



D. FESSLER

Evaluation of Instruction Program Report

17W: ANTHRO 124P LEC 1: HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVR
 No. of responses = 60
 Enrollment = 140
 Response Rate = 42.86%

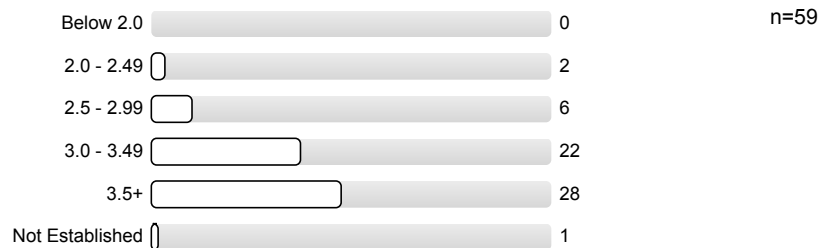
Survey Results

1. Background Information:

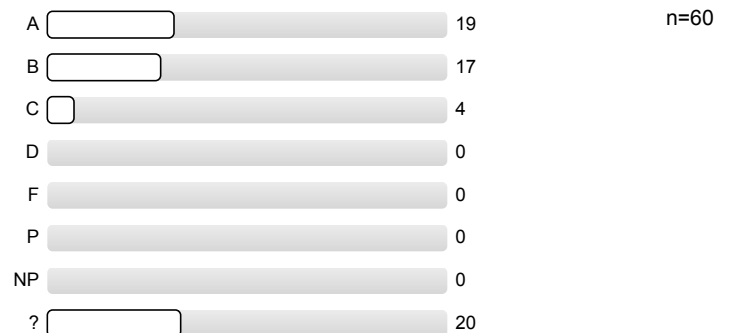
1.1) Year in School:



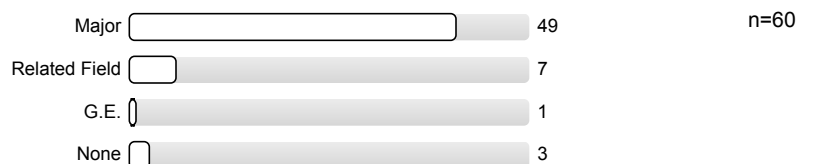
1.2) UCLA GPA:



1.3) Expected Grade:



1.4) What requirements does this course fulfill?



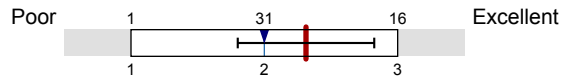
2. To What Extent Do You Feel That:

2.1)	Instructor Concern – The instructor was concerned about student learning.	Very Low or Never	0 0 0 2 1 2 8 10 37	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=8.23 md=9 dev.=1.24
2.2)	Organization – Class presentations were well prepared and organized.	Very Low or Never	0 1 1 1 3 6 8 16 24	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=7.67 md=8 dev.=1.61
2.3)	Interaction – Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.	Very Low or Never	0 0 0 2 6 4 3 13 32	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=7.92 md=9 dev.=1.52
2.4)	Communication Skills – The instructor had good communication skills.	Very Low or Never	0 0 0 0 2 2 3 17 36	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=8.38 md=9 dev.=0.98
2.5)	Value – You have learned something you consider valuable.	Very Low or Never	0 0 0 0 2 0 1 13 44	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=8.62 md=9 dev.=0.83
2.6)	Overall – Your overall rating of the instructor.	Very Low or Never	0 0 0 1 1 1 7 15 35	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=8.32 md=9 dev.=1.05
2.7)	Overall – Your overall rating of the course.	Very Low or Never	0 0 0 2 1 2 6 13 36	Very High or Always	n=60 av.=8.25 md=9 dev.=1.22

3. Your View of Course Characteristics:

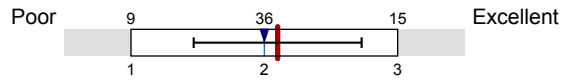
3.1)	Subject interest before course	Low	6 30 24	High	n=60 av.=2.3 md=2 dev.=0.65
3.2)	Subject interest after course	Low	0 9 51	High	n=60 av.=2.85 md=3 dev.=0.36
3.3)	Mastery of course material	Low	0 30 30	High	n=60 av.=2.5 md=2.5 dev.=0.5
3.4)	Difficulty (relative to other courses)	Low	0 28 32	High	n=60 av.=2.53 md=3 dev.=0.5
3.5)	Workload/pace was	Too Slow	0 49 11	Too Much	n=60 av.=2.18 md=2 dev.=0.39
3.6)	Texts, required readings	Poor	1 31 26	Excellent	n=58 av.=2.43 md=2 dev.=0.53 ab.=1

