

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
 Blaesi, Zachary A PHL317K 42420
 B100 BASIC

COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY
 INTRO TO PHILOS OF THE ARTS

Fall 2017 DEPARTMENT COPY
 Grade-eligible enrollment = 147
 Surveys Returned = 89

	NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE					NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	0	4	5	37	43	89	4.3
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	1	6	31	51	89	4.5
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	1	3	8	40	37	89	4.2
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	2	20	35	32	89	4.1
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	1	2	30	56	89	4.6
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	5	9	41	34	89	4.2
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	1	3	7	24	54	89	4.4
8 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	1	6	14	37	31	89	4.0
9 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	4	4	18	32	31	89	3.9
	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
10 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	4	15	28	42	89	4.2
11 OVERALL COURSE RATING	2	6	31	23	27	89	3.8
	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
12 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	1	16	66	6	0	89	
	Less 2.00	2.00-2.49	2.50-2.99	3.00-3.49	3.50-4.00		
13 OVERALL UT GRADE POINT AVERAGE	1	2	8	37	41	89	
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>		
14 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	<u>53</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	89	

For the computation of averages, values were assigned on a 5-point scale so that the most favorable response was assigned a value of 5 and the least favorable response was assigned a value of 1.

COMMENTS:

Total Number of Comments: 35

1. Prof Blaesi is very engaging and well-prepared for class: it's clear he takes the time to really understand the readings/materials before teaching them
2. Zach is so nice!!
3. Fun class that talked about complex topics. However, Zach made sure to help us understand each topic.
4. Professor Blaesi was a very thorough professor. He explained every topic very well and was receptive to questions.
5. good i guess
6. The course itself could've been interesting but I believe it was muddled in its message with the way the information was presented. The quiz grades everyday were annoying, especially because even though I would read thoroughly, sometimes the readings were dense and complicated and my grande suffered as a result.
7. the course was unorganized and i was unsure of what we were learning. the grading scale was unfair, as i got points taken off without being given an explanation why.
8. Zach was a great professor. He seemed to be very interested in the course material and did a good job of explaining the concepts in his lectures. As I have never taken a philosophy class before and struggled with some of the readings, he always used examples in class to help clarify the topics. The readings sometimes felt long and confusing, and the clicker quizzes were sometimes difficult even when I had done all of the readings, but overall, the grade distribution was fair and the course load was an appropriate amount. He was available with office hours which was helpful when I needed help since I wasn't used to writing philosophy papers. Zach was very nice, understanding, and did what he could to help us understand the concepts.
9. Great class taught with a lot of dedication by Blaesi. Impressive for a PhD candidate run class!
10. The course material was very interesting.
11. Zach Blaesi is very knowledgeable about both philosophy and art and obviously brings his own intellectual curiosity and passion to the class and its subjects.
12. Pros: - Much of the reading was fairly interesting, and the readings provided relevant perspectives on the material discussed in class. - The accompanying video clips and in-class screenings were helpful in understanding other perspectives on the issues being discussed. Cons: - I could certainly tell the instructor was passionate about the subject matter, but I think he could do a better job of convincing us to also be interested, maybe by making the lectures more engaging. - Most lectures were simply discussing the readings. I think it might be better to have an overall lesson plan which incorporates the readings as a component of the lecture, but not the whole thing.
13. Very good professor, great information taught. A little unorganized sometimes, but overall very opening and welcome to students and allowed for a lot of creativity. Also very accessible, even opened up discussions and held extra lectures and added extra optional readings for anyone who wanted to learn more.
14. Though I will receive a VAPA credit from this course, I am very disappointed that I will not also be receiving a writing flag. For this class, we were ONLY required to write papers. We had in-class iClicker questions most of the time to check for attendance but other than that, we had no multiple choice tests or projects. I enjoyed that the class was writing based though just to reiterate, it should have been a writing flag (also given our final was a 6-8 page paper).

15. I thought the course was very interesting, and I enjoyed listening to the instructor's presentations. He seemed very well-versed and engaged in the topic material.

16. It would be nice to have a discussion section for the course, or have more opportunities to discuss with peers during class. Also, I felt that the grading was a bit harsh for an introductory class that many people are taking to fulfill university requirements.

17. Zach Blaesi's course has been one of my most enjoyable courses at the University of Texas. His lectures are interesting and informative. The workload is somewhat high, but the readings are resourceful. Zach was willing to work with my accommodations and provide assist on all assignments.

18. Zach is highly enthusiastic about teaching the material of this course and provided a lot of opportunities to engage with students in a large lecture setting

19. Professor Blaesi's class was very cool to take. This was my first semester at UT and I appreciate the learning skills that I obtained while in this class. We had writing assignments and short quizzes, so I never felt too stressed out about this class. Blaesi structures his teaching in a way that encourages learning, whereas some teachers may just lay all of the information out on the table and expect students to absorb it all. With this philosophy class, I was able to retain the knowledge I needed to be successful at my own pace, which I am very thankful for.

