

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Report:** PPE\_2894: Intro Philosophy Politics Econ

**Response Rate:** 32/39 (82.05 %)

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1A - The instructor was well prepared.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.47	5.47	5.49			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	5	15.63%	█							
Agree	(5)	7	21.88%	█							
Strongly agree	(6)	20	62.50%	█							
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
32/39 (82.05%)	5.47	0.76	6.00	20853	5.47	0.88	6.00	1004	5.49	0.80	6.00

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.38	5.31	5.28			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.13%	█							
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	12.50%	█							
Agree	(5)	9	28.13%	█							
Strongly agree	(6)	18	56.25%	█							
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
32/39 (82.05%)	5.38	0.83	6.00	20756	5.31	1.05	6.00	994	5.28	1.00	6.00

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			4.94	5.27	5.05			
Disagree	(2)	1	3.13%	█							
Somewhat disagree	(3)	4	12.50%	█							
Somewhat agree	(4)	5	15.63%	█							
Agree	(5)	8	25.00%	█							
Strongly agree	(6)	14	43.75%	█							
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
32/39 (82.05%)	4.94	1.19	5.00	20790	5.27	1.12	6.00	1001	5.05	1.23	5.00

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.52	5.53	5.55			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.23%	█							
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	9.68%	█							
Agree	(5)	6	19.35%	█							
Strongly agree	(6)	21	67.74%	█							
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
31/39 (79.49%)	5.52	0.81	6.00	20747	5.53	0.89	6.00	994	5.55	0.78	6.00

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Report:** PPE\_2894: Intro Philosophy Politics Econ

**Response Rate:** 32/39 (82.05 %)

### 1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

#### 1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.34	5.30	5.27			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	12.50%	■							
Agree	(5)	13	40.63%	■							
Strongly agree	(6)	15	46.88%	■							
					Question	College	Department				
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
32/39 (82.05%)	5.34	0.70	5.00	20628	5.30	1.08	6.00	995	5.27	1.04	6.00

### 2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

**Response Rate** 24/39 (61.54%)

- Being patient. I think Dr. Hersch could do a better job with keeping on point and explaining his decisions in grading and assignments. I think how the final is conducted will not be a true assessment of one's capabilities. I think the quizzes are weirdly phrased to the point that I am stressing how there could be more than one answers. I think a lot of things in class is too open ended that there is little direction which is confusing and stressful. I dont know what Dr. Hersch wants.
- Cool activities and candy!
- Dr. Hersch did a good job of exploring the subject matter in a way that was interesting but still simple enough to understand if you didn't have a background in ppe.
- Encourage discussion.
- Facilitated relevant discussions in class regarding readings and class topics
- Good material and powerpoints
- hands on learning
- He always rose a discussion in class about the specific topics discussed in class. He would always help me with any questions had in office hours. Overall, I enjoyed the teaching style he presented for this class. I felt like I learned important ideals despite not being affiliated within the PPE program.
- He discussed the material in the reading in depth, which really helped when the reading was archaic and convoluted.
- He explained things clearly and told us right at the beginning of the semester what was expected from us. He's also very fair when it comes to grades and is easy to talk to.
- He has a great way of explaining complex topics so that the students can better understand. He provides multiple 'real-world' examples.
- He incorporated relevant games and activities in certain classes which made the class exciting and fun.
- He posted the slides online, even though we rarely went through all of the slides during class.
- He provided many real life examples to the course work which helped with understanding material. Throughout the course numerous in class games helped to demonstrate complex concepts.
- He was very interactive and included many class activities that noticeably put a smile on his students faces. Very enjoyable class.
- in-class activities that went along with material
- Interactive discussions.
- Posting Powerpoints were helpful for review
- Professor Hersch was really good at relating modern day concepts to old readings. He made the class fun and interactive and was understanding.
- Professor Hersh's lectures were very clear and straightforward. He did a great job thoroughly explaining any questions and directing student coverations about the readings.
- Provided real life examples that applied to the concepts we were learning
- The activities were very helpful to learning.
- The Iclickers kept everybody involved in the lecture and also the classroom activities were very interactive and it helped me get a clear visual of what we were learning.
- the quizzes were actually helpful because it ensured that we completed the readings and had a basic understanding of what the reading was.

