

SAMPLES OF STUDENT EVALUATION WRITTEN COMMENTS

Benjamin Bayer

The following are the complete, unfiltered written comments from students in all sections of my classes listed at Loyola University New Orleans, since the spring of 2012.* In the interests of full disclosure, a section of complete, unfiltered negative comments follows the positives.

*In the Fall of 2014, Loyola adopted a new online course evaluation system which compelled students to fill out evaluations before accessing Blackboard at the end of the semester. In subsequent semesters it stopped being a requirement and so the number of responses dropped off.

STRENGTHS

Making Moral Decisions, Spring 2016

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
it was very philosophical	He is very smart and cool
interesting	very flexible
	The instructor gives recordings of the lecture
	I enjoyed the class.
Interesting, challenging	Thorough, informative
We always knew what was going on and what was coming up	Presentations were decent
Fantastic instructor, fantastic course material	Excellent notes, organized lectures, easy to follow along. Best philosophy professor I've had at Loyola!
	Best instructor I have had at Loyola so far.
	Extremely engaging, I could not ask for a better instructor. Admittedly, Professor Bayer's teaching style may not be as beneficial to everyone, but his very decisiveness and questioning makes this course very fun.
	Very passionate and master of his field. Cares about his students

Philosophical Themes in Ayn Rand, Spring 2016

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Most interesting class I have taken yet	Clear expectations and communication skills.
Class discussion worked well	Fostered discussion; provided ample opportunities to discuss papers and assignments
Forces you to think critically about philosophy and ethics.	Philosophically, the instructor strongly encourages you to think, and also challenges your ways of thinking. Insightful and passionate about the subject material and goals of the course.
We read over one thousand pages of dense, philosophical fiction in a Spring semester. We broke the piece down into smaller parts and analyzed philosophy in a new and thrilling way. Need I say more?	I have encountered none but amazing Philosophy, Religion, and Ethics teachers during my time at Loyola. Dr. Bayer was no exception. Maybe it is something about the Bobet building, but he exceeded my expectations of the Philosophy professor. He was so passionate, attentive, organized, thoughtful, motivating, and genuinely interested in the students and how we were taking in the information he was delivering. He started class on time (to the second!) and from the second we started to the second we ended, he had slides, secondary readings and notes for us to critically follow along with. All of his information was posted on Blackboard. He even audio recorded class, in case one of us had to miss. So that we could actually re-live the classes we were absent for! He never wasted my time, and it encouraged me to not waste his or my classmates.
One of the most in-depth and exhilarating courses in philosophy I have ever taken. The book that was used as the text book was impossible to put down, and what made it even greater was that there was an entire philosophy within the story. The course dove into this philosophy with great accuracy and was a ton of fun to learn.	Dr. Bayer is extremely knowledgeable on the philosophy of the book as well as the other philosophers we discussed alongside the book. He is a very energetic teacher and engages every student with the complexity of the philosophy. He is very helpful with writing papers. He allowed us to submit outlines and meet with him several times before the final submission to ensure the paper was of high quality and that we understood the material. Would highly recommend this professor.
Having the students read some philosophical works alongside Rand's to identify the clash of ideas between the two was well handled.	Clearly understood the book well and well enough to convey that knowledge to the class when needed, though instead promoted discussion so that the students could gain their knowledge on their own.
This course made me appreciate my other classes.	
Not only introduced Ayn Rand's philosophy, but connected the philosophy of other major philosophers to her beliefs. Gave real-world situations to apply the philosophy, making it much easier to understand. Treating it as a combination of a philosophy class and an analysis of a mystery novel kept students excited and engaged. It also did really well at promoting discussion, since the lectures	Dr. Bayer was incredibly enthusiastic about this book and about Ayn Rand in general, and it was contagious. Again, he did really well at making us think for ourselves using some of the information he has helped us see, which really make us feel like we were learning and accomplishing something. He was really good at promoting thinking even on online discussions and paper proposals. He really wanted to

were created in a step by step process. We were allowed to come to conclusions on our own through our own arguments, rather than just being told what Rand believes.	discuss our papers to make sure we were proud of what we learned, not just trying to get a grade.
course material was engaging, utilized it outside of the classroom	very knowledgeable about the subject, great lecture material

Intro to Symbolic Logic, Spring 2016

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
No comment due to the circumstances	Dr. Bayer was placed into a difficult situation and handled it admirably and deserves a good deal of credit and appreciation for his teaching of the class. He certainly has my thanks.
I now appreciate how amazing logic is and hope to learn more in the future.	I respect Dr. Bayer for stepping in after the tragedy and I strongly believe that he performed well as our instructor.
This course allows students to learn a completely new topic, and it allows them to think in a whole new way.	Dr. Bayer was able to come into a class that was broken over the loss of their professor and help us finish the semester. He came in a little strong, but he was able to accomodate us, and I personally, really appreciated it. I was skeptic about Dr. Bayer at the beginning since he had not taught this class in so long, but I was pleasantly surprised.
very informative	The PowerPoints were a good idea
	very clear

Philosophy of Knowledge, Fall 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	very clear about what he requires of students
Very clear subject matter	Very engaging
this course made me think on a different level than I have in the past.	Dr. Bayer is a great professor. I am not the best in philosophy and he made sure I always knew the material and felt comfortable with it.
Fun, enjoyable	Passionate, loves his work.

