

Student Comments

Below are *unedited* qualitative student evaluations for courses that I have taught at four institutions: University of Nottingham, Queens University, Fordham University, and the University of Cambridge.

I have bolded comments that I feel bring out my strengths as an instructor. I am happy to provide full sets of evaluations from all classes I have taught.

Note: I have no student evaluations for my “Knowledge & Justification” class for two reasons: first, the survey for my Spring 2019 class was not created due to an administrative error, so no data was collected; second, the survey was suspended in Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so no data was collected that term.



PHIL 3028 – Knowledge, Ignorance, and Democracy (Spring 2020)

This is the most engaging, relevant and thought-provoking module of my university experience (across three schools), despite hindered engagement from remote learning. Thank you very much for your continued effort to keep it so!

This has been my favourite module so far at university.

Michael is an **amazing teacher**. He has a very slow, clear way of teaching and he is **very approachable. Always happy to help** and you never feel rushed when chatting to him in 121's. One of the better teachers I have had at UoN and I specifically take my modules as I know I like his teaching style. I always find it more enjoyable when a teacher lets their opinions, thoughts and passions shine through when teaching modules and he did throughout this module.

I am really interested in the topic of fake news and I know we haven't come to that bit yet but I would prefer if the material edged more towards those kind of subjects (just a personal preference)

Really interesting content that feels less like 'analytical' philosophy (more sociology and psychology thrown into discussions about epistemology). Also, the content is very topically relevant in society today.

The concepts are very well explained, in an accessible format, videos are well-recorded, informative, engaging.

The interesting discussions about the role that truth has in politics and how this can be used as power.

Interesting topics every week. I don't think there is too much reading as others have suggested. I know students at other universities in first and second year who have far more reading for their

philosophy modules. I think there is a very reasonable level of reading required given our total contact hours.

I like most that the module is so relatable and visible in the real world. It makes you think about both the deeper and the ordinary things in a different way.

Pleasantly surprised by how unbiased and objective discussions are. Surprisingly not a given when discussing politics at universities.

The recorded lectures are content heavy yet enjoyable and easy to take in which makes them feel worthwhile

Interesting readings, made me think about politics in a completely different way (in a good way!)

so relevant to current climate, so very topical. also feel as though i can engage with political activism more readily with the information i now have

The topic is **incredibly interesting**. I find that the hour seminar is not enough to get through questions and discussions on the content on both the seminar and the lecture.

I have really enjoyed this module, and I think it has covered political epistemology in a way that feels very relevant to our times. Have covered lots of new topics and the seminars are always interesting.

A **very engaging** and increasingly relevant module, further 'lecture engagement' sessions could be helpful for breaking down any issues with lecture material in order to keep seminar discussion well informed. However this is primarily an issue due to online learning.

Loved learning about events and things in modern politics as I am very interested in it, great to learn about it in academic way.

I found this module **really interesting and thought provoking**. Even though this module didn't include lecture engagements I think the amount of teaching and discussion were enough to help me understand and engage with the content. Another thing I really appreciated were the module convenors feedback on essay plans because it was constructive and asked questions I had not thought of which really pushed me further into content for my essays.

Have found this module really engaging, its definitely changed how I think about politics!

I think this module is **one of my favourites of my whole degree**. I think the topics that have been discussed are incredibly relevant to the world right now, especially things like fake news, failures in deliberation and echo chambers. Could not recommend this module enough to others who were choosing their third year modules. Michael is **a thoughtful and excellent lecturer**.

This is a fantastic module - thought-provoking and challenging. It is clear that Michael **genuinely cares** about his area of expertise and students.

I think that Michael has given us the opportunity to discover some really interesting topics, and his **lectures and seminars are extremely insightful**. I have really wanted to engage throughout and doing this module has enlightened me on some concepts that I wish to further discover. Overall, a really good module, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

I have really enjoyed learning about another area of philosophy, especially one as obscure as political epistemology! The seminars have been **well-structured and well-led, with good**

engagement. I would have liked to have had lecture engagement sessions, as these have been really helpful in other modules and I think they could add a lot to the module. I am sad this module is ending, and I can't wait to read the book which comes out of it!

The module has been structured well and all topics covered have been **very topical and engaging** in a way other modules have not been. This has been the most interested I have been in a module at University, seminars have been well run with a great balance between Michael teaching and students engaging.



PHIL 348 – Freedom of the Will

I'm in my 4th year of Philosophy at Queen's and have taken a lot of courses in this department. This has without a doubt been my **favorite course**. The content is **so interesting** and I found it really **well organized**. Prof. Hannon's **passion** about the subject is clear and he has been such an effective instructor.

