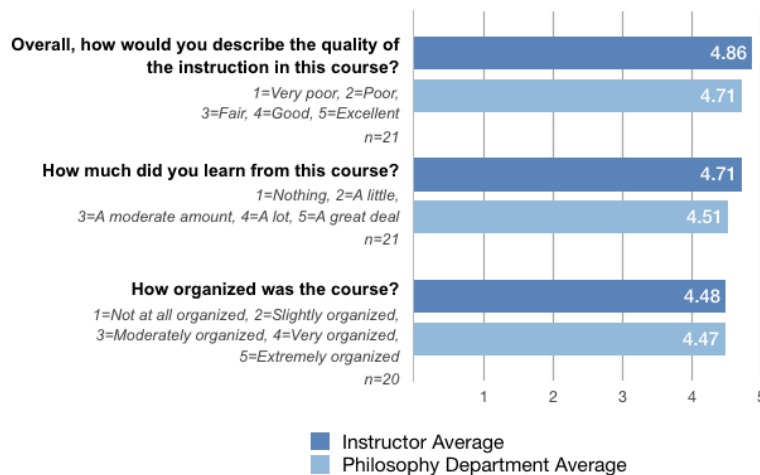


# Teaching Evaluations

Todd Karhu

## Contemporary Moral Problems (Online, Stanford University, 2020–2021)

*Contents: Normative Ethics, Applied Ethics, Political Philosophy*



What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future? All comments are subject to Stanford's Terms of Use for Sites. Answers to this question will be viewable by other students, as well as instructors.

(18 comments)

1. Prof. Karhu is the best! Highly recommend; approachable for students who've never taken a philosophy class before.
2. I would HIGHLY recommend taking this course. Professor Karhu is a wonderful instructor. He is brilliant, but he is also extremely kind and thoughtful with this students. He works hard to make everyone feel included and heard, and he positively respond to all students' input. But he also helps students to think more deeply about their own opinions on these issues. One of the best instructors I've had.
3. This is a great course and Todd is a great instructor
4. Absolutely take this course with Todd Karhu! Most rewarding class I have taken at Stanford.
5. This is a really great intro to philosophy course. The topics of discussion are super interesting and Todd is a very engaging/personable lecturer.
6. One of the only classes where I look forward to the readings. I would advise not getting overly stressed about not understanding every intricate detail of every argument in every philosophy paper you read for this class. As long as you get the broad strokes, you're set. I really appreciated how much Todd and Dan (a) pushed back on my perspective in a way that made me a stronger philosopher and (b) made me feel safe to share even the most half-baked, hair-brained thoughts.
7. This is an absolutely fantastic course. It was my first philosophy course, and I would highly recommend to those who are trying to dip their toes into the deep pool of philosophy. I learned a tremendous amount of very practical and relevant moral problems, and I came away from the course with a much better understanding of the field. The workload is also very reasonable, and the teaching staff is incredibly supportive and provided a crazy amount of feedback on papers. I really felt engaged with the course, and that the teaching team cared for my thoughts. And this class takes care of a WAYS! I can't recommend it enough!
8. It has been one of my favorite classes at Stanford.
9. This is a very interesting class. You will not come out of it with definite answers to the moral questions being discussed, but your mind will stretch and grow as you grapple with them. Also, you'll learn interesting frameworks for discussing the moral permissibility of certain decisions/actions. The topics and readings are all very interesting and Todd does a great job explaining the concepts. A lot of the class is based on discussions with classmates.
10. This course is amazing -- highly recommend to any student in any major!
11. Amazing and engaging course!! Definitely recommend taking it, you will learn so much about relevant problems and potentially come to firmer stances about them through the readings and discussions.
12. This course was very interesting. The class is very relaxed, and Karhu likes to make the class structure more of a conversation than a lecture. He readily incorporates students, and that was very appreciated. I would say that this class is great for all class years. It truly allows you to look at topics that you may have little insight into initially and eventually create a clear position through reasoning. Also, it introduces topics that may not be as talked about but that are very much prevalent and interesting such as euthanasia and human enhancement. Lastly, I think the professors and TA's can really make the class, and Todd and Dan did a great job at incorporating students into the conversation. Also, they were very open regarding office hours and emailing about any questions.
13. THIS IS AN AMAZING CLASS. Prof. Karhu is probably the most passionate person I've met who is always open to new ideas in discussion and sparks wonderful debate. Class meetings seem to whiz by because he truly knows how to introduce topics that will get the class thinking about their everyday life. While I do wish I had taken an introductory philosophy course before this one, I nonetheless had an invaluable experience. If you want to be able to discuss moral issues you'll face in your everyday life or when reading the news, TAKE THIS CLASS.

