

# **Teaching Portfolio**

Kyle Scott

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## Courses Taught

This is a complete list of all courses taught as of Fall 2025.

<b>As Lead Instructor</b>			
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Artificial Intelligence and Ethics	Fall 2025	16	Pitzer College
Political Philosophy	Fall 2025	16	Pitzer College
Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy	Summer 2024	34	UCLA
Teaching College Philosophy (graduate seminar)	Fall 2023	5	UCLA
Political Philosophy	Fall 2023	15	Pitzer College
Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2023	19	Pitzer College
Contemporary Philosophy of Work & Labor	Spring 2023	16	UCLA
Topics in Political Philosophy: Alienation and Estrangement	Fall 2022	49	UCLA
Introduction to Ethical Theory	Summer 2022	35	UCLA

<b>As Teaching Fellow / Assistant</b>			
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Topics in Ethical Theory: Metaethics	Spring 2024	48	UCLA
Introduction to Political Philosophy	Spring 2021	42	UCLA
Introduction to Ethical Theory	Winter 2021	20	UCLA
Introduction to Political Philosophy	Fall 2020	50	UCLA
History of Modern Philosophy	Spring 2020	39	UCLA
Introduction to Ethical Theory	Winter 2020	20	UCLA
Introduction to Political Philosophy	Fall 2019	51	UCLA
Gender, Politics, & Philosophy	Spring 2016		Northwestern University
Introduction to Philosophy of Art	Fall 2015		Northwestern University

## Summary of Teaching Evaluations: Quantitative

### As lead instructor, UCLA

Below, I have provided my average scores for the question “Your overall rating of the instructor,” along with the average scores for all lead instructors in the UCLA Philosophy Department during the corresponding quarters.

Course Title	Quarter	My average (out of 9)	Departmental Average (out of 9)
Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy	Summer 2024	8.68	8
Teaching College Philosophy	Fall 2023	N/A	N/A
Philosophy of Work & Labor	Spring 2023	8.81	7.69
Topics in Political Philosophy: Alienation and Estrangement	Fall 2022	9	7.97
Introduction to Ethical Theory	Summer 2022	8.5	8

### As lead instructor, Pitzer College

Pitzer’s course evaluations do not include an “overall rating of instructor” question. Instead, I have provided summaries of three alternative evaluation questions. Unfortunately, departmental averages for these questions are not available.

Course Title	Semester	Do you feel you have learned something of value from this course? (out of 7)	Did you feel welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class? (out of 7)	Was the course well organized? (out of 7)
Artificial Intelligence and Ethics	Fall 2025	NA (Course ongoing)	NA (Course ongoing)	NA (Course ongoing)
Political Philosophy	Fall 2025	NA (Course ongoing)	NA (Course ongoing)	NA (Course ongoing)
Introduction Philosophy	Fall 2023	5.5	6.5	5.08
Political Philosophy	Fall 2023	6.6	6.9	6.2

### As teaching fellow/assistant, UCLA

Below, I have provided my average scores for the question “Your overall rating of the instructor,” along with the average scores for all teaching assistants in the UCLA Philosophy Department during the corresponding quarters.

Course title	Quarter	My average (out of 9)	Departmental Average (out of 9)
Topics in Ethical Theory: Metaethics	Spring 2024	9	8
Introduction to Political Philosophy	Spring 2021	7.85	8.08
Introduction to Ethical Theory	Winter 2021	8.17	8.26

Course title	Quarter	My average (out of 9)	Departmental Average (out of 9)
Introduction to Political Philosophy	Fall 2020	8.26	7.82
History of Modern Philosophy	Spring 2020	9	7.89
Introduction to Ethical Theory	Winter 2020	8.69	8.01
Introduction to Political Philosophy	Fall 2019	8.71	7.76

## Teaching Evaluations: Qualitative

Below are representative comments from my student evaluations. Complete course evaluations can be found at [kylehfsconfig.com/teaching-evaluations](https://kylehfsconfig.com/teaching-evaluations), using the password: **ksphil**.

