



HUMA 11500 5 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Anubav Vasudevan

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **14**

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**

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

| Comments |
|---|
| questioning actions |
| In this class, I learned a lot about how to thoughtfully engage in philosophical discussions and write introductory philosophical essays. |
| The most important things I learned in this course is to think in different angles, especially from a philosopher's point of view, on certain issues. More importantly, the course gave me the realization that many topics don't have simple, certain, direct answers. We nevertheless deliberate on such topics to build our individual philosophical construct. |
| I learned to be more interesting (philosophically) |
| The most important things I learned from this course were the introductory skills associated with properly analyzing philosophical texts and writing a basic short philosophical paper. Both skills involved learning how to reconstruct a philosopher's argument (often times in a simpler/less dense format) and how to analyze said argument (namely, how to construct a claim concerning the argument put forth by the philosopher before analyzing and critiquing it through possible counter-arguments and counter-examples). |
| Virtue ethics kinda based tho |
| I learned how to read philosophical papers and understand the different ideas in philosophy. ive gained more exposure to the different philosophical perspectives that ive never had exposure to before |
| How to read philosophical texts and write philosophical papers |
| How to approach philosophical texts. |
| Exposure to the philosophical texts of Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle amongst others served as an incredible introduction to philosophy as a subject. |
| I learned a lot about the structure of a philosophy paper and how to critique an argument and offer my own opinions. |
| I learned how to carry a deeper discussion on philosophical texts, which I had never done before. |

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

| Comments |
|--|
| discussions were good |
| We were assigned very manageable amounts of reading each class, which helped me to be prepared for our discussions. I would say that this was a more lecture-esque class as there was not tons of room for student participation, but our professor consistently engaged with the students nonetheless. |
| The course's discussions helped me to gain many perspectives from different people and direct me in ways of thinking I wouldn't think of otherwise. |
| discussions helped me know how to think more deeply and philosophically. |
| In-class discussions based upon the provided readings contributed the most to my learning in that they both covered content relevant to the forthcoming essays as well as involved compelling arguments which helped me to better understand what claims I should lay out in my own philosophical paper. |
| Additionally, the writing seminars were useful exercises in receiving live feedback on my papers (from both peers as well as a more learned writer). |
| discussions were hit or miss, but the hits hit hard |
| the seminar style class was effective in helping me discuss and hear my peers' ideas and also was interesting to hear professor anubav's insights in class |
| In-class discussions helped with understanding texts that were otherwise difficult to understand |
| His lectures were interesting. |
| Listening and participating in in-class discussions were incredibly helpful in understanding the content (which was relatively difficult to grasp at first). Professor Vasudevan kept discussions engaging and informative. |
| The texts that we read were quite difficult so it was helpful to unpack them during class. The Writing Seminars were also great. |
| The seminars were very engaging, and there were often places to put input. |

Please respond to the following:

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| This course challenged me intellectually. | 4.64 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 7.14% | 21.43% | 71.43% |
| I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it. | 4.29 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 7.14% | 0.00% | 50.00% | 42.86% |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments. | 3.93 | 4.00 | 7.14% | 0.00% | 14.29% | 50.00% | 28.57% |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments. | 4.14 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 21.43% | 42.86% | 35.71% |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 4.43 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 7.14% | 0.00% | 35.71% | 57.14% |
| My work was evaluated fairly. | 4.50 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 7.14% | 35.71% | 57.14% |
| I felt respected in this class. | 4.50 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 7.14% | 35.71% | 57.14% |
| Overall, this was an excellent course. | 4.57 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 7.14% | 28.57% | 64.29% |

Additional comments about the course:

| Comments |
|----------|
| None. |

I would recommend this course to:

| | No | Yes |
|---|-------|---------|
| Highly-motivated and well-prepared students | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Anyone interested in the topic | 7.14% | 92.86% |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| allowing discussion, and less lecture |
| His lectures and questioning. |
| Instructor gives us many philosophical scenarios that help us to think in a certain way. In addition, he present many questions in a very clean, straightforward way that help us to think of the philosophical nuances behind them very easily. |
| his knowledge and interpretations of the books, which he prompted during class. |
| I believe the professor's ability to manage in-class discussions contributed the most to our learning. At certain times, the professor was willing to entertain tangents which allowed us students to explore deeper the philosophical concepts he sought to introduce to us through the texts. At other times, the professor curtailed irrelevant discussions so that we could properly discuss the other major points of the text. While not always perfectly executed, I found the professor perfectly sufficient in this skill. |
| He allowed us to take longer than the time allotted for certain topics during class discussion in order to explore interesting tangents and dig deeper |
| I really liked how professor anubav always had insights and really facilitated the discussions in class |
| In-class discussion helped with understanding the text |
| His thought-provoking questions. |
| Discussions and Office Hours (especially with impending essay deadlines) were incredibly informative and helped me understand the topic. |
| It was helpful to get a rundown of the major elements of the text before we began our discussion and questions. |
| Anubav was very personable and enjoyed conversing with us using analogies and speech that treated the students as equals. This helped us in being able to engage with the content and within the class. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

