

Term Spring 2025	Course PHIL 210 01/PHIL 510 01 - Formal Philosophical Methods	Primary Dept PHIL	Primary Division Humanities	Enrolled: 26 Responded: 23
Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)				

#1 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 13

Respondent	Answer
1827929	Insights into formal philosophy, so a lot in the vein of semantics, set theory, and possible worlds. Some general knowledge about philosophical history, which was taught passionately and memorably.
1829376	Understanding of Modal Logic, and some Principles of Probability, UTility calculation,
1829632	I learned some amount of depth in several topics including set theory, probability theory, decision theory, modal logic, semantics, etc
1833599	This course was an exceptional introduction to logic and formal methods in philosophy. Both the material and the instruction were of the highest quality, making it one of the best courses I have taken at Yale. Professor McNamara explained concepts with remarkable clarity and made each topic genuinely engaging. Each week, he prepared some of the most well-organized and pedagogically thoughtful handouts I have encountered in any class. It is unfortunate that he will not be continuing at Yale. Professors like him, who are not only deeply knowledgeable but also deeply committed to effective teaching, are rare and invaluable. I sincerely hope the university finds ways to retain instructors of his caliber.
1847752	Formal methods in the study of philosophy. Particularly possible worlds, game theory and decision theory, modal logic, and more.
1859059	In-depth survey of different topics in formal philosophical reasoning.
1859115	Better eye for formal philosophical methods
1859255	Introduction to first-order logic, extensional/intensional semantics, possible worlds, probability, and decision theory. Proof-writing skills.
1860112	I learned how to apply formal mathematics and the language of reasoning to complex topics in epistemology.
1867956	I learned about several formal methods in philosophy, from set theory to logic to decision theory. I got a cursory introduction to these topics that was enough to make me want to explore them further.

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#2 Your level of engagement with the course was:
Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.2 ±0.8	3.9 ±0.9	4.1 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
very low	0
low	0
medium	5
high	6
very high	8

Term Spring 2025	Course PHIL 210 01/PHIL 510 01 - Formal Philosophical Methods	Primary Dept PHIL	Primary Division Humanities	Enrolled: 26 Responded: 23
Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)				

#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 15

Respondent	Answer
1827929	Group PSETs were very strong. I rarely feel more academic than hashing out these problems with the three others in my team, and the difficulty was perfect: based in genuine thought rather than a right answer, but still the more STEM-like objectivity in problem style. Weaknesses were few and far between. It could maybe use a bit more structure, but the vaguely-lackadaisical angle was still engaging.
1829376	I liked it a lot
1829632	a strength is how interesting the content is. that said, because it is a survey it does not feel that material builds in the same way that happens in other course. each unit can be pretty standalone.
1833599	In my opinion this class had no flaws. Its greatest strength was how effectively it enabled real learning. I not only gained a solid understanding of highly technical and complex material, but also came away with a clear sense of its broader significance and application. The course was exceptionally well-designed, and the instruction ensured that students grasped both the details and the larger philosophical context. It stands out as a model for how rigorous subjects should be taught.
1859059	The course is organized well, and allows for deep thought about a variety of topics. I can't think of any weaknesses.
1859255	This was an amazing course and Calum was the best instructorthe handouts were lucid and clear. The readings were always optional and maybe that can be clarified at the beginning of the semester.
1860112	The group problem sets were a great chance to collaborate with peers and solve harder problems than we could as individuals.
1867956	The course had very interesting material and problem sets that challenged me to think more deeply about the topic. The lectures were engaging and effective at capturing my interest in the topics. One weakness of it was that I felt the lectures were quite fast-paced, and it was sometimes easy to get lost. I also would have liked to receive more feedback on the problem sets earlier in the course; this would have helped me feel more prepared for the final.

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#4 What is your overall assessment of this course?
Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 3

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.4 ±0.8	4.1 ±0.9	4.3 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	4
very good	4
excellent	12

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#5 The course was well organized to facilitate student learning.
 Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.5 ±0.7	4.1 ±0.9	4.3 ±0.9	4.0 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	0
neutral	2
agree	6
strongly agree	11

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 26
Spring 2025	PHIL 210 01/PHIL 510 01 - Formal Philosophical Methods	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 23
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#6 I received clear feedback that improved my learning.
Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 5

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.1 ±0.9	4.1 ±0.9	4.3 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	0
neutral	6
agree	5
strongly agree	7

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#7 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the level of intellectual challenge of this course was:

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 3

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.6 ±0.8	3.7 ±0.8	3.2 ±1.0	3.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
much less	0
less	2
same	6
greater	11
much greater	1

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#8 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the workload of this course was:
Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
2.7 ±0.7	2.8 ±0.8	3.1 ±1.0	3.1 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
much less	1
less	5
same	12
greater	1
much greater	0

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Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)				

#9 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 14

Respondent	Answer
1827929	If you think youre interested or it counts for your major, 100%. Calum is great and makes the material interesting my one complaint is that its sometimes difficult to see why it *matters*, even if its always clear what it is doing,
1829376	Yes. It teaches a lot of interesting things, and moves quickly enough that it never gets boring
1829632	Absolutely. I recommend this class to anyone interested in the quantitative side of philosophical thinking. It gives some basic tools to address philosophical questions in a new and interesting way.
1833599	Yes. I highly recommend this course, although I am not sure how other instructors will teach it.
1859059	I would definitely recommend this course!! It was a wonderful way to learn more about complex logical ideas in a low-stress and welcoming environment.
1859255	If you are interested in philosophy and in need of a QR or just want to get a taste of analytic philosophy and its concerns, definitely
1860112	Yes. This course is an excellent addition to the philosophy department and well taught to those outside the major.
1862859	Yes! I think this is an awesome course because it allows students to learn the practical methods that can be used to understand the more abstract philosophical concepts that we might spend time learning in other classes. It also provides a good introduction into a wide range of topics so that students can get a feel for different "methods" and see what they might want to pursue more.
1867956	Yes, this is a very fascinating course.

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Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)				

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum

Declined to Answer Question: 12

Respondent	Answer
1827929	Awesome lecturer, really interactive with the class. Very reachable when our group needed help. Couldnt recommend more to any level of philosophy student.
1829376	Good guy, great instructor
1829632	Calum is an excellent instructor. He is knowledgeable, kind, patient, and able to present material with a clarity that is unparalleled. I wish him the best as he goes to another school next year, and encourage any school that values their philosophy department to hire him.
1833599	The instructor was the strength of this course. In many ways, the success of the class was entirely due to him. His teaching was exceptionalmarked by unmatched clarity, outstanding handouts, and a thoughtful, student-centered approach. He consistently demonstrated a rare ability to explain material ranging from foundational concepts to highly complex ideas in a way that was accessible and intellectually rigorous. Among the many instructors Ive had at Yale, he stands out as one of the very best.
1847752	A great professor and very engaged in all the material he teaches.
1855954	Amazing
1859059	Lectures were fun and engaging, and Calum was always willing to answer questions and talk about concepts during office hours. Overall no weaknessesgreat course! I learned a lot.
1859255	Calum was kind, generous, and great at explaining concepts. He was funny and consistently available outside of class. He's a real gem!
1860112	Professor McNamara was organized and engaging throughout the semester. He came well prepared with handouts and a clear plan, but was happy to engage with additional student questions and interests throughout lecture.
1862859	All strengths, no weaknesses. Professor McNamara is so great. He teaches the content so well, and it is so clear that he cares about creating a good learning environment so his students can truly understand the content. He is also always open to meeting with students.
1867956	Professor McNamara was an engaging lecturer; he was very effective at sparking student interest in fairly abstract topics. He also included lots of student engagement in his lectures.

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#11 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?
Instructor(s): Rasmussen, Krister

Responses for Instructor: 3
Declined to Answer Question: 20

Respondent	Answer
1829376	I didn't interact with him at all
1833599	Did not interact with the TA.
1859059	Graded PSETs well!

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#12 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?
Instructor(s): Rasmussen, Krister

Responses for Instructor: 7
Declined to Answer Question: 16

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.0 ±1.0	4.5 ±0.8	4.5 ±0.8	4.4 ±0.9

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	3
very good	1
excellent	3

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#1 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 24

Respondent	Answer
1779898	I gained a very good understanding of how to construct logical arguments and the fundamentals of how we think
1780076	I learned how to use logic to represent complex ideas, as well as how to use the logical system to evaluate the truth, validity, and soundness of propositions.
1781530	I do believe I learned first-order logic.
1783294	I learned the basics of propositional and predicate logic, and how to solve logic problems and determine truth or falsity in arguments.
1784212	I gained a great introduction to the practice of formal philosophical logic. Propositional and predicate logic, in particular, as well as occasional forays into modal logic.
1784681	I gained a strong basis in mathematical philosophical logic which I hope to take into studying semantics and higher levels of philosophy in the future.
1785089	I got new insights in my reasoning and learned how to use my inner valid argumentation radar.
1785438	Better understanding of what 'Logic' is; how logic builds the foundations for mathematics and how these structures serve as a backbone for reasoning.
1789149	From no knowledge of logic at all, I now have a very solid foundational understanding of prepositional and predicate logic
1789539	I love thsi course, and as my first introduction to philosophy I believed I built the basis of my understanding of philosophical deduction and arguments.
1790185	I learned the fundamentals of propositional and predicate logic. I also improved my analytical reasoning and logical thinking in general.
1792278	I developed an understanding of what logic really means (the study of arguments), as well as in-depth understandings of two basic logic systems: propositional logic and predicate (first-order) logic. Within those systems, I learned about the language of formulas and arguments, as well as methods to test and prove the validity of arguments: truth tables, trees, natural deduction, and proof by induction.
1793579	I learned how to think more critically and analytically about how to structure an argument. I had no exposure to first order logic prior to this class, but I can confidently say how much I learned after taking the course.
1794998	This class offers an excellent foundation in first-order logic and predicate logic.
1795083	Pretty good class. Learned the basics of logic as an abstract art but not sure if I really developed my reasoning skills as a whole. A little bit too easy.
1795743	Introduction to basic logic systems and logical reasoning.
1798718	This course introduced me to formal logic.
1800404	We learned the frameworks of propositional logic and first-order logic, which are two useful tools for the rigorous study of arguments.
1800766	Propositional and Predicate Logic.
1803282	I learned how to logically break down arguments into their component parts, first in more simplified terms using propositional logic, which assigned a letter to an entire sentence, and then more specifically using predicate logic, which broke a sentence down into quantifiers and variables. I enjoyed the increasing level of granularity we were able to attain over the course of the semester, so that by the end of it, we could see the internal skeleton of any given statement.
1803655	I gained the ability to understand logical arguments and using logical methods of thinking in my other courses.
1813737	I learned the basics of propositional and predicate logic.
1813742	Learned about predicate and propositional logic.
1814040	I learned the basics of logic

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#1 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 24

Respondent	Answer
1814732	Rules of propositional logic (building arguments/statements from simple ps and qs representing propositions) and strategies to draw conclusions about these arguments/statements - truth tables, truth trees, and natural deduction. Then we did it all over again with first-order logic (involving more complicated statements with an object/subject and predicate). Only bummer is you lowkey could learn all of these things reading the class textbook (Introduction to Logic by Greg Restall) or with a friend who took the class explaining most of it to you (like I did to one of my friends in less than half an hour). BUT I still think doing a whole class on it will make that learning much more solid in your brain; and surely a better experience to learn it over a longer period of time.
1815315	I learned a great deal about the basics of formal logic
1818446	I genuinely enjoyed this course, very rarely have I felt that a QR based class maintains the theoretical excitement of the philosophy classes that I know and love, but this one was an exception for sure. Every day felt like a new puzzle, and the game-like nature of the class made it fun and engaging.
1818999	I gained a significant amount knowledge pertaining to First Order Logic, trees, tables, modal logic and various other aspects of philosophy. This class was intellectually stimulating and allowed for me to learn a different type of math.
1820161	I learned that if all the premises of an argument are false and one of them is true, then it's raining.
1821159	I not only mastered the course material but also learned how to approach philosophical problems from a better standpoint. This course has taught me new, interesting, and useful material and made me a better thinker, preparing me for the rest of my classes at Yale.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#2 Your level of engagement with the course was:

