

06/10/15

## ALL-COLLEGE COURSE EVALUATION RESULTS: SPRING 2015

## PART I: COURSE INFORMATION

Course:	PL239 A Epistemology	Enrollment:	21
Instructor:	John P Waterman	Forms Returned:	18

## PART II: STUDENT INFORMATION (% based on number of answers to each question)

## Reason Taking Course:

All-College Requirement	Major Requirement	Interest in Subject	Instructor Reputation	Time of Day	Other	[Responses]
2 (11%)	5 (28%)	11 (61%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18

## Expected Grade:

A	B	C	D	F	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	[Responses]
12 (67%)	6 (33%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18

## Class Standing:

First Year	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Other	[Responses]
4 (22%)	5 (28%)	5 (28%)	4 (22%)	0 (0%)	18

## Student Sex:

Female	Male	[Responses]
4 (22%)	14 (78%)	18

## PART III: STUDENT REACTION (% based on number of answers to question)

(1) I was involved in this course (for example, I attended class regularly, I worked hard, and I participated in class discussions and activities).

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str. Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	11 (61%)	5 (28%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	11 (61%)	5 (28%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	84 (54%)	59 (38%)	13 (8%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	157
DIVISION	1334 (63%)	703 (33%)	74 (3%)	17 (1%)	3 (0%)	2131
COLLEGE	4172 (59%)	2543 (36%)	268 (4%)	89 (1%)	12 (0%)	7084

(2) I found this course challenging and intellectually stimulating, and I learned a considerable amount.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str. Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	14 (78%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	14 (78%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	106 (68%)	40 (25%)	10 (6%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	157
DIVISION	1259 (59%)	675 (32%)	143 (7%)	44 (2%)	8 (0%)	2129
COLLEGE	3952 (56%)	2418 (34%)	471 (7%)	193 (3%)	48 (1%)	7082

(3) The workload and pace of this course seemed appropriate.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str. Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	12 (67%)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	12 (67%)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	86 (55%)	60 (38%)	8 (5%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	156
DIVISION	1130 (53%)	793 (37%)	136 (6%)	60 (3%)	10 (0%)	2129
COLLEGE	3378 (48%)	2875 (41%)	486 (7%)	267 (4%)	68 (1%)	7074

(4) The instructor's organizational skills (including planning, preparation, and productive use of class time) were effective.

	Str.Agree	Agree	Neith.Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str.Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	9 (50%)	5 (28%)	4 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	9 (50%)	5 (28%)	4 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	85 (54%)	59 (38%)	9 (6%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	156
DIVISION	1295 (61%)	629 (30%)	131 (6%)	52 (2%)	13 (1%)	2120
COLLEGE	4065 (58%)	2260 (32%)	441 (6%)	227 (3%)	65 (1%)	7058

(5) The instructor's communication skills (e.g., presentation of material, facilitation of discussion, and clarity of expectations) were effective.

	Str.Agree	Agree	Neith.Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str.Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	13 (72%)	5 (28%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	13 (72%)	5 (28%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	104 (67%)	43 (28%)	8 (5%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	156
DIVISION	1330 (63%)	610 (29%)	136 (6%)	38 (2%)	13 (1%)	2127
COLLEGE	4043 (57%)	2208 (31%)	482 (7%)	256 (4%)	83 (1%)	7072

(6) The instructor was open to questions and willing to help outside of class time.

	Str.Agree	Agree	Neith.Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str.Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	15 (83%)	3 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	15 (83%)	3 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	111 (71%)	41 (26%)	4 (3%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	157
DIVISION	1477 (69%)	532 (25%)	97 (5%)	15 (1%)	5 (0%)	2126
COLLEGE	4764 (67%)	1905 (27%)	322 (5%)	48 (1%)	21 (0%)	7060

(7) The instructor's assessment of student work was prompt, consistent, useful, and substantive.

	Str.Agree	Agree	Neith.Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str.Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	11 (61%)	5 (28%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	11 (61%)	5 (28%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	88 (56%)	59 (38%)	6 (4%)	4 (3%)	0 (0%)	157
DIVISION	1263 (59%)	676 (32%)	123 (6%)	52 (2%)	12 (1%)	2126
COLLEGE	3813 (54%)	2549 (36%)	460 (7%)	190 (3%)	51 (1%)	7063

(8) Overall, the instructor's teaching in this course was effective.

