The following are testimonials from colleagues and former students, posted with the relevant permissions. It has occasionally been impossible to obtain permissions because the students in question have graduated and can no longer be contact through Drexel email. In those instances the student's identity has been redacted.

From: **Fry,John** jaf@drexel.edu
Subject: Re: Thank You!
Date: April 7, 2024 at 10:05 PM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

JF

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you for your kind note. It is an honor to provide support for one of our truly distinguished faculty, and I am grateful for your leadership in organizing the MacDonald conference.

Warm regards,

John

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 2, 2024, at 12:39 PM, Piety,Marilyn Gaye <mp34@drexel.edu> wrote:
>
> Dear President Fry,
>
> I just heard from Dean Brown that you have agreed to help provide financial support for the joint Yale-Drexel conference on the thought of George MacDonald. I have already written Dean Brown to thank him, but I wanted to thank you as well. I know these are difficult times in higher education, so I appreciate your support for this conference more than I can say.
>
> I think the conference is going to be a very good thing for Drexel. I am hoping we can get someone in the College of Arts and Sciences to put together the website for the conference. We are very fortunate in that we've been able to secure permission to use the David Levin caricature of George MacDonald for the conference at half the normal price because I am good friends with David Leopold, the archivist for David Levin, and I impressed upon David how tight money is now in higher education and that after all, we are a non-profit.
>
> I am so excited about this conference. It is going to be a wonderful event.
>
> Thank you so much, again, for your support!!!
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Marilyn
>
> M.G. Piety
> Professor of Philosophy
> Department of English and Philosophy
> Drexel University
> 3250-60 Chestnut Street
> Philadelphia, PA 19104
>
> Website: mgpiety.org
> Blog: Flash Philosophy
> Blog: Piety on Kierkegaard
>
> <sketch_1840_RegineKnippelsbro_III_A.jpg>

From: **Cohen,Gabe** gc669@drexel.edu
Subject: Re: Request
Date: October 29, 2026 at 9:36 AM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

GC

Hi Professor Piety,

It's so nice to hear from you and I hope the term is going well!

You can absolutely use this or any email from me in whatever way you'd like. There is no need to hide my identity. In fact, if you'd prefer, you can leave my email with the message as I would love to relay my experience in your classes to anybody who is interested. Your teaching has done so much for me and my quality of life, and this would be the very least I could do to show my gratitude.

I would love to stop by and chat this term. Tuesdays are generally too busy for me, but Thursdays after 2 would be perfect if that works for you.

Gabriel Cohen (He/Him)
College of Engineering, Drexel University
Gc669@drexel.edu
856-343-7339

From: Piety,Marilyn Gaye <mp34@drexel.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Cohen,Gabe <gc669@drexel.edu>
Subject: Request

Gabe,

Would you mind if I posted the attached email from you to the "Testimonials" page of my website? I can delete any identifying info if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

Also, don't forget that I am teaching this term and hence am on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays if you would ever like to drop by for a chat. Do email me in advance, though, if you can, because unless I have a meeting before my class (which I sometimes do), I'm not normally in my office. I usually just go from 30th St. to my class and then back home again. That said, I'm starting to have student appointments both before and after class because people want to discuss their papers, so I could easily fit you in.

Let me know what you think about my using your email.

I hope to see you at some point this term.

Sincerely,

Marilyn

"Doubtless, Adeimantus, there's no leisure for anyone
who has his thinking truly directed toward the things that *are*
to gaze down at the concerns of human beings
and get filled up with envy and malice
over battling with them."

From: **Punsuk,Chayapha** cp3267@drexel.edu
Subject: Re: Philosophy of Religion Grade
Date: June 8, 2026 at 12:52 PM
To: mgpiety2@icloud.com

CP

Good Afternoon Professor,

Yes, it was my idea for the online discussion board. And thank you so much for such a wonderful class. I really enjoyed it, and I appreciate how understanding you are even when I was struggling and offered a new method to help me improve my grade. I loved everything about this course, and I hope I can take another class with you in the future. But even if not, I'll definitely stay in touch!