20. I really found this course interesting! I've always wanted to take philosophy course and I'm really glad this course fulfilled my VAPA credit. I talked about almost everything in this class with some of my friends who had taken philosophy courses before. I may have never spoken up in the class, but I was fascinated and I think it added a lot to my studies as someone who makes art and participates in art themselves. The class felt very relaxed and not intimidating.

21. Professor Blaesi is dedicated and excited about the work he is doing in this class. Throughout the semester, he was always willing to help and give the best insight he possibly could. Excellent class.

22. This class should have been named the Philosophy of Film, not the Philosophy of Art. The class content was extremely biased towards the professor's own film interests. I feel as though we were not often encouraged to ask questions or interact, and when you would ask questions he would never fully answer the questions. I feel like his course was extremely scrambled. I am appreciative that we were given a final essay and reading responses as our assignments, however because these are what we are graded on I feel like I did not need to attend lecture. I did attend lecture, but I feel like I could just read the readings, write the responses/paper, and never have to show up, save the iclicker attendance quizzes.

23. I love philosophy but the topics covered in this course just seemed like such an awful use for philosophical thinking. I enjoy philosophy when it comes to fathoming why people do things, what makes people act certain ways, and the effects of certain things on the mind along with abstract concepts. But trying to figure out why we like horror movies, what makes art good art, and figuring out if film can be art, come on these topics have simple answers because they are not very philosophical questions. All in all I enjoyed the teacher, he was knowledgeable on the subject, I disliked the way papers were graded in this class due to it taking multiple papers before I figured out what my TA wanted and unfortunately I hated the topics presented.

24. Awesome course. Being the first college course I ever took in college, it was a great way to start my semester. Learned a great deal about a subject I never thought I would never be this invested in.

25. Blaesi is a great instructor. With consideration to his first year teaching, he was able to connect with the students on not just a professional level, but an interpersonal level. He was very knowledgeable in the field of Philosophy of Arts and he cared about the students and their engagement. Philosophy is a tough course to tackle and explain to a majority of non-majors, but Blaesi made it possible through his concise presentations and fluid trains of thought. If there were one thing I would tell Blaesi, I would enforce a no phone or technology classroom, and adopt the "cold calling" style of teaching. This would ensure the full attention of the student and allow the students to respond more positively.

26. Zach made the subject matter very interesting and, though philosophy can be a difficult topic to understand, Zach ALWAYS connected subjects within the course to real life scenarios. Heo?=d always show clips of shows or popular movies that exemplified what we talk about in class, making it so much easier to comprehend. Overall, super fair, funny, and engaging teacher.

27. If you keep up with readings and are fairly interested in the course then doing the work is easy although I began to lose motivation later in the semester as I just seemed to focus on the major essay rather than the class.

28. One of my favorite classes and teachers. I could tell he was really interested in the course and loved to get involved with students. I felt like I actually learned useful information in this class.

29. Zach is a great teacher all around. Very knowledgeable about the subject and passionate about the material. His communication was enthusiastic and fun. Would definitely recommend.

30. I really liked this class. Zach is great, but he might have been a bit too easy on us. I wanted more of a challenge in the course. Overall, each section felt a bit disorganized. However, all content pushed us to consider things in a philosophical sense, something that most don't consider on a day to day basis. Having film at the center of the course was very unique, I'm glad Zach chose something he is passionate and well educated about, it gave the course productive energy. When the professor is excited to teach the material, it makes it a lot easier to be excited to learn it.

31. Zach is a stand up guy. Very understanding and knows his stuff

32. I really enjoyed the videos that Zach showed us to further explain every idea he was teaching us. They helped me understand what the slides were saying more time than I can count. Sometimes I wish we had gone over topics that our major papers were about a little earlier, as Zach often introduced them right before papers were due, with little time for me to apply that information to my work. I also think that sometimes the slides simply echoed our readings, and if we had already done the readings there was not much we could benefit from by going to class (except for the quizzes that we had to be present for). Overall, however, I learned a lot and Zach really encouraged us to get involved in the philosophical ideas and figure out our own side

33. Offers an incredibly clear understanding/interpretation of the material and was always very helpful via email whenever I had questions. Always took the time to ensure I had a sufficient understanding of the readings and gave thought provoking essay topics. The class was very organized and he made complex material easy to follow.

34. It seemed almost pointless to pay attention in class because the powerpoint lectures were never tested. I think it would have been better to go over more about the papers that we were writing or perhaps have homework assignments based on what we learned in class. I also found it more interesting when you would show video examples so that was enjoyable. I think it would be really cool if we had watched, say, The Matrix or something and talked about the arguments behind if that particular film did philosophy, because sometimes I hadn't seen the films that the examples were about. Overall, I enjoyed how passionate you were about the subject but I think the students could learn more from the course.

35. I liked how the Professor made random snide remarks and jokes occasionally. The movie clips and suggestions were nice too. I actually liked watching Funny Games for some strange reason.