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Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: PPE\_2894: Intro Philosophy Politics Econ

Response Rate: 32/39 (82.05 %)

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.25      5.29      5.21								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.13%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	5	15.63%	■									
Agree	(5)	11	34.38%	■									
Strongly agree	(6)	15	46.88%	■									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
32/39 (82.05%)	5.25	0.84	5.00	19371	5.29	1.02	6.00	788	5.21	1.04	5.00		

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		4.97      5.04      4.93								
Disagree	(2)	2	6.25%	■									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.13%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	6	18.75%	■									
Agree	(5)	10	31.25%	■									
Strongly agree	(6)	13	40.63%	■									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
32/39 (82.05%)	4.97	1.15	5.00	19293	5.04	1.26	5.00	784	4.93	1.32	5.00		

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Report:** PPE\_2894: Intro Philosophy Politics Econ

**Response Rate:** 32/39 (82.05 %)

### 4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

<b>Response Rate</b>	24/39 (61.54%)
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- At the end of every week, write about the two topics discussed each week instead of read the necessary readings, so I could have written work for me to look back at to relearn the material before the final.
- Done readings earlier so that I didn't have to skim.
- Go to office hours to discuss the readings
- I could have done better on a few of the readings instead of skimming through them.
- I could have done more of the class readings so that my quiz grade was higher. However, every time I did do the class readings and took a quiz, my grade would be the same as when I didn't read.
- I could have read closer.
- I could have taken stronger notes in class
- I could read over some of the text more clearly.
- I could've read the assigned readings more thoroughly to raise my reading quiz grades.
- I think that I could have been more proactive asking my questions about the reading in class. I also could have see Professor Hersch in office hours more.
- idk man
- Nothing
- participated more
- Read all of the assigned readings
- Read more thoroughly, my quiz grades were overall bad.
- Read texts more.
- Read the assigned readings more thoroughly
- Read the readings more thoroughly.
- Read the readings more!
- Reread articles
- Spent more time on the readings to ensure that I had deeper knowledge; and asked more questions on the readings
- Take more notes
- Taken notes on readings, participated more
- Written better notes

### 5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

<b>Response Rate</b>	12/39 (30.77%)
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- Didn't like the quiz formatting, and paper. Overall structure was fine. Instructor was helpful and was always available.
- Great dude but good be more experience in teaching and controlling the class. Sometimes, I dont know if Dr. Hersch understands what I am trying to ask/ make a point.
- Great Professor, could be slightly more articulate
- Great teacher, great person.
- I really enjoyed having Hersch as a teacher. It was sometimes challenging to get good grades in the class but he didn't focus that much on the grade itself, but if you are paying attention and putting in the effort.
- I really enjoyed the class but I don't think there should only be 2 grades and I didn't receive much feedback from my midterm paper.
- I think his grading style is great and other professors in Liberal Arts courses should do the same
- Please make a limit on the presentations, unless they focus on the discussion aspects, they should be limited to a shorter time frame when they discuss what the chapters were about. Make homework assignments that are very small in grade percentage and don't take much time, for us to write what we learned each week and for us to write what we thought was important on each of the two topics presented that week. It would help us be more prepared for the final.
- Some of the texts were somewhat difficult to get through if you didn't have much of a background in philosophy. I have taken a fair amount of philosophy classes and a have some grasp of how to read through philosophic discussions and still had to spend some time reading and re-reading portions of the texts to really get the meaning, so I imagine if this was the first philosophy class I had taken I probably would've had difficulty.
- Sometimes allows discussions to get far off topic due to comments from students, which discourages me from continuing to pay attention
- This was a great class. Professor Hersh is personable and easy to approach. I thought that the grading was reasonable, and he was clear about his expectations for the course.
- very interesting course. Great teacher. Readings could be a little less boring but after all it is a philosophy class.

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Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: PPE\_2894: Intro Philosophy Politics Econ

Response Rate: 32/39 (82.05 %)

6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?												
Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Very Bad		(1)	0	0.00%		5.26	5.20	5.20				
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%								
Poor		(3)	1	3.23%								
Fair		(4)	4	12.90%								
Good		(5)	12	38.71%								
Very Good		(6)	14	45.16%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
31/39 (79.49%)	5.26	0.82	5.00	19233	5.20	0.96	5.00	787	5.20	0.96	5.00	

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:	
Response Rate	8/39 (20.51%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not good desk set up for group discussion</li> <li>• Classroom next door blared videos every once in a while, which made it more difficult to concentrate in class</li> <li>• For a decent portion of the semester the room was unbearably hot, even when it was cold outside. On some occasions, the room felt hotter than being outdoors. Additionally the way the room was set up with three rows of varying elevations is not very useful for having class discussions.</li> <li>• Helpful group discussions every class</li> <li>• Room was very hot for a long period of the semester</li> <li>• the classroom was always too hot</li> <li>• The classroom was boiling hot all year long, I would leave the class sometimes with pit stains. Also, a lot of students would whisper and make fun of other students in class who would speak up and share a different option. As a republican, I found myself not wanting to speak up because students in the class were quick to mumble under their breath or roll their eyes. I wish that Professor Hersch addressed this head-on and very firmly because there's no way that he didn't also notice.</li> <li>• There was a slight ringing from the AC unit in the ceiling that was always vibrating that was disturbing. I also think a more discussion based atmosphere would work better for this type of class, cause when some people were talking I couldn't hear their points clearly.</li> </ul>	

