

Recent Course Evaluations, 2015, 2016

# LAWS 47411: Jurisprudence I: Theories of Law and Adjudication

## Section 01 - Spring 2015

Instructor(s): Brian Leiter

# of students: 20

# of responses: 17

### Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.

Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	17 / 100.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 5/4.69 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.6 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/5

### Comments

- Very well versed in jurisprudence and understood the issues at a critical level

### Professor's Organization of the Quarter.

Professor's Organization of the Quarter.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	12 / 70.59%	2 / 11.76%	3 / 17.65%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.53/4.38 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.02 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.77

### Comments

- Topics followed a fluid and sensible order and organization

### Professor's Choice of Course Content.

Professor's Choice of Course Content.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	12 / 70.59%	4 / 23.53%	0 / 0.00%	1 / 5.88%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.59/4.33 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.05 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.8

### Comments

- Very interesting and engaging material
- It would really help if the course reader had an organized table of contents, perhaps with clear sections designated (corresponding with the sections on the syllabus).

### Professor's In-Class Performance.

Professor's In-Class Performance.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	15 / 88.24%	2 / 11.76%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.88/4.36 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.83

### Comments

- Communicated material very clearly and asked for questions at frequent intervals. This was very helpful to clarify confusing topics and issues.
- The way he handles discussions and does not use the Socratic method made me feel comfortable in class and allowed me to focus on understanding, rather than memorizing facts that I may be quizzed on during a call.
- Professor Leiter is able to intuit where students are having trouble. He knows which points to spend more time on in order to clear up that confusion.

- Tremendous clarity and ability to respond to questions.

### Professor's Relationship with Students.

Professor's Relationship with Students.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	12 / 70.59%	4 / 23.53%	1 / 5.88%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.65/4.46 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.33 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.9

### Comments

- Gave great analogies that connected concepts with experiences.
- Professor Leiter was extremely kind in his office hours, despite the fact that my questions were very basic.

### How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?

How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	16 / 94.12%	1 / 5.88%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.94/4.42 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.17 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.86

### I would recommend this course to other students.

I would recommend this course to other students.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
# Responses	14 / 82.35%	3 / 17.65%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.82/4.37 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.1 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.83

## Additional Comments

- It's a great class - even if you have little or no background in the subject, it can be both engaging and interesting. Leiter has made the subject a lot less intimidating for me!
- Really liked this class. Professor Leiter is very clear with very complicated subjects. Not cold-calling is also an excellent choice for this class.
- AMAZING!
- If you're not remotely into philosophy, then don't take this class. Otherwise, you'll learn a lot. Also, no cold calling is always a plus.
- Professor Leiter is perfect. Strongly recommend.
- Professor Leiter clearly has a masterful understanding of Jurisprudence. I enjoyed the class thoroughly.
- It would be helpful to have an electronic copy of the course reader available, as the large packet became cumbersome.
- Professor Leiter was one of my favorite professors this year.

# LAWS 41601: Evidence

## Section 01 - Winter 2016

**Instructor(s):** Brian Leiter

**# of students:** 48

**# of responses:** 33

### Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.

Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	29 / 87.88%	4 / 12.12%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.88/4.78 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.69 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.97

### Professor's Organization of the Quarter.

Professor's Organization of the Quarter.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	20 / 60.61%	12 / 36.36%	1 / 3.03%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.58/4.43 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.2 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.78

### Comments

- I thought covering Crawford and the Confrontation Clause earlier in the course was a smart way to organize the material.
- A lot of the material ended up blending together for me at the end.
- It is very confusing material, but I think Prof. Leiter does the best job he can in organizing it. We do occasionally need to cover some material in the next class, but it isn't much.
- It's a little rough to schedule a makeup class so late in the quarter. In the future, it might be easier on the students to slot a makeup, when there's an anticipated need, for within the first few weeks.
- Only thing I would change: I would prefer that we didn't learn Authentication and the Best Evidence Rule on the very last day of class. It would be better if we could learn only one of those and save the majority of class for review.