3.7) Homework assignments



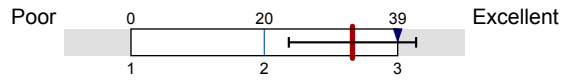
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 dev.=0.51
 ab.=12

3.8) Graded materials, examinations



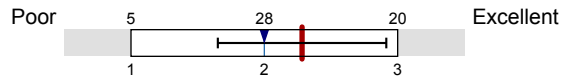
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 dev.=0.63

3.9) Lecture presentations



n=59
 av.=2.66
 md=3
 dev.=0.48
 ab.=1

3.10) Class discussions



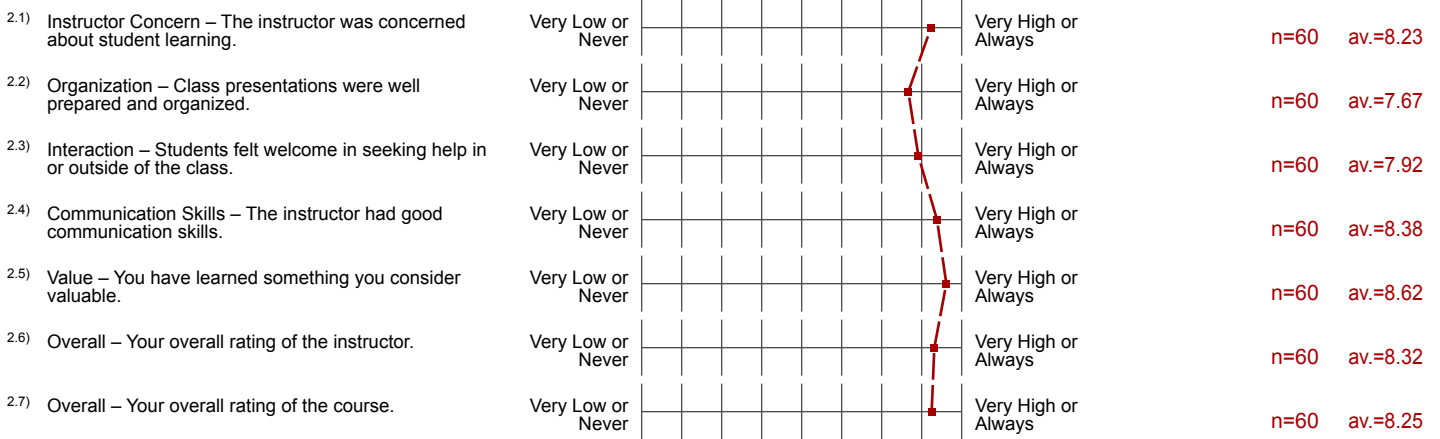
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 ab.=6

