Report Comments

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

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

Comments
How to reconstruct a philosophical argument!
Learned to analyze text from an objective standpoint, leaving personal interpretation to the side. Beginning to understand how to write argument reconstructions, and close read philosophical texts.
how to read a philosophical work
How to analyze philosophy text
Philosophical critique of traditional viewpoints was an important thing I learned. I learned to be more critical and skeptical of essentialism and absolutism in general.
I read a lot of philosophy and learned how to discuss and analyze logical arguments.
An introduction to reading and understanding philosophical texts.
All about Aristotle, Plato and Hegels ideas and how to do an argument reconstruction.
I learned how to read and interpret major philosophers such as Plato, Horkheimer, Hegel, Aristotle, and MLK. I learned a great deal about fundamental philosophical ideas as well as how to read and understand these texts.
How to complete an argument reconstruction. This was a useful skill that helped with close reading.
argument reconstruction by identifying stated and implied premises to link to an explicit conclusion; close reading of the text to figure out what the speaker is arguing for
The most important thing I learned from this course is how to closely read a text and determine what it is arguing. The reading and writing in this class challenged me to let go of my assumptions and look at a text at face value.
I learned to think about what I am reading and to look for a deeper meaning within the text. I also learned how to write an argumentative reconstruction essay.
The most important things that I learned in this class were 1) how to effectively read philosophical texts to understand their main claim and build up a string of logical arguments that support and explain the claim, and how to connect these claims and arguments to other concepts explored in other texts.
I was trained in my critical thinking and not only learned but also challenged established thinking. Furthermore, in terms of my writing skills, I learned how to do an argument reconstruction and formulate an argument in philosophy. I also was able to cover central philosophical thinking, concepts, and structures of thoughts in classical texts. This course was both challenging and transforming for someone like me who has never learned philosophy previously.
Learned how to develop philosophical and how to read such texts critically and thoughtfully
I learned how to do argument reconstruction to complex arguments. I learned about the maind ideas of plato and Aristotle. I learned the skill of reading complex text and interpreting it.

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

Comments
Lectures and in–class discussions were very engaging and elevated my understanding of the assigned readings.
Readings allowed me to think on my own about a text while discussion gave me an more guided understanding of the text.
discussion first half of class, lecture second half
Readings and lectures helped my understanding of the content
Lecture from the professor contributed to organizing the chaotic knowledge given to us and ultimately gaining insight into how people view the world.
The discussions and lectures were very useful, interesting, and well–thought–out.
discussions were especially helpful in bui.ding the skills needed to better write the papers for this course
The lectures are super useful to understand the text. The discussions also are helpful occasionally.
Discussions and writing seminars were both very helpful. Zach's lectures were very insightful but at times moved very fast and were difficult to keep up with, but they definitely did clear up a lot about the text.
Definitely class discussions and argument reconstruction at the beginning of class and end of class enhanced my learning as we were able to go over the readings

Lectures were helpful just sometimes too long to retain the essence of the readings |
| around 35/65 discussion of reading and lecture of the text; helped understand what an argument reconstruction is; argumentation through an essay format; learning how to build off of other people's ideas |
| The discussions in class were always quite lively and they allowed us to dissect the text and learn from one another. By allowing our interpretations to command our learning, Zach allowed us to learn how to think, postulate, and analyze. |
| The lectures were helpful as well as the writing seminars which were important for personal growth. The lectures helped me to understand what I was reading. |
| The lectures gave insight into the meanings of each text and the framework for what an argument reconstruction should sound like. The writing seminars gave me the skills I needed to identify claims and premises effectively
The readings/assignments allowed me to come to a deeper understanding of different topics, like what the "truth" is or the idea of an all–encompassing whole. |
| Through writing assignments, I improved my skills in argument reconstruction and in formulating an argument.
The lectures and discussions taught me important concepts in philosophy as it is practiced in classical texts such as The Republic, Nicomachean Ethics, and Five Dialogues (and more). |
| Prof Loeffler's Lectures were very helpful – although it is hard to understand sometimes as he moves fast |
| The lectures were extremely informative and it broke down the arguments in intense detail. |