Virginia Tech  
Fall 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809: Global Ethics-PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809  
 Instructor: Gil Hersch \*  
 Response Rate: 27/38 (71.05%)

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1A - The instructor was well prepared.**

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.15	5.46	5.42	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	7.41%	█										
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	11.11%	█										
Agree	(5)	11	40.74%	█										
Strongly agree	(6)	11	40.74%	█										
					0	25	50	100						
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
27/38 (71.05%)	5.15	0.91	5.00	26283	5.46	0.89	6.00	1491	5.42	0.83	6.00			

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.**

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			4.81	5.31	5.25	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	2	7.41%	█										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	7.41%	█										
Somewhat agree	(4)	6	22.22%	█										
Agree	(5)	6	22.22%	█										
Strongly agree	(6)	11	40.74%	█										
					0	25	50	100						
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
27/38 (71.05%)	4.81	1.27	5.00	26155	5.31	1.04	6.00	1485	5.25	0.99	6.00			

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.**

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	3.70%			4.78	5.25	5.10	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	2	7.41%	█										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	7.41%	█										
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	7.41%	█										
Agree	(5)	10	37.04%	█										
Strongly agree	(6)	10	37.04%	█										
					0	25	50	100						
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
27/38 (71.05%)	4.78	1.42	5.00	26185	5.25	1.12	6.00	1488	5.10	1.16	5.00			

Virginia Tech  
 Fall 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809: Global Ethics-PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809  
**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*  
**Response Rate:** 27/38 (71.05%)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:													
1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.													
Gil Hersch													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.00		5.53		5.51			
Disagree	(2)	3	11.11%	■									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	11.11%	■									
Agree	(5)	9	33.33%	■									
Strongly agree	(6)	12	44.44%	■									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
27/38 (71.05%)	5.00	1.27	5.00	26145	5.53	0.89	6.00	Department	1483	5.51	0.83	6.00	

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:													
1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.													
Gil Hersch													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			4.67		5.30		5.26			
Disagree	(2)	3	11.11%	■									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	3	11.11%	■									
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	14.81%	■									
Agree	(5)	7	25.93%	■									
Strongly agree	(6)	10	37.04%	■									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
27/38 (71.05%)	4.67	1.39	5.00	25954	5.30	1.07	6.00	Department	1475	5.26	1.01	6.00	

# Virginia Tech

## Fall 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809: Global Ethics-PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809  
**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*  
**Response Rate:** 27/38 (71.05 %)

### 2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

**Gil Hersch**

**Response Rate** 24/38 (63.16%)

- He challenged us when we brought up different points in class and I liked that.
- He was very informed himself and its obvious he's passionate. weekly papers ensure the students understanding of each topic/paper read.
- Going over how he and the class felt about the different cases in order to be able to write a paper on it.
- He was always willing to explain things more, answer questions, etc.
- Great videos and class discussions
- He was pretty thorough in his explanations of the topics discussed in class. He is also very helpful and willing to talk to you in his office hours.
- Provided videos relevant to what we were learning
- Uploading the in-class presentations greatly helped me prepare to write my weekly papers.
- He went into great detail about the course material.
- A lot of explanations
- Writing weekly papers.
- He was very willing to help you in any way. He was willing to use his time to help out his students.
- Helpful feedback on my writings.
- Gave real life examples of the material we were studying.
- Due to the instructor posting the lecture slides on canvas, it made it so I was better able to focus on what he was saying rather than trying to copy what was on the slides.
- Facilitated large class and small group discussions that helped me to talk and think through the material in a critical matter. The papers every week were helpful because it made me connect the reading, the lecture, and and my own ideas to the material. This helped me have a better understanding of the material and how it connects to poverty.
- He explained the topics in a much more understandable way from the readings we had to do before class.
- The powerpoints were helpful but overall the class was terrible and the grading was bullshit. Nothing was set in stone or uniform. He would randomly assign grades and the lack of uniformity definitely results in biased grading.
- Touch on a wide range of different issues effecting global poverty.
- He provided feedback on our weekly essays and how to improve them if we went to visit his office.
- Clearly explained everything we needed to know. Liked how the class was focused on global poverty.
- Clearly conveys abstract ideas
- Small group discussions were very helpful to further discussion and ideas.
- Small group discussions

### 3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

#### 3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			4.93	5.28	5.23			
Disagree	(2)	2	7.41%	■							
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.70%	■							
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	11.11%	■							
Agree	(5)	12	44.44%	■							
Strongly agree	(6)	9	33.33%	■							
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
27/38 (71.05%)	4.93	1.14	5.00	23254	5.28	1.01	6.00	1091	5.23	1.00	5.00

