



HUMA 11500 1 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Daniel Brudney

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **9**

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
Thinking in a philosophical manner and structuring and developing arguments.
I learned different techniques for writing philosophy papers, and sharpened my writing skills. I also learned about Socrates's and Plato's texts.
As someone who came in with weak essay skills, the transferrable analytical approaches (eg. interpretive vs evaluative vs reconstructive analysis) we learned in writing seminars were helpful.
The basic ideas of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Sophocles, and how to examine them carefully.
The most important things I learned in this course were how to make a solid, organized argument, how to read difficult texts, and how to think like a philosopher. Learning about the different kinds of arguments and how the evidence and reasoning follows was very helpful when it came to writing my essays. Learning the way Socrates' arguments work, how it connects to King's Letter, as well as the other readings of Plato and Aristotle were enlightening.
I learned how to reason. I feel like deductive reasoning is already very intuitive, but after taking the class it's like I do it more naturally, and have a firmer hold on argumentation.
How to think critically
I learned what philosophy actually is and how to properly pursue it. It was a very good introduction into the study of philosophy.
Philosophical thought, how to write philosophy essays, fundamental western philosophy

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

Comments
In class discussions really helped provoke the nuances in philosophical thinking.
Discussions were centered around the readings, but when they branched off and got into abstract topics based on the reading I felt I gained the most knowledge and interest in the class.
The classes were a good mixture of lecturing and discussion, so I felt that I learned new material during class. The papers were interesting and the readings were manageable and informative. The writing seminars were helpful.
The lectures and writing seminars contributed to my learning the most. The way the professor explained the difficult texts during class helped with clarity, understanding, and context. However, I sometimes wished that there was more space for discussion between the students about the texts. The writing seminars helped immensely with understanding how to build and execute a proper philosophical argument. However, the assignments for the writing seminars were asking for too much in too little time to have anything solid to present to the rest of the students and the professor. The readings were hefty oftentimes and I found myself having trouble completing them on time, but I guess that is part of philosophy.
The amount of reading that was required was good so I was actually able to digest the texts in a timely manner.
Essays helped applicational thinking
The lectures provided a baseline understanding of philosophical concepts and tricky parts of the texts. The discussions (most of the class) let us practice philosophy and deeply dive into the text. The papers then challenged us to formally present our thoughts we had voiced in class, as well as taught us how to write a philosophy paper.
Class discussions are very helpful, along with essay assignments teaching me how to write and office hours to help with these assignments

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	88.89%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.56	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	55.56%	11.11%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%
I felt respected in this class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The classic texts were really interesting and thought provoking.
I would have liked to have access to past examples of student work (essays) so I knew what to aim for. I assume many of us have never written a philosophy paper before so it could be unclear what is expected of us.
The papers are difficult.
This course is a very classical, very solid introduction into the study of philosophy.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	11.11%	88.89%

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

Comments
Provoking discussions in class.
Professor Brudney was very good about letting discussions flow, led by students, which I thought contributed much to our learning.
Instead of just talking to us, encouraging us to explain what happened in the text and our thoughts on it. It was good that he would tie in explanations and examples with things from our lives (eg. using analogies featuring our friends, or aspects of college life) as I think that helped engage the class.
He explained the concepts well from a modern perspective and challenged his students to think critically.
The instructor provided helpful examples of the ideas presented in the text to help with understanding and clarity. He also provided helpful context of the history behind the texts.
He seemed genuinely interested in his lecture, which kept us engaged. Often he gave examples in class that were humorous so it was fun to participate in the discussions.
Open Discussions
Brudney was good at guiding the discussion and challenging you to think about what you said, instead of just blabbering. He challenged you to consider deeper depths and why philosophy is so tricky. Also he provided a solid background information, so that you felt prepared to discuss.
He has very helpful office hours and class discussions

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Perhaps sometimes directing conversations into abstract topics based on the reading rather than literal interpretations of the readings would aid future students' learning and interest in the class.
Maybe skip one of the Theban plays and spend more time on Aristotle.
The instructor could assign readings that were more realistic to actually finish and immerse myself in before the next class, and provide more space for discussion between the students.
A better understanding of what is expected on the papers, as well as more generally applicable feedback. Explaining that I missed a certain consideration of the text rarely helps me catch all considerations in the future.
I think professor Brudney has a lot of good points, but I often get confused as he goes too quickly through his logic. It would be very helpful if he can go slower with his points.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.22	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	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 was really good at explaining how to write properly and clearly, as well as developing arguments.
John Lawrence: His seminars were deeply informative, and he always presented a calm yet intelligent and incisive presence in class and seminars. I really have no other feedback, other than the fact that he is a great TA.
John Lawrence.
John Lawrence