### Philosophy 179: Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy, Summer 2024

- “The material covered in this course was fascinating to me and I think Kyle Scott did an excellent job breaking down the complex and dense subject materials, especially considering that I had no prior experience with Asian philosophy at all.”
- **“I enjoyed the course readings, and the short writing exercises were not only helpful to maintain a better grade, but helped apply what we learned to real life.** I understand that not providing the lecture recordings is to encourage attendance, but I wish they were available for further studying.”
- “The professor meets every question with a satisfyingly thorough answer. Each lecture has a distinct topic with relevant readings which draw a thread throughout the course without blurring the edges of each topic. The prompt selections for essays is excellent. **The implementation of mindfulness exercises made assignments and the class more enjoyable and showed a dedication to the material.** The whiteboard app did not work seamlessly for many students. I could never see the most recent addition to the whiteboard. They would only become visible when something else was added, but then the cycle would repeat. The reading was amazingly curated and paced. **I wish more classes made it this easy to stay engaged and current on the reading.**
- “Kyle has a good lecture that is comprehensive of the readings so if you didn't quite follow a particular one you weren't going to fall behind. His lectures are useful and packed with information, but he also pauses to make sure we are all still on the same page. He welcomes questions and graciously takes the time to answer them thoroughly all without making one feel foolish for having asked. Zoom teaching can be a challenge, especially when trying to keep everyone involved. For this class in particular I would have liked to have more

opportunities to interact with other students but in the presence of the professor, for examining the concepts. It would likely cut into the available time for lecture and mean covering less, but may lead to a more involved class environment and yield a more enthusiastic understanding. Overall the course was great, work load was reasonable and the exercises were interesting and fun. Kyle is also excellent about making himself available to students; communicating the course requirements clearly, following up on questions that come up in lecture, etc. **One of his greatest strengths is remembering what it is like to be a student himself, and, he clearly has a great respect for each individual's time both as a student and a person.** I believe he is a wonderful asset to philosophical studies at UCLA, and look forward to seeing him progress to a more permanent position. Thank you Kyle for this concise and valuable exploration of a topic that has always interested me.”

Philosophy 98T-W: Contemporary Philosophy of Work & Labor, Spring 2023

*\*Note: all student comments for this course are included below*

- **“He was honestly the best professor I could’ve had for my first philosophy/writing course.** He truly cares about his students and is extremely accommodating. I think the class was very interesting and he delivered the content effortlessly and in a way that was clear to me. I would 100% recommend taking this class with Scott.”
- “I enjoyed this course. I came in with the hope to learn something about [how] society works today and I have. I love the student led discussions with the weekly presentations. It gives a chance for the student to show their comprehension skills as well as gives the opportunity to bond with one another through the sharing of relevant experiences.”
- “I really enjoyed having Kyle as the instructor for this class! **We had weekly presentations and Kyle never failed to facilitate the discussions when things would grow dull or when points get too confusing. I appreciated the condensing of materials and writing on the board because that helped me visualize the concepts. I also think Kyle is very well spoken as he is able to articulate very complex thoughts into more simpler ones for me to understand during class time. Kyle is overall very understanding and the assignments assigned were very reasonable and makes a lot of sense for a writing II class! I enjoyed him very much and I have a new understanding of what philosophy classes and thoughts/discussions might entail.** Thank you so much for a great quarter! :)”
- “I really enjoyed the structure and organization of this class, particularly the way that every class discussion was driven primarily by the students. Kyle provided excellent visuals and clarifying statements in order to make sure that everyone understood the complex philosophical topics that this class covered. Excellent class, excellent teacher.”