**Course:** PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809: Global Ethics-PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809  
**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*  
**Response Rate:** 27/38 (71.05 %)

**3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	3.70%										
Disagree	(2)	4	14.81%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	7	25.93%										
Agree	(5)	7	25.93%										
Strongly agree	(6)	8	29.63%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
27/38 (71.05%)	4.44	1.50	5.00	23163	5.03	1.25	5.00	1090	4.89	1.30	5.00		

**4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?**

Response Rate	21/38 (55.26%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked more questions and challenged more of his points.</li> <li>• done each paper before the last minute</li> <li>• Be able to listen to hours of lecture.</li> <li>• I could have read the assigned readings in more depth.</li> <li>• Read all of the assigned readings wholly</li> <li>• I could have read more of the course material in greater detail.</li> <li>• Read external sources aside from the course material.</li> <li>• I could have spent more time with the weekly readings.</li> <li>• I should have gone to office hours and taken better notes.</li> <li>• -</li> <li>• I could have done the readings more regularly.</li> <li>• I could have been more of an active participant in this class.</li> <li>• Spent more time completing nightly readings.</li> <li>• Read the chapters before class.</li> <li>• I could have been a better learner by being better prepared for the he class discussions.</li> <li>• Read the articles more in depth</li> <li>• Allocated more time to fully comprehend and analyze the readings.</li> <li>• I could have started my papers earlier in the week. The way he wanted the papers written is not how I best write papers and some were also opinion based which, in my opinion, makes grading harder and more biased.</li> <li>• I could have read all the readings more intently.</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• I could have done some of the readings more thoroughly to improve my scores on the weekly written assignments.</li> </ul>	

**Course:** PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809: Global Ethics-PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809  
**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*  
**Response Rate:** 27/38 (71.05 %)

**5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:**

**Gil Hersch**

**Response Rate** 17/38 (44.74%)

- Dr. Hersch felt very biased in his teaching. I felt like if I disagreed with his viewpoint on a subject matter I got a lower mark on my weekly paper than if I just sucked it up and agreed, even if that's not how I truly felt. He also taught under the assumption that everyone had the same viewpoint as he did, which was certainly not true.
- Maybe use less lecture during class and switch up activities. Also, try to make this class a 50 minute class 3 times a week rather than an hour 15 2 times a week. The extra time is painful to sit through for this class.
- Overall great instructor.
- Fun class, hot topics of conversation
- Well, the course was based upon participation in groups as well as aloud. But, if our views did not coincide with yours or at least did not acknowledge your view, then it would be shut down and you wouldn't acknowledge ours. I understand that a global ethics class is liberal for the most part, but you would make a joke of any other view that was not liberal. I am not even conservative per say. I would consider myself independent; but this class turned me off from being liberal because of your non-chalant approach to both point of views. "I'm not saying that my opinion is right, but the other view is pretty ludacris if you ask me," is a direct quote from a highly debated topic in the world currently. I like that you encouraged group participation and getting involved, but I don't understand how you can project that notion when you don't consider any other side that isn't your own/your parties. I believe you are a good guy, but consider going at the class with a neutral standpoint to prevent people coming to class only to avoid a ridiculous participation grade deduction.
- Although I do not believe Dr. Hersch means any harm, but sometimes his delivery is terrible. Its very intimidating to answer questions in front of the class because it never seems like there is "the right answer." I talked to many students in the class struggled with understanding concepts that Dr. Hersch presented. So, answering questions about difficult concepts was challenging because Dr. Hersch's feedback wasn't always constructive but sometimes rude. I also did not like a comment Dr. Hersch said at the start of the semester. Dr. Hersch told our class that we should not put our names on our papers due to bias. He continued by saying there is bias in all grading and gave the example of bias by who was "pretty" or "tall". I found this comment among others to be unnecessary. Finally, Dr. Hersch makes his opinion very clear in a pompous manner, and its hard to have your own opinion (as a student) when you know the professor already doesn't agree with you. I hope this feedback will help Dr. Hersch when dealing with students in the future.
- Sometimes the lectures were kind of boring and I think it would help to include more videos or even like scenarios regarding ethics.
- -
- Professor Hersch was a very competent professor. Our class did not speak often but the conversation questions posed about the topics were helpful to furthering my understanding of the material.
- I think for next year you should have more interactive activities in class to get the points across. This course could be very interesting based off of the material we learn, but the material needs to be presented in a way that students stay interested. I think another issue is that this class was only Monday and Wednesday, so the class was longer and therefore it was easier to lose the attention of the students. If this class becomes more interactive I think the learning environment would be more enjoyable and effective.
- Prof. Hersch was very kind and fair to all of the opinions and issues we discussed in class. It was helpful!
- Really knowledgeable and I learned a whole lot of valuable things.
- Honestly, I would say shuffle up the groups for discussion, as it would allow students to hear different perspectives each class.
- The subject matter was very interesting and made me think more critically about global poverty. However, my only criticism is that some of the papers we had to read were written with higher level philosophy in mind and this is an intro class, so at times there were some heavy reads that I could not fully comprehend without reading over the same sentences several times. Overall, the course and the assignments went well though and I enjoyed Professor Hersch as a teacher.
- Doing surveys throughout the class and adjusting your teaching style accordingly was a very good move; and I suggest it for future classes. Worst case, nothing changes.
- liked how the class was focused. this helped it be more relevant and interesting.
- I'm not sure how but the course needs to be more engaging.