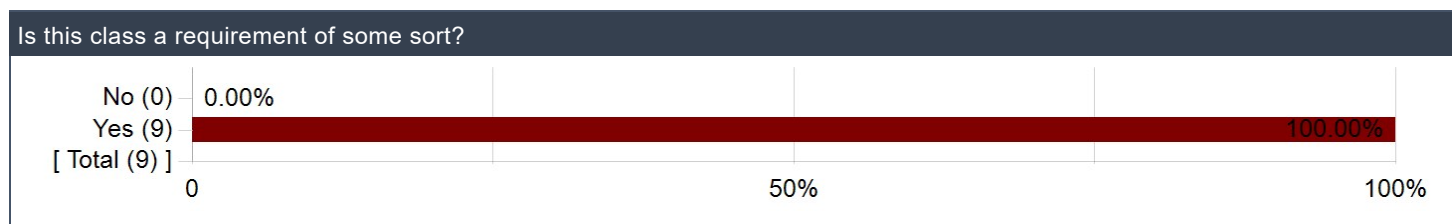
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%

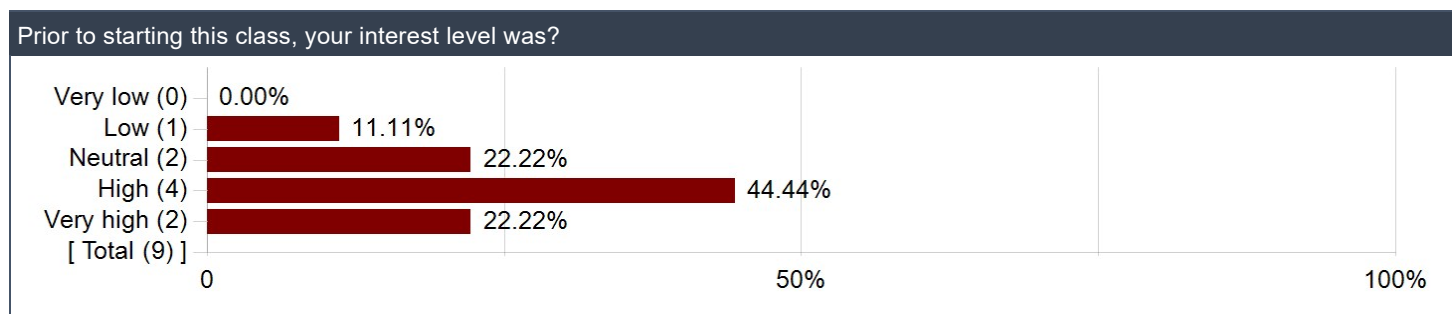
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.78	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	33.33%	22.22%	0.00%

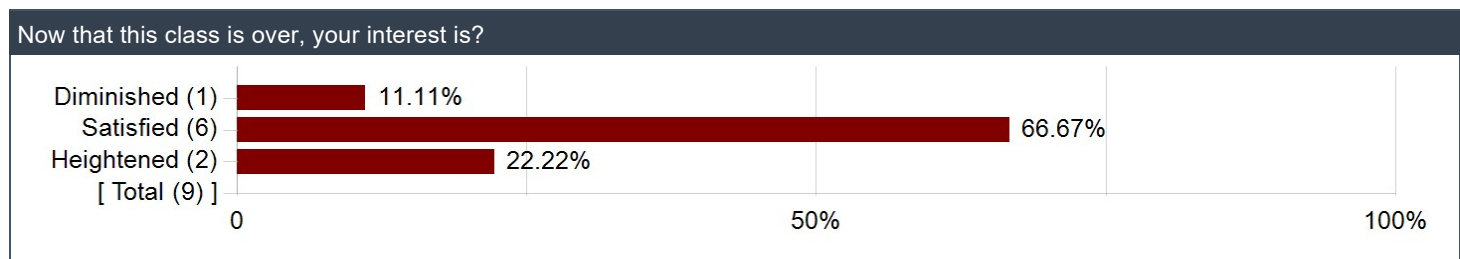
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



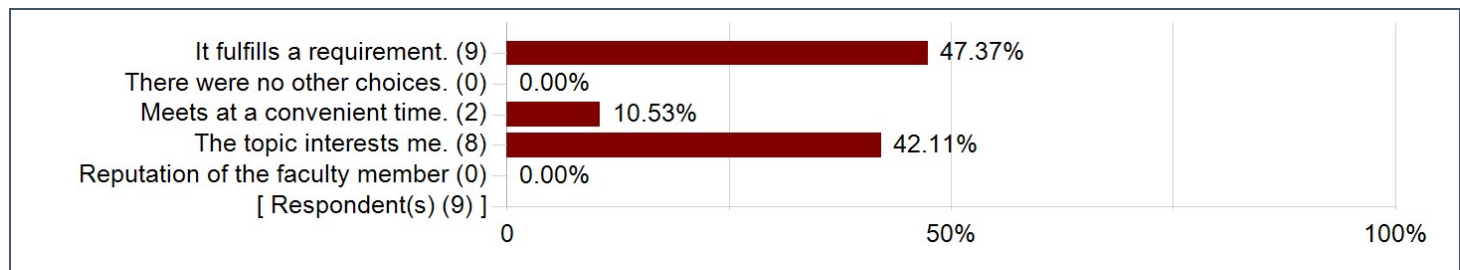
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



