HUMA 11500 15 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Magnus Ferguson

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **12**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
The ability to close read texts, make interpretive claims about the broader text using supporting evidence in the text, as well as making connections between different parts of the text. Engage and read classic texts critically and carefully.
Much historical context that gave place to many of the views we share today. I engaged with very profound texts that explores themes I hadn't come across before, such as ethics and divinity – from a perspective quite distant from the one I have known up until now. I now can read texts in detail, focus much on the words and provide good analyses and justifications for what is meant in the writing.
I learned about how to analyze and write about classical philosophical texts. I also learned a lot about the ideas seen throughout Platonic and Aristotelian philosophy.
I learned a lot about what Greek philosophers thought and how they came to arguments
We learned how to write philosophical analyses of ancient texts and extract critical information from each text. Through this, I believe that I became much better in my argumentative writing abilities since most of the writing revolved around reconstructing arguments made by authors (Socrates, Aristotle, etc.) and either using them to argue a point or extending them to use in different contexts. I also learned how to annotate my readings more efficiently.
Analyzing and discussing fundamental philosophical texts.
Philosophy in general, how to write and read philosophy
I learned how to write close analyses and I became more knowledgable on the contributions on Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Boethius to philosophy.
How to think critically about the words of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The in–class discussions were phenomenally helpful and offered a lot of insight into what could be written on papers. Office hours was also very helpful. Papers were good for developing writing skills but were often quite crunched for time.
The class discussions were great to give nuance to our readings, consider the relevance of different specific passages and overall gave me much confidence in my own experience with each text because it reassured me that I didn't have to fully grasp everything to be able to consider it. Office hours were the best resource before papers were due, they helped shape my ideas and get me on track with the assignment. The writing seminars helped in teaching me how to re–read my own work and consider its arguments from scratch, as presented in my writing and not my own head.
The discussion sections really helped to further my learning, as I was able to speak with my peers and the professor about the concepts explored in the reading. This gave me a deeper understanding, as I was able to hear different perspectives.
In class discussions were very good for clearing up confusing portions of the text; the professor often also gave relevant context that helped us understand the text.
The reading gave me much greater perspective
I think lectures/discussions were great since Magnus was very open–minded regarding what students would say and would often try to expand upon the conversations continued by students or turn conversations in certain directions; these lectures greatly supplemented what I was learning in readings. Furthermore, I think the readings were good because they weren't too long, but they also were very carefully selected so that we could understand the discussion questions better for the next class. Lastly, I enjoyed how we were given discussion questions, since this gave us a structured way to learn the text in class.
Prof. Ferguson does mini–lectures before every reading to ensure we have the context. He then does a great job facilitating discussion while providing his own insights.
The lectures were very helpful, and the discussions during class was interesting
The professor had very valuable and interesting background information to offer on the reading material.
The discussions in class were great and I always felt like I came away thinking something new.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.25	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	58.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.42	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.17	4.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	41.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.33	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	58.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.25	4.50	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.42	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.42	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Ferguson is an incredible professor who will make sure you come out of the class knowing more about philosophy and are willing to discuss it in many different contexts.
Very interesting!
Overall, I would recommend this course to anyone at all interested in philosophy and thinking about metaphysics and ethics.
The professor is very willing to help students outside of class and is very receptive to student suggestions.
Magnus is great you should pre–reg him

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Professor Ferguson drove in–class discussions well, and he balanced letting students share insights with making sure the discussion was progressing in a good direction.
The professor was great at leading discussions, staying focused, and is extremely dedicated to the subject matter. I really enjoyed his comments and sometimes jokes, he really added to the classroom atmosphere.
I believe that offering us historical context for the readings really helped me gain a deeper comprehension and appreciation for the texts. Also, having us break up into groups to speak about reading questions helped me hear different perspectives which offered a deeper understanding.
He was very helpful and gave a lot of food for thought.
I think he was very open–minded and allowed lots of discussion and lots of perspectives from different individuals; he was able to synthesize everything and give a clear, defined perspective at the end however.
Everything was great.
His facilitation of the discussions and the questions he asked regarding our reading
I really appreciated the extra information to widen my scope.
The way he led discussions was great! He would expand on the students thoughts without taking over the discussion!