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.1 ±0.9	3.8 ±1.0	4.2 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
very low	0
low	4
medium	8
high	19
very high	19

Term Fall 2024 Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)	Course PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	Primary Dept PHIL	Primary Division Humanities	Enrolled: 64 Responded: 54
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#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 26

Respondent	Answer
1780076	Strengths: Lectures were focused and concise. Material was accessible to students without prior background in logic. Discussion sections were helpful in solidifying information taught in lectures. I felt that Professor McNamara thoroughly prepared the class for assessments and problem sets. Weaknesses: N/A
1781530	Strengths were the handouts our Professor gave us. Weaknesses were the time it sometimes took to get homework answers released so we could use them to study for the mditerms.
1783294	The length of the problem sets was great-- just long enough to feel difficult and informative, but not too long to where they felt unmanageable. Lectures were also great and informative and the TAs were very helpful. Overall the course was great. I didn't love the Restall textbook, and sometimes his methods were different then the professors which could be confusing.
1784212	Strengths include how naturally the subject matter builds on itself and the instinctual progression of learning through the lecture forma. Weaknesses include the fact that Prof. McNamara tended to get an inflated sense of how well we grasped the concepts because a few of the same people indicated that they understood the materials.
1784681	This course is a good intro course but does not cover that much content. This is both a strength and a weakness.
1785089	The professor could take into account that there are students with less if not zero knowledge on Logic.
1785438	Strengths: consistent lecture hand-outs, very willing and engaged instructor & TF, explanatory & clear teaching. Weaknesses: delayed grading, unrecorded lectures, reaching instructor/TF sometimes inaccessible (i.e., office hours were always packed, etc.)
1789149	Structurally I felt the course was organized very well
1789539	Strengths, Well structured discussion sections with excellent TFs. Weaknesses lectures were good but sometimes contradicted or varied from teaching during section. Though this is a weakness since it puzzled me at times I believe this is due more so to the nature of the subject (differences in how logic is taught around the world).
1790185	Strengths: Calum's lectures were always very clear, and his handouts were so useful as references that I felt no need to do the reading and got along just fine without owning the textbook. The problem sets were very straightforward applications of the concepts from lecture. The highlight of the course, though, was the section. Our TF, Kevin Zhang, is the best I have had in any class at Yale so far. Kevin is, of course, a fantastic teacher of philosophy: he is sharp, clear, and precise. He is also, however, one of the kindest human beings I have encountered. His warmth, care, and excitement made our sections fly by; I learned a lot (sometimes more clearly than in lecture) and I looked forward to class each week. Weaknesses: Some lectures felt a bit repetitive. I'm glad that Calum dedicated time to practicing the material we had already learned, but I think we could have allocated our time a bit more efficiently. The extra practice problems were helpful, but I don't think we needed to spend precious class time on them. I would have rather learned more modal logic (which we only touched on briefly at the very end of the course) or learned how to do more advanced proofs/derivations. The problem sets were straightforward, but sometimes felt a bit trivial.
1792278	This course moved at a really great pace for me; the problem sets were challenging, but very intellectually stimulating and doable with enough effort and concentration. They were also a manageable length given the weekly assignments; the workload was reasonable and not stressful overall. Lectures moved at a fast pace, but all questions were answered in discussion section, where we dove deeply into confusing topics and much of my understanding was strengthened. The best part of the course was just that the content was very interesting and the enthusiastic instruction and hands-on engagement allowed me to experience it in a really meaningful way. The only weakness I acknowledge is that we did not discuss much the significance of what we were learning to philosophy or other fields, so it sometimes felt like isolated learning/knowledge.
1793579	Strengths: great professor, organized, amazing TA, well-structured, smaller lecture size, great engagement with professor and peers Weaknesses: p-sets could be challenging, not much outside help provided besides assistance from professor and TA

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 26

Respondent	Answer
1794998	Strengths: Calum was an amazing lecturer (and super kind as well). He made the material extremely easy to grasp. Weaknesses: the textbook is completely unnecessary. I spent \$40 on a book that I didn't even use because everything I needed was said in lecture.
1795083	Strengths: TFs are really nice and the professors good. You know exactly what to expect on the tests Weaknesses: Section is not super useful because they dont want to cover any specific pset materials. So its basically just a repeat of class.
1795743	Strong teaching style and clear directions. There were occasional typos that made things a bit confusing, but overall clear.
1798718	The strengths of this course include a manageable workload and wonderful teaching fellows. I think it could be improved with more examples provided in lecture.
1800766	I think the pacing of the course is well-designed for student learning (albeit even a bit slow at times), and overall I felt very well-supported. The Psets are fair, tests were reflective of what we did in class, and the grading is also very reasonable. McNamara was a great Professor, and with this being his first time teaching the course, it was already amazing and I'm sure the course will run smoother with every reiteration in the years to come.
1803282	I loved this course - it was such a good counterpart to my humanities and writing-heavy courses this semester. I looked forward every week to working on the problem sets, thanks to Calum's encouraging us to work in groups to complete them. I made some of my closest friends through this class. I also thought the content was fascinating. Being able to judge whether an argument was valid or sound has real-life applications. I also found intuitive truth tables and trees, which were the mechanisms we learned to judge validity. The course challenged me whilst still being entirely understandable.
1813737	I appreciate that the course is accessible to students of all majors and levels of experience with math and/or philosophy. I do wish the course covered a bit more material, and at least introduced modal logic, especially since this is the only logic course most philosophy majors will be taking. Overall a good introduction to logic.
1813742	I thought this class was wonderful! Very well organized.
1814040	The class was awesome, especially our professor Calum
1814732	Strengths: Such a kind and understanding professor (such a bummer hes only teaching this year and is leaving yale next year), reasonable psets, very reasonable midterms, and very well structured topics following the textbook when helpful but also deviating from it for important topics like mathematical induction. Weaknesses: Just at some moments felt a little too slow; like the day we took a whole class to learn the new natural deduction rules for predicate logic but didnt even go over the two actually new rules - literally couldve gotten the message of that class in 10 minutes reading the book. BUT, Im not complaining really, taking our time really meant my learning was consolidated. This weakness can be a strength depending on who you ask. But again, this course might not be as easy if another professor is teaching it so beware. Most important is the content of logic is not tough to teach in an organized, progressive way, and talking through it in section and with friends and going to office hours really works, even when the concepts seem daunting and super weird at first!
1815184	Strengths are the pace of the course-- we focused and developed basics for the perfect amount of time before going into the harder material. I don't think it is possible to drown in workload in this class or be overly confused (that is, if you attended every lecture and section). Calum, Kevin and Krister are the best. Weaknesses- sometimes the pset problems were a little too complicated for us to complete on our own-- forcing some stressful office hours and scrambling towards the friday submit time.
1815315	I thought the lectures and handouts were really helpful. I didnt love the lectures on soundness and completeness, and found them a bit confusing and not super helpful
1818446	At times the lectures were boring/repetitive, I think grounding it more in reality or with real life examples would be better, but to be fair I'm not quite sure how that would be done. Calum's enthusiasm for the content was the redeeming factor, the content itself taught by an inferior professor would be mind-numbing.
1818999	The strengths were that the study guides provided were helpful. A weakness of this course was the speed of the class. To resolve this, the class should be made longer.
1820161	Strengths: interesting material, manageable problem sets. Weaknesses: hard to find seats in classroom

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 26

Respondent	Answer
1821159	Sometimes, the online version of the lecture sheets weren't posted until a few weeks after the lecture, but it was really helpful to have those day-of. Also, separately, we didn't know the date of the final until late into the course, which caused last-minute scheduling and stress, as most classes release the final date in the beginning.

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#4 What is your overall assessment of this course?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 3

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.2 ±0.9	3.8 ±1.1	4.3 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
poor	1
fair	1
good	7
very good	18
excellent	24

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Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#5 The course was well organized to facilitate student learning.

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.4 ±0.7	4.0 ±1.0	4.3 ±0.9	4.0 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	1
neutral	3
agree	19
strongly agree	27

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#6 I received clear feedback that improved my learning.

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.0 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.0	4.3 ±0.9	3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	1
disagree	0
neutral	12
agree	21
strongly agree	16

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#7 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the level of intellectual challenge of this course was:

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 5

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
2.8 ±0.9	3.6 ±0.9	3.2 ±0.9	3.3 ±0.9

Choice Label	Counts
much less	4
less	13
same	23
greater	9
much greater	0

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#8 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the workload of this course was:

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 5

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
2.6 ±0.7	2.9 ±0.8	3.1 ±1.0	3.1 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
much less	4
less	16
same	27
greater	2
much greater	0

Term Fall 2024 Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)	Course PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	Primary Dept PHIL	Primary Division Humanities	Enrolled: 64 Responded: 54
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#9 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 23

Respondent	Answer
1779898	I would definitely recommend this course. It helps us be reasonable in argument and base our opinions and thoughts on strict logical foundations. Also, it helps understand math on a deeper level both for stem and humanities majors
1780076	Yes! This is a great course for students that don't have prior experience with logic or just want to try something new. I took this class spontaneously and am very glad that I did. I was even able to apply knowledge from this class to other philosophy classes I was taking concurrently.
1781530	Yes! So fun! Feels like you are doing a puzzle!
1783294	Yes I would! It is a great way to learn about logic and get a QR credit. The concepts can be challenging at times, but the problem sets and workload in general was extremely manageable and I never felt overwhelmed.
1784212	Absolutely! Many non-philosophy people who take this just need to satisfy their QR credit, but I am a more social science-oriented student who didn't even need a QR credit and I immensely enjoyed this class. It sort of felt like a big puzzle, or like learning a new language.
1784681	Yes, this class is a very good class for those interested in logic and who want to fill a QR requirement while building a knowledge that will help them in humanities/social science fields.
1785089	Yes, it is a good starting point for Logic.
1785438	Yes. Very interesting perspective into analytic philosophy.
1789149	Yes! As a non-STEM student, this felt like an accessible and enjoyable but also fulfilling course
1789539	Yes! I think it's an excellent course for everyone, firstly I believe and understanding of logic is a great skill and applicable really to any field, additionally the course it a great QR credit for those not interested in STEM courses.
1790185	Yes! This class is a fantastic option for many. For philosophy majors, it fulfills the logic requirement. For other humanities majors, it serves as a good QR option. For anyone and everyone, though, it provides a lovely general foundation in logical thinking; I found myself applying the basic lessons from this course even beyond logic and philosophy. It's also a nice introduction to philosophical thinking without any intense reading.
1792278	I would highly recommend this course. Not only does it provide a thorough introduction to the study of logic, it was incredibly interesting, and taught with passionate and precise instruction. The workload was definitely a good challenge, but totally doable by putting in effort. Having a study group to work with every week was crucial and helped me thrive in the course. Discussion sections reinforced any understanding I missed in the lectures, and the problem sets were genuinely enjoyable, especially when I figured out hard problems, which was always possible with the right amount of concentration. I loved this class.
1793579	I would highly recommend this course to another student, especially if they are looking for a QR that is not very mathy. Nonetheless, I would NOT call this a gut. As a humanities major, this class was very challenging for me. I had to put in a lot of time after class, constantly going to office hours and working with my TA. However, I feel very fulfilled and interested by the content in this course.
1794998	If you're looking for an introduction to logic, or a wildly easy QR credit, this is for you! But probably not for the more academically intense Yalies out there...
1795083	Yes, would recommend as the pssets are pretty manageable and the tests are very ok if you keep up.
1795743	Yes, if you are at all interested in logic. Great way to get a QR credit too!
1798718	Absolutely, especially if you can take it with Kevin as your teaching fellow. I feel like I learned a lot about formal logic that I will apply to future standardized tests and Yale courses.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#9 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 23