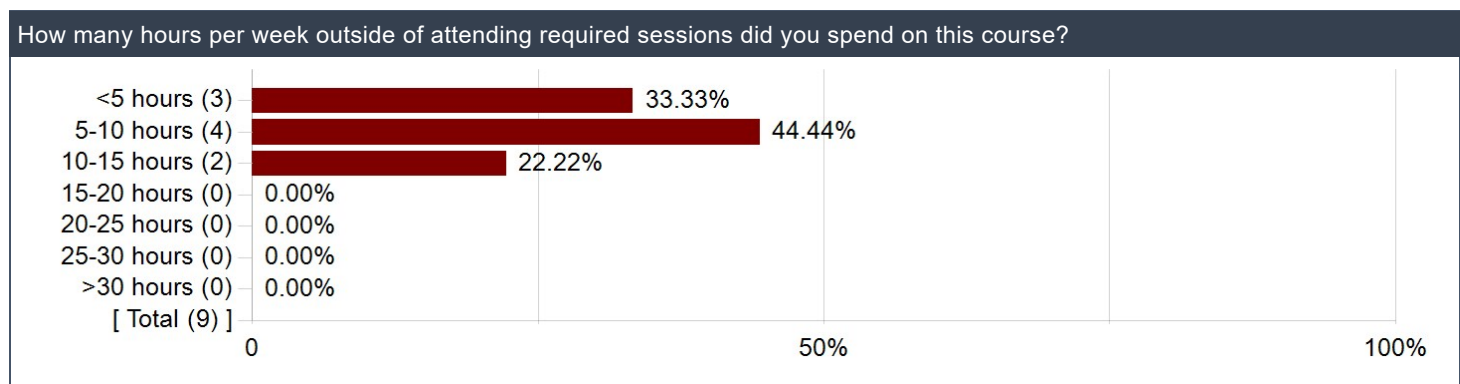
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



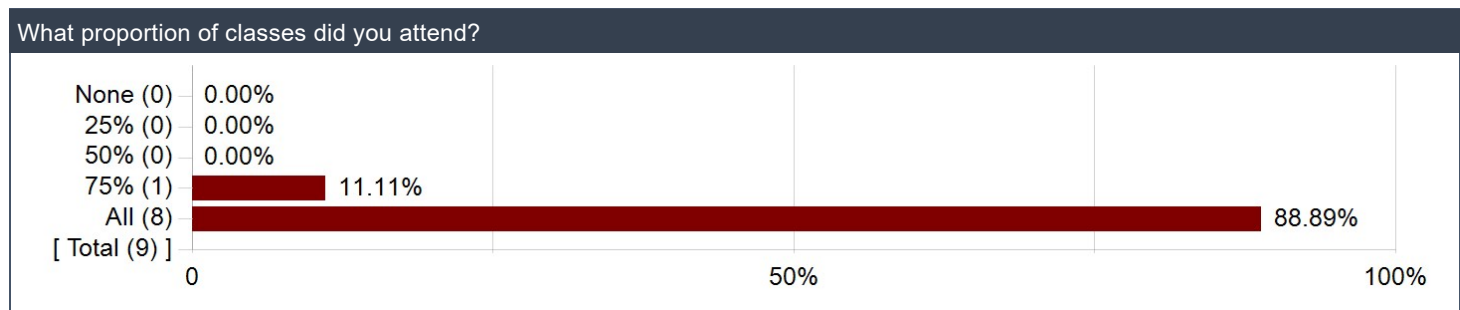
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Quite difficult in terms of learning how to write properly
The course was about even with the difficulty of my high school English classes.
Compared to my background, it was quite difficult because it was hard to ascertain how one can improve or be "good" at hum or philosophy in general. It was also definitely a challenge to stay on top of all of the reading.
I had no experience with philosophy and I was fine.
Relative to my background and experience, the level of difficulty was a 6.5/10
I had no background experience in philosophy, but I was able to engage in the class just fine because you don't need prior knowledge.
No philosophy background, but solid English student. Very typical Humanities class, with some extra challenge due to the differences inherent to philosophy, but surmountable.
Fairly difficult as I had no background in philosophy. Had to adjust and adapt.