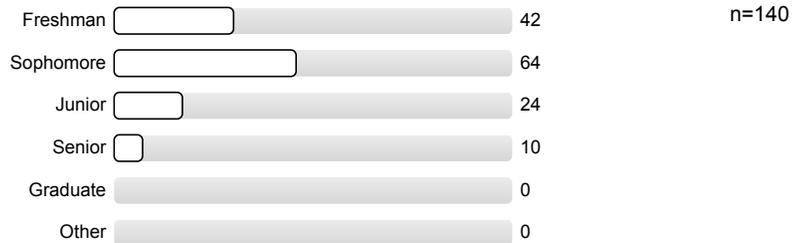




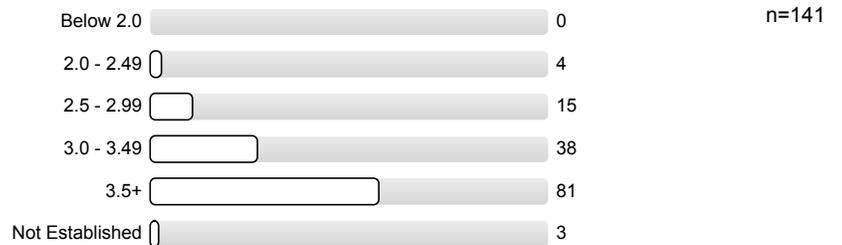
**D. FESSLER**  
**Evaluation of Instruction Program Report**  
 19W: ANTHRO 1 LEC 1: HUMAN EVOLUTION  
 No. of responses = 143  
 Enrollment = 286  
 Response Rate = 50%

1. Background Information:

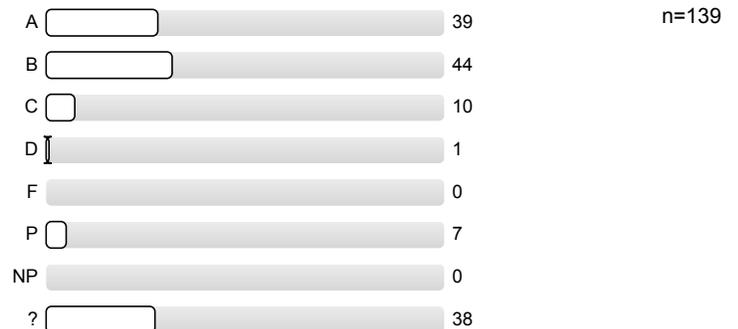
1.1) Year in School:



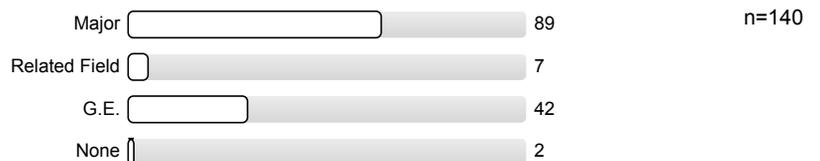
1.2) UCLA GPA:



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		Very High or Always	n=143 av.=7.13 md=8 dev.=2.1
2.2)	Organization – Class presentations were well prepared and organized.	Very Low or Never		Very High or Always	n=142 av.=7.39 md=8 dev.=2
2.3)	Interaction – Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.	Very Low or Never		Very High or Always	n=142 av.=6.63 md=7 dev.=2.22 ab.=1
2.4)	Communication Skills – The instructor had good communication skills.	Very Low or Never		Very High or Always	n=141 av.=7.06 md=8 dev.=2.12
2.5)	Value – You have learned something you consider valuable.	Very Low or Never		Very High or Always	n=143 av.=7.47 md=8 dev.=2.13
2.6)	Overall – Your overall rating of the instructor.	Very Low or Never		Very High or Always	n=143 av.=6.98 md=7 dev.=2.1
2.7)	Overall – Your overall rating of the course.	Very Low or Never		Very High or Always	n=143 av.=6.64 md=7 dev.=2.33

3. Your View of Course Characteristics:

3.1)	Subject interest before course	Low		High	n=143 av.=1.89 md=2 dev.=0.71
3.2)	Subject interest after course	Low		High	n=143 av.=2.31 md=2 dev.=0.73
3.3)	Mastery of course material	Low		High	n=142 av.=2.14 md=2 dev.=0.59 ab.=1
3.4)	Difficulty (relative to other courses)	Low		High	n=143 av.=2.43 md=2 dev.=0.58
3.5)	Workload/pace was	Too Slow		Too Much	n=142 av.=2.25 md=2 dev.=0.44
3.6)	Texts, required readings	Poor		Excellent	n=143 av.=2.1 md=2 dev.=0.6

3.7)	Homework assignments	Poor	17	83	42	Excellent	n=142 av.=2.18 md=2 dev.=0.62
3.8)	Graded materials, examinations	Poor	51	67	25	Excellent	n=143 av.=1.82 md=2 dev.=0.71
3.9)	Lecture presentations	Poor	16	54	69	Excellent	n=139 av.=2.38 md=2 dev.=0.69 ab.=3
3.10)	Class discussions	Poor	22	69	45	Excellent	n=136 av.=2.17 md=2 dev.=0.68 ab.=7

## 4. Comments:

- 4.1) Please identify what you perceive to be the real strengths and weaknesses of this instructor and course.
- 1. The pace of lecture is too fast
  - 2. The powerpoint can be distracting when the professor is lecturing in the speed of light and students don't know whether to focus on what he says (which is what he recommends) or to note down what's on the powerpoint. Maybe reduce the amount of words on the powerpoint? Or just use powerpoint to show concise bullet points, images and graphs?
  - 3. The textbook is generally ok, but some of the science materials are not written in the clearest and simplest way. I had no issue understanding the science when I read the textbook for Life Science 7B. For this textbook I sometimes reread the whole paragraphs or sentences again and again and still have no idea what it's trying to say or what's the logic behind them
  - Although Fessler is a good and interesting lecturer, his exams are incredibly difficult and very poorly written. I would rate my mastery of the course material as very high, and I scored around 15% above the average on every exam. However, any exam with a D average, especially for a relatively straightforward course like Anthropology (not a complex engineering course where scoring ~50% is regular), is a bad exam. In addition, when I sought Fessler out in office hours, he was derisive towards my questions and made me feel uncomfortable and unwelcome. Although I enjoyed discussing more complex topics with him, he was unwilling to really help me understand more core, basic concepts. I had to take this class for my major, and would not recommend that anyone else take this class unless they have to. Even though I will likely get an A or an A-, I did not enjoy learning the material I may have found interesting with a different professor.
  - Amazing lecturer, super engaging and would never bore me. Kept the topic really interesting and added a lot of entertainment value that still incorporated the class concepts
  - Does not upload material online - big weakness
  - Dr. Fessler incorporated many real life examples of the material we learned in every lecture. Overall an amazing person and his dedication to sharing information is admirable.
  - Dr. Fessler is very engaging and animated! I didn't think that I would enjoy this course, but I found it a lot more interesting than I expected. He can sometimes go off on tangents, but it's not to a fault.
  - Dr. Fessler is very knowledgeable about anthropology and you can tell he really cares about it. His anecdotes and metaphors are very helpful. Engaging lecturer. Only weakness is a lack of organization. Topics seemed randomly presented, which made it hard to create a structure while trying to study.
  - Dr. Fessler is very passionate about the topic of anthropology, which definitely created a more interesting class. Overall, he was an excellent lecturer. However, the exams in this class are just WAY too difficult.

