



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY.

Course Evaluation Report for SP2020 PHIL-2050-03-Ethics (Sahar Joakim) - Spring 2020

Project Title: ***Spring 2020 Course Evaluations**

Course Audience: **37**

Responses Received: **26**

Response Rate: **70.27%**

Creation Date: **Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

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I took this course (check all that apply)...

Options	Count	Percentage
to meet a requirement of an undergraduate academic major or minor	16	48.48%
to meet a requirement of a graduate/professional program or minor	1	3.03%
to meet an undergraduate core/general education requirement	16	48.48%
as an elective (not part of any major/minor/program or core/general education requirement)	0	0.00%
Please explain	0	0.00%
Respondent(s)	26	

In thinking about the course when it was conducted face-to-face, what aspects do you feel were particularly effective for helping you learn the course material?

Comments
The after class reflections and short readings before class
Class discussions
Having class discussions of topics were extremely helpful for understanding ethical issues and the professor had us all involved constantly.
The discussion over certain topics
I thought that the reflections at the end of the day were helpful in retaining the material and having the ability to speak our minds even if class time runs out.
The group discussion, listening to Ms. Joakim explain the lesson helped make it way easier to understand.
The consistency in the work that was expected (for example, discussion board every day after class). That way it was easier to fall into a routine and not forgetting about homework assignments. Also, the way discussions were structured allowed people to be as engaged as they would like to be, but still making each individual at least question the topic with themselves.
Miss Joakim let us all learn however worked best for us. Those who like to verbalize their thoughts got a chance to speak. Those who prefer to merely observe and think were allowed to do that. The lectures were geared towards topics that really matter. I felt as though this class is one of the few I've taken at this University that will stick with me for a long time.
The in-class experience was fantastic. Discussions were incredibly engaging and often very interactive.
I absolutely loved our active class discussions and the way that Prof. Joakim taught by inviting class mates to the front of the room to demonstrate various scenarios. She was also extremely open minded and really encouraged everyone to express their own opinions regardless if her personal beliefs align with ours, which I greatly appreciated.
I really enjoyed the structure of her class. Come prepared to class with different readings, listen to a lecture, and then respond to a point from class. This made it much easier to pay attention, as the things we discussed were then applied directly to our homework.
Miss Joakim is a fantastic teacher. She made learning ethics very enjoyable with a very active teaching style on different dilemmas. She helped me realize there is a multitude of perspectives and lessons can be found from various aspects of daily lives.
Miss Joakim was extremely engaging. I found her lessons to be very influential as well. When you see that a teacher is about their business you want to involve yourself more inside and outside of class. She did a great job of giving us contemporary examples. Oftentimes I feel that some of these philosophy classes go for breadth of knowledge rather than really talking about important issues. This makes the course less interesting. Joakim did the complete opposite. Kudos to her.
I really liked class discussions and when we got out of our seats for sessions in the class and did voting or examples.
Long discussions with the whole class were very effective to learning the course material.
Reviewing reading or video materials in class and listening to/participating in class discussions/exercises were effective for helping me learn the course material.
All the articles and essays we had to read that were the focus of discussion, along with in class discussion which was always interesting.
The discussions about ethical topics were helpful, and having us show our opinions and explain why we had those viewpoints was good
The professor demonstrated a clear understanding of the material and knew how to clearly teach the material to the students. The

Comments
activities and assignments were helpful in understanding the material while not being overwhelming.
In class discussions. It is so hard to do something like that with a class as big as this, but Dr. Joakim made that very engaging and effective.
The discussions, thought experiments, and demonstrations we did during class to illustrate theories and what is right versus wrong really helped me to solidify my own position, but also helped me to step through the right/wrong reasoning process and my understanding of the "why" behind things. Miss Joakim did an amazing job at making philosophy, which I have always had a hard time understanding because of its wordiness and old school examples, something applicable to real world issues today and something that we should all really care about, even outside of class. The up to date and straight forward readings on current topics also helped my understanding of ethics.
I loved how our discussions were about real life things. We covered some of the basic concepts of ethics at the beginning and then we were able to apply those. I also liked how we were evaluated by our participation and take away from discussions as well as papers where we could demonstrate our ability to research and form opinions.
I like how interactive the lectures were. She would make us go to different sides of the room on different stances and argue for various topics. I also liked how she incorporated readings and videos that she would send out the class before and use them to teach us about various ethical topics.
Involving the class in discussion and relating class material to real life situations so that students can understand and relate. I also liked that we discussed that night and that our discussion responses were due after class because I felt like I still had the information fresh in my mind, but I was able to think through it a little bit more.

In thinking about the course when it was conducted face-to-face, what suggestions do you have for improving the learning experience in this course?

