



# HUMA 11500 2 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Kevin Davey

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **13**

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## Report Comments

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

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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
Writing and comprehension
Learned how to think about philosophical ideas by participating in discussion and reading philosophy texts. I believe my writing has improved and I've learned new skills on how to reconstruct philosophical arguments and defend my own arguments in essays.
Paper writing skills.
We learned to critically analyze the positions of ancient philosophers– primarily Socrates and Plato, but also Epicurus, Aristotle, and Seneca in the later weeks.
I learned how to interpret different philosophers as well as write papers on philosophy.
I learned about the ideas of ancient philosophers. I also learned how to reconstruct their arguments.
I learned different philosopher's views on death, emotions, and wisdom. In terms of writing, I learned how to reconstruct an argument.
I learned how to form cogent arguments with insightful objections and counter–claims, overall improving my argumentative skills
I learned a lot about the development of different philosophies, such as ethics, the social contract, and the advent of death. This course taught me how to deconstruct, evaluate, and explain arguments within philosophy, as well as develop my own.
How to write a philosophical argumentative paper
I learned argumentative construction and assessment with regards to philosophy
Writing skills and answering prompts specifically with the goal of analyzing philosophical beliefs and claims.
Interpreting textual language

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

Comments
Pretty solid lectures, participation–based, taught me to defend my point and question
The class discussions were helpful in bettering my understanding of the texts that we read for homework. The writing seminars were also very helpful in setting me in the right direction on an essay.
Discussed readings.
The lectures were the primary mode of actually reflecting on the readings, but the papers which honed in on a certain excerpt provided me with a more in–depth examination into the arguments of a given thinker than I would've had otherwise.
The discussions were helpful in explaining things I may have not understood in the reading.
I'd say that the readings contributed to my learning in the course. Little else did, to be honest.
Lectures helped me gain a clearer picture of the philosopher's argument
Open discussion and building off of one another's ideas in a round–table style was helpful
The lectures/discussions were very helpful to my understanding of the material as they allowed me to find out what other people thought about the readings and different ways to look at the arguments. The required papers forced me to organize my thoughts and be cohesive and concise in my argumentation
Discussion were mostly debates on our opinions on the topic the author was talking about, more than actually discussing what he was saying, but I liked it. Papers on the other hand were focused on what the author argued for.
The lectures and expected readings were great because they did not just include chunks of work but also specified certain extracts that we could focus on in more detail– so that was great in understanding and remembering the important parts better. Additionally the discussions were centered around having back and fro responses, which helped imagine arguments and counter arguments for what was being discussed. Additionally the instructor always provided a good background and deeper insight about the books that were not being read, so as to ensure that we were not skipping anything even if we were not able to read entire books.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.69	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	23.08%	38.46%	23.08%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.85	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	61.54%	15.38%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.38	4.00	7.69%	15.38%	23.08%	38.46%	15.38%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	2.92	3.00	0.00%	38.46%	38.46%	15.38%	7.69%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	69.23%	15.38%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.85	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	46.15%	23.08%
I felt respected in this class.	4.23	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	46.15%	38.46%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.77	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	46.15%	23.08%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
N/A
Professor Davey is a good professor, and more broadly a good-natured person. He heavily moderates the discussion, often summarizing the readings that we were meant to do for that class, and then poses questions for people to respond to. He doesn't really allow for discourse student-to-student, which was a bit disappointing. He also doesn't really allow any person to talk more than twice a class, which is fair to those who haven't spoken but can be a little frustrating if you only spoke briefly.
It wasn't quite what I expected; if you're looking into this class because you think you'll be discussing philosophical questions and their implications, it's less of that and more of readings from philosophers as a whole
Discussion were a bit boring, but it was fun to just discuss our own point of views and arguing for them

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	15.38%	84.62%
Anyone interested in the topic	16.67%	83.33%