The actual exams were not particularly difficult but if a student didn't write verbatim what the TA / professor wanted to see, then they all of the point possible on that question. The grading scheme was ridiculous and it discouraged myself and other students from working hard because it felt like no matter how much studying we did or how well we mastered the material, we did poorly on the tests.

- Fessler clearly knows a lot about his field and is able to communicate it clearly with his students. He makes it interesting in a way that I doubt other professors would be able to do. I appreciated how he connected what we were learning to things outside of the course. However, he has a tone of voice with students that can at times be perceived as condescending. I found his class particularly difficult because he would pose unclear questions and then mark us down for not inferring the exact thing he wanted us to say when he could have just straightforwardly asked. Additionally, the grading scale was not consistent. My own TA couldn't understand why I had been marked down on a free response question when I clearly knew what I was talking about. If I hadn't gone into office hours, I would have lost precious points because of mistakes that the graders made. I found it difficult to get points on the free response because unless you say exactly what he wants to hear, you won't get the points even if it's clear you understand the material.
- Fessler is a very entertaining lecturer which makes him engaging. He does however move very quickly through his lectures and the only way to be able to try to catch what one has missed is if individuals have personally recorded the lecture. I understand that he does not post slides and outlines are essentially just the textbook, but I think it would be helpful to podcast the lectures through Bruincast (not the video).
- Fessler is all over the place in the sense that he'll go on random tangents and then end up not being able to finish his plan for the day. There's a lot of material for not a lot of time and we seem to have to read a lot of random info for it to end up being completely irrelevant. It's annoying that he doesn't bruincast or post his slides.
- Fessler is an amazing lecturer -- he genuinely has this admirable ability to relate to students with meaningful references to make course content seem more applicable and useful to daily life. I came into this course with a relatively planar perspective on anthropology, but actually gained a significant deal of interest and passion for his lectures as the course progressed, which speaks to his great lecturing ability and ability to connect with students (I've got to say this sort of transition is rare for me in most of my other courses, thus far). Although Fessler's pros as a professor definitely outweigh the cons, he does have some areas he could work on: 1) the way he handles the logistics/classroom before examinations is honestly frightening (telling students to do this or that, and telling TAs to do this or that, but in a rather abrasive/harsh tone really increases my anxiety before his exams). He also gives really odd threats such as saying embarrassing things about you if your phone rings, and tearing in your exam in half if you look to the side, which is understandable, but I feel like there is a way to communicate these ideas in a much nicer/softer tone that doesn't heighten my/other students' anxiety/nervousness when we're just trying to fairly take the exam. 2) he doesn't answer questions in class, because "there's too much material to cover," which I don't think is fair. Quite honestly I think it's important to answer/discuss student questions, even if it means we progress a tad bit slower, as this a really important aspect of class discussions from my perspective (learning/discussing critical questions posed by peers has been shown to have strong correlations with improved student learning). That said, Fessler is great overall, and his few quirks should not by any means overshadow my respect for him as a knowledgeable and relatable professor.
- Fessler is one of the greatest lecturers I've had thus far. He demonstrates true mastery of the material and is truly passionate about teaching and keeping his students engaged. Anthropology is fascinating and in tandem with his fantastic teaching, I have yet to be bored while at lecture. However, when it comes to exams because of the sheer volume of material that we must learn, it can be unclear as to which concepts we should focus on as Professor Fessler can be a bit vague.
- Fessler is very knowledgeable on the subject and an engaging lecturer. Funny, well-spoken, and informative. Tests were written poorly, however. The bulk of the points were from long written responses that were very subjective with no guidelines for answering.

- Fessler was a horrible professor. His lectures were off topic and the exams were SO specific. The first exam was way too long to a 50 minute time slot. He gave no exam study guides and never told us what to focus on- this is ridiculous considering the hundreds of pages of reading that was assigned. How are we suppose to know what to focus on when SO MANY topics and ideas were covered? Not only that, but I learned the entire monkey/ape phylogenetic history and there WAS NOT ONE QUESTION about it on the first midterm!! Such a waste of my time, especially considering how useless that knowledge is to my life. I am very upset with this class because I feel as though I was not able to show how much I know and studied the material on the exams. The questions were not worded fairly and the majority of my friends in the class misinterpreted a ~15 point question on the first exam which automatically killed our grades. The second exam was much better but again, for the specificity Fessler was expecting, 50 minutes was just not enough. I know that he expects us to think deeply about the material, and he said himself that he is not testing us on how fast we can think, but it is just unrealistic to expect us to go so in depth into the subject in such a small amount of time.
- For the first probably 8 weeks of this course, the material was far from engaging. The short answers on test were graded so unfairly and when looking back at the tests, I had many points taken off but not given an example on what would be a perfect answer. Fessler went on unrelated tangents often during lecture and didn't post any form of slides, both unhelpful and not productive for learning. I will say that the last few weeks were very interesting, especially regarding race and gender. That's what this class should be about, not on the fact that Neanderthals didn't have chins or the dental shape.
- Great class but I honestly would not have enjoyed the course as much if it wasn't taught by Fessler. He is a great professor that you can tell loves teaching and he honestly makes the class very enjoyable.
- Great guy, really knows his stuff. A little stuck in his ways on some things, perhaps at the cost of the student due to how fast paced classes at ucla are, especially when this course is a GE requirement for some.  
I was also not at all a fan of InQuizitive partially due to the fact that it goes way in depth on things that are barely covered in class and also because it's only worth 5% of the grade.
- He is able to engage the students in the topics, meaning he makes it interesting; yet, he quickly skips to following slides. His communication skills are a strength but his fast pace can be a weakness.
- He is the worst professor I have ever had. He did not care about his students' success at all; he literally was setting us up to fail with trick questions and the way he worded test questions. His tests were RIDICULOUSLY hard. The questions made no sense at all - I had no idea what he was even trying to ask and he admitted to purposely throwing a curve ball in there and trying to trick us but that wasn't even testing us on the material from the class, he was testing us on vocabulary and whether we knew what a certain word meant in order to figure out what the question was even asking. The tests had nothing to do with the textbook or with lectures really since he just went on tangents the entire time talking about the most random things. He provided no resources for us to do well (my TA's office hours did not help at all) since he didn't let his lecture be bruiin casted (not even just the audio) and he didn't post slides online and still went through slides extremely fast in class since he tried to get a bunch of chapters in in a matter of 50 minutes of lecture. Just the fact that he has to curve the class to an 84% as an A should say something about how poorly students do because of how hard his tests are (and our grade is basically just the two midterms and final) - it shouldn't be that hard to get an A and he shouldn't be allowed to bring the cutoff down to make him self and his passing rate look better - instead he should make the tests reasonable so that we actually have a chance at doing well and getting As and Bs. The class average for both midterms was less than a 60% - if that doesn't say something about the class then I don't know what does.
- He is very passionate about what he teaches and gives a lot of real world examples during our discussions. He made the class and material so fun to learn!
- He made this class really interesting and always tried to talk about how it was relevant to other things. He was amazing at putting what we were learning in context and applied the topics to real things. Made me so much more interested in the subject material than I originally was