- “I really enjoyed this course, and the different perspectives I was exposed to. I didn't have the fondest idea of the Philosophy of Labor and the incredible movements happening during this time. I was made knowledgeable about many different labor issues, and was able to demonstrate greater public speaking and writing skills. This course was my favorite of the quarter!”
- I really like some of the reading materials, like the midlife crisis and the alienated emotion one. The first one is interesting because it applies to our daily life. What I like about ethics is that it guides what we do and how we live our life, and I think Setiya's essay does exactly that. The alienated emotion essay by Brewer has a more personal effect because it provides a new angle to look at what's essential to life. I feel like our STEM education focuses too much on reasoning and often ignores emotions, so Brewer's essay is an enlightening one.
- “I think the readings presented were really interesting and facilitated thought provoking discussion. The instructor was always open to feedback and available for any questions and concerns.”
- “I was really interested in this course coming in. Overall material wise it was a bit too abstract for my liking, but I am not a philosophy major so that explains a lot. The course itself was really well done and class was enjoyable. I would've appreciated maybe one or two more writing assignments to better prepare me to write the final paper since we go from no writing to writing for essentially 70% of our grade including the outline and rough draft. Overall, you did a very good job presenting and facilitating discussion and there are just minor tweaks I would make to the course.”
- “Kyle is a great instructor. He is super passionate and knowledgeable. I enjoyed every class.”
- “Overall I really enjoyed the class. Kyle is a great instructor and made the class engaging and fun. I think the discussions were engaging. I wish we didn't all have our computers open all class. It was really hard to pay attention to class with my computer as a distraction. Additionally I would be cool if we could have some podcasts and movies or other media formats mixed in with the readings, it was hard to keep up with the readings even though they were high quality. Finally if the class could be split into 2 1.5 hour sessions it might be easier to engage for the entire time. Thanks for the donuts!!”
- “Teacher was super approachable and presented relevant and modern material that aligned really well with other and more traditional texts in philosophy.”
- **“This instructor and course helped me to understand what philosophy is and how to write philosophy better.** Class was always structured well, although there were moments where we would rush a little at the end to finish things. I think having a three-hour seminar is a bad idea though, since it is too long and everyone's focus drifts after the first hour or

hour and a half. It would be better split up into two 1.5 hour lectures throughout a week.”

- “I love that students were given the opportunity to present their own beliefs and lead discussion, it encouraged people to come in with their own challenges and thoughts on how to build upon the framework the author had provided. Also I think Perusall should be used in every class now—it built a sense of camaraderie and community learning that is missing from many undergrad philosophy courses. If anything were to change I would appreciate if there were further considerations of practical application toward the end of the quarter, especially since many people were concerned with feasibility and sustainability.”
- “No issues with this instructor at all! very well versed in the material, attentive to student needs, and broke down the material very fluidly”

#### Philosophy C156: Alienation & Estrangement, Fall 2022

- “Kyle is able to explain difficult, complex material in comprehensible and digestible terms. He also shows very clear concern about student learning.”
- “Open to feedback, really nice Professor. Great lectures, great handouts and the subject matter/readings [were] very well picked. The assignments were clear, and the option for alternatives was very much appreciated. Hardworking, and thoughtful and student success/mastery of material is very much at the forefront. Thank you for everything!”
- “The class was extremely organized, and Kyle provided supplemental handouts that really aided the course.”
- **“The instructor engaged with the material with interest and clarity, communicating the topics efficiently while still allowing for many interpretations and ideas to be contributed by the students themselves. The structure of the course material allowed for many different concepts from different authors/philosophers to be compared in a way that was comprehensive, yet easy to follow. There was also clear communication on all administrative fronts, which was refreshing and helped in light of the events of the end of the quarter. Great course.”**

#### Philosophy 22: Introduction to Ethical Theory, Summer 2022

- “Great lecturer and liked how lectures would go into a discussion. His lectures were easy to follow so it made the class interesting.”
- “Kyle is always able to explain the course materials clearly to students. Also, in his office hours, I was able to get help about my questions and have a better understanding of course

related areas.”

- “Kyle is really nice and helpful! His lectures are always clear and informative, and he is patient in listening to our ideas and answering our questions. His essay prompts and writing instructions are in great detail, which is super helpful for us when writing our essays. His office hours are especially helpful since he always generously offers constructive feedback and thorough explanations on the topic.”
- “The readings are carefully chosen, and the lectures are well-designed. However, the reading material may be a little bit easy.”
- “Very clear with explanations of tricky concepts. The flow of the course and the material felt smooth and motivated.”

#### Philosophy 6: Introduction to Political Philosophy, Spring 2021

- **“Best TA I’ve ever had! He ensured that during the discussion, everyone was comfortable talking and sharing their thoughts. The materials he covered in the session are also very helpful to consolidate our understanding of lecture materials. Personally, I think he is super helpful for preparing me to write my papers. I had a lot of questions regarding the paper, and he was patient in answering them.”**
- “My teaching assistant was very helpful. His discussion sections did provide a lot of clarity since he gave examples about terms that we were introduced to for the first time. The sections were also crucial in preparing for quizzes and papers given he was available to answer any questions and/or concerns that we had. I do not have any weaknesses to state.”
- “Kyle was always super engaging and helpful in section! Even though only a small number of students would attend, he always had a set agenda and material to go over. He also provided very thorough feedback on all assignments and was always willing to answer and explain any questions we had.”
- “TA Scott was a very capable and intelligent instructor. His patience, ability to listen, and given examples to explain previous lecture content was valuable. Discussion really helped my understanding in the course, and the open participation was appreciated. I liked how he also made a group google doc with the section’s objectives for revisiting purposes.”
- **“Kyle was so great! I feel like during the lectures, I can sometimes get a bit lost in terms of understanding the material. However, Kyle does a really great job at explaining to us what the key points are. He made weekly agendas where we would go over the main ideas from each week, and he made the section pretty interactive. I feel like I was made to feel very comfortable asking questions about the material, as**



