

Course Evaluation Instructor Detail Report for term 1223, PHIL-114B-2 Topics in Ethical Theory (Jordan Kokot)

Instructor: Jordan Kokot
Course: PHIL-114B-2 Topics in Ethical Theory
Term: 1223
Home Department: Philosophy Department

Raters	Students
Responded	19
Invited	23
Response Ratio	82.6%

Key: # = Total Responses; 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral;
4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly Agree; N/A = Not Applicable

Course Structure and Grading

General Structure

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The course syllabus was comprehensive, clear, and accurate.	19	0	0	3	5	11	0	5.00	4.42	0.77
The learning goals were clearly stated in the syllabus.	19	0	0	2	3	14	0	5.00	4.63	0.68
Classes started and ended on time.	19	0	0	2	4	13	0	5.00	4.58	0.69

Grading

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
Content of tests and assignments was consistent with content of lectures and/or reading.	19	0	0	2	3	14	0	5.00	4.63	0.68
Assignments and/or exams were returned promptly.	19	1	1	4	4	9	0	4.00	4.00	1.20
The grading policies were clear and consistently followed.	19	0	1	1	4	12	1	5.00	4.50	0.86
The graded assignments allowed me to demonstrate what I learned in the course.	19	0	0	3	4	12	0	5.00	4.47	0.77

Content and Workload

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The content covered in this course was challenging.	19	0	2	1	12	4	0	4.00	3.95	0.85
This course requires a lot of work.	18	0	4	3	8	3	0	4.00	3.56	1.04

Student Responsibilities

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
I completed the course readings.	19	2	1	3	7	6	0	4.00	3.74	1.28
I kept up with work as it was assigned.	19	0	0	3	6	10	0	5.00	4.37	0.76

Instructor Responsibilities and Skills

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	19	0	0	1	4	14	0	5.00	4.68	0.58
The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	19	0	1	2	2	14	0	5.00	4.53	0.90
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	19	0	0	1	3	15	0	5.00	4.74	0.56

Responsiveness of the Instructor

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	18	0	0	0	4	14	0	5.00	4.78	0.43
The instructor respected students' ideas.	19	0	0	0	3	16	0	5.00	4.84	0.37
The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	19	0	0	0	4	15	0	5.00	4.79	0.42
I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	19	0	0	0	5	14	0	5.00	4.74	0.45

Overall Instructor Rating

Question	Course Average		
	Response Count	Mean	Median
The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	19	4.68	5.00
The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	19	4.53	5.00
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	19	4.74	5.00
The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	18	4.78	5.00
The instructor respected students' ideas.	19	4.84	5.00
The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	19	4.79	5.00
I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	19	4.74	5.00
Overall	-	4.73	-

Contribution to Learning

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The stated learning goals for the course were met.	19	1	0	1	4	13	0	5.00	4.47	1.02
This course improved my writing ability.	19	0	0	1	6	12	0	5.00	4.58	0.61
This course improved my oral communication skills.	19	0	0	2	5	12	0	5.00	4.53	0.70
This course improved my quantitative skills.	19	0	0	4	1	7	7	5.00	4.25	0.97
This course helped me develop my creative abilities.	18	0	0	1	7	8	2	4.50	4.44	0.63
This course helped me to analyze, interpret and synthesize information.	18	0	0	1	6	11	0	5.00	4.56	0.62
This course helped me to reason better and to think more critically about its subject matter.	19	0	0	0	6	13	0	5.00	4.68	0.48
This course helped me to consider alternative perspectives on complex issues.	18	0	0	0	5	13	0	5.00	4.72	0.46

Overall Quality of the Course

	#	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Median	Mean	SD
The overall quality of this course was excellent.	19	0	0	1	6	12	0	5.00	4.58	0.61

Student Demographics

Your class standing?

#	First Year	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Master's	Doctoral
18	0	4	5	8	1	0

What is your school of major?

#	SCI	SocSCI	HUM	ART	Undecided
19	9	3	6	1	0

Why did you choose this course?

#	University req.	Major req.	Minor req.	Interest
19	4	6	1	8

Course and Instructor Comments

Please identify those aspects of the course you found most useful or valuable for learning.

