

Stanford University

Fall 2025 Section Feedback

Course: F25-PHIL-102-01: MODERN PHILOSOPHY
Instructor: Zachary Hall *
Response Rate: 19/29 (65.52 %)

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)	16	84.21%	<div><div></div></div>	
In lab	(2)	0	0.00%		
During office hours	(3)	3	15.79%	<div><div></div></div>	
Via a class website	(4)	0	0.00%		
Email	(5)	0	0.00%		
In class	(6)	0	0.00%		
Other	(7)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	
Response Rate					
19/29 (65.52%)					

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)	9	47.37%	<div><div></div></div>	1.79
2	(2)	8	42.11%	<div><div></div></div>	
4	(4)	1	5.26%	<div><div></div></div>	
5	(5)	1	5.26%	<div><div></div></div>	
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate				Mean	STD
19/29 (65.52%)				1.79	1.08
					Median
					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)	7	36.84%	<div><div></div></div>	4.26
A lot	(4)	10	52.63%	<div><div></div></div>	
A moderate amount	(3)	2	10.53%	<div><div></div></div>	
A little	(2)	0	0.00%		
Nothing	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate				Mean	STD
19/29 (65.52%)				4.26	0.65
					Median
					4.00

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	31.58%	<div><div></div></div>	4.11
Very effective	(4)	10	52.63%	<div><div></div></div>	
Moderately effective	(3)	2	10.53%	<div><div></div></div>	
Slightly effective	(2)	1	5.26%	<div><div></div></div>	
Not effective at all	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate				Mean	STD
19/29 (65.52%)				4.11	0.81
					Median
					4.00

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

Zachary Hall

Response Rate	12/29 (41.38%)
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- Great TA who really cares about your learning and wants you to succeed. Grading was harsh, but gave super helpful feedback and lots of support to help you improve.
- Improving a philosophical paper
- Zachary was quite available to meet with me outside of section and gave wonderful advice and feedback on writing philosophy papers which I appreciated a lot.
- I learnt how to write a philosophy essay, i.e. what components are the most important, and what register to write in. Zachary was very helpful, and I am thinking of taking more philosophy courses as a result.
- Helped me understand philosopher's opinions
- Zach helped me a lot with Kant and Leibniz and pushed me to be a better writer.
- Zachary Hall was entirely responsible for what I feel was my most important take away from the class: structuring and presenting philosophical arguments. His feedback and assistance through the process of writing my first paper, submitting a rewrite and the final paper was invaluable. I also learned a great deal about the subject material of the course, particularly Kant: his ability to break down tough concepts in section and present otherwise alienating arguments was exceptional.
- Expressing our views and talking to each other
- He helped clarify a lot of things from the readings about Kant, Hume, Berkeley, etc.
- Breaking down/understanding difficult philosophical texts
- Zach was an awesome TA! He was super constructive with paper feedback and also in section. Sections were very engaging and discussion-based. He very much took into consideration our preferences for what we wanted to discuss, but sections never felt unstructured or unorganized. I really liked engaging with him and the other students in my section. He would also contribute really positively to lecture discussions, often adding bits of information or connections to other thinkers, and I often found that very helpful. Sections were well-connected to lecture and readings, but never redundant. I always walked out understanding more than I did before and more clearly. He often used handouts with bits and pieces of the text that we could discuss with our neighbors and as a group which I also really liked. I found my writing become more concise, more focused, and more organized with him as my TA.
- Writing a philosophy paper

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

Zachary Hall

Response Rate	13/29 (44.83%)
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- I liked how our discussion sections went in whatever direction made sense for a given day.
- Interactive sections Paper feedback
- I. Talking through ideas on course material, both in section and in outside-of-section meetings. II. Giving us handouts with additional readings and information on them for reference during section.
- Detailed feedback, willingness to meet to discuss and clarify feedback, care for student!
- Aspect 1: gave me feedback for papers
- Very available and always willing to talk after class/section; Provided meaningful essay comments and was willing to let you rewrite which helped my learning a lot; very knowledgeable on Kant
- His explicit instruction on structuring arguments in essay feedback. His identification of and presentation of difficult concepts from reading and lecture. His ability to tie in other thinkers and subjects in discussions.
- Very engaging in section, made it easy to voice thoughts, and would help with parsing through those thoughts and reworking them.
- Clarification of tricky things we talked about in lecture Discussion of specific concepts/passages Open to questions
- He picked out relevant themes and passages from the reading to go over in section. He was very approachable and knowledgeable.
- rigorous, charismatic, responsive
- Availability and feedback in 1v1 office hours Organized section activities and discussions Really welcoming disposition that made me feel like no question was a bad question; he really encouraged engagement and deeper understanding with these difficult materials
- Feedback

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

Zachary Hall

Response Rate	10/29 (34.48%)
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- Would be great if he could do dedicated sections to prepare for the quizzes
- N/A, cannot think of anything.
- If I hadn't reached out for help I might never have spoken with Zachary, but in this respect Zachary does intentionally send announcements encourage students to schedule meetings with him.
- Aspect 1: less harsh grading, walkthrough on how to write a philosophy paper
- Zach is a good TA, not really much; maybe have slightly more structure for discussions but the end of the year was much better in terms of structure.
- The only thing I can think of is maybe a little more attention to some jargon used at the start of the quarter. I know the class isn't just frosh/intro, and the issue was very minor but offering explicit definitions for a few terms of art in the first few sections would be nice. This was very minor.
- Make sure you're always intelligible (as best as you can)
- Zach was really helpful overall. The only thing I would've also liked is if he drew / mapped out concepts on the whiteboard more.
- organization, less jargon
- n/a, great TA