	Str.Agree	Agree	Neith.Ag/Dis	Disagree	Str.Disagr	[Responses]
INSTRUCTOR	15 (83%)	2 (11%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
COURSE	15 (83%)	2 (11%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18
DEPARTMENT	98 (63%)	49 (31%)	9 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	156
DIVISION	1345 (64%)	612 (29%)	92 (4%)	33 (2%)	12 (1%)	2094
COLLEGE	4116 (59%)	2246 (32%)	366 (5%)	179 (3%)	68 (1%)	6975

PART IV: DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S COMMENTS

PART V: INSTRUCTOR'S COMMENTS

Course Evaluation - By Evaluation Questions  
Waterman, John P  
PL239 A Epistemology  
SP 2015

**8. Overall, the instructor's teaching in this course was effective.**

- 83643 Strongly agree: Great class! My only critique is I wish we had read more classic articles on the subject, though the cognitive stuff was all super cool.
- 83966 Strongly agree:
- 84029 Strongly agree:
- 84063 Neither agree nor disagree:
- 84399 Strongly agree: You da man, Water Man! But seriously, great class. I learned a ton and I think you're a superb professor with a bright future in front of you. Good luck with your family and career.
- 84556 Strongly agree: I only wish I was able to take more courses with John, thanks for a great semester professor.
- 84562 Strongly agree: Wonderful professor, and interesting course. My only wish is that we broadened the lens of Epistemology and looked elsewhere beyond defining knowledge and examining skepticism. However, I understand that those topics are legitimately what Epistemology is all about, but it is easy to lose interest in material when it feels like it's all talking about nearly the same exact thing.
- 85521 Strongly agree: John was awesome!!! I wish he were at Colby another year. I would have taken more courses from him.
- 86413 Strongly agree:
- 86853 Strongly agree:
- 87561 Strongly agree: Epistemology turned out to be one of the harder courses I have taken at Colby. The substance was absolutely incredible, both in terms of being intellectually stimulating and volume-wise. Unfortunately, due to the innate difficulty of the readings and material, sometimes that led me to need to catch up in terms of personally understanding the material so I did not get as much out of class time as I would have liked (though not the fault of class organization, just personal challenge of grasping the material). The class discussions were great and a lot of fun, though because of what I said before, sometimes I just had to sit and listen more than I would have wanted because I just did not have the necessary handle of the material quite yet. In other words, I was trying to get more of a lecture out of class. However, Professor Waterman really made the class worth it, as he was genuinely passionate about the class, open, willing to help outside the classroom, and cared deeply for his students.
- 87722 Strongly agree:
- 87899 Strongly agree:
- 87924 Strongly agree:
- 88161 Strongly agree: So glad I took epistemology, this class was mind blowing! I feel like I could spend another semester taking the same class.
- 88755 Agree:
- 89290 Agree:
- 89570 Strongly agree:

Course Evaluation - By Evaluation Questions  
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**You are encouraged to use the space below to make any additional relevant comments concerning the course or the instructor.**

83643 :

83966 :

84029 : This was a new area of study for me, but I found the course overall to be very interesting and enjoyable to attend. A large part of that was John Waterman's positive attitude and genuine interest in the subject matter as well as what seemed to be an interest in what students had to say and making them think deeper. The largely student discussion base of the course made it a fun one to come to each day whether it was to actively participate or listen and reflect on opinions on the readings and general epistemology topics. I felt that John Waterman was very effective in this course setting and has been one of my personal favorite professors I have had in recent years at Colby.

84063 :

84399 :

84556 :

84562 :

85521 :

86413 : It has been a pleasure to learn about philosophy under Professor Waterman. He is a sincere and light-hearted individual who has made me look forward to coming to class each day. He will be such a tremendous asset to the department in the upcoming summer months and heading into the fall semester. I wish that I could have been here last fall to learn logic but I must say that cognitive science and epistemology were some of the most informative courses I have been taught at Colby. Each day, Professor John was fully prepared for lecture and he always took the time to listen to students' ideas and responses about what the reading was from the night before. With that said, John had a strictness to his character that made me feel inspired to do well and to come to class prepared with my thoughts I picked up from the night before. Finally, Professor Waterman was lenient with problems that came about during the day and was available immediately when I needed extra help to discuss my concerns. In general, I think he is an influential and down-to-earth human being with a charismatic personality, which is a virtue among certain other professors that I have had the privilege to learn from in my time here. I wish that I could have participated in his Experimental Philosophy Research although my time seems to have been limited. I look forward to correspondence with John in the future.

86853 :

87561 :

87722 :

87899 :

87924 : Professor Waterman is an incredibly good philosophy teacher. His class is interesting, fun, and very thought provoking. He is always receptive to questions of all kinds, and prefers to facilitate discussion and let us test our own ideas rather than simply lecturing. He did a great job of making sure that the whole class was contributing and working as a whole. He is incredibly knowledgeable, and Colby should make every effort to convince him to stay.

88161 :

88755 :

89290 :

89570 :