Best regards,
Chayapha Punsuk

From: mgpiety2@icloud.com <mgpiety2@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 9:35 AM
To: Punsuk,Chayapha <cp3267@drexel.edu>
Subject: Philosophy of Religion Grade

EXTERNAL.

Pha,

You have an A for the course! I particularly enjoyed reading your posts to the online discussion. Was the online discussion your idea? I don't remember whose idea it was, but it was a very good idea!

It was a pleasure to have you in the class. I hope to have you in another class in the future!

Sincerely,

Marilyn

M.G. Piety
Department of English and Philosophy
Drexel University
3250-60 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Website: mgpiety.org
Blog: Piety on Kierkegaard
Blog: Flash Philosophy

Book: Sequins and Scandals



From: [redacted]
Subject: Graduation - Thank You
Date: June 9, 2026 at 1:15 PM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

SM

Hi Professor Piety,

I know it's been a while so I'm not sure if you remember me but this is [redacted] from many of your philosophy courses. I am graduating this week and I would be remiss if I didn't reach out to you and thank you personally for all of your help in my time here.

I very frankly would not be graduating if it were not for your patience and grace in our classes together. I am so grateful that I got to learn from you during my time at Drexel. Your passion for philosophy is as contagious as it is inspiring and you have always pushed me to pursue my own passions within philosophy.

I wish you all the best in the future and I hope that our paths cross again!

Thank you again,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Introduction to Philosophy
Date: August 28, 2026 at 9:32 AM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

MH

Good morning, Professor Piety,

Thank you so much for this wonderful quarter. The text you picked for us (The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten by Julian Baggini) was such an enjoyable read and the intellectually stimulating environment you created in the classroom was the best I have experienced at Drexel. I hope to take another one of your courses in the future.

Take care,

[redacted]
Real Estate Management and Development, Business Analytics, and Security Technology
Drexel University | LeBow College of Business and College of Computing and Informatics
267-290-0550

From: Piety,Marilyn Gaye <mp34@drexel.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:46 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Introduction to Philosophy

[redacted]

I am pleased to report that your cumulative score in the course is 81 and that means you will get an A for the course. There is thus no need for you to do the final. Even if you did do it, you couldn't get enough additional points to push you up to the A+ range. Only one person got an A+ and that person had a score of 88.

Congratulations!

Marilyn

"Doubtless, Adeimantus, there's no leisure for anyone
who has his thinking truly directed toward the things that *are*
to gaze down at the concerns of human beings
and get filled up with envy and malice
over battling with them."

— *Republic*

M.G. Piety
Professor of Philosophy
Department of English and Philosophy
Drexel University
3250-60 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

From: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Phil of Religion Grade
Date: June 5, 2026 at 5:40 PM
To: mgpiety2@icloud.com

NJ

Hey!
Very pleased and thank you so much for a great class! I am graduating but would love to reach out whenever I'm in the city and perhaps sit in on one of your classes when I come to visit my friends. I'm graduating a year early so most of my friends will be here through next year.
Thank you very much!
[redacted]

From: mgpiety2@icloud.com <mgpiety2@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 9:28 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Phil of Religion Grade

EXTERNAL.

[redacted]

You have an A-. You'd have to get a minimum of 28 more points, though, to move up to an A and you wouldn't be able to do that even if you rewrote two papers.

An A- is certainly a good grade, though, so I think you should be very pleased with it.

It was a pleasure to have you in the class. I hope to have you in another class in the future!

Sincerely,

Marilyn

M.G. Piety
Department of English and Philosophy
Drexel University
3250-60 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Website: mgpiety.org
Blog: Piety on Kierkegaard
Blog: Flash Philosophy

Book: Sequins and Scandals



From: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Philosophy of Religion Grade
Date: June 8, 2026 at 5:24 PM
To: mgpiety2@icloud.com

VR

Hello!

