



Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary Department of Philosophy

Weltman, Daniel Benjamin
PHIL 164 - Technology and Human Values (A)
Summer Session I 2017

Number of Students Enrolled: 37
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 18

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your class level is

0 (0.0%):	Freshman
0 (0.0%):	Sophomore
4 (22.2%):	Junior
14 (77.8%):	Senior
0 (0.0%):	Graduate
0 (0.0%):	Extension

2. Your reason for taking this class is

2 (12.5%):	Major
6 (37.5%):	Minor
2 (12.5%):	Gen. Ed.
3 (18.8%):	Elective
3 (18.8%):	Interest
2:	[No Response]

3. What grade do you expect in this class?

9 (52.9%):	A
5 (29.4%):	B
0 (0.0%):	C
0 (0.0%):	D
0 (0.0%):	F
3 (17.6%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP
1:	[No Response]

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

1 (5.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
2 (11.8%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
12 (70.6%):	Agree
2 (11.8%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

5. How many hours a week do you spend studying outside of class on average?

1 (5.9%):	0-1
3 (17.6%):	2-3
4 (23.5%):	4-5
3 (17.6%):	6-7
2 (11.8%):	8-9
2 (11.8%):	10-11
0 (0.0%):	12-13
1 (5.9%):	14-15
0 (0.0%):	16-17
0 (0.0%):	18-19
1 (5.9%):	20 or more
1:	[No Response]

6. How often do you attend this course?

0 (0.0%):	Very Rarely
0 (0.0%):	Some of the Time
17 (100.0%):	Most of the Time
1:	[No Response]

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (47.1%):	Agree
9 (52.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

8. Assignments promote learning.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (5.9%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
11 (64.7%):	Agree
5 (29.4%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

9. Required reading is useful.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
3 (17.6%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
7 (41.2%): Agree
7 (41.2%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
6 (35.3%): Disagree
3 (17.6%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
7 (41.2%): Agree
1 (5.9%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
10 (58.8%): Agree
4 (23.5%): Strongly Agree
3 (17.6%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

17 (100.0%): Yes
0 (0.0%): No
1: [No Response]

13. Course PHIL 164:

- very fun class, I like the discussions, the voting, the teacher, etc.
- Very valuable in this time of fast paced changes in our technology. These topics should be on everyone's mind. I liked the discussion post style of assignments and the discussion style of the class. I think asking people to read the material and then take an in depth reading quiz and then having people come to class and reread passages to learn terms is a bit repetitive. People who succeeded at the reading quiz should have an understanding enough to know the terms and if not I still think it was a waste of class time to go back though the readings and read bits aloud when the teacher could just ask people what they think a term means. It just seemed weird to expect people to have done an in-depth reading of the article to pass a reading quiz and then when we get to class treat people like they barely understood the reading. Make up your mind, either you expect people to understand the reading enough for a reading quiz or you don't and we need to go over every little thing in class, but not both.
- Lots of thought provoking topics! I enjoyed that part. Many of these I've thought about but never really this deep, which is why I like these courses. We really dive into the content. I like the way it is set up that we picked the topics we were interested in.

- This class challenges your preconceptions and opinions and forces you to learn how to succinctly communicate.
- While this is certainly an interesting class, as a philosophy minor I was a little disappointed with the amount of actual philosophy taught and used in the class. This may sound a bit harsh, but this class is more about teaching non-humanities majors how to read and write than it is about philosophy. As a result, the quality and depth of discussion is fairly limited by students with no foundational knowledge of philosophy and a significant amount of class time is spent pandering to their needs.
- Very interesting material.
- Do not take this class if you're looking for an easy A. Professor Weltman is tough but fair and shows extreme mastery of the course material.

14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- Papers are hard to get right, but Professor Weltman offers tons of feedback through email and through TED after their graded. As long as you put in enough time, you'll do alright.
- It was interesting to have to write such short posts each week instead of long essays. I think this is good for getting people to write concisely, which is very important in philosophy. This is fine since it is just one class out of many philosophy courses at UCSD, but if they were all like that then students would not get experience writing long essays, which is critical for philosophy. So while I think the weekly discussion posts worked well for this class, I would not say that every class should do this. Learning how to write short blurbs and long papers are both important. That this class focuses on only one type is fine since other classes teach the other. As for the reading quizzes - they were good and required the student to have really understood most of what the author was saying.
- Quizzes are deceptively difficult but are not a huge portion of your grade. Exams/assignments are very reflective of material and class discussion and may be a bit difficult but TA and instructor are accessible
- The quizzes are helpful guides to the readings, although sometimes not as deep as I would have liked.
- kind of annoying.
- Everything in this class revolves around writing assignments and there are a lot of them. They are short but really push you to exercise your ability to write succinctly and with purpose.

