



# HUMA 11600 13 - Philosophical Perspectives II - Instructor(s): Melina Garibovic

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

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: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
The arguments Descartes makes for God; Hume's problem with causation and his model of empiricism
Descartes and Hume's main philosophies.
lesson we learned about descartes and hume
I learned about Descartes' philosophy and gained the skill of attempting to understand philosophical logic.
Skepticism through Decartes and Hume
If I am being honest, the course itself did not help me learn anything about the texts I was reading. She seemed to not know much about the texts themselves, or seemed rather unenthusiastic
How much I hate the discussion based courses when it is with a bad professor. Other than that, reading Hume and Descarte and comparing the styles of philosophy was cool.
Hume and Descartes Ideas. pretty interesting to know about I don't think i'll just forget what I learned it kind of sticks and reapplies when you think in life a lot
learned about david hume and rene descartes and some of their theories/ points of view
The philosophies of Descartes and Hume and the nature of the acquisition of human knowledge.
Improved my writing
This class juxtaposed the thought processes of Descartes and Hume very well. It also challenged me to dig into dryer philosophical texts and understand them well.

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

Comments
Class was spotty in usefulness. Sometimes it'd be very enlightening on what we read; othertime it'd be completely useless. Essay was vague but so broad that it was good review. Discussions weren't very useful (too niche or on a tangent).
Discussions were quite boring. We would only get through one tiny part of the text, and often I would leave more confused than I came in. I feel like I never got a clear answer to any of my questions from the professor, and was often much more inclined to ask a classmate.
writing seminars were somewhat useful when doing before a paper was due but after paper was due were kinda pointless. discussions were too long and most people after the first 40 minutes zone off or do there own thing
We only had 2 papers and lectures. The lectures were calm and not very helpful. The papers were fine but we only had two so it was hard to improve.
The discussions are nice, but not terribly well lead. The readings are short enough to fully digest each class.
This class wax extremely unstructured, everything seemed so last minute.
The writing specialist was great and whenever he led the class the discussions were amazing.
Not lectures ngl (really inefficient) (discussions with the writing seminar guy helped a lot) papers forced me to learn in depth
reading and researching on my own through youtube and other websites
The classes were helpful for explaining the difficult concepts present in the text. The papers were also helpful for really thinking through the author's framework.
Don't know
The writing workshops were invaluable for my essays.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.93	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	57.14%	21.43%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.43	4.00	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	42.86%	14.29%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	2.50	3.00	28.57%	14.29%	35.71%	21.43%	0.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	2.64	3.00	21.43%	21.43%	35.71%	14.29%	7.14%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.31	3.00	0.00%	7.69%	61.54%	23.08%	7.69%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	66.67%	8.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	57.14%	35.71%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	2.71	3.00	7.14%	35.71%	35.71%	21.43%	0.00%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Course was disorganized, prof not a great speaker, can be very confusing without prior knowledge of philosophy
Professor Garibovic was constantly failing to lead class discussion. She struggled to answer questions from students, and her responses were more confusing than helpful. Before this class, I had an active investment in philosophy, but her class discussions lead people to not read the book, and so less and less people talked in class as the year went on. We set out to read 12 enquiries of Hume and we only read 6. She sent the final essay prompt a week later than she said she would. I finally understand what the expression "bored to tears" means. On the upside, she got to class late every class.
i felt lost a lot of the time during discussions and felt like there was a lack of direction
The discussions were largely boring. I really like this topic, mostly because there's so many ways that the philosophy could be applied. However, most of the classes were spent talking about things that we had already read before the class. That is great for understanding the material, but it also made the class so, so boring. Yes, it helped clarify terms and ideas, but I already understood 85% of what I had read. If you manage to understand the reading before heading in, there's not much new or exciting going on in the class. I'm someone who always participates in discussions, provided they are interesting. The discussions were not interesting, and provided that I knew most of the people in my class from the previous quarter, I could tell that a number of people felt the same way. The beauty of engaging with this type of material is that you should have a right to challenge it or feel challenged—to explore things you have never thought of before. If (rarely, especially towards the second half of the course) a hypothetical question was posed, it would usually very uninteresting. Rarely anything to keep me interested in the material. Going to that class always felt like a waste of my time.
Also, I think the instructor clearly wanted us to get something out of it, but I think they should've considered the fact that most people are doing it for a requirement and will never take a philosophy class again. No one is going to remember specific terms or concepts, but they will remember how what they learn connects to the world outside of the text. The class would've been far more valuable to the students if it had focused less on directly talking about the readings. You can still learn a topic by exploring things adjacent to it.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	46.15%	53.85%
Anyone interested in the topic	61.54%	38.46%