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.41	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%	35.29%	58.82%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.12	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	11.76%	41.18%	41.18%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	5.88%	5.88%	5.88%	47.06%	35.29%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	17.65%	41.18%	35.29%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.41	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	5.88%	23.53%	64.71%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.41	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%	35.29%	58.82%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	68.75%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.38	5.00	6.25%	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	62.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
N/a
loefller great
I thought the course was good for challenging a person to practice more critical thinking.
I think the discussions can be counterproductive sometimes. I am often left more confused by them. I'm not sure if this is intended.
lots of the lectures done by Loeffler were difficult to understand, but the essays are easy once you understand how to reconstruct an argument readings were no longer than 30–40 pages over 2 days, 70–80 pages over 5 days speaks well and allows others to speak but mediates the Socratic a lot more than expected Loeffler is kind, and pushes students to explore deeper into the text
This course challenged me to think in ways that I never have. Moreover, it has forced me to be more willing to be wrong for the sake of deepening my understanding of a topic/

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	5.88%	94.12%

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

Comments
Professor Loeffler's lectures were always very engaging and insightful! They always helped a lot with writing the argument reconstruction papers.
His lectures were very concise, but covered what seemed to be the most important points of each text we read. He provided great questions and guidance during discussions.
comments during discussion, argument reconstruction practice between lecture and after discussion
Providing guiding questions to the readings
The instructor's explanation of what the philosophers meant contributed a lot to my understanding of what past philosophers thought.
The lectures always helped me gain clarity on the (sometimes complicated) philosophical texts.
Lectures were helpful.
Lectures
I think the discussions and his corrections and additions to what were were saying was most helpful. It allowed me to learn from my peers and hear the professor's opinion while also keeping all of us engaged. Zach was a great professor and was very kind and understanding. He was also very passionate about the topics and got you into them which was great.
going through passages together line by line
he shares his notes on a projected screen during lecture after the discussion so anyone with the wrong idea of the text can get a better understanding of the text
Zach's moderation of the class discussion was especially helpful in giving us clarification and guidance in our thinking. This allowed us to see how our line of thinking was flawed and how it could be improved.
I think doing an argumentative reconstruction in class helped me to understand how to outline my own argumentative reconstruction for my essay.
The argument reconstructions at the end of class were the thing that helped me best understand the strategies of writing and the content of the class.
The lectures where the professor explains all the essential concepts.
Lectures
Professor Loeffler is the BEST! He is extremely knowledgable about the material and unwraps complex argument in absolute details. He's also a wonderful person, very friendly and approachable. Replies very fast to emails and very accessible outside of class for office hours.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
runs through lectures quickly, maybe just a bit slower
Nothing much.
more visuals during lectures would allow us to better follow the complex ideas being discussed.
More guidance during discussion.
Probably shorten the lectures and/or add slides or more in–depth lecture notes on the powerpoint (or send them out via email). I found that the lectures moved very fast and some notes would have been great.
shorter lectures overall, more structured syllabus
lecture could be more engaging
It would be helpful for him to have more structure in his lecture—— perhaps a concise outline of the topics he discusses.
Giving shorter readings so that an its entire meaning could be effectively be analyzed within the given time frame.
Maybe divide the class into smaller groups for some of the discussions?
N/A
Maybe more discussions with students.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.12	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	5.88%	52.94%	35.29%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.12	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	17.65%	29.41%	47.06%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.35	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%	41.18%	52.94%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.29	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	11.76%	23.53%	58.82%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.41	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%	35.29%	58.82%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.24	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	5.88%	41.18%	47.06%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.13	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	5.88%	47.06%	35.29%	5.88%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.12	4.00	5.88%	0.00%	5.88%	52.94%	35.29%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.24	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	11.76%	29.41%	52.94%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.29	5.00	5.88%	0.00%	5.88%	35.29%	52.94%	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.