Thank you so much! This honestly means a lot to me, and I really appreciate all of your support and feedback throughout the class. I'm very happy with my grade, so I won't be rewriting any of my papers or completing the final exam essay :)

It was a pleasure being in your class as well, and I would definitely consider taking another class with you in the future.

Thank you again, and I hope you have a great summer as well!

Sincerely,
[redacted]

From: mgpiety2@icloud.com <mgpiety2@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 9:37 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Philosophy of Religion Grade

EXTERNAL.
[redacted]

Like I said yesterday, you have one of the highest scores in the class. That means your grade right now, even if you don't rewrite any of your papers, is an A+!

Congratulations! It was a pleasure to have you in the class. I hope you will consider taking another class with me in the future!

Sincerely,

From: **Ben-Eboh,Emmanuel** eeb78@drexel.edu
Subject: Former Student
Date: December 11, 2024 at 1:31 AM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

EB

Hello,

This is Emmanuel, I took a Philosophy class you taught during the summer this year. I was curious because I remember us reading an article about how insurance companies deny claims for patients using AI or something like that, and just recently the CEO of a health company got shot and on the bullet casings there was something that had to do with how insurance companies deny claims (deny, defend, depose) for patients. I just found it interesting that the issue we talked about in class has real-world impact, though there's no great solution for it at the moment. People don't even seem to be that opposed to the shooter even though he's morally wrong.

From: **Giuffrida,Giulio** gsg45@drexel.edu
Subject: Re: Syllabus Question
Date: March 29, 2020 at 6:10 PM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

GG

Hello,

Thank you for your kind words! I really enjoyed the discussion based format of your class and really appreciated the feedback on my writing. I plan to major in English at the next institution I choose, making my experience in your class particularly useful. It's comforting to hear that others, like you, have gone through similar experiences of confusion like I have in choosing the right place to learn.

Thank you again,

Giulio Giuffrida
Drexel University LeBow College of Business

Email: gsg45@drexel.edu

From: Piety,Marilyn Gaye <mp34@drexel.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 5:09 PM
To: Giuffrida,Giulio <gsg45@drexel.edu>
Subject: Re: Syllabus Question

Giulio,

I remember you well. You were a wonderful student! I'm sorry to hear that you will be leaving Drexel because I was hoping that you might enroll in another one of my classes. I do think, though, that given how much money you have to pay nowadays to get a college or university degree, you should make sure that you are very happy with the institution you select! I hope very much that you will find a place you like. I actually attended several colleges before I finally ended up at Earlham College in Richmond, IN, the place from which I eventually got my BA. I loved Earlham (little plug for Earlham there).

I've attached the syllabus. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Best wishes,

Marilyn

> On Mar 27, 2020, at 9:35 PM, Giuffrida,Giulio <gsg45@drexel.edu> wrote:
>
> Hello I was in your PHIL-105 class in the fall quarter. I am applying to other colleges for next fall and they would like a copy of the syllabus. Do you have a copy you could send me?
>
> Thank you,
>
> **Giulio Giuffrida**
> *Drexel University LeBow College of Business*
>
> Email: gsg45@drexel.edu

From: **Houser,Theodore** tjh349@drexel.edu
Subject: RE: Introduction to Philosophy
Date: June 13, 2019 at 9:39 AM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

TH

Dear Professor Piety,

Thank you so much, co-op interviews have me a bit stressed and this helps out a ton. I really enjoyed your class. Philosophy is a bit outside my comfort zone as I am more of a math and science person but *The Republic* and the class discussions were fantastic.

Have a great summer,

Ted

From: Piety,Marilyn Gaye <mp34@drexel.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:00 PM
To: Houser,Theodore <tjh349@drexel.edu>
Subject: Introduction to Philosophy

Ted,

I just finished grading all the assignments for this term, not including the final. Three people have total scores (not including the participation scores, which have yet to be calculated) in the 130s. You are one of those people. I have decided that you all do not have to do the final-exam essay. All three of you have had work that is of such consistently high quality, and you are so far ahead of the rest of the class, that I cannot imagine any way that the final would change your grade. I am giving each of you an A+ and excusing you from the final. I know Drexel's curriculum is pretty demanding and that this is a very stressful time of the term. I figured you might appreciate having one less final to do.

