

Sample Student Evaluations for David S. Danaher

The Writings of Václav Havel: Critique of Modern Society

I have taught this course six times from 2002 to 2010.

"David's teaching inspired a lot of post-class 'coffee-talks'."

"Everyone should take this course. Publicize it more!"

"The teaching was brilliant. Danaher is the most charismatic teacher I have ever had and was excellent in relaying the material to his students."

"All my other courses teach something concrete. This course gave birth to creativity of mind. Thank you!"

"Much better than any other literature class that I've taken. I learned a lot about myself."

"This course made me think about politics and our responsibility to the world in an entirely new way."

"David is really passionate about the course and his enthusiasm is contagious, and he gives his students a lot of freedom in regard to open-ended assignments like the journals. Not only does it keep us from being annoyed with the class because of arbitrary assignments, but it shows that he trusts us to be honest and keep up with the work. Because of that trust, I actually WANT to keep on top of the readings."

"I really enjoyed the teaching style and room for individual interpretations of Havel's texts."

"This is the one class I didn't mind doing group work in. Group work usually turns out disastrous but here it didn't."

"This class exceeded my expectations. The professor's teaching was outstanding."

"I feel like I know Havel."

"I wish we could continue! The material itself was amazing enough, but the format of the class and discussion within the class really brought it to life."

"I learned more than I could have imagined in this class. Not only did the writings trigger many thoughts in my head, but this class allowed me to express them as well."

"Professor Danaher made us look at the texts Havel wrote at an intellectual level and not just a surface level. He made me think quite a bit about not just one reading, but how they all fit together."

"This course was one of the most intellectually stimulating classes I've ever been in."

"There was always something new to try to wrap your mind around."

"I'll be reading more on the subject in my own time."

"You want to read for class so you will be prepared for the good discussions that you know will take place."

"I learned a lot about how to look at the world through a new set of eyes."

"The class was more of a discussion where we were all the teachers. I liked that a lot."

"The atmosphere reminded me of a salon in the Enlightenment where we debated ideas."

"One of the best courses I've taken."

"I hope that more of my professors are as excited about what they're teaching as David was throughout this semester."

"This course motivated me to think in different ways."

"Intellectually stirring."

"I loved how informal and conversational the class was. I felt I learned much more than I may have because of this teaching style."

"There are no other classes like this."

"This course is one of a kind."

"This course caused me to reconsider certain priorities and aspects of my own life and my goals and it is a class that I have highly recommended to many of my friends."

"I learned a lot more about myself than I expected to."

"The readings were always explained well but space was left open for students to share their own interpretations."

"The teaching was excellent. It incorporated small group work, small and large group discussion, and large group instruction all seamlessly."

"David is one of those rare professors who both has knowledge and engages and inspires his students."

"I was exposed to a new way of thinking about life in general and I am now able to apply this to any aspect of my life."

"It's the first philosophically motivated lit class that I've taken and I found it eye-opening."

"The course made us think beyond our own horizons."

"Prof. Danaher was fantastic and he made the class exciting despite the fact that we had to talk about things like 'living in truth' and 'post-totalitarianism'. And these topics were actually interesting!"

"Prof. Danaher did a wonderful job. His enthusiasm and excitement about the topic rubbed off on us."

"I thought the teacher was amazing. He taught us a lot in class and then let us run with the ideas in our own groups and journals."

"I am very happy with what I've learned and a large part of that was because of Prof. Danaher's creative and insightful analysis of Havel's works."

"The professor's enthusiasm created respect and made me want to be responsible to him and myself for thinking about the course material and learning."

"The class was relaxed but very much on task."

"Everything is open to discussion, there is no set structure so no class was ever the same. This allowed for some good discussion."

"This is easily the best lit course I've taken at UW or at the other college that I transferred from for that matter."

"Thanks, Prof. Danaher! I loved this class, perhaps the most stimulating course I've taken in my short time at the UW."

"The first day of class I rolled my eyes thinking this would be a hellish class where we would have to talk about some intellectual who just complained a lot. I never thought a whiny intellectual could be so interesting. Thanks!"

"The course forced me to think about the works in more than just the Czech context, really in the American context."

"Professor Danaher was my favorite professor in my first year as a college student."

"David is passionate about what he teaches and that is made clear in each and every class period."

"This course requires serious brain power."

"The ideas were presented in a very non-mainstream way, which made it much more intriguing."

"The material was stimulating. It required me to think on a high level consistently throughout the course."

"The professor had a passion for teaching Havel. He was approachable and motivated and engaging."

"The instructor is excellent, he gives a lot of individual attention and feedback. He's an enthusiastic teacher and a great listener."

"The teacher was EXCELLENT! He was always well prepared, willing to help, interesting to hear from and always enthusiastic. I was unsure about the class when I began but it was honestly the teacher that made me stay."

"David was helpful to have so many different ways that we could approach Havel (writing, small group discussion, group work outside of class, presentations, internet discussion). Each of us was able to use our strengths as well as try something new."

"David engaged the students consistently throughout the semester, allowing them to form their own opinions. The teaching was structured to give feedback and not to dictate a right/wrong interpretation."

"The atmosphere of the class was respectfully relaxed. There was a lot of monitored group work, which was very helpful in evaluating and analyzing the readings. I believe everyone felt comfortable contributing to the discussion."

"This is the best course that I have taken. Keep teaching it!"

"Keep offering this class, it's excellent!"