**6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Very Bad	(1)	0	0.00%								
Bad	(2)	0	0.00%								
Poor	(3)	3	11.11%	■							
Fair	(4)	7	25.93%	■							
Good	(5)	12	44.44%	■							
Very Good	(6)	5	18.52%	■							
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
27/38 (71.05%)	4.70	0.91	5.00	23087	5.25	0.93	5.00	1090	5.22	0.88	5.00

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**Course:** PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809: Global Ethics-PHIL\_2304\_87205\_201809  
**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*  
**Response Rate:** 27/38 (71.05 %)

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**7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:**

Response Rate	14/38 (36.84%)
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- Good window to watch people walk by.
- Loud air conditioner
- See previous text box, applies to both.
- I enjoyed the physical environment.
- -
- It was very loud and cold.
- Room varied in temperature and dryness of the air. It was distracting some days and almost caused me to fall asleep.
- I couldn't hear the professor at times but I think it was because of him rather than the room.
- Too cold or too hot
- On occasion there were odd sounds and the fans on the ceiling were very dusty.
- One whole wall of the classroom was windows looking at a busy path a lot of students walk on which made it harder to focus.
- classroom had weird acoustics and could barely hear anyone when they spoke.
- Windows are always good!
- The classroom was not ideal and was usually a little too warm. Learning in class was certainly doable, but a better classroom would have been helpful.

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801: Adv Philosophy Politics Econ-PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801

**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*

**Response Rate:** 10/13 (76.92 %)

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1A - The instructor was well prepared.**

**Gil Hersch**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.40	5.45	5.47			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	10.00%								
Agree	(5)	4	40.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	5	50.00%								
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
10/13 (76.92%)	5.40	0.70	5.50	23242	5.45	0.88	6.00	1171	5.47	0.82	6.00

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.**

**Gil Hersch**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.44	5.30	5.31			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	5	55.56%								
Strongly agree	(6)	4	44.44%								
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
9/13 (69.23%)	5.44	0.53	5.00	23130	5.30	1.03	6.00	1167	5.31	0.96	6.00

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.**

**Gil Hersch**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.50	5.23	5.11			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	5	50.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	5	50.00%								
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
10/13 (76.92%)	5.50	0.53	5.50	23132	5.23	1.14	6.00	1167	5.11	1.20	6.00

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801: Adv Philosophy Politics Econ-PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801

**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*

**Response Rate:** 10/13 (76.92 %)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:												
1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.												
Gil Hersch												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.30	5.53	5.52	Instructor	College	Department	
Disagree	(2)	1	10.00%	█								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	3	30.00%	██								
Strongly agree	(6)	6	60.00%	██████								
					0	25	50	100				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
10/13 (76.92%)	5.30	1.25	6.00	23118	5.53	0.86	6.00	1162	5.52	0.82	6.00	

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:												
1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.												
Gil Hersch												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.50	5.29	5.30	Instructor	College	Department	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	5	50.00%	███								
Strongly agree	(6)	5	50.00%	███								
					0	25	50	100				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
10/13 (76.92%)	5.50	0.53	5.50	22976	5.29	1.07	6.00	1160	5.30	1.00	6.00	

2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?	
Gil Hersch	
<b>Response Rate</b>	6/13 (46.15%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporated structured learning with student led discussion and excellent thought excersises</li> <li>• Provided frank and honest feedback on work and challenged students with questions that forced them to seriously evaluate their claims. Also provoked interesting and engaging discussion on issues related to PPE beyond just considering each facet of an issue from a single disciplinary viewpoint.</li> <li>• offering concrete examples of game theoretic settings</li> <li>• Created a very open environment that facilitated good discussion in the class.</li> <li>• What helped my learning the most was the discussion during class time. This helped me synthesize the information and think more about the topics.</li> <li>• The feedback was great! Sometimes it felt like Dr. Hersch wasn't fully prepared, but that in some ways contributed to the feelings of respect.</li> </ul>	