Respondent	Answer
1798966	If you are a humanities major and need a QR, then yes it's a good option. not a gut but also not crazy workload and you can easily get an A if you pay attention in class/do well on the psets
1800404	Yes, definitely. It's a great class if you are interested in the more math-y kind of philosophy.
1800766	Yes, absolutely, I took the course as a humanities major looking to fulfill my last QR credit, and this was 10000 the right choice! This course exposed me to content I've never encountered before, and it was very rewarding! If you put in the effort, you get so much out of the course.
1803282	Yes, absolutely yes! Lectures were fun and interactive, with Calum doing problems on the board and inviting us to suggest answers, even if our way of solving the tree differed from his. The content is pertinent no matter your field.
1803655	Yes, I found this course extremely helpful in understanding logic.
1812253	Yes! Great Prof and TA! A ton of support!
1813737	Yes, if they are a philosophy major that has to fulfill their logic requirement, a non-STEM major looking for an interesting QR credit, or anyone interested in logic who has not taken any classes in logic yet.
1813742	Yes!!
1814040	Yes, if you want to take quantitative class, this is perfect
1814732	Absolutely! Logic is such a fundamental stepping stone in building solid beliefs about the world, effectively communicating with others, and understanding what people around you are saying. Some would argue that learning logic through these formal symbols is stupid and learning logic through writing and debating is much more effective in building these skills - yes, debatable, but I felt that putting down arguments in a structured mathematical form was not just extremely satisfying, but also helped me structure my thoughts better, I believe. And also builds useful skills for someone who might pursue CS or further formal math (I hope). Although beware Calum, our current professor, told us he is leaving yale after this year so theres not exactly a guarantee the course will be as great as this next year!
1815184	Yes-- it is interesting for all (I would say especially for philosophy students since there were a couple topics and discussions in lecture that were particularly oriented to broader philosophical themes). This is a great QR credit for those looking for one, but make sure not to fall behind (that is in your own hands).
1815315	Yes, definitely. The work is really interesting and the professor is amazing
1820161	Yes I would! It's a fascinating course and Calum is a great instructor.
1821159	I would most definitely recommend this course to another student! I learned so much -- and what I learned was so interesting and so useful for the rest of my time at Yale. Professor McNamara taught the material so well, explaining the concepts so that everyone could understand.

Term Fall 2024 Instructors McNamara, Calum (P)	Course PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	Primary Dept PHIL	Primary Division Humanities	Enrolled: 64 Responded: 54
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#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum

Declined to Answer Question: 25

Respondent	Answer
1779898	The instructor was really good at getting the ideas through to the class. He was also really helpful and open to helping every student individually.
1780076	Professor McNamara is amazing. Lectures were always very organized and accessible. He was very communicative and sent frequent emails about deadlines and problem sets. He was also funny which made lectures so enjoyable, and he was always open to answering questions. Overall, a great professor who really cares.
1781530	Loved his handouts. Only complaint is pset answers were released slow. Sometimes it felt slightly too lenient.
1783294	Calum was awesome-- he was very good at answering questions and explained the concepts in an approachable way.
1784212	Prof McNamara is a super approachable and friendly instructor who does a good job of breaking down complex topics. His lecture notes are super helpful and he tries very hard to ensure we have plenty of practice with each topic. I will say that we tended to run out of time to really get into practice problems, and there were also times that he sped through complex topics because he assumed the majority understood when only a few prominent students did.
1784681	Professor McNamara was very talented and down-to-earth. He never let a question go unanswered and would provide direct support to students.
1785089	The professor needs to assume that there are people who are learning this course for the first time.
1785438	Very willing to help and explain different topics; really appreciate how in-depth Dr. McNamara went when explaining the applications of the things we were learning about. Sparked lots of interest to explore even further. Office hours were frequently crowded and not the most conducive to individual questions.
1789149	An extremely passionate, supportive, and effective professor. I really enjoyed his teaching style and he always provided a very high energy that was encouraging and motivating
1789539	I think he did a good job in the structure of the course. The subject of logic though is difficult to teach in lecture in a way that is both interesting and clear, and I think he could in the future to create a clear format that also draws to real applications in philosophy and explain concepts.
1790185	Calum was fantastic! It was his first time teaching a course at Yale, but he was nonetheless clear, engaging, and thoughtful in his teaching. He always made himself available for office hours/questions, and he was always flexible and willing to reorganize the schedule based on our pace. He was always an encouraging voice. He also frequently explained the "why" (which is of the utmost importance in any philosophy class) rather than simply teaching us the rules and how to apply them in practice questions.
1792278	Professor McNamara was so visibly enthusiastic about this course, and he taught with precision and depth as well as excitement. He was very organized and also receptive to student needs, and knew many students on a personal level despite the large lecture. He also always accepted questions and made sure students understood topics before moving on. I think sometimes the explanations of large inductive proofs (such as of soundness and completeness) felt very challenging, and thus somewhat inaccessible. Those were sort of enrichment elements of the course, so not mandatory to understand, but I think there could have been additional or deeper explanation when things got more challenging.
1793579	Calum is an amazing professor! Hes very nice, lenient, friendly, and approachable. He answered emails promptly, led lecture very well, and is overall an amazing guy.
1794998	Calum is phenomenal. He is an amazing lecturer, a brilliant thinker, and best of all, an incredibly kind and caring person. No weaknesses!

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): McNamara, Calum

Declined to Answer Question: 25

Respondent	Answer
1795083	His handouts were super helpful and functioned like a textbook. I just wish he had posted more problems on a weekly basis or went through easier problems in class. I thought he kind of catered more to the really locked-in student as opposed to the average student.
1795743	He was very kind and patient when explaining concepts, and willing to take more time on more confusing sections.
1798718	Calum provided great materials conducive to learning the subject matter. He was also incredibly patient. His teaching could be improved by way of more examples during lecture.
1800766	Great lecturer, communicative, supportive, and understanding! Made this course very engaging and the content digestable. You can definitely feel his passion for the content itself and teaching others.
1803282	Calum was such a dedicated instructor. He made detailed, clear notes for each lecture which he passed out beforehand and in a timely manner. He welcomed us to his office hours, frequently overrunning them to explain concepts to us on the board and solve problems from the psets alongside us. Overall, he radiated such kindness and made me feel totally comfortable approaching him for help of any sort during the semester.
1813737	I really appreciated the positive energy Prof. McNamara brought to the classroom, and found his handouts and lectures very easy to follow and helpful.
1813742	Great teacher! He cares a lot about student growth, was very responsive over email, and super helpful!
1814040	He was very understanding instructor. The best prof I had so far.
1814732	Calum was a fantastic professor! I most of all appreciated his approachability, always treating all of his students kindly. He was always open to questions, at the same time that he knew when to keep the lecture on topic and when to deviate into important parentheses. His organization of lecture topics was great and his flexibility with course assignments while keeping everyone on track was commendable.
1815184	Strengths-- charismatic, kind, patient, willing to hear students out and correct mistakes. Weakness-- not really anything, but sometimes Calum was confused about the Yale academic calendar (I don't blame him it was his first year).
1815315	I think he was amazing. He led really engaging lectures that were easy to follow. He made the material interesting and made himself available to students through office hours
1818446	Calum was a pleasure to learn from; in my experience the best professors are the ones that are most passionate about the subject matter, and it was clear from the get-go that he loves logic, and wanted all of us to love it too. I am quite confident that if not for his enthusiasm, clarity of speech/explanation, and cultivating of an environment of no stupid questions, I would have not enjoyed the class hardly as much.
1818999	Calum McNamara was a fantastic teacher that provided a lot a lot of support for his students. A weakness was that he could share the course content slower.
1820161	Calum is a great lecturer. He makes classes engaging and is really good at responding to questions.
1821159	Professor McNamara is an amazing professor. He explains concepts so well, which is a huge reason why this class was so good. He also kept the lectures very interesting and upbeat and did a great job incorporating class participation. In addition, professor McNamara gave students many opportunities to go to office hours, which were very helpful, especially due to their open format -- students could drop in and participate in material review / ask questions and listen to classmates' questions.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#11 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Rasmussen, Krister

Responses for Instructor: 15
Declined to Answer Question: 10

Respondent	Answer
1781530	Super good at explaining things.
1783294	Krister was also great, his sections were very helpful and he was good at answering any questions the class had.
1784681	Krister was a kind and helpful teaching fellow who I did not have to use very much as I did not require that much help in the class. In his functions he was perfect.
1789149	Very responsive to questions and overall good teaching style
1794998	Krister was amazing. Smart, kind, and very helpful in section. 11/10 recommend!
1795083	He was really sweet and nice and thoughtful. I would just recommend his sections to be more structured. And have problems ready that students can do live.
1798966	Krister was a great TF! Very responsive over email and always willing to help with questions, both inside and outside of section.
1809295	Extremeley helpful and diluted the concepts learned in class to the extent that I was always able to grasp them following discussion sections.
1813737	Clearly knowledgeable about the subject, very open to and good at summarizing concepts and answering questions in section.
1813742	Krister was a wonderful TA.
1814040	He was supportive and kind
1814732	Krister was an absolute pleasure to work with! He is extremely kind and very intelligent. But even though he was evidently very good at these things, he was still humble and open to seeing mistakes in his own explanations, and very thoughtful when addressing any questions. It was a pleasure getting to know him and getting advice about logic and beyond. I wish I could have Krister as a TA again!!!
1815315	Krister was amazing. He was very kind and welcoming to students, and he explained the material very clearly
1820161	Krister did a great job at clarifying confusing parts of lectures and prepping us for new material.
1821159	Krister was very dedicated to ensuring his students learned and understood the material. He was also always open to meeting with students.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#11 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Zhang, Kevin