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

Comments
She had a very strong understanding of the texts and tried to employ Socratic methods to get us to realize the answer ourselves. Just not particularly lively/energetic.
Discussions did not really help at all. I feel like we never really got anywhere during class, and would just go in circles without any real new understanding.
I will say the professor was generally quite nice though.
answering personal questions during discussion
The instructor was able to outline the content of the books in an understandable and helpful way.
She is quite nice and welcoming of anyone's ideas
It felt as though she was in her own head alot of the time and so I could never decider what she was trying to put forth.
N/A
going over what the section we read
i liked how ideas from different students were heard during class time and certain key words were highlighted
When she used the blackboard to map concepts.
Explained the topics.
Professor Garibovic did a great job of unraveling the intricacies of the philosophers' thoughts for us.

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

Comments
Maybe more review of the text at the beginning
Have an actual plan for the course. Come into class knowing what you want us to be able to take away, and actually make sure we get to it during the time. Some lectures/explanations from the professor would be super helpful, as we would often just go in circles of no one understanding and the professor continuing to ask the same question that no one understood.
The professor also did a crazy thing one time where she compared a student to Hitler just completely unprompted. The student was making a totally reasonable point, and the professor tried to respond with a "gotcha" that essentially compared the student to Hitler. Completely unnecessary comment and super unuseful to anyone's learning.
spend less time reviewing what we went over last class and spend more time explaining newer parts of the text and when there is silence, she provides help instead of restating the same question
More assignments would allow us to improve our skills and expand our understanding of the concepts.
She should probably rethink how she runs discussions because this class featured many awkward silences and dead-end discussions
The professor needs more structure and consistently be at the office hours she puts aside.
Preparing for class would be nice.
going over the section we read more than other tangents– providing study guides or notes, providing more deep notes than just the basicxs
having a better plan for each course and moving through content quicker so we can actually finish the entire book. having a clear answer to questions will also help us better understand what we are supposed to take away. i think having her own notes and own understanding of the text would help with that. for assignments, having clear goals and how we will be graded will help guide our essays much more
She could be more clear about what each class is going to cover/give the class more guidance, and how exactly certain assignments would be graded.
Felt disorganized, needed more structure and planning, and lack of assignments and unclear standards for success made it so that one paper was 30% of our grade.
Deliberate split between topic review and expansion of the reading. Cover things that haven't already been covered in the readings. Cover the implications of the topics. The class is almost 90 minutes. A 20-minute super review and an expanded (open) discussion is far more interesting than going over the reading for what feels like eternity.
Involve the students more in discussion.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	2.43	2.00	14.29%	42.86%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	2.67	3.00	28.57%	7.14%	21.43%	21.43%	7.14%	14.29%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	2.43	2.00	7.14%	50.00%	35.71%	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.00	3.00	7.14%	21.43%	35.71%	35.71%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.43	3.00	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	35.71%	7.14%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	2.92	3.00	7.69%	23.08%	38.46%	30.77%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.46	4.00	0.00%	28.57%	7.14%	42.86%	14.29%	7.14%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.43	4.00	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.92	4.00	7.14%	0.00%	21.43%	28.57%	35.71%	7.14%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	2.71	3.00	14.29%	21.43%	42.86%	21.43%	0.00%	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
John Lawrence
John Lawrence
John Lawrence
John Lawrence – he was amazing. The one lecture he lead was the best class we had all quarter.
John Lawrence
Dr. John Lawrence. Very knowledgable, provides great feedback and is easy to schedule writing appointments. One time he subbed in for our professor for one of our classes and i felt i learned SO much more in that time than i have in previous classes combined
John Lawrence did an incredible job with our writing workshops. I don't think there's much to change.

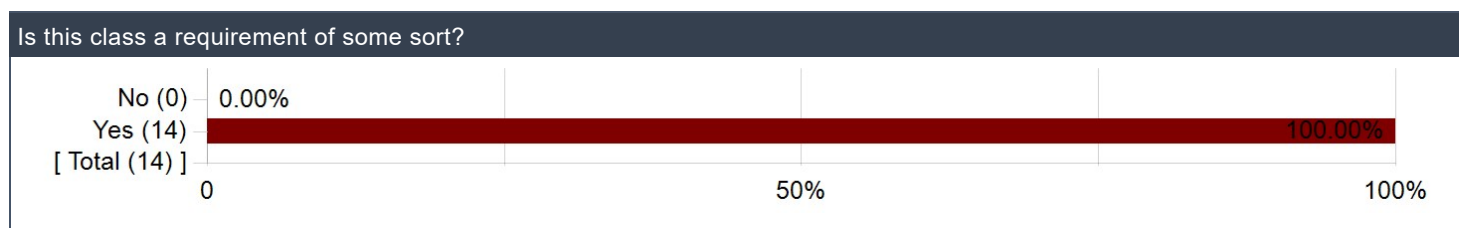
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%	14.29%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%	14.29%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	57.14%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.29	5.00	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%