**Course:** PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801: Adv Philosophy Politics Econ-PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801

**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*

**Response Rate:** 10/13 (76.92 %)

**3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.38	5.25	5.24	Instructor	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree	(5)	5	62.50%											
Strongly agree	(6)	3	37.50%											
					0	25	50	100						
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>			
8/13 (61.54%)	5.38	0.52	5.00	21102	5.25	1.04	6.00	871	5.24	1.02	6.00			

**3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.44	5.00	4.92	Instructor	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	11.11%										
Agree	(5)	3	33.33%										
Strongly agree	(6)	5	55.56%										
					0	25	50	100					
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
9/13 (69.23%)	5.44	0.73	6.00	20980	5.00	1.28	5.00	864	4.92	1.30	5.00		

**4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?**

<b>Response Rate</b>	6/13 (46.15%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared my material further in advance</li> <li>• I could have been more proactive in engaging in the early discussions in the course.</li> <li>• poop</li> <li>• Better time management.</li> <li>• I could have participated more in the in class group discussions.</li> <li>• Read all of the readings...</li> </ul>	

**5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:**

<b>Gil Hersch</b>	
<b>Response Rate</b>	2/13 (15.38%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This course was interesting, but I did not see the added value of the instruction portion in comparison to what the course is intended to do. Peer review and the presentation is the only portion I found helpful in completing my final paper.</li> <li>• Knew this course would be interesting and valuable from the first day, where he made us consider how we would decide on the books for the course, utilizing our knowledge of the successes and failures of different types of selection systems.</li> </ul>	

Spring 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801: Adv Philosophy Politics Econ-PHIL\_4884\_17040\_201801

**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*

**Response Rate:** 10/13 (76.92 %)

6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?												
Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Very Bad		(1)	0	0.00%								
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%								
Poor		(3)	0	0.00%								
Fair		(4)	2	20.00%	█							
Good		(5)	4	40.00%	██							
Very Good		(6)	4	40.00%	███							
					0	25	50	100	Instructor	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
10/13 (76.92%)	5.20	0.79	5.00	20929	5.22	0.92	5.00	871	5.30	0.87	5.00	

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:	
Response Rate	4/13 (30.77%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Hersch made sure to get a new room for the class after discussing the problems with our initial classroom with us. The gesture was much appreciated, and made for a very welcoming environment in which it was clear that he cared about our comfort with our surroundings as well as trying to challenge us on our knowledge and views. Made interaction in the class much easier on the whole.</li> <li>• The first classroom we were assigned was too small and claustrophobic, but the class we were in was fine.</li> <li>• That first classroom would have been ridiculous. The room we were in for the rest of the semester was good.</li> <li>• The second classroom was much better than the first one and provided a much better atmosphere for learning.</li> </ul>	

Virginia Tech  
Fall 2017 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709: (86793) Morality and Justice-PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709  
Instructor: Gil Hersch \*

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%			5.46	5.45	5.36			
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	3.57%								
Agree	(5)	13	46.43%								
Strongly agree	(6)	14	50%								
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
28/34 (82.35%)	5.46	0.58	5.50	26,910	5.45	0.89	6.00	1,774	5.36	0.97	6.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%			4.89	5.30	5.19			
Disagree	(2)	2	7.14%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	7.14%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	10.71%								
Agree	(5)	11	39.29%								
Strongly agree	(6)	10	35.71%								
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
28/34 (82.35%)	4.89	1.20	5.00	26,793	5.30	1.03	6.00	1,768	5.19	1.13	6.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%			4.86	5.23	5.10			
Disagree	(2)	2	7.14%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	7.14%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	14.29%								
Agree	(5)	10	35.71%								
Strongly agree	(6)	10	35.71%								
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
28/34 (82.35%)	4.86	1.21	5.00	26,797	5.23	1.12	6.00	1,769	5.10	1.17	5.00

Virginia Tech  
 Fall 2017 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709: (86793) Morality and Justice-PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709  
 Instructor: Gil Hersch \*

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.**

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%			5.71	5.52	5.48			
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0%								
Agree	(5)	8	28.57%								
Strongly agree	(6)	20	71.43%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
28/34 (82.35%)	5.71	0.46	6.00	26,763	5.52	0.88	6.00	1,765	5.48	0.93	6.00

**1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.**

Gil Hersch

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%			5.07	5.30	5.18			
Disagree	(2)	2	7.14%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	14.29%								
Agree	(5)	10	35.71%								
Strongly agree	(6)	12	42.86%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
28/34 (82.35%)	5.07	1.12	5.00	26,597	5.30	1.06	6.00	1,757	5.18	1.14	6.00

Virginia Tech  
 Fall 2017 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709: (86793) Morality and Justice-PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709  
**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*

