Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary
Department of Philosophy

Elgin, Samuel Zincke
PHIL 120 - Symbolic Logic I (A)
Spring Quarter 2019

Number of Students Enrolled: 70
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 32

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your class level is

2 (6.3%):	Freshman
5 (15.6%):	Sophomore
12 (37.5%):	Junior
13 (40.6%):	Senior
0 (0.0%):	Graduate
0 (0.0%):	Extension
0 (0.0%):	Visitor

2. Your reason for taking this class is

18 (58.1%):	Major
3 (9.7%):	Minor
7 (22.6%):	Gen. Ed.
1 (3.2%):	Elective
2 (6.5%):	Interest
1:	[No Response]

3. What grade do you expect in this class?

20 (62.5%):	A
6 (18.8%):	B
4 (12.5%):	C
0 (0.0%):	D
1 (3.1%):	F
1 (3.1%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP

GENERAL QUESTIONS

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):   Disagree
3 (9.4%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (25.0%):   Agree
20 (62.5%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

5. How many hours a week do you spend studying outside of class on average?

4 (12.5%):   0-1
7 (21.9%):   2-3
7 (21.9%):   4-5
8 (25.0%):   6-7
4 (12.5%):   8-9
0 (0.0%):   10-11
0 (0.0%):   12-13
1 (3.1%):   14-15
0 (0.0%):   16-17
1 (3.1%):   18-19
0 (0.0%):   20 or more

6. How often do you attend this course?

1 (3.1%):   Very Rarely
8 (25.0%):   Some of the Time
23 (71.9%):   Most of the Time

COURSE MATERIAL PHIL 120

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (28.1%):   Agree
21 (65.6%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

8. Assignments promote learning.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):   Disagree
1 (3.1%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (28.1%):   Agree
19 (59.4%):   Strongly Agree
1 (3.1%):   Not Applicable

9. Required reading is useful.

2 (6.3%):   Strongly Disagree
2 (6.3%):   Disagree
8 (25.0%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
6 (18.8%):   Agree
12 (37.5%):   Strongly Agree
2 (6.3%):   Not Applicable

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

2 (6.5%):   Strongly Disagree
4 (12.9%):   Disagree
5 (16.1%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
13 (41.9%):   Agree
7 (22.6%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable
1:               [No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
5 (15.6%):   Agree
26 (81.3%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

31 (96.9%):   Yes
1 (3.1%):   No

13. Course PHIL 120:

- Very interesting course, makes a good coupling with Philosophy of Language if students get the chance. Seeing how language hooks up with logic, in propositional logic, first-order logic, and English is fascinating.

- Very insightful. A wonderful teacher who cares about his students progress.

- Very interesting course, has its difficulties.

- Great class

- Much needed to comprehend Analytic Philosophy effectively.

- This course is very helpful. FOL is so important in analytic philosophy that I have already had some exposure of it before taking this class, but after taking it I find my ability to construct arguments and evaluate arguments growing stronger.

- logic is a daunting course to take, but prof. samuel elgin made it as digestible as possible with detailed notes for students and clear instruction

- If you are interested in learning more about logic and trying to be a lawyer then I would suggest taking this class and even potentially doing modal logic.

- Symbolic Logic

- Interesting exploration into more complicated logical topics such as first order logic, set theory, and metalogic as well as the theory behind why certain logical propositions work. The class is challenging at points as it is a lot of new material that resembles a math class more than a philosophy class. Those who did well in PHIL 10 should be okay.

- Great class with a great professor. Elgin—as a postdoc and for teaching his first class—did a great job in instructing. Thank you professor Elgin!

- The class is very fun if you like logic and proving theorems

- Interesting course

14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- All material on exam was representative of the material taught in class.

- Exams are very fair. I really appreciate that the professor gives out practice exams so that we have an expectation of what kind of questions would appear on the exam and a roughly accurate anticipation of the level of difficulty. I think the exams are not there to trick students. They are fair representation of the class material, are reasonably challenging, and actually incentivize me to study for the class.

- Good

- Exams tested exactly what was promised, in a way that required an understanding of the material to complete - not just memorizing facts.

- If he'd made the exams easier he wouldn't have had to curve them so much obviously which I think would have been better. Next time, 1 hard proof and 1 hard translation per exam would probably be better.

- 2 Midterms and one Final

- Elgin literally gave up tons and tons of practice material way before exams so it always helped me prepare for the exam by knowing what kind of problems to expect. Exams were graded by TA.

- Exams were incredibly representative of course work and practice tests were always very helpful. Tests were fair.

- Extremely difficult to pass.

- Very fair!

- Representative of the material and fair

- exams were representative of course material and returned within an adequate time period

15. Reading [title(s) and comments]:

- One book

- reading title did not help too much in understanding logic, as it is already a complicated subject. the reading also sometimes used different symbols, forms, and definitions which confused me

- Readings are not particularly helpful. They are helpful for having a preview for the class, but I find going to lectures and keeping up with the practices sufficient.