Free Will and Determinism, Fall 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
It was interesting and helped us learn.	Knows a lot about the subject matter.
Encouraged open-mindedness and individual thought	Professor's Bayer's slides were very fluent and helpful.
All I'll say is that the smart students clearly succeed in this class and the stupid ones fail. This class is hard	Great at communicating challenging subject matter in an accessible way
Grades came back very quickly. Powerpoints and lecture expanded on and created more understanding of material without being repetitive.	
Enough to talk about in class to have notes on lecture	Attentive and enthusiastic about material
challenged me to really think critically about the material. it was so interesting or challenging that i had to discuss it outside of class to family members and friends. It kept everyone involved.	the teacher was able to teach a difficult and sometimes uninteresting topic in a way that made it interesting. He related it to real life scenarios and took his time and had interest in making sure the material was easily understandable to everyone.
	super enthusiastic about the topic

Making Moral Decisions, Spring 2015

<i>Of the course**</i>	<i>Of the instructor**</i>
Very interesting viewpoints on different moralities	Seems passionate, exceptionally knowledgeable about what he teaches; never not interesting; stimulates critical thinking by constantly being devil's advocate
Highlighted issues of agreement before diving into the controversial topics; each topic was covered succinctly and was always reviewed before moving onto the next topic; straightforward assignments, especially with papers; group discussions worked nicely with topic of morality	Professor Bayer was very dedicated to making sure that each class students walked away understanding something new. Each class held my full attention through class discussion.
I was opened to many perspectives of opinions that were previously unfamiliar. Stimulating class discussion lead by Professor Bayer was always insightful and challenging.	Neutral in the debates and does not judge student for their opinion
Gives students opinion on certain topics a chance to be heard	Knowledgeable, patient, and passionate.
Manageable reading and interesting material inspire worthwhile discussion.	Impressive explanations and real-world examples, stimulated deep thought and discussion
great discussion, critical thought	Makes helpful comments on written assignments
challenging and thought provoking	Knowledgeable and tolerant of differing opinions
It was awesome	He was awesome
Makes you think critically	Enjoys what he teaches

Critical thinking and self applications from the materials studied organized	Organized and must have put lots of effort to keep it organized knows his s***
Extremely analytical and promoted a new way to think of moral controversies. I feel like I learned more in this class than many Philosophy classes I have taken thus far.	He communicates the material extremely effectively without bias. He is very knowledgeable on the material and confident in his teaching style.

***Post-Fall 2014, "of the course" and "of the instructor" comments that appear on the same row are not necessarily from the same student. The new system does not make this clear. Pre-Fall 2014, comments were copied from handwritten surveys.*

Practical Logic, Spring 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
straightforward, tests reflect classwork	professional, smart, communicates
Learn the basics of logic	Extensive understanding of material.
really encourages critical and analytical thinking	passionate about the subject
Easy content	Enthusiastic and knows information
Due dates for assignments were made very clear.	Was easy to contact for questions.
learn how to build an argument	detailed lectures
This course was challenging, but not overly so. I felt I was given an appropriate amount of work.	Dr. Bayer is particularly skilled at explaining these complex logical concepts in ways that are understandable to us logic newbies.
extremely organized, all resources needed for an A were provided. Many opportunities to raise grade.	very organized & thorough
great elective class to take if not a required class. learned a lot about reasoning and fallacies.	very prompt
He was clear on grading and procedures and was fair in grading, other than that, none. This course did not encourage me to think critically...the opinion of the Professor was the only opinion that mattered	Professor is really on point and makes sure that his students grasp as much of his knowledge as possible. It is difficult for someone who is not a philosophy major yet the professor's passion is duly noted.
	wish i would have taken a class from Professor Bayer sooner. Is great at communicating material to students in an efficient way. Gives good examples to help support material.
	communicates promptly.
	I wish I could say something, but I suppose he did have an excitement to teach the content. His enthusiasm was appreciated but he tried too hard-he could of instead tried to form a relationship with the class and encourage class discussion instead of relying on a power point.

Free Will and Determinism, Fall 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Extremely interesting and pertinent subject matter, pretty straightforward lecture class style, interesting powerpoint slides	Knowledgeable, punctual with starting class, explicitly clear with class policies, makes detailed suggestions/corrections for tests and papers
Covers a lot of information and varies yet still ties things together to be understood better	Very knowledgeable and challenges you to do your best and think critically
Lots of discussion. Lectures and slides are well done, which really helps when studying for exams and writing papers.	He's very knowledgeable on this subject
very intellectually challenging	Great lecturer. Allows for independent thinking while trying to get you to think long and hard about what you're saying.
This was my favorite philosophy class I have taken. I am not a big fan of philosophy but this class was so engaging and well explained, if I had any room I would take your morality and ethics class next semester.	very clear
professor	Conveys material well, obviously has knowledge
The structure of reading quiz in the beginning and end helped to promote reading the materials while also helping students comprehend the materials before asking the harder questions.	
interesting material	

Free Will in Thought and Action, Fall 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
very intellectually challenging	very intelligent, well versed and knowledgeable on the topics covered. critical thinker.
It was very interesting and made way for critical thinking.	Very helpful, organized, and taught really well.
The easy accessibility to the notes	His willingness to help each & every student
It is a challenging and stimulating course. Extremely interesting subject matter, I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys philosophy.	Prof. Bayer is a great teacher. You can tell he is very passionate about the subject matter and that it is fun for him to teach, which makes it enjoyable to learn.
Passion which Bayer had for the material	Knowledge.

Interesting Material	Very Clear Lectures
I liked the setup of the course. The online discussion board is a wonderful addition to what is happening in class.	He was interested and excited about the topic, so he was able to clearly and effectively communicate the ideas to his students. His energy made the class exciting.
It was well-organized, the slides were clear, and it was mentally stimulating.	He understood the capabilities of the students and challenged us the right amount.