Profile

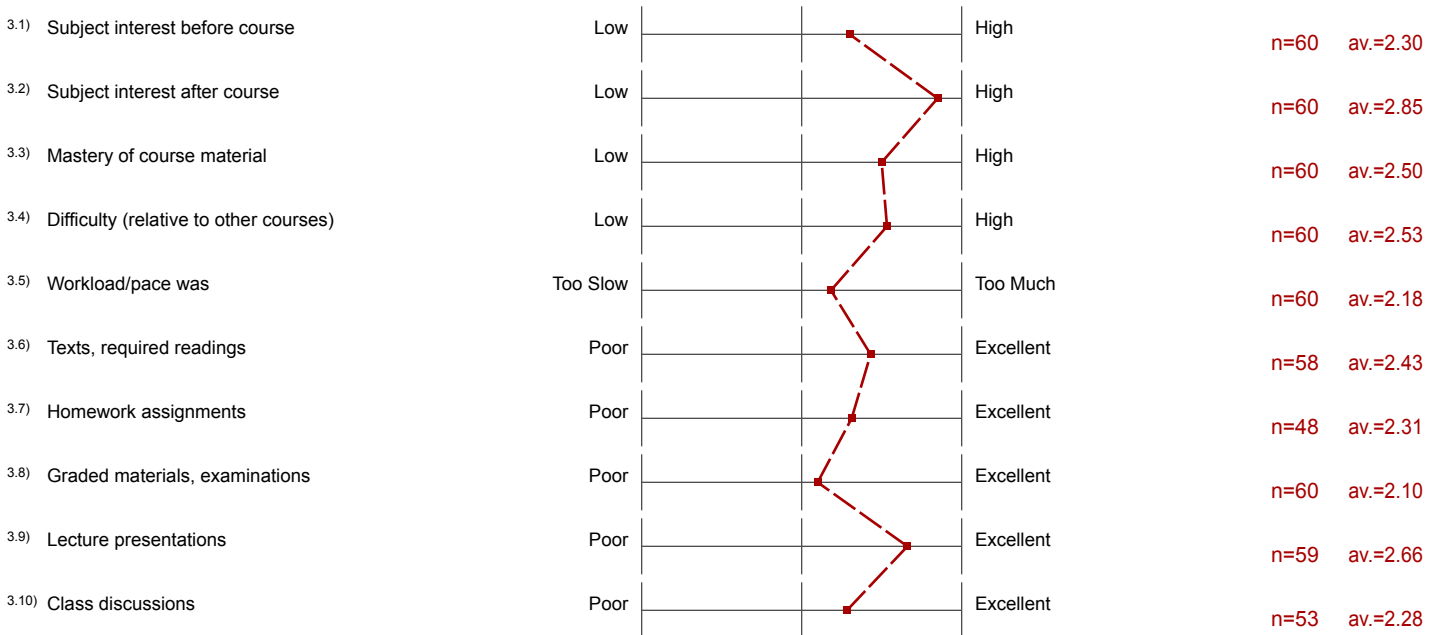
Subunit: ANTHRO
 Name of the instructor: D. FESSLER
 Name of the course: 17W: ANTHRO 124P LEC 1: HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVR
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

2. To What Extent Do You Feel That:



3. Your View of Course Characteristics:



Comments Report

4. Comments:

- 4.1) Please identify what you perceive to be the real strengths and weaknesses of this instructor and course.
- Amazing professor. Dr. Fessler knows the material in and out and knows how to make his students think about important concepts. Students, whether they cared or actually wanted to, come out of his class being able to think critically about any problem relating to human nature. Unlike other classes, this course strongly impacts how students view their own lives and ought to change their entire outlook their behavior and relationships with others.
 - Because his class is 8am, I'm not really awake and its almost impossible to take notes in his class because of how fast he talks. However, I strongly feel like he words his lecture really complicated... rather than simple to really confuse his students. But if you listen to his lecture again during afternoon time, he is very interesting. But talks really fast!!!!!!! I end up getting 7 notes back to back paper from his one hour lecture..
 - Course was interesting, although the exams were much harder than would be expected.
 - Dr. Fessler is a great professor. I understand why the course load is heavy with work. There is so much to cover and a quarter seems insufficient time to cover everything but Dr. Fessler does the best he can. His lectures are insightful (even if he doesn't go off a script), funny, and he kept students engaged. A lot of the material we covered is applicable not only within the realm of academia but also within our every day lives. I felt very challenged by the course and although I probably won't get the grade I want, I have enjoyed the course and material immensely. That said, I hope that doesn't discourage anyone from taking this course because it really is a great class. The amount of information you'll gain is priceless. Moving forward, I hope I can impart some of this knowledge with others.
 - Dr. Fessler is one of my favorite professors at UCLA. His lectures are extremely engaging and applicable in understanding today's society. He communicates the material clearly and through interesting examples and stories from his own experiences.
 - Dr. Fessler is truly a one of a kind lecturer. He is very interested in the subject material, and takes great pains to make sure his students are clear on what he is talking about. The class itself is not necessarily easy, but it isn't beyond difficult as well, though some of the readings are pretty dense. I really enjoyed this class, and I'm so glad I had a chance to take it. I would recommend it to anyone interested in anthropology.
 - Dr. Fessler was an amazing professor. I have never been more interested in a class taken at UCLA. Although unscripted, which he emphasizes, his lectures never failed to capture my attention, as he is very outspoken and great at explaining concepts. He made it more applicable to real life, and this class gave me more than just "textbook information". He picked interesting articles to read, and although there were a lot of readings to do, they kept me engaged in the material. Everything always made more sense as he went over it during lecture. Overall, I took away a lot from this class, and I hope other students have the opportunity to be exposed to Dr. Fessler's wealth of knowledge as well.
 - Each and every one of Dr. Fessler's lectures are like a TedTalk - he is without a doubt one of my favorite professors here at UCLA. This is by no means an easy class, but Dr. Fessler inspired in me nothing short of an intellectual liberation. I can't say how much I appreciate his (almost entirely) no slides policy in lecture. Instead, he lectures without a script and actually interacts with his students. I also loved that he gave us the - possible - list of exam essay questions ahead of time, and the fact that he not only allowed but encouraged us all to record lecture on our phones was a huge help. I honestly have zero criticisms or complaints, but obviously if one is expecting a titillating and "easy A" anthropology class then this is not for you. Instead, if you're up for it, Dr. Fessler provides a truly scientific and enlightening class that includes a lot of hard-work, memorization, and critical thinking. But it also will change your life