Responses for Instructor: 21
Declined to Answer Question: 8

Respondent	Answer
1779898	Kevin is the best! He is really kind and really good at logic and makes the discussion sections entertaining. Always open to helping students out and makes us understand what we learn in class at a deep level.
1780076	I'm a first-year, and Kevin is probably the best TF I will have during the entirety of my Yale experience. He was not only an amazing teacher but also a genuinely awesome human being. It was so easy to tell that he really put effort into knowing the students he was teaching. He explained things so well and had endless patience. He was available to answer every question, respond to every email, explain every concept in accessible language - overall, Kevin's teaching and character were outstanding.
1780794	Kevin was an amazing Teaching Fellow, he was always very engaging during discussion and was very attentive and was open to answering all of our questions. He fostered a space where everyone was welcomed and felt free to express if they were confused or were struggling with the material.
1784212	Kevin is genuinely one of the best TFs I have ever had. I so greatly looked forward to our section every week! He made the seemingly impossible logic problems so much simpler. Office hours with him were a godsend. He has a real knack for teaching and I hope that he finds himself in some sort of teaching or mentorship position later in his career.
1785089	Kevin is the one that kept me continuing with this class. He is good at teaching the substance of this course.
1785438	Engaging discussion leader but sometimes felt that I couldn't fully ask some of my questions due to crowded office hours, etc.
1786733	Kevin is a wonderful and effective communicator who clearly cared for his students. He's the best teaching fellow I've had at Yale.
1789539	I love Kevin, such a clear and knowledgable TF who really solidified my understanding of the course. Additionally his grading is informative and i was able to clearly understand and correct what I missed on Problem Sets.
1790185	I cannot possibly say enough good things about Kevin here. He is, of course, a fantastic teacher of philosophy: bright, clear, precise, engaging, and always willing to answer questions. Beyond that, though, he is one of the kindest individuals I have encountered in my time at Yale. He cares so deeply about all of his students and his love of philosophy (and the "life of the mind" in general) is infectious. He pushed me to think carefully and precisely in logic just as much as he inspired me to find joy in learning and spreading kindness. He is simply the best.
1792278	Kevin was SUCH an incredible Teaching Fellow. He got to know each student in his discussion sections and treated us with such respect, patience and kindness. He asked us how we were doing in creative ways relevant to logic during each class. His teaching was extremely precise and in-depth, and he found clever ways to put even the most challenging topics into simple terms. He gave multiple perspectives on all problems and topics, providing analogies and plenty of examples to help our understanding. He always clarified difficult material and was a complete joy to learn from.
1793579	KEVIN!!! Kevin is fantastic, quite literally the goat. He explains hard concepts in an easy, fun manner. He is also always willing to meet outside of his normal office hour times to meet with you. Hes fantastic. Very sweet, kind, and gentle. At the end of the semester, he even invited us overseas to his apartment and made us muffins.
1795743	He was excellent at breaking down difficult concepts into simple, easy to understand examples. Very kind, and truly a wonderful TF.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#11 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Zhang, Kevin

Responses for Instructor: 21
Declined to Answer Question: 8

Respondent	Answer
1798718	Kevin is the best teaching fellow I have had thus far at Yale. His teaching style is engaging and rigorous, and made me thoroughly enjoy learning the material. He cares about his students' learning and development in the course very deeply, and it shows. I could not recommend him more to other students.
1800404	Kevin was a great TF-- extremely helpful and committed to his students' success. Would respond very quickly to emails outside of class, and used our seminars to make sure everyone was keeping up with the content.
1800766	The best teaching fellow ever! Went above and beyond to be a resource for us, and truly elevated my learning experience. Section with Kevin was helpful and even fun! I think his reiteration of the basics in section was very helpful, and clears up any confusion I had from just lecture or doing the Psets. His office hours were also a great resource, and his timely response to emails was helpful and convenient.
1803282	Kevin made our section amazing. He provided such relevant, straightforward analogies to make the more abstract parts of the course make sense (shoutout to unicorns and narwhals, and magic wands, and the color red.) When there were things about lecture I didn't understand, attending section clarified them without exception. Kevin also gave us great advice on how to tackle the psets, spending extra time on concepts that the psets tested. Overall, he was a joy to listen to and created such a warm, friendly atmosphere within which I was completely comfortable asking for help.
1803655	Kevin's strength was his dedication to the student's learning. He was always will to take the time to make sure that each student understood the material. In this way, each student in the class was well-equipped to succeed.
1812253	Kevin was fantastic! The best TF I have ever had! Extremely intelligent, thoughtful, and kind.
1815184	Kevin was one of if not the most engaging instructors I have had at yale. I was always excited to go to section on thursday mornings despite being extremely tired from the week. He is extremely patient and made it his priority that EVERY ONE of his students understood the material. He was able to turn complicated subjects into understandable and fun activities.
1818999	Kevin Zhang a was a fantastic Teaching Fellow that provided a lot a lot of support for his students. A weakness was the office hour times.
1820446	Awesome Guy

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#12 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

Instructor(s): Rasmussen, Krister

Responses for Instructor: 24
Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.5 ±0.6	4.3 ±1.0	4.5 ±0.8	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	1
very good	11
excellent	12

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 64
Fall 2024	PHIL 115 01 - First-Order Logic	PHIL	Humanities	Responded: 54
Instructors				
McNamara, Calum (P)				

#12 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?
Instructor(s): Zhang, Kevin

Responses for Instructor: 28
Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.9 ±0.4	4.3 ±1.0	4.5 ±0.8	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	1
very good	1
excellent	26

University of Michigan

Summer 2023 Instructor Report

PHIL 303-201: Intr Symbol Logic

Calum McNamara

8 out of 11 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.6	4.6
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	6	2	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.3	4.4
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.6	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	3	1	4	0	0	0	3.5	3.8	4.2
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	4	3	0	0	1	3.6	3.0	2.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.8
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9
I developed plans to take additional related courses. (Q144)	3	3	1	1	0	0	4.2
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0
Reading assignments required a reasonable amount of time and effort. (Q329)	4	1	2	0	0	1	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	7	0	0	0	0	1	5.0
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara was willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q219)	7	0	0	0	0	1	5.0

The medians are calculated from Summer 2023 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 1 to 15 in Division of Humanities in the College of LS&A.

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was one of the best instructors I have had for a course of this type. He was clearly extremely knowledgeable in the field and was able to explain course content easily, able to delve much deeper into the content than needed when prompted by student curiosity. Incredibly friendly and personable while still commanding respect and demonstrating the same mutual respect for all of his students. Excellent class, very accessible to students new to logic who are willing to put in the work, thanks to Calum's instructional abilities.
Calum made a difficult topic very digestible and accessible. He did a great job answering questions and working closely with students. By far the most interesting class I've taken thus far.
I am pleased to express my positive impression of Instructor Calum's teaching abilities and the quality of instruction in the Logic course. Calum's teaching style is engaging and well-organized, making complex concepts in logic more accessible and comprehensible to students. The course content was presented in a logical progression, ensuring that foundational concepts were thoroughly covered before moving on to more advanced topics. This approach allowed students to build a strong understanding of the subject matter.
One of the strengths of Instructor Calum's teaching lies in his ability to foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment. He actively encouraged class participation, welcomed questions, and valued diverse perspectives. This not only created an open space for students to voice their thoughts but also contributed to a collaborative atmosphere that enhanced the overall learning experience.
Calum was an excellent teacher and was great about engaging with students and answering discussions about both the coursework and tangentially related questions.
He has been an excellent, very approachable teacher
It was clear that Calum worked very hard to make sure that he explained things such that everybody could understand, and I think he was very effective in doing so. He clearly knows the subject matter very well, and is also very good at explaining it and being patient with students' pace of understanding. He also engaged in very interesting discussions as long as they didn't interfere with teaching the course material. In other words, rather than using spare time for his own activities, he used any time available to engage with the students and keep classes interesting and lively. He was also very good about being consistent with office hours, and even helping students outside of office hours through quick email responses. I felt that there was nothing lacking in either his teaching ability or his teaching performance.

How can Calum McNamara improve the teaching of this course? (Q901)

Comments
Calum has done a great job!
I don't think he could have improved in any significant way.
The only critique I can even remotely think to voice would stem from the use of a textbook that uses different vocabulary from that which is used in many online sources or by Calum occasionally. However, I see this problem as resolving itself with Calum's lecture notes being developed into a textbook for the course content.
Nothing I can really think of.
Instructor Calum's teaching in the Logic course was exemplary. His dedication to creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment, combined with his effective content delivery and commitment to student success, contributed to a positive and enriching educational experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned under their guidance and would highly recommend their instruction to future students.
Honestly could not think of any places that need/have room for improvement, this course was exceptionally well taught!

University of Michigan

Winter 2023 Instructor Report

PHIL 345-002: Language & Mind

Calum McNamara

19 out of 26 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	13	5	0	0	1	0	4.8	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	7	9	0	1	1	0	4.3	4.1	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	14	4	0	0	1	0	4.8	4.6	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	4	9	4	1	1	0	3.9	4.0	4.1
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	7	10	2	0	0	3.3	3.1	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	16	2	0	0	1	0	4.9	4.8	4.8
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	16	2	0	0	1	0	4.9	4.7	4.7
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	18	0	0	0	1	0	5.0	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	12	4	1	0	1	0	4.8
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	9	6	2	2	0	0	4.4
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	16	3	0	0	0	0	4.9
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	9	7	2	1	0	0	4.4
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	12	6	0	0	1	0	4.7

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	17	1	0	0	1	0	4.9
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	14	3	0	0	1	0	4.9
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	15	2	1	0	1	0	4.9
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	17	1	0	0	1	0	4.9
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	17	1	0	0	1	0	4.9

The medians are calculated from Winter 2023 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 16 to 74 in Division of Humanities in the College of LS&A.

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum McNamara is one of the best GSIs I've had during my college experience. He was extremely flexible in making time to meet with students. He helped me understand class material FAR more than Professor Joyce. I would not have done well in this course if it were not for Calum McNamara. Frankly, he should have taught the course rather than the Professor.
Calum is amazing. He quite simply may be the best GSI that I have had in my four years here. Discussions were super engaging and Calum does an amazing job at making everyone feel free to ask the questions they want without being judged. He also does a great job at engaging deeply with points brought up in discussion.
Calum was very knowledgeable and always willing to help.
Calum is a great professor, he was always able to bring a lot of clarity about the content we would go through in lectures. He was always incredibly encouraging. He found a great balance between explaining class materials and having us participate and voice our own ideas. He always prepared really useful handouts for the class.
Calum did a great job of soliciting participation from students and ensuring that we engaged with course material. He took time to answer questions both during class and via email/office hours and gave thoughtful feedback on papers. Calum was an amazing GSI and he made a topic that may have otherwise been monotonous very interesting.
Calum was an excellent instructor, and I'm so sad to have finished this course! He was very personable and made connections with students that made the classroom a comfortable environment. (I took another class with him Fall of 2021 and he remembered me, which made me feel so much more comfortable approaching him for help and participating in class!) Calum is by far one of, if not my favorite GSI's I've had. He was always very prepared for discussion and answered our questions as respectfully as possible, even when students were possibly wrong about certain class material. I never felt talked down to when he would correct any misunderstandings, and he always treated students with respect when they voiced their opinions. Overall, I would absolutely recommend any course taught by Calum, and I hope I have him as an instructor again!
Calum was a fantastic instructor. He clearly had boundless knowledge of and excitement for the material and was very clear in his delivery. He went out of his way to answer questions or help students and was an excellent resource in the course. He's got a very nice beard as well.
Calum was an excellent instructor, I always looked forward to going to discussion. He was well prepared for class and always presented the material and questions in an interesting manner.
Calum is a very friendly and approachable GSI. Class atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable. Students actively participated during discussion and Calum was a great facilitator. Readily incorporates student discussion questions with class material.
The quality of instruction in this course was high. There were times at which I was lost, but never felt like I would not be able to grasp a concept after a discussion with Calum. He improved my understanding vastly.
Very high-quality instruction! Calum McNamara has been one of the most thorough and well-versed discussion leaders I have ever met, and his instruction allowed for so much new insight and reflection. The instruction was rich with supplemental information and thorough feedback on assignments. I felt very engaged with the discussion and lecture material due to the very passionate instruction.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
N/A. Perfect GSI.
I liked it
I think the class content was hard and we would have benefitted from 2 discussion sections, rather than 1.
This is not the fault of Calum by any means, but I wish the linkage between the two components of the class was a bit more explained.
I honestly don't know, this has been one of the best structured discussion sections I've been in!
I would appreciate more feedback on my paper so I can improve.
One thing I would change in the course is the set up of discussions. There were a few instances in which small group discussions proceeded a group conversation, and these were the discussions that I got the most out of.
More opportunities for open-ended questions!