**2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?**

**Gil Hersch**

- powerpoint presentations with interactive iclicker questions
- He always played devils advocate which was frustrating, but made it clear for what we were learning.
- Explained how I can improve my paper which helped me earn a better grade.
- He explained concepts in a way that was understandable and entertaining. Asked a lot of thought provoking questions.
- Made powerpoints with information and had discussions, also some of the paper reviews were helpful
- Presented lessons in an interesting manner and did activities in class that fostered my learning.
- Helpful at office hours
- I thoroughly enjoyed his lectures and the discussions we had in class. I can honestly say it was the most thought provoking class I had this semester.
- Understanding of how to properly format philosophy papers
- In class discussions were always insightful and helped guide us towards a better understanding of the material.
- I liked the conversational format of the course. There were presentations but I learned the most from hearing what people's opinions were on the subject matter, including the professor's opinion.
- The reading quizzes got me to at least look in the text before class instead. In addition, the mini discussions in class about the content we were learning were helpful.
- He provided a lot of in-class discussions, had a very strong grasp of the concepts of what we were learning, and thus was able to answer any questions that I had.
- He explained some topics in a way that made sense through different realistic examples.
- Provided good examples
- He implemented writing workshops for our papers where we peer-read and edited papers to get feedback. He also facilitated many class discussions.
- The instructor was able to foster class discussions that were very inclusive and created discussion that was very thought provoking. Professor Hersch was also very open to helping students with understanding the material better through office hours and answering any questions you had.
- Quizzes helped understand the material more and allowed me to come to class prepared about the topic.
- Mr. Hersch was very interested in his field which, in turn, helped me to further grasp the material. He presented the material clearly and sometimes in a funny way, which kept my attention and focus. He also took the interests of his students into account frequently and would make sure students understood material and assignments.
- He always was there if someone needed help or advice on an assignment. But his advice wasn't always very clear and helpful.
- He made it very open and conversational, as he seemed to believe that philosophy isn't cut and dry necessarily, but something to be discussed among peers.

**3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses					Means		
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%						5.04	5.28	5.13
Disagree	(2)	1	3.57%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.57%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	5	17.86%								
Agree	(5)	10	35.71%								
Strongly agree	(6)	11	39.29%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
28/34 (82.35%)	5.04	1.04	5.00	24,332	5.28	1.00	6.00	1,239	5.13	1.11	5.00

**3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

**3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses					Means		
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	3.57%						4.54	5.03	4.75
Disagree	(2)	3	10.71%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	3	10.71%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	10.71%								
Agree	(5)	9	32.14%								
Strongly agree	(6)	9	32.14%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
28/34 (82.35%)	4.54	1.50	5.00	24,211	5.03	1.22	5.00	1,229	4.75	1.38	5.00

# Virginia Tech

## Fall 2017 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709: (86793) Morality and Justice-PHIL\_1304\_86793\_201709

**Instructor:** Gil Hersch \*

### 4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

- Come to class prepared with an understanding of the subject matter
- I could have read the chapters and articles more.
- Take notes as I was reading
- Read through the readings more thoroughly
- I could of payed attention more in class. Sometimes too much talking/lecture made me zone out
- Spend more time trying to understand some of the content in the readings.
- Read the book more.
- Sometimes I accidentally missed a quiz, so I could have been more on top of that.
- I did everything I could to be a good learner. Maybe I could have spent more time on the papers but I still did well on them.
- Read the text more often
- I could've maybe gone to office hours...?
- I didn't do all of the reading assignments for every class. There could be more of an incentive to do these, perhaps make the quizzes more than just participation.
- Read more carefully.
- Read more.
- Participated more frequently.
- Do more of the readings
- Actually take the time to read the readings rather than just skim through.
- I wish I would have gone to more office hours with prepared questions on my papers. Office hours were helpful for writing the papers and it was very beneficial to go and talk about my paper. If I would have prepared more for my papers and had taken my thoughts to office hours I think I could have improved my grade and my overall understanding of the material.
- Contributed more in class and if something was misunderstanding I should've asked in class.
- I could have gone to more office hours, but I found that Mr. Hersch would stay after class every day to answer questions that I had.
- I was unable to go to class for most of the semester due to job interviews, travelling on account of familial happenings, and being firmly planted behind the proverbial 8 ball in other classes.