**well. Kyle was also very helpful when it came to writing essays, as he often provided feedback that strengthened my papers significantly.”**

Philosophy 22W: Introduction to Ethical Theory, Winter 2021

- “Kyle was incredibly helpful and took student learning very seriously. He helped me a lot with several parts of the writing process, and I found his feedback on my papers to be really thoughtful and helpful. His teaching style was both really organized (he had a comprehensive agenda for each section), but also flexible and willing to adjust to what students found most helpful or interesting. **I also don’t really like other people reading my writing, but Kyle was very non-judgmental and had concrete suggestions that I felt were well-reasoned and always ended up being very helpful.”**
- “The strength is that the TA is really understanding with student’s situations during a pandemic. I really appreciated how he understood when I was really sick with covid and gave me an extension on my paper. I felt more calm during a time where I did not need to worry about school but my health. TAs like that are appreciated because some suck and forget that we are all human. I truly do not have a weakness to say sorry.”
- “This TA was knowledgeable, helpful, and respectful of our time. He provided great feedback on essays and helped guide us in understanding the philosophical theories. Very happy I could have him!”
- “Can’t say enough good things about Kyle. **He always was welcoming of me in his office hours to discuss whatever difficulties I was having with my papers. He was very approachable and explained all the topics really well. He had us doing work in the section that made writing the papers much easier since it was usually relevant work and not busy work.** Definitely my favorite TA so far as a freshman.”

Phil 6: Introduction to Political Philosophy, Fall 2020

- “I enjoyed this discussion and thought the teaching assistant did a great job. They did a great job explaining ideas in the course and also trying to engage students with the material. I thought everything they did was well thought out and organized. I have no suggestions or complaints.”
- “Kyle was an amazing, dedicated TA. He was very timely in responses. His lecture/speaking style is superb. He was also very clear/concise with what he expected of us. When CCLE was down, he emailed me copies of the readings and told me not to sweat it! I really appreciated how welcoming and understanding he was.”

- “TA Scott was fantastic at moderating discussions and allowing us to bounce ideas off one another to learn.”
- **“Kyle has a thorough understanding of course material and he explained it well. He used diagrams and examples as alternate ways of teaching which were thoughtful and helpful. He also frequently checked in to make sure we understood everything. It was a secure and inclusive environment.** The raise hand feature was helpful in making sure nobody dominated the discussion. Kyle did a good job of calling on people who hadn't gotten previous opportunities to speak. The pandemic affects everyone in different ways and I felt supported. He didn't put unnecessary pressure on us, he was often available to meet for extra help, and he responded quickly to emails.”
- “This was a fantastic section. **Kyle was informative and knowledgeable. The discussions felt interactive, inclusive, and engaging. He really fostered a judgement free environment where I felt encouraged to put my opinions and questions out there.** I also felt like he was politically impartial in a class that could have easily alienated people who have certain opinions like myself. The grading was also very thorough and transparent. My only suggestion is to keep an eye on the zoom camera galley or not encourage less camera-on just because at times some of my peers were smiling on their phones, and what appeared to be texting each other and it felt a little distracting and disrespectful when I or other students were talking.”