| Comments |
|--|
| maybe more structure in the discussion |
| Be a bit more clear on the expectations for assignments. |
| The instructor could write more notes (such as logical derivation steps) on the blackboard to clarify/track the discussion in a clearer way. |
| With some of the more dense texts, I believe the class could be improved if more time was dedicated towards lecture concerning the text at hand rather than a constant focus on discussion-based learning. For me, this was my first philosophical/philosophy-esque course; as such, while I always appreciated our in-class discussions, I sometimes felt as if I wished the professor would just explain the relevant concepts of the text at hand instead of always forcing us to slowly finally come to the relevant conclusions through discussion. |
| Maybe breakout groups??? |
| give more space for students to talk, as some classes he talked more than other classes |
| More participation from students. Sometimes felt like Prof was speaking too much during class time. |
| Not go off tangent as much. |
| Perhaps less lecture style and more opening for discussions. |
| The expectations for the papers could be a bit clearer |
| I'm not sure, I did not have any particular issues. |

The Instructor . . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Organized the course clearly. | 4.14 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 7.14% | 14.29% | 35.71% | 42.86% | 0.00% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding. | 4.58 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 7.14% | 21.43% | 57.14% | 14.29% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful. | 4.43 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 14.29% | 28.57% | 57.14% | 0.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 4.21 | 4.50 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 28.57% | 21.43% | 50.00% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.43 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 7.14% | 7.14% | 21.43% | 64.29% | 0.00% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content. | 4.29 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 14.29% | 42.86% | 42.86% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.38 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 21.43% | 14.29% | 57.14% | 7.14% |
| Motivated you to think independently. | 4.43 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 21.43% | 14.29% | 64.29% | 0.00% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. | 4.43 | 4.50 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 7.14% | 42.86% | 50.00% | 0.00% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.50 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 14.29% | 21.43% | 64.29% | 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 |
|---|
| Katie Howe. Her writing seminar and detailed feedback on our essay drafts contributed a lot to my learning and helped me to see many aspects of my writing that's hard to follow and need more clarification. She also helped me to see the assumptions I made in the writing. One thing she could do more is to create more instructional writing videos like the one on argument reconstruction she sent us at the beginning of the quarter. |
| Name: Katie Howe Role: Writing Seminar Instructor |
| Katie led the 3 Writing Seminars for this Humanities Core sequence. I found that Katie provided excellent and helpful live feedback on my philosophical papers. My feedback would be to dedicate more time during Writing Seminars to allowing students to provide feedback to their fellow students on their philosophical papers; while the first Writing Seminar on Argument Reconstruction was very helpful, I did not derive as much value from the second Writing Seminar on how to write an argument, for example. |
| Katie was really helpful in giving specific feedback for essays during the writing seminars. |
| Katie Howe |
| Our Writing Seminar Instructor was Katie Howe. I liked that our seminars were small groups so everyone got to participate and have their questions addressed about papers, the readings, etc. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Facilitated discussions that supported your learning. | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Gave you useful feedback on your work. | 4.40 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 60.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class. | 3.80 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 20.00% | 20.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Helped you succeed in the class. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |

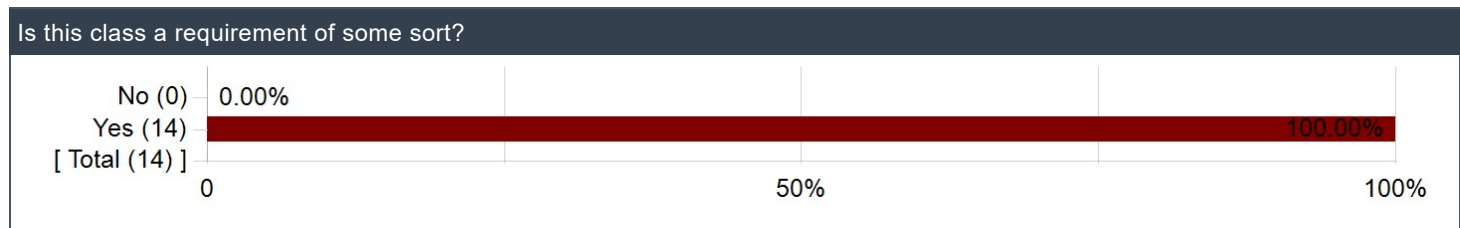
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

| | Mean | Median | No Gain | A Little Gain | Moderate Gain | Good Gain | Great Gain | N/A |
|-----------------------|------|--------|---------|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Laboratory Experience | 1.00 | 1.00 | 18.18% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 81.82% |
| Field Trips | 1.00 | 1.00 | 18.18% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 81.82% |
| Library Sessions | 1.00 | 1.00 | 18.18% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 81.82% |
| Review Sessions | 1.67 | 1.00 | 18.18% | 0.00% | 9.09% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 72.73% |
| Writing Seminars | 4.15 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 7.69% | 15.38% | 30.77% | 46.15% | 0.00% |