Practical Logic, Fall 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Class is more than fair. If you attend class regularly, a good grade is a given on homeworks and exams.	Class is very well taught and it really helped that instructor uploaded powerpoint to blackboard, allowing me to pay more attention in class instead of just trying to vigorously type up notes.
encourages rational thinking, helps train people to use logic and see through fallacies	Bayer really puts a lot of effort into teaching this course and it definitely shows.
The PowerPoints were very helpful when it came to studying the material homework, slideshow presentation, and clicker questions	uses real world examples, energetic organized
	In class, he was able to give many examples that further clarified the point he was trying to make. He made the material easy to understand.
	made it very easy to understand material and very helpful with explaining/answering any questions
exams are all written so in order to do well, you really need to know the information	he is on top of his students, stays in contact, grades quickly
alot of assignments	Tries to make topics interesting.
Everything was according to syllabus.	Very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject.
Consistency of homework, reading chapters and lecture slides	Well organized and punctual
For business students, it's interesting to see how classical arguments are formed, and how to apply them in the real world. Business is extremely strategic, so it's understandable why this class is a requirement for business students.	effectively communicates material
powerpoints were thorough and clear, the online discussions were cool, absence policy was cool, engaging the students with the clickers was cool as well	Very discriptive about course.
Teaches you how horribly stupid the world is and how we base our teachings and basic ideas of reasoning on something as silly as practical logic	Smart man with a strong grading procedure
	Stays on task and focused when lecturing
	He is extremely passionate about the subject.
	Really made the subject matter interesting. Loved all the examples, especially the scientific ones. Dr. Bayer is a wonderful professor--you can really tell that he loves teaching the course and he puts a lot of effort into making sure everyone understands the material. Has a very encouraging attitude.
	seems very invested in material and students, sometimes provides good examples
	Really s mart, well composed organized, tries to get students engaged but no one really cares about the subject so it gets really annoying when he tries to make you participate in stead of just relaxin, realizing no one really cares and finishing the lecture

Making Moral Decisions, Spring 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	Although the amount of time and effort that was necessary for writing papers in this class was abundant, I think more professors should put as much work into feedback as Dr. Bayer did.
	Very organized. Appreciated timely grading. Made course way more interesting than it actually is. Best professor I've had at Loyola. Keep up the good work (I'm a senior BTW)
	Outstanding instructor. I'm probably one of the students with the lowest grade because of myself, but honestly great instructor.
Very well organized.	Very detailed and thorough grading.
Very interesting, I learned a lot.	Makes a typically dull subject exciting. Very good teacher. I recommend him to everyone.
Challenged students to justify moral beliefs in logic.	Called out students on stuff they said that didn't make any sense.
	The instructor conducts the course in an organized manner. Very understanding to athletic obligations.
Clicker surveys. Discussion board.	Very available to help, interested in lectures which comes across in class.

Very mentally challenging. I always questioned my morals and ideas throughout.	[Illegible.] Interesting lecture.
	Very on top of email and responding to questions.
	The content was made interesting by this instructor and course work was enjoyable.
Really enjoyed it!	
Intellectually stimulating.	Intellectually stimulating.
Challenging but fun.	Great!
Very interesting! Learned a lot. My views were challenged and I was exposed to other views that helped me better understand other topics.	Great and energetic! Does an excellent job of teaching material! Very passionate and cares about students.
Great class, well presented.	I really appreciate your teaching style. One of my more entertaining classes in the past four years.
Online discussion was engaging and informative (if slightly [illegible])	Very knowledgeable, professional and engaging.

Practical Logic, Spring 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Good power points.	
	Very knowledgeable.
Great all-around.	Great all-around. Best instructor all year long.
I feel as though I actually learned new material that I had not been exposed to as a second semester senior. I enjoyed coming to class because it involved critical thinking/discussion.	Very organized. Effective communicator. Gave many opportunities to learn and participate. I enjoyed using the clicker for this course.
Interesting.	Seems to care for his subject.
	Good intentions, probably intended to make sure those struggling most could keep up. I prefer a faster paced, more rigorous class.
	Breaks down the material well.
Very challenging.	
Learning new ways to interpret /look at an argument.	Knows what he is teaching and seems enthusiastic about the subject.
	The man.
Great use of technology.	Good at explaining subject matter to people without a background in philosophy.
Topic understanding is very applicable to real life.	Organized, makes expectations clear and gives good feedback.
Very structured, followed syllabus to the "t." I liked the iClicker quizzes and online discussion group.	Gives a lot of time and care to the class and frequently communicates with students. Easily accessible. Replies to email promptly.

Making Moral Decisions, Fall 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Did a thorough job on classic philosophers as well as contemporary. Slides were very helpful and effective. I really enjoyed answering the iClicker questions.	Taught subject effectively. Although he would often play devil's advocate when discussing with students, this helped me understand the subject better.
Interesting class. Broken up so that what was expected was very clear and attainable.	Very passionate about subject. Very knowledgeable. If he was available for a course I needed in Spring I would take professor again.
	Asking good and intellectually stimulating questions.
	Had a sound understanding of all the material and was able to communicate it very effectively.
Extensions policies are very fair. Discussion based class. Responds quickly to emails. In depth grading.	
	Loved the iClicker integration into class.
Made me think critically.	I like the way you taught the class. Slides were helpful. Thanks.
	Knowledgeable and stimulating discussion.
Great class, but I wish that I would've spoken more (afraid of getting shot down).	Clear. Understanding.
	Gives a good overview of materials and explains in great detail.
Great notes!	So helpful with explaining everything and answering questions. Encouraged participation.
Very interesting. Loved this course. Made me think very intellectually.	Funny, explain material very well.
Really helps you find your opinion on popular moral theories.	Very enthusiastic about what he teaches. Not boring! The use of clickers keeps everyone involved.
	Knows what he is talking about.
We knew what we had to do.	Cared about subject. Very easy to reach.
Diverse subject matter.	Intelligent. Good presentation.
Its required.	Knows philosophy.
Challenging and interesting subject matter.	Proposed questions that made me think. Effective teaching style, material.
Good topics. Good debates.	
Challenges us as a whole.	
	Thoughtful and organized.
	Powerpoints were very helpful in keeping up with the material. I really enjoyed the class overall.

