

**UMass Amherst Student Response to Discussion/Lab Section Instruction  
SPRING 2025 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES**

Course: PHIL 180 Section: 01AC (52558)

Instructor: Yuan, He

What aspects of the section leader's teaching were most helpful to you?	What suggestions do you have for how the section leader could improve the learning experience for you?
I like the group discussions. It helped foster a better understanding of the class when it seemed like everyone was allowed and encouraged to share their thoughts.	I think the best way to improve the experience may be by making it mandatory for each person to talk during discussion at least once.
Great enthusiasm and interest in the subject, very forgiving with extensions and grading, willing to help	I did not always understand what he was saying- often forgot that this was a low-level class open to non-philosophy majors who need extra help to think in the exact way the class wants
Many visual diagrams to go along with concepts. Super helpful.	Perhaps having student led discussions of concepts where we try to figure out and can present to class.
I really enjoyed learning in a smaller setting some of the things we had discussed in class but that I did not fully understand. This also gave me the opportunity to talk in smaller groups, as I am not a huge fan of talking in front of a class. This was a really great opportunity to learn more about something I am unfamiliar with and that I can grow more confident in it to further my understanding in a different field.	I wish that we would always be able to discuss in the small groups, as sometimes we were not able to. This is the only thing that I wish would've happened, as I feel this discussion section really helped me!
He did a lot with the board and diagrams which helped to "visualize" the logic of certain arguments/perspectives	He was almost too "mathematic" with the arguments such that some of the emotional appeal of perspectives was lost.
Going over the more difficult topics and allowing room for discussion.	Nothing
Had a passion for the subject and welcomed the students' thoughts. He stimulated discussion and made class enjoyable.	No notes.
The explanations and showing examples and not just talking about them.	Sometimes certain points were unclear and needed further explanations to help.
He was always willing to stay after class to further discuss any proposals or questions I had, and during class he fostered discussion among the students.	Honestly, nothing, he did a phenomenal job.
All, in the discussion I can learn more about the details.	None
I enjoyed is way of explaining and getting the discussion involved. and. going.	N/A
Professor He is a wonderful section leader! His class discussions were the main reason I didn't withdraw from the course. He is engaged with the material and encourages students to think differently. He will make an excellent professor someday!	N/A

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<b>What aspects of the section leader's teaching were most helpful to you?</b>	<b>What suggestions do you have for how the section leader could improve the learning experience for you?</b>
Visual representations of course material	
I think He is very good at explaining topics in a way that isn't complicated. I appreciated our extra discussions outside of class.	I think He can work a little bit on clarity when speaking. Only very occasionally, it was a little tough to understand him. Otherwise, he was really good.
Our section leader was always available to answer questions, and was wonderful to receive help from in office hours!	
He really encouraged class discussions, and invited us to think about topics for ourselves before joining in to the discussion.	
Good explanations and references	
He always explained the materials, encouraged the students' perspectives, and answered our questions well. Drawing and speaking elements were helpful together. I also liked having the quiz questions written on the board before quiz time because it gave us a chance to reflect on our class notes/ speak with other students. The paper handouts were also very helpful, and I referred back to them when writing my papers. Group work was also a fun, interactive part of this discussion. It helped us all break out of our shells and share new ideas with one another.	I wish the handouts were posted online/ sent through email in case of misplacement. I would also encourage more students to attend office hours because they were super helpful for me! Thank you for a great semester.
How we had to talk to classmates and how he explained things, kinda hard to understand him sometimes though. He's really funny and nice though	
I loved having He as my TA, I thought he was funny, and inviting while also being clear with what he taught and extremely fair when grading.	Nothing currently!
Drawing/ mapping out points on the board	Timing our discussions a little better, we only missed one in the whole semester but that is all I can think of.