if you actually put in effort. I truly think Anthro 124P should be cross listed with the EEB department, more students should know about the importance of this class and Dr. Fessler's work. Thank you so much, Dr. Fessler!

- Even though I was skeptical Professor Fessler did not use any power point presentations for his lecture, it motivated me to pay attention in class and re-listen to all his lectures in order to grasp the concepts better. The pop-quizzes were also good because they kept me on top of my readings. The only suggestion I have would be to indicate how much each individual question on a test is worth. It will help students understand what did wrong and improve their answers.
- Every lecture brought a new and unique perspective that made us students think critically. The absence of lecture slides forced us to listen and actively engage with the material. The examination method is fair and comprehensive, making students study the material in a critical and creative manner.
- Every undergraduate at UCLA should make the perilous but rewarding trek up Mt. Fesslevious. This course is as fundamental to the understanding of our lives as Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. You can operate a machine without understanding how it works, but you should never operate one without understanding its ultimate purpose. I would be akin to handing a loaded gun to a child without the safety on. I don't want to say more than that about the course, because it should be experienced through fresh eyes, without any spoilers.
The course itself is structured so that it seems simple as you are working through the material for the first time, but then the underlying complexity reveals itself at the end through all the interactions the material has with itself. The tests are puzzles—hard IQ checks. Warning: if you don't trust yourself to synthesize large amounts of material by making connections and applying logical inferences, no amount of pure memorization will help you. This course is not a grind, it's about strategy.
One thing I really didn't appreciate were the quizzes, not because of their content, but because of how they were administered: Randomly, and at the very beginning of the class. I was late only twice to class (by only a few minutes), and both times I missed quizzes. An 8:00 AM class is already intrinsically punishing to those who commute, but to double the costs for a functionally arbitrary group of students didn't sit well with me.
Fessler himself is very smart, often funny, and for the most part—very well spoken. Considering he doesn't use any slides and doesn't have a strict script, his lectures were remarkably cogent. This is why it's disappointing when he randomly jumps into "obtuse mode" in his lectures. He has a proclivity to—in the absence of any functional reason—use words and phrases to describe ideas and models that can be described just as well or perhaps even better using words and phrases of lesser complexity, and ordered in such a way to enhance understanding—instead of obscuring it behind redundant verbosity and layers of clauses which are functions of one another. Or: he unnecessarily complicates things. I think this is because he wants to be very precise, but at a certain point, the costs of doing so outweigh the benefits.
So do yourself a favor and take this course. Record the lectures, caffeinate yourself up before class, pay very close attention, take really good notes, and think hard about the material. In the long run and maybe even in the short run, you will be better off for it.
- Fessler is a great engaging lecturer and sets up the class so that students can succeed if they put in the work. Great class.
- Fessler is a great lecturer! He has really great anecdotes and stories. This class is very interesting and his animated lectures make 8ams better.
- Fessler is a great lecturer! I really enjoyed his style. Material is very interesting and really encourages critical thinking. This was my first anthropology class and I thoroughly enjoyed it and found Fessler to be an engaged and dedicated professor. I always enjoyed going to class. Fessler's lectures often give a unique perspective and critique of human behavior. A suggestion I have is for Fessler to better explain evolution. As a biology major, I think Fessler explained it poorly. He often made it seem like animals were conscious of their physiological needs so they would adapt a trait, when that is simply not true.
- Great instructor. Once I found that the course was conceptual in nature I was able to gear my notes and