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

Comments
Lecture format
Was helpful how he led the discussions by giving a summary of the topics discussed in the text, then asks questions for everyone to then discuss.
Facilitated discussion
Lectures, feedback on essays, asking questions one-on-one
The way he was able to explain the arguments of the philosophers.
Honestly, nothing. I didn't particularly like my professor's teaching style.
highlighting quotes from the text to pay close attention during the reading
Posing thoughtful questions to the class and prompting responses building off of other students' responses
He helped explain the readings and asked questions to help us understand ours and each others thoughts.
He always welcomed when someone gave their opinion and he tried to understand what each person was saying and make sure everyone understood clearly to favour discussion. Also, the pdf's and the excerpts provided on canvas were super helpful.
excerpts of the texts stayed on focus to the points of discussion
The manner in which he conducted class was not only engaging but also thought provoking. I liked the fact that they did not focus on specific analysis of words or certain parts of the text but rather stuck to the work as a whole and the more important questions it posed. This allowed us to think much more and ask very relevant questions– which was something I enjoyed thinking about and learning from.
Using quotes for reference

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Let the class question him
None
Allow for more free-form discussions, perhaps by setting aside a portion of time where he moderates as he does currently and a portion where students talk amongst one another on a focus question/topic
Maybe not talk as much and let other students share their opinions. Sometimes he would go on and on and take some of the things that I was going to say about the reading. Which isn't ideal considering participation is a grade.
The discussions were a bit poor. I always felt like the instructor was just asking whether or not his interpretation was correct, instead of asking us. We never really went in-depth into the texts. I also thought the essays weren't the best. They were always very specific and were very similar to one another. There were a lot of prompts about essentially the same conception of death, and a lot of prompts about reasoning and virtue. I just felt like we covered a very narrow aspect of these authors in the essays.
Less lecturing and more asking questions/potentially small group discussions? Having only large class discussions made it hard at times to stay in the conversation
Sometimes he would talk for the first half of the class and kind of say everything there was to say to it was a bit difficult to start an interesting discussion.
Open the floor to the students and the discussion itself, too much lecturing and not enough actual good discussion
Maybe explain/ focus a bit on paper expectations and what he expects when answering certain prompts.
More discussion

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	58.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.92	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	8.33%	41.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.58	4.00	8.33%	8.33%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.67	4.00	8.33%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	16.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	41.67%	25.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	50.00%	16.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.58	3.50	8.33%	0.00%	41.67%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.75	4.00	8.33%	0.00%	16.67%	58.33%	16.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	33.33%	33.33%	8.33%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%	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 was great, she helped so much with the writing seminars
Katie Howe: Was very helpful during writing seminars and the overall writing process with the essays.
Katie
Katie Howe; she was available to provide feedback and was very accommodating, but I found her feedback to be a bit nit-picky at times
Katie Howe was our writing specialist and she did a great job helping us edit our papers and giving us content to explain what we needed to do and how we needed to do it in terms of writing papers.
Katie Howie. The TA was very helpful and open to sending feedback to drafts. They provided more than required resources to ensure that we could write our best paper. The TA could maybe explain a bit more of what they look for when grading papers/ what the grading procedure includes so we could better understand what we were missing.

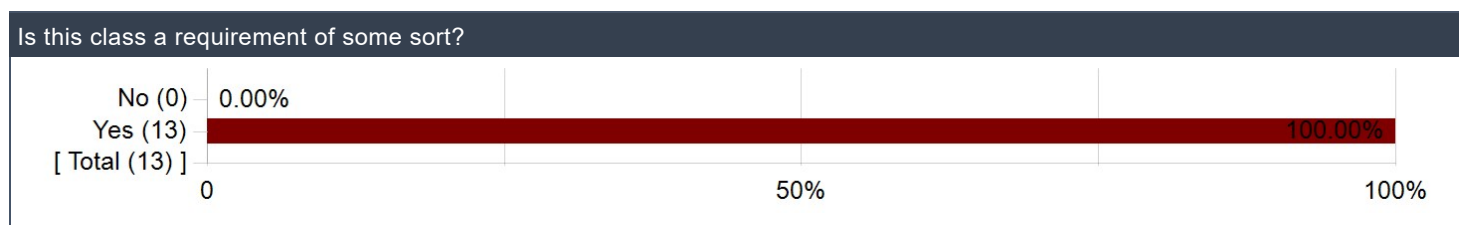
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	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%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%	16.67%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	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.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%	0.00%