University of Michigan

Winter 2023 Instructor Report

PHIL 345-003: Language & Mind

Calum McNamara

13 out of 21 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	10	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	8	1	2	1	0	0	4.8	4.1	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	9	1	2	0	0	0	4.8	4.6	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	7	1	4	0	0	0	4.6	4.0	4.1
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	4	5	3	0	0	3.1	3.1	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	10	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.8
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	10	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.7
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	11	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	8	3	1	0	0	0	4.8
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	6	4	2	0	0	0	4.5
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	10	2	0	0	0	0	4.9
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	7	4	0	1	0	0	4.6
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	8	3	0	1	0	0	4.8

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	8	4	0	0	0	0	4.8
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	10	2	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	8	3	0	1	0	0	4.8
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	9	1	2	0	0	0	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	9	3	0	0	0	0	4.8

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Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
This section was incredible. From the sheets that outlined the topics and questions for each week to the inclusion of student questions and other works to help us understand the material better, I really have no complaints.
Great course and Calum was a good GSI!
Awesome
He was very knowledgeable of the course material, and when people asked questions in class or through office hours he gave very digestible and helpful explanations.
Very good !!
Calum's dedication, enthusiasm, and expertise have had an immeasurable impact on my learning experience, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with him.
Calum's knowledge of the subject matter is truly impressive, and he consistently demonstrated an ability to convey complex concepts in a clear and accessible manner. Whether in the classroom or during office hours, he was always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that students understood the material and were able to apply it in practical situations.
Beyond his exceptional teaching skills, Calum is also an incredibly approachable and engaging instructor. He made a genuine effort to get to know each of his students on a personal level, which created a comfortable and supportive learning environment. His friendly demeanor and infectious enthusiasm for the subject matter made every class a joy to attend.
Overall, I cannot recommend Calum McNamara highly enough. His passion for teaching and commitment to his students' success are truly exemplary, and he has had a profound impact on my academic journey. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him, and I know that his contributions to the academic community will be felt for years to come.
Calum was one of the best GSIs I have ever had. He was kind, funny, receptive to students, and was very clear about how students can earn a high grade. He was incredibly helpful and appreciated student work and effort. I truly wish all Michigan GSIs acted like him!
Opportunities to submit discussion questions online/via email was a helpful way for people to write out their thoughts and questions and share ideas with the class. I thought the introduction to theories or philosophies that weren't necessarily assigned or in readings was abounded, which I truly appreciated because this exposed us to a wider diversity of thoughts—and this mostly came from Calum, even if he encouraged students who were familiar with these out-of-class-theories to try to explain the theories to the class. I appreciated the ample opportunities to express our own understanding of the topics that were being raised for questioning. I think discussion sections were largely led by the class interests but with good direction provided by Calum toward students who may not have expressed their thoughts or questions as frequently as others. Also, Calum was good at turning us out of the weeds and transitioning into new topics for scrutinizing. Thank you for your time in office hours and even Zoom meeting us while you were in conference states away. I felt encouraged and welcomed to express my ideas and unknowings.
He was amazing!

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
One of the weeks we had small group discussions which I really enjoyed. I think having more of those would only help the course.
I liked how the discussions were solely focused on the students' questions from the reading, it helped!
The work load should be more spread out. Like there is nothing for so long then bam a paper and honestly difficult exam. it's a lot of information to squeeze into just 4 assignments
not sure
Maybe have the handouts be a bit more interactive, or have something additional that tests your knowledge.
I would do more class wide discussion on specific aspects of the lecture
Nothing. This was an all-around excellent course with an incredible GSI.
I would not change it.
I may have initiated a mid-term check-in about our participation grades, or at least a refresher in class about how those grades were assigned. It's just such a small detail to remember and I know I still don't know how they are assigned, but that is because I haven't remembered/spent the energy to go look at the syllabus.
I wouldn't

University of Michigan

Fall 2021 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 303-002: Intr Symbol Logic

Calum McNamara

10 out of 22 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	5	4	1	0	0	0	4.5	4.5	4.7
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	4	0	3	2	1	0	3.2	4.2	4.5
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.5	4.7
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	2	3	1	3	1	0	3.5	4.0	4.3
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	2	0	5	3	0	0	2.9	3.0	3.1

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	4	3	3	0	0	0	4.2
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	7	2	0	0	0	1	4.9
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	5	4	1	0	0	0	4.5
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	6	4	0	0	0	0	4.7
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9

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Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum made this class a really positive learning environment. He had a great energy/attitude and tried to make time for his students whenever he could. Great GSI!
He was one of the best GSI's i've had. Made the material make more sense and was very willing to help.
The instruction was good. Discussion section was very helpful for ironing some of the nuanced information in the lecture
Calum is a wonderful teacher

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
change the due dates of the homeworks so the help was equally available to both discussion sections.

University of Michigan

Fall 2021 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 303-003: Intr Symbol Logic

Calum McNamara

8 out of 22 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	6	2	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.5	4.7
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	5	2	1	0	0	0	4.7	4.2	4.5
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	7	0	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.5	4.7
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	2	3	3	0	0	0	3.8	4.0	4.3
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	2	4	2	0	0	3.0	3.0	3.1

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	4	4	0	0	0	0	4.5
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	5	1	1	0	0	1	4.8
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	8	0	0	0	0	0	5.0
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	7	1	0	0	0	0	4.9

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Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was a great instructor and was very attentive to the needs of students. I appreciated his dedication in supporting our studies and interests.
Calum was the only GSI I've ever had who learned everyone's names. He truly cared for all of his students inside and outside of the classroom. He is a wonderful instructor and I thoroughly enjoyed my time in section.
Calum's teaching was generally very good and the problem questions presented in discussion were very helpful. Overall, it improved my ability to deal with difficult problems and he helped explain complex topics in an understandable manner.
The instruction in this course was clear, precise, and engaging. The instructor was approachable, and responded quickly and enthusiastically to questions and to inquiries about going into greater depth with the course material.
Calum was a great section instructor, he was really good at getting everyone to participate and was very willing to offer extra help at office hours
calum, you were the BEST! in a stressful class, you managed to create a laidback and caring environment—with this and your great explanations of material, you definitely saved my understanding of logic!! thank you SO much
I really enjoyed the way you could tell that Professor Belot and McNamara got along really well because I think it contributed to the open and interactive environment in lectures and discussion. I also appreciate how helpful McNamara was in explaining the material and accommodating for personal issues that caused attendance difficulties.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
I would either suggest more lower-level material or much more review of higher-level materials. I found a lot of the problems to be very difficult and would have appreciated a little bit more direct instruction in how to do them during our classes.
I wouldn't.
I think including more philosophy in discussion would be beneficial to get a more well-rounded view of logic as a concept. I think this would help improve the understanding students have as they aren't left with logic in a vacuum.
I would not change this course.
Nothing
YOU WERE THE BEST CALUM
Nothing comes to mind.

University of Michigan

Winter 2021 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 444-002: Groups & Choices

Calum McNamara

14 out of 25 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ- wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	10	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.6	4.7
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	9	3	2	0	0	0	4.7	4.3	4.6
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	8	3	2	0	0	0	4.7	4.6	4.7
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	9	4	1	0	0	0	4.7	4.4	4.7
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	7	3	2	1	0	0	4.6	4.1	4.4
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	2	1	10	1	0	0	3.1	2.9	3.2
How did you participate in this course? (SA=Attended most synchronously, A=Attended most asynchronously, N=Attended most in person, D=Attended some in person and some online) (Q1854)	9	5	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.8	4.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	11	2	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	11	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	13	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	5	7	2	0	0	0	4.2	4.4
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	7	4	3	0	0	0	4.5	4.6
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	9	2	3	0	0	0	4.7	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	8	6	0	0	0	0	4.6	4.6
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	11	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	13	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8

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Written Comments

How did the teaching techniques (e.g., certain technologies used, specific approaches to testing and assignments, asynchronous or synchronous teaching methods, instructor flexibility, class interaction, small group work, other teaching methods) of this course serve the aims of this course/ or serve your learning in this course? (Q1872)

Comments
The weekly assignments for game theory were really great. They helped me learn game theory very well. The paper topics are also interesting.
Worksheet for discussion sessions is highly related to the course material and homework assignment, which is very helpful. There are interesting discussion questions distributed during the discussion session for us to discuss in the breakout rooms, which is very interactive and inspiring.
The format of this discussion would be to meet synchronously, discuss in breakout rooms using a class handout as a helpful guide, and then discussing as a large group back in the main room. In my experience with virtual learning, this is the most effective format to facilitate both discussion and learning.
The break-out rooms for smaller group discussion and the subsequent larger group discussion was an excellent way to organize the discussion session.
I liked that the discussion structure was flexible to the type of material being discussed in lecture/assignments due in.
Calum is an unbelievable GSI and structured our section based on the assignment type for the given week. We worked in groups on problem sets and then moved to a more discussion based model after we had completed all of the problem sets halfway through the semester. I learned a lot during section.
breakoutrooms
The format was great and Calum organized it well.
The participation based format of the class allowed for great discussions that enhanced my understanding of the class material. Additionally, working through problem sets together allowed us all to learn. The instructor was very flexible in granting deadline extensions and meeting outside of class hours.
great

Given your experience in this course, what teaching techniques do you think the instructor should continue to use in the future (e.g., certain technologies used, specific approaches to testing and assignments, other testing methods, asynchronous or synchronous teaching methods, instructor flexibility, class interaction, small group work, other teaching methods)? (Q1873)

Comments
Everything mentioned in Q1872.
Calum should continue the usage of handouts to guide breakout room discussion. Meeting synchronously is also ideal. He did an excellent job. This course was one of the few that felt closer to being in the classroom. In the earlier portion of the course, Calum also used a device that would project his drawings when we were doing problems together which was a great idea and extremely helpful.
I think the way that Calum led us towards the correct answer in the problem sets without giving the answer himself was something I really enjoyed. Also, Calum is very helpful and accessible outside the classroom, which was very important for me.
Breakout rooms to work through problems were really helpful. It was also nice that group work was an option for papers, but not required.
Calum should continue to utilize small group work where he comes in and checks on the groups.
breakout rooms
All of them – he's a great teacher.
I think his teaching methods worked great– I would keep the participation based format and the mini–lectures.
great

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was one of the best GSIs I've had at U of M. He is very kind and always helpful. He cares about what he teaches and wants us to learn. I reached out to him early in the semester because I was struggling with my weekly assignments. We set up an additional zoom call for some 1 on 1 help, and gave me a chance to improve my grade. Because of him, I learned game theory very well. Great GSI and person.
Calum is one of the most helpful and accessible GSI I have worked with.
Calum is one of the best GSI's I've had at the University of Michigan (which should not be taken lightly because I've had some amazing GSI's). I originally had no desire to take this course, as it was a backup for a waitlisted course. After the first discussion section, however, I immediately gave up my spot on the waitlist and decided to take this course because I knew from the first day Calum would be an excellent teacher, and he has proved me right every class period. I am extremely intimidated by math and have often described myself as being bad at it. After having class with Calum, I no longer feel this way. Calum was such a great instructor that he was not only able to teach me the concepts, but taught them well enough to the point that I felt confident doing them. Maybe I am not bad at math, but have just not had instructors as good as Calum in the past. He also clearly cares about his students and was always available to discuss concepts outside of class. Furthermore, he would provide information on where to learn more about specific topics if we were interested in them, completely unprompted. I hope he becomes a professor because he would be a fantastic one.
I think the quality of instruction was really very good. Both the office hours and the section were very productive and helped me understand the course material clearly. They also highlighted the main points in the readings, which was helpful.
Great instruction! Calum is really knowledgeable and great at facilitating discussion on topics that needed more explanation. Also very committed to making sure office hours were helpful and worked with everyone's schedules.
Calum is the best GSI and teacher I have had thus far at Michigan. I feel very lucky to have gotten to take a class with him as he is extremely intelligent, understanding, and kind.
Calum was an excellent GSI. He was able to present the material clearly, and explain any concepts that were unclear. Students will be lucky to have him as a Philosophy Professor in the future.
Calum is the best instructor that I have had at this university and it's not even close. He proposed thought provoking questions that engaged students, cleared up any misunderstandings about material that we had and was always available outside of class to explain material.
great