study in a way and allow myself to focus on the lecture which proved to be a very interesting, important, and thought-provoking. I absolutely loved Fessler's emphasis on the naturalistic fallacy throughout the course and found his general approach to the subject to be one that reinforced its relevancy, reflected in his efforts as an instructor. All around a great experience and I have garnered great respect for the instructor.

- Great lecturer! Amazed at how he can remember everything and doesn't need an outline or script! Overall greatly enjoyed the class.
- Great lecturer. One of the best lecture speakers i've been able to have a class with at UCLA. He really breaks down the material and remains engaging - even at 8 am. The exams are definitely difficult and in no way is this class "easy." But the grading is fair overall.
- Hilarious, knowledgeable professor
- I personally hate 8 AMs but the professor kept me up throughout the entire class. He was just so great at explaining everything with examples. He was happy to be there, so it made me pretty excited to be there. I think that the midterms are graded pretty harshly because students don't even have a sample question and answer where we can see what they are looking for.
- I really enjoyed taking this class! As a biology major, I liked that the discussion of evolutionary mechanisms overlapped with what I already knew, and that part of the class was intuitive for me, but the studies we read and discussed were totally new and really interesting. Professor Fessler is an engaging lecturer and class was always enjoyable. Some weeks it was difficult to make the connections between the readings, even after lecture, and that was the only (small) weakness of the class. That being said, overall the material was presented in a very clear and straightforward manner, and the exams and quizzes were fair. I would highly recommend this class!
- I shouldn't have loved this class: I hate 8ams and I'm terrible at science. But here I am wishing that we were on the semester system just so I could learn a little more from prof Fessler. Rarely do I find myself talking to my friends about what I learn in my classes, but after every lecture I was so blown away by new information that I had to share the things I was learning. Yes, this class is conceptually challenging and it's not an easy A, but did you really come to UCLA to get easy As? This is the 8am class that you'll be excited for every Monday morning. The class that you'll actually do all the readings for. The class that will make you not care whether you even get an A because what you're learning matters more than the grade itself. I wish that even 25% of classes could be as useful as prof Fessler's. No kidding, I will probably be talking about stuff from anth 124 a decade from now. He is incredibly knowledgeable, cares about the students, and has great taste in t shirts. 10/10 would recommend this class for any major.
- I think Dr. Fessler was a great professor who communicated the concepts clearly and related the material to extremely relevant social issues. I do wish there were more opportunities to get points other than the midterm, final and section, such as writing an essay, because it is difficult to articulate the answers he wants on the exams in the way he expects to get all the points.
- Interesting material but difficult course to follow. Inconsistently bounced around material during lectures which made it very difficult to follow and fit in notes where they were supposed to go. 8am pop quizzes are an unnecessary stress that students don't need and could be implemented in a more productive fashion.
- Life changing class. The end.
- One of my favorite classes at UCLA - and one of the only classes that I've felt like I learned valuable information in that I can use for the rest of my life. The class is hard and I don't know if I would necessarily have taken it this quarter (with two other hard science classes) if I'd known how hard the exams would be, but overall it was super worth it and I couldn't be happier that I did take it.
- Professor Fessler has been my favorite professor at UCLA so far. His lecture pace is fast enough to be engaging but still coherent and follows a tangible train of thought, forgiving a few goofy tangents here and there. Fascinating material, expertly delivered, entertaining and scholarly lectures. Thanks prof

