

Evidence of Teaching Excellence

Below are selected comments from my student evaluations (2000–8):

1. “All in all, Dr. Miller is THE BEST teacher I have ever had. His knowledge is expansive on so many levels: history, classics, philosophy, etc. He is very patient and is willing to devote as much time as it takes to help his students, because he genuinely cares about them and his profession. A scholar and a gentleman, I feel that Dr. Miller’s class is one of the only classes I have actually learned relevant information in. The class was very challenging, and I’m glad it was, because I feel that many teachers hand out A’s and are not willing to help their students grow mentally. Most importantly, Dr. Miller kept w/ his teaching ethics despite having numerous dropouts who were afraid of getting less than a 3.4 average. That he persevered and remained steadfast is certainly admirable. He is a credit to his department.”
2. “I would strongly recommend this school to keep this teacher at all costs. He is AMAZING. I have changed my major because of him. He is intelligent, thoughtful and interesting. He never makes any student feel stupid because of his or her comments; he is also very interested in students’ comments and values our input. By far the best teacher I’ve had at Duke.”
3. “Deep thinker – well thought out ideas; open mind – considers new approaches & ideas, friendly and soft-spoken – easily approachable – knows everyone’s name, gives respect to everyone. Passionate about teaching – willing to spend a great deal of time w/ students inside & outside of class, caring about students – writes extensive comments to help students learn. Weakness – none comes to mind. Of all the Professors & TA’s here, you have made the most impact on me. I wish I had the chance of knowing you sooner.”
4. “Mr. Miller is an extraordinary instructor – calm, yet inspiring; rigorous, yet understanding; serious in his responsibilities, yet willing to laugh. I took the course only to fulfill a graduate school language requirement, but I enjoyed coming to class and preparing the lessons. I appreciated his sense of humor. I was also impressed with his level of understanding & his ability to incorporate Roman / Greek philosophy, history, & lit into our (sometimes dry) study of Wheelock’s Latin. Any university will be lucky to have you in its department.”
5. “I can’t begin to list just how effective this instructor was in helping me learn all that I did this semester. His teaching style allows the students to participate, & he did a magnificent job of getting to know everyone while respecting their opinions. I felt that the workload was appropriate for what I learned, except it would have been nice to have an extra week in advance for certain assignments. It is obvious that Mr. Miller is an expert in his field, but what amazed me was that admist [sic] his knowledge of numerous subjects other than philosophy, he remained humble & never exhibited arrogance. Dr. Sayre-McCord influenced me to become a phil. minor, & Mr. Miller has influenced me to go for the major.”
6. “Patrick is an excellent teacher whose knowledge – and enthusiasm for sharing that knowledge – goes far beyond the linguistic & grammatical aspects of the course. I loved learning things from him about philosophy and classical literature that helped put the sometimes rather random sentences/texts from Wheelock into context. A wonderful teacher, and good and challenging course. Thank you, Patrick!”
7. “Dr. Miller was very interactive with the class, always engaging us in discussion and often getting up to demonstrate certain concepts. Sometimes he even brought in objects to help us understand ideas and give us visual reference points. It was this energy, in addition to a good sense of humor and friendly personality, that really helped me grasp the ideas most effectively...Dr. Miller is an amazing professor. He sets the bar very high,