- Lecturer did a much better job of explaining concepts than the textbook and handouts.

- Didn't read the text

- I don't like the choice of text, it is confusing.

- Reading helped with understanding the material. Although I was not fond of the material on natural deduction. I think a better text may have been better (possibly one that followed Fitch format).

- Good

INSTRUCTOR Samuel Elgin

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

1 (3.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
2 (6.3%):	Agree
29 (90.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

1 (3.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
4 (12.5%):	Agree
27 (84.4%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

1 (3.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
1 (3.1%):	Agree
30 (93.8%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

1 (3.1%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
7 (21.9%):	Agree
23 (71.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

20. Lectures hold your attention.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):   Disagree
4 (12.5%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (25.0%):   Agree
17 (53.1%):   Strongly Agree
1 (3.1%):   Not Applicable

21. Instructor's lecture style facilitates note-taking.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
3 (9.4%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (25.0%):   Agree
20 (62.5%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
5 (15.6%):   Agree
26 (81.3%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

1 (3.2%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
1 (3.2%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (25.8%):   Agree
21 (67.7%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable
1:             [No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (28.1%):   Agree
21 (65.6%):   Strongly Agree
1 (3.1%):   Not Applicable

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

1 (3.1%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree nor Disagree
3 (9.4%):   Agree
28 (87.5%):   Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

1 (3.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (28.1%):	Agree
22 (68.8%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

27. The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
2 (6.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (29.0%):	Agree
19 (61.3%):	Strongly Agree
1 (3.2%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

28. Instructor Samuel Elgin:

- Thanks for everything Elgin! You're a great professor and I wish you the best of luck.

- Overall, I thought he did a really good job. He very clearly cares about his students' learning and he is good at explaining/ breaking down complex ideas. I think he overestimated our class's ability level which caused some problems, but I think he could definitely improve on that really easily with more experience teaching. One thing I think might helped me and other people in the class is if the lecture notes were more detailed or if he podcasted because in these types of classes it's easy to get really lost after missing one concept. If the concepts were really clearly laid out in the notes (not formally in logic/math language) it would be easier to catch up. Also I think he might get some negative reviews bc some of the class really struggled, but those people did not reach out to get the help they needed which he was very happy to offer so I don't think he deserves blame for people doing badly in this class.

- Extremely good teacher and super professional

- Genuinely a good professor. Knows the material well and explains it well. Also cares about the students doing well, and is willing to meet individually.

- Professor Elgin was clear, concise, stimulating, and always listening to us. Exams were challenging, but the available material to prepare was plentiful. He made a point to be explicit about course details and helping us understand difficult concepts by spending class time going over things. He also memorized all of our names. Would highly recommend this professor for logic, and probably other topics as well.

- Absolutely great professor, one of the best I have had at UCSD. Genuinely cares about how his students are doing and will reach out to them if they do poorly on a test. Very humble, well-spoken and extremely knowledgable. Cannot recommend this Professor enough for a hard class as he will do whatever he can to help you succeed. Thanks Sam.

- Awesome professor. He covered a lot of ground within a short time where the content of the course was very clear and learnable. Not only did I get a refresher of a course I took over a year ago, but I also feel like I learned much more. Would be happy to take more classes with this instructor.

- Great professor that understands logic not only in its tools but its structure. He makes understanding logic much easier and this promotes learning in a way that helps most of the students.

- Knows the topic extremely well and seemed very interested in ensuring that we understood the theoretical concepts behind symbolic logic. He would try to explain things multiple ways to ensure that students understood and always accepted questions.

- One of the best, if not the best professor I have ever had. He has consistently gone out of his way to make sure his students understand the course material by sending personal emails, hosting one on one meetings, and extending his office hours. Overall, an amazing professor.

- Elgin has been such a great professor. Not only is he always prepared and organized to teach, but most importantly, he has command of the subject matter and shows this by informing us of what's currently happening in symbolic logic and touching on some historical ideas form the past. Elgin has the gift of reducing knowledge to its simplest components , especially when symbolic logic got tougher. I not only appreciate that he demonstrates the purest form of desire to teach but that he also is ready to accept criticism and suggestions as positive signs for change. He constantly looks for new and better ways to teach by having us fill out surveys on how we felt about the course speed and any feedback about his teaching style. Its clear that he wants to help students learn. Such a wonderful teacher.

- Nice, and always willing to help even make extra office hours for students. NICE PROFESSOR.

- Great professor!. Pure genius!!!

- Great instructor

- samuel elgin showed an understanding of the course material and was able to answer any questions that students presented him. he was concerned with whether people were understanding the material or not, which was helpful when we had to go back

- Very good professor, fair exams

29. Do you recommend this professor overall?

31 (100.0%):	Yes
0 (0.0%):	No
1:	[No Response]

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Philosophy, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express his or her opinion.