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
N/A
I don't think I would change anything about this course. Sometimes the readings went over my head, but I gleaned enough to get by.
I would probably want the discussion sections to be longer!
A recording of the full group part of discussion would be nice, but I of course understand the privacy concerns that come with that.
The course should have two discussions a week and shorter lectures.
more support and help with the initial problem sets. given the asynchronous lecture style it was easy to not really engage with the material to the fullest extent
N/A
NA
great

University of Michigan

Winter 2021 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 444-003: Groups & Choices

Calum McNamara

10 out of 25 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6	4.7
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	7	1	2	0	0	0	4.8	4.3	4.6
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.6	4.7
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.4	4.7
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	6	1	1	2	0	0	4.7	4.1	4.4
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	1	2	7	0	0	0	3.2	2.9	3.2
How did you participate in this course? (SA=Attended most synchronously, A=Attended most asynchronously, N=Attended most in person, D=Attended some in person and some online) (Q1854)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	6	2	1	1	0	0	4.7	4.4
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	7	1	2	0	0	0	4.8	4.6
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8

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Written Comments

How did the teaching techniques (e.g., certain technologies used, specific approaches to testing and assignments, asynchronous or synchronous teaching methods, instructor flexibility, class interaction, small group work, other teaching methods) of this course serve the aims of this course/ or serve your learning in this course? (Q1872)

Comments
Calum was amazing! He was super down to earth and knowledgeable about all class material. In office hours, he was always willing to help and created a really kind and supportive environment. The course was really new material to me as a non-philosophy or econ major, but Calum was always super willing to help and made it a lot less daunting :)
Discussion was always effective at discussing what is relevant in the course that week. Coming to office hours to discuss problems sets or the paper is also EXTREMELY beneficial and Calum did a great job at clarifying confusing questions.
Homework-like problems to go over in groups
Discussion was interesting and effective
Small group work with assignments related to that week's homework were really helpful. Also, I enjoyed being able to discuss in small groups the topics for the day before moving into a much larger discussion.
The groupme helped a lot and even breakout rooms were beneficial.
The explanations of class problems were very effective and greatly helped me in doing problems and understanding concepts.

Given your experience in this course, what teaching techniques do you think the instructor should continue to use in the future (e.g., certain technologies used, specific approaches to testing and assignments, other testing methods, asynchronous or synchronous teaching methods, instructor flexibility, class interaction, small group work, other teaching methods)? (Q1873)

Comments
Maybe being a bit more strict about the readings since some students didn't consistently do them (though I totally understand that this was a function of the class structure not Calum!), sometimes that impacted our discussions negatively because people weren't really able to participate well.
Breakout rooms in discussions with direct questions
Instructor flexibility and small group work
I would not change how the sections were conducted
the device used so that we could see what you were writing on your tablet, small groups discussions before big group discussion. Class interaction was incredibly helpful as well as office hours
Groupme and breakout rooms
Each of the techniques should be continued. Using the tablet for drawings should certainly be used again if anything is virtual.

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was really great! Couldn't have asked for a GSI. Really advanced my knowledge of groups/choices and game theory.
Calum was a great instructor
Quality was very high
Calum is a great GSI! He helped students focus on the areas of the course that most interested them and was very kind throughout the semester.
Calum has been by far one of the best GSI's I've had during my time at Michigan. He was extremely eager to discuss the material with the class, to have us all understand before moving on, he encouraged everyone to participate and I felt comfortable asking questions and being wrong about certain topics. Calum was also keenly aware that this was a tough semester for a lot of us, so he was willing to extend deadlines and he was very quick at responding questions via e-mail.
Calum wanted every student to learn as much as possible and get as much out of the course so he was open to any comments anyone made about the content. He made the content easy to understand and interactive.
Absolutely amazing, thank you!
Calum was essential in my understanding of this course. When lectures or readings were unclear, I knew I could count on him to clear things up

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
I'd hope for higher student participation, but this is just a reality of zoom classes :(
N/A
I have no complaints
Not at all
This course worked very well as is.

University of Michigan

Fall 2020 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 340 002, PHIL 340 002 - PHIL 340 012

Calum McNamara

17 out of 26 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	10	7	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.6	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	9	6	2	0	0	0	4.6	4.2	4.1
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	10	7	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.5	4.6
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	9	6	2	0	0	0	4.6	4.4	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	8	6	1	2	0	0	4.4	4.1	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	6	11	0	0	0	3.3	2.9	3.0
How did you participate in this course? (SA=Attended most synchronously, A=Attended most asynchronously, N=Attended most in person, D=Attended some in person and some online) (Q1854)	16	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.7

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	14	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	15	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	17	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	16	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	7	5	5	0	0	0	4.2	4.3
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	13	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	10	7	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.5
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	13	3	1	0	0	0	4.8	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	14	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	13	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	13	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.7
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	13	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	11	5	1	0	0	0	4.7	4.7

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Written Comments

Given the format of the course (e.g., fully online, in-person, etc.), what teaching methods worked well? (Q1855)

Comments
I liked whole-class discussions the best. Sometimes breakout rooms acted like echo chambers.
discussions and breakout rooms
Fully Online
Breakout discussions helped me solidify my understanding while talking with my peers
I liked the discussions we had in smaller groups, especially with a prompt to help guide our discussions. They were sometimes a bit dry depending on the group but I thought there were helpful.
I think the synchronous sessions worked great. It was a discussion, and to have a discussion, you need students talking in the same conversation. From this class spawned some worthwhile conversations.

What were the greatest challenges to your learning in this course format? (Q1856)

Comments
N/A
NA
Grasping a few of the concepts in the beginning
Staying engaged when not physically in class
Definitely the online format itself, it's really easy to just turn your camera off and not pay attention, and online classes generally had me less motivated.
Not being up on the material. I put this course on the back burner many times to focus on technically-loaded engineering courses, and wouldn't be prepared for discussion because I didn't do the readings or attend lecture.

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
This section was taught with passion and Calum regularly expressed his interest in helping us learn. Thoroughly enjoyed the course.
I thought the discussions we had during section were thought-provoking and interesting
It seemed like Calum tried hard to make section engaging for us and adapted to our feedback. He definitely came up with some interesting exercises and discussions. He also seemed like a friendly person which encouraged me to participate more than I would have otherwise.
Calum is an excellent GSI and made class interesting and active.
Calum really made this course very interesting. He brought up and made us think about abstract concepts that taught us concepts beyond the course material. I always appreciate when I am able to connect other course work to a class, and Calum's activities and discussions allowed me to do this. Overall the quality of instruction was amazing.
Calum was by far the best teacher I've ever had. He's super nice and interesting. He really cares each student, and gives great feedback on how to improve.
Interactions were pretty high quality. Breakout discussions forced everyone to engage, and Calum did a good job of requiring students from each breakout to share (so it wasn't the same people every week)
Calum was awesome! I can tell he tried his hardest to get us to think more in-depth about the topics we covered in lectures, which helped our understanding of the material a lot.
I think Calum taught this class amazingly. He was always clear in his explanations, and was able to spawn some amazing conversations. Going to discussion definitely increased my interest in this subject.
Quality of instruction was great. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the discussions and occasionally participating as well. Calum always seemed to have something new to add to discussions whether it was a concept, or his point of view.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
The exercises and debates were fun. I would do more of those, but in some cases the breakout rooms didn't feel super productive. It'd just be an echo chamber or me and one other person going back and forth with everyone else muted and cameras off. So, I'd do more whole-group things.
NA
I wouldn't change anything. Calum was great!
Difficult question – but I noticed that many students didn't say anything sometimes, and conversations became dominated by a small few students. To combat this, splitting up the discussion into breakout rooms and then assigning a "representative" in the group to give a contribution to the class when breakout rooms closed. For example, if there were 20 students, split into groups of 4, have the GSI choose a student "rep" from each group, and when breakout rooms close, have each "rep" explain the topics their group talked about in the breakout room.

University of Michigan

Fall 2020 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 340 003, PHIL 340 003 - PHIL 340 013

Calum McNamara

14 out of 22 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	8	5	1	0	0	0	4.6	4.6	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	5	6	3	0	0	0	4.2	4.2	4.1
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	10	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.5	4.6
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	9	4	1	0	0	0	4.7	4.4	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	5	6	3	0	0	0	4.2	4.1	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	5	6	1	0	1	3.3	2.9	3.0
How did you participate in this course? (SA=Attended most synchronously, A=Attended most asynchronously, N=Attended most in person, D=Attended some in person and some online) (Q1854)	14	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.7

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	12	0	1	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	10	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.7	4.8
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	13	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	7	4	3	0	0	0	4.5	4.3
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	11	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	8	6	0	0	0	0	4.6	4.5
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	10	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	11	2	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.6
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	13	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	11	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	11	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	13	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7

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Written Comments

Given the format of the course (e.g., fully online, in-person, etc.), what teaching methods worked well? (Q1855)

Comments
breakout rooms most of the time, occasionally they were too long
Great online discussions. Liked the breakout rooms and small tasks to work on in groups (ex: puzzles).
The break out rooms monitored and facilitated by Calum.
Discussing in breakout rooms worked well
I think Calum did a great job with integrating breakout rooms into the discussions. We then reported back to big groups. I felt like it was such a great space for critical thinking and analysis of the topics that we were discussing. I do not feel like the quality of discussion was lessened in any way because of the online format
breakout room/class discussions worked well and as expected.
Group discussions/activities
The course was fully online, so it helped me to attend class regularly.
Online

What were the greatest challenges to your learning in this course format? (Q1856)

Comments
being able to always participate in discussion may not be possible with the time frame so another way to participate also if not comfortable talking on a certain topic or did not have enough time to
There were times when I was in a distracting environment which prevented me from participating.
I have difficulty paying attention with online classes, but Calum was ensure to engage us in such a way as to deal with that problem,
Finding the motivation to go to online class
Personally for me I miss the in person interaction, however, I feel that this course was still run very well with this online format.
N/A
Engagement
It was often difficult to pay attention as I was feasibly distracted by my environment (off-line).
Focus, retention, motivation

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum is the best GSI that cares so much about his students. He always made himself available to talk outside of the class if need be, which was extremely helpful on occasion. He also really made sure students understood content and talked about relevant material in discussion.
I really appreciated detailed comments provided for papers and friendly and considerate responses for questions.
The quality of instruction was outstanding. Not only was Calum a great instructor, he seems extremely passionate about the subject and brought in a lot of interesting outside knowledge that made the course more enjoyable.
Calum was exceptional at not only driving engagement by refreshing our understanding of the material before asking compelling questions, but then also by participating with us in breakout rooms to make sure we were staying on topic and that we were asking the right kinds of high level questions about the prompts by meeting us where we were.
Calum was a very good GSI and I could tell that he was very knowledgeable and passionate about the subject and it made me more willing to participate. He was also very understanding with us which helped a lot during these weird coronavirus times.
Calum was a great GSI for this course. His knowledge of the material was such a great asset for discussion and I really enjoyed every session. I liked how he was able to integrate other works into discussion to supplement the material. I also really appreciated how willing he was to help student learn and push the analysis of the material. Calum was also very willing to meet with students outside of class which I also appreciate. Overall, I feel that Calum was a excellent GSI that really cared about his students and the material he was discussing.
Calum did a great job handling this class in the midst of a pandemic. He clearly wanted to help students when he could and was open to feedback/ways he can make the experience better for us. He was also able to spark new and insightful conversations in section when conversation died down and worked as an effective moderator.
I felt like this discussion was led in the most efficient way possible. It's really hard to stay engaged in an online discussions, but Calum did a good job of encouraging us to participate in a fair and respectful way.
Good!
Instruction was well managed under the current health and political circumstances. The instructor was always prepared and enthused about the course. He encouraged students to participate and challenged them to think analytically about the class themes.
Calum was good

