professor to its repertoire
- I felt that all the readings were helpful and when combined with Dr. Smithson's lectures I was able to understand the complicated ideas in the course.
- He is very well informed and passionate about the content.
- Probing/productive class discussions, and Dr. Smithson was very engaging.
- This was a course that was not relevant to my major or minor but it taught me to think in ways that I wasn't used to and to question more things.
- Dr. Smithson's humor.
- The instructor was very good at making sure everyone understood the content and made the course very interesting
- The professor and his great attitude.
- The content was interesting and challenging.
- The style of writing for papers allowed for greater critical thinking.
- Dr. Smithson worked hard to get students interested in a difficult topic.
- challenging concepts
- The professor and the comfortable learning environment he maintained were very positive factors to my learning experience.
- Professor was very engaging and informative and I always felt as though there was more to learn.
- I wish that we had engaged in further explorations of the content. The hurricane seemed to jilt the experience and schedule a bit.
- Strengths: teaching style. Weaknesses: none
- Dr. Smithson is extremely intelligent and was well versed in the topic. No weaknesses.
- Extremely passionate and knowledgeable, but operated without much discussion or class input.
- Slightly disorganized at times but all of that doesn't make a difference when it comes to how well he teaches and how badly he wants us to love what he does.
- Dr Smithson was a great professor, especially to have at 8 am. He went a little fast at times.
- Our professor knows a great deal about philosophy (as he should), and is able to present challenging content in a simplified way, making it easy for students to comprehend.
- The professor takes complicated ideas and uses examples to explain them clearly.
- Professor Smithson is a genius and you can tell just by listening to him talk. He is kind, funny, and makes sure students have every chance to do well.

- Strengths: Engaging (humorous, interested in the content being taught), “charitable” towards the philosophers, so that we got a well-rounded understanding of their positions (defense and offense), openminded, willing to discuss objections and alternative perspectives. Weaknesses: Can’t think of any.
- Passion for philosophy while having an inter-disciplinary knowledge
- Very knowledgeable. Sometimes get too far off track and discussing topics too far outside of the course. Difficult enough to discuss the deep topics involved in this course in the short amount of time we have.
- Always willing to help students progress!
- AWESOME
- Really appreciated his willingness to have discussion.
- Dr. Smithson always engages students in dialogue and is extremely respectful of all viewpoints while still clarifying the necessary material. However, I wish I had had more guidance on the writing of papers, and the homework was confined to reading. I feel as if someone could complete the course without truly interacting with the material. That being said, they certainly would not do well on the papers. yet, someone who did interact with the material may not do well on the papers either, considering that expectations were not always clarified. EVEN SO, Dr. Smithson always makes himself available after hours for extensive discussions, so if a student wanted help, he or she would easily be able to find it. It’s a test of the student, really, which isn’t at all a bad thing at a liberal arts institution.
- great professor with so much potential rollins should keep him around
- The practices, overall, were good.
- He was well organized even in chaos.
- Very helpful feedback when meeting one-on-one about papers.