- Professor Fessler has been one of the most unique professors I have had in my time here. He is very aware of many issues and topics and this awareness allowed him to use his education to communicate well with the class. His delivery style was refreshing despite the class being early. I would recommend his class to anyone.
- Professor Fessler is one of the best professors I have met at UCLA. He is a very wise person. I'm a transfer student and for once i didn't feel like I was less of a bruin than the others. He is very fair, and he has a great strive to want to help others and teach this class. Learned so much about myself from his class, and the way he organizes the class. With the way he teaches, the information just naturally flows and it is easily understood and absorbed. This class is very hard, but if you just listen to what he tells you to do, you will succeed. Such an amazing class, it ended like it was one whole story the entire time.
- Professor Fessler is one of the most engaging professors I have ever had. He makes class interesting and relevant to students lives. Additionally, the class lectures and readings create a cohesive unit. It would be helpful to have one homework assignment before the mid-term to facilitate students' abilities to think critically as required for the tests.
- Professor Fessler is probably the best professor I have ever had at UCLA. He is an exciting and dedicated lecturer who is clearly passionate about the subjects he teaches. Although it was an 8AM I actually looked forward to coming to class everyday because the topics we learned about were so interesting and helped me look at the world in a different way. Sad that the class has come to an end.
- Professor Fessler is the best lecturer I've and at UCLA. He keeps your attention, even at 8am.
- Professor Fessler is truly a one of a kind professor. He really truly cares about his students, is extremely knowledgeable about the lecture material and is very realistic about the goals that he sets for the course. This was a course that I found highly engaging and interesting and a class that I never felt sleepy in despite the fact that it was an 8am lecture. Professor Fessler does a great job at explaining the material so that it makes logical sense and gives many helpful and funny anecdotes to aid in his students' understanding. Exploring issues like homosexuality and poverty in this class really gave me a new perspective in how I consider and perceive the world around me, and opened my eyes to many biases I didn't even know I had. I will truly miss this class, and I consider it to be one of the absolute best courses I have taken at UCLA.

You are given the questions for the exams in advance which means that preparedness is really on you. The exams can be a bit tricky in that they ask you to display mastery of the course, however it is often difficult to zero in on exactly how to answer them at times because the course material is all so tightly intertwined. However, the grading is fair and the professor and TAs make an effort to help you as much as they can.

If you're looking for a class that will challenge your preconceptions, make you laugh and/or cry and stick with you for the rest of your life, take this course.

- Professor Fessler truly cares about his students and the material he teaches. He is an engaging lecturer, who does a fairly good job, but is often distracted and sometimes disorganized. I understand why he doesn't offer slides during lecture because he wants us to listen to him. However, I think it would be beneficial if he made an outline for class to post after for students to be able to compare and make sure that they caught all of the important points. I think it would also be helpful for him to stay on topic. The material was interesting and Fessler made sure that he was inclusive of all students, which is very important in a class like this. Overall, he was a good and memorable quirky professor; however he could have been a little more organized because what he says about these points are often the majority of the test.
- Professor Fessler's class is an extremely interesting! I have learned so much that can be applied to every day life. His quizzes were a bit stressful but it did make sure that the class kept up with the readings. I would however find another incentive to do the readings, especially those who has test anxiety. The midterm was fair and integrated many of the topics learned in class. The class was difficult but especially worth taking. He makes learning fun and lectures engaging. There are not many 8am's I

would sign up for but I would sign up for this one again if given the opportunity. The readings can be sometimes lengthy and difficult to understand but he is willing to further explain them or clarify if you're confused. Only weakness is the speed at which the professor speaks. I have to go over the recordings multiple times to catch what he says and it can be a bit frustrating and time consuming.

- Strengths are that professor Fessler honestly interested in the topics that he discusses in his lectures. His factual evidence mixed with his storytelling in lectures are amazing and very interesting. A weakness that the professor has is that sometimes his terminology can be too scientific, but this is an anthro bio class.
- Strengths: Brilliant lecturer, the man has talent for public speaking, and he does so without much visual aid (it was always fun to watch him mutter to himself what he was going to say before lecture began). He presents difficult concepts in a very clear way.

Weakness: Maybe consider podcasting lectures? It would certainly help a lot of students better grasp any difficult concepts. Also, it may be a good idea to ask that his TA's please explain the way they are going to grade exams/ what they are looking for, because it's too difficult to please different people with different minds. So, maybe not just present the material, but also teach us how to think critically about it for a test and why it should matter to us beyond the scope of the class.