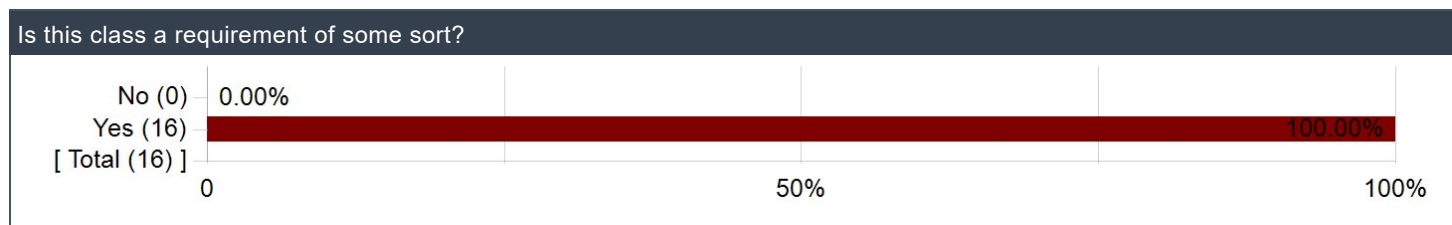| Comments |
| --- |
| John Lawrence! His constructive feedbacks were always helpful when revising papers! |
| john lawrence, writing seminars helpful and very accessible outside of class |
| John Lawrence. The TA's explanation on the nature of traditional arguments contributed a lot to my understanding of how argumentative communications work. The TA did well in demonstrating the concepts in a way that was comprehensible. |
| John Lawrence |
| John Lawrence |
| John Lawrence. He was very good at explaining and giving feedback on writing. I met with him often and he was always very helpful. Contributed to my growth greatly. |
| John Lawrence. The writing seminars were extremely helpful!! I was very confused as to how to approach argument reconstruction when trying to write my first essay, and our writing seminar was extremely helpful in showing me how to approach the text and structure my argument. John was also very clear and open to explaining things multiple times in a way that made sense. |
| John Lawrence
– writing seminars were very helpful: explaining what to do for the essays and giving feedback |
| John Lawerence. He helped me to understand how premises and implicit premises were related. He was very flexible and was willing to meet outside of class. He helped answer specific questions I had about my essay. |
| John Lawrence was my writing instructor, and his direct feedback helped to make it clear what was expected of me as well as how I could specifically change my work to improve it. |
| John Lawrence. He helped us in learning proper ways to think about an argument, write an argument, and reconstruct an argument. He also provided active feedback and help when I reached out to him. |
| John Lawrence |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

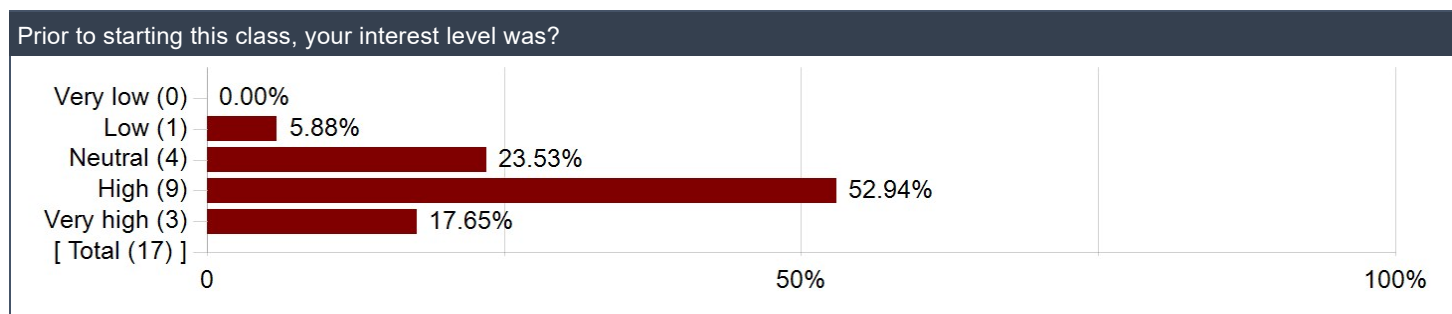|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%