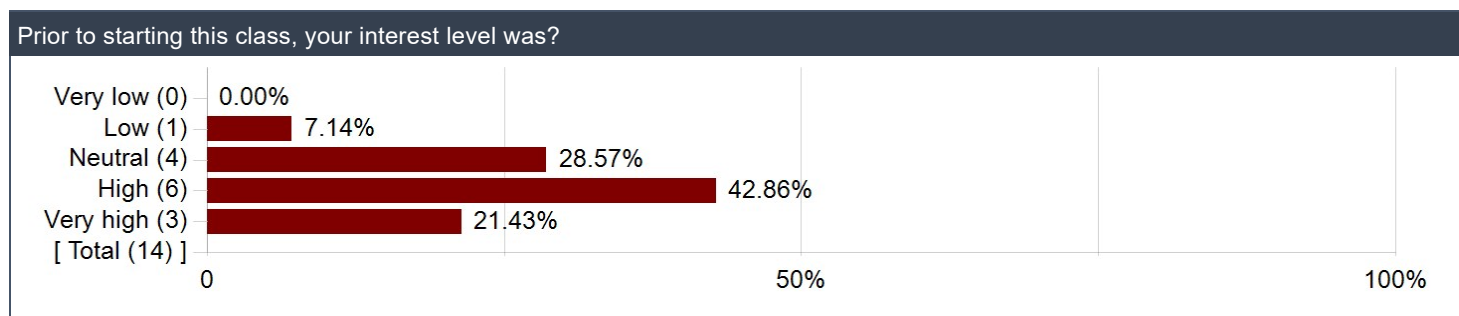
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.92	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	33.33%	41.67%	0.00%

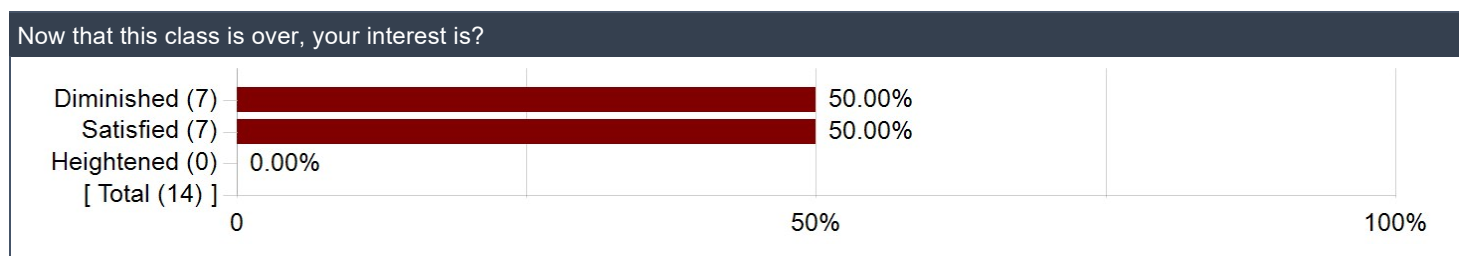
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



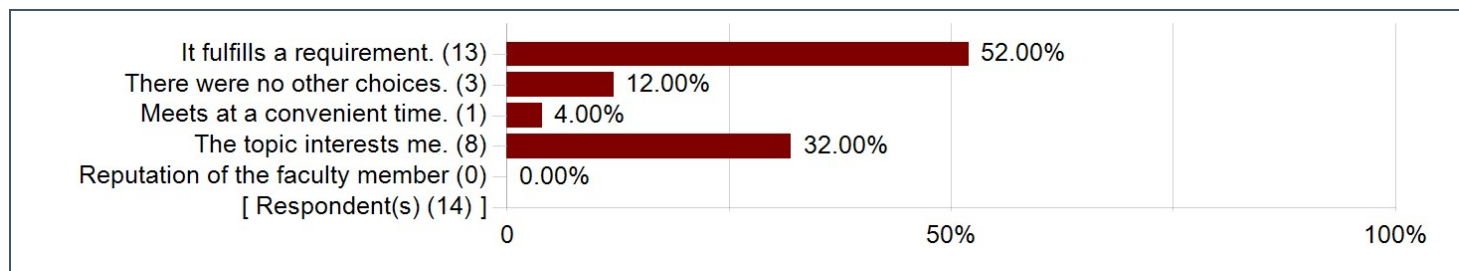
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