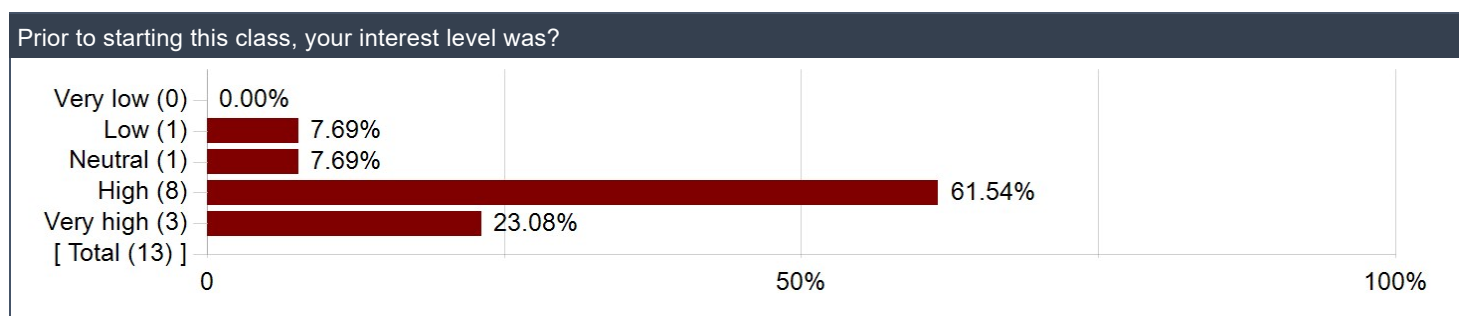
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.90	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	50.00%	20.00%	0.00%

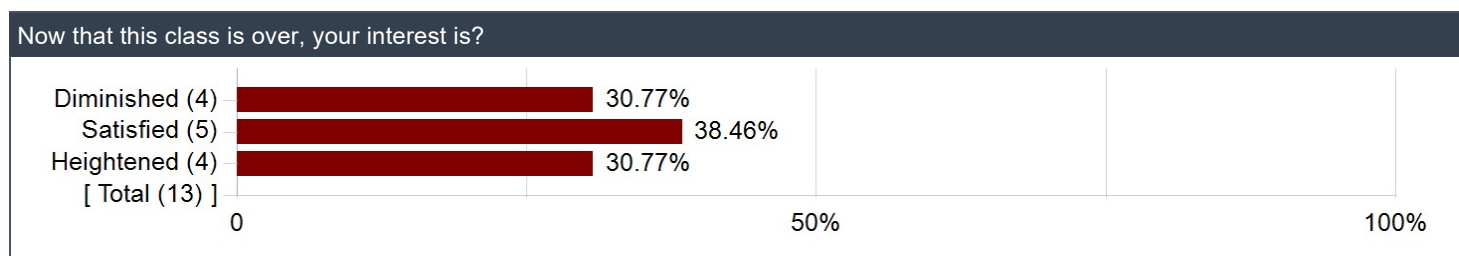
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



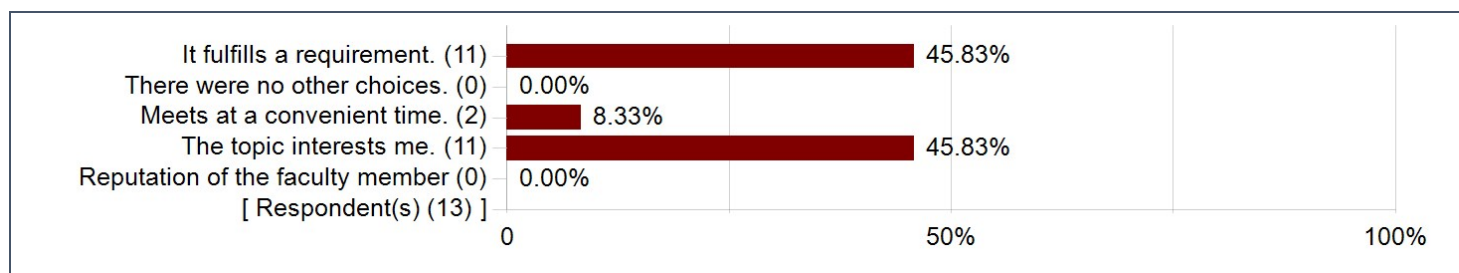
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



