

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
 Blaesi, Zachary A PHL304 41940  
 B100 BASIC  
 SURVEYED WITH: 41945 41950 41955 41960 41965

COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY  
 CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS

Fall 2018 DEPARTMENT COPY  
 Grade-eligible enrollment = 117  
 Surveys Returned = 77

	NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE					NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	0	0	5	22	50	77	4.6
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	1	23	53	77	4.7
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	1	9	21	45	76	4.4
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	2	4	27	44	77	4.5
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	0	3	22	52	77	4.6
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	1	9	23	44	77	4.4
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	1	3	19	54	77	4.6
8 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	0	4	12	25	36	77	4.2
9 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	1	3	4	25	43	76	4.4
	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
10 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	1	11	20	45	77	4.4
11 OVERALL COURSE RATING	2	1	13	20	41	77	4.3
	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
12 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	0	21	47	8	1	77	
	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	9	21	43	76	
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>		
14 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	61	12	2	0	1	76	

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: 39

1. I LOVE Professor Blaesi. He was always available to students, and it was so obvious that he really cared about each and every one of us. He is passionate about Philosophy and sparked student's interests as well. He really worked very hard to make this class the best it could be for his students.
2. Great teacher !
3. Makes the class very interesting and fun.
4. I really enjoyed this class and the professor made everyone feel comfortable expressing their own ideas. My TA was excellent.
5. I took this class to get a flag. I thought an intro philosophy class wouldn't be too much of a load. I was wrong. The prof cares but I just don't have the time or the energy to parse through these arguments and thought experiments at the end of the day. I don't know what I expected but I didn't think I would be having to write as much as I am. I am not well equipped for this course and the instructor doesn't really have a schematic for people who aren't considering philosophy as their future. I do physics not philosophy and all the hand waving is really hard for me to digest. That said, Blaesi really cares about his students but I think it would go a long way to do maybe a crash course on philosophical writing rather at the beginning.
6. I definitely had a problem with the TA's in this course. The grading seemed very unfair due to how the class was set up. It is a 100 point system with virtually no room for error. The TA's are not aware of this when grading, therefore they turn a normally difficult class into an unnecessarily difficult class. On top of that, the feedback was virtually useless for assignments and grades did not come out until 4 weeks later. It was a very difficult class to deal with and I'm not sure if the TA was qualified to be a TA or not.
7. Zach is an amazing instructor. I couldn't ask for a better intro to philosophy professor.
8. This is by far my favorite course that I've ever taken at UT, and maybe even in my entire educational career. All of Zach's lectures were interesting and actually made me want to come to class. He was always open to questions and could always come up with a very well put response. He genuinely cared about his students and took their feedback very seriously. For example, students complained that the assigned readings were too long so he took the time to read through the articles he assigned and cut out all the extra "fluff." I have recommended this course to multiple friends and would definitely take another course offered by Zach.
9. Professor Blaesi truly cares about the learning of his students. He immediately makes it clear that if you want a good grade in this class you can if you work for it. I have met with him in office hours or through email, and he makes sure to respond to my questions fast and effectively. The pace at receiving grading has been a bit slow which is unfortunate when the semester is to a close, and you are waiting on multiple assignments to be graded. However, this was due to unplanned events. I still believe receiving our assignments sooner is something that needs to be improved on in this class. I do appreciate how he was my only professor who took the time to go through our mid-semester evaluation and make minor changes to benefit the whole class.
10. Good professor! Classes were always interesting and informative, although some of the classes didn't seem necessary to complete the assignments at hand.

11. The professor always went above and beyond in his preparation for this class, even though the assignments weren't very difficult to complete (in my opinion). You can tell that he's really passionate about his field and knows what he's talking about. My TA, Emilie, was also phenomenal. She made things easy to understand and facilitated discussion such that everyone was encouraged to participate. I sincerely enjoyed going to class and discussion. I'm also considering changing majors to philosophy!

12. Super passionate about this and very approachable. Great guy.

13. Zach was always prepared for lectures. It was obvious how much effort he put into what he was teaching. You could tell that he was very passionate about not only the material but making sure that his students understood the material well.

14. This class reminded me of the way I was graded in high school. It was never about interpretation of text, but it was about figuring out what was the "right way" to think about something. We'd read articles and write responses, but if we didn't get certain points, it felt like we were wrong. Morality seems very grey, but this class made it seem like it was black and white.

15. This was one of my favorite classes. You can tell that Zach is passionate about what he is teaching and wants students to excel. He does a great job of providing information and optional readings for us! Great class.

16. This was an entirely new class for me, so I struggled a great deal attempting to comprehend the material presented to me. Blaesi did an excellent job handling the material. However he would try and pack a lot of material and many concepts into a short period of time, so very rarely did I leave the classroom feeling confident about knowing what was going on. Overall, though, Blaesi was a superb professor. He picked topics that are appropriate for the time. If I were Blaesi, I would cut down on a few topics so as to allow more time to indulge in the larger ones. For example, I would have loved to study Virtue Ethics for much longer, and then I would have been able to really apply it to other topics in the class. Very good job done by Blaesi.

17. Zach was a good professor, and me coming into this course knowing absolutely nothing about what I was going to learn was awesome because I learned a whole lot. I was able to think outside the box and refute my own opinions and challenge myself. I really enjoyed this class.

18. I really liked the effort he put into communicating with his students via Canvas. He used the platform very well with announcements and links to pdf's and assignments. He extended due dates when needed which helped with my completion of assignments and overall performance in the class.

