

PHIL 3000 (001): History of Ancient Philosophy

Summer 2021 | Colin Smith

25 | Students Enrolled
 14 | Students Responded
 56% | Response Rate

Quantitative

<i>In this course, I was encouraged to:</i>	1-Hardly Ever	2-Occasional ly	3-Sometimes	4-Frequently	5-Almost Always	Not Applicable	N	DNA	SD	M
Q1. Interact with other students in a respectful way.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	92.86% (13)	0% (0)	14	0	0.26	4.93
Q2. Reflect on what I was learning.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (14)	0% (0)	14	0	0	5
Q3. Connect my learning to "real world" issues or life experiences.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	14.29% (2)	85.71% (12)	0% (0)	14	0	0.35	4.86
Q4. Work and learn collaboratively with my classmates.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	85.71% (12)	14.29% (2)	14	0	0	5
Q5. Contribute my ideas and thoughts.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (14)	0% (0)	14	0	0	5
Q6. Evaluate arguments, evidence, assumptions, and conclusions about key issues (be a critical thinker).	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (14)	0% (0)	14	0	0	5
Q7. Connect, synthesize, and/or transform ideas into a new form (be a creative thinker).	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	0% (0)	92.86% (13)	0% (0)	14	0	0.52	4.86
Q8 Consider diverse perspectives (gender, political, ethnic, racial, etc.) during class or in assignments.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	85.71% (12)	7.14% (1)	14	0	0.27	4.92

<i>In this course, the instructor:</i>	1-Hardly Ever	2-Occasional ly	3-Sometimes	4-Frequently	5-Almost Always	Not Applicable	N	DNA	SD	M
Q9. Demonstrated respect for diverse students and diverse points of view.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	92.86% (13)	0% (0)	14	0	0.26	4.93
Q10. Challenged me to develop my own knowledge, comprehension, and conceptual understanding.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (14)	0% (0)	14	0	0	5
Q11. Gave projects, tests, or assignments that required original or creative thinking.	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	7.14% (1)	85.71% (12)	0% (0)	14	0	0.56	4.79
Q12. Provided opportunities for students to ask questions and initiate discussion.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (14)	0% (0)	14	0	0	5
Q13. Provided feedback on my work that helped me improve my performance.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	85.71% (12)	7.14% (1)	14	0	0.27	4.92
Q14. Explained the grading criteria for assignments.	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	7.14% (1)	85.71% (12)	0% (0)	14	0	0.56	4.79
Q15. Was available to answer questions or provide assistance when needed.	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	92.86% (13)	0% (0)	14	0	0.26	4.93
Q16. Effectively used available technology to enhance learning.	0% (0)	0% (0)	7.14% (1)	7.14% (1)	85.71% (12)	0% (0)	14	0	0.56	4.79

Qualitative

Q17. Please offer constructive comments to your professor / instructor on the most effective and/or least effective aspects of this course. -