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
A bit more discussion apart from the. book, as we mostly stuck to the text and didn't discuss the implications of the text much beyond the immediate background of the text.
It would be good to know the pages for the reading assignments with more notice, I would say a week. Even if they're not too long, it would help us plan our time better and get a closer reading.
I wish we knew what the reading assignment was earlier, as sometimes I feel like I don't have enough time to read deeply and fully appreciate the ideas being put forth in the texts.
Give readings with more prior notice. A week advance would nice to help plan my time
I think that the essays could be a bit shorter, since these took away from some of the enjoyment of the class.
N/A
More lectures would have been nice
I would have preferred the small group discussions to be structured differently. Or if the slides used in class were posted on Canvas.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.33	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	58.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.55	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	75.00%	8.33%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.50	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.58	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	83.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.58	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	83.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.58	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.58	5.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	83.33%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.
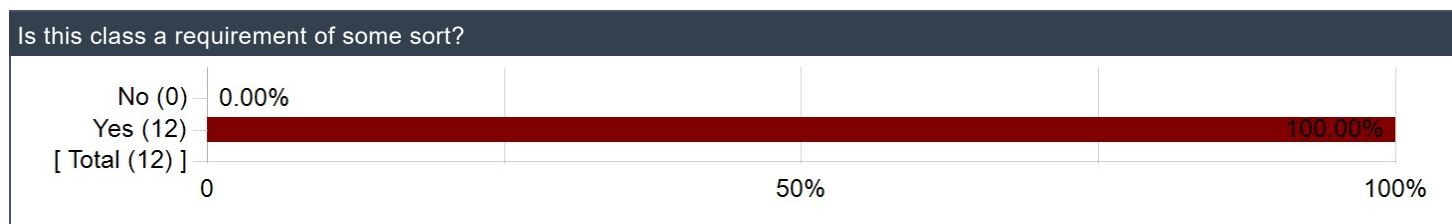
Comments
Michael Ossman
Michael Ossman

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

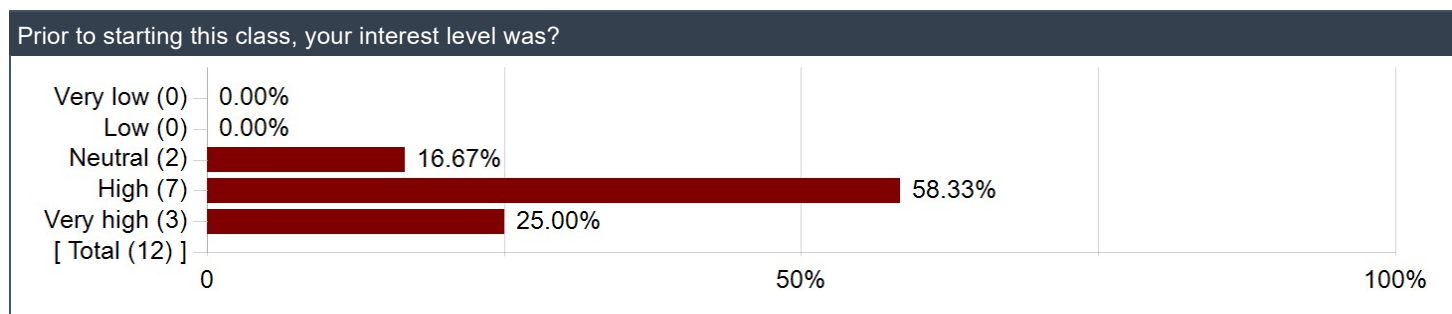|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.40	3.00	0.00%	10.00%	60.00%	10.00%	20.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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No (0)      0.00%
Yes (12)    ████████████████████████████████████ 100.00%
[ Total (12) ]
            0                    50%                   100%
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Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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Very low (0)   0.00%
Low (0)        0.00%
Neutral (2)    ██████ 16.67%
High (7)       ████████████████████ 58.33%
Very high (3)  █████████ 25.00%
[ Total (12) ]
               0                50%                 100%
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Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (7)	58.33%
Heightened (5)	41.67%
[Total (12)]	
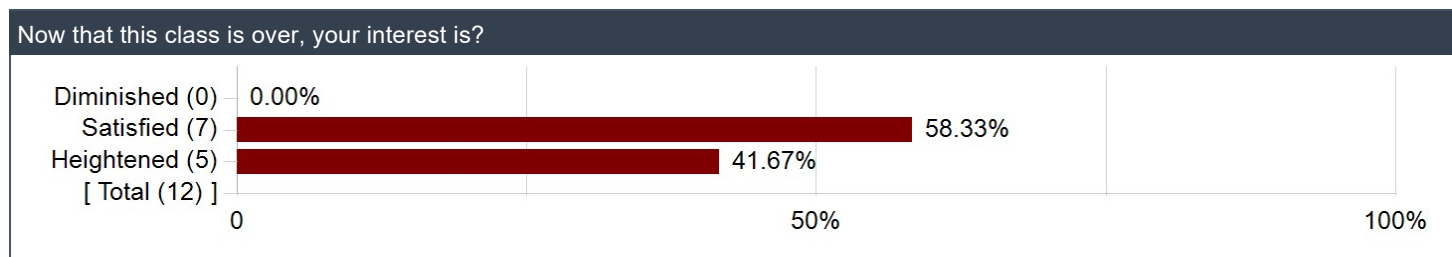
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
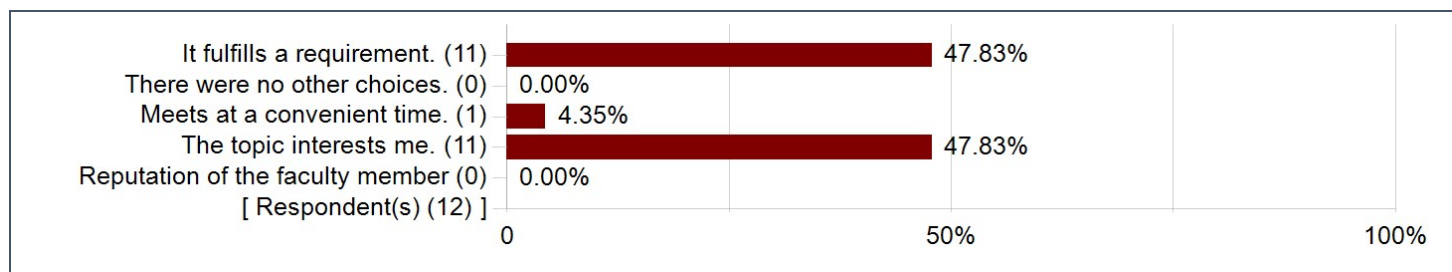
It fulfills a requirement. (11)	47.83%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (1)	4.35%
The topic interests me. (11)	47.83%
Reputation of the faculty member (0)	0.00%
[Respondent(s) (12)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

