



Spring 2017 - Comment Report for Robert Howton

PHIL 0452 - THRYS KNOWL & REALITY/WRIT LAB - 1100 - Credit Laboratory

2174 - Teaching Survey

Total Enrollment 18

Responses Received 10

Response Rate 55.56%

Subject Details

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| DEPARTMENT_CD | PHIL |
| CAMPUS_CD | PIT |
| SCHOOL_CD | ARTSC |
| CLASS_NBR | 27861 |
| COURSE_NUMBER | 452 |
| SECTION_NUMBER | 1100 |

Report Comments

Responses to open-ended questions

Creation Date Wed, May 17, 2017

Your lab instructor would like to know if there is something you believe he/she has done expecially well in teaching this lab section.

| Comments |
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| I like the presentations on the course readings every Tuesday, I thought they were very helpful in reiterating the material learned in lecture. Has a way of communicating such complex concepts in a simplified and easier to understand manner. Overall enjoyable class, will succeed if you put in the effort. |
| Setting the class a week ahead of the readings was helpful. |
| Explaining concepts as many times as necessary, being open to students' questions and challenging their assertions, helping to edit papers, |
| I thought Robert did almost everything well. The lectures were slow and methodical (which was great since there were so many specific terms to learn) and the lab discussions were very helpful. Overall fantastic teaching in my opinion, compared to my average class. |
| Encouraged interesting discussions |
| You are incredibly knowledgeable about all of the subjects we covered, and philosophy as a whole in a way which is invaluable. You're willingness to answer questions, and you're approachability is great. I loved that you emphasized the fact that we had a writing section, and gave days dedicated to helping us learn to write. Your feedback on papers was also very helpful. |
| He uses great examples to help us comprehend the subject more. He also raises interesting questions to stimulate discussion. He is very kind and respectful of everyone's answers and understands everyone's limitations. Overall very great professor. |

Your lab instructor would also like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve the teaching of this lab section.

| Comments |
|--|
| Less peer editing, not nearly as effective as comments from instructor. |
| I enjoyed the writing sections where we explored general writing styles. Proofreading and peer editing was helpful, but I feel I got the most out of activities like exploring the structure of a paper or the function of a paragraph. |
| The explanations, for an introductory-level class, can be a little confusing and use too much philosophical jargon, but he always answers questions for clarity. |
| I thought the peer writing review days were a little unnecessary. It was good practice, but attendance on those days were lackluster and I felt that my peers were often as confused as I was on how to improve the paper - the instructor feedback was much more helpful. Perhaps add required attendance for those days and give a rubric maybe to help others peer edit more effectively. |
| I think it's clear that you know people need to be asking more questions because the content of the course is quite in-depth, which is great, but I think it's daunting enough that students are holding back questions for fear of admitting what they don't know. Looking back on it, I think group work might be a good way to get people discussing more comfortably. Once students feel more comfortable with each other I think they'll be more open to asking more questions and freely discussing. |
| None at the moment. |