

Teaching Evaluations

Michal Masny

Overview

I served as an instructor or as a teaching assistant (“preceptor”) for the following courses.

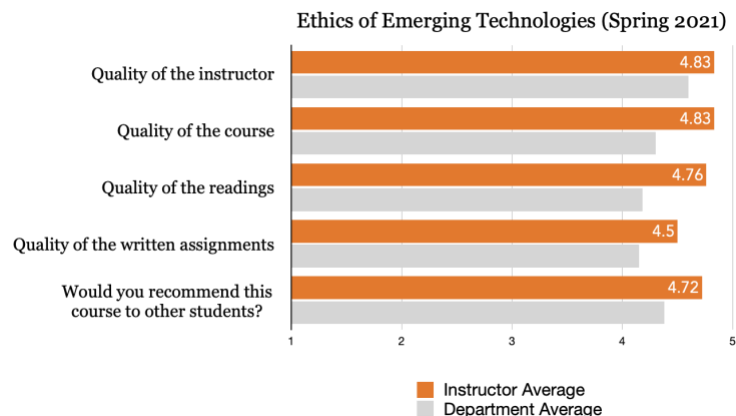
<i>Course</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Date</i>
Ethics of Emerging Technologies	Co-instructor*	Spring 2021
Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Teaching Assistant	Fall 2020
Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Teaching Assistant	Fall 2019

*Alongside Johann Frick. At Princeton, graduate students are not allowed to teach a course completely on their own. However, students who have demonstrated excellence as a teaching assistant may apply to participate in the Collaborative Teaching Initiative which allows them to design and co-teach a new undergraduate course with a faculty mentor. Our course was sponsored by this initiative.

Ethics of Emerging Technologies (Co-instructor, Spring 2021)

Quantitative Feedback

My complete statistics for Ethics of Emerging Technologies. Ratings are on a scale of 1-5.



Selected Comments

On the quality of the instructor

1. Michal is a very intelligent and thoughtful instructor, who did an excellent job facilitating the class and our discussions. He and professor Frick worked very well together, and I was extremely pleased with how they handled the class (among the best I've taken at Princeton).
2. Very helpful and teaching style was perfect for me. The way he explains topics is specific and clear. Prof. Masny helped me plan my papers and talked with mw through some topics. He made philosophy very relatable and interactive which made the class more amazing.
3. Michal was awesome! I really liked the way he organized his handouts and he did an excellent job integrating students into the discussion. He tended to have a more "hands-off" approach, which I enjoyed a lot.
4. The seminars were great! He put so much effort in literally organizing the outline for each session the morning of with personalized responses from the discussion board. Also, he didn't interfere with discussion, only steering when needed, always bringing up interesting points.

5. Great!!! The topics that we discussed were EXTREMELY interesting and relevant!!! Both Masny and Frick were extremely knowledgeable and engaging!
6. Seminars were awesome! I liked that we had handouts I could take notes on with definitions I could reference later. Also, they were really nicely broken up by the student presentations and breakout rooms so they never felt too long. Even over zoom I was engaged the whole three hours!
7. In regards to Michal's teaching specifically — it was awesome!! I was engaged the entire three hours for the seminars he led, which is especially crazy because this was all over Zoom! I think Michal will be a great professor one day :) He obviously really knows so much about the field, and was really good at explaining concepts to people new to philosophy like me, but at the same time made the course high-level enough, by bringing in creative insights and interesting questions that I felt like pushed even the students who knew a ton about philosophy to think further. It is very hard to balance explaining stuff to beginners while not boring the more well-versed students, and I think Michal did an amazing job striking that balance. Michal also was great at pushing students to think harder/ challenging them on their points without seeming condescending. On the contrary, I felt like he really respected me as a thinker although I know very little about philosophy and he created a very warm and encouraging environment ! Also, one other note is I really liked that this class assigned a reasonable amount of reading because then I felt like everyone actually read all of it so we were all on the same page during the seminar.
8. The seminars were excellent! Michal did an excellent job of leading discussion, asking thought-provoking questions, engaging with students' ideas, and developing our understanding. I learned a lot in Michal's seminars, and enjoyed them very much as well!
9. Fantastic! Masny is talented at simplifying highly complex concepts in an intuitive way.
10. Michal was an excellent professor for this class — I feel lucky to have been part of a seminar led by him.

*On the quality of
the course*

1. THIS CLASS WAS SO GOOD. I don't think I've ever felt so intellectually engaged and this was during a zoom semester as well! Frick and Masny were legendary. Unfortunately they are both leaving Princeton so I can't speak to the quality of this course in future semesters. If it is anything like this semester, I would take it again in a heartbeat.
2. MUST TAKE! This class opened my thoughts to a lot of different concepts that are related to ethics and technology.
3. It is so sad that Professor Frick is leaving and that Michal is done teaching (I think?). This class was so interesting, with relevant, engaging topics that will certainly be important in years to come. The discussion-based atmosphere is very open and not too serious/stressful.
4. THIS IS AN AMAZING COURSE!!!! The topics covered are EXTREMELY interesting and the professors are very passionate and engaging!! My favorite class this semester!