- He went off topic a lot and sometimes seemed all over the place. He would get lost on tangents. He was insensitive to an extraneous circumstance I had and really made my life harder ( in a psychological way).
- Honestly, I was incredibly disappointed with this class. The material taught in this class is incredibly interesting; however, the logistics of this class made me hate it. Professor Fessler often skips through the slides quickly and deviates from the material. If he intends to continue doing so, he should consider BruinCasting the lectures and/or posting the slides. Additionally, the questions on the midterm were fair but the TAs graded them way too hard. The averages were 65% and 68% which are incredibly low for a class that many students take as a GE.
- Horrible professor, by far the worse one I've had at UCLA. He is ruining the chance of me getting into my major. Worse ever. He doesn't care about his students and seems like his goal is to fail his students. Worse mistake.
- I actually have really enjoyed the course specifically when it has come to the sections pertaining to biology and the concept of race. I think that the real strengths of this course are the potential to open up creative discourse between students as we have seen what makes humans "unique" in comparison to other primates and how we got here through generations of evolution. I think that the weakness of this course is that the professor, discussion, and inquisitive homework cover material to differing degrees. The professor covers material that is sometimes not mentioned in the text and teaches the concepts from a overview to finer details, while the textbook bombards you with an unending amount of fine details that are often not tested. This makes it more difficult to prepare for exams when the message received is that what's covered in class, discussion, and the book are all fair game, but at the same time the professor does not necessarily agree with the way the book covers material. It can make it difficult to gauge how specific you need to know concepts and is a bit confusing at times.
- I admired his process of teaching, and how he wanted us to hear what he was saying versus just copying down the notes and the slide, so that the students can listen and understands the material he is discussing and why it is important.
- I believe that the exams were not a good indication of what the students know in terms of the concepts because they were graded harshly
- I can only find weaknesses in this class, not a SINGLE strength or anything positive to say in my experience with this class. Fessler, this is directly to you. You have designed this class so poorly. Shame on you. GPAs of students all across the board (from several different majors) are really going to suffer. This is a class where I actually learned something because I self-studied the material and despite recording your lectures and re-playing them at home, it was not enough to receive the grade I deserved in this class. This class has emotionally drained me these past 10 weeks and has actually made me depressed. I had plans to go into medical school with a high GPA, until I took your class. I not only took notes and collaborated with several peers in my class, I regularly attended, recorded your lectures, read the book thoroughly, took my own notes, went into office hours for tips (FOLLOWED the tips), re-played all your lectures and modified my notes, thoroughly studied them, made a study guide with possible exam questions, completed ALL chapter review questions, did not sleep for three days straight studying for your midterm, risked my own mental and physical health for a decent grade in this course, ONLY to fail both the midterms. Fessler, I know the material for this course thoroughly and can tell you where what monkeys came from during what time and why. I know why some primates have larger canines and why the others do not. I understand why infanticide is important in some primate species. So why do I deserve the grade I am receiving? To the very few students who did well in this course, I truly do not know how it was possible, but it is important to understand that everyone is different. Some people are better test takers, some people are not. It's not "just life" and that life "isnt fair." You did NOT care about your students' well-being when you designed this course. It truly is pathetic and a pre-curve was NOT enough. This class is NOT designed for all students, and it is unjust and unfair. For student's taking this class as a GE, it is not fair to them especially. No one should have to sweat and stress over a course this much. My mental, physical, and emotional health PLUMMETED this quarter because of this course. I have been to the hospital about 5 times in the past 10 weeks because of mental and physical stress. Yes, UCLA IS the school for me and I am here because I belong here, because I have the drive,

the work ethic it takes for a student to balance work, grades, social life, extra curriculars at the same time. In the past 4 years, I have never struggled to balance these aspects of my life and have managed to do fairly well in all of my classes as I prepare me for medical school. But this course was simply put, very unfair. The department really needs to reflect on how this course and the instructor has negatively impacted students' overall well-being. It is NOT okay to do this. I am truly disappointed in this course and especially Fessler.

- I did not particularly enjoy this course. The title is "Human Evolution" but 80% of the course is about apes and monkeys. How does knowing the dentition of haplorrhines extend my knowledge of how humans evolved? A majority of the information is just memorization, not understanding. If not for my major requiring this course, I do not think I would have taken it. I think also this course is very dependent on the lecturing style. Most days in lecture 15 minutes would be spent recapping what we did not go over in the previous class.
- I didn't realize how calculated and thoroughly developed his lectures were until I suspended my normal ways of thinking through my courses. I was extremely frustrated with the class (its lack of resources and guidance) and evidently focused on the wrong things. After reevaluating myself and my maneuvers, I began to understand how incredibly considered his lectures are i.e., the sequence of topics and their examples. I don't understand why we even need the textbook and the corresponding inquisitives, they were a lot of stress and work when the class could solely function on the lectures and discussion. In terms of my TA, I feel that he was an absolute unnecessary weight on the course...his tone and attitude with the class were uncomfortable and distant (aside: an anthropology/archaeology grad student with dreads???)
- I enjoyed lecture, however, it would be more suitable to answer questions during lecture (priority wise) instead of trying to get through material. Student interest should be valued more than quantity of material.
- I feel rather disappointed in how this class turned out. I am not a student who judges understanding based on grades however I feel that there is a strong disconnect between how much effort I have put into this class and my midterm grades. Out of all of the classes I have taken at UCLA according to the midterms I have performed the poorest in this class, yet I feel like I clearly understand the material. Dr. Fessler gives no guidance about the material we are responsible for and comes off as standoffish and blunt when questions are asked. College students do not need to be spoonfed yet we are managing significant course work and to provide no other materials other than the textbook makes this class unnecessarily frustrating. I still hope to prove my mastery over the course material on the final but I am disheartened based on my progress so far. Furthermore, he does not encourage questions during lecture and speeds through material without giving a chance for clarification. Although I am engaged by the material and honestly really enjoy the field; this class has caused me to change my mind on whether or not I want to take anthropology classes in the future.
- I found the professor to be very knowledgeable in the field and presented the material in a very engaging way. There were interesting details that were brought up in lecture and ensured that I was paying attention in lecture. The main problem I found with this class is with the examinations, as I felt the free-response sections are compared strictly to an answer key which means that the student's responses do not have much flexibility to convey answers that may be similar, and there is little partial points to compensate. Thus, I felt that though I was able to retain significant information and make connections during the test, this was not represented on the exams.
- I just wished that we were told what to focus on for the written questions more, I understand the professor's focus is to help us learn and not necessarily just study for the test but I'd rather get a better grade than fail a portion of the test. Also wish the days for office hours varied more.
- I like how he throws in weird facts here and there, it really makes anthropology feel more related to our daily lives!
- I love how this professor makes connections of the material learned in class to the real world. He really tries to make his lectures engaging, and this is the first class at UCLA where I have truly enjoyed going

