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Course Comments

Instructor Comments

Term Class No. Course  
 1164 | 2972 | Advanced Introduction to Envir

**Purves, Dunca**Out of 16 enrolled students, 11 completed the survey. [Re](#)**Overall evaluation of the instructor.**

0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	81.8%
Very Poor	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent

**Overall evaluation of the course.**

0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	36.4%	54.5%
Very Poor	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent

**The instructor provided an environment that was conducive to learning.**

0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	72.7%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The instructor provided helpful feedback on assessed class components (e.g., exams, papers)**

0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	90.9%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The course objectives were clearly stated.**

0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	72.7%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The course was well organized.**

0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	27.3%	54.5%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The course was intellectually stimulating.**

0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	18.2%	72.7%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The grading criteria for assignments were clear:**

0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	27.3%	63.6%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The assigned course readings/materials contributed to my learning:**

0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	72.7%
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Term	Class No.	Course
1164	2972	Advanced Introduction to Envir

**Purves, Dun**

Out of 16 enrolled students, 11 completed the survey.

#### What did the instructor do well? (Optional)

» Excellent. Rehire him the next time his contract is up. Definitely the most helpful instructor I've had he advised me on two outside papers that became conference presentations.

» I really enjoyed this course. I was initially unsure that I would enjoy the material, as I entered the p with a focus on medical ethics. However, Duncan did a great job presenting the philosophical underp of a variety of environmentalist theories and problems, which really peaked my interest in the subject

» Dr. Purves is very good at organizing slides, making jokes, and understanding what the students in are actually trying to say.

» Prof. Purves provided really good feedback for students and clearly took the time to read comment outlines, and drafts. He was clear that he was always available to help, and his feedback was helpful

» Very detailed slides. Engaging and fun classes. He is considerate, respectful to students and very f He makes you feel comfortable to ask questions and be more engages with the class.

» I think my favorite aspect of his classes would be the prepared powerpoint slides. They were alway exhaustive, and though sometimes this meant that there was more material than we had time to covr meant that I had a fairly dependable resource at home when reviewing material for any reason.

» He always broke down arguments, giving the class a chance to scrutinize them in detail. This stimu further in-class discussion of the various positions and arguments, and gave us the chance to improv understanding of some of the more complicated and difficult arguments. He also contextualized the p well, showing how they relate to problems and questions which have emerged in the field.

» Professor Purves has a calm and approachable demeanor that facilitated a great classroom enviro He was very open to new ideas and to discussing/debating topics openly and honestly. Although the great deal of reading material, the Professor informed us of how to prioritize it to get the best out of c discussions. This was greatly appreciated. The slides were also great -- they were much more inter than the run-of-the-mill slides we typically get in academia.

#### Differing ideas and experiences of diverse individuals (Optional)

» He did a great job.

» He did a good job, though there was a tendency of the same few voices speaking up more often th There's little that can be done, though, as there will always be students who simply don't feel like cor

» I always felt like I could share my ideas. Prof. Purves always made an effort to entertain your ideas even flesh them out in a more plausible light if they weren't initially expressed with the greatest clarity

» We had many different viewpoints in the class, and it always felt comfortable to voice my opinion/dissension. We were a tight-knit group that got along very well, due in large part to the positi pleasant environment Professor Purves helped facilitate.

» He did his best. There were just some kids in the class that really liked to hear themselves talk

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Term    Class No.    Course  
 1164 | 2972 | Advanced Introduction to Envir

**Purves, Duncan**

Out of 16 enrolled students, 11 completed the survey.

[Return](#)**What changes would you suggest to enhance the course? (Optional)**

» Some of the papers we read were a little strange. The course would benefit from a greater focus on actual issues/events in environmental ethics, although I realize the course is explicitly philosophical. The "How Economists Value The Environment" unit was a little dense, as well as the Bradley readings on value.

» It not be so expensive.

» More classroom control of discussions - this improved as the semester went on, but sometimes we would discuss something on a tangent that limited our time discussing the major topics for the class that day.

» Maybe one writing assignment each week instead of two would be better. 300-400 word critical commentary before the class might be better.

» This course was decent. Honestly, I was just not as interested in the material as I was in the material in environmental justice. I think that as an instructor you did better at keeping the class on topic, though there were still times when (admittedly interesting) tangents disrupted instruction time.

» I suggest having explicit cutoff times over the topics discussed in class. The progression of the course was delayed a couple of times because discussion went on too long. Alternatively, we can cover a slightly fewer number of topics and allow for more wiggle room.

Another thought is to have our paper presentations a week or two earlier. This way, the class can ask questions and provide feedback early enough to make changes. This also makes it easier to explore topics at the earlier stages of development.

**What additional comments would you like to make? (Optional)**

» Re-hire Dr. Purves once his current contract is up. He's extremely well-read in every area of philosophy we've ever discussed and is perhaps the most accessible faculty member in the department. He gave me advice on two outside papers that both turned into conference presentations. Absolutely hire him again.