On the quality of the readings

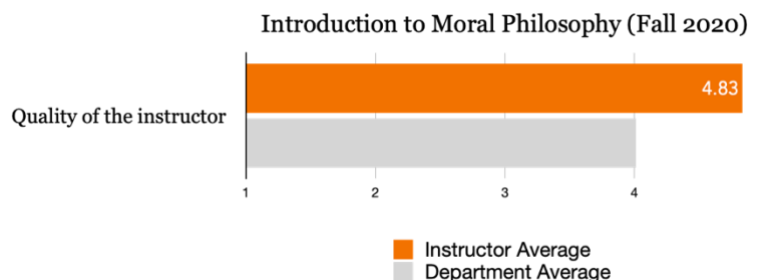
5. Incredible course. Participation is really important and can be a bit hard to balance with 25 people over zoom, but the professors did a great job of trying to stimulate interesting conversation. Loved it!
1. JF and MM chose very interesting readings each week (which were also a very reasonable amount!) In making the load manageable, we could all keep up with the readings and have an engaging discussion. I especially appreciate how they often chose contrasting viewpoints, enabling the class to have a more in-depth conversation.
2. The readings were SO INTERESTING! I was always discussing them outside of class with my family and friends.
3. Loved the readings. They were definitely dense/heavy, but we had two fabulous guides through them.
4. The class discussions were always vibrant because of the reading choices. I loved that Race was a component in this class.
5. The readings were interesting and challenging (in the good way) without fail! I learned a lot from this class's readings, and the syllabus was overall very well structured.

On the quality of written assignments

1. Wonderful!!!! They made sure that all of us, even those with no philosophy writing experience, were prepared for the essays, and they met with us to give us advice which was extremely helpful.
2. The instructors provided very detailed feedback on our essays, which is something I appreciated. The essay prompts were very interesting, and I like how we could choose which topic to write about. The project presentations were also a great way to keep students engaged.
3. The "how to write a philosophy paper" mini-lecture was very helpful, as well as being able to meet with Prof. Frick and Michal to talk about my ideas for my paper. If I hadn't met with them, I think I would've been a little lost writing some parts of my paper. I also found the feedback very thorough and helpful!
4. The written work was well-designed and we were given good guidance and instruction, and it did a good job of helping us engage with course material. I appreciated the fact that papers were graded anonymously, and we got lots of very useful feedback on each writing assignment.
5. Thought-provoking essay prompts which really helped me explore interesting questions relating to the material.

Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2020)

Quantitative Feedback



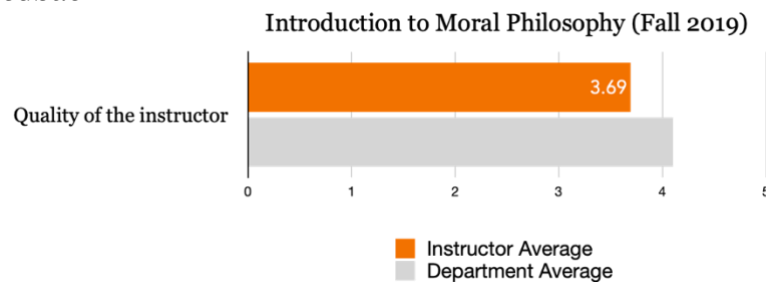
Selected Comments

On the quality of the instructor

1. My preceptor Michal was fantastic. I had so many great discussions in class and in office hours. I appreciate his ability to encourage discussion in class and make it very interactive, especially in the online environment. Michal always made time for his students and provided handouts, advice, and interesting ideas!
2. Amazing preceptor! Really explained the material and made it highly interesting.
3. Excellent preceptor, it's clear he put lots of effort into the course
4. The precepts were very engaging and the preceptor always did a good job of encouraging and supporting the ideas of students while also making sure they understood the readings correctly.
5. Michal was outstanding. He was very thought-provoking in class, and he was always amazing help when writing my papers. I loved having Michal as a preceptor this semester.

Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019)

Quantitative Feedback



Selected Comments

On the quality of the instructor

1. Michal Masny was a GREAT preceptor. Always prepared and really ran a great precept. Did what precepts SHOULD do, and took us beyond material presented in lecture.
2. Michal was an awesome preceptor and was really devoted to the class. His interest encouraged us to be more interested.
3. Precepts were very engaging and probably an academic highlight of my educational experience. I would frankly advocate for the precept length to be increased to 90 minutes, since currently, it feels like there is inadequate time for both open discourse + clarifying lecturing from the preceptor (as in, a class would often be 40 minutes of clarifying lecture + 10 minutes of discourse, or the other way around. Both elements are really important to the extent that being in a position to have to choose one or the other seems quite undesirable.)
4. I was very satisfied with the precepts, they covered in-depth the content presented in class, which filled in gaps that were left during lecture and helped very well in clarifying misconceptions in the readings. The precepts, however, did not prepare me much for the assignments.
5. The precepts were helpful and Michal was responsive to questions. Sometimes they were dominated by a couple of students.