Dr. Hannon is an effective teacher and encouraged students to express their opinions. He was always open to discussion and respectful of student opinions. I really enjoyed this course. He is **inspirational**.

Dr. Hannon is **one of the best profs I've ever had**. He's engaging, smart, and keeps everyone interested in every class by asking the class for regular input. He has a genuine interest in student opinions and is a **very invested professor**. Also, well-planned classes.

Best prof. He is perfectly clear with the notions and problems raised by the topic.

This professor is **extremely clear and engaging**.

The content was interesting and the professor was great. Provided a lot of material to help make class interesting and easy to follow along with. Overall, really enjoyed the course!

He speaks very clearly and it's easy to understand what he says. His **passion** for the course really made it interesting. I also liked the connections he made to well-known movies and the examples really helped me understand the content.

Very interesting discussion and topics. **Fantastic at clarifying complex concepts**. Covered a wide range of issues, and not biased toward a topic in discussion.

The lectures were always comprehensive and detailed. Prof. Hannon demonstrated a **genuine passion** for the course material.

I really liked the content and topics, the discussion and debates, and how I left the class still thinking about the issues.

You are one of the best professors I have had thus far at Queen's University. Your handouts are very helpful and you also **demonstrate a sincere interest in your students' well being and success**. You make philosophy fun and that is somewhat rare! Teach more classes! Thank you :)

Very interesting content that isn't discussed in other classes. Highly enjoyable.

The instructor was always well-prepared and presented material in **utterly clear** manner. The grading was very fair.

The content was interesting. The readings were not only informative ideas to benefit assignments but it also allowed students to take away knowledge for other classes.

The instructor was so great and showed a lot of his interests through the material.

Very interesting material, professor knows content extremely well and presents things clearly with confidence. **Provides lots of interesting real life examples to keep students engaged. Very encouraging/supportive of diverse points of view** on a topic.

Variety of views, variety of topics, neutral stance, high amount of discussion, thought-provoking material.

I loved the encouragement for discussion, as well as the lengths taken to ensure that we were able to grasp the course concepts/material. The examples were extremely interesting.

Inspirational. Inspirational. Inspirational. **Inspirational.** Inspirational.

Amazing course. Well taught, **enthusiastic, knowledgeable**, and great subject matter. I know you're a free will skeptic! Great job teaching and thoroughly enjoyed the course and was pretty convinced by the arguments you put forth.

I really liked the examples and relatable illustrations that the professor constantly provided.

Professor Hannon! Great professor, very engaging, thorough, and funny. He singly handedly made this course the best philosophy course I've taken at Queen's (3rd year philosophy major).

Great Prof. Very knowledgeable and **passionate** about the subject. Deserves a professorship.

The content was fascinating and the prof made the course engaging and **one of my favorite lectures** to attend.

The lectures were enjoyable and engaging. The readings assigned were interesting and progressed well throughout the semester. The humor brought forth when presenting ideas was very appreciated and held students attention.

Professor Hannon is a great teacher, he seemed very interested in the material which made lectures very engaging. He showed genuine concern for this students and I can confidently say I felt comfortable approaching him and felt like I could get to know him on a personal basis. Great course experience!



PHIL 2000 – Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics

This professor was one of the BEST professors I have had in my years at college. He's intelligent and encourages discussion while giving **great insight on very complex topics**.

One of my favorite teachers so far. Class discussions, handouts, and PowerPoints were extremely helpful. It helps a lot that the professor seems to genuinely care about the topic and it is evident he is extremely knowledgeable.

I cannot think of anything that would improve this course. He's got it down.

Michael Hannon is a great teacher. He is funny and able to hold the attention of the class while still teaching the material that is required. I wish that I were taking more philosophy classes so that I could have him as a teacher again. He's a keeper!

It made a huge impact that the professor was **approachable** and it was apparent that he was extremely knowledgeable. He did a great job of explaining and relating the readings to other class readings and real life. Also, class discussion helped increase my understanding and interest in the class.

Professor brought guests to class to elaborate on the subject, which I found positive to learn ideas from others.

Well-structured class, **great discussion topics, interesting and engaging**.

I really liked the open discussions. He really did a great job of keeping the class engaged with the material.

His **enthusiasm** and love for philosophy made me interested in what I was learning and eager for the next class.

I believe that any time spent learning Philosophy is valuable. Since many college students are in their second decade of life experience, much of it will need to be reinforced as they age. For me, into my fifth decade of living (age 53), this class was a reminder about how much I do not know, and how much we forget. It was a refreshing experience in that respect. Working in the fields of International Studies, Philosophy is invaluable when connecting various realities under which people live their lives.

