

Student Course Evaluations Results

Course: LAWS 47411-01 Jurisprudence I Theories of Law and Adjudication

Instructor: Leiter, Brian

Semester: Spring 2012

of Students: 48

of Responses: 34

 [Print Friendly View](#)

[Course Evaluation Detail](#)

Filter View

1. Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.

Course Results	- Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent+	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question	0	0	0	1	33	4.97	5	5
% of rating selected for question	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.94%	97.06%			

- Professor Leiter has an incredible depth of understanding of the subject and is able to field any question asked by a students in my opinion in a satisfactory manner. (1)
- Unbelievably knowledgeable. Definitely his forte. (2)
- Professor Leiter came in every day ready for class. He put relevant notes on the board before class began, etc. He's clearly a leader in the field and understands various jurisprudential theories very well. (3)
- I understood the material much better after class than I did from just reading through it by myself. (4)
- He is an expert on jurisprudence, clearly best in the field. (5)
- Complex ideas were clearly explained and illustrated with helpful examples. (6)

2. Professor's Organization of the Semester.

Course Results	- Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent+	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question	0	0	0	12	21	4.64	4	5
% of rating selected for question	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%			

- I thought the workload was fine and well-paced. I also appreciated how the readings for the next day were announced at the beginning of each class. (7)
- Great in-class organization. Makeup schedule was difficult. (8)
- He generally planned things very well. The only thing I would ask would be that he give students reading assignments more than a class advance. He currently tells students what they need to read for the next day; something like the next 2-3 class periods would be better. (3)
- I found some of the bopping around between Hart and Dworkin to be confusing, particularly the times when Dworkin was brought into hte conversation as criticizing Hart before we had read any of Dworkin's original work (it just got very convoluted and meta in there), but otherwise it was great (9)
- Organizing the content into debates between particular thinkers was a good method. (4)
- The dialectic structure is fantastic. (5)
- I think it might have been more helpful to study the material on theories of law before the material on theories of adjudication--it seemed like a lot of the latter rested on certain assumptions about the former. (10)
- It was great how the professor wrote down key concepts on the board before class, and also during class as new concepts came up.

It would be helpful if the professor wrote down the assignment on the board and/or sent an email confirmation of the assignment instead of just reading it aloud to us once. (6)

3. Professor's Choice of Course Content.

Course Results	-	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent+	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question		1	0	1	14	16	4.38	4	5
% of rating selected for question		3.13%	0.00%	3.13%	43.75%	50.00%			

- Reading was so dense, but I guess most of this material is like that. The Raz reading was so hard. I liked the cases we read the best, and especially analyzing them in class through different writers' frameworks. That helped me the most in understanding the material (7)
- I would have possibly liked more on the natural law end, but that is my own personal preference. The course materials that were used were very interesting. (1)
- A supplement would help. (11)
- I would have expected we would read more on Rawls and Kelsen. (12)
- I think the professor spent too much time on Hart v. Dworkin, and not enough on the natural law tradition. (13)
- The education on formalism/realism seemed lop-sided. We read two pages from "vulgar" formalists that used a clearly mechanical jurisprudence, but we didn't read many real formalists, e.g. Langdell. I also worry that we didn't cover Dworkin's "all judgments are interpretations" argument. (3)
- The readings were interesting, concise, and relevant to what we discussed in class. (6)

4. Professor's In-Class Performance.

Course Results	-	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent+	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question		0	0	2	5	27	4.74	5	5
% of rating selected for question		0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	14.71%	79.41%			

- I really got a lot out of the lecture/question format, but I think sometimes opening the floor to students during the discussion of a topic, as opposed to after, might yield some benefits. (14)
- I had no idea what I had read half the time I came to class, but I was able to understand everything when it was explained in class. I really appreciated when the professor would give a preview of each writer's framework before we did the reading; I found the texts more accessible when I was prepared going in. (7)
- Excellent at parsing the material and fielding questions. (2)
- I have taken a few classes with Prof. Leiter. I greatly enjoy his classroom demeanor and teaching style. He presents material clearly and is always willing to spend more time to explain a difficult concept. (15)
- He made the material extremely clear. (16)
- Answers to questions didn't always seem responsive. (13)
- In answering questions, Professor Leiter clearly tried to balance particular student interests with keeping the class on point. He generally took student questions as an opportunity to reiterate the views of the thinker we were reading. While this is probably appropriate for a survey course, it might have been nice for Prof. Leiter to indulge student-directed critical evaluation of the works we read a little more. (8)
- Professor Leiter generally responded well to student questions. (3)
- Engaging lecturer, made the material seem less abstract and more applicable to daily life. (4)
- I appreciated how the professor did not call on students randomly, but instead allowed us to raise issues and questions on our own initiative. That helped me focus on the lecture without being interrupted. I also appreciated how the professor took the time to restate key ideas. This allowed me to take more thorough notes and really reaffirmed those concepts in my mind. (6)