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
keep it up!
Not really. The course structure has improved over the semester.
The only change I would make to this course is to speed up the pace. Breakout rooms are great but there can be a lot of wasted time. It might be better if these small discussions were shorter, and if there was a focus on covering as much material as possible.
There is not much I would change in the course.
I would've liked it to be in person but obviously, that was not an option.
I wouldnt
N/A
Maybe a bit more discussion on the class material/readings and difficult topics from them.
Wouldn't!
N/A
N/A

University of Michigan

Winter 2020 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 250 003 - PHIL 250 004

Calum McNamara

14 out of 25 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	6	6	2	0	0	0	4.3	4.5	4.6
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	6	5	3	0	0	0	4.3	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	8	3	2	1	0	0	4.6	4.5	4.7
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	8	2	2	2	0	0	4.6	4.3	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	5	6	2	1	0	0	4.2	4.1	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	2	3	9	0	0	0	3.3	3.0	3.0
How did the unexpected change to remote course format affect your learning experience in this course this term? (SA=Very Positively Affected, A=Somewhat Positively Affected, N=No Effect, D=Somewhat Negatively Affected, SD=Very Negatively Affected) (Q1840)*	0	1	3	9	1	0	2.2	2.4	2.3

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	12	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.6	4.8
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	12	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.7
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	14	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	5	6	2	1	0	0	4.2	4.2
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	14	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	4	6	1	2	1	0	4.0	4.4
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	7	7	0	0	0	0	4.5	4.5

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	9	5	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.5
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	14	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	13	0	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.6
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	13	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	14	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7

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Written Comments

What teaching methods worked well? [e.g. videoconferencing; asynchronous interaction; etc.] (Q1841)*

Comments
Constant update emails and help/advice from Calum
Videoconferencing
Calum did a great job of hosting online office hours for us to ask questions before our online midterm. This was really helpful since the transition to online was challenging.
Zoom worked well.
Having a discussion question and then an open discussion helped a lot.
Live discussion were a good opportunity to discuss complicated course concepts and learn from others
Online meetings seemed to work well
Calum utilized zoom to facilitate his discussion sections and did a wonderful job of trying to keep students engaged.
Videoconferencing
The projects were interesting, as well as in class exercises

What were your greatest challenges in remote learning for this course? [e.g. internet connectivity; personal motivation; managing life stresses; etc.] (Q1842)*

Comments
Not having the chance to discuss about the material with GSI and peers
Managing life stresses
Discussions weren't as meaningful online
I think some of the challenges for this course lie more with the lecture than the discussion section. Our discussion ran mainly smoothly, and Calum made a great effort to keep our conversations flowing.
Online discussions were hard because students didn't participate as much.
The fact that this section of the course is widely based on discussion, our course went from a lot of participation to very few. I appreciated that Calum encouraged us to turn on our video because it allowed us to be more engaged.
Losing in person discussion made it much harder to talk with others and have small group discussions
motivation and stress
Trying to participate in a large group discussion over zoom can be difficult as many students don't care to participate since they can turn their camera and sound off while still being accounted for in the class. It was clear that Calum struggled a lot to get conversations started not by any fault of his own, but because online learning made the class a lot more uncomfortable and therefore discouraged student participation. Participation was never an issue with in person discussion sections with Calum.
Personal motivation
Motivation to attend class

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Excellent. Would have him as my GSI again. Definitely.
Fun discussion. Calum always encouraged me to think a lot, which was good.
Calum was a great GSI and I really enjoyed our class discussions.
Calum is a great GSI who cares a great deal about his students. He is very approachable and very responsive on email.
Calum did a great job of leading introspective and engaging discussions. He seems to have a thorough knowledge of the field and was always able to bring up interesting and relevant outside material into class— such as certain philosophical problems and books. He is very accessible, and definitely seems to want all of his students to succeed and interact with the material. He is a great guy and I would recommend him to anyone!
Calum was an amazing and excellent teacher. He encouraged participation and allowed us to engage in topics that we were interested in. He provided a strong philosophic perspective and allowed all students to feel included, valued, and heard.
Though the course itself was a little disorganized in its purpose, Calum did a really good job conveying the material in an effective manner and staying organized—I would say more effectively than it came across in lecture. I also really appreciate the extra time he was willing to put in to answer questions outside of lecture, and facilitate conversation despite it sometimes being difficult to do so (both online and in class).
Calum was super awesome! We had great class discussions and I learned a lot from him and my classmates. He created an open, inclusive environment where everyone could participate.
Calum was one of the best graduate student instructors I've ever had. It was clear throughout the course that Professor Manley may not have been the most organized or clearest instructor to teach under, but Calum never let that disrupt his own teaching style and ability. I was genuinely interested in attending this discussion section because of Calum's kind, inquisitive, and insightful way of teaching. His knowledge of philosophy was easily visible to students and he shared this knowledge in unique and authentic ways as he weaved philosophical concepts into discussions as they came up.
Calum was awesome and probably the reason I was able to bear with the class. He made discussion interesting and always went above and beyond to make sure everyone was on the same page understood the material.
Calum was friendly and passionate and extended the topics of the class well – he encouraged discussion but sometimes gave too much of his own opinion / struggled to get other students to speak.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
Trying both going over material + discussion which Calum did very well!
Incorporate slides but keep it in an open-circle discussion format would be better
I think it's fine! Although I won't be taking another philosophy course—the teaching is fine, the students are very odd.
Nothing :)
I think discussions could have been a little more interactive, with perhaps activities that focus on our individual impacts and discussing things like that to inspire students to make changes relevant to EA at an individual level (calculating our individual carbon footprints, etc.). I also liked it a little better when we would discuss in small groups and then talk in the big group because that made me and I'm sure other students more comfortable to share, and it actually encouraged more discussion. But overall this was a very interesting topic and course!
Requiring some sort of participation may have encouraged more participation in remote access.
The worksheets were very helpful! More structured sheets or assignments to break down class concepts through group work would be helpful.
If I could change this course, I wouldn't change anything about the discussion section, but rather would improve the lectures and make the readings more concise so that the learning in this course wasn't so disorganized and messy. I probably learned the most from this course during section. I wish Calum was responsible for creating and administering lectures because his teaching style is more palatable than Manley's.
I've never taken a philosophy class before this, and I'm sure a lot of philosophy is discussing people's viewpoints, but I feel like it wasn't really related to what we were learning in lecture and what about be on exams. So maybe some more lecture review or things like that would be helpful.
I would have in-class discussion, even in lectures and I would remove multiple choice from the exams

* Due to the unexpected shift to remote instruction, questions 1840, 1841, and 1842 were added to all end-of-term Winter 2020 teaching evaluations.

University of Michigan

Winter 2020 Instructor Report With Comments

PHIL 250 005 - PHIL 250 006

Calum McNamara

10 out of 24 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	7	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.5	4.6
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	7	3	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	4	5	1	0	0	0	4.3	4.5	4.7
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	4	5	0	1	0	0	4.3	4.3	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	2	6	1	0	0	0	4.1	4.1	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	3	6	1	0	0	3.2	3.0	3.0
How did the unexpected change to remote course format affect your learning experience in this course this term? (SA=Very Positively Affected, A=Somewhat Positively Affected, N=No Effect, D=Somewhat Negatively Affected, SD=Very Negatively Affected) (Q1840)*	0	1	2	6	1	0	2.2	2.4	2.3

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6	4.8
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.7
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	6	1	2	1	0	0	4.7	4.2
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	7	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	3	5	2	0	0	0	4.1	4.4
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	7	3	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.5

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	7	3	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.5
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	7	3	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.6
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7

The medians are calculated from Winter 2020 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are lower division with enrollment of 16 to 74 in Division of Humanities in the College of LS&A.

Written Comments

Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher.(Q2) (Comments)

Comment
- He was a wonderful GSI! Truly made such an effort to better the lives of the students and to make the class more fun and understandable.

What teaching methods worked well? [e.g. videoconferencing; asynchronous interaction; etc.] (Q1841)*

Comments
Zoom for discussions works well and Prof Manley and Calum were really good about helping with the transition with extended deadlines and kindness extended towards students who were having a rough transition
Although I didn't attend many of the bluejeans meetings for discussion, I felt the model was sufficient for the times I went.
video-conferencing
I did like the ability to watch the lectures at any time and the option to increase the speed of the teaching. I think online communications were generally clear as well
Zoom videoconferencing.
Videoconferencing worked well for the discussion sections. Being able to see others on video helped to retain the discussion environment. I feel that asynchronous interaction would have made the experience less valuable by interfering with effective listening, so videoconferencing was the way to go, in my opinion.
I liked teleconference section but I thought zoom would've been better than blue jeans because breakout groups would've rectified our lack of small group discussion.
Calum was great with the weekly videoconferencing but the work load shifted and we had less graded material, so essentially the grade we had before COVID-19 was going to be our final grade.

What were your greatest challenges in remote learning for this course? [e.g. internet connectivity; personal motivation; managing life stresses; etc.] (Q1842)*

Comments
Internet was tough for me because at home I do not have a solid computer and router.
Personal Motivation and Mental Health Issues.
technology overall
Maintaining progress with the lectures (especially because I often opted for using the regular lecture time to work on other classes), staying on track overall. The online format of testing also decreased my personal motivation to prepare, which definitely made the outcome less than what I know I am capable of. Though I prefer to hear and speak to people in real time, I also felt that videoconferencing (among my other classes) did make it harder to speak as it was difficult to tell when somebody else was going to say something, making it hard to speak up.
Lectures were pre-recorded, we did not have the opportunity to interact with the professor/ attend lectures directly.
My greatest challenges in remote learning for Phil 250 came from a lack of clarity on the part of the main professor surrounding lecture and expectations. Calum did a great job of managing the transition – he was very clear all the way through and always provided us with as much information as he had to give. With specific regard to discussion section difficulty, the only issue I encountered was it felt a little less personal over videoconference than in real time, but I'm not sure what more Calum could've done to correct that.
Personal motivation, Manley not posting lectures on time so me not noticing when they finally got posted.
Definitely struggled with the online video chats. Calum was excellent at making the effort and trying to make the best of the awful situation, but these chats made people less inclined to participate and truly ruined discussion. the time became a waste and it was just Calum talking because everyone had their screens off and likely were absent.