to class.

- I really enjoyed his lectures and his knowledge of the topic was very refreshing and easy to understand when explained in the form of concept
- I really enjoyed learning the material in this course. I'm very interested in human evolution so this course was fascinating. Professor Fessler has a wealth of knowledge and I enjoyed hearing his anecdotes and his side stories. There were a lot of readings but they were manageable, especially since I enjoyed them. I didn't like how there weren't lecture slides and we weren't told what to study other than "concepts". It would have been nice to have more guidance, especially since people averaged a C on the test. The test were ok, the grading was very harsh and seemed unfair. He does curve the grade scale, but people did a lot worse than expected for a lower division Anthro course. While I enjoyed the lectures I think the testing was too hard and we didn't get help from the staff in studying for it. I do think he wants us to have a great understanding of the material, but for a lot of people, this class was harder than expected. I would only recommend this class to people who are very interested in the topic and are willing to put in a lot of work. Those who are just taking it for a GE or are only somewhat interested, may not enjoy it. I would have enjoyed it more if I wasn't concerned about my grade.
- I really loved the class the lectures were always super interesting. My grades on my midterms discouraged me because I felt that the tests did not let me properly show the knowledge I have on the course. The instructor is super funny and very relatable.
- I really loved the content of this course and I felt like Professor Fessler is an amazing teacher who knows more about this information than anyone. He clearly cares about it and wants students to care about it too. However, I did feel like the textbook went through far too many unnecessary details and the lack of guidance as to what level of studying students should be expected to do was a bummer. My learning would have been enhanced, not hindered, if the readings had been a bit less dense on different dates and minute details. Overall this class was really incredible and I learned more than in all my other classes combined- especially towards the end when we got to the content that connects a lot more to our modern world.
- I think he's kind of scatterbrained but he's very smart and the class is super interesting.
- I think it was too much information too fast just rattled off on slides. Not real comprehension.
- I think that the main issue with this class is lack of class resources available online. I spent class time trying to write down everything he is saying and everything on the slides rather than listening and trying to understand. This made me not want to attend class. I am more willing to learn when I can rely on slides being posted. In class I am more worried about writing down lecture slides than understanding, which is problematic.
- I think the professor is great with explaining the material. The biggest problem was the speed of the lecture and not having the powerpoint to look back on the slides later. The midterms, however, were too harshly graded. I felt that the midterm did not judge fairly the mastery of the material but how well you memorized how the professor likes the question answered. There were little to no partial credit given during the exams which makes it extremely difficult to do well on them.
- I think the slides should be posted online because whenever I would try and take notes I could never write fast enough.
- I thought the class was very interesting, and Professor Fessler was an excellent teacher. His lectures were informative and interesting, and his lectures aligned with the textbook well. However, I did think that the class could have been a little easier, seeing as I took it for a GE and not for an Anthropology major. There was a significant amount of work outside of the class, and the tests were harder than I expected them to be. The grade distributions were pretty low, and I took tests after studying a lot and believing that I knew the material, but then receiving a lower score than I expected. This would have made more sense to me if I was an Anthropology major and I needed the class, but I was just taking it as a GE so I feel like it should have been a bit simpler.

- I thought this class was going to be interesting and although it was at times I was deeply disappointed. Fessler talks so much about fairness but that clearly didn't make a difference when picking TA's. I had a TA who did not help me at all and when I started going to a different TA's office hours he taught me so much and I was actually able to make interesting connections. That part was interesting but because of the TA I had I didn't get to experience that. When Fessler lectures he seems to just spit straight facts at you and discussion is presumably where you make the connections to the bigger picture. This didn't happen for me and I felt like the lack of guidance made me feel completely on my own in this class. He talked so much about fairness and worrying about the class not the grade but that was not translated when it came to what actually happened
- If you looked up Quirky in the dictionary, Professor Fessler's name would come up. In all honesty, I did not expect to enjoy this class. It's my last major requirement before I graduate, and I've been putting it off for so many quarters because I thought I would just be relearning evolution and learning random monkey facts. This class, however, has been so much more than that. Professor Fessler's lectures are engaging, interesting, and well organized. He uses fascinating and entertaining examples and anecdotes that help me stay focused in lecture. He speaks with varied volumes and tones so it's easy to tune back in if I get distracted.

I do wish that Professor would upload his lecture slides before class. His lectures are so much more than what's written on the slides, but because he speaks so quickly and puts so much text on the slides, I sometimes find it hard to focus on one or the other. My student brain tells me to copy the slides but my attention wants to be on the Professor. If the slides were uploaded before class, I would have found it easier to supplement the slides with notes from class and actually focus on what was being said. That said, I still really enjoyed the class, and I learned far more than I thought I would. Anthropology is really interesting, especially the study of race and the politics of using biology to define race.

I also really appreciate how invested Professor Fessler is in student learning. He actually cares that his students learn and not just memorize and regurgitate information, and I really respect an educator that works to shape and improve education instead of doing the bare minimum for tenure. It's clear that he is passionate about what he is teaching, and as a result, I felt more interested in the subject. I really thank Professor Fessler for making this class such an enjoyable experience!