Liked Ayn Rand. Variety of theories that could apply to controversies.	Excited about course.
	Good at making people think, and tried to create as much class participation as possible.
	Very serious and strict but outlined his policies clearly beforehand so hard to object to anything.

Epistemology, Fall 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
One of the most stimulating classes I've taken.	Probably smartest person I've ever learned from. Super into his class.
Very interesting and stimulating content.	Very knowledgeable of course content.
Organization helps sort through lots of subject material.	
	Good with email. Good with Blackboard.
Focused and systematic survey of epistemology.	
Good job of allowing me to grasp difficult material.	Did a good job at presenting the material.

Free Will and Determinism, Spring 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
As far as Philosophy courses, Free Will and Determinism is the most practical of the courses I took	Dr. Bayer is a great lecturer. His method of class is good for learning since it follows a good "programme."
Great speaker. Great discussion. Fun.	
This course and instructor challenged me to explore the deepest aspects of human meaning. Dr. Bayer and this course epitomizes the ideals of a holistic Jesuit education.	
Interesting and important material.	Makes class fun and interesting. Clear speaker. Helpful. Sticks to syllabus.
	Very intelligent.
Great format, please encourage other philosophy professors to do the same.	
	Nice guy, easy to listen to.
	Gives good feedback and is very clear in his presentations.
Very interesting.	
	Organized.
Very well organized, great textbook.	Very good at his job. Enthusiastic and smart. I loved this course!
Electronic format for submission was great.	Well organized.
I enjoyed the powerpoint slides to teach; also quiz/class instead of attendance policy.	Incredible instructor, funny, genuinely interesting.
Incredibly organized, relevant, and consistent.	

Practical Logic, Spring 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	Displayed great knowledge of material and conveyed it well—used helpful lecture slides and kept class active with clicker Q's.
	Great professor! Really challenged me in a lot of ways.
Provides course materials on BB.	
Everything was very well explained and if I had trouble with the definition there were excellent examples to back it up.	
	Obviously put effort into class participation.
	Outstanding professor. Second time I take him.
Intellectually stimulating.	Very engaging, good lecturer, approachable.

Free Will and Determinism, Fall 2012

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Best class I've taken this semester. Observable progressions. Policies incredibly straightforward. Poll questions.	Engaged critical thinking. Adorably awkward and nerdy. Argued against us.
	Presented the material in a good way, making it easier to learn.
	Always prepared. Knows his stuff. Probably spends a lot of time on reddit.com.
While taking this course was required, it definitely raises interesting questions, and stimulates thinking much more than most required classes.	I find Bayer to be very interested/engaged with his subject, and he communicates it very well—he teachers by asking students questions to get them to think critically about the material, rather than spoonfeeding answers.
Incredibly course, very intellectually stimulating, promotes a well informed formulation of opinions about the subject.	Dr. Bayer is thorough and helpful. He was lenient and understanding about extensions. Unbiased about subject matter. Gave more than sufficient resources to succeed.
	The instructor delivered the course material very effectively. I believe he has a strong presence and is very vocal and has the ability to express himself really clearly and effectively.

In depth investigation on a particularly discussion in philosophy. as stimulating and framed class well.	Enthusiastic and knowledgeable about subject material.
This class will change your life if you take it seriously, because the material directly applies to all aspects of your life. I really enjoyed learning all the material and found that I would often talk about it outside of class.	Professor Bayer always puts effort into his slides and how he can explain things to us in a manner that we can understand. He really enjoys teaching the subject and it makes the class a much more enjoyable experience.
Interesting, intellectual.	Explained things so that it was easier to understand. Threw in comical references.
	Best teacher I've had so far.
This course is very challenging, yet fun course. I really enjoyed being part of the class discussions and trying to understand free will and determinism.	He's one of the best and most dedicated teachers I have had. I would definitely recommend Ben Bayer to any student needing to take a philosophy class. He makes a huge effort in trying to catch our attention to the subject and makes it very dynamic.
Challenging, but stimulating once given the proper thought.	Bayer is a nice guy, and an excellent professor. He is very fair and unmatched in the clarity of his test questions, essay assignments, and in-class line of thinking/discussion. I have very much enjoyed his class.
	Ability to effectively communicate difficult materials.
Great class. Fascinating material. Wide range of philosophers and views covered.	Very clear, excellent Powerpoint presentations. Very professional, yet accessible and interesting during lectures.
Very challenging. Interesting content. If you keep up with the readings.	Passionate, sticks to word, does not merely reiterate the content, but translates it into concepts that help the student understand more thoroughly.
Challenging. Extends into the philosophy of the minds, whether our mind brain and body are separate.	
Great class, very interesting.	Professor very thorough but fair. Always available for students. Would recommend to others.
I got my requirement done.	Smart guy.
Very challenging.	Very helpful.
	Dr. Bayer is great. A great teacher in that he always wants students to understand as best as possible. Powerpoints are great as well! I would recommend Dr. Bayer, but probably not this class because it found it very difficult! So great teacher, just not great material.