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### 5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

**Gil Hersch**

- Good teacher, funny and made things interesting. Sometimes I wanted to class just to speak together, I think he interjected too much. CHANGE GRADING scale!!!
- You are a phenomenal teacher! I loved your teaching style and loved the way you led the class through discussions.
- I wouldn't use the point system anymore just because its hard to calculate your actual grade for this class.
- He didn't explain basic things well, but could explain abstract things. It was kind of hard to exactly follow along.
- I enjoyed the content of this course and I genuinely enjoyed being in class and hearing Gil's lectures and other students thoughts. He had great ideas and was an interesting professor, who clearly enjoyed discussing the topics. Unfortunately, because this is an introductory philosophy class, I was extremely surprised by his expectations and what I believe to be unrealistic grading. I felt that he often failed to explain his expectations for essays, resulting in it feeling very hard to earn a good grade. Attending office hours definitely helped though, but even so, I felt it was very difficult to get a good grade on papers, especially considering this is an introductory class and many people have no prior experience with philosophy. I also feel the grading scale is a bit ridiculous. The way he has the grading structured makes it very easy to avoid failing, but almost impossible to achieve an A. To get an A, you'd have to get a 100% on every single assignment, exam, essay, and considering he is a tough grader, I would say achieving this would be near impossible. It was very discouraging and disappointing as I enjoyed this course but felt it was impossible to be as successful as I wanted to be no matter how hard I worked.
- I thought the class was boring. I did not like the material. It was dry and was not stimulating. I think there should have been more discussions based on current events in regards to morality and justice.
- -It is extremely difficult to get an A in this class. In order to do so you can't miss a single quiz, must have 100% attendance, and have to get a perfect score on each essay and the final. That is unreasonable. This is a 1000 level, CLE course, but it is taught like a 3000 level course for Philosophy majors. -The grading on the essays was extremely difficult, there was no example essay or clear guidelines of what was expected in the essay, and in order to get a good grade you had to go to office hours, which is also unreasonable.
- Always eager to help and explain during office hours. Never condescending, very respectful.
- I liked the material that was covered in this course. I thought the professor did a good job of presenting the case for each theory/topic objectively and then telling us his views.
- Great professor and was helpful and willing to further explain things if needed.
- Beast.
- While some aspects of this course were interesting and Professor Hersch seems to have a lot of knowledge on the subject, there were some parts of the class that were not the best. The grading system is confusing and seems kind of unfair. While it makes it difficult to fail the class, it also makes it almost impossible to get an A. As this is an intro level class that many people take just for a CLE or some other requirement, I do not think it should be such a harsh grading scale. Additionally, Professor Hersch is a tough grader and does not make it clear on how to improve. This along with the grading scale can make success in the class tough. Additionally, some of the material is presented in a confusing way. It would have been helpful to be given charts or something that compare all of the different theories, because it was at times hard to grasp their differences. All in all, it was not a bad class. I do not think it was taught like an intro level class, but I guess that is also pretty standard coming from post-doc professors.
- Cool funny guy
- This class was challenging but it allowed me to learn a whole range of philosophical theories and about ethics. I liked the fact that the quizzes were based on completion rather than accuracy because some of the readings were dense and hard to understand.
- This was a great thought provoking class and one of the only classes I felt comfortable in participating in class discussion. The class environment was vey comfortable and felt like everyone was engaged in learning and discussing the material. This is the only class I actually enjoy attending and leaves me thinking about the material after class. The material pushed me to think about ethics in a new light.
- none
- Mr. Hersch was both a fun and interesting teacher. I found that he fostered an environment of respect, especially when we had discussions about philosophical topics that students would disagree on. He clearly understands his field and the material he was required to teach.
- I think the difficulty of this course was a little ridiculous. If the majority of this class was philosophy majors, then it was have been justified. But for most students this was just a CLE and should have been taught at a freshman level because it is a 1000 level class. I think he expected way to much out of students who aren't philosophy majors. Another thing was that he used many examples that the majority of the class didn't know anything about and he didn't offer an explanation on them either. So to use those examples to help explain the theories was useless.
- Seemed like a wonderful guy and very well-read on the subject matter that he was teaching.

### 6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means						
Very Bad	(1)	0	0%					5.44		5.27		5.19		
Bad	(2)	0	0%											
Poor	(3)	0	0%											
Fair	(4)	3	11.11%											
Good	(5)	9	33.33%											
Very Good	(6)	15	55.56%											
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department			
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>			
27/34 (79.41%)	5.44	0.70	6.00	24,152	5.27	0.88	5.00	1,232	5.19	0.91	5.00			

Virginia Tech  
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**7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:**

- n/a
- More intriguing essay topics would have been favorable. Mundane, day to day moral conflicts are a little boring and does not spark much desire to write (please don't use Abby and the beer fund topic.. it was kinda lame)
- spacious
- none
- The classroom was both comfortable and facilitated learning well.
- This had nothing to do with the teacher, but there was a girl who was very disrespectful to the teacher and made it very hard to concentrate. She would sit there on her computer when he explicitly said, "no computers, no phones." She also brought a rabbit to class one day which was just super distracting.
- I wasn't there often enough to give an accurate rating.