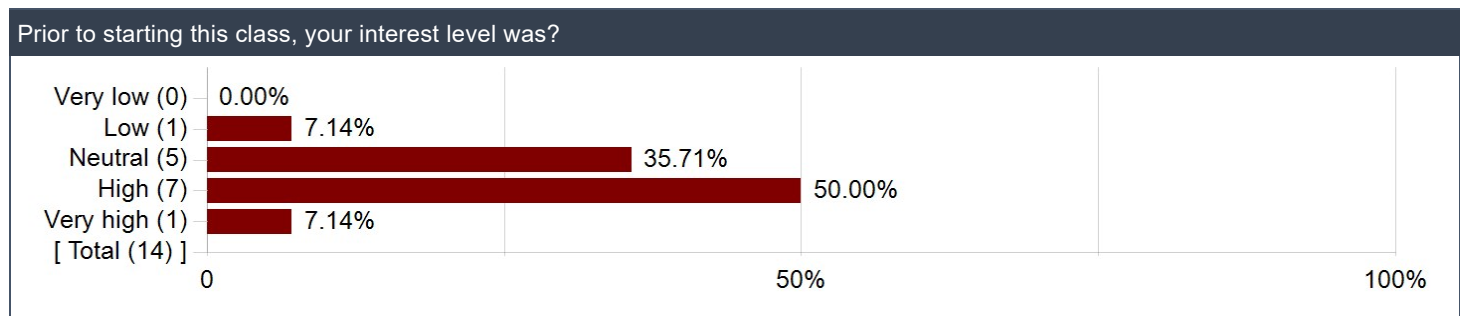
Other course elements not mentioned above:

| Comments |
|----------|
| N/A. |

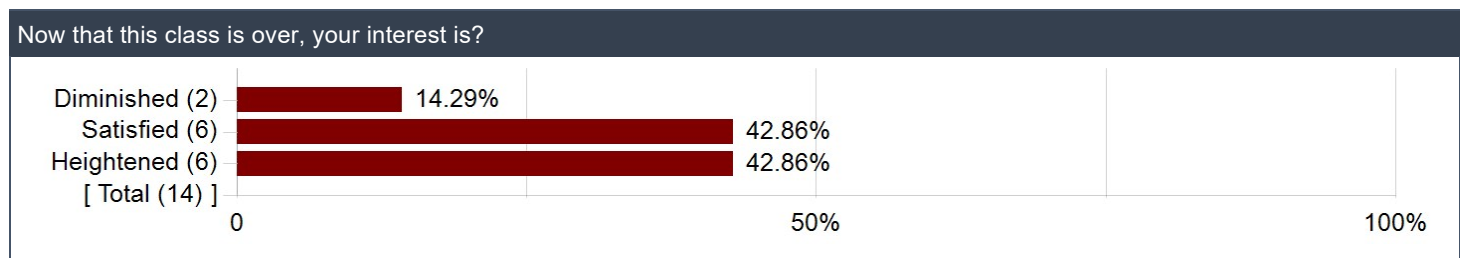
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



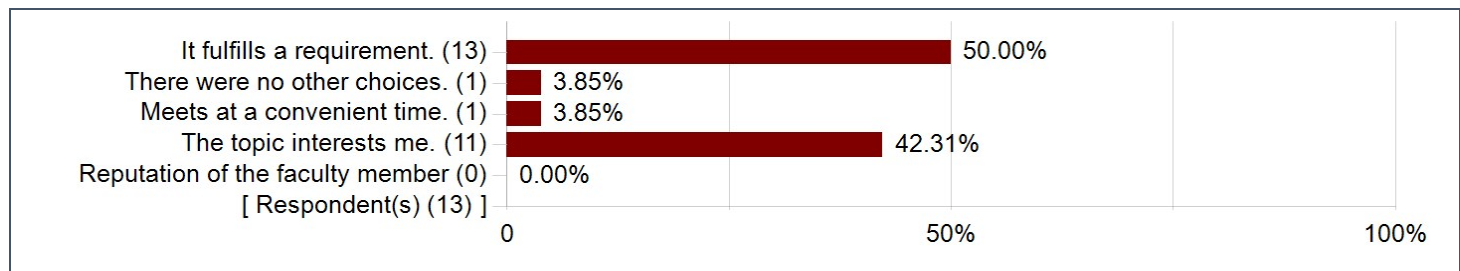
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