Practical Logic, Fall 2012

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
The material from this class is useful in my everyday life and helps me in other classes (to articulate)	Taught the subject very well. Made the class interesting.
Gives students different views on how to argue.	Awesome and funny professor. [Inappropriate comment cut.]
Present well. Concise, to the point.	Funny man. Clear instructor.
Great course. Open discussion.	Great teacher. Very passionate, very fair, understanding, explain topics perfectly.
The course and was interesting and your slides and examples made it easy to understand.	
The goals were very well outlined. Knowledge obtained from course is useful.	Nice guy. Fair grading procedures. Thoughtful and helpful critiques on homeworks and test.
	Correction comments were sort of helpful.
	Extremely clear grading procedure. Use of Powerpoints very helpful. Excellent at explaining difficult concepts. Extremely fast turnaround on tests and homework. Very helpful comments.
Really great course. The information I learned and skills I acquired are invaluable for law school if I decide to go there. There should be a Practical Logic 2 in which we apply these concepts more seriously.	Impeccably clear. Really impressed with consistent clarity, energy level, and high level of engagement. If Practical Logic 2 is ever offered, you should teach it!
Very interesting!	Very passionate about subject and is concerned about students! Very nice and funny.
Very easy to follow.	Very prepared, enthused about subject.
	Knew subject matter well. Kept class interesting. Made philosophy a good class. Would recommend.
	Bayer is wonderful. He teaches Practical Logic well and presents course material well. He is a true asset to this college.
Awesome Powerpoints. Awesome presentation. Awesome examples. Extremely good to understand. Clickers were insightful.	Quite possibly the best instructor this semester. Passionate, patient, smart, friendly, approachable and more. Made Practical Logic fun! Tech man! I have no complaints. You rule.
	You knew the material and did a great job of explaining it using examples.
Polices are made clear and abided to at all times.	The professor not only had a clear purpose to this class, but he also followed it closely. The teaching materials were helpful and well-done, and the exams and homework reflective of class content. He was very fair and treated all students respectfully. Very enthusiastic and dedicated.
Very challenging. My arguments are now stronger.	Truly knows the material and therefore can speak confidently about the topic.

I really liked this class. Generally, philosophy not my favorite subject, but this class was interesting and informational. I really feel like I learned a lot, and this was one of my favorite classes of the semester. I liked the online posts as well. It was fun to have ongoing discussions about topics throughout the semester, and by doing the posts, I feel like I learned to use the subjects taught better.	Professor Bayer was very knowledgeable about the subject matter and was happy to teach it to us. His examples made the information easy to remember, and he made the class fun.
	Powerpoints were very helpful. Clickers made it more interesting. You explain everything perfectly, unlike my Intro Philosophy class. I am not really as confused.
	Very helpful.
Interesting and challenging material.	Descriptive. Punctual
Clear grading method.	
	It is extremely obvious that this professor is passionate about his job and loves to educate students. He is always timely in returning assignments and gives adequate time to complete things.
	Enthusiastic, good job overall.
Well organized and outlined. Very beneficial.	Always well prepared and organized. Good job!

Philosophy of Knowledge, Spring 2012

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Favorite Philosophy course I've taken at Loyola.	
	Awesome! Great teacher!!
Very difficult but very rewarding class.	Bayer is very knowledgeable. Fun, encouraging teacher.
This was an amazing course.	The instructor brought further insight to a subject that isn't necessarily my favorite.
Well-organized. Concise & [illegible]	Very motivated. Passionate. Articulate. I very much enjoyed learning from Dr. Bayer.
Ben Bayer.	He is Ben Bayer, the best professor on campus.
	Very polite! Easy going.
	Loved your lectures and attitude
	Very well structured. -Prompt-
	Very organized, Knowledgeable.
	Excellent teaching.
Definitely not for the faint of heart, but comprehensive PowerPoint slides help.	Professor Bayer made himself readily available for students, if they had questions. I should've taken advantage of that.
Enjoyed it greatly.	Communicated material very passionately. Kept my interest.

WEAKNESSES

Making Moral Decisions, Spring 2016

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Sometimes philosophy can be hard	none
lots of material	condescending
The only thing is that it was an early morning class and sometimes hard to be completely awake for it.	
The online discussions were not helpful at all and neither were the quizzes	Worded things oddly, slightly abrasive, showed clear favoritism towards ideas and students; incredibly judgmental of, bias towards, and immensely ignorant about the city of New Orleans

Philosophical Themes in Ayn Rand, Spring 2016

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Too heavy of a workload	Sometimes looks for a very specific answer, and it can lead to a halt in class discussion as everyone tries to figure out what he's looking for
It's a lengthy book which doesn't leave room for other discussions during class.	
Online discussions often seem forced	
The course is rigorous and challenging to do well in. This is indeed not a weakness, however, it is more difficult than the majority of classes I have taken at Loyola.	This is philosophy, where there is no concrete answer for a theory, and you do not have all of the answers, regardless of your feelings on Rand and how much you have looked into her teaching. You are the teacher and the student.
The course seemed like it would be overwhelming - work wise. In the end, it was not. The course was more than manageable. I personally can't stand forced "discussion board" kind of things, and it is not because I don't love a good discussion. But instead because I don't want to talk at a bunch of people who don't care about the class and I feel that most people don't or they want to talk about	

things that I don't care about. I talk to strangers about the weather and local news (maybe), but I don't want to talk to a random so and so about philosophy and what I think I believe. I do much better with voicing my opinion to humans who care about those things too, and that unfortunately is not made clear until the course goes on and you learn who your friends are. If the discussion board idea was kept in the mix, maybe Dr. Bayer could post three questions for us to answer and go from there. requiring an answer to one of the questions and then a response to someone else's answer. That might work a little better.	
It required a lot of reading, but the book was hard to put down so it was not always a difficult thing to do.	
Having the philosophic texts be optional was likely a poor choice. I definitely understand not wanting to overload the student with work, but I feel that it being optional the student would likely not read it, thus missing some crucial learning about the other philosophies Rand counters.	
The online discussion board is a terrible concept. Do away with it. In class discussion is enough. It provides for a more connected forum. Get rid of the online discussion groups.	
could get dry at times	
Time slots. Class depends on group discussion. Less people take later classes.	