Phil 100C: History of Modern Philosophy, Spring 2020

- “Absolutely loved Kyle! **One of my favorite TA’s so far. He did an excellent job of engaging students in discussion. He was able to properly answer questions that students had. He properly extrapolated on the lectures, and made the material more understandable. Also, I loved his in depth responses to our papers because it really helped out in writing the final paper. All his tips were extremely helpful to me :)**”
- “It was a shame more people didn’t show up for section because he was incredibly well versed in the material and helping to both clarify and expand on lectures. He made himself available to help me outside usual hours too which was greatly appreciated during these strange times. I would only hope for more actual class discussion on the interesting topics we were covering as I believe he could guide that discussion in some exciting directions.”
- “Overall, Kyle was great. He started off the quarter by letting us know that he understood the current global pandemic is a challenge for everyone involved. He made section optional, but despite this, he always came extremely well-prepared and hosted a great discussion. He always came to section with pre-prepared notes on the material, which I really appreciated, because he was able to synthesize extremely complex material into a concise and easy-to-understand format. He always made an effort to identify the main points from the lectures,

and explain ambiguous points, so overall I felt that section was extremely useful for me. Also, he was willing to meet outside of his regularly-allocated office hours to go over paper outlines. I sought out his assistance for both of my papers, and felt that his feedback was extremely useful and ultimately helped strengthen my arguments. He also gave very detailed comments on our papers, and I can't stress enough how much I appreciate that; in any class, if you don't understand what you did well and what you did poorly, there is no way for you to improve. Overall, Kyle seemed to have an impressive work ethic and I enjoyed being in his section. If he chooses to pursue a career in academia after graduate school, I am confident he will succeed."

- "I was unable to attend many live sections this quarter. **Kyle made it so easy to not only access all the section recordings but also reach him outside of class with questions. Kyle met with me one on one to discuss paper topics. These meetings were very insightful and allowed me to expand upon the class material. Overall, I found Kyle very knowledgeable (despite this not being the area of philosophy he focuses in) and capable of taking the class material a step further, introducing different thoughts and considerations than what was presented in class.** Sections were intuitive and helpful."
- "Kyle was a great TA this quarter, who made the most of some adverse circumstances while holding his discussion sections over Zoom. He was very knowledgeable about the material, and knew how to explain the concepts in a way that cleared up any confusion left over from the lectures. Attending his section was never a waste of time. He also offered great advice for writing philosophy papers, which I found particularly useful since I'm not a philosophy major myself. I would recommend Kyle to anyone based off his excellent work as TA of Phil 100C."

#### Philosophy 22W: Introduction to Ethical Theory, Winter 2020

- "Individual meetings with the TA were very helpful for essays. The TA was also very clear and concise in his explanations, able to help answer questions about some very complicated concepts. Thanks for the great section!"
- "Kyle Scott made the material taught in lecture more understandable. He made himself available and was quick to respond to emails. He is diligent in his work and does not leave questions unanswered."
- "My TA was actually really helpful in working through the essays and able to contextualize the course material in a way that felt a bit less daunting and frustrating. It was nice to have someone else recognize how problematic the content could be."
- **"Some of the major strengths of the discussion were that everyone was given the opportunity to speak out on their opinions and Kyle was super helpful in facilitating**

**discussion and clarifying any questions that we had. The discussion was much more of a dialogue/conversation rather than strict lecturing at us so that made it a lot easier to learn and to be active within the discussion.** One thing I didn't enjoy so much was having to write questions on flash cards, I think it's a good exercise but maybe do it with less frequency? But overall great job! :)"

- "Strengths: VERY sweet and helpful. He has great knowledge on the topic and really helped me understand the examples given in class. Also, set up a nice environment for discussion where we won't feel judged to say our opinion. Just an overall great guy. Weaknesses: I have none!"
- "Thank you, I learned a lot within the discussion and it helps me a lot within learning more about the class and the things which are philosophy and overall life related. The discussion section is nice and welcoming, and everyone is kind and respect[ful] to each other. I appreciate everything and thank you, Kyle you are really kind and nice, thank you for being kind always and have an amazing year/everything :)"
- "The teaching assistant was very knowledgeable with the material. He was open to any questions that student[s] may have. He showed care for student learning and ensured that he answered any questions that students may have. He was polite and respectful of student's questions. I do not know of any weaknesses."
- "This teaching assistant is very knowledgeable about the material and has great concern for student learning. His communication skills made students feel comfortable to speak their mind in discussions. Very likable and charismatic guy."

#### Philosophy 6: Introduction to Political Philosophy, Fall 2019

- "He's generally solid and a pretty nice guy. I think it would be cool if he was a little bit more selective when receiving ideas from students, and being more clear when answers are correct and incorrect. I think he sometimes places too large of a focus on being nice and open to all ideas, that he doesn't make it sufficiently clear when answers are completely incorrect or irrelevant."
- "Honestly the BEST TA he really made sure I understood everything and basically saved my grade."
- "I think Kyle is a very good teaching assistant who cares about his students. My only suggestion would be to teach paper writing at the beginning of the quarter because the papers for this class have a relatively unique structure."