- In all honesty this is the worst class that I have taken so far at UCLA. I did not feel welcomed in class nor by my TA. You go incredibly fast through the slides and hardly speak upon what we should look out for in exams. The exams may not matter to you because you know and read the textbook before us but we as students need guidance and I felt that your class did not provide it. Ever wonder why your student test score are so low? I would appreciate it if you at least told the students what to look out for in the exams and not just tell us "to read the material".
- It's tough because of the workload and because the slides aren't online. We can't get everything in our notes because of how short the lecture is. Also, the allocation of points for some of the test questions makes it really hard to get a decent score.
- I've been thinking a lot about this evaluation through the duration of the course. Fessler is complicated and really frustrated me near the beginning because of his specific focus on catching cheaters and not wanting to make the slides available or broadcasting his lectures. It seemed to me that he was actually going out of his way fighting the university's wishes and making his classes less accessible. As a student who has an hour and a half bus ride to class and plans an extra hour anyways, whenever I hear teachers cracking down on "being on time" I feel that they don't actually care about students in my situation and to treat me the same way you would a student who can just roll out of bed and is late because of their alarm clock is not equitable. It's very conflicting to me because I really likes a lot of his framework that felt true to social justice ideologies and owning up to dark pasta of archeology, but his practice policies didn't match up with that too often.
- Lectures were very organized. I don't really think a textbook was necessary for this course, since all the important concepts were discussed in class.
- Loved how enthusiastic Professor Fessler was during every lecture. Anyone can see how passionate he

is about his work, and he also has a great sense of humor.

- One of my favorite classes at UCLA. I'm a very unrelated major but I found the material to be incredibly engaging. The textbook is wonderful and does a great job of complimenting the lectures. Fessler is probably the best lecturer I've ever had at UCLA. He's incredibly engaging, his lectures are wonderfully thought out, super interesting, and he brings a great energy to the whole presentation. I get bummed out whenever I'm forced to miss a class because of how much fun they are. The material itself has also been fascinating, and I feel it has given me a totally new perspective on so many things. Overall, a fantastic course.
- Overall, the course was good but the pace was too fast as well as the workload. It was difficult to keep up at points and there was points where the presentation slides were skipped over too quick to even be able to write down the information
- Prof. Fessler does appear to care about student learning, but I have no idea why the tests are structured to set the class average up to be in the mid 60s. That seems relatively unreasonable and though the cut-offs for grades are lower, it seems to just cause stress and low self-esteem among students. Additionally, he provides little direction in terms of exam material, simply telling us we are responsible for everything that is said in lecture, on the slides, and in the textbook. While I understand the benefits of making this course demanding, the textbook is LONG and has so much extraneous material we never discuss in lecture. He also constantly tells us to not take notes when slides are up, which seems silly considering we've been told we're going to be tested on stuff in slides, and I often am writing down not just the slides but also everything he says in case it shows up on a test. If he doesn't want us constantly typing, then he could release his lecture slides or participate in bruincast. Also, the course needs to move away from using a moodle, because the website is extremely slow to respond when not on UCLA campus wifi (even wifi in the dorms stunts connection to the course website, which we need to be able to log in to the text and the inquizitive assignments). The inquizitive assignments also ask questions that are dissimilar to what Fessler focuses on, making it feel like a waste of time.
- Professor Fessler absolutely loves what he does, that much is evident. He explains information in a way that is both mesmerizing and easy to understand. I would say that while he is an excellent lecturer, he is not very approachable and truly discourages questions, particularly in lectures and somewhat during his office hours.
- Professor Fessler explained the material very well and clearly. I thought the class was very interesting, and I enjoyed how he encouraged us to synthesize the material instead of memorizing details.
- Professor Fessler has been my favorite lecturer so far at UCLA. He made this course incredibly interesting by relating the concepts to modern day politics and human culture. Though he would apologize for his recurring "tangents" it was those tangents that kept the entire lecture hall engaged and interested. I am very happy that I took this course and hope to enroll in his future courses.
- Professor Fessler has changed what I want to pursue at UCLA and has completely opened my eyes to this new field I never had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with. He is an incredible lecturer and I end up telling my friends and family what I learned weeks after hearing it in lecture because it sticks with me so well. He paints wonderfully vivid pictures for his students and knows how to captivate us with his depth of understanding and passion. My only minor complaint would be his speed of talking when there is a lot of info on the slides but I have benefitted from his style and learned to prioritize which info to digest and record and this has helped me on my tests. My favorite class I have ever taken and I plan to take as many of his courses as I can!
- Professor Fessler is a good lecturer with an engaging perspective and interesting examples. The lectures feel fairly rushed, however, so there is no opportunity ask questions during lecture. This has been the only class I've taken at UCLA where the professor talks the entire time. I'm not sure how much student questions would add to the learning experience, but perhaps the professor could go on fewer tangents and make the opportunity to ask questions a bigger priority. I think this specifically is a class where I'm constantly curious about things within the lecture that Professor Fessler could give great answers to.

- Professor Fessler is a very engaging lecturer and has great expertise in the anthropology class. It was a good experience taking Anthropology 1 with Fessler. Lectures are pretty interesting and generally follow the assigned readings in the textbook. The best thing about the course is that the material is interesting and the resources needed to succeed are there if one chooses to put in extra effort into the course. Some things that bothered me about this course was the lack of Bruincasts and how Fessler doesn't upload lecture slides. Although I understand the reasoning behind this, there are many instances where I would like to refer back to something that was said in lecture but was unable to. Another problem with the course was the length of the first midterm, which had a substantial amount of questions and took many students the full 50 minutes to finish whereas others simply could not finish. Aside from this, Anthropology 1 with Fessler is a fun yet challenging class!
- Professor Fessler is an engaging lecturer. I actually found his digressions to be quite interesting and useful (most of the time). The course is more difficult than I thought it would be, especially the writing components. I appreciate the challenge, but I feel like we do not receive enough feedback on the writing portions of our exams.
- Professor Fessler is an extremely engaging lecturer and often went further in depth on related concepts to deepen our understanding of course material and be able to apply it to real-world situations. Examinations were difficult due to requiring much attention to detail and specificity, but this course has greatly increased my interest in how different biological and cultural factors shape our way of life as humans.
- Professor Fessler is great at teaching. Often times you find professors only focusing on their research rather than the classes they teach, but this is not the case with Professor Fessler. He actually is a great lecturer. My only critique about his lectures would be that he tends to talk very fast or very quietly at times, but other than that he is one of the best lecturers I have ever had. You can tell how much he loves the material and it makes you more interested in anthropology as a result. Though Professor Fessler is an amazing professor, I have found his tests to be very difficult. The tests are often more specific than you are told they would be, and it is very easy to lose points on the free response section of the test since there seems to be no exact rubric. Nonetheless, Professor Fessler is a great professor.
- Professor Fessler is honestly the coolest dude. He makes class so energetic and fascinating, and he really sparked my interest in anthropology. His sense of humor brings the class to life and he is extremely detailed with his lectures, which is really helpful for both the exams and for real life applications. I highly recommend taking his class! The only thing that I have to critique is the exams. Even though I understood the material, I would get somewhat lower grades than I was expecting with midterms. It's hard to find a medium between being concise and being detailed with short answers, and it would have been helpful to have better guidance with those. Other than that, fantastic class!
- Professor Fessler is my favorite professor I've had so far at UCLA. He's informative, engaging, and formats lectures in a very cohesive manner. His personality and sense of humor make his class entertaining and make the material more interesting--I actually looked forward to going to class every day. He just explains things really well too. The class fits a lot of information into one quarter but the homework assignment and assessments encompassed the key ideas really well, and were very representative of the course as a whole.
- Professor Fessler is obviously knowledgeable about the course content. He was also very funny, engaging, and easy going. However, I was really upset that what I know was not being represented through the midterms. Specifically, the first midterm was too long for the 50 minutes we were given. Not only did I not finish and lose many points, but Professor Fessler said calculators would be "optional" because the math would be simple, but it was not. A calculator would have definitely helped SO MUCH MORE. I think that the grading might be too strict; keep in mind that most of us are taking this course as a GE. If I don't pass this class, I run the risk of not graduating, and the only reason this is frustrating is because I know the course material, but, again, the tests are not allowing me to show that.
- Professor Fessler is one of the best professors I've ever had here at UCLA. It was truly worthwhile to attend the lecture and be there in person - each lecture was of the quality of a TED talk. I also learned some lesson about how to lead a better human life from this class. Thank you Professor.