Intro to Symbolic Logic, Spring 2016

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Dr. Altschul taught the material more effectively. If I started with Dr. Bayer I would have dropped the class.	
the textbook	Dr. Bayer was sometimes confusing in explaining problems, but he tried to make things as clear as possible.
Needless to say it was difficult to get the course running again after Altschul passed.	It is obvious that he knows the material but he does not know how to convey it to his students
This course moves too fast. It could be broken into 2 semesters to be more beneficial to students.	

Philosophy of Knowledge, Fall 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	very euro-centric
that one guy in class who never shut up	

Free Will and Determinism, Fall 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Gets repetative	
seemed that some kids simply weren't intellectually prepared for the complex subject matter	
Spending \$50 on a course pack filled with scanned pages that could have been uploaded to Blackboard for free.	
Textbook course pack	
at times can really be too challenging. some of the material really could lead you to question your beliefs and ways of the universe. Not so much a bad thing, but wondering if it is on the level for undergraduates.	The way you ask questions is always either super wordy and confusing or the answer is so obvious and dumb. I think the clicker quizzes that were just about opinion we unnecessary and Im so angry I spent money for the app because it did not add to the class it only made grading the quizzes easier for you. Also the second paper question was confusing and if you consistently have poeople who don't do well because they are not answering the right question then it is probably the question not all of us. Asking college seniors obvious questions is taken as condescending and will not make it participation any better. Also the discussion board is kind of redundant if we have good conversations in class. Also the set up of the powerpoints is confusing how you repeat multiple slides on each presentation.
We studied WAYYYY too many philosophers. Its impossible to keep them straight	

Making Moral Decisions, Spring 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
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A little too much quizzes giving to quickly	He has his own way of teaching which interferes with other peoples opinion of his lectures. Seems like he does not appreciate being contradicted
Mundane lectures, hard tests (because they cover so many different authors)	homework load was intense but kept students up to date with information
Expensive book	Grades rigorously without having taught the material adequately. Provides unclear instructions regarding paper format. Begins discussion with an open mind but quickly shuts down the ideas of students.
felt rushed in the end of semester	Needlessly pedantic.
easy to doze off	I dropped this class im annoyed that i have to fill out an evaluation
	disrespectful, cuts people off who try to contribute to class discussion

Practical Logic, Spring 2015

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
HATE THE DISCUSSION BOARDS!!!!!! A waste of my time! Pointless discussion! Causes people to post just to get points, rather than to try to stimulate conversation. RUINED THE COURSE FOR ME.	sometimes comes off as abrasive toward more out-spoken students
online discussion is pointless	Does not always convey material in an easy to comprehend manner.
The economic examples. Most examples and homework questions were relatable to me and my classmates, but the economic examples were sometimes hard to follow (I've never taken any sort of economics course...).	sometimes doesn't see things from other people's point of view
limited discussion in class	Some examples used in class were debatable, but he presented them as fact.
The tests and homework assignments require more critical thinking than the professor allows. Questions and problems must be shorter.	concepts were presented in a wordy way, but explained very well
It's a poorly designed course-the structure was clear though. I didn't learn much, and I tried very hard to-the content seems irrelevant to much of anything.	As a philosopher, I would expect the professor to be able to help his students boost their grades and be flexible with grading. Unfortunately, this was not the case. I am a finance major and have no interest in taking this course, but I still had to. I put effort into it and my grades reflected it. The sad part is that only because I failed to meet all of his attendance requirements at the 9:30 am session many times because I was truly unable to, the professor downgraded my grade a whole letter. I understand that rules are rules, but I would expect him to understand that we have other courses and circumstances going on in life, that I'm putting effort even though I dislike the subject, and am not always able to make it to his class.
	I like his passion, but he is close-minded and follows his strict policies as if they were glorious. He does not know how to approach the student with absolutely no interest in the class.
	only weakness is that sometimes he can talk a little fast, but other than that he is very clear
	Makes the material overly complicated. He must understand his audience, mostly business major taking the mandatory course (not philosophy majors.)
	It's absurd that the one textbook for the class was written by the Professor teaching it-I find it highly unethical which is ironic considering he is a Professor of Philosophy. I also feel his opinion and beliefs were projected onto the class-I did not appreciate feeling I had to "play the game" for this class and just please the Professor. At Loyola our Professors should encourage us to truly learn and form our own opinions (of course with evidence to back it up though). I felt like none of our Jesuit ideals were involved or crossed over into the course. oia, we should strive to have Professors that f

Free Will and Determinism, Fall 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Not much interaction in class besides occasional questions (online discussions replace this I guess)	Sometimes seems cocky
not interesting, material was very difficult to comprehend and confusing	Very particular in grading but, if instructions are followed, you should do fine
The online discussion should be reconsidered. Maybe giving the option of verbal participation or a balance between the two.	His teaching is all over the place, Which can be confusing
The only component was really unnecessary. It was just a forced recap of may of he conversations that we had already had in class.	confusing