15. Reading [title(s) and comments]:

- Readings are definitely helpful, in looking at different points of view and arguments from various authors and how they respond helps examine the arguments thoroughly.
- I just think some are too old. I realize they are famous, but if there is new literature on these topics which incorporates information on new technology, I think it is more important to get accurate, current info than famous old info. Other than that I found them all very thought provoking. I am glad the teacher allows students to choose the topics, even though my choices weren't picked. I intend to read the material on the topics we will not cover, so I appreciate that Danny makes them available on TED.
- Reading list is a set of required articles and not-required secondary articles.

- fun articles.

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (5.9%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (52.9%): Agree
7 (41.2%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (47.1%): Agree
9 (52.9%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (52.9%): Agree
8 (47.1%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
1 (5.9%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (52.9%): Agree
7 (41.2%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

20. Lectures hold your attention.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
4 (23.5%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (52.9%): Agree
4 (23.5%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

21. Instructor's lecture style facilitates note-taking.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
3 (17.6%):	Disagree
7 (41.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
4 (23.5%):	Agree
3 (17.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (5.9%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
10 (58.8%):	Agree
6 (35.3%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (47.1%):	Agree
9 (52.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (5.9%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (52.9%):	Agree
6 (35.3%):	Strongly Agree
1 (5.9%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (47.1%):	Agree
9 (52.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (5.9%): Disagree
1 (5.9%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (52.9%): Agree
5 (29.4%): Strongly Agree
1 (5.9%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

27. The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (5.9%): Disagree
1 (5.9%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
5 (29.4%): Agree
8 (47.1%): Strongly Agree
2 (11.8%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

28. Do you recommend this professor overall?

17 (100.0%): Yes
0 (0.0%): No
1: [No Response]

Custom Question 5

29. Instructor Daniel Weltman:

- He seems a bit new to teaching in that he doesn't have a strong hold over the class. Luckily this is not high school or he would never get students to stop talking. Since it's college it's fine! Student's aren't trying to usurp him or get away with much. He speaks clearly and listens well to what students are saying. He is kind when students get the wrong answer, and points people in the direction of the answer instead of handing it to them.
- Professor Weltman is one of the best teachers I've had at UCSD. He clearly loves and shows passion to teach and does it masterfully without coming off as intimidating and condescending towards his students. He's always available and approachable through e-mail and office hours, and seems to genuinely care about the learning of all his students.
- Wonderful instructor. 10 out of 10, would recommend.
- Really nice teacher. I recommend him for other classes.
- I liked that the students were allowed input as to which topics were covered! Excellent at creating an environment for questions! And respectful when needing to explain topics.
- overall I enjoyed this class and learned a great deal. However, I wish notes were a little more clear, such as emphasize different ideas by different authors within the reading. It might also be helpful if the lecture was divided into two parts where first half is to focus on lectures and readings and the second half is dedicated to discussion. Because sometimes it was confusing to distinguish between what authors actually said and what was an extension (class's idea).

- Instructor Weltman was always upbeat and prepared to take apart each reading, step by step. He encouraged class discussion to such a degree that most of the class was spent listening to students talk, not him. While some students may have appreciated this, and I do understand the benefits of a flipped classroom, in this instance I would have preferred to hear from the most knowledgeable individual in the room. In other words, I took the class to hear Danny speak, not my peers.
- Very enthusiastic about the material as well as about engaging every student's participation in every topic covered.

30. Please provide examples of the ways the instructor did or did not create a learning environment that welcomed, challenged, and supported all students.

- Facilitated stimulating classroom discussion each week while explaining terms clearly
- Danny was a fair professor who created a welcoming environment for his students. He's patient and prompts us into discussions. He's also fair because he changed his grading rubric slightly to give us more of an advantage when we weren't doing as well.
- He would go around the room and ask people questions about their own experiences, and opinions on the subject matter.
- Professor Weltman when calling on students to participate in class would always respond to students answers by saying good job, even if the student was really off base with their response. he would then go and masterfully steer the students response over to the correct answer without ever making it seem like the student's input was bad. Professor Weltman always made a conscious effort to not call on the same people over and over again, he made sure that everyone got a chance to participate. On one occasion I had an interest in an area of philosophy that we didn't cover much and class and Professor Weltman went out of his way to show me two books that I could read on the subject matter.
- Prof. Weltman kept the floor open for any and all discussions affiliated with the topics we covered. The students chose the topics at the beginning of the course via an online survey and this made the topics more relevant.
- He forces everyone to talk a little bit each class and give their opinion on the topic. Students that are more talkative have other opportunities to talk in open discussion. I like that everyone has to at least say a bit because it encourages them to speak during open discussion. I think once they realize it's not scary to speak up they participate more, which is why I like that Danny has everyone say at least a bit about how they feel about a topic, even if it's just a few sentences. This strategy not only welcomes students by showing them he wants to hear their opinion, but challenges students who rarely speak, and supports them because there is no right or wrong answer to the question.

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Philosophy, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express his or her opinion.