

TA – Evaluations – Marxism (PHIL 0400) - Spring 2012

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. A lot. 2. Pretty [illegible] but sometimes dominated by a few individuals. 3. Pretty well but there were a topics that needed fact checking. Its complex material so I don't blame him. 4. Section was moderately valuable. Class was so good section wasn't always needed. 5. Always.'

'Section was productive and engaging. Tim was great at encouraging discussion and was an entertaining TA. I attended the majority of the sections and found them valuable.'

'Our section leader encouraged discussion each time, mostly, by calling on people who had not yet talked. The discussion was very smart and focused, with limited tangents. I found it very valuable and I attended every one.'

'I attended nearly every section. Sometimes they were quite helpful if the reading was difficult but in general I felt we did not have sufficient time to explore the concepts in depth. He seems to know the material pretty well in general.'

'Sections had good discussions. Tim knew the material and guided discussions well. I attended every section and found them every helpful.'

'He encouraged a lot of quality discussions. He had a great plan for every section and the ideas he brought in were extremely helpful in furthering my knowledge of the class material.'

'Section meeting was productive and Tim did a good job of leading section as well as getting people to contribute.'

'I missed several section meetings but was pleased with Tim's direction in section when I was in attendance. More encouragement for participation might have been useful.'

'Great section. Great encouragement. Great discussion. Great command of subject matter. I enjoyed section and always attended.'

'He made sure everyone said something. Discussions were interesting and productive in helping me understand the subject better. He seemed to know the subject matter very well and could answer most of our questions. Section was definitely useful, sometimes challenging. I came to every section.'

Tim Syme – Teaching Portfolio

‘Tim encouraged participation. The discussion was very well guided by the TA. I only missed one section.’

‘Great participation in a good quality discussion. I found the section valuable and I attended every section.’

‘Tim encouraged useful, interesting and always lively discussion. His command of the material was always far above satisfactory and, as such, I haven’t missed a single session.’

‘Tim was good at facilitating conversation that never felt forced, though I wish it covered more ground in terms of course content. He did have a good command of the subject matter and asked interesting questions to stimulate discussion.’

‘I really valued section time and think that is particularly because Tim was always very prepared with questions/encouragement and personal investment in the course content. I’ve attended every section.’

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

‘Comments were [illegible] I personally like more comments on writing style in addition to arguments. Comments on arguments were insightful.’

‘Comments were instructive and creative in terms of finding the weak points of arguments. Grading seems fair.’

‘The comments were very helpful, in terms of content, structure and overall meaning of my paper.’

‘Quite helpful. We were allowed to rewrite which meant you could learn from your mistakes.’

‘Comments were very thorough and the grading [illegible] that the papers had to be very well thought out to get a good grade.’

‘He gave smart comments in an organized manner. The fact that he provided typed up comments was great.’

‘Although sometimes illegible, the comments on papers were generally helpful and constructive.’

‘The comments were very helpful.’

‘Pretty helpful.’

‘The comments were clear and seemed to have good points. So far I’m happy with the grading.’

‘The comments were very helpful and pointed me in the proper direction for future papers.’

‘Terrible handwriting made comments difficult.’

‘Very useful and informative, usually helped further understanding of the material.’

‘The comments were helpful when they were legible...I think typed comments might be the way to go though.’

‘Comments on papers were very helpful, critical and concise and equivalent to the work/effort/thought I put in.’

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, utilized frequently. Great during office hours.’

‘Accessible. I often discussed with him after section.’

‘Very helpful. I couldn’t make it to office hours so we arranged easily to meet at other times.’

‘His hours were at a convenient time and he was easily accessible. I did not however utilize office hours often.’

‘Tim was available once a week for office hours and was very helpful when I went to them.’

‘Although I did not go to office hours, he seemed accessible and always encouraged students to come talk to him.’

‘Tim was quite accessible and was very helpful one-on-one especially in paper prep.’

‘Tim was available but I did not take the opportunity to approach him.’

‘I utilized office hours and enjoyed it.’

‘I couldn’t go to office hours but I did arrange to speak to him individually. He was accessible.’

‘I did not attend office hours but Tim was readily available via email. I appreciate his timely responses.’

‘I did not attend office hours.’

‘He was always accessible when I needed him to be, holding regular office hours.’

Tim Syme – Teaching Portfolio

‘Quite accessible, though I have not taken full advantage of his availability in office hours.’

‘Tim is extremely sociable, friendly, and approachable. If I had not been so busy this semester I would have definitely utilized office hours more.’

4. Other Comments:

‘Nice guy, very creative thinking. Quick on his feet.’

‘Tim is great, I enjoyed having him as my section leader.’

‘Tim asked provocative and worthwhile questions encouraging looking at the material from many perspectives.’

‘Fun dude!’

‘Good section.’

‘Syme could be long winded at times.’