

Patrick McCullough

Evidence of Teaching Excellence: Student Evaluations

Sample Student Comments from Harvard-Westlake 2017-2018 (No Overall Score Available)

“I hated history, but now I really like it. Now, I think I know what US history is.”

“He is the most dedicated teacher I have this year.”

“He is one of the most organized teachers I’ve had.”

“Mr. McCullough has a genuine interest in his students’ performance and seeks to push students to their full potential. His homework assignments push students to focus on material on a nightly basis which helps reinforce our understanding of the unit. He also is always available to meet with students and helps everyone succeed. Lastly, his feedback on assignments is invaluable, he spends a great deal of time writing substantive feedback to help students progress and grow.”

“One of the best history teachers I’ve ever had.”

“Mr. McCullough really wants the students to lead the class, in a sense, by discussing our reading from the night before in groups and then going to the board. It makes us responsible for the information and if we are unsure about anything, he will take the time to completely clear it up and explain it really well.”

“Mr McCullough is super dedicated to the students and has a style of teaching centered around the students. I feel much more engaged in this class than in almost any other history class I’ve taken.”

“I really appreciate the open discussions we have in class about the things we are learning, rather than just a boring lecture. I feel like it helps me absorb the information more when we all discuss it together. I also like the board work that we do. It makes it way more fun to interact with everyone and it is a super effective way to get all the information because if you forgot something in your answer, it’s guaranteed that someone else will have picked it up.”

“I really really really like history class this year. I am not stressed coming to class and am enthusiastic to complete the assignments and participate in class discussion. I really appreciate how inspired/eager I feel to learn and engage with the material in and outside of class, and I appreciate how Mr. McCullough’s administration of class makes me not stressed or anxious to be in class, be active, and answers questions that I could potentially be answering incorrectly.”

“Mr. McCullough genuinely cares. It’s easy for teachers at any institution to fall into a cycle of reusing assignments, sharing tests and quizzes from other teachers, and just passively teaching classes year on year but Mr. McCullough has been innovating and improving right out the gate. His teaching style, assignments, and approach to studying history is unique and he elicits the best in each of his students. I’ve personally never had a teacher as interested in their students or the course material as Mr. McCullough and I seldom see teachers who care about their students as much as Mr. McCullough does. Our class is overjoyed that we get to have Mr. McCullough for the year.”

UCLA Courses (Instructor of Record): Overall Rating of the Instructor

(1=Low, 9=High)

Course Title (Most Recent First)	Average	Median
History of the Study of Religion	8.48	9
Religion and Modern Critical Thought: Critical Approaches to Religious Identity	8.70	9
History of the Study of Religion	8.04	9
History of the Study of Religion	8.00	8
Religion, Film, and Media: Jesus of Hollywood	8.20	9
Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in Antiquity	8.33	9
Religion and Violence in the Ancient World	8.11	9
Barbarians, the Blameless, and their Boundaries: Representations of Identity in Antiquity	8.13	8
Barbarians, the Blameless, and their Boundaries: Representations of Identity in Antiquity	8.47	9
Overall Scores		
	8.27	9

Sample Comments from UCLA Student Evaluations

“Pat’s style of teaching is really geared for a powerful learning experience. It’s not about boring lectures and useless facts. Rather, it involves group discussions, active participation, intellectual dialogue and engaging topics. I learned from him and from my classmates. I would definitely tell others to take his class, but they must work hard and apply themselves. He pushes us to be better and to really think! Great class, excellent instructor!”

“Both explicitly and implicitly, he consistently let us know that he was available for further discussion and conversation on the required readings, current events that were related to the course material and theory, and our final projects. He was very caring and interactive. While exemplifying deep understanding of the subjects we covered in this course, he was also curious to learn from us and this made me feel encouraged and empowered as a student.”

“In short, Pat is fantastic. He is extremely engaged with the material and passionate about his students. He is more focused on fostering intellectual discussion and ensuring that we understand the implications and applications of the material than he is about lecturing and showing off intellectual prowess. Pat is extremely humble and approachable, but clearly knowledgeable and actively engaged with the material.”

“He always found ways to make the class laugh.”

“Pat McCullough was an outstanding teacher who valued student opinions and welcomed all questions. He was very clear and organized which helped everyone grasp the subject matter. He was one of the most capable teachers at explaining concepts and making sure everyone was on the same page. He was empathetic towards everyone’s different levels of understanding. He

challenged the students to bring out the best. I will definitely remember and cherish Pat's class. Thank you for a great learning experience."

"Pat McCullough is truly an exceptional teacher. He was eager to share his knowledge with his students, making discussion sections a valuable part of the course. Discussions were always well organized. Pat went well beyond simply reviewing course material; he engaged students in the process of historical analysis and encouraged us to formulate our own ideas about the material. Pat might be the best teacher I have had in my nearly 4 years at UCLA."

"Professor McCullough really encourages student discussions and the entire course was based on him guiding us make our own opinion and create our own personal understanding of the subject matter. As a student, that serves as the ideal way to learn because instead of imposing teacher opinions, he allowed us to play with the matter and master it in our own individual ways. I feel this is one of the few courses that I have learned something substantial because I was allowed to make it my own with the help of Professor McCullough."

"Pat is one of the best—if not the best—instructor I've ever had. He makes discussions interesting through readings, videos, in class group assignments, plays and acting, even connecting children's stories to medieval history. He always helps the class connect to the big picture, seeing why this is all relevant. Outside of discussion he is easily approachable and always quick to respond to emails. He grades fairly and puts a lot of thought and time into how he grades. He always gives helpful feedback too. Overall, BEST teacher ever. He made me want to switch my major to History."

"Pat always provided well guided instruction that allowed us to make our own discoveries without getting buried in the text. Overall, best instructor I've had in school so far. Fully capable, knowledgeable, and concerned about student learning."

"Here at UCLA, this class has certainly been the very best, most immersive, and most rewarding humanities class that I have taken. Pat has inspired me to pursue my minor in religion with even more passion, and had definitely armed me with analytical tools that I never had before, and that will serve me long beyond my time at UCLA. In class discussion, Pat did an excellent job facilitating and ensuring all voices and opinions are heard, and clearly cares very deeply about the development and progress of his students, and clearly has a deep passion for the content of the subject matter. He also does an excellent job of being an un-biased instructor, careful not to introduce his own opinions too much into a course that is so easy to bring opinions into."