

Instructor James Morton

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS

Spring Quarter 2019
Selected Evaluations* (2)

Student Evaluation of Teaching



Enrollment 60
% responding 51%

	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)	17 55%	11 35%	2 6%	0 0%	1 3%	4.4	0.9	5.0	31
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the instructor. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	25 81%	5 16%	0 0%	0 0%	1 3%	4.7	0.8	5.0	31

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.

While I felt like James understood most of the material, his class did not provide any educational value. With a class that does not have a final, and everything that happened in class was only worth 10% of the grade it never motivated me to attend class or find a reason to. The writing assignments were also really bad, like an essay the instructor felt shouldn't have been assigned is a good indication that the class hasn't been fully worked out and needs an overhaul or at least a teacher that can accurately say what is expected. For his second essay, he was able to create two unintentionally divide the class on what the papers conclusion was and there's only one conclusion. This was either caused by the instructor not understanding the material they assigned or understanding his students, but they both fall on the instructor.

Best PHI professor at UC Davis. Second time taking him.

really nothing bad to say, discussions were great and I feel like I learned a lot

This is the second course I've taken with Professor Morton. Even though I am not super fond of the informal/discussion style lecture, I think that Professor Morton is, in general, a great person and genuinely wants to help students. He is very friendly to students and is approachable and I personally really appreciated how he would take time to give good feedback on our drafts.

Best teacher at UCD. Very lively and interesting discussions that lots of students enjoy weighing in on. Very good at facilitating conversations and ensuring that every students feels heard and involved in the discussion.

I liked the structure of this course a lot. I think philosophy should be debated not memorized and I felt that was true here.

As an aside, I don't appreciate that clarity, organization, mastery, accessibility, willingness to help students, and ability to stimulate interest are all grouped into a single free-form question rather than the typical excellent-poor bullets. I really enjoyed Justin as my professor. He did a great job in promoting conversation and dialogue about various philosophical/legal topics, and his class format was very unique and open which I enjoyed. He is open and willing to discuss whatever with students, and the one time I went to office hours he had many students he was ready to talk to. Justin never strictly asserted his own opinions and promoted all opinions, no matter how controversial. The organization of the class was the only questionable aspect as some classes were canceled due to outside issues (even if I was personally cool with it).

Professor was very good at stimulating classroom discussion and sparking interest in the material by showing its implications in everyday life. His assignments were relevant not only to the material but also to learning the discipline of philosophy better, incorporating argumentation and objections into papers and readings. Assignments also contributed to better classroom discussion. Organization at the beginning of the class was a little lacking, but improved as time went on.

I really, really appreciate how Dr. Morton encourages participation. And, no matter what, if your hand is up, he'll give you the opportunity to speak, even stopping what he was saying sometimes to hear what you'd like to say. This is amazing. Not all professors, especially in the philosophy department, do this. Quite frequently, I've felt like I had no voice in a class or that when a professor was calling on me they were simply doing so since my hand had been up for ten minutes. I've never kept my hand up long at all in this class and when I was called on, Dr. Morton actually listened and respected what I had to say. He is respectful towards all views, which I really appreciate. He created a very warm, open, welcoming atmosphere and I always loved going to class. He has definitely stimulated my interest in philosophy, was always clear and organized, knew everything well, and was accessible. The only thing that stops me from giving him "excellent" rather than "very good" is how he was so respectful that he would rarely say anything against a view that was clearly unusual or even wrong, if that view came from a student. He would acknowledge what was said and sort of move on rather than having a discussion with the student. I like how he doesn't just make a statement about his opinion against a view or act dismissively towards it (which is what so many, if not all, philosophy professors I've had do), but I wish that when a student said something kind of crazy (like we need more laws for X, we should be more sympathetic towards criminals and even rapists since I don't believe our system of innocent until proven guilty is fair at all, etc.), we'd have a discussion about their view. I know it's a phi of law class, not politics, but I felt very vexed by some of the views I heard that, in my opinion, sometimes stemmed from ignorance. Everyone deserves to be heard and what anyone says should always be respected, but it would be nice to discuss particularly shocking or unusual comments. That was the only frustrating part of the class, however—some of the students. Other than that, I really enjoyed the class. Readings were difficult and I wish we read at least some papers that were written much more recently. The fun we would still have during lecture made up for it though.

Has created lecture as something to look forward to because he allows and encourages for a lot of interaction from the class. It makes us critically think about the topics of the day. He's very open to questions and very available as a teacher.

The instructor taught the class in a way that would actually stick with the learner for a lifetime. His method of teaching involved more responses from the students than himself and if someone would stray away from the main topic he would help them back on the main topic. This helped me and my other classmates understand the topic better since the explanations from others were simple, unlike the dense material we had to read.

Professor Morton is an amazing professor! He allowed a lot of discussion for students to engage with the material.

I have had Professor Morton for 2 class now and I love his teaching methods and how he organizes the class into a discussion based lecture. It helps me stay engaged.

Professor demonstrates master of subject matter and stimulates students interest in philosophy. For a class that is one hour and twenty minutes long, that time passes by quickly. The nature of the course calls for tackling difficult philosophical questions regarding law, in which the professor does very well to moderate the discussion and understand the message that each student communicates during discussion of said topics.

Clear instructor and has good mastery of the subject. Very friendly and willing to help students. Leads engaging discussions and gets people to participate and do some philosophy.

Dr. Morton is an excellent professor, however I didnt like the way the class was structured. There was no reason to come to class after turning in 10 reading responses, and the paper prompts had nothing to do with what we were discussing in lecture. The student presentations were fun. Also, Dr. Morton and his TA seemed to be on different wavelengths regarding the rigor with which the papers were to be graded, grading was very harsh and the second paper prompt was ridiculously difficult given that nothing we did in class pertained to the task at hand.

He made the class the most enjoyable philosophy class I have taken. He knows the subject well and makes the class very valuable.

great professor. The only comment is that there should be a rubric for papers. TA's have too much discretion.

very thorough in his notes and lectures explains everything very well in order for the students to really grasp the concepts

I thoroughly enjoyed being in the class. Professor Morton is by far an amazing professor and I would highly advise people to take his course.

Term	Eval Opened	CRN	Subject	Course	Section	Enrollment	% Response
Spring Quarter 2019	5/30/2019 12:00 AM	84916	PHI	119	A01	29	48
Spring Quarter 2019	5/30/2019 12:00 AM	84917	PHI	119	A02	31	54