

**Student Evaluations for Phi 37700: Theories of Knowledge**

Brendan Murday

Spring 2007

Ithaca College

Given the nature, level, and size of class, please indicate your overall opinion of the job this teacher did. Check **one**.

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Very Good</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Merely Adequate</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Inadequate</i>	<i>0</i>

Please mark each statement with one of the following:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	
1.	The instructor was well-prepared for class.				
	<i>Strongly Agree 13</i>	<i>Agree 3</i>	<i>Disagree 0</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 0</i>	
2.	The instructor's presentation was well-organized.				
	<i>Strongly Agree 10</i>	<i>Agree 5</i>	<i>Disagree 1</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 0</i>	
3.	The instructor was interested in the subject matter.				
	<i>Strongly Agree 11</i>	<i>Agree 5</i>	<i>Disagree 0</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 0</i>	
4.	The instructor was approachable and willing to help (please mark N/A if you did not ask for help).				
	<i>Strongly Agree 13</i>	<i>Agree 2</i>	<i>Disagree 0</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 0</i>	<i>N/A 1</i>
5.	In courses that require written work, the instructor's comments on my work were helpful (please mark N/A if you have not received comments on written work.)				
	<i>Strongly Agree 13</i>	<i>Agree 3</i>	<i>Disagree 0</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 0</i>	<i>N/A 0</i>
6.	I would recommend this course to serious students interested in the topic.				
	<i>Strongly Agree 10</i>	<i>Agree 5</i>	<i>Disagree 1</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 0</i>	

Please provide comments or suggestions about the instructor:

He was interested and enthusiastic, but I would have liked more in depth explanation of some of the views we covered. I thought often times we skimmed over some important details worth covering.

Enthusiastic; well-considered; quick.

Completely energetic and enthusiastic about class and philosophy in general. Very approachable and helpful – interested in helping me do well.

He's great!

Carries himself very well for a first year professor. Very enthusiastic, very energetic, fun, engages the whole class, goes at our pace, not his. An all around solid professor.

Words lack "weight". Could have been more "entertaining".

Great professor, especially for a first-year. Will only improve with time. No suggestions.

Very good guy, relaxed, allows class to progress through subject matter rather than force in chapters.

Prof Murday did an excellent job in this course. We were able to cover a wide range of topics in depth.

Great teacher. Very approachable. Wish I could take more classes with him. He is enthusiastic and fresh. Makes class interesting while provided the most information.

The professor was knowledgeable and energetic throughout each class period.

None. Second time I had the instructor – no complaints.

Very enthusiastic and engaging, and well-versed in the subject matter.

Good professor. Knowledgeable. Explains material clearly.

Hire him. He is knowledgeable (that's sort of funny considering course topic). Most importantly he conveys ideas well, he is personable, and he makes class enjoyable. Personally I feel like these are the most important qualities a teacher could have.

He's very interested in the topic and lets us discuss things in depth if we're especially engaged with it. Sometimes the lectures don't seem too structured, but there's always an interesting topic or debate to be dealt with.

What did you find most educationally valuable about this course?

It was interesting to be exposed to so many different epistemology problems.

The breadth of viewpoints presented and the depth of presentation for key issues.

Open discussion, freedom to explore topics of individual interest further in papers.

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The discussion of philosophy.

Helps me think about foundations under which we build laws or scientific theories.

The structure of materials covered.

Very deep thought processes.

Wide range of contemporary topics.

Provided a way to view / and define the self and thought / mind & explore out of the box.

The very complex and vast subject matter was conveyed in a well organized manner.

Topics opened your mind a lot. Taught you how to think about things differently.

It stimulates critical thinking and helps in accustoming oneself to philosophical writings and discussions.

The information we covered.

The philosophy. I like the part about how its not ethics. Nothing against ethics but there should be more not ethics.

It made me think of questions I'd never normally ask myself and it gave me a chance to critique contemporary philosophers.

How could this course be improved to increase its educational value?

It was very nice reading contemporary epistemology, but it may have been nice to look at the views and their history in more depth.

I would have enjoyed reading texts and not exclusively scholarly articles. A little more context would have been beneficial.

Ignore skepticism – completely.

More background / info about a theory before discussing objections to it would be helpful. Perhaps a few less topics and more time spent on each.

N/a.

Improve on relevance to ‘real world’; the class was rather skeptical. I guess.

Bigger black boards.

I was pleased.

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I only wish I had more brainpower to keep up at the end of my long day.

It couldn’t be improved.

Depends on your definition of “educational value”. I think it was more or less optimal.

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Beer.

If more time could be spent with it, i.e. make it 4 credits with more hours. It’s too constraining to talk about theories of the mind for so little time.

Please provide comments or suggestions about assignments / papers.

Everything seemed appropriate.

Would not have been opposed to quiz or test about differentiating (identifying) theories.

Papers are fine. Maybe before the first one could be more specific about what you want / important aspects of writing a philosophy paper for those who have need.

Precis were helpful in teaching one how to write philo papers, & understanding concepts. 12 page term paper is a bit daunting, though.

Precis weren’t for me. Three to four pages is not enough space to develop a real philosophical argument and address potential objections. Some of the papers comments are issues I would

have addressed in a longer paper (But I suppose that's what the final paper is for). I would prefer 2-3 seven or eight page papers.

Assignments were good. But I wasn't particularly pleased about the grades or comments on one.

Just what was appropriate / necessary w/o ridiculous extraneous work.

Moderate work load, fair grader, steady course.

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Brendan was more insightful and thorough in his response to my papers than I have ever experienced out of a teacher.

Exactly what I was looking for – very flexible.

N/a.

A little more instruction on the papers.

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The papers are pretty self explanatory and completely up to us. If we can come up with a philosophical issue of the mind or have a problem with a philosopher, we can write on that as long as it makes sense.

The main reason I'm taking this course:

13\_ *Interest in the topic*

7\_ *Required for major*

3\_ *Fulfills distribution requirements*

2\_ *Fits into my schedule*

3\_ *Other*

- interest
- Brendan Murday is the coolest.
- would have been a minor in phil but hard to get into upper level classes.
- required for minor.