Felt **very welcoming** and wasn't too formal. Made it easier to enjoy the class. I liked everything.

Professor was very informative and is very articulate when explaining the subject.

I found it to be a very comfortable space for discussions.

He was **clear, concise, and patient**. He never expressed his personal beliefs and never looked down on the different opinions of students.

The open discussions provided a comfortable learning environment.

He was very open to creating a discussion space that allowed students to participate as he encouraged us to come up with scenarios that would challenge thought problems of the lecture.

This was a great class. I think that teachers can have a profound effect on the students they teach (if they so choose) and **you are one of the teachers who had a major effect on my studies** during my time at Fordham. I took this course because it was a requirement and you helped turn it into an actual interest. As of yet, regardless of my major, this has been **the best class that I have been enrolled in at Fordham**. I have the utmost respect for teachers who bring passion to the classroom, and you did just that.

Michael Hannon is a very good professor. He has a lot of patience to explain every subject until everyone in class understands. He is a very positive professor, he made every class entertaining and he would fully catch our attention while he was teaching class.

He is **attentive to students**, and very generous when listening to us verbally work through theories, then encouraging us to consider the topic further and from different perspectives.

Professor Hannon is **articulate, well organized, friendly, and engaging**. One of his greatest strengths is his thorough responses to student questions, providing examples and tactfully giving counter arguments when appropriate. At times, he moves a bit fast paced, but he usually catches himself and will slow down (and to be fair, there was a lot of material to fit in one class).

He is very **enthusiastic, wise, and deeply dedicated to this subject**.

I really loved this class. The selection of thought provoking articles always intrigued me. I am actually more aware as a person now, having framework around schools of thought. It has come together in a much more holistic way after all of this material. The class is fantastic, and Professor Hannon is an interesting professor with a **generous spirit**. And **extremely respectful** in discussions no matter the topic. Really great.

I enjoyed all the readings and loved how the readings would relate to one another. It was a class I enjoyed especially considering I had a horrible experience in Philosophy of Human Nature.

I like how class discussions were allied with the Powerpoint slides.

I really appreciated his openness to the students' contributions.

I love his enthusiasm for the subject. Also, he does a good job of honoring his students' personal opinions without letting the discussion get sidetracked.

Professor Hannon provided **thoughtful feedback** on both papers and responses.

Enthusiastic, accommodating, and the two paper assignments were especially enjoyable.

Professor Hannon took the time to explain his direction, and acknowledge each side of the issues posed in readings. He is very objective and encourages meaningful class discussion.

The structure of the class was very organized in that the paired readings worked well together in displaying contrasting ideas that argue each other nicely. Also, his lectures helped place the assigned readings in a broader context.

As overwhelming of a subject that Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics may seem, Hannon did an awesome job of keeping everything straightforward and clear.

Great course!

I really enjoyed the readings that deviated from a standard philosophy class, such as David Foster Wallace or happiness readings. Those made the class particularly interesting and really enthralled everyone in the class room. The essays were also a great learning experience.

Professor Hannon was very engaging in class and always open to hearing and responding to any questions brought up in discussion. His outlines of each lesson and the powerpoint slides really emphasized the main points of the reading.

Mr. Hannon is brilliant and while he shared his own knowledge, he also listened careful to what the students had to offer and made our ideas feel acceptable and valid. **Wonderful teacher** and wonderful class!

The professor was **extremely engaging** and at the end of the semester the readings were extremely enjoyable.

Cases were really engaging: Made the philosophy extremely contemporary!

The professor was so well read! He had an argument and accepting mind for all of us, no matter how strong our Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics. The readings were short and spread out, so they were digestible and not overwhelming.

Professor Hannon was very engaging. Philosophy tends to be a course where students, if not especially interested in it, tend to wonder off during class. Professor did a good job keeping students interested as much as possible.

He genuinely cares about these topics and that was reflected in his explanations/lectures.

His sense of humor was agreeable, his understanding of the material was impeccable.

I'm not very interested in philosophy to begin with, but Professor Hannon made it interesting. You can tell that he cares about what he's teaching and his passion is influential. Even though the course was a block class at night, I was always engaged and ready for discussion. I like how Hannon asked for participation throughout lecture because it allowed us to offer input rather than just staring at a lecture.

Instructor was always positive

I find his ability to connect with each individual student has been wonderful. He is very **relatable** and has a contemporary teaching style that I believe is extremely effective to convey intellectual material like philosophy. Also, he always noted our opinions on completed assignments, which shows that he continues to make an effort at improving his own teaching.

The teaching style is really **engaging and fun**.

He was always friendly and open to discussion. He kept the class engaged with his quick, in-depth responses and relative examples.

