

Instructor James Morton

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS

Fall Quarter 2018
 PHI 117 (001) 43149

Student Evaluation of Teaching



Enrollment 40
 % responding 70

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor				
	5 %	4 %	3 %	2 %	1 %	\bar{x}	SD	M	N
Please indicate the overall educational value of the course. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	15 54%	9 32%	4 14%	0 0%	0 0%	4.4	0.7	5.0	28
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the instructor. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	18 64%	7 25%	3 11%	0 0%	0 0%	4.5	0.7	5.0	28

Please evaluate the instructor and the course in your comments. Be sure to include the following in your remarks: clarity, organization, mastery of the subject matter, accessibility, willingness to help students, and ability to stimulate your interest in philosophy. This evaluation will not be read until final grades have been turned into the registrar.

He is very responsive to emails and providing extra help if needed.

Justin was a good instructor. Very easy to contact and reach out to. The subject matter was not easy but he tried. I would say that there was perhaps too much discussion from the class at times and I wish he spent more time going over difficult concepts. The class discussion was hard to follow at times because only a few people understood what was happening.

One of the best professors at UC Davis. He made the material understandable.

I feel that professor Morton did an outstanding job this quarter. He really communicated well with all the students and organized the class in a way that we can all be successful. He always adjusted very well with the early breaks that were given to students due to the fires that occurred. If Professor Morton taught a different class I would gladly take his other class as well, as it was a pleasure learning from him.

The Professor was great in terms of clarity, mastery of the subject, and interested us in philosophy, however, organization can be worked on.

Dr. Morton is an excellent professor with a profound understanding of the subject matter. I only wish he would incorporate more PowerPoints into his lectures, as they make it easier to retain information, rather than having to depend on word of the mouth.

interesting course; needs more time to go over details in readings

Justin could do with a little bit more organization in class, in that sometimes I feel discussions are a bit *too* open, or go on a little *too* long. He does not enforce raising hands for comments as often as he should, in my opinion. That said, he is clear, has mastery of the subject, very accessible, willing to help students, and stimulated my interest in metaethics to a surprising extent. Overall 4.5 / 5 Justin is amazing.

Dr. Morton was an amazing teacher!! I came into this class not knowing anything about philosophy but he made me feel comfortable and made it simple to understand. The structure of his class was perfect. The discussions we had as a class made the subject matter interesting and clear. He seems very knowledgeable in this subject and is great at sharing his knowledge. I came into this class thinking I was going to be bored and not get anything out of it, but my experience was opposite of that. Dr. Morton made learning enjoyable.

very kind teacher who cares about his students and the subjects that he teaches. would recommend to anyone

Engages students when lecturing even though the material is dry. Does a good job connecting the older ideas with more modern examples so that it is easier to understand.

Very good teacher.

Very knowledgeable , nice professor!

The information was very accessible. The only complaint that I have might be that the discussions in class (not the readings) were not quite as rigorous or in-depth as I'd hoped. But I understand that this probably follows from the fact that there are so many levels of philosophy experience in the class, and the instructor had to try to make the information accessible to everyone

The instructor was well-spoken and well-versed in the material. The class was taught in a clear manner. Powerpoints were well organized. This was my first philosophy class, that being the case, it was tough for me because this was much higher than an intro course. He was very willing to help students in class and during office hours. He was able to stimulate my interest in philosophy, unfortunately, I don't understand philosophy enough right now to appreciate everything that was taught this quarter.

Justin has a great command over the subject and seems to genuinely enjoy sharing his knowledge with the class. He is always enthusiastic and willing to entertain the ideas of his students during lecture.

I've met a number of Philosophers/PHIL teachers and I tend to be very impressed but Justin is on a whole other level. He is my, as well as a number of my classmates' favorite teacher they've encountered at Davis. He is incredibly down to earth/humble yet constantly is able to articulate dense course material in an approachable but also very efficient and educational way.

The assignments were clear and each lecture addressed each reading appropriately. The instructor was clear and very open to helping. He made himself very approachable and was always enthusiastic to teach each topic.

I guess the class is pretty straightforward and the professor's lectures are mainly about readings, he does encourage student participation quite often. his powerpoint slides are very broad, so they're not that helpful.

I thought overall that Professor Morton was well organized and that he is very knowledgeable on the subject matter. I found some of the course material was difficult to understand not because of the Professor's teaching style, but the digression of the other student's questions. Those tangents may have diluted the subject matter with superficial information and it was difficult to retain some of the core content discussed in class.

Dr. Morton is very knowledgeable in ethics and points out a lot of flaws in arguments that students wouldn't have thought of. He also made himself available for students whenever they had questions or just comments about the lecture. Dr. Morton has a very enthusiastic attitude and he is passionate about the class, his students, and the topic. But there are a few improvements that should be made. The class schedule was extremely disorganized even before the complications made by the Butte County fires. We never moved on to other readings as planned and tended to dwell too extensively on certain texts. The topic should be presented briefly and discussion would be prioritized. It would be beneficial to plan out lecture slides and move through class time efficiently because most times class times were not used up well. Dr. Morton values and validates every student's input in class but there was too much emphasis here. A suggestion would be to refrain from allowing the same set of students dominate class discussions and class times- that is what office hours are for. Maybe ask encouraging questions like "what does everyone else think? someone new this time." I feel like class time was devoted to clarifying basic concepts that is a foundation to understanding class readings. It is important to have students understand but class time shouldn't be used for material that should've been pursued before class. Too many thoughts are entertained and validated when it isn't always completely relevant to the discussion or philosophy. He allows the same students to interrupt too often and does not have a firm command of the class. Not clarifying boundaries about what is allowed and what is not allowed is not addressing class etiquette and sets up students for failure for how to respect their classmates and class time. This course has a lot of potential with some adjustments.

Was a philosophy major but switched to minor but made me want to take more classes! Dr Morton was approachable, interactive, and welcoming of varying thoughts and ideas. My favorite philosophy professor, I would definitely take another philosophy class from him.

Fun and engaging lecturer who was able to really get the class to discuss various philosophical topics in extreme depth. Additionally the progression of the materials presented over the quarter was very sensible as topics built on one another.

Dr. Morton is a caring, diligent professor who goes above and beyond for his students. I believe that he has mastered his craft of philosophy, is very accessible with appointments and office hours, and uses real-world examples to make extremely difficult subjects of philosophy more understandable. I am honored to have been his student, and I believe that the UC Davis students following me deserve to be his students as well. He deserves a permanent spot in UC Davis, and to be a full-fledged professor.

Term	Eval Opened	CRN	Subject	Course	Section	Enrollment	% Response
Fall Quarter 2018	11/30/2018 12:00 AM	43149	PHI	117	001	40	70