- Professor Fessler is one of the best professors that I have had at UCLA so far. He does an excellent job at explaining concepts and his lectures are interesting and enjoyable. He cares a lot about student learning and it really makes a difference. My only complaint about this course is that the required readings for this class were too long and the book was actually quite boring. However, besides that I would really recommend this course because Professor Fessler is one of a kind and the course material is interesting and important.
- Professor Fessler is one of the most interesting professors I have had. He is so knowledgeable about many random topics which can be very interesting but often leads him to go on tangents that are unrelated to the course material. I do not like that he doesn't post his slides because sometimes he goes too quickly or glosses over certain topics which makes it hard to discern what topics to focus more on when studying for the final. However, I can really see the passion with which he teaches this course which made it much more enjoyable.
- Professor Fessler is really engaging and makes me interested in anthropology, something I wasn't really interested in before. However, the times for the class is annoying, 10am is too early for Fridays.
- Professor Fessler is very knowledgeable and willing to answer questions. Lectures were interesting but always seemed to run out of time.
- Professor Fessler is very knowledgeable in his field. I wasn't a big believer in human evolution before taking this class, but it was interesting to see how the human evolution evidence and thought process explain our human behavior. I liked how he began teaching about primates and it slowly developed into explaining how humans came to existence. I enjoyed learning this material! However, I do wish Professor Fessler could've posted his slides because at times he would speak too fast and skip through his slides. Additionally, he made his exams harder than they should have been because the class average was a D for both midterms. Lastly, it always felt like he was speeding through his lectures because he would rarely answer questions during lecture. I understand his reasoning for not posting slides, I went to lecture every day but even then it was hard to get all the information because he would talk too fast or skip through slides quickly.
- Professor Fessler is very knowledgeable and I appreciate his passion for the material. His weakness is centered around the difficulty of the class. He makes the class unnecessarily difficult. His tests are almost impossible due to how he words the free response questions, they are very vague. I hope he listens to his students in the future. The material taught is great. He is a really great lecturer.
- Professor Fessler is very knowledgeable and is able to effectively explain all the course material. He made the first midterm a little too difficult, but adjusted accordingly with the second midterm. He sometimes goes off on tangents, which makes it difficult to discern what material is relative to the course and what is relative to the other courses that he teaches.
- Professor Fessler made the course very enjoyable and easy to be engaged in during lecture. I really liked it when he related the concepts to current society and social problems. You could really see that he had a passion for the subject which made me as a student more excited to learn. I feel like his tests and standards are very fair.
- Professor Fessler was a great lecturer, but when it came to the exams, it was not as great. For the first time, the class had barely enough time to take the midterm because it was too long. I think that played a huge role in how well each student did, so that was not fair. The second midterm was better because we had more time, but I think the way the questions are set up make it way too confusing for many students. TAs should be better with explaining why we got something wrong on the midterm because going to office hours made it even more confusing. We never got an exact answer, so we never knew how to improve after that.
- Professor Fessler was a very engaging and enthusiastic lecturer. He is clearly very knowledgeable about current anthropological research. I appreciated his personal anecdotes and humor woven throughout the lectures. I did not think that the required reading was excessive, and it was helpful to read before he lectured about the material in class. I did think that the exams could be much better formatted. I did not like that there was a single question on the second midterm worth 18 points. I would

have much preferred if it was split into more smaller questions. The midterms were also graded weirdly. When I went in to look at my midterm, there were points marked off but no explanation why. With all the studying I did, I was surprised by how poorly I did on these exams.

- Professor Fessler was a very good lecturer and had lots of knowledge. At times, he could get off topic in his lectures, and I did not feel that the system of weekly homework and online quizzes accurately reflected the material that appeared on the tests.
- Professor Fessler was an incredible lecturer. His lectures were interesting and he really made the material clear. I enjoyed the class overall but there were some areas that could have made the course a lot more doable. For one thing, I understand Professor Fessler's reluctance to post slides in order to motivate people to show up for lecture. However, his lectures do not often match the slide exactly and he does not like when we pay attention first to the slide and then to him as we attempt to write everything down on the slide first before trying to listen to what he is saying. This problem arises because we are concerned with getting the information from the slides since he refuses to post them. This often made me struggle to pay attention to both. If he would post slides, I could give his actual lecture my undivided attention and learn more that way. There are other ways to ensure students show up to class. Furthermore, I do not think he is in any way obligated to give us study guides or hints about the exams. However, I would appreciate more of an understanding of what he is looking for on the essay sections. I often felt like the guidelines were vague enough that I did not know exactly what he was looking for. Furthermore, I think a review session would be helpful. It would not have to be him lecturing us; even just an open forum where he answers our questions would make the midterms and finals a lot more bearable. Some of us can not attend office hours or simply appreciate a review session considering how content-dense the course is. It would have really helped and I don't consider that "teaching to the grade". I think if anything it would help us retain the important concepts more long-term.
- Professor Fessler was incredibly knowledgeable and quite honestly very inspirational in regards to his passion to his work and career. His lectures were incredibly detailed and he explained everything with examples that truly made it easier for us to understand the topics, even the most complex ones. There was a flow to the lectures that seemed so effortless yet planned, and although there was few times where we weren't able to finish before class ended, I t never felt rushed. This class really made me confident in my choice to be an Anthropology major.
- Professor is very organized and knowledgeable on the material he teaches. He's very clear about what he says and does a great job at clarifying any concepts that might confuse students. Exams are a little too long for the given time allotment.
- Professor knows material very well, but he often rushes through the slides during lectures, does not allow students to ask questions during class, grades exams too harshly-as the average for the midterms were Ds. He also did not allow a final review.
- Professor was interesting and I enjoyed his lectures. This class was very difficult for being a G.E. for a lot of people. I found it difficult that the instructor did not post any materials on the class website because he moved very quickly during lectures.
- Seems like fessler far more concerned about throwing as much information at students instead of clarifying major confusions. If he fell behind with his set pace he would ignore questions from students in order to finish. Too uptight. Wouldnt create study guides despite the huge amount of info that was covered and even prevented us from creating their own or holding review sessions. Dont understand why he would prevent something that doesnt affect him and would only help students. Would not take again
- Strength: passionate about his teaching and the context of the course materials