<5 hours (4)	33.33%
5-10 hours (7)	58.33%
10-15 hours (1)	8.33%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (12)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (0)	0.00%
75% (0)	0.00%
All (12)	100.00%
[Total (12)]	
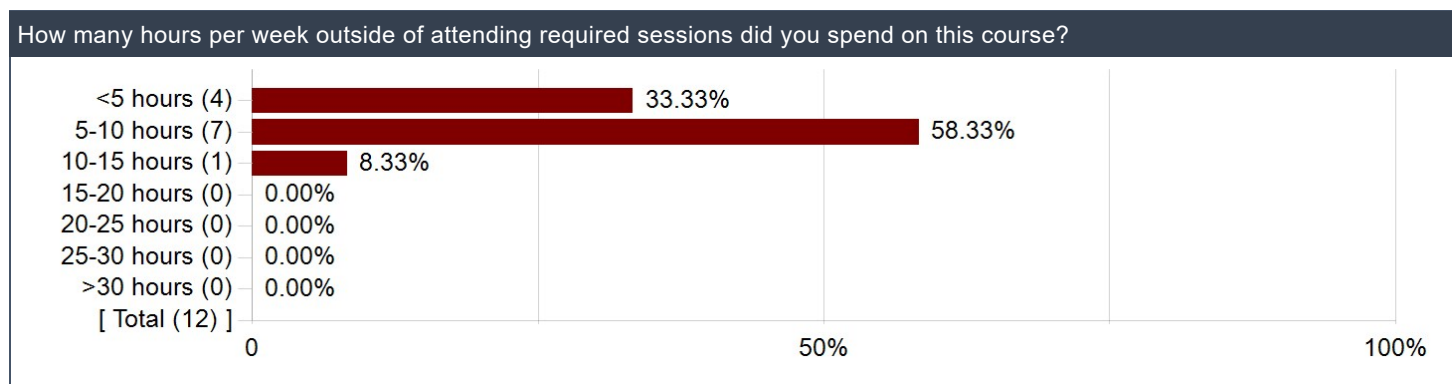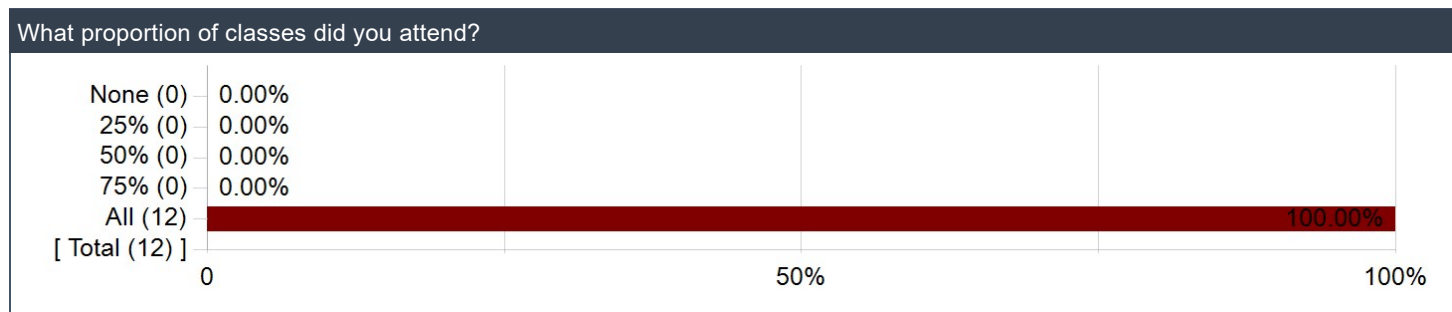
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Was a solid writer, never learned philosophy, came out of the course much more confident in both.
If you aren't interested in philosophy it can be complicated since it deals with really abstract concepts and theories about them. I was super interested, and although I hadn't developed the habit of reading much in high school, it felt quite manageable. If it ever got a little complicated I'd go to office hours, which got me back on track.
I wouldn't say that the course was incredibly difficult, but it was super interesting.
It was not very difficult and the workload was not too high
It wasn't difficult but was enjoyable
I don't think it was too difficult if you put the work in
Should be okay.
Very doable.