

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Summer I 2023
Philip Bold, PHIL 213-001 ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
Mode: RS (Remote Synchronous)

Raters	Students
Responded	10
Invited	10
Response Ratio	100%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.90	5.00	0.32	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.90	5.00	0.32	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.		
N	Yes	No
10	100.0%	0.0%

Department Specific

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. My knowledge of the field of philosophy has significantly improved as a result of taking this course.	4.90	5.00	0.32	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
2. My writing skills have improved significantly as a result of taking this course.	4.30	4.00	0.48	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.0%	30.0%
3. My critical reasoning skills have improved significantly as a result of taking this course.	4.50	4.50	0.53	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
4. In general, the topics that philosophers discuss are valuable and worthy of discussion.	4.80	5.00	0.42	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%
5. Members of all races, ethnicities, and gender identities were respected by the instructor in this course.	5.00	5.00	0.00	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

Open-Ended Responses

1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Summer I 2023 semester?

Comments
Phil is hands down the best philosophy instructor that I have had the privilege of studying with throughout my time at UNC. He displays such a clear and inspiring passion not only for philosophy but for the growth and learning of his students. Phil manages to be accommodating and thorough in his instruction while still managing an organized classroom space that encourages students to remain engaged and curious.
Phil is very responsive with emails, and because of this, I feel highly respected as a student and engaged with the course. Phil is also very flexible, understanding and highly supportive.
He would randomly call on people and that really allowed me to step out of my comfort zone. Speaking in class is something I try to avoid but in this class, I was comfortable enough to do so. He was always very respectful and wanted to hear our thoughts.
Phil is an amazing instructor, and made learning fun and accessible. He was easily reachable and encouraged us to email him with any and all questions, comments, and concerns we had. He also created a safe environment for us to express our thoughts and opinions on the material during class discussions. Phil is also so open-minded and often had me thinking deeply about every reading we did. Overall, taking this class with him was a positive, thought-provoking experience and I would gladly take another class with him again.
was super available and supportive of all students needs
Phil's approach to teaching and learning is simply phenomenal. On the first day, Phil told us that we would approach learning the course material as a team. From our first lesson forward, that is exactly how learning with Phil felt. He was able to teach us material without insisting on the typical hierarchical structure that so many professors delight in. I've never had a professor who was more tolerant, compassionate, and considerate. As a result, Phil's classroom environment was the best I've experienced at UNC. I knew that if I had an answer to a question Phil raised, I would be given the time and space to share it. And, more importantly, I knew that if I didn't have an answer, I would be met with understanding and an invitation to explore. Phil has the ability to make students want to engage. He has made himself available outside of the classroom to answer questions about everything from course material to life in general. Phil is the model for what an educator ought to be. He is a guide, a sage, and a champion of students.
Phil always made himself available to us when we had questions. He had such an open mind to the course material and our opinions of it and truly encouraged us to share. He celebrated our personal differences and encouraged us to use them when thinking about readings and how they might apply differently to different people. He explained everything in such an amazing way; there were passages that were so confusing but somehow he made it make sense and made me feel confident enough to explain it to someone else. But most importantly, he learned with us. He obviously knew so much about the material already but he approached everything as if there was always something new to learn and was excited about it. I have never taken a philosophy course and was not interested in it, but Phil gave me a new interest and I learned so many things both about the subject matter and myself that I plan to implement into my daily life. Because of Phil, a course that was just supposed to fill some of my gen ed requirements ended up changing my life and helping me so much.
This class was the most comfortable I have felt in an academic setting to express my opinions and ideas. From the first class, Phil made it very clear that learning about Asian Philosophies, developing our ideas, and engaging in meaningful discourse took precedence over being "right." As this was my first Philosophy class outside of my Journalism Ethics class (where there are established right and wrong courses of action), I was nervous I would be told the right and wrong ways of thinking or believing. However, Phil's ability to encourage everyone to share their personal interpretations of the texts and to hold space for discussion resulted in me learning as much about myself as I did about Asian Philosophies (which was a lot).
One thing I appreciated from his teaching style with Zoom classes is that he openly tells the class that he randomly selects students for discussion. This ensures the class hour is filled with ongoing discussion from almost every student instead of what I've seen done in other classes where almost always the same students are picked or where no student is participating and it's just crickets in the classroom.

2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

Comments
I would not change anything about the way the course was instructed.
Discussion posts, rules for the reading quizzes, and just the class discussions. They are very interesting and I enjoy listening to my classmates.
I really enjoyed the reading quizzes and the textbook. Those were very straightforward. I also enjoyed all of the reading materials in this course.
I really liked the frequent reading quizzes and how we're given the questions beforehand. This made learning so much easier because I was able to dissect the key points of the reading assignment. The frequency of the reading quizzes was also nice because it made me feel confident that I was doing well in the course, and was keeping up with the reading material.
i don't think any of it should be changed!
I liked how Phil separated textbook days from primary sources days. I was able to gain a foundational understanding of topics through reading selected textbook chapters. Quizzes on the chapters solidified my knowledge. Because primary source days followed textbook days, I was able to analyze primary source texts more effectively. Meeting to discuss primary sources also facilitated my learning in unexpected ways. When Phil told us we would explore the texts by answering a series of questions as a group, I was a little skeptical. Before Phil, my dream classroom setting was a 300 person lecture where I could soak up information without speaking a word. But not in Phil's classroom. Instead, we worked through complex texts as a team. I was able to better grasp lessons through questioning and considering the texts together, than I ever would have been able to through a lecture. Phil's approach made me feel empowered as a learner. Having the critical analysis papers be balanced with reflection papers was wonderful—and definitely in the spirit of the course. The combination of critical papers, reflection papers, and opinion-based discussion posts allowed me to engage in multiple forms of writing. By placing value on different forms of writing, Phil allowed me to explore questions in ways that I haven't had the opportunity to in other classes. Everything about the structure of the course felt intentional and considerate—like Phil.
We've come across lots of figurative language in our course, so using some here feels right: Reading the textbook was like planting seeds of knowledge. Taking quizzes was like packing on the dirt. Reading primary sources was like sprinkling water over the dirt. Answering discussion posts was like giving the planted seeds time. Writing papers was like letting the roots take hold. Phil's teaching was like sunshine. And participating in class discussions was like spring—the flowers bloomed beautifully, in harmony with one another.
Every part of this course as Phil taught it was perfect and should be kept exactly the same.
I really enjoyed the small group discussions which made talking about personal or complex topics feel approachable. I also liked that after the group discussions, we shared what we learned with the class via random selection – it made whole class discussions feel effortless and ensured everyone's participation. I think the pacing and order of the topics worked very well. The selected readings and materials felt very applicable to the class, and all of the primary source readings had enough guidance that they enhanced my understanding of the topics rather than confusing me. The course worked well as a summer session, but Phil made the classes engaging enough that I wish I could have taken it for an entire semester.
The Zoom breakout room discussions are great for sharing what the students learned from the reading with other students before coming together and discussing as a class.