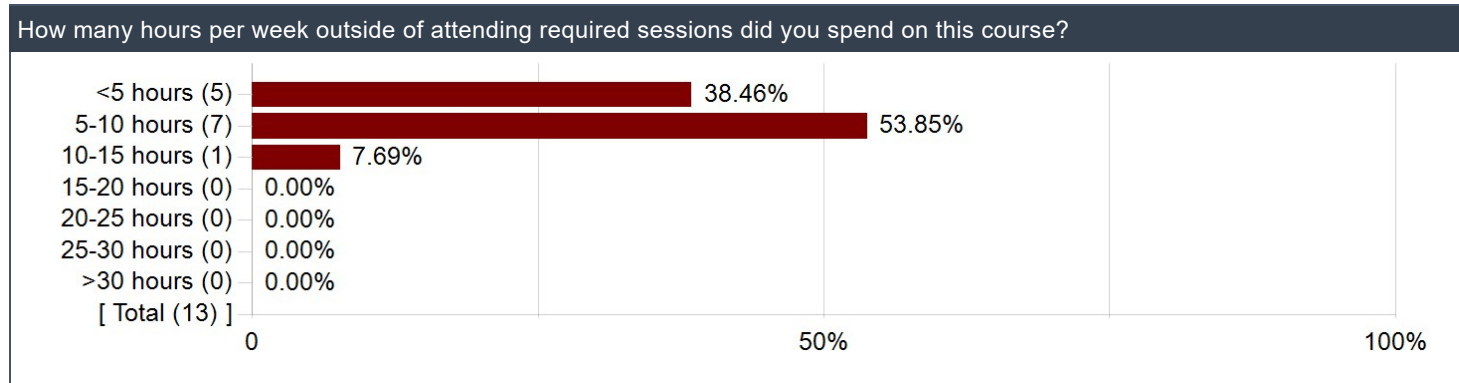
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



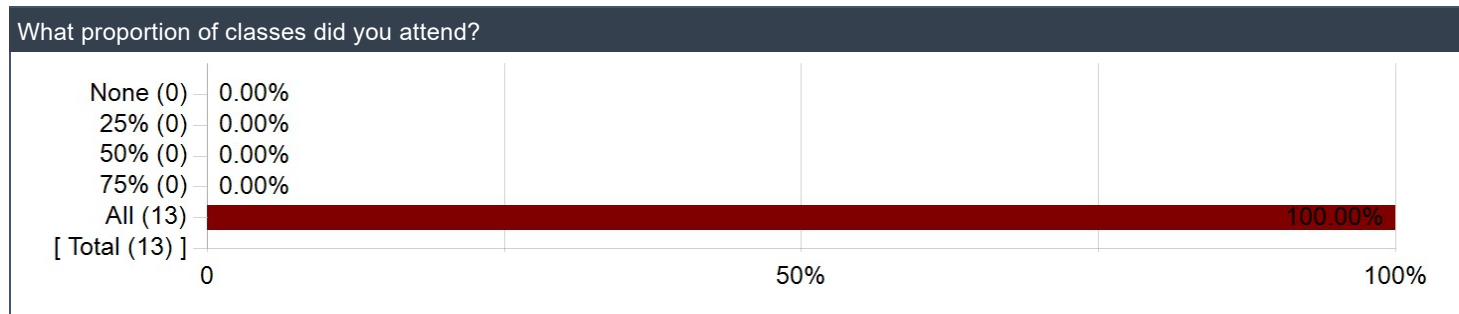
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Didn't need any background knowledge in philosophy
Standard writing course.
Not a difficult course in of itself, but Professor Davey is a tough essay grader. There was virtually no homework besides for the three 5 page essays, which consist of 80% of your grade. I had a pretty strong background in philosophy going into this class but did not perform wonderfully on the essays. If you are strong at polishing your writing and stripping your essay of any semantic inconsistencies that Davey could criticize, you'll be successful in this class.
It was pretty difficult. I didn't realize going in how different philosophy papers are.
It was very easy, in terms of engaging with the material.
Prior knowledge wasn't necessary in this course, could be useful in making claims about philosophical ideas in larger contexts
Lectures were super chill, didn't have to prepare at all. Papers are more challenging but also interesting to write so I enjoyed them.
The change from the IB was the fact that the page limit made me focus a lot more on conciseness and clarity, something I was not used to doing in the past. And so the majority of my time was spent in ensuring that what I was trying to communicate could be done in the most effective manner.