- Dr. Smith has handled this remote Maymester course extremely well. The format of the class is as follows: 50 minute lecture, 10 minute break, 50 minute lecture, 10 minute break, 50 minute lecture, end. This format is very effective since it mimics the arrangement of three consecutive classes under normal conditions; this makes the 3 hour class much more manageable and less mind-numbing. Dr. Smith uses powerpoint presentations which are very useful in guiding the lectures and also captures the main points of the readings; this is greatly appreciated by those who've done the readings and need a refresher during class or when reviewing material afterwards. A full course calendar was provided at the beginning of the course which was helpful in terms of my own planning; this was appreciated since most instructors in the past did not do this and informed us of things the week before (this is not optimal for how I like to plan things). In addition to this, Dr. Smith gave regular reminders about upcoming assignments which was more than enough given the detailed calendar provided at the beginning, as previously mentioned. Dr. Smith greatly encourages discussion which is, in my opinion, necessary in any philosophy class. Students use the raise hand feature on zoom and Dr. Smith promptly stops his teaching (at an appropriate place) to hear what the student(s) have to say. This often leads to many other hands being raised which in turn leads to many elaborate and fruitful discussions amongst the students and Dr. Smith. These discussions, besides expanding on and clarifying class material, also make the remote class very interactive and keeps me engaged. Grading schemes are thoroughly explained and what is expected of us in terms of readings, exams, oral exams, essays, participation etc. is all very clear and Dr. Smith has no problem answering questions regarding those things. Furthermore, exam study guides are provided about a week or so in advance of exams. These study guides are very useful as they allow you to pinpoint what you need to study and it makes identifying weak-points much easier. In addition to this, the last 50 minute lecture period of every class before an exam is dedicated to an exam review where students can ask any questions they'd like and Dr. Smith will answer. This is, again, very helpful as it allows you to reinforce the weak-points which you've identified through the study guide. Overall, Dr. Smith has done a wonderful job in teaching this course and has made it extremely enjoyable. It is very clear that he loves what he does and that he loves teaching. Dr. Smith has left a huge impression over the course of this 3 week session (as is shown by this long essay which I'm writing; this is something which I rarely do). I look forward to hopefully taking more courses with him in the future.
- Colin is one of the best professors at CUI. He is incredibly fair and kind to his students, he is super respectful of different viewpoints, and he always encourages his students to make connections between the course material and anything else going on in the world/ in literature. He's very accessible inside and outside of class, and he's willing to work with students individually to help them succeed. Truly an awesome professor!
- Great class, great instructor! Somehow he was able to keep the content interesting despite the 3-hour classes over such a short semester. Nothing but praise from me, no complaints at all.
- I loved this course. We had an accelerated schedule and Colin kept us on task while also always having answers for questions. Good discussion and participation. Was understanding and made sure students understood the content before moving on.
- Genuinely enjoyed professor Smith's class and his teaching style. I would recommend this class to anyone and everyone. I wish I didn't have such a busy summer so I could spend all day reflecting on this stuff. Just a blast of a class. Let Colin teach a philosophy of music class!
- This was an amazing class. The material was very engaging and thought provoking. Colin is one of the best professors I've ever had the pleasure of learning from. Colin is down to earth and 'accessible.' Everyone and their thoughts are treated equally. Colin always tries his best to make sure everyone has their questions answered and understands the material. Colin is not a professor where you feel great distance- Colin is easy to communicate with and connects with his students. Colin talks to his students like equal humans rather than possessing a 'god-complex' like other professors, while still acting as an effective educator and mentor. I would take another class with Colin if given the opportunity. Colin is also always looking for ways to improve his class and very receptive to his students' feedback to see what does and does not work. There really is nothing that I would change about the class. Colin is exemplar. Coursework: the course workload is challenging, but not overbearing. It is understandable given the condensed format of the Maymester course. Any addition of assignments to the class would be an unfair expectation and difficult to manage. Of course I would have preferred that the take-home essays assignment be excluded, but I also know that it is necessary to gauge student engagement and understanding. What is important is that the essays are only a short 500-words, and on 3 different topics. This allows reflection on different topics covered in the course and does not require an overly excessive amount of work from the student (say with 2000 words each). Most importantly (after reading Colin's comments on the essays), while still grading on accuracy, Colin had a greater emphasis on the student's engagement with the material and ability to critically think. For me, I was able to put difficult concepts in my own words to allow for my better understanding. Colin is very fair without being too "easy." While still important, learning is about so much more than just grades. Throughout the course, I truly felt that Colin placed a greater emphasis in educating his students and making sure we are actively learning, and completed the course with a greater understanding of the material, rather than simply passing or failing students. To not distract from the main point- Colin is an exemplary professor.
- Amazing class and I really liked the topics you chose to focus on. Would love to hear more about the philosophy of music!
- I don't know how a teacher can so consistently keep students engaged for 3 hours, but Colin did this every single day. I loved that so much of the class was discussion based, and we were all encouraged to interrupt and bring up confusions, connections, and ideas. And still, whenever there were long lecturing periods, he was great at keeping it interesting and explaining concepts super clearly. I may just be a huge nerd, but this is my favorite college course I've ever taken, and much of that is thanks to his teaching style.
- This course was really awesome, and I have absolutely no complaints, except that it didn't last longer. I felt Colin gave incredibly clear explanations, was helpful when students needed things explained differently, and made class genuinely enjoyable. You can tell a class is good when you wish your assigned essay had a higher word count. I hope you continue doing the oral examinations in the future as I found that to actually be lower stress than the real exam (not that that was stressful either). Perhaps in the future, a longer chat would be even better, and maybe do it with the mid-term too, because I feel it's also good practice for discussing these concepts.
- Colin is truly amazing!!! I would 10000% recommend this class and will definitely be taking more of his classes in the future.
- Its an open discussion where people can jump in whenever. Occasionally this means a little bit too much time could be spent on one topic, but the topics themselves are interesting and/or help clarify the subject matter.