Weakness: pace of his presentations is way too fast, students cannot even ask questions in the middle of the class because the professor said that there will be too much materials to be covered so no questions til the end, and at the end of class usually there are no time left to ask questions. Second, I wish he would explain more on many difficult concepts, sometimes the explanation is not sufficient even

I have read the book beforehand as a person who has never studied anthropology at all

- Strengths: professor knows a lot about course material and is truly engaged in the class, weaknesses: Professor tests on material that hasn't been reviewed thoroughly and ignores concerns of students in class discussion
- Tests were very hard and ambiguous sometimes. The class average was very low which was surprising. I don't understand why lecture slides were not posted. I also don't know why we couldn't have our tests back. I actually look forward to lectures though, his quirky personality makes the lectures okay to sit through. I just don't know why we were so bad on the tests though its kind of sad, but I guess that's why the grading scheme is so forgiving.
- The class is very frustrating as the book is very complicated and detailed while the lecture is more generalized. That being said, the professor doesn't draw a distinct line between what materials are being tested, and often, I end up memorizing everything. It doesn't help that he provides no study guide for the exams. While I do have a good grade within the class, I find that the professor is unnecessarily strict as he once warned us that if we were to write our name after the test (in order to maximize time for the test), he would revoke the exam. Now for the lecture, he is a knowledgeable person of the course and I find his lecturing style informing and entertaining. Discussions help me a lot in knowing the overall picture but the quizzes assigned every week are often irrelevant.
- The class was very interesting and well put, however the professor never puts the slides online or talks about what is going to be on the examinations.
- The course is relatively easy to understand and if students do the work it is manageable. The tests are graded harshly and expect a lot more than is taught. P. Fessler is a very interesting lecturer on this topic, but I wish the tests weren't graded so obscurely.
- The exams were too difficult and the professor refused to supply study materials which would've really helped with my grade. Posting the slides online would've made me pay more attention to what he said in class.
- The exams were very difficult compared to what was discussed in lecture and in discussion, and no materials were given to study for the exams.
- The instructor was extremely engaging and organized lectures in a helpful way that was constantly connecting complex concepts. He was very good at explaining concepts that I found difficult in the reading, so I genuinely enjoyed going to class because I looked forward to that "aha" moment when all the material would make sense and come together. I also really enjoyed this course because the subject itself is so relevant and applicable to everyday life, and the instructor emphasized this with abundant and riveting examples. Overall, I am much more interested in this subject than when I started.
- The instructor was very engaging and his true passion for the course was evident which made the class very enjoyable!
- The material definitely was interesting, and Dr. Fessler was quite in-touch with the material, but his refusal to utilize BruinCast and post most lectures on CCLE makes it hard to study prior to tests. Tests have a lot of math on them that I felt we were inadequately prepared for based on time spent in lecture and during discussion. I really liked learning about human evolution, but I felt no matter how I studied prior to exams I didnt display myself well enough.
- The passion which the professor has for the subject, as well as his knowledge of the material is a strength. I see no perceived weaknesses.
- The professor is a pioneer in his field and he does a tremendous job of making lectures and class material interesting. His passion for the subject is unrivaled and I found myself very pleased with how the course was taught overall. However, I did find discrepancies between how the exams were connected to class material and it was difficult to get feedback on homework assignments in time for exams.

- The professor is enthusiastic and learned but can have unreasonable test expectations in terms of the wording of the questions and the length and amount of questions given within the limited time. Tests were too long while requesting for students to be explicit. Students feel forced to choose between answering questions thoroughly or answering all the questions in a less complete manner at the risk of losing points.
- The professor kept the lecture interesting with his humor. I really liked how he brought all the material we learned full circle.
- The professor was a great lecturer but the 2 midterms were a lot more difficult than intended
- The professor was an animated instructor but was often condescending toward students. Some of the comments he made with assumptions about the students were not necessary and rude. I would have appreciated that the slides be posted since that is an additional source for learning. I attended every lecture but still felt like I would have a better understanding if I was not concerned about missing information on the slides while taking notes or if I could have reviewed the important information highlighted in which slides after lecture. I understand it is an incentive for students to attend lecture, but it also harms the students who want to truly master the material.
- The way Professor Fessler grades is very tough; however, the curve makes it relatively easy to get above a B+ and I am very grateful for that. He is a super fair teacher and really wants us to learn the material. While the readings were long and sometimes boring, Fessler made the material engaging, fun, and applicable to our daily life. He was very concerned with us understanding the material not just to get a good grade but to really learn. The weakness include no review sessions, no study guides, no paper to boost the grade, and no true guidance. It's kind of up to the student to do well, and I would've appreciated a bit more guidance from him in terms of performing well. Also, the midterms were pretty difficult as they didn't cover most of the things we learned in class, but just small specific bits.
- This class was genuinely not what I expected going in. It was frustrating to have harsh grade distributions but not be able to get much reasoning as to why the points were missing when reviewing the tests with TA's. I felt like the tests were very specific in certain instances yet the class was very broad. It was difficult to know what was important and what was arbitrary in the scope of the course. I genuinely found Professor Fessler's tangents much more interesting than the course materials or lectures themselves. I liked his life advice and stories; I felt as though I was learning life lessons throughout the course which I honestly valued more than the course content. He was intense but a fine professor. The course was just not what I expected based on the course description.
- This course covered interesting material and it was well structured. However, I felt that this course was made way more difficult than it should have been. Human evolution is an extremely broad topic and there is a lot to cover in a 10 week course. Each day I felt like I was learning a lot, but during lecture questions were not really addressed and they were discouraged because we were constantly on this timeline due the extensive amount of material we had to cover. This made me feel like it was not really a discussion and sharing of information, but rather a one-sided lecture. I would have liked to see a lot more student discussion and interaction with the material rather than rushing through every slide. I also feel that the test averages were very low. In even some of my hardest classes the averages were at least in the 70's but having both our midterm averages in the 60's was pretty discouraging to me. I felt that I was really engaging with the material and studying as best I as knew how, but it seemed that there was this standard that the average had to be low so there would be a good bell curve. Since this class is also GE I think it really discourages younger students from taking the class when they realize the averages are predetermined to be low. I'm not sure if its the time crunch of having only 50 minutes so the test is only out of a little bit of points, but maybe expanding the exam to a longer time frame could solve this issue. I also think going over the exam in lecture would help so we know what we all missed and how we can improve since it seems to be that a lot of people are falling into the 60 or 70 region which means there is a significant knowledge gap. I think Professor Fessler is extremely knowledgeable and knows how to break down the material into a straightforward idea, but this straightforwardness does not translate to the exam. Since the material we cover is very important and interesting I hope that there can be some restructuring of the tests so other students are not fearful of taking this course.