- **“Kyle was a fantastic TA. He was always clear and helpful in discussions. Moreover, he puts in a significant amount of effort in helping his students.** I once emailed him fairly last minute regarding confusion on a paper, to which he responded quickly with a very detailed and well thought out answer. I highly enjoyed having him as my TA.”
- “Kyle was very knowledgeable about political philosophy and always had structured sections to try and go over everything from the lectures. His feedback on essays were helpful and his in-person commentary made the content easy to understand. He always made himself available, even staying later after his hours were over, and was overall my favorite TA this quarter.”
- **“The absolute best T.A at this school, so approachable and knowledgeable. He always made sure to open the discussion up to everyone and went the extra mile to make sure we were doing the best in the class.”**
- “This teacher assistant was great. I would say the best professor I have had for this first quarter. The discussions were great. Everyone participated and it was very productive time. We learned a lot in discussions. The advice for writing essays was also great. I really could not ask for a better TA.”
- “Weaknesses: None Strengths: Kyle’s feedback on outlines for essays was VERY insightful and helpful. He was very understanding when I messed up in sending the wrong material for evaluation. The class was helpful to my understanding of the class and never boring. Not intimidating or boring or stressful. I loved this class!!! Thank you Kyle!”
- “I love Kyle, he’s such an amazing TA and I’m so happy I was able to be in his discussion section! **I've always had bad anxiety speaking in classes but Kyle made the discussion super calm and encouraged everyone to speak. I talked a lot in his class because he made me feel comfortable and that what I had to say was valid. He always answered the questions students asked very well and explained the course material well. Kyle is the best TA I've ever had and any student who gets him is lucky!** He never flat out disregards anyone’s questions or answers and is such a nice person!”
- “It really was great being in your discussion. I admire [your] ability to initiate conversations that relate to the course material, and provide an easy to follow discussion. Also I really appreciate the depth you put into our essay grade input, I understand you are probably insanely busy and it’s super considerate to still put in that much effort into every submission’s feedback. Only emailed you once regarding a turnitin error, but you replied in less than 24 hours which was very helpful and thoughtful. **You are the best TA I’ve had so far at UCLA, because you understand the material and how to translate that to us in an easy to grasp way, how to effectively manage a classroom of tired children, and most importantly it’s obvious you put a lot of care into your work.** You also have dope

style, keep it up. In all great teacher, keep doin what your doin, you are killing it.”

- “Kyle has done a great job of leading discussions and clarifying specific topics that will be relevant for our future papers and assignments. His strengths include facilitating great discussions and a good class environment, breaking down complex topics simply, and being extremely approachable and willing to work with students. I honestly can't think of any glaring weaknesses Kyle has, it's always a pleasure to attend his discussion, even at 5 on a Monday.”
- “Kyle is a great TA: he cares about students’ performance and mastery of the course, he keeps the discussions interesting, and makes sure to help students with real applicable feedback. With Kyle there is no weakness, and for future students I highly recommend they choose Kyle to be their TA.”
- “Kyle is the best! **He has the best attitude towards making sure every student felt welcomed in his discussion. He clearly values every contribution from every person in the class. He is super knowledgeable about everything we talked about in lecture and was very helpful in clarifying ideas. His feedback on papers was clear and helpful for future writing assignments in this class and others.**”

# A Short Guide to the “Hidden Curriculum” of the University: A Resource for First-Generation College Students (and everyone else!)

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Welcome to the class! As a first-generation college student, you bring unique strengths and perspectives to your academic journey. However, navigating the “hidden curriculum” of higher education—the unspoken norms and expectations—can sometimes feel challenging. This guide aims to provide some practical tips to help you thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

## 1 | Professional Communication

Effective communication is key to building relationships and advocating for yourself. Here are some tips:

### Drafting Professional Emails

- Use a clear subject line (e.g., “Question about Philosophy Assignment Due Date”).
- Begin with a formal greeting (e.g., “Dear Professor Smith”).
- Be concise and polite. State your purpose clearly (e.g., “I am writing to ask for clarification on...”).
- End with a courteous closing (e.g., “Thank you for your time. Best regards, [Your Name]”).