Comments
It could not be improved because it was conducted perfectly.
It was perfectly fine as it was.
Nothing the class was the best class that I have ever taken at SLU.
I don't have any, one of the best classes I have taken at slu.
Personally, I do not see anything that needs improvement. I liked the way this course was structured.
None
None– it was the best class I've had throughout college
I do not have suggestions
None, I really enjoyed the setup. Though, I would suggest keeping this class in a big room like our second one. Our initial classroom was way too cramped.
Nothing, great job!
If possible a smaller class size, so that discussions can be more deep and thoughtful.
No suggestions come to mind.
Only thing that really sticks out: I would leave straight from class to go work a full shift, so sometimes it was tricky for me to remember to submit my class discussion by midnight. But that really wasn't a big deal and that's more of a "me" issue. I feel confident that if it'd become a problem, Dr. Joakim would've worked with me on it to make accommodations. If I ever did forget, I knew that next week I could do some extra credit to make it up.
I wish we would have more time for discussions and theoretical questions that pertained to each lecture/theory.
While I loved the way that the class was taught, there were some times where I did not think that the language used in class was appropriate. During the first class, she said the word "retarded" in reference to technology, which I personally thought was offensive, especially as I am someone who works with children with special needs and am sensitive to that word. She realized the impact that it had on the class, and offered an extra credit opportunity to allow us to speak on that.
None.
I thought it was really interesting that you knew the students so well, and even knew some names before class started. I was kind of shy to talk in class because I didn't know the other students as well. I know it may seem very high school... But I might have loved some sort of get to know you activity involving the whole class at the beginning. It could have helped me feel more comfortable to share my views in class, especially since some of the topics were more controversial!

In thinking about the course when it was conducted via *remote learning*, what aspects do you feel were particularly effective for helping you learn the course material?

Comments
Online discussions
Recorded lectures
I was able to express more of my personal thoughts more freely.
The fun videos were helpful. Made the class less lecture-like and created a greater ability to absorb detail. I also liked the assignments. A lot of it was about my opinions while also learning how to be ethical.
The video explanations. Ms. Joakim really went the extra mile to help us succeed.
Once again, we maintained consistency in what was expected of us every week. I liked that Ms. Joakim took the time to provide additional support whether it was videos she recommended or ones that she even made herself.
Miss Joakim understood what we were going through – something a lot of teachers did not. This was extremely helpful and honestly ended up teaching me more about ethics than lectures might have. While im sure Miss Joakim wanted to assign us a ton of work to get through her syllabus (like other teachers), she instead focused on key issues and gave us readings that were brief but effective.
Professor occasionally made lecture videos that were very helpful. Article postings were also good,
I really enjoyed how Prof. Joakim made videos for each topic. It would've been so easy to just say look up this topic online, but she really took the time to make the videos fun and informative. I think the discussion boards were effective as well
In remote learning, she kept the class set up very similarly to how it was set up in face-to-face learning which I found very helpful. I liked how there was not much of a change or anything added to the syllabus.
Despite the change, Miss Joakim provided videos of her lessons to us, which make the class engaged with the topic we worked on each week.
Updates
I liked the continuation of the basics of what we were doing. The more in depth discussion boards were accomodating
Giving though provoking questions while also linking articles with interesting viewpoints with data were effective for helping learn course material.
Reading and video material were both helpful for learning course material.
Youtube videos made and shared by the professor to discuss that weeks topic. Along with articles shared by the professor to discuss on blackboard.
I think the fact that assignments were established at the beginning of the week and due at the end of the week. That allowed us the necessary time to dedicate to the class/material while not supplementing the overwhelming nature of remote learning.
No set class time. Made the tumultuous few weeks after spring break a lot easier to navigate. But I still felt accountable to turn-in my work on time and put forth maximum effort. I really appreciated the instructor's video lectures for each week. I can tell that they took a lot of time and planning and it was nice to feel like we were almost back in our classroom having a normal lecture (almost!).
Miss Joakim did a great job at being super understanding and helpful. She was in constant contact with us making sure we were up to date on our assignments but she was also very caring and compassionate for her students when she saw we were struggling with the online transition and she made adjustments for us accordingly. The discussion boards we had during this time were also super interesting and very thought provoking. The straight forwardness of the class and ability to complete work on our own time also helped me a lot.
I thought that the blackboard assignments continued the types of discussions that we would have originally had. I appreciated that the assignments were impactful but not excessively long like many of my other classes.
I think it was effective that the Professor made herself available and pre-recorded lectures and talked about them. It was also nice that we had weekly assignments that didn't feel tedious but felt like we were still thinking.
The use of discussion board in order to continue to communicate with our peers. Also the articles that we had to read were very interesting and engaging.

In thinking about the course when it was conducted via remote learning, what suggestions do you have for improving the learning experience in this course?

Comments
Nothing
A good idea would be to have more video lectures.
Nothing it was great.
I have absolutely none she did an incredible job with all the changes.
Nothing, I think this class was extremely fair and accommodating while transitioning to remote learning.
None.
More active engagement earlier on in the week with the discussion board!
I do not
Nothing
None, i believe it was conducted as good as it could have been in a remote setting.
Videos were good but could be a little long
Nothing comes to mind.
Nothing really. This class was one of the easiest to transition to. It was a brand new thing for everyone and Dr. Joakim was so kind and understanding throughout the whole process.
I wish we could have had more video lectures, or maybe even a zoom for a discussion/question session where we hear ideas of our peers as well but I don't know if that would have been possible since people all have lives, connectivity issues, and time conflicts.
I really liked the videos that she made to add to the material, so some more of those would be nice!
None.
None, this was the only class that didn't cause me severe anxiety during remote learning, and that I felt like I was actually learning from instead of doing busy work. I thought that the videos of your lessons were really interesting and helpful, although I know it might feel like a waste of time if the whole class isn't watching. If you ever have to do remote learning again, I would love to watch more of those, or even have a zoom every couple of weeks so the class can hear from you and talk to each other more. I know that was difficult this time around, but maybe if there's more time to plan (if things change for next semester) that wouldn't be a bad idea.