14. Highly recommend this class to any Stanford student, especially if it's with Todd! I think you're almost guaranteed to come out of the class with different or more nuanced opinions on relevant issues (abortion, death penalty, war, etc). I used the class readings to procrastinate my other work because they were always so interesting.
15. Todd is amazing - he does a fantastic job of making sure the dense philosophical content is both accessible and interesting! He really does love to hear everyone's perspectives, and I found myself speaking up in lecture to contribute my thoughts even though I'd never taken a philosophy course before.
16. Love the class!!! Everyone should take it
17. Honestly one of the best courses I've taken at Stanford. Discussion topics are interesting and the readings are doable. Best part is there's no silly busy work involved e.g. writing weekly reflections on the readings. Instead, you can do the readings simply to understand their content rather than being distracted by the need to write up a summary or reflection. The three essays are also relatively short and allow you to choose the topics you'd like to write about.
18. Take this course with Todd! He makes moral philosophy very compelling and easy to understand, and it is evident that he has a genuine passion for philosophy as a discipline.

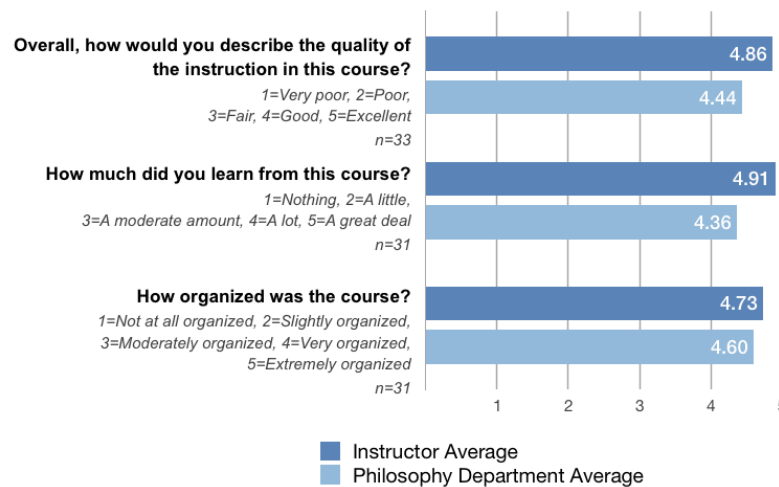
**Would you like to provide any other comments about this course?**

(6 comments)

1. Use powerpoints instead of white board.
2. N/A
3. This class is truly so well taught. The teaching team is extremely compassionate, understanding, and show their passion about moral philosophy. This course is one of the best courses offered at Stanford.
4. I loved the way that it was so discussion-based with students being able to speak up and voice any thoughts they had about the material. I also think that it would be helpful to provide students a bit more guidance on how to write effective philosophical papers for their exams (ex. how to not argue by assertion only, making sure your arguments make sense, other stuff you look at during grading, etc.)
5. It was a great course! Very glad I took it.
6. This course was insightful and full of great content. One piece of feedback for improvement would be that it was very difficult at times to read what was being written on the board during lecture and it would have been helpful to have daily content prepared digitally or in a different manner for readability purposes. Also, much of the class was dependent on participation and while I was able to fully participate in breakout rooms, I do not feel my contributions were reflected back in the main room with everyone there as it would be intimidating and uncomfortable to speak up when some other students were constantly speaking and taking up space.

# Contemporary Moral Problems (Stanford University, 2019–20)

*Contents: Normative Ethics, Applied Ethics, Political Philosophy*



(10 comments)

## Q: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

- 1 If Todd Karhu teaches this course again, you must take it. This class was the first and only philosophy class that I found all-around interesting the whole time. Todd is a marvelous instructor, patient and attentive to his students' opinions. I loved the course content and the opportunity to discuss really interesting moral problems with my peers. This class is a fun course, which not all Stanford courses are...
- 2 Absolutely take it. Todd is an absolutely wonderful discussion leader and the topics are fascinating -- one of my favorite classes I have taken at Stanford for sure. Any class that makes you look at the world differently and question your beliefs is un-missable.
- 3 Take this class! Todd is a wonderful professor. He clearly cares about all his students and wants to share his passion for philosophy with them. The issues we discussed are relevant to our everyday lives and each class will make you rethink your intuition about moral issues.
- 4 Take it!!!! You will learn so much from this class, especially if you've never taken a philosophy class before. It's worth the confusion in the beginning (and once you get passed being intimidated by everyone else sounding smart you can do some really high level thinking and engage in some really cool discussions).
- 5 Take it! Its my favorite course!
- 6 This is a wonderful course! The syllabus is exceptionally curated to expose students of any academic background/comfort with philosophy to key analytical frameworks in philosophy as well as very relevant concepts in modern discourse (abortion, animal welfare, economic equality, euthanasia, etc.). This is all largely due to Todd, who is a skilled moderator and lecturer, not to mention a very kind and friendly individual.
- 7 Highly recommend, great low commitment intro to philosophy and Todd is great.
- 8 This was a great course. Todd is a superb teacher and the class discussions are really great.
- 9 Todd is an excellent instructor. He makes the classroom a safe and inclusive environment to share thoughts. He is accepting of everyone's opinions, without being overly accommodating. He is also really funny and a wonderful person to talk to. I fully recommend any class that he teaches!
- 10 Please take. Todd Karhu is an amazing

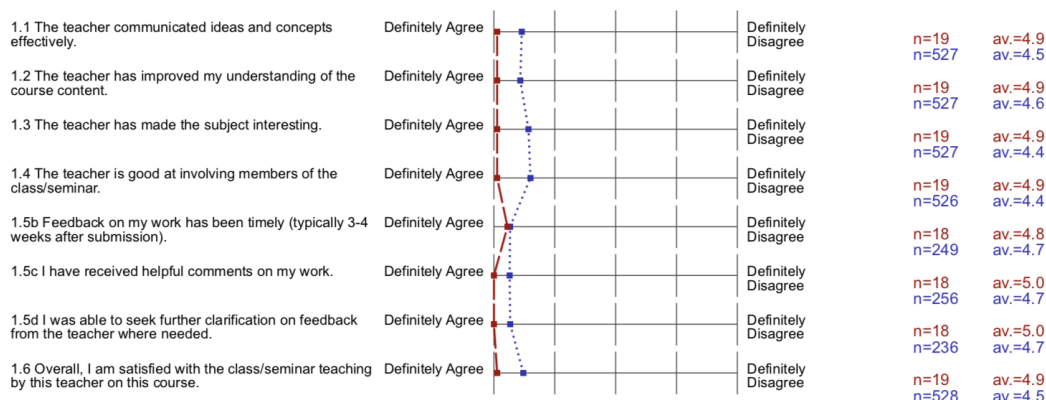
(2 comments)

## Q: Would you like to provide any other comments about this course?

- 1 I absolutely loved taking this class with Professor Todd Karhu. Each meeting was stimulating and refreshing. I am lucky to have learned from him.
- 2 Thank you Todd!