### Office Hours

- Professors and teaching assistants (TAs) hold office hours to help you. Attending is a great way to connect with your instructors, deepen your understanding of the course material, or ask general academic questions.
- It is especially helpful to visit during the weeks leading up to assignments to get feedback on your ideas, and after assignments to review your completed work and improve for the future.
- Don’t be nervous—instructors are there to support you and are used to answering all kinds of questions! However, it is a good idea to prepare questions or comments in advance, even if they are not fully developed.

## 2 | Requesting Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are often needed for scholarships, internships, and graduate school applications. To make a strong impression:

- Plan Ahead: Ask your professor well in advance (at least 4-6 weeks before the deadline).
- Be Specific: Remind them of the work you’ve done in their class (e.g., a standout essay or project).

- Provide Materials: Share your resume, a draft of your personal statement, and details about the opportunity.
- Example request:  

“Dear Professor [Name],  
 I hope this message finds you well. I am applying for [specific opportunity] and was wondering if you would be willing to write me a letter of recommendation. I thoroughly enjoyed your course, [Course Name], and learned a great deal from the project on [specific topic]. I have attached my resume and a draft of my personal statement for your reference. The deadline is [date]. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide. Thank you for considering my request.  
 Best regards, [Your Name]”

### 3 | Navigating Institutional Systems at UCLA

Understanding how to use UCLA’s resources can make your journey smoother:

- Financial Aid: You can visit the [UCLA Financial Aid Office website](#) or their physical office in A129J Murphy Hall for information on grants, loans, and scholarships. Schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor for personalized advice.
- Registration: Use [MyUCLA](#) to plan your schedule, check for enrollment appointments, and register for classes. Take advantage of the Schedule Planner tool to explore different course combinations.
- Academic Advising: The [College Academic Counseling](#) provides guidance on degree requirements and academic planning. They also offer drop-in advising and workshops. You can visit them online or at their office in A316 Murphy Hall.
- BruinBill: Monitor your tuition and fees through BruinBill, accessible via [MyUCLA](#). If you have questions about payments or need assistance, contact the [Billing Office](#).

### 4 | Understanding Academic Expectations

Professors may have different expectations for assignments. To meet these expectations:

- Analyze Strong Examples: Review examples of high-quality essays or projects, often provided in class or available through UCLA’s Writing Programs.
- Seek Feedback: Solicit feedback from professors and TAs during office hours to help you improve your work. Don’t hesitate to ask for clarification if the feedback is unclear.
- Utilize Campus Resources: UCLA’s [Undergraduate Writing Center](#) offers free, one-on-one consultations to help you improve your writing skills.

### 5 | Preparing for Post-Graduate Opportunities

Here are some resources for helping you think about life after graduation:



- Graduate School Applications: The UCLA Career Center offers workshops and individual appointments to help with graduate school applications. You can also find resources for crafting resumes, CVs, and personal statements.
- Career Exploration: Explore Handshake, UCLA's job and internship platform, for opportunities tailored to your interests.
- Skill-Building: Participate in UCLA's Undergraduate Research Centers to gain hands-on experience in your field.

## 6 | **Building Your Support Network**

Your community is one of your greatest resources. Connect with:

- Peers: Join student organizations through the UCLA Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement (SOLE) office. Explore opportunities on the UCLA Student Groups website.
- Mentors: Look into the UCLA First To Go program, designed to support first-generation college students.
- Campus Services: Take advantage of resources like the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for mental health support and the Ashe Center for health services.

## 7 | **Final Thoughts**

Remember, you belong here. The challenges you face are shared by many, and resources exist to help you succeed. By understanding the hidden curriculum, you'll be better equipped to navigate the university and make the most of your experience. Don't hesitate to ask questions, seek support, and celebrate your achievements along the way. You've got this!