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

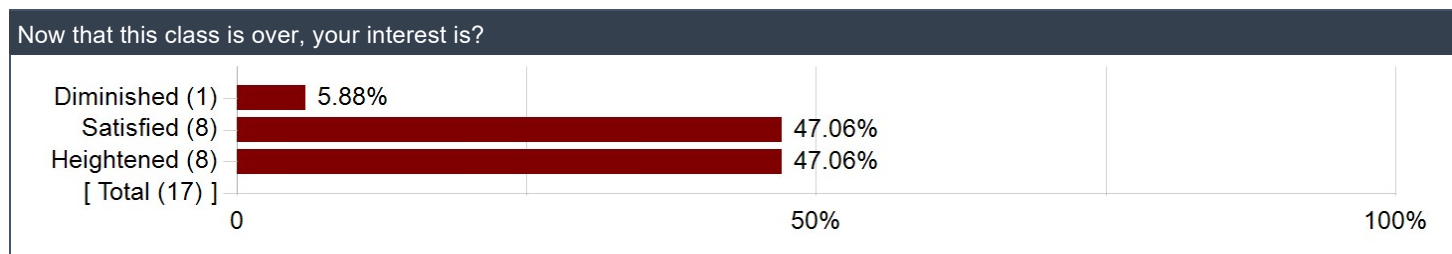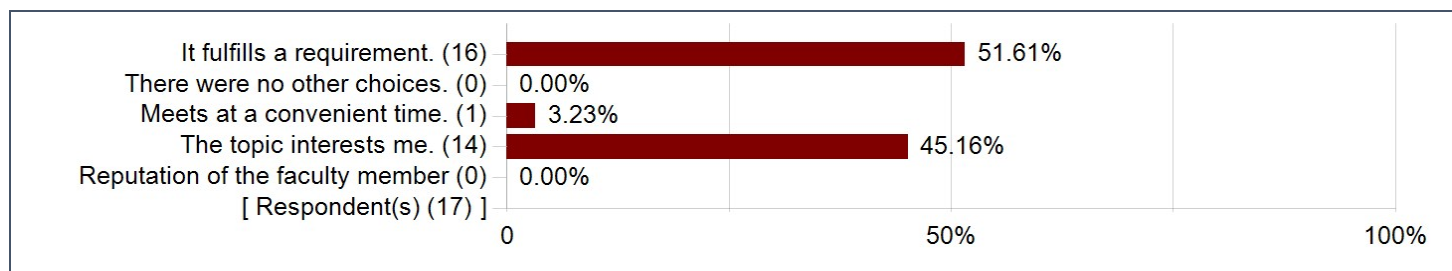|	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	4.71	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	7.14%	85.71%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (0) — 0.00%
Yes (16) — 100.00%
[Total (16)]

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0) — 0.00%
Low (1) — 5.88%
Neutral (4) — 23.53%
High (9) — 52.94%
Very high (3) — 17.65%
[Total (17)]

0   50%   100%

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (1) — 5.88%
Satisfied (8) — 47.06%
Heightened (8) — 47.06%
[Total (17)]

0   50%   100%

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

It fulfills a requirement. (16) — 51.61%
There were no other choices. (0) — 0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (1) — 3.23%
The topic interests me. (14) — 45.16%
Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
[Respondent(s) (17)]

0   50%   100%

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 (6) — 35.29%
- 5-10 hours (9) — 52.94%
- 10-15 hours (1) — 5.88%
- 15-20 hours (1) — 5.88%
- 20-25 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 25-30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- >30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- [Total (17)]