The course has too many components to keep up with. I think the blog post was too much to keep up with. Course matter seems a bit redundant.	The syllabus and all the time/ date constraints were confusing. In an effort to be as clear as possible, the polices were over thought and made more complex than necessary.
Online discussion was annoying	Some explanations were not thorough enough.
online google group	too much online oriented discussion, I did not sign up for an online class
The clicker questions used to illustrate points could be very obvious and somewhat condescending at times. Very easy logical leaps were drawn out step by step in an obvious manner that dragged along at times.	
Course packets are ridiculous	

Free Will in Thought and Action, Fall 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
challenging for those incapable of keeping up	gets excited and worked up easily
Bayer's not very friendly, and some of his descriptions were unclear	goes through the material almost the same way every time
Tedious work. Mundane. Unmotivating.	
Get repetitive towards the end	
Some people dropped out because they were intimidated by the course description on the first day.	

Practical Logic, Fall 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
I felt as if the Online Discussion component became a tedious task rather than something that I was able to learn from.	sometimes references are beyond normal scopes of knowledge
took place 8:30 am	hard to talk to.
online discussion	He talks in a condescending tone when arguing a point with a student. Sometimes I can see where he is coming from in that it is obvious that the student is wrongly arguing this point but instead of knocking the student down, try to understand where the person is coming from and what they believe before dismissing them
	needs to improve on how he responds to peoples opinions or answers that are wrong, can be a little harsh sometimes.
discussion posts are less than ideal	he is too on top of his students.
I do not see much value on the subject for my career.	Sometimes can seem too eager (especially so early in the morning)
if you get the answer correct and still don't give the best argument or explanation for your answer, its still wrong. some topics are hard to explain even if the student understands the subject	As a senior it was disheartening to have him as a professor. I have really cherished many of the relationships I have made with professors here at Loyola. He was SO rude and condescending. Truly the worst professor in terms of the type of person he is that I have ever had. I go out of my way to tell friends to avoid him. He takes pride in students not doing well but "tricking" them in examples.
discussion threads	hard to read his handwriting so didn't understand comments made in the test
Making Moral Decisions and Practical Logic could really be combined. MMD is basically like Practical Logic, but with a moral vs. immoral component. There's absolutely no need to have two additional philosophy classes for business students.	too fast paced
more examples on the powerpoints	Took philisopy too seriously.
sooo boring, dull, pointless, sickenigly logical; every second you ask yourself "why am I doing this"	Presupposes he is correct and openly admonishes students for wrong answers.
	Places a strange pressure on students to understand things immediately during lectures, not everyone has the same learning pace.
	For starters, Dr. Bayer is extremely condescending towards students. Although it's subtle, he makes remarks that suggest that if students don't immediately understand what is being taught, then they are not very intelligent. He also purposefully tries to create trick questions, so that students will (to his apparent enjoyment) get answers wrong, so he can teach everyone "a lesson" from it. Instead of praising students when they answer correctly, he focuses on the students who answer incorrectly, and makes them feel embarrassed that they were mistaken. In addition, using background information, that he swears is common knowledge but isn't (i.e. volcanoes, atomic numbers, movie references, etc.) can often result in a student getting a question wrong - even though they know the material that relates to the class.

	Great teacher but he can have a little passive aggressive sas sometimes that is really annoying. tries to get students involved in a subject no one cares about, i guess its not his fault but its how it is,
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Making Moral Decisions, Spring 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	Respect other people's opinion, not just your own.
	Class always runs 1-2 minutes over, an hour 15 is already a long time!
	Some leading questions in lectures didn't leave room to express decisions about morality thoroughly (iClicker q's)
	Online discussion. I do not like posting ideas about my morality on the internet/blogs.
	Sometimes the professor talked too fast to understand clearly.
Textbook.	Teaching style is condescending. Kind of a jerk. Really dread this class.
Online discussion.	
The copies in the textbook are occasionally blurred/hard to read. Quizzes use sections too specific, quoting an exact line rather than a general idea.	

Practical Logic, Spring 2014

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	The grading procedure was a little confusing to understand on Blackboard.
Don not make this a required course, especially for Business students. Can honestly say this was the least beneficial course I have taken at Loyola. Will not and have not recommend this course/professor to anyone.	Arrogant. Condescending. Stick to teaching philosophy, not everything else you try to teach us about, when you are obviously not an expert in every field.
	Every class period we spend 5-10 minutes announcing the same thing (about upcoming assignments). This is a waste of valuable time. Also, some of the examples are too extreme, involving assassinations, aliens, etc., that I wonder how practical this logic actually is. 'All balls are red.' These kind of statements, whatever the context, turned me off completely. My interest was not held, and as a result I slacked off.
Hard to grasp some concepts.	Not very helpful for students. Does not see arguments from other views kindly.
	Gives off a cocky presence that got distracting at times.
Same thing every class, gets repetitive and boring.	Does not grade homework before tests fast enough.
Please add more multiple choice questions to exams.	
	Too arrogant. Uncomfortable classroom environment to ask questions.
I felt there was no point in buying the textbook.	