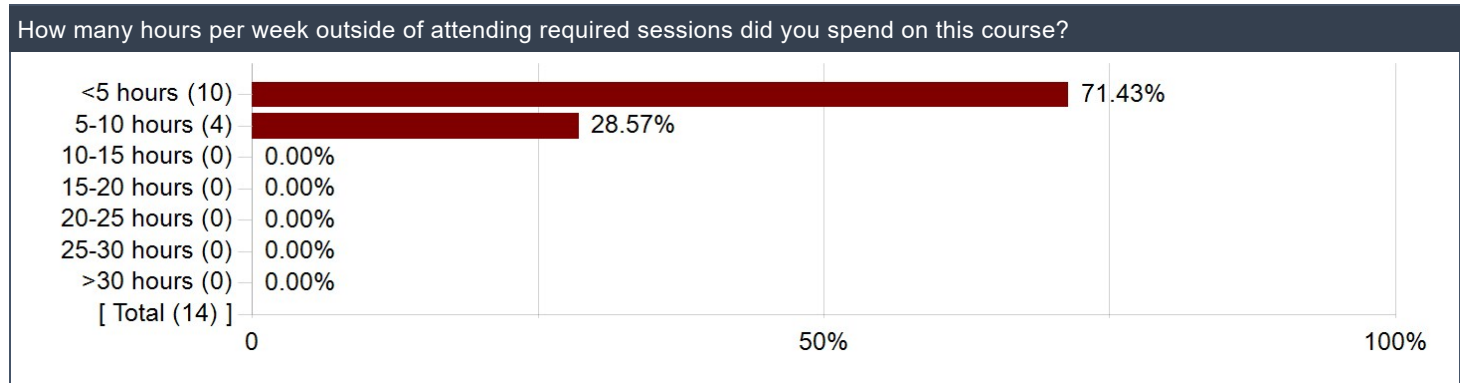
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



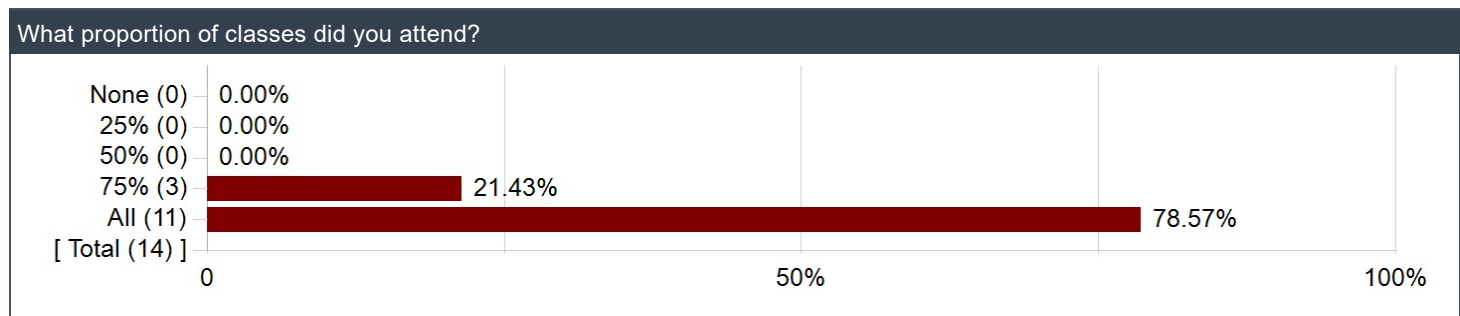
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Moderate; they were not terribly abstruse
It was fine. Some classes were significantly better than others. You'll be fine though.
can be very confusing readings if you've never read philosophy before, also can be boring at times. depending on profesor grading can be very tough.
This class was easy but the papers were graded fairly harshly.
Quite easy
It was not difficult
only 2 papers so not too packed. grading scale is neutral
no background in philosophy, and it was a little more difficult than expected. overall having other classes to worry about alongside these complicated philosophical concepts was a bit challenging but i dont regret taking the class
Even with a somewhat extensive background in reading and writing philosophy, this was a tough class.