Some articles were most likely not the strongest reading material out there. Maybe reconsider posting certain articles that add little to no value to what you are trying to teach?

- The course materials and concepts were very interesting. The professor was engaging and entertaining. I apply many of the concepts I learned from class to my life. I like the message of avoiding the naturalistic fallacy. It has enabled me to question peoples' actions and even speak out against some. I wish that the professor posted his lectures to brucast because I was sick for 2 weeks and it was difficult to learn the material. I also wish the quizzes didn't start at 8am sharp. I would arrive at 8:04 and miss the quizzes entirely. The midterm was graded harshly and I wish there was a rubric to outline what the professor was looking for. Overall, it was a wonderful class in terms of its interesting and relevant topics and engaging professor. It was just difficult to keep up if things happen and very little room for error.
- The professor is obviously very knowledgeable about the subject. I never found myself checking the clock during class meaning his lectures were highly engaging. I wish I had gone to office hours more, but I felt a bit intimidated as I am not an anthropology major. I think the course could be improved if were a smaller class size where student questions/comments could be taken and discussed. I believe with a topic like this class discussions can be very valuable.
- The professor was very intellectual and knew what he was talking about. However, the dated articles, and overhead projector lecture style was a nuisance.
- The strengths of the instructor was their phenomenal lectures, and communication of material using relatable examples. A strength of the course was its ability to cover all facets of human sexual evolution, and how it answered the questions that most humans wonder about. An opportunity for the course to improve is to reconsider the exam format. While the exam provokes a student to think critically, the exam's format of being 100% essay questions can result in subjective answers from students. This leaves the students answers to those questions susceptible to being misinterpreted by graders, and marked wrong. Consider including multiple choice answers for a portion of the exam to give students that may not have strengths in articulation the ability to prove they know the answer if presented to them as a choice.
- This class was extremely interesting. I was very interested in the content but the style of teaching was very difficult for me to study. I take notes and recordings but often audio learning is very difficult and even a video of him on stage would have been preferable. Also I found the exams rather challenging but... you know thats how it goes i guess
- This course is very difficult, and I do not recommend taking this course for and easy 'A'. You really have to apply yourself in this class because it is really easy to fall behind. While to subject material is really

interesting, it is very hard to understand. The exams are also very difficult because there is no simple answer for the questions. I would recommend this course if you are really trying to challenge yourself or want to get a better understanding for why we do the things we do.

- This course, while difficult and made more difficult by being an 8am, was one of the those rare courses at UCLA that feel both challenging and worthwhile, and valuable to life beyond school. I highly recommend taking it, as well as recommending not to underestimate it.
- This is by far the best course I have thank so far at UCLA, and I am so happy to have had Dr. Fessler as an instructor during my undergraduate career. I have so much admiration for him as a professor. Everything about the class was conducive to learning, captivating, and beautifully challenging to the mind. Every single lecture was well-organized, NOT boring at all, thought-provoking, hilarious, and just SO interesting! I had no problem with this course being an 8am. I was happy to wake up in the morning to learn more about the evolutionary mechanisms behind human behavior. The exams are difficult, but I must admit that these are the first exams in my undergrad where I enjoy answering the questions. They are the most interesting and challenging questions posed to me on a test that have really tested and pushed the boundaries of my critical-thinking skills. Every time I finish lecture, I want to share some of that material with someone. This is how a real university course should feel like. I wish more professors here had the finesse, humor, intelligence, and genius nature of Dr. Fessler. Such a great class!!!!!!
- This was the hardest class I've taken at UCLA. The material is incredibly dense and the concepts were very challenging for me. Professor Fessler was very knowledgeable and personable, but I sometimes found that he went quite fast through the presented topics to the point where I felt I missed a lot while trying to take notes on what he said and before I knew he'd be on to something else. There are no powerpoints, so it is imperative to pay incredibly close attention to everything he says in class. There are no pauses to really absorb what he is saying, he basically talks the entire 75 minutes and everything he says is an important concept. I personally did so bad on the midterm that I might have been encouraged to drop the class, I found that even given the questions ahead of time the test was incredibly challenging and graded quite harshly. I don't blame anyone but myself for my grade though, I could have definitely prepared better for the midterm and I'm hoping to pass the class by doing better on the final. Overall the class and material was very interesting and challenging.