That said, I would be very happy to look at a final essay from you if you would like to submit one. You don't have to get it in by the deadline, however, you could send it to me whenever you had the time to get to it and I would be happy to give you some feedback on it.

Congratulations!

It was a real pleasure having you in the class!

Marilyn

M.G. Piety
Professor of Philosophy
Department of English and Philosophy
Drexel University
3250-60 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Website: mgpiety.org

From: **Anderson,Reid** raa84@drexel.edu
Subject: Re: Introduction to Philosophy
Date: June 12, 2019 at 9:01 PM
To: Piety,Marilyn Gaye mp34@drexel.edu

RA

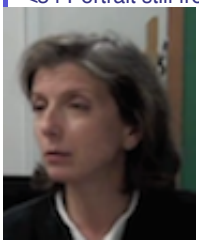
Thanks a ton Dr. Piety! I totally enjoyed your class and I can't wait to take more philosophy in the future. Your class was a ton of fun, and I learned a lot.

Thank you,
Reid

On Jun 12, 2019, at 8:58 PM, Piety,Marilyn Gaye <mp34@drexel.edu> wrote:

> Reid,
>
> I just finished grading all the assignments for this term, not including the final. Three people have total scores (not including the participation scores, which have yet to be calculated) in the 130s. You are one of those people. I have decided that you all do not have to do the final-exam essay. All three of you have had work that is of such consistently high quality, and you are so far ahead of the rest of the class, that I cannot imagine any way that the final would change your grade. I am giving each of you an A+ and excusing you from the final. I know Drexel's curriculum is pretty demanding and that this is a very stressful time of the term. I figured you might appreciate having one less final to do.
>
> That said, I would be very happy to look at a final essay from you if you would like to submit one. You don't have to get it in by the deadline, however, you could send it to me whenever you had the time to get to it and I would be happy to give you some feedback on it.
>
> Congratulations!
>
> It was a real pleasure having you in the class!
>
> Marilyn
>
> M.G. Piety
> Professor of Philosophy
> Department of English and Philosophy
> Drexel University
> 3250-60 Chestnut Street
> Philadelphia, PA 19104
>
> Website: mgpiety.org
> Blog: pietyonkierkegaard.com
>
> <34 Portrait still from video.tiff>

<34 Portrait still from video.tiff>



From: **Erin Bailey** nire46@gmail.com
Subject: The Good Place
Date: February 11, 2018 at 11:49 AM
To: M.G. Piety mp34@drexel.edu

EB

Hello!

I don't know if you remember me or not, but I took one of your classes 2 years ago, and I'm sure you've already heard of it, but I've been watching the show "The Good Place" and the show touches on a lot of the topics we talked about in our class, and I can say that I've enjoyed it much more because of your lectures!
So anyway, I wanted to thank you again for that, but also, if you haven't been watching it, I'm sure you'd enjoy it!

Hope you're still doing well! I think your class was one of the most influential that I had at Drexel, and I still think about the things from The Republic quite frequently!

Thanks!

Thank you again for your time, I truly appreciate it! ☺

Erin K. Bailey
Drexel University
Software Engineering
Nire46@gmail.com

From: Yelena Grinshpun <lbgdu08@gmail.com>
Subject: **Thank you, Professor**
Date: February 17, 2013 11:34:07 PM EST
To: mp34@drexel.edu

Dear Professor Piety:

I am not sure if you remember me, but my name is Yelena Grinshpun and I was in your Epistemology class back in 2009. I'm in law school now, and three months from graduating. I thought of you the other day during a conversation I was having with a fellow student. I remembered the first in-class assignment you gave my class, and how I received a C on it. Senior year, a mostly A student, and here I got my first C. I remember having a panic attack and running to Professor Catudal's office in effort to drop your class. He told me to give you a chance. Anyway, I'll keep it short. Thank you. Thank you for teaching me how to write concisely. I had minored in Philosphy because I knew it would teach me to be a better writer, but all I really needed was your class. And, when I think about my favorite professors at Drexel, you always come to mind.