### Professor's Choice of Course Content.

Professor's Choice of Course Content.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	19 / 57.58%	10 / 30.30%	4 / 12.12%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.45/4.43 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.14 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.75

### Comments

- While I enjoyed the focus on hypos in the textbook, I would have liked if the book provided more clear answers. Instead, I often felt like the book and the class were a little disjointed, and sometimes the professor did not agree with the book.
- I wish that we had spent more time on how to lay foundation, and other practice-ready skills.
- A lot of emphasis on hearsay
- the textbook is poorly written and difficult to follow
- I really like the book and problems are particularly helpful (especially when they answer the questions they posed).
- A majority of this class is on hearsay, but given how complex it is, I suppose that makes sense.

### Professor's In-Class Performance.

Professor's In-Class Performance.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	25 / 78.13%	6 / 18.75%	1 / 3.13%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.75/4.45 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.21 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.78

### Comments

- The pace of the class was perfect - easy to follow and take notes on, but still engaging. I also enjoyed knowing which group of the alphabet would be called in advance.
- Professor was very clear in teaching the rules and covering the problems in the casebook.
- Perhaps covers the readings a little too thoroughly.
- I think Professor Leiter is a very clear presenter and is a great lecturer.
- Very light on cold calling, which is nice, and you are only on call once every 3 sessions. He also does a great job of making very complicated and confusing material much clearer, and explains things coherently.
- Discussing examples/hypos other than the ones in the book would have helped solidify my understanding of the rule. We did this occasionally, but I'd recommend doing it more often.

### Professor's Relationship with Students.

Professor's Relationship with Students.

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b># Responses</b>	23 / 69.70%	8 / 24.24%	2 / 6.06%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.64/4.58 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.4 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.85

**How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?**

How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b># Responses</b>	22 / 66.67%	11 / 33.33%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.67/4.49 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.31 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.78

**I would recommend this course to other students.**

I would recommend this course to other students.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b># Responses</b>	23 / 69.70%	10 / 30.30%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.7/4.48 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.28 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.79

**Additional Comments**

- Don't hesitate to choose Professor Leiter - his anecdotes make Evidence entertaining!
- I like going through the hypotheticals in class, definitely made the concepts clearer.
- The class was practical black-letter, which was great. Professor Leiter was very clear about the law and about his expectations about our in-class performance and what we need to know for the exam. I'd strongly recommend this course with Leiter.

- He was very nice and very well informed.
- Very organized, which is one of the strengths having a philosopher teaching the class.
- I would keep everything the same, as I feel that I learned the material well with the Professor's teaching of this course.
- Professor Leiter made a subject I was extremely not interested in, very interesting. He clearly knows the material and I strongly suggest anyone who wants to take Evidence in preparation for the bar exam to take it with Leiter.
- The syllabus said that we would be able to bring in our own copies of the Federal Rules of Evidence to the exam. On the first day of class, we were told that we would be provided with a copy of the rules for the exam and we were not able to bring in our own version. However, this was after many of us had spent \$50 on the copy of the Federal Rules that was suggested. This was very frustrating.
- I appreciate that Prof. Leiter asked for questions regularly throughout class. The pre-assigned on call was nice. Also, I LOVE the example question method used.
- I enjoyed this class (as much as one can enjoy evidence) and thought that Professor Leiter did a great job making complex rules understandable.
- I liked our cold calling system. I enjoyed the course very much (even though I will do transactional work after graduation). I highly recommend taking this course with Professor Leiter!!!
- I really enjoyed the 20 minutes we spent talking about epistemology.
- Professor Leiter did a good job of explaining complicated material to the class. He was always open to accepting and answering questions from the students. The hypotheticals were useful in understanding the complexities of the rules. Overall, the class was structured well.
- If you have to take evidence, taking it with Leiter is a good idea. He is very clear.
- Evidence is a core class and really should be taken, and Prof. Leiter does a great job teaching it.
- I really think the discussion during class is really helpful.
- The choice to assign only certain portions of the class to be on call on any given day was incredibly thoughtful and helpful in terms of time-management. (Though I was shocked that some students were still unable to be prepared for the 3-4 classes for which they were actually required to have thoroughly read the materials - I have no idea how to solve that problem more effectively than by the system you've already implemented).
- I wish we had engaged with examples outside the ones in the book. Reviewing the book problems sometimes felt like just a rehash of the notes that followed the problems. Also, having only one core example of how a particular rule applied didn't leave me feeling with a strong understanding of the rule in some cases.

