

TA Evaluations – Early Modern Philosophy (PHIL 0360) – Spring 2011

This document collates and transcribes student comments from the above class. They are grouped according to the questions on the student response form and minimally edited for clarity. Scans of the original forms can be found elsewhere in my teaching portfolio.

- 1. Section Meetings:** Please comment on your section. How much class participation did your section leader encourage? What was the quality of the discussion? How well did your section leader command the subject matter? How valuable did you find section? How often did you attend?

‘1. Not enough. 2. I don’t know. 3. I’m sure well, but perhaps he could have done better explaining things. 4. Not very. 5. Always.’

‘Very high quality section. Very helpful TA and very good at facilitating discussion. I found section to be the most valuable part of the class w/ Tim.’

‘Class participation was encouraged but I feel it wasn’t enough. It felt more like each of was discussing the subject with Tim than that we were discussing with each other. Tim was fairly knowledgeable about the authors (Hume, Kant, Locke, etc.) and their connection to contemporary philosophy, though I question the relevance of some of it.’

‘I understood a lot more after sections. Discussion was very good and Tim encouraged a lot of participation. He knew what he was doing and it was a good experience. I attended almost every section.’

‘All excellent.’

‘Participation always encouraged. My particular section only had 3 people, so discussions were extremely free-flowing and fruitful.’

‘My section leader encouraged participation and helped clarify the readings. Through discussion I was able to analyze the readings.’

‘There was a lot of good discussion about concerns that came up as we wrote our papers and did our reading.’

- 2. Grading:** How helpful did you find the comments on your papers? Any other comments on grading

I didn’t read many of them! I think it’s somewhat unprofessional he write one grade and then cross it out and write another.

‘Very helpful comments on paper. Better handwriting needed.’

Tim Syme – Teaching Portfolio

‘Fair grader who gave good comments.’

‘The comments helped me work out incorrect uses of technical terminology and write more well-founded philosophy papers.’

‘All helpful.’

‘Comments were helpful and grading was fair.’

‘Helpful.’

‘The comments were appropriate for the type of papers we wrote, whether summary or analysis.’

3. Office Hours: How accessible was your TA? Did you utilize office hours, or make other arrangements to speak individually with your TA?

‘Very accessible TA; I attended office hours every week.’

‘TA made himself accessible. I don’t know how his office hours were.’

‘I did not utilize office hours, but he held them and was probably available.’

‘The one time I needed help Tim was helpful and around.’

‘I did not utilize office hours but my TA made himself accessible.’

‘Very accessible and used email often too.’

4. Other Comments:

‘Great TA!’