Thanks, and I hope that you are doing well.

Kindest regards,

Yelena Ginshpun

--

Yelena Grinshpun
215.876.5376

From: "Porter,Abioseh" <abiosehp@drexel.edu>
Subject: **Sharing**
Date: June 28, 2007 9:17:35 AM EDT
To: mp34@drexel.edu, manionm@drexel.edu
Cc: Jacques Catudal <catudal@catudal.org>

Dear [redacted] and Marilyn: As I was looking at the responses of our graduating seniors in their exit interviews, it struck me that I should share the good news below with you. Congratulations for a job well done! Abioseh.

What were the best courses you had outside your major?

My Philosophy courses. So much so that I picked up the Philosophy minor. I had Dr. [redacted] twice, particularly for technology-related subjects, including Philosophy of Technology (PHIL 351), Computer Ethics (PHIL 311). Metaphysics (PHIL 211) was by far my favorite Philosophy course. I had Dr. Piety for Metaphysics as well as for Epistemology. She challenged me most outside of my major—particularly with a paper I worked on to explain the Gettier problem. I still remember that paper as though I just wrote it. Talk about impact—Dr. Piety is a fine instructor indeed.

Abioseh Michael Porter, Ph.D.
Professor of English and Department Head
Editor, *JALA (Journal of the African Literature Association)*
Department of English and Philosophy
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Tel: (215) 895-2431/2448
Fax: (215) 895-1071
abiosehp@drexel.edu
www.drexel.edu/coas/engphil

Date: Tue, 14 Oct 2003 17:32:58 -0500
From: John Habich <jhabich@startribune.com>
Subject: Chimamanda
To: mp34@drexel.edu
Original-recipient: rfc822;mp34@drexel.edu

Dear Ms. Piety Foley (am I spelling Foley correctly):

I'm profiling the amazing young writer Chimamanda Adichie who says you are her favorite teacher in this country. I presume, perhaps incorrectly, that you were her writing or literature teacher? Could you give me some insights into her talent, and her astonishingly rapid development? One professional book critic to whom we sent a galley copy of "Purple Hibiscus" said, "It's almost impossible to believe that this could have been written by a 25-year-old." If we don't cross paths by phone, could you e-mail me some thoughts, about her style, her attitude, her choice of subject matter, her insights into personality and perhaps also the way she weaves the personal and the political. Thanks for whatever you might provide on short notice.

All best regards,
John Habich
Senior Culture Editor/ Star Tribune newspaper/ Minneapolis-St. Paul

Tyler Weith <tylerweith@gmail.com> August 13, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Marilyn Foley <mp34@drexel.edu>
Hello There

Dear Marilyn,

I wanted to reach out purely to say hello. After graduating in June I immediately started work at a horse farm in North Carolina. I have been working very very hard. However, I could not be happier. I wanted to thank you for your guidance at one of the most confusing and challenging times in my life. Deciding to follow my passion with horses was encouraged by a lot of people, but your thoughts and reasoning has always stuck with me.

As I take on this new journey, I constantly refer to what I learned at Drexel. A lot of what I took I learned in your classes. The real world parallels you constantly made with philosophy has provided me with so many ways to view the world and challenge the norm.

I hope Drexel is great and you have some awesome classes with enthusiastic students this fall. I only wish I could take another one of your classes. Enjoy the rest of your summer and know I can't thank you enough for your guidance while at Drexel. You were right that following your passion is the only way to find happiness...and that although we can love our possessions, a materialist focus in life is not fulfilling.

All the best,
Tyler

--
Tyler F. Weith
HiHopes Farm
Tel: 802-598-2663