Mr. Hannon is **one of my favorite teachers** thus far at Fordham. He is brilliant and engages the class effortlessly. He made us feel like he was on our side helping us to understand when we were confused and pushing us further when we demonstrated a strong understanding of the material. Keep going!!!

I found Professor Hannon's enthusiasm was helpful in boosting the mood of the class. The handouts were also beneficial in outlining the main points that we were to go over during the course of the class.

I enjoyed the discussions. We were able to promote our own understandings and our own story and perspectives. It wasn't overwhelming and the information was extremely well spelled out for us, even with the dense readings.

He clearly cares about his students gaining knowledge and enjoying the class.

He was very clear and enjoyed the topics

Everything Hannon explained was easy to understand and yet in-depth. He is **super friendly and very helpful**.

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I love this class

Maybe be a little less funny (kidding)!

I would advise Professor Hannon to continue to change our lives with this brilliant humor.

Nothing. You're a very cool dude and a very smart professor!

Keep the good going on! Love this course.

He was very friendly, open, and really tried to make sure everyone as whole had a grasp of the content/arguments being presented. He made very complicated theories simple to understand.

I wish I could give Dr. Hannon higher scores than the rubric allows. He is a fantastic professor!! The way he allows us to question the material and go back and forth with him live during class is by far the most valuable educational experience of the course. I definitely plan on taking additional philosophy classes as a result of taking his class.

Wow I'm not sure who was responsible for hiring Michael, but thank you! he is able to elevate the level of intellect in a room very quickly. he sets very high expectations and assumes nothing less of his students. Very happy to have been able to study this material with him. Always approachable and clear about assignments. Also, was grateful that he made time to explain how I could improve my work and even shared an example with me which I found very valuable. His passion for the

subject matter was infectious. It's not easy to keep going at 7pm at the end of the week but he kept his energy up for us. Thank you.

Very humorous, never bored, had a vast body of knowledge on each subject we discussed.

Very good speaker and the use of power point for in class lectures was very well planned.

This course really teaches you how to think! I find myself applying the thinking methods thought in this course to outside situations all of the time. The most valuable portion for me was being able to comment and object to theories discussed in the class while we were covering them, and having Dr. Hannon go back and forth with us to explain how our logic could or could not be applied to the given case.

Very happy with all aspects of this course. Reading assignments were well chosen and were both challenging and engaging.

Honestly, I liked all of it. This class was tightly and expertly taught.

In-depth explanations of the previous week's readings were extremely helpful. Usually, any questions I had about the readings were answered in the lecture. Also, because the students were encouraged to participate I gained valuable exposure to views I did not hold for myself. I feel that the structure and material of this course **allowed me to grow into a more efficient and well-rounded critical thinker.**



Part 1A – Knowledge and Skepticism

Excellent! Loved this course!

Very good lecture set, one of the best! Great topics – contextualism, Craig's analysis of Knowledge, was really interesting. Also, **really clear presentation, kept me focused** all the time.

Particularly interested by his divergence from only traditional views. Makes it more interesting than introductions I may be familiar with.

So good!! Topics talked about were very interesting and the involvement of very contemporary stuff was perfect, and not too hard or irrelevant.

Overall a very good and enjoyable course.

Great.

Really interesting. Audience interaction really helped to work through the material.

Excellent variety of material covered, great powerpoints, very clear. (Helped my supervisor essays massively, thanks!).

Really good course, interest in the topic has been increased a lot.

Very clear presentation and good balance of content and explanation, all neatly focused. Quite difficult content covered extremely well.

Tied with Hallvard Lillehammer for **favorite lecturer**.

Really good, **informative, clear, interesting**. Thanks!

Very clear and coherent. Really enjoyable course.

A good style of presentation and handouts differing from slides allowing for only the more referential info to be put on them.

Really excellent. Clear presentation, lots covered. Found it really interesting.

You're the **best lecturer** I have! We love you! P.S. I love the pace of each lecture.

Amazingly good, perfect pace and explanation. Thanks so much!

Everything covered well.

Excellent course – moved very fast, but everything explained very well.

The lecture content was very thorough, but more referencing on handouts would save a little more space (that's all!). Otherwise excellent!!

We love you. Come home and explain stuff to me over Christmas.

Excellent. **Very clear, precise and engaging.**

Excellent lucid lectures presenting challenging material in an accessible way. Great lecturer.

Excellent! Loved it.

Very speedy and packed lectures but the presentation was so clear and slides so helpful I found this stimulating not limiting. Very good lecturer.

A good, clearly presented course. Same great clarity and delivery as Dr Arif Ahmed.