Comments
I think that the topics we covered in the course were very interesting. They were up-to-date with the current situation in the world and were important to have some insights about. I really liked the course materials.
The ideas connecting technology with philosophy.
The structure of the course made a lot of sense and I liked that we returned to things like Genetic Engineering after we had discussed other things in between.
The aspect of the course I found most valuable for learning was the seminar nature of it. It was very valuable to engage with other students' ideas in order to help you form your own ideas.
Class discussions stimulated interest in the course material. I appreciated that Prof. Kokot was always available outside of class, even on weekends.
Professor Kokot and his discussional leading skills is the aspect I found most valuable for my learning in this course. He is passionate about ethics of technology and truly inspiring. In class, his ability to lead the classroom is unparalleled to any other philosophy professor I have had at Brandeis. He takes into account every single comment discussed by a student and ties it into the discussion with terminology from a current or prior reading and is always respectful of the students original thoughts. During class, he adds these comments and ideas to his slides so that student insights are not lost during the discussion. I am able to go over the slides from class and go over our discussions.
Professor Kokots slides are succinct and clarify many confusions and difficult readings. His slides are organized and each slide has purpose. The slides he utilizes are informative rather than uninstrutive. He uses his slides to go over readings that are difficult to read and connect to current day technological ethics.
Additionally, Professor Kokot kind, warm, extremely intelligent, and makes me want to learn from him. He creates a warm and vibrant class environment that makes me look forward to preparing for class and coming to learn.
Professor Kokot is also willing to have discussions outside of class. I enjoy every one-on-one discussion I have had with Professor Kokot. He has inspired me to further explore my interest in ethics and how ethical considerations of technology apply to my life and my interests. We had many discussions in Office Hours about things that related to class and other things that related to my own academic and personal interests. He gives insights about philosophical applications to other topics besides technology, such as science and law school preparation.
The class discussions were very helpful for my understanding of the class material and offered perspectives not shown on class slides.
The class was incredibly helpful in enabling me to access interests I did not know I concretely had. The course propelled me into fieldwork that I plan to continue pursuing for the rest of my life (this is not a hyperbole, the coursework is genuinely the basis for my applications to graduate schools, grants, and my own personal writings for conferences). Professor Kokot was also incredibly helpful in enabling us to pursue our interests in coursework. He encouraged us to let him know our particular interests, and then was willing to curate coursework towards our respective fields of interest. The course was flexible to our needs as students while simultaneously encouraging and challenging us with new information and novel concepts that will continue to be relevant for years to come.
I found the discussion-based structure of the class to be invaluable in understanding philosophical concepts and applying them to real-world issues. Prof. Kokot does a fantastic job of promoting respectful and productive discussion, engaging with students and encouraging them to think critically and consider new ideas, and posing interesting and complex ethical questions. I found all writing assignments to be very relevant to the course and improve my ethical analysis skills. For most of the semester, student groups led the discussion for part of class with the support of Prof. Kokot—I really enjoyed this, as it both gave us the opportunity to think deeply about the topics we were assigned to lead, as well as feel comfortable discussing ethical and moral topics with other students. Teaching a topic is a very productive way to learn the material yourself, and Prof. Kokot did a great job of further promoting discussion.
Peer Exchanges, Reviews, and Discussions
Class discussions

What suggestions would you make to the instructor **Jordan Kokot for improving the course?**

Comments
Strongly recommend adding questions that can help us guide through the reading, not required questions to answers or other things to watch out for. I feel some philosophical concepts are not that easily understood, and having these questions will help a lot for the reading and class discussions and maybe even help you realize who read and who didn't. I can tell you that 80% of the class only did the readings required for the presentations. Having one required reading and more optional ones will make more students read the articles. It's hard to read 4–5 articles on top of the work for other classes
Professor Kokot thinks and talks in a fast-paced and eloquent manner, which I found impressive but also a little anxiety-provoking. The structure of the course was also designed to be fast-paced and intense. I found the course to be very stressful in the beginning few weeks of the semester. My suggestion to Professor Kokot would be to perhaps slow down the course a little bit, not in a way that makes the course dull or intellectually unchallenging, but in a way that creates room for deeper personal reflection and summarization of the materials. Maybe at the beginning of the course, there could be five to ten minutes for students to "free write" what they think about the reading assignments, and what questions they have about the past or upcoming topics.
Return assignment feedback on time; plan lectures more consistently so we don't fall behind schedule most of the time; reply to emails faster.
It was really time-consuming to read the entirety of the assigned readings, so most of the time I only could skim the longer ones and not really understand them. If there had been less readings, I think I could've gotten a better understanding of the longer, more difficult ones.
Narrow down and significantly decrease the number of readings. I completed the reading properly for like 2 weeks until it got overwhelming and I started just skimming the readings. If you can find excerpts from the readings that are most important and scrap the rest so that they aren't so long, and reduce the number of readings to about half the ones you had, it would be a lot more approachable.
Make the grading scale on the syllabus more clear because it seemed to change as the course went on.
The only suggestion I would make to Professor Kokot to improve this course is to filter some of the readings. There are a few too many readings for each class and some of them are very long. I would suggest the class be more focused on singular or a few readings of the day rather than intertwine many many readings.
Less and shorter readings assigned per class.
No suggestions. It would be a shame for Brandeis to not take the opportunity to provide him the opportunity for a tenure-track position at the university. As a student with excellent standing at the university who has taken multiple Brandeis courses in the Philosophy department with various faculty, I truly believe Professor Kokot is a rising star among Brandeis faculty, so I would hope the university recognizes this unique opportunity to have a professor with knowledge on this crucial subject.
Really, no major critical feedback. I would have enjoyed a bit more small group discussion/exercises during class time, but this is just a suggestion.
Keep up great work!

If you feel that the instructor **Jordan Kokot should be considered for a teaching award, please explain why.**

Comments
Amazing !
Dr. Kokot is very interested in his subject and is great and sparking conversation in a Seminar environment. He is also outstanding at making everyone's contributions to a discussion feel validated.
Professor Kokot is an incredible instructor with an unusual passion for the subject paired with unmatched expertise in the field. His explanation of incredibly complex topics is made accessible to students, while maintaining the proper academic rigor for a course. I believe his excellence in teaching coupled with his passion for a unique and ground-breaking subject makes him deserving of recognition.
Absolutely. Prof. Kokot is a fantastic professor, really one of the best professors I've had at Brandeis. He is engaging, considerate, approachable, and seems to genuinely care about the well-being and learning of his students. He does a great job of presenting complex philosophical and ethical topics in a way that is easy to follow and understand. In class discussions, he engages directly with every student in a way that makes you feel like he's interested in what you have to say, and he always asks questions or makes points that help you see the topic in a way you hadn't considered. He respects all students' opinions.