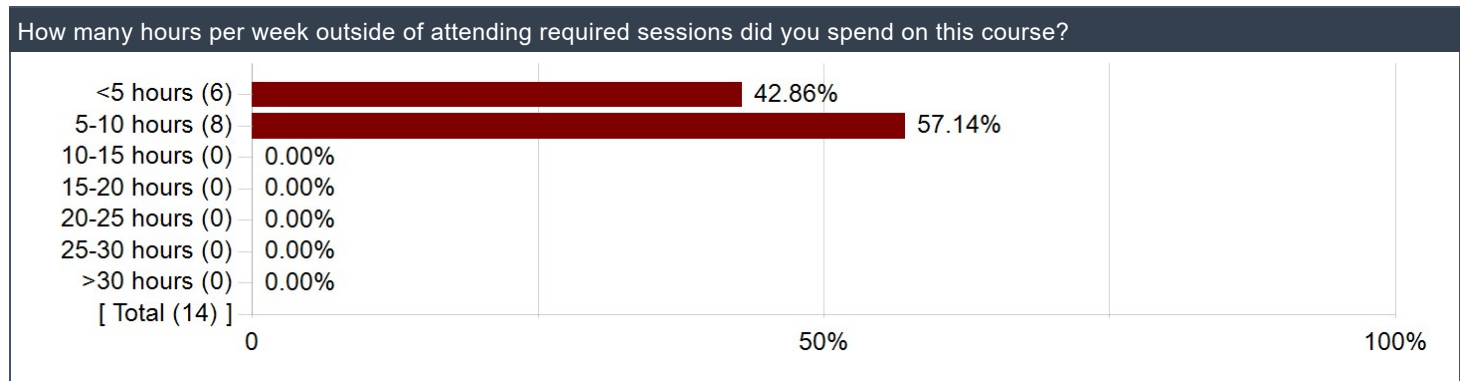
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



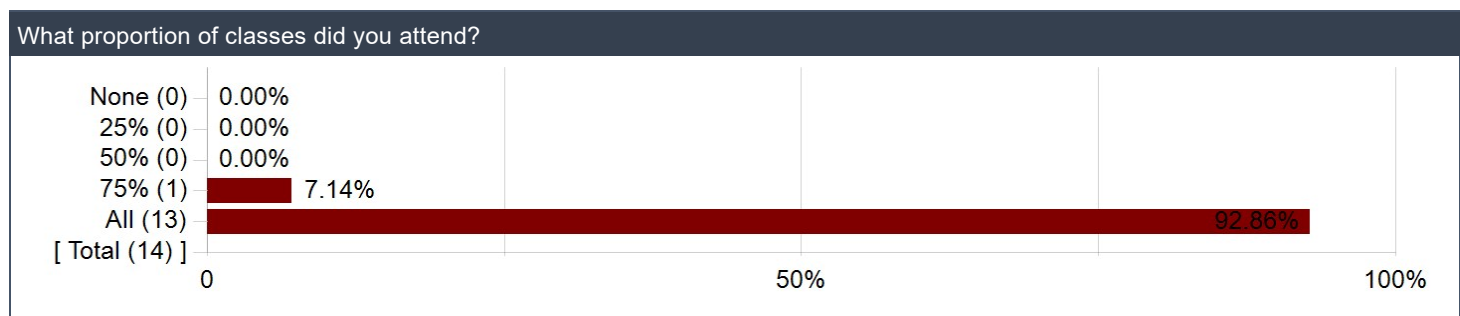
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

| Comments |
|--|
| I would say it's accessible to anyone |
| The course has a moderate level of difficulty relative to my background and experience. The philosophical discussions and essay topics definitely furthered my understanding of philosophy and enrich my perspectives on viewing things fundamental to our lives. |
| Content was not too challenging – there were not too many technical things. However, I think interpreting and writing things philosophically was the difficult part. |
| I came into this course with only a basic understanding of philosophy, especially the philosophy of the Ancient Greeks. I found my experience in AP Literature and AP Language & Composition to be helpful in terms of understanding generally how to analyze a text and write a proper essay. Still, I find it important to note that writing a philosophical paper is VERY different from writing a normal Humanities paper; if you want a class that functions as mostly of a continuation of your experience in HS English classes, then this is NOT the course to choose. |
| EZ dub |
| i had no philosophy experience so the texts took time to digest and understand |
| No philosophy background. Challenging but manageable |
| Relatively challenging but academically fulfilling. I had no previous formal instruction in philosophy. |
| I did not have much of a background in philosophy, but since it was an introductory course for freshmen, I did not feel that I was behind. It was a great introductory class to philosophy. |
| I have no experience with philosophical texts as well as some minor comprehensive issues, so it was challenging for me at times, but regardless rewarding. |