

Instructor: **Mariscal, Carlos**

Subject: **PHIL**

Catalog & Section: **712 1002**

Course ID: **26315**

Objectives: **Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:**

- 1. summarize current research and critically review the secondary literature for a specialized area of major historical significance in philosophy.**
- 2. explain and interpret the ideas associated with the seminar topic in a research paper, with reference to historical texts or the contemporary philosophical literature.**
- 3. distinguish better and worse reasoning, and recognize conceptual relationships, in historical or contemporary texts dealing with the seminar topic.**
- 4. show how the seminar topic is connected to broader philosophical concerns, and show what is at stake in its investigation.**

Enrollment: 19

Responses Incl Declines: 12

Declines: 0

Teaching (Lecture) (21 comments)

Q: Please provide your thoughts on the instructor's teaching, including strengths and areas for possible improvement.

- 1 Excellent.**
- 2 Wonderful! As a biology specialist Carlos was still able to geek out here and there about the many other fields we touched upon, and found angles to discuss anything interestingly, even after some of the more boring papers.**
- 3 Dr. Mariscal is brilliant, engaging and fun. He is one of the most masterful professors that I have had. I wish he could have lectured more, but it is understandable with the seminar style format.**
- 4 N/A**
- 5 I want to apologize in advance for how brief these comments are. I'm on a time crunch at the moment.... I digress. Taking this class has been the single most formative experience in my academic career. I don't say that lightly. I think better, I write better, I am more confident in my ability to understand and engage with hard shit. Carlos, I know you eventually read these and I just want to say that this has been such a great semester. Thank you.**
- 6 I really wish the class was more accessible to non-science majors. Even when I would do the readings, the discussion would at times go so off topic that I never felt that I could contribute. It also made it difficult for me to learn, since I could not understand the basis of what we were discussing. I also wish that things were graded in a more timely manner, as I often had reading responses not graded for four weeks.**
- 7 He is great and knows so much about so many topics that came up related to discussions or just by questions that students asked.**
- 8 Dr. Mariscal is a fantastic professor, interesting to talk to, and good at facilitating student discussion. I met with the professor during office hours several times, and had a helpful, rewarding experience each time**
- 9 He's really good at opening the class to difficult material and getting us to engage with questions we might otherwise never have. He gets excited sometimes, which when doing difficult material can overwhelm for a sec, but he gets back on track and him being excited is helpful to the learning environment. 5/5, would take again.**
- 10 Very laid back style with open discussions. Expectations are clear and Mariscal is insanely knowledgeable in numerous subjects.**
- 11 Very kind and knowledgeable! Always had interesting... things to say!**

Q: Please provide your thoughts on the course as a whole, including strengths and areas for possible improvement.

- 1 Excellent, though not much time was spent on the philosophy of the physical sciences and mathematics. More time on this subject could improve the course when it focuses on philosophy of science in general and avoids a clear focus (like philosophy of biology).**
- 2 I thought this course was great. I loved the idea of having everyone lead a discussion, because it forced everyone to engage super well with one topic in particular, and made sure nobody fell behind in understanding what it means to practice philosophy of science.**
- 3 The course seemed to appease everyone. I would have liked some material on phil of mind and psych (maybe a**

week after phil of bio).

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- 4 I absolutely loved having Professor Mariscal this semester! His discussion-based teaching style is incredibly effective and his overall class is formatted in a way that is extremely clear and concise. I am quite sad that this class is ending and hope to be able to take another class with Professor Mariscal someday (yes, he really is that good!). Professor Mariscal's overall personality and demeanor are what really set him aside as not just another "good" professor but as an exceptional one. He is able to talk to students in a way that feels incredibly open-minded and comfortable, which is what I believed allowed me to learn and grow so much from this class. He is obviously extremely passionate about his studies and his teaching and really served as a mentor figure for me this semester. Professor Mariscal is this fantastic mix of being an insanely smart professor yet being able to talk to and explain concepts to students in a way that is incredibly effective. He has this general quiet, humble attitude about him that makes for the perfect learning environment. He's also hilarious, which is a bonus! Our university would benefit so much if we had more professors like Professor Mariscal. Thank you for everything you have done for students and will inevitably continue to do throughout the years.
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- 5 The guidelines for evaluating work were not clear at all. For example, the syllabus states that reading responses should not be turned in 5 minutes before class. Yet, when I turned in my response a few hours before class, it was still marked as late. Also, the requirements for participation points were not clear at all. I also did not like the way that grades are input, as we are all given a 0% to start off with, and our grade raises with the assignments we turn in. This caused me so much stress throughout the semester because I never knew what my grade was.
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- 6 This course is great and I will be using some of the teaching methods such as hand outs for discussion leaders in my own courses.
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- 7 This is honestly one of the best formatted classes I've ever taken.
- I know Dr. Mariscal chose to start student grades at 0% and have them fill in over the course of the semester, but I would have appreciated if my grade on canvas was reflective of the coursework required at the date I checked it.
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- 8 I know both more and less about science now. The progression down into the "hard" sciences was a good move. Made it all much more manageable.
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- 9 Class is very interesting with a wide array of topics, which was great. A student kind of leads each class, ensuring some type of mastery of material, who then presents their material with Mariscal's help. Good class overall but sometimes we get stuck in the weeds a bit.
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- 10 It was a fun class and it feel like I learned a lot. It was a difficult topic, but worth it.