

QUALITATIVE EVIDENCE OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

Aaron Benanav

Qualitative Teaching Evaluations for the University of Chicago

(selections presented below; additional, scanned forms available on request)

Spring 2017 SOSC 11300 Power, Identity, Resistance 3 35 Students

Professor Benanav is, quite frankly, one of the best professors I have had at this College. He managed to strike the delicate balance of both lecturing but also helping each of us come to our own conclusions about the texts. He was also very approachable, enthusiastic and made texts written hundreds of years ago extremely relevant. Having seen my essays from the start of the year, I know that the immense improvement in my thinking, contextualising and writing abilities is a result of this seminar and Professor Benanav's guidance.

Funny and nice person who genuinely cares about his students. Asks good questions to lead discussion. Has a dog that he brings to his office sometimes. Challenges everything you say.

He mixes textual analysis and argument reconstruction with current events in order to make the readings relevant and important. He is also very open to student feedback about the course and truly wants it to be an enjoyable experience for all students.

Winter 2017 SOSC 11200 Power, Identity, Resistance 2 36 Students

He really wanted us to learn from it and to use it to form our own ideas, and he structured class along those lines as well. I would love to take another class with him.

Professor Benanav would turn student questions over to the class a lot, which I liked. I also liked how he asked us whether or not we actually liked the texts we were reading.

He is great facilitator and makes sure everyone gets a chance to articulate their thoughts, even when we don't make a lot of sense. Discussions helped clarify many aspects of the readings that were unclear, and put into context abstract topics that were hard to relate to the real world.

Fall 2016 SOSC 11300 Power, Identity, Resistance 1 29 Students

He focuses class on reconstructing the arguments of the texts we read, allowing lots of room for student responses and interpretation. He gives an immensely helpful guide to writing a college essay with the first long essay assignment of the year.

He is extremely qualified and has so much insight into the works we are studying, but he grades extremely difficult. He is great to talk to and definitely take advantage of his office hours.

Professor Benanav really cares about this course and wants his students to succeed. He shapes discussion questions to make us get the most out of the material.

The instructor kept a consistent devil's-advocate approach to help us think about how to improve our own arguments.

Qualitative Teaching Evaluations for the University of California, Los Angeles

(selections presented below; additional, scanned forms available on request)

Spring 2016 HIST 22 World History since 1760 65 Students

Professor Benanav was by far one of the best professors I've had at UCLA. His lectures were perfectly organized, interesting, and engaging. He is clearly both incredibly knowledgeable about and passionate about the material. I looked forward to attending lecture.

Professor Benanav's lectures synthesized huge periods of history into ideas and narratives that provided a clear picture of the politics, culture and economics of modern world history.

Professor Benanav is very passionate and his love of history is infectious.

His office hours were a true intellectual delight.

He also reaches out to his students and shows that he genuinely cares for our learning.

Qualitative Teaching Evaluations for the University of California, Santa Cruz

(selections presented below; additional, scanned forms available on request)

Fall 2015 CLNI 80A International and Global Issues 25 Students

The teacher plays an active role in the classroom. His content is interesting and fairly interactive. His teaching style is one of the best I have seen in a long time.

Fall 2014 CLNI 80A International and Global Issues 24 Students

Writing essays is a source of great stress for many students, myself included, especially when it comes to responding to articles which are several pages long. Aaron broke down the writing process for us in a way which wasn't overwhelming. He also taught us how to pinpoint the main arguments of another author's work and integrate them into our step-by-step writing process.

He provided us with a variety of sources (graphs, articles, videos) that helped me get a better idea of what we were learning/studying. He also held debates, big and small, that were absolutely great at helping us ... to become more acquainted with our small groups and thus with the whole class, making people like me much more comfortable with speaking out in class.

Fall 2013 CLNI 80A International and Global Issues 25 Students

He is not overly critical, but at the same time, does not give easy A's on the papers. Students received ten pages of college-writing advice towards the beginning of the quarter.

I feel like he tried really hard to be enthusiastic when the class was often quiet. He really wanted us to learn the material and concepts and thoroughly examined all the readings as well as discussed how to become better writers.