

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

LSFY 101.13 Wisdom in Ancient Thought - Fall Term 2014

DEKE GOULD

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COMMENTS ARE MADE BY STUDENTS ON THEIR QUESTIONNAIRES. WE HAVE MADE NO EDITING OR SELECTING OF COMMENTS. ALL TYPOS ARE AS WRITTEN.

I really loved this class and the professor who taught it. There were not any vocal reminders about the online forums so I forgot them every now and then. However, other than that I had no problems with the class.

You have almost completely changed the way I think for the better. You encouraged us to think about things on our own, to generate our own responses and answers without your aid. Because of your effects, I am now able to leave my bias behind me and really listen to others' views and points, even if I disagree with them. I am now able to formulate better and more compelling arguments.

You teach as though we are your equals and you encourage us to challenge the ideas you present and to express ourselves freely. This is wonderful exercise for years to come at a Liberal Arts institution.

All in all, you are a magnificent professor and I wouldn't change a thing. Actually, I would listen to you lecture on the process of paint drying.

I would say that maybe toward the beginning of the term it was difficult to grasp writing my own arguments—or at least it felt that way. And you seemed to have that mindset that everyone should and therefore does understand what you understand, so I would say for non-philosophy students, maybe being patient in that regard and helping a little more on the first paper. After that it got super easy—just at first!

I loved the philosophy part of this class, but sometimes it felt like I came to class for no reason but that I liked it. The[sic] were no tests, so notes were unnecessary to pass, so I stopped taking them, and just came to enjoy the class. Honestly, stopped doing the reading because we were never tested and he just gave us answers in class. Taking his class next time because he's a cool dude.

I thought you taught the class very well the only thing I would say to fix is to try to explain the objection and reply section of the papers. I felt like that was hard to understand what you wanted.

I think we should have focused more on writing skills and how to improve them. This course is supposed to be a writing course, but we focused a lot on philosophy and not a lot on writing.

I really liked that you wrote out notes on the board. That definitely helped me with the logic information you taught. I also liked how you gave real world logical arguments and wanted us to find what was wrong with them. You challenged our thoughts in ways I have not thought about

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before, and this improved my papers the most. I also liked how you designated a time for general questions in the beginning of class.

The course should be set up for students to be successful. Grading on papers is very harsh and damages the students' overall grades which places them in somewhat stressful situations. Papers should be explained more thoroughly. It is not evidently clear what the instructor is looking for in papers. Students may feel like they understand what the instructor is looking for but after papers have been submitted and graded, it is evident that the instructor may have been looking for something else that was not clearly stated before.

Going into this course I was unsure about what to expect, but know[sic] I have a greater understanding and respect for philosophy and the Liberal Arts. This class has made me think about things that I have never thought about before and it has challenged me.

I thought this class was very interesting and useful, but I am not a big lecture person nor am I a great focused person therefore at times thought the class was boring.

I am personally not interested in philosophy, but I was still able to see the value of what he talked about and how it tied into a liberal arts education. Overall I thought Deke was a very good instructor.

One of my only complaints from this class was that, while we learned how to connect logic and sound arguments to our daily lives, none of our papers allowed us to use our newfound logic skills in this way. Writing every single paper on ancient Greek philosophy, while still beneficial, was not always as enjoyable or applicable as more modern issues and topics might have been. Otherwise, this was a surprisingly rich class and I appreciate how you were able to make normally nebulous topics accessible.

I thought this class was interesting, because of the material and how it was mostly discussion based. I also liked how we learned logic in the beginning of the course, and frequently did logic warm-ups in class. This, I thought, really helped advance my writing skills.