Making Moral Decisions, Fall 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
I did not really learn anything that would have influenced my career nor life.	Seemed a little too cocky with his statements. Feels like his statements and opinions are the only correct things.
We don't need this many quizzes! A lot of the material was far too dense, so even when I did read, I still failed the quizzes.	This is a common curriculum elective, but it is treated like a philosophy major course. Those of us without philosophy backgrounds were truly at a loss. Awful! Very condescending. Always goes over class time. Forced students into pointless group discussions that waste class time. Very tough grader. Would never recommend!
We went in circles too often at times and lost track of topic.	
	Interrupting students when they are speaking.
	Quiz questions were often very difficult, even after reading and rereading the article.
Clicker questions confusing at times.	
Really needed a table of contents in the CP booklets.	
	Went over some material too quickly. Tried to teach too much in one class period.
The readings were a bit boring/confusing.	
The blog isn't a useful source and is too easy to forget about.	
If we had a study guide that would have been more helpful for studying for tests because there is a lot of material covered.	
Online discussion difficult to keep up with or trying not to repeat what another person said by "agreeing" or "disagreeing."	
Online discussion is the worst. More of our grade should reflect class participation.	
Moved a little fast on note slides.	

	Vain, talks down to students. Refutes every answer , condescending unclear in speech and writing instructions. We hate group work. Unrealistic. No philo majors here.
Bland material. No room for creativity. Weird vibe.	Condescending responses to student discussion. Led to force-fed drone classes.
	Presentations are boring.
Boring classes. People sit on computers. Don't pay attention. He should cover less things in class and have more personal opinion.	
	Opinionated. Pedantic.
	Did not provide definite answers to questions that were raised. Confusing comments on papers.
	Intimidating. Discussion always resulted in student being wrong.
Steep grading scale (A -> 96-100)	
Online discussion is worth too much and is not helpful. It is not always reflective of someone's intellect. Too many readings, and they were too long causing many people to skip them.	
	Condescending and made students feel as though there were never any right answers—this caused a lot of people to stop participating.
	I think that he was condescending and an unfair grader.
I feel the online discussions were, while stimulating, too weighty on the grade of the class.	

Epistemology, Fall 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
A little too intense. Online discussion board was lacking.	
Too much content and too many theories.	Went very rapidly.
More active discussion; I feel like not everyone always knows what's going on.	

Free Will and Determinism, Spring 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	I strongly (strongly) disagree with the "textbook" Dr. Bayer assigned. It was a badly photocopied (and somewhat incomplete) and could have put it on Blackboard. Especially since he said "paper is passé" in regards with online papers.
The online discussion felt like a waste of time.	
	Need to dumb down material. Not all of us have philosophy doctorates.
Too many quizzes.	
Both the essays felt like busy work and didn't really do anything for me. At no point during the class did I feel like it was a valuable asset to my education, but that's the story of all my common curriculum, felt like it was there to take up space more than anything.	
	Your expectations are a bit too high, not all of us are abstract thinkers! We struggle!
Too much reliance on discussion group/board, couldn't figure out what else needed to be said.	
	Unclear.
Did not find online discussions useful.	
Challenging	Don't understand sometimes his arguments. Explain more.
Stupid course content.	Extremely full of himself.
Online discussion was not helpful. Tedious and droll.	
	I'm not going to say he's a "bad" professor but there is definitely something to say about a guy who is incapable of talking about ANYTHING outside of philosophy. I felt weird from his response to "How you doing?"
	In order to get an A, you need a 96 or better. I am a committed honors student and I did not make this mark so I stopped trying and still got an A-.
Way too many assignments. Between preparing for quizzes, online posts, papers, and exams, it's easy to become disengaged and overwhelmed.	The sing-sonly voice! Good almighty, the sing-songy voice is so distracting and unsettling.

Practical Logic, Spring 2013

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
Online discussion post.	
Online component was difficult for me only because I do not do well with debates and discussions.	
Blogs!! People forgot about the blogs.	

Free Will and Determinism, Fall 2012

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
I think you could have touched on how all-encompassing this philosophical debate is. It influences almost every subject and every great thinker.	
One topic also got a bit old.	Not the best at clarifying and organizing dense concepts of philosophers.
Sometimes difficult.	
It would be better if you proposed a subject for the online discussion because I think many people went off the topic we should've been discussing.	
I don't like the online discussion.	
I would have found a subject with more conclusive possibilities somewhat more exciting.	The discussion board somewhat lackluster, though that is because of student interest, not Bayer's fault. Maybe have prompts at the end of the lecture slides for appropriate discussion posts?
	Needs to be a bit clearer for grading papers. The comments were helpful.
	I think he might be Canadian.
Sometimes tough to follow.	
There was a lot of material and I would preferred focusing on a smaller amount of philosophers so that you didn't have to push through. Easy to confuse philosophers.	
I didn't enjoy this course. I was confused a lot.	
A weakness of the class I would say is the online discussion part of the class. This may just be because I dislike the online portion. It may have been helpful for other students but I didn't feel it helped me understand the material differently.	

Practical Logic, Fall 2012

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
	I think Bayer crammed too much info into this course.
	Goes over time.
Tech problems. Online discussions can get a little stale.	
	I believe that I devoted a lot of time to this class and your grading policy hurts the student more than it helps because it is extremely hard to achieve an A even if your work is of A caliber.
The trick questions on the tests were a little harsh. We're not all logicians you know!	N/A
	The set up of homework I didn't like. The format really confused me. It was just too cluttered.
	Attendance shouldn't be so strict, some students have work/part time, children, and unfortunately some get sick a lot.
Discussion board is a nuisance in which not much is learned and too much weight is given.	

Philosophy of Knowledge, Spring 2012

<i>Of the course</i>	<i>Of the instructor</i>
No more clickers.	
Dislike Clickers in general.	
Not a fan of the iClickers.	
Too short.	He's not in my life all the time.
Google Forum is a bit intimidating.	
Definitely the least challenging philosophy class I've had in four years.	
NO CLICKERS	
I think iClickers are OK.	
Clickers.	Come to a point, then discuss—not the other way around! Google isn't streamlined for this, use a different web site.
Too specific, rigorous.	
Easier quizzes?	