19. This course was a lot of work, however, I think I drastically improved my writing and thinking skills. Wish I got the credit for a writing flag. If you did the work, which was a lot, and completed it to the best of your ability and received help from the TA, it was possible to succeed in this course. Which is the way it should be.

20. This class has without a doubt been one of my favorites here at UT. The topics discussed were engaging and related to current events. The lecturer reciprocated very well to concerns of students and it was very apparent throughout the semester that he truly cares for his students and their ability to learn and enjoy learning the material discussed in class. It was very clear what was expected of each student in the class and was overall organized very well. I would like to see more of how the ethical issues discussed relate directly to current events so we have a better understanding of WHY we should care, this would make the class even more engaging in my opinion.

21. I feel that this course was a bit unstructured when it came to readings and essays. Personally my TA wasn't always as prepared or available as I had hoped and therefore I felt that my essay grades suffered. I felt that some of the paper topics were clear and were difficult to complete. The final essay was confusing to me and I felt that the prompt and my TA was having trouble explaining to me what I was not understanding.

22. Professor Blaesi is an excellent professor and the course was one of my favorite courses at UT so far.

23. Professor Blaesi is an amazing person. He did a great job presenting both sides to each controversial topic we covered. He was always open to opposing views or concerns. He never seemed to present or express bias or his own opinions, except for on climate change (which I believe he made the right choice in endorsing his beliefs publicly for this topic). He somehow has managed to always be available to his students, he replies to emails super fast, is extremely understanding, cares about our learning and understanding, really wants us to broaden our beliefs and minds, all while being a student himself. He is awesome. This course was definitely challenging in the sense that it required active engagement, but it was my favorite class so far.

24. I thoroughly enjoyed this course. I have never had a professor who has put in so much work and thought into their class. Zach was always available to his students and constantly communicated with us about assignments and topics we would discuss in class. He also listened to feedback from his students and tried to accommodate everyone. When students voiced concerns that the workload was heavy, he did his best to slim down assignments while still giving us important material needed for the class. He also provided multiple opportunities outside of class for extra practice if students were confused. Zach is the most fair and hardworking professor I have had during my time at UT and I would love to take a class with him again in the future.

25. It was an amazing and fun class. Really enjoyed it!

26. This class was a great class for undergraduates, allows for critical thinking, and thinking on your own. The TAs were fantastic at responding to questions, and the professor allowed for class engagement during the course.

27. I really enjoyed the class. I'm not sure how helpful the debates were though. I felt like during regular discussion there was a lot more organic conversation about the topic and I got a lot more out of it personally.

28. Professor Blaesi is one of the most caring, eloquent, inspiring, and engaging professors. It is evident how much effort and time he puts into this course. He has office hours in person and online, his lectures seem so prepared, and he provides so many resources and optional readings for those who want to read more about a topic we briefed over in class. Maybe it is just in the nature of this course, but he makes us think and talk about issues that are uncomfortable but necessary. He also cares about what we think while questioning our beliefs. Most importantly, he teaches us how to carefully determine our beliefs and how to stay consistent with our beliefs.

29. Zach obviously cared greatly about this information - however, the lectures became boring and lacking towards the end of the semester, and often times they only provided us with one side of a belief. That being said, Zach tried everything he could to make it interesting, I don't really know how else it could've been more interesting other than not lecturing everyday, or providing us with some in-class activity or something along those lines.

30. For an undergraduate course, this class was difficult. We were expected to have a basic knowledge of philosophic concepts, despite this being an introductory course. We were told to write in a philosophic style without ever being taught how, and overall I think this class was unnecessarily hard.

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31. Professor Blaesl did a very good job in teaching this subject and it is clear that he is very passionate about moral philosophy and ethics. I enjoyed the class; however, I did not enjoy the workload and, as this is my first philosophy course ever, I found it to be more difficult than I had expected  
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32. Zach was a great teacher. He had engaging presentations and lectures that related well to the content we were learning in class. There was a good balance of reading and material for the course but it was not overwhelming. I liked that he was engaging us in class discussion and using squarecap to help facilitate discussion.  
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33. A really great course. I felt really comfortable expressing my own opinions and Zach was respectful of everyone. Zach is really knowledgeable about the subject matter and I learned a lot. This class has actually changed some of my viewpoints about the world and will influence how I talk about issues and make decisions for the rest of my life  
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34. The instructor was very well informed about the information of this course. He did a great job explaining everything and responding to student questions. The only thing I did not like/ think wasn't helpful, was the slide show presentations- they had too many words and he went through them too fast in class to retain anything.  
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35. The instructor was well versed with most of the topics provided. This class did open my eyes to a world of philosophical debate. Because of this class, I ended up in so many arguments with friends of mine.  
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36. Professor Zach was incredible. He allowed me to change some of my moral views and I truly appreciate him for that.  
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37. Even though I probably did terrible in this class, that is on me. With the readings and discussion group section, I feel as if I have acquired a new sense of the world and a new perspective on ongoing issues happening almost everywhere. Instead of dismissing ideas, I had to research and find stances for both sides of various moral issues and to then debate them more often than not finding myself on the side that I would normally disagree with. Great class.  
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38. Zach has been one of the most dedicated professors I have had at UT. He was always really prepared for each class. Also, anyone could see his passion on the subject, and his ability to make it understandable for undergraduate students. I have never taken a philosophy course, and have now found myself very interested in the topic. Zach went the extra mile for every class, and his effort was evident. This was a great class.  
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39. Zach was chill.  
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