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was the best GSI I have ever had for a course. He is brilliant, and his knowledge of mathematics and philosophy gave an interesting spin to the course. He was interesting, kind, creative, attentive, and passionate. I wish that everyone had a chance to have Calum as a GSI, and I feel very lucky that I do.
Calum McNamara has by far been the most qualified and focused GSI I have learned from. By allotting majority of our discussion time for open dialogue—while prompting subjects when necessary—Calum created a classroom model that was enlightening and exciting to attend. Alongside his rounded understanding of the course material, Calum often supplements our discussions with related philosophy outside of the course that prompt us to think more contextually about the content. In regards to student well-being, Calum remained approachable and intentional about our health and situation. This is especially true in light of the mental health implications of social distancing. Seriously, this guy deserves an award.
Very intimate and relaxing environment. Didn't feel the pressure of a giant lecture.
Super nice, respectful, and probably the most interested (in the subject) GSI I've ever had.
Calum was one of the best graduate-student instructors I have had here at the University of Michigan. He is kind, understanding, helpful, and understands the subject matter immensely. Calum was always willing to help; whether that be through prompt emails or zoom conference calls. He even created extra office hours on a Sunday before a midterm. He explained the material in a way that was easy to understand. Calum had a large impact on my learning, and I would not have enjoyed this class as much as I did if it weren't for him.
Calum struck a good balance between encouraging students to share their opinions in a respectful way in relation to the course content and guiding the discussion to stay on topic. Calum is respectful and knows the course content well.
Calum was overall a fantastic instructor. He provided valuable feedback one-on-one for midterms as well as project work. In the group setting, he did an awesome job of conducting discussion when it was dragging at times. He encouraged us to come with questions, which I felt was a strong attempt to get students to enliven discussions instead of him attempting to steer us in that direction himself. In that way, I felt he did an effective job of guiding discussion instead of directing/leading it.
Calum was the best graduate student instructor I've had at michigan because he used his section not only to reinforce course material but to make it interesting and relevant.
Calum was the backbone of this course. He was the one who would help us understand the readings and decipher what Manley was saying in lecture. The lectures were hard to follow and Manley was very unclear as to what he was talking about, so Calum cleared that all up for us.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
I would give a couple of homework assignments to more evenly distribute the weight of the grades.
I wouldn't
More interactive lectures, lectures more focused on specific topics.
I think there could've been more communication between Professor Manley and the GSI's, especially during the transition to remote learning. At times, it was unclear when/if we were having lecture and what the expectations were for the entire course going forward. Of course, I don't know if this was one-sided or if it was a mutual lack of communication. Either way, it would've been helpful if Calum had reached out to us when Manley didn't, just to say that things were to be determined.
Make units/chapters connect to each other a little bit more explicitly.
I would definitely change the lecture style entirely. Manley used bare bones, skelton slides that would have random unexplained graphs on them, so when referencing the slides for exam prep, they meant very little. Very little information was provided outside the lecture so your notes needed to be extremely detailed, which was hard because half of what Manley was saying was a nonsensical tangent. Manley's test were on wildly different ideas that what he would propose in lecture or from the readings, so studying for the test was essentially doing outside research and learning a ton of new material.

* Due to the unexpected shift to remote instruction, questions 1840, 1841, and 1842 were added to all end-of-term Winter 2020 teaching evaluations.

University of Michigan
Fall 2019 Instructor Report With Comments
PHIL 305-002: Intro Formal Meth
Calum McNamara

17 out of 24 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University- Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	10	6	1	0	0	0	4.7	4.5	4.7
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	7	7	2	1	0	0	4.3	4.2	4.4
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	11	4	2	0	0	0	4.7	4.4	4.6
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	7	6	4	0	0	0	4.3	4.2	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	5	5	3	3	1	0	3.8	4.0	4.2
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier) (Q891)	0	4	12	1	0	0	3.1	3.0	3.1

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	14	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6	4.7
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	15	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.8
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	15	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.6	4.7
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	16	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to additional questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	6	8	3	0	0	0	4.2	4.1
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	14	2	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	10	3	0	0	0	4	4.9	4.3
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	12	5	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.4

Responses to additional questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	13	4	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.4
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	14	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	15	1	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.5
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	15	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	10	6	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.7

The medians are calculated from Fall 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 16 to 74 in Division of Humanities in the College of LS&A.

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was encouraging, patient, and kind, and was always willing to help his students. He was very prepared every discussion, approachable when people had questions, and responded promptly to emails.
Calum is the best GSI I have ever had in this school. He made everything easy to understand and helped his students so much with the homework and just basic understanding. He was very compassionate and was very approachable when it came to asking questions and not understanding. I cannot say enough how helpful he was in this course. Hopefully, I will be able to take a class with him again.
Calum was an exceptional GSI. There was a big range in our class regarding the knowledge of the subject matter amongst students, and he catered the material to us so that it was both encouraging to those who were struggling, and challenging to those who knew the material well. very responsive, clear, and supportive when students asked questions. Also showed clear enthusiasm for the material which made it significantly more engaging.
Calum was an amazing GSI! He explained the material extremely clearly, and was always open to thought provoking questions that delved deeper into the material than we went over in class. He was always happy to answer, look into or supply us with additional material that added a lot to the course, and was more than willing to meet outside usual times to discuss concepts related (and unrelated) to the course.
Having Calum as a GSI is the only reason I've had a chance at even passing this course. I typically found the lectures and readings confusing, but I attended section for this class religiously because I knew everything would make a lot more sense after Calum explained it. He was extremely kind and understanding and genuinely cared about our success in this class. He also had a thorough knowledge of the material and explained challenging concepts clearly. He is definitely one of the best GSIs I've had as a student at Michigan.
I absolutely loved Calum and enjoyed coming to discussion section. Discussion section for most classes is more of a chore but Calum made section engaging and very interesting. We covered some of the philosophical considerations of what we were learning in class, which was great, and had a lot of very productive discussions and arguments during section that were both informative and entertaining to partake in. Calum did a great job of helping us both practice the types of problems we were being evaluated on as well as gain an appreciation for the material and why it is important/how it can be applied in interesting ways. He also help very productive office hours and additional study sessions for the exam which was very appreciated by the abundance of students who would come to learn from him. Calum is clearly extremely passionate about the material, is very knowledgeable, and enjoys teaching/wants us to succeed which is the absolute best combination of characteristics to have in a GSI and educator of any kind.
Calum was excellent! I could not have asked for a better GSI. His office hours were instrumental and he used discussion sections to truly help us understand the material better, as well to help us see the importance of what we were doing. He would go to great lengths to help, including sending worked out problems over emails. He was very available and kind.
Calum put a lot of effort into discussion sections and office hours to make sure that students understood difficult topics and were able to complete homework assignments. He is an excellent GSI.
Calum was easily one of the best GSIs I've ever had here at Michigan. He is willing to work with all of the students and help them understand the concepts that they are struggling on. He was really helpful and receptive when I asked questions or was really struggling with a concept.
Calum is an amazing teacher.
Calum is hands down the best teacher I have ever had. Hire this man if you have any sense.
Calum is the best GSI in a philosophy class I've ever had, and I've had quite a few. If people like him will be teaching philosophy it would become a widely attractive and popular academic discipline (once again)
Calum was a great instructor and was very helpful during office hours. He took the time to know each student individually, as well.
Calum did a fantastic job; he's a nice guy and a great teacher, really made class enjoyable.
The discussions were a good mixture of applying the material we learned and talking about deeper, more philosophical issues relating to what we were learning. These were effectively balanced because Calum did an excellent job determining how much we needed to practice applications compared to how much we wanted to dig in to the philosophical side.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
n/a
Having the grade be 80% very difficult homework assignments has been rough. I think the addition of a midterm that mimics the final and is a bit easier than the homework might have been helpful.
Calum it seemed usually had more ambitious plans for the short 50 minute section than could realistically get accomplished, which of all the problems to have is a very minor one. In the future better time management would be helpful but that's all I can think of, Calum was fantastic
I wouldn't change much, but perhaps it would be helpful to start discussion sections with 5 minutes of basic review of either (1) the overall concepts discussed or (2) necessary formulas/definitions from lecture. Sometimes he did that and it was great.
The only problem with the class is that the lecture doesn't really give a lot of examples of how to solve the homework and instead does a lot of conceptual information. It can be interesting but made it hard for me to do the homework so I went to a lot of office hours to ask Calum to better explain the books.
Make sure Calum is in charge.
I would want to have more time during discussion section! An 80-minute discussion section would really benefit the course, rather than just 50 minutes.
Less time on group work – it felt like sometimes we spent a little too long working on questions in groups, and didn't get to go over all of them as a class.
I think having consistent groups throughout the course would have encouraged us to talk to each other more when working on the practice problems, since there were times when most people were working on their own instead of in groups.

University of Michigan
Fall 2019 Instructor Report With Comments
PHIL 305-003: Intro Formal Meth
Calum McNamara

10 out of 23 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University- Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	6	4	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.5	4.7
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	7	3	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.2	4.4
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.4	4.6
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	6	4	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.2	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	4	4	2	0	0	0	4.3	4.0	4.2
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier) (Q891)	1	3	6	0	0	0	3.3	3.0	3.1

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Calum McNamara was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6	4.7
Calum McNamara seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	8	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.8
Calum McNamara explained material clearly.(Q199)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.6	4.7
Calum McNamara treated students with respect.(Q217)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to additional questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
I participated actively in class discussion. (Q160)	8	1	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.1
Students in this course were free to disagree and ask questions. (Q223)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7
Writing assignments were returned promptly. (Q325)	7	1	1	0	0	1	4.9	4.3
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.4

Responses to additional questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Calum McNamara put material across in an interesting way. (Q205)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.4
Calum McNamara appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject. (Q207)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8
Calum McNamara was sensitive to student difficulty with course work. (Q211)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.5
Calum McNamara acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)	10	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7
Calum McNamara encouraged student participation in an equitable way. (Q244)	9	1	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.7

The medians are calculated from Fall 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 16 to 74 in Division of Humanities in the College of LS&A.

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Calum was hands down one of the best philosophy GSIs I have ever had. Calum is always very understanding and patient when I do not comprehend a topic fully. And while he is obviously brilliant, he always tries to present the material so that even a student that never attends lectures can understand.
Calum is a great instructor. He always went above and beyond to offer help in and outside of Office Hours. Additionally, is knowledgeable about graduate schools and broader topics in Phil.
Calum was an incredibly supportive GSI. The course material was often difficult, however Calum really helped students understand. Calum's passion and enthusiasm for philosophy made it a pleasure to learn from him and motivated me to want to learn. Calum was very accessible and willing to meet with students to assist their learning. Students (and teaching) are clearly a priority for him. I would recommend Calum to any philosophy student at U of M.
Calum was the best GSI I have had at the University of Michigan
Calum was the best GSI i have ever had.
Calum did a very good job of being available when we needed help and was very receptive to our needs. He was dedicated to tailoring the course to the needs of the students which is vital to develop an understanding of the subject matter.
Calum is a very nice guy who often described material in an interesting way. He definitely could have understood the material of the course better though, and been more quick to have the right answers, and know the answers well.
Perfect
Calum was personable and always willing to help. He was receptive to questions and sensitive to hardships students were enduring in class. I remember one day in office hours before a problem set was due for the class, one student started quietly crying because they were frustrated by the problems. Given that the room was full of students, Calum did not make a scene of any sort, but rather he tactfully addressed the student and helped them understand what was going wrong in their homework specifically, explaining how to approach the problems and acknowledging that they were difficult. With a little bit of assistance on the problem and reassurance that it was perfectly normal to have difficulty with the questions, the student stopped crying and continued to work. Overall, I think that Calum is one of the most humble and understanding GSIs I have had for a class. If he made a mistake on the board when explaining something he was the first to admonish himself and admit to his errors. He would always be fine talking after class about problems we had or just general philosophical topics that interested us.

How would you change this course? (Q907)

Comments
I would not change a thing, I think that the course is well–run and well–structured.
Overall, I thought it was very easy. Perhaps add a paper or something to have a more tangible takeaway from the course.
Practice assignments in section helped improve my knowledge of the subject.
If this course could be made any more interesting or feel any more relevant to our lives, that would be wonderful.
I generally liked the structure of the course, perhaps more of the open–ended philosophical questions to discuss in section time would be good. I thought those were very fun to debate about and to discuss as a class. While the questions which were about the material were good for doing the work, I would have liked more philosophical discussions.