5. Professor's Relationship with Students.

Course Results	-	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent+	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question		0	0	2	8	24	4.65	4	5
% of rating selected for question		0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	23.53%	70.59%			

- Really nice (7)
- He was great at answering questions and very approachable after class. He seemed to really like talking to students about the material. (16)
- The professor maintained an approachable, respectful demeanor. (3)
- The professor was insightful and humorous. It would help if he spoke more slowly. Sometimes I was afraid to ask questions because he seems irritated if students ask questions on a mistaken premise. (6)

6. How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?

Course Results	- Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent+	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question	0	1	0	5	28	4.76	5	5
% of rating selected for question	0.00%	2.94%	0.00%	14.71%	82.35%			

7. I would recommend this course to other students.

Course Results	- Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly + Agree	Course Mean	25th%	75th%
# times rating was selected for question	0	2	2	9	21	4.44	4	5
% of rating selected for question	0.00%	5.88%	5.88%	26.47%	61.76%			

8. Additional Comments

- The only reason I wouldn't recommend the course is because I don't like the material. But I like the professor! (17)
- I felt the reading was, at times, pretty difficult for someone without a philosophy background or foundation of some sort. I think that's unavoidable, but it's the only reason why I might not recommend this course to someone who lacks such a background. (2)
- Leiter was amazing, as always. He's one of my favorite professors at the law school and he delivered a great course. He has a knack for explaining difficult and nuanced arguments and theories in a simple and comprehensible way. I would definitely recommend taking this class. (18)
- Professor Leiter knows his stuff. He provides clear explanations for otherwise oblique concepts. (19)
- As I mentioned above, I greatly enjoy Prof. Leiter's teaching style and the subject of this course. I would recommend it to others. (15)
- I'd recommend this class if you liked really challenging classes. This one was pretty tough. The reading was hard to keep up with. (11)
- Professor Leiter's ability to explain such entangled theories is excellent. He has full knowledge of the subject and transmits this knowledge with high clarity. I enjoyed the discussions on different theories and how they contradict, correlate, etc. (12)
- The readings and classes were well linked. This class clarified many matters from my previous reading of the relevant texts. (20)
- This is an excellent course with an excellent professor. I can only say keep up the good work! I have nothing to add. (21)
- Prof. Leiter is the clearest lecturer I have had, by far. (8)
- My lack of helpful criticism stems from the fact that the course is exactly what I signed up for and is taught very well. (22)
- Prof. Leiter is an extremely well-organized and well-spoken professor. He doesn't hide the ball and leads us straight through the readings and doesn't miss a beat when answering questions. He clearly knows the material cold and tries his hardest that we might as well. The only "complaint" I might lodge is that he has trouble hiding which thinker/arguments he prefers over others, which tends to skew our take on the readings. That said, I agree with him personally so I had no problem with this. (23)
- Ultimately the course seemed like Leiter's triumph of positivism rather than a balanced jurisprudence course. Other theories suffer from intractable problems or are obsolete (if not expressly then practically). He rather focuses on a proper explication of positivism, which may or may not be a good goal for the course. (3)
- Professor Leiter clearly knows this information incredibly well, and he conveys even the most complicated, convoluted concepts in a clear and reasonable manner. He was a great professor and I hope to take more of his courses in the future. (9)
- You still tend to say "all right" too often, but I enjoyed the course. Thank you. (24)
- I already have recommended the course to other students. The only recommendation I would ask for

would be a review of the course, something to possibly tie it together at the end. I know this would be incredibly difficult with the complexity of the material, but a general overview of how the different arguments linked together could be helpful. Overall,an incredibly interesting course. (25)

- Professor Leiter communicates and explains the material very effectively. The class was great. (26)

Note: Numbers in parentheses after a comment refer to the nth student that submitted the evaluation.