- This instructor's enthusiasm for the course material shows in the lectures and makes it easy to engage with the information. Expectations for reading and homework were made clear.
- This professor said he would not Bruincast or post lecture slides out of fairness to students who attended class. I have a disability that often prevents me from going to class, and not having access to Bruincast made my success in this class much less accessible. Fessler was clearly not willing to make accommodations for students who could not consistently attend lecture. I found his attitude to be intimidating, condescending, and obnoxious. He used overly academic words in class to make himself sound smarter, but all it really did was make the information inaccessible. He is clearly a very smart man, but he seemed to care about making sure we knew he was smart over student learning. I have not felt so strongly about a professor's attitude and teaching style through my time at UCLA. I hope he can learn to teach in a way that is more understanding to students with disabilities, absences, and various learning styles. The way he structures his class is not set up to encourage or promote student learning at all.
- Very good professor. Very interesting course content! Love this course!
- While I really enjoyed the material in this class, admired the professor's passion for the subject and enjoyed all his fun facts, I felt the grading rubric for the tests was inconsistent with what the professor expressed wanting in class. He said he was looking for a demonstration of knowledge of the concepts, but I learned after the fact that the rubric for grading the short answer questions was based on a specific list of buzzwords. As a time saving strategy, I used broader summaries for my short answer questions and consequently lost large sums of points. This was frustrating as I felt I had a solid mastery of the content, but the nature of test questions, time allotted, and grading rubric made my score not representational of this. For future tests, it would be better to either have very direct questions so we know we have answered every part or a less specific grading rubric. Besides that, I enjoyed the online textbook and lecture slides (while he did go a little too fast to follow sometimes).
- While Professor Fessler was an entertaining and engaging lecturer, I have several fundamental issues with how this class is structured.  
Firstly, in our first class of the quarter, Professor Fessler clearly outlined his justification of why he does not BruinCast his lectures, which I can understand, despite a difference in opinion in how this disrespects the students' sense of personal accountability towards their own education. My issue is not that Professor Fessler chooses not to BruinCast, but that in conjunction with not posting the lecture slides and getting visibly frustrated when students are merely copying down the slides instead of listening to him lecture, this is not an environment that is conducive to learning. While I understand that the information presented in the lecture slides is largely material taken from the textbook, I do not understand why we are not allowed to access this material, if it would undoubtedly be a beneficial supplement to our learning.
- material covered was very interesting  
good lecturer  
not a fan of the exam style, all the points are for short answer and it is very easy to lose points  
  
also, slides should be posted  
if they are posted, students would focus more on what Fessler is saying rather than copying down the slides
- strengths: material and lecture. weaknesses: very heavy workload, very tough midterms, very difficult course compared to other anthropology classes. professor was not understanding at all when it came to personal issues. unapproachable and at times rude to students in class.
- the content of the course was very interesting. the class was taught in a different way in comparison to other classes, which makes this class unique and worth taking; however, as students, it would be helpful to have a study guide before exams in order to have a better idea of the type of questions we are expected to know how to answer. Other than that, it was a great class.
- the grading for the midterms is ridiculous and so knit picky. I saw him be a a bit standoffish when

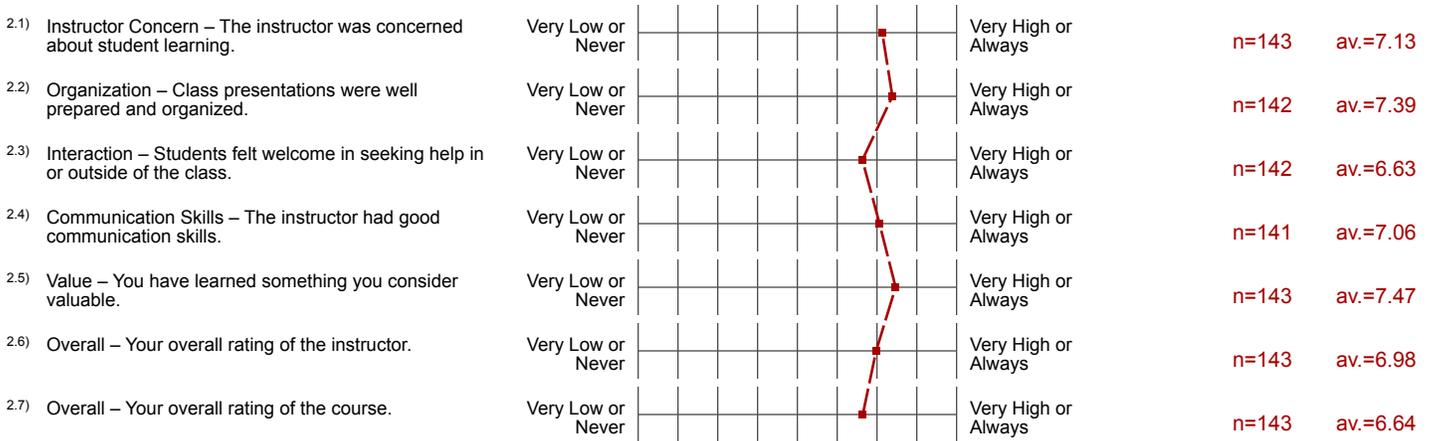
student would try to approach him before and after class. He's also kinda intimidating. The class was not interesting as first but definitely more interesting as the time has gone by. He should provide the students with more guidance and the slides. He refuses to present what exactly we should know for exams or what to focus on. He's not horrible though.

# Profile

Subunit: ANTHRO  
 Name of the instructor: D. FESSLER  
 Name of the course: 19W: ANTHRO 1 LEC 1: HUMAN EVOLUTION  
 (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:

