





# Stanford University

## Winter 2021 Section Feedback

**Course:** W21-PHIL-165-01/W21-PHIL-265-01: PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICS  
**Instructor:** Zachary Hall \*  
**Response Rate:** 14/18 (77.78 %)






### 1 - In what way did you interact with this instructor most?

Zachary Hall

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
In section meetings	(1)	6	54.55%					
In lab	(2)	0	0.00%					
During office hours	(3)	4	36.36%					
Via a class website	(4)	0	0.00%					
Email	(5)	0	0.00%					
In class	(6)	1	9.09%					
Other	(7)	0	0.00%					
				0 25 50 100				
				Response Rate				
				11/18 (61.11%)				





### 2 - During the quarter, about how many hours on average per week did you interact with this instructor in section, class, lab, office hours, and other meetings?

Zachary Hall

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
1	(1)	2	20.00%					
2	(2)	4	40.00%					
3	(3)	1	10.00%					
5	(5)	3	30.00%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median		
10/18 (55.56%)				2.80	1.62	2.00		





### 3 - How much did you learn from this instructor?

Zachary Hall

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
A great deal	(5)	8	72.73%					
A lot	(4)	2	18.18%					
A moderate amount	(3)	1	9.09%					
A little	(2)	0	0.00%					
Nothing	(1)	0	0.00%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median		
11/18 (61.11%)				4.64	0.67	5.00		

### 4 - Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this instructor?

Zachary Hall

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Extremely effective	(5)	6	54.55%					
Very effective	(4)	4	36.36%					
Moderately effective	(3)	1	9.09%					
Slightly effective	(2)	0	0.00%					
Not effective at all	(1)	0	0.00%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median		
11/18 (61.11%)				4.45	0.69	5.00		

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### 5 - What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve from this instructor?

#### Zachary Hall

**Response Rate** 6/18 (33.33%)

- I was able to improve my understanding of class readings and structure my essays better.
- Thinking about physics philosophically, modern physics, critical/focused reading of course material, writing a strong philosophy paper
- My understanding of space and time was greatly improved, as well as my ability to think critically about philosophical texts!
- Clarity of thought, and reasoning and being able to really distill what I learn from readings. All incredibly useful.
- Philosophical thinking, History of space-time
- Debates in absolute space, time, and motion.

### 6 - What aspects of this instructor's teaching were most helpful to you?

#### Zachary Hall

**Response Rate** 8/18 (44.44%)

- I really liked the visual examples that were used in discussion and the interactive nature of the discussions. It helped me engage with the material we were learning and understand the physics behind our readings better.
- Aspect 1: Section mini-lectures/Q&A Aspect 2: Office hours availability/openness to discuss all aspects of the course Aspect 3: Focused/detailed recaps of lectures & course material
- Zach is very passionate and knowledgeable about the topic. Also, Zach is quite responsive in emails and always providing quality responses.
- Zach was patient with his students, helping them to formulate ideas on their own. He made sure his students were always engaged and forming the critical thinking skills they need.
- Aspect 1: Incredible attention to detail Aspect 2: Willingness to go above and beyond in terms of meeting to discuss material
- Asks good probing questions during discussion, Comes up with relevant and easy-to-understand examples for complex ideas, Very approachable
- Great idea using some of the section time to brain storm the papers! Keep doing it. Your email availability for questions and willingness to read drafts is incredible. Great job using section to iron out a lot of the complicated content from lecture. Just overall great experience.
- Zach is to be lauded for being extremely on top of the course instruction: graded papers very quickly, had very well prepared section plans, and answered student questions with great responsiveness. Overall, he was a remarkably dedicated TA, who put in a lot of effort into the instructional duties. Terrific job!

### 7 - How can this instructor's teaching be improved?

#### Zachary Hall

**Response Rate** 4/18 (22.22%)

- Zach was very helpful in office hours, and responded to my many emailed questions! He was available for me, and staying as such, I don't think he can get much better!
- N/A
- While I am sure some of my classmates will come up with some things, I can't think of any particular improvement. Zach is a very well practiced, reliable, solid TA.
- I think Zach can improve on being a bit more approachable. He can come off as a bit abrasive, not in a malicious way at all, but just in a way that is somewhat unwelcoming. To be specific, sometimes he cuts off students abruptly or responds to them in a mildly antagonistic/acerbic manner. Also, sometimes the questions Zach asked in section could be phrased a bit more precisely; I know there were several instances in section followed by very long pauses because folks didn't altogether understand what was being asked.