- Loved having Evidence with Professor Leiter! His enthusiasm for the subject was evident. Only relatively negative comment: I did not like the course book. Many of the notes were too long and turned out to not be that important.
- Very clear. One of the best professors at the school.

# LAWS 47411: Jurisprudence I: Theories of Law and Adjudication

## Section 01 - Spring 2016

**Instructor(s):** Brian Leiter

**# of students:** 15

**# of responses:** 12

### Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.

#### Professor's Knowledge of the Course Material.

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b># Responses</b>	10 / 83.33%	2 / 16.67%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.83/4.76 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.67 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/5

### Comments

- Prof Leiter was very knowledgeable of the course material and answered student questions in a way that displayed a depth of knowledge beyond what was being covered in the course

### Professor's Organization of the Quarter.

#### Professor's Organization of the Quarter.

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
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<b># Responses</b>	9 / 75.00%	2 / 16.67%	0 / 0.00%	1 / 8.33%	0 / 0.00%
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Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.58/4.36 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4.75/4 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.8

## Comments

- Course was very organized, we stuck to the syllabus
- Great organization. Putting the different thinkers in conversation with each other was helpful and interesting.

### Professor's Choice of Course Content.

Professor's Choice of Course Content.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b># Responses</b>	6 / 50.00%	4 / 33.33%	2 / 16.67%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.33/4.4 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.07 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.77

## Comments

- I know this is nit-picky, but the readings were ever so slightly long. I felt that I couldn't go as in-depth with material because there was just a hair too much reading. Otherwise, choice of content was spot-on! I have the sense that I've had a good look at the main thinkers in jurisprudence.
- Course content was good, although I would have liked to see a broader view, which went outside the scope of this argument within analytic philosophy, and got more diverse viewpoints. I would especially have liked to see more diversity in the authors on the syllabus itself.
- Excellent readings. I'm surprised, honestly, that some of the readings weren't part of the Elements curriculum (especially the article that shows the thrust and parry canons of construction), because they break down a lot of preconceptions that I assume law students come to school with.
- I would have liked to have spent more time on the obligation to obey the law section we addressed on the last day.

### Professor's In-Class Performance.

Professor's In-Class Performance.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	8 / 66.67%	3 / 25.00%	0 / 0.00%	1 / 8.33%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.5/4.45 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.26 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.83

### Comments

- Very clear lecturer. Moreover, I ended up agreeing with Professor Leiter that the lecture style, for a course, better facilitated learning than a purely Socratic method style would. I always walked out of this class feeling like I'd learned a lot.
- Organization of lectures was excellent and clear.

### Professor's Relationship with Students.

Professor's Relationship with Students.					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	8 / 66.67%	3 / 25.00%	1 / 8.33%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.58/4.54 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4/4.32 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/5

### How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?

How would you rate the OVERALL TEACHING ABILITY of Professor?					
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
# Responses	10 / 83.33%	1 / 8.33%	1 / 8.33%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.75/4.49 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 5/4.25 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.88

## I would recommend this course to other students.

I would recommend this course to other students.

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b># Responses</b>	9 / 75.00%	2 / 16.67%	1 / 8.33%	0 / 0.00%	0 / 0.00%

Offering Mean/School Mean = 4.67/4.43 | Offering 25th%/School 25th% = 4.75/4.2 | Offering 75th%/School 75th% = 5/4.8

## Additional Comments

- Great class with a great professor.
- Looking forward to taking more classes with Professor Leiter.