- but supports you all the way and truly wants you to succeed and reach that mark. I'm very glad I took this course. I have learned so much, and I would definitely take another course with Dr. Miller in the future."
8. "This course was outside my major and not a requirement. I found this subject matter incredibly difficult, but not impossible. Mr. Miller went out of his way to meet me outside of office hours and you could always tell that he wanted students to really learn the material. It was one of the most difficult courses that I have taken at UNC, but I found it extremely interesting, largely due to the high level of commitment from Mr. Miller. He truly is one of the most phenomenal teachers I have had at UNC."
 9. "Overall, Dr. Miller is the best prof. I've had here at Duquesne. Caring for students, challenging, thought provoking. The amount I learned in his class in 2 weeks is more than an entire other class."
 10. "Overall, Dr. Miller is [an] astounding professor. He is one of the most brilliant people I have met and has such a drive to inspire his students to pursue knowledge....One of the best teachers I have had – anywhere."
 11. "Dr. Miller is the most brilliant professor I have ever had the opportunity to meet. His class was very challenging. I've learned more in this class than any other I've ever taken. He is truly inspirational. I feel alive and excited about the course work. He is amazing."
 12. "The professor should keep doing what he is doing. Absolutely refreshing educational experience."
 13. "Dr. Miller is enthusiastic, able to translate very complex philosophical ideas to topics that students can understand, and thorough in ensuring that students have all the background material they need to understand the material."
 14. "Dr. Miller is a phenomenal instructor. I chose this class especially because he taught it, and when he returns in 2009, I intend to take more courses with him."
 15. "Dr. Miller was incredibly well prepared. The selection of readings, though vast, progressed my knowledge of Freud & psychoanalysis to a great degree. I feel that this course has prepared me more than another [sic] for my professional career."
 16. "Patrick Miller is the best professor I have had at Carolina."
 17. "This has been about my favorite phil, or any class. Excellent teacher...first time I genuinely wanted to recommend the teaching award."
 18. "Professor Miller was a great teacher. Extremely knowledgeable in his field, and he generated very interest [sic] discussions about the most important questions in life....Professor Miller is the best professor I have ever had, and the type of intellectual, spiritual stimulation offered in this class is the ideal university experience."
 19. "Mr. Miller was an extremely competent & skillful teacher. He offered a refreshing challenge, demanding that we do the reading by quizing [sic] us and testing us in a way that required a deep understanding of the material. He is one of the best professors I have had at this university."
 20. "This was an excellent course in developing analytical and logical skills. The instructor was very good about explaining things step by step and linking ideas to a bigger picture."
 21. "One of the best classes I've ever taken."
 22. "Prof. Miller is wonderful. I definitely enjoyed the time at the end of the semester more when we spent class time in discussion of the ideas more personally than when we discussed only the texts of the various thinkers."
 23. "This instructor had a beautiful mastery of language and ability to communicate difficult concepts...The teacher's effectiveness and abilities are superb."
 24. "I have learned more in the first 2 weeks of this class than I have learned in a whole semester of all my other classes."
 25. "Very knowledgeable in both philosophy & ancient history. Excellent instructor."
 26. "I really enjoyed the class but it was incredibly hard."

27. "I felt that Mr. Miller was an outstanding instructor. His methods of instruction, control of the material, and enthusiasm were unparalleled."
28. "The instructor was excellent. He showed a great deal of kindness, and genuine concern for the performance of his students."
29. "Mr. Miller is one of the best instructors I have ever had the pleasure of working with!"
30. "Miller is an excellent professor. While the course was challenging, I learned a great deal. He was the first philosophy professor I've had that has made the subject enjoyable and understandable for me."
31. "One of the most challenging courses I've taken in this department. Miller was a great instructor."
32. "Patrick did an excellent job of relating specific Latin points to other fields of interest. We covered a lot of material, but also had a good time doing it. This was one of the most enjoyable classes I've had in years!"
33. "This course really challenged me. It forced [sic] to do a lot more than just repeat information from the readings or lectures. Professor Miller was an excellent instructor and has an incredible working knowledge of the material. This course was difficult, but I don't think that you could restructure it to make it otherwise."
34. "Excellent course. Excellent teacher. Great experience."
35. "Great (but hard!) class – Miller is so enthusiastic and quite obviously very well studied."
36. "The subject material of this class is dense and exhaustive. The class could have been extremely dry had it not been for the very animated and earnest teaching by professor Miller. It is obvious that he is knowledgeable and excited for Philosophy."
37. "His background knowledge of the events discussed, his grasp of both Latin & English grammar & his engaging nature made the course engaging, challenging, & fulfilling."
38. "No weaknesses that I can see in the instructor, who is a fabulous teacher and a terrifically intelligent fellow."
39. "Mr. Miller seems to know the subject extremely well and does an excellent job communicating the lessons effectively. He always makes time to give students extra help outside of class and is always fair with the grading. No weaknesses."
40. "Patrick has a clear and articulate understanding of the texts. He is also a compassionate and kind, while thoroughly fair and honorable, instructor. It has been a pleasure to work with him and I wish him all the luck in the world in his future studies."