# Philosophy, Morals and Politics (London School of Economics, 2018–19)

*Contents: Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Political Philosophy*



Compilation: Instructor (Todd Karhu)  
Comparative line: Philosophy Classes 2018-19

1.7 Please comment below on aspects of this teacher's class/seminar teaching you think were particularly helpful.

- Best teacher I've ever had
- Does very well in getting all members of the class involved, and ensures everyone understands the key concepts.
- Explains arguments very well, makes course extremely engaging, includes everyone in the class.
- He is really good at involving class members and he's very enthusiastic
- His ability to engage the entire class in discussions
- Legend, explains stuff clearly, very passionate about subjects and knowledgeable. Always ready to debate/challenge views or explain when needed.
- Makes his own notes, clarifies tough concepts before going into discussion.
- The handouts he gave were very helpful and he explained complicated concepts in a way that was easily understood
- The method by which key arguments and concepts that underpin each topic were explained in an intuitive and useful way.
- The teacher engages with both the students and the topics well, clarifying any issues that arise well.
- Todd explains the concepts of the week really clearly and makes sure we all understand before moving on. He uses his own intuition to pick out the most difficult parts of the readings for the week and focuses on those in class discussions which I find really helpful as sometimes the discussion questions given don't focus on the difficult concepts enough. He is very good at involving people and keeps class discussions comfortable, I don't feel anxious as he doesn't pressure anyone for answers if they don't know, which some of my other class teachers do. He also expands on any lines of thought given in the class so clearly knows his subject matter very well.
- Todd is very engaging and explains everything in an easy and accessible way without losing any of the complexity of the idea he is discussing. His feedback on the essays were very helpful and extensive. Further, they arrived well before the standard 3-4 weeks. He is, without a doubt, a very very good teacher.
- Todd is very good at involving members of the class by varying between open discussion and small group discussion by way of handouts. He also has strengthened my understanding of core concepts by frequently rephrasing and reiterating points/arguments in different ways
- logical explanation of some key concepts and arguments
- makes difficult concepts easy to understand, very helpful when I don't understand something, good handouts

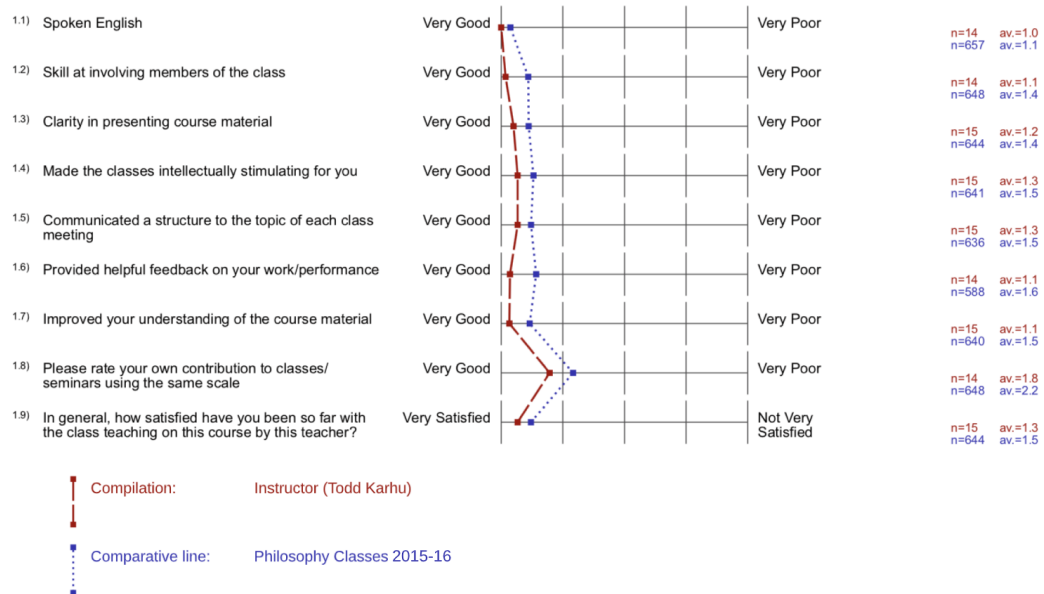
1.7b Please comment below on aspects of this teacher's class/seminar teaching you think could be improved.

- I like the smaller group discussions we do in class as they allow me to discuss ideas before presenting them to the whole class so it would be good if classes had more of those.
- N/A
- No improvements come to mind, the best teacher I have had at LSE to date.
- Nothing



# Philosophy, Morals and Politics (London School of Economics, 2016–17)

## Contents: Normative Ethics, Political Philosophy

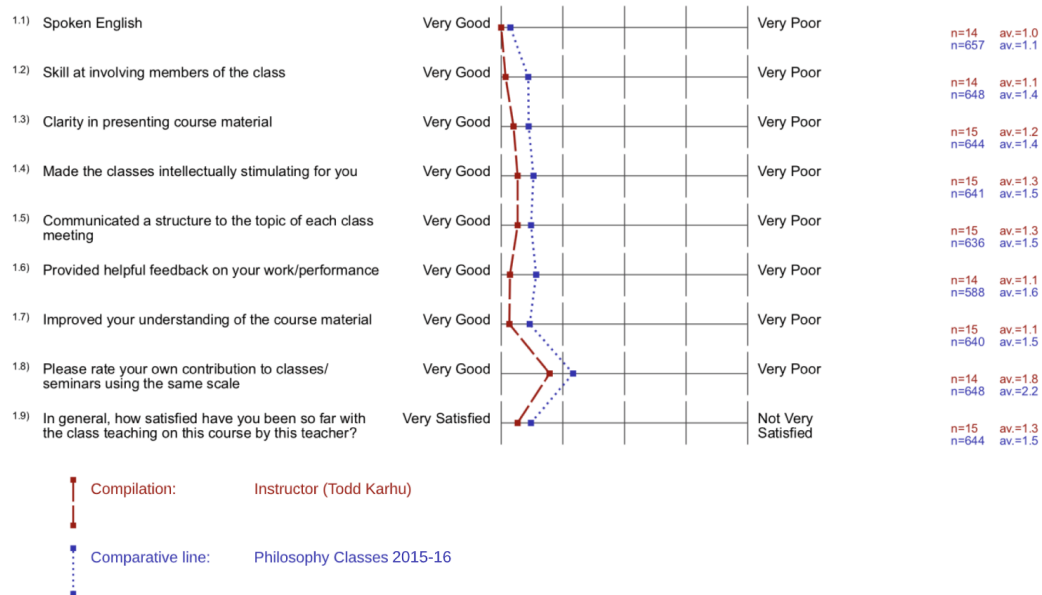


1.10) Please write below aspects of this teacher's class/seminar teaching that you think could be improved and/or aspects that were particularly helpful.

- Clarifies all aspects of lecture notes that lecturer does not.
- Handouts really helpful!
- Not enough time for class teacher to go through everything.
- Great and knowledgeable.
- Love it!
- Office hours are brilliant, classes are terrifically informative, essay feedback was wonderful. Top marks for Todd.
- Handouts
- Helpful recaps at start of class
- His including everyone in classes
- Great teacher really develops our knowledge of the course material. Always gives helpful feedback on work and responds to emails quickly!
- More structure
- Found summaries of lectures and classes very helpful along with handouts
- Get through all class materials
- Essay feedback was extremely comprehensive and useful
- Sometimes rushes through material in class
- Explanation and discussion were very helpful
- Todd's handouts are especially helpful.
- Excellent teaching—nothing could be improved

## Reason, Knowledge and Values (London School of Economics, 2015–16)

*Contents: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Applied Ethics*



1.10) Please write below aspects of this teacher's class/seminar teaching that you think could be improved and/or aspects that were particularly helpful.

- The email before class is extremely helpful especially for a target reading
- Very good at clarifying material, makes classes enjoyable
- I really enjoy how the class is structured around a set of questions as it allows us to follow a pattern each week and helps me stay focused and up to date. Perhaps a five-minute summary of the main ideas of the reading should be given by the teacher each class for further clarification.
- Particularly helpful—class discussions are very engaging.
- I loved it!
- Good analogies, makes classes fun and the subject matter easy to understand
- The best class ever!
- I don't like group discussions personally. But maybe it's a good way to engage more students to participate.
- The class is very engaging. Mr Karhu is particularly good at involving everyone in the discussion. His feedback for the essays is instructive and clear.
- Really enthusiastic and gets the whole class involved, explains and clarifies everything very well, very good teaching.