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 (17) — 100.00%
- [Total (17)]
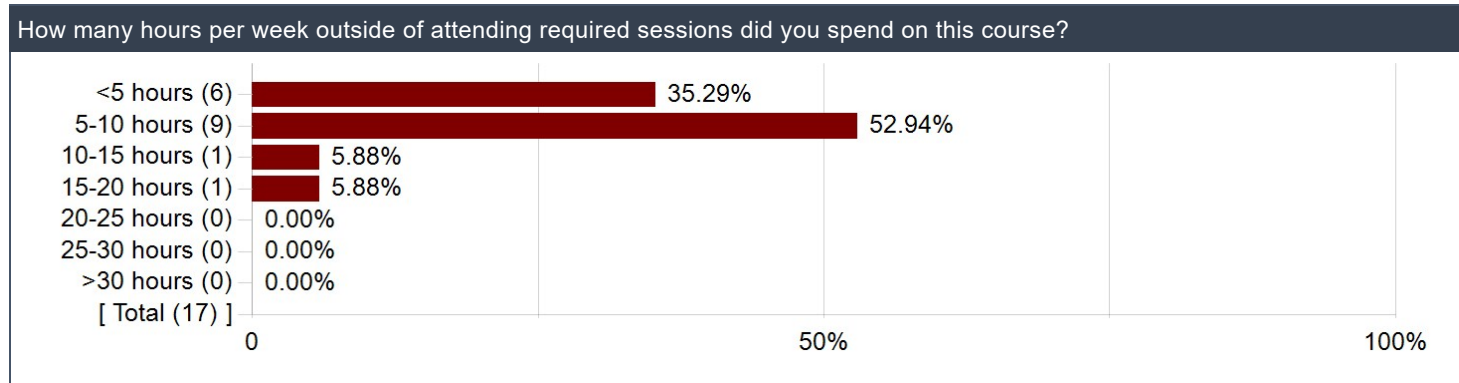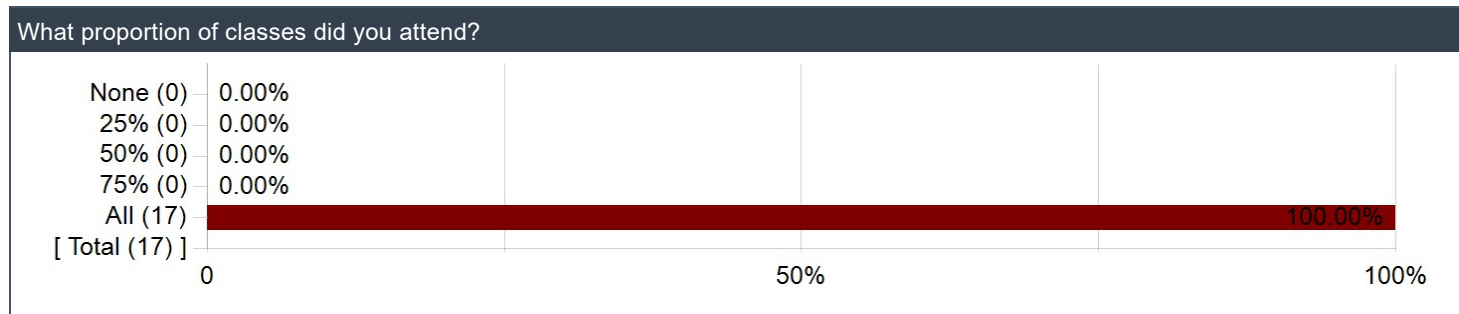
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Manageable difficulty
not too difficult, the reputation of the class is known to be difficult but in my experience it wasn't anything too crazy as long as you stay on top of assignments
The level of difficulty of the course was perfect for me.
The concepts required some thought, but I feel like you could engage with the course on several levels and succeeding in the class (getting a decent grade) is doable. Overall pitched at a good level.
4/10 concepts can sometimes be difficult to understand, but class difficulty (getting a good grade) was relatively easy.
The hardest thing is just finishing the readings. 7/10 difficulty.
I thought that the concepts and texts we were reading were definitely challenging. However, the class was structured in an appropriate way and was meant to help us get an introduction to reading these, not get us a perfect, flawless understanding of the topics.
Not too difficult due to the assignments
The course is accessible to those who, like me, do not have prior knowledge in philosophy.
The text can be challenging at times and it may take some time to understand what the philosopher is actually saying. The essays can also be challenging to write.
I had a very basic introduction to philosophy from previous studies so this course was very difficult for me and required a steep learning curve.
high level of difficulty.
I was simply interested in Philosophy (I only heard about the subject prior to starting) and am very satisfied from the experience!