» Great professor, very helpful and enthusiastic about the subject. He is available to meet and enjoys discussing philosophical questions in great depth. I look forward to taking another class with different topic if he offers such a class next year.

» I evaluated you as a "Good" instructor only because I felt it necessary to keep it in context of the course itself. You've done a lot for me outside of this class and for that I cannot thank you enough.

» This was a fantastic course that covered a great deal of interesting material.

» Make the classes less expensive. I could take two classes at Columbia for the price of one at NYU. Is this just because of rent?



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Term **1158** | Class No. **16689** | Course **Topics in Bioethics:** **Purves,Dunca**

Out of 14 enrolled students, 10 completed the survey. [Re](#)

**Overall evaluation of the instructor.**

0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%
Very Poor	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent

**Overall evaluation of the course.**

0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%
Very Poor	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent

**The instructor provided an environment that was conducive to learning.**

0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The instructor provided helpful feedback on assessed class components (e.g., exams, papers)**

0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The course objectives were clearly stated.**

0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The course was well organized.**

0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The course was intellectually stimulating.**

0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

**The grading criteria for assignments were clear:**

0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

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Term	Class No.	Course
1158	16689	Topics in Bioethics:

**Purves, Duncan**[Retu](#)

Out of 14 enrolled students, 10 completed the survey.

**What did the instructor do well? (Optional)**

- » Maintained highly stimulating intellectual discourse throughout the duration of the course.
- » - Good selection of topics
- Offered personal insight on the material
- Promoted discussion
- » Dr. Purves did a good job at facilitating instruction. The lectures were extremely interactive and the atmosphere of the class was very relaxed. It was very enjoyable overall.
- » Great professor, he just needs to practice when to stop digress conversation so we can move on to other topics
- » Super well. Prof Purves was enthusiastic and really knowledgeable about the topics we discussed.
- » Professor was able to facilitate meaningful and intellectually robust class discussions.
- » He did a great job of expositing important arguments from the assigned readings, fleshing out the background of those arguments and the related philosophical controversies to which they were a contribution, and stimulating discussion among the class.

**Differing ideas and experiences of diverse individuals (Optional)**

- » Very well. It was the most diversely focused of any philosophically inspired courses that I have taken.
- » Very well
- » I honestly don't know how someone who had a significantly more conservative viewpoint would have felt in that class, but the group that we had seemed very at ease throughout the course. I think this was a very successful class in no small part because of that.
- » Professor was also able to incorporate various perspectives/student voices in class.
- » Personally, it always seemed like a safe and respectful environment in which to express my ideas. Prof. Purves was always courteous and thoughtful in his responses, regardless of whether he disagreed with you or not.

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Term	Class No.	Course	<b>Purves, Duncan</b>
1158	16689	Topics in Bioethics:	

Out of 14 enrolled students, 10 completed the survey. [Return](#)

### What changes would you suggest to enhance the course? (Optional)

- » Time management and stopping digress conversation, which is the main reason for lack of time
- » Adjusting the readings, or timing sections of the class, so that all the readings get to be addressed. But there's nothing bad about lots of reading! That's what grad school is for...!
- » Perhaps extra time to write the paper? It was difficult finishing the paper before the semester was over in conjunction with other courses.
- » I'm sure you're going to get this a lot, but some sort of organization system is needed in this class. It was by far my favorite this semester, but we suffered quite a lot by being unable to keep to a decent timetable and falling behind in discussion.

At the very least, setting a timer to go off halfway through class and the end of class would be useful, as would being more willing to cut off discussion that derails or carries on significantly longer than it should.

» A large amount of class time was spent on class discussion, which was great, but sometimes I thought it could use a little more direction and structuring. Students were sometimes allowed to go on long tangents which didn't really dealing with the core of the arguments or issues in question, and it might be better to redirect students back to the heart of the issue under discussion rather than allow the tangents to go on unimpeded.

» Duncan was great. Very engaging, and chose good topics to cover. I really like that he encouraged class discussion and let us spend a lot of time on subjects that we wanted to hash out. My one suggestion is that we jump into the philosophical arguments faster and spend less time reviewing 'facts' from the reading. For example, it was great when we outlined author's arguments (e.g. our discussion on Rawls, PPP, etc.) but we don't need to review all the data from a paper (e.g. facts about obesity, climate change). The facts are helpful, but since Duncan allows for so much class discussion (which is awesome!) we could probably skip through some of the non-philosophical stuff for the sake of time management.

All in all this was a great class. It integrated environmental and health ethics in a cohesive way, and definitely increased my knowledge and interest in the subject. I look forward to taking Intro to Environmental Ethics with Duncan next semester.

### What additional comments would you like to make? (Optional)

» As I said before, this class was easily my favorite this semester. You're the most approachable professor I have and the material seemed both relevant and interesting. Keeping a handle on the class or maybe modifying the agenda so that it reflects the amount of time you expect to spend on each topic would go a long way.