**UCLA** WRITING PROGRAMS  
Certificate of Completion

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

*Kyle Scott*

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED  
THE UCLA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WRITING PEDAGOGY  
WITH AN EMPHASIS IN WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES

*Laurel Westrup*  
LAUREL WESTRUP, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

JUNE 14, 2024

*Christine A. Holten*  
CHRISTINE HOLTEN, DIRECTOR  
UCLA WRITING PROGRAMS

JUNE 14, 2024





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June 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter confirms that Kyle Scott has completed the Graduate Certificate in Writing Pedagogy (GCWP) at UCLA. This certificate program integrates pedagogical training, academic coursework, and the teaching of one or more writing-intensive courses at the university. Kyle completed the Writing in the Disciplines emphasis by teaching two Writing II courses – courses that satisfy the university’s secondary writing requirement – in his home department, Philosophy. He taught the second of these courses through the competitive Collegium of University Teaching Fellows (CUTF) program, which funds graduate student instructors to develop and teach a course in their dissertation area. Kyle also served as Teaching Assistant Consultant (TAC) for the Philosophy department. Kyle’s work in the GCWP was characterized by his student-centered approach and his desire to connect the work of Philosophy with transferable skills that will help his students succeed within and beyond the classroom. This letter outlines Kyle’s coursework and relevant teaching for the program.

**Coursework**

Course number	Course title	Units	Quarter	Instructor
Phil 495	Teaching College Philosophy	2.0	Fall 2019	A. West
EngComp 401	Current Issues in University Writing Pedagogy	4.0	Fall 2019	L. Westrup
EngComp 495E	Teaching Preparation Seminar: Writing in Disciplines	2.0	Fall 2020	M. Manojlovic
EngComp 495F	Supervised Teaching of Writing in Disciplines	2.0	Winter 2021	B. Stone
EngComp 404	Diversity and Student-Centered Pedagogy	4.0	Fall 2021	N. Mehdizadeh
EngComp 496	Special Projects in Language and Writing Pedagogy	2.0	Spring 2022	J. Kelley
EngComp 499	Academic Professionalization Colloquium	2.0	Spring 2024	M. McIver

### Writing Courses Taught

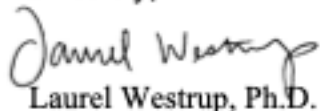
Course number	Course title	Quarter	Notes
Phil 22W	Introduction to Ethical Theory	Winter 2021	Online/synchronous, Writing II course
Phil 98TW	Contemporary Philosophy of Work and Labor	Spring 2023	As primary instructor, in-person, Writing II course

Kyle came to UCLA having already taught middle school History and English at the California Collegiate Charter School, and he was able to build on this work as he transitioned to teaching at UCLA. Key to Kyle's approach is his attention to the needs of individual students, and he has continued to work closely one-on-one with his students and to hone his pedagogy in response to student feedback. Over the course of his teaching career at UCLA, he has increasingly incorporated transparency: he often talks with students about why he has selected certain materials or designed an assignment the way he has, and he enlists students to help determine the physical set-up of the class and to set the day's agenda, for instance through the social annotation platform Perusall. Kyle is also interested in how to make his classes as practically useful as possible. In an independent study project he completed with Jeremy Kelley, he studied how Philosophy courses might respond to the "crisis in the Humanities" by helping students respond critically and productively to the challenges they experience in their worlds. He has increasingly built these real-world considerations into his courses, culminating with his CUTF seminar on contemporary philosophies of work and labor, which asked students to consider their future careers as a final project. Kyle's pedagogy has been highly effective, and he not only won two departmental teaching awards, but also the campuswide Distinguished Teaching Award in 2024.

In addition to his teaching and certificate coursework, Kyle has sought additional opportunities to engage with pedagogy and mentoring at UCLA and beyond. In 2023-24, he served as his department's TAC, which gave him the opportunity to redesign and teach the Philosophy 495 course he had taken earlier in his teaching career. He focused on making the class as practical as possible, anticipating the teaching challenges his colleagues would encounter and helping them develop their skills through brainstorming sessions and microteaching lessons. Kyle also provided observations for his colleagues and did some role-playing with them to help them address situations like students who dominate the discussion. In addition to this work, Kyle has served as Los Angeles Chapter Director for Corrupt the Youth, a nonprofit outreach program that brings philosophy to high school students from backgrounds that have historically been excluded from the discipline. Kyle's interest in inclusive pedagogy clearly carries across all of his work.

Kyle is a thoughtful instructor who consistently strives to connect his teaching in Philosophy with larger considerations of student growth and well-being. On behalf of myself and his other faculty mentors, I am happy to award him UCLA's Graduate Certificate in Writing Pedagogy.

Sincerely,



Laurel Westrup, Ph.D.

Continuing Lecturer, Writing Programs, UCLA  
Coordinator of the Certificate Program