Please share any other comments you have about your experience in this course this semester.

Comments
Miss Joakim is a wonderful teacher!! shes very passionate and smart
Great instructor! Passionate about the course and inspirational. She makes the course fun and entertaining, while also eye-opening.
Sahar was a professor that has had probably the most positive impact on my learning career and I am a better student and thinker for having been in her class. She was as hilarious as she was insightful and I have never had a professor that actually said everything that he/she wanted to say about an issue he/she was passionate about. I believe that all professors should teach the exact same way as Sahar and all students would be better off by taking her class.
She is one of the best teachers that slU has. Going into the course I was a bit nervous. I did not know what to expect. I got the best teacher that I have ever had at SLU. She made class fun we tackled tuff topics and assignments where cool. We got to write about topics that we care about. She really made a class that might be considered a class that most people would not care about. She turned it into my favorite class of the year.
I really enjoyed being in Ms. Joakim's class. At the beginning of the semester, she made it clear that her goal is to at least make us think about these topics brought up in class. Throughout the semester, I learned how to form my opinion, and how to build a strong argument for it. Ms. Joakim made the expectations for this course very clear since the first day and that was extremely helpful in understanding what has to be done throughout the semester in order to receive a good grade in the end. She pushed us to think about these topics, but never to the point where I was overwhelmed/pushed too hard. This was one of my favorite classes that I have taken in my undergrad years and it definitely changed the way I think. I am really glad I took this class and I would definitely recommend Ms. Joakim's class!
Thank you!
I can confidently say that Prof. Joakim was the best professor I have had throughout my time at SLU. I have a full time job during the semester, and even as I drove an hour away to my workplace she made a point to make time to call me on the phone and have a conversation about why I was so passionate about my topic that I chose for our essay. She gave me fantastic one-on-one advice

Comments

and was there for me throughout the semester as I struggled with a difficult time. She is by far the most accommodating professor I have ever had. Her teaching style is a breath of fresh air— she encourages every student to critically think about their beliefs and invites us to openly share our opinions without belittling them or making us worry if doing so will result in a bad grade. My beliefs were challenged and pushed throughout the semester and I truly believe I will walk away from this class as a better individual. I am so grateful for my time in her class.

I really, really enjoyed this class and Miss Joakim as a professor. I first expected ethics to be a very boring class, but this class was very entertaining and educational. There is so much more going on in the world than I pay attention to, so I appreciated learning about all of these new topics.

Miss Joakim is great. I enjoyed her class.

This class was excellent. I would recommend it to anyone. Professor Joakim was an instructor that really made you think about the material that she was covering. She also made an effort to ask students why they believed certain things and push us out of our comfort zones to help us learn. This has been one of my favorite classes I have taken at this University.

Professor Joakim was an excellent instructor for PHIL 2050, and one of the most engaging and inspiring professors I have had in college. Miss Joakim cares greatly about each individual student and she is effective in promoting discussion and free thought among all people in the class. Miss Joakim's course requirements are explicit and expectations are made clear for students, and Miss Joakim is easily accessible to students outside of class and office hours. Miss Joakim is dedicated to her students and her subject matter, making her a phenomenal teacher.

A true dedicated professor not focused on having students memorize useless information but really trying to get the students to use their brains to think critically and think for themselves. To challenge their ideals and beliefs and look at both sides of the argument. I would recommend her to any future student if they want to truly learn to think.

I thoroughly enjoyed this class. It made me intrigued until the very end. I think this class and professor make it a must in every SLU student's Jesuit education.

One of the best courses I've taken at SLU. This is what an ethics course should be like. I think every student learned a lot about the world, themselves, and their peers. It is so easy to get caught up in your own opinions sometimes, but this course definitely gave me a broader perspective on some of those views and on our world as a whole. I always felt like Dr. Joakim had my back. Her instruction style is certainly unique but it was evident everything was aimed at bringing out the best in her students. I think that her teaching style truly exemplifies the Jesuit mission to educate the whole person. I will certainly take more away from this course than just textbook knowledge on ethical theories.

Miss Joakim really put ethics into a present day perspective and helped me understand philosophy like I have never been able to before. I also really appreciated her concern for her students. She cared so much about all of us and truly did whatever she could to make sure we were okay (mentally, physically, academically, and socially) and to make sure we were able to do our best in both her class and in our own lives. I wish I could take her again and also that we would've been able to finish our semester with more interesting topics/discussions!

Loved this class! I wish you were staying at SLU.