HUMA 11600 3 - Philosophical Perspectives II - Instructor(s): Benjamin Callard

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

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **11**

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
I think I gained the ability to think more logically and structure philosophical arguments.
We discussed the following works : – Meditations on First philosophy, Descartes (types of knowledge, perceptions, the existence of God) – Corresspondance between Descartes and Princess Elisabeth (objections to Descartes' arguments) – Hamlet, Shakespeare (human emotion, morals) – An enquiry concerning human understanding, Hume (ideas and perceptions, free will)
I learned how to deconstruct and understand philosophical writing and how to write a philosophical paper.
How to write a philosophy style paper with thought experiments.
Basic epistemology, the nature of knowledge. Essentially reading Descartes, Hume, Hamlet to answer the question: "What do we know, and how do we know it?"
How to think about radical and complex philosophical ideas (thing about you, Hume).
How to question what we know and how we know it.
I learned very different and unique ways to think and to write.
I learnt about some of the fundamental questions of epistemology, and most importantly about conflict between different viewpoints.
Epistemological concepts, as well as how to argue philosophy.

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

Comments
The seminar discussions were very helpful in gaining an understanding of the reading material, but also just generally how to structure philosophical thought.
– The professor would take some time, generally at the beginning of class, to explain the historical context and teach us general information about the author and work of literature we were studying. This was very beneficial in understanding the topics covered. – Afterwards, he would ask open ended questions and people would give their opinion on the idea. Depending on what they said, he would ask further questions. – Sometimes we would read passages in class before discussing them
The lectures were extremely helpful in understanding the readings. The papers helped use what we learned in class/readings to think more critically and form our own ideas.
The lectures were helpful in understanding how the readings relate to greater philosophical questions.
Discussions were fantastic; learned a lot from my peers and Prof. Callard did an excellent job keeping the discussion moving while putting forth his thoughts.
The lectures contributed to my learning very well. Ben did a great job at explaining the difficult ideas portrayed in the readings.
Lectures were critical to increasing my understanding.
There were writing seminars that I think enhanced my ability to write according to the way the course required.
Lectures were always entertaining and very insightful. I always felt like I could formulate and contribute my own ideas, and it fomented creative interpretations and responses to some of the texts we read.
Discussions were great. Professor Callard would set them up with a short lecture, then give the floor to the seminar, while at times contributing guidance. These discussions helped me then write my papers. The assignments we were assigned – 3 essays throughout the quarter – gave us opportunities to show our understanding and to hone our writing.

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%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	63.64%	36.36%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	45.45%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	9.09%	63.64%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	36.36%	36.36%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%
I felt respected in this class.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Phenomenal course with exciting, thought–provoking material. I wish we could have spent more time with Hume, and perhaps a bit less with Descartes. I thought Hume sparked more interesting conversation than Descartes, as a whole.
Well structures and encouraged critical thinking.
This course is not challenging in terms of how hard the assignments are, but rather it challenges you intellectually by forcing you to think, and often challenging your established outlook on life. It's fun.
This course is simply great.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

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

Comments
Prof. Callard did a great job at curating the seminar discussions, his style of teaching allows students in the class to structure their thoughts and he provided good insights into the readings.
I thoroughly enjoyed the time he spent at the beginning of class to set the historical context, as this was beneficial in understanding the content at hand.
Ben's lectures were very helpful in understanding the readings and being able to thoroughly understand and refute arguments. He is great at leading discussion and addressing the points that we make in class, and is able to quickly understand and get us to think deeper about our arguments.
Individual meetings were often most helpful.
His ability to translate abstruse philosophical arguments (like those of Descartes) into something understandable. His ability to effectively manage discussions and keep the discussion moving.
Bens ability to argue so well. Also, he was able to explain ideas very clearly, which was very useful for understanding philosophers arguments.
His encouragement to challenge ideas.
The instructor's interactive nature contributed most to my learning.
His openness to discussion, and the structure of his assignments, which allowed for a lot of freedom of thought and expression of ones own ideas.
I think the lectures, including writing and figures on the board, really helped keep discussions productive and focused.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
In my previous quarter of HUMA, the professor focused much more on discussions in small groups of 2–3 peers. Then, each group shared their thoughts and we continued the discussion as a class. This made me much more comfortable in forming my ideas and sharing them with the class, so I believe it would be good to implement this to encourage reflection and participation.
Sometimes our papers weren't returned that quickly so more timely feedback would be helpful
Class discussion could be more teacher guided
Nothing
Nothing. He's the goat.
Not much.
It would be amazing if he offered further materials to read, which would not be mandatory, but insightful. I often felt like my ideas were fairly creative, and often different from the ones presented in class, and would have loved to find material that presented similar ideas to mine.
I don't think anything needs to be modified really.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	9.09%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	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
Nick Nurre. His paper comments were always just focused on the struture of the paper not the ideas which was not, to my understanding, the whole goal of the class. The writing seminars were not particularly well organized or helpful.
Nick Nurse was our writing specialist. Nick is very passionate and critical about philosophy. That in of itself should be enough. Nick could provide, like, positive feedback. Something besides roasting my essays would be nice.
Nick Nurre
Nick Nurre

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	60.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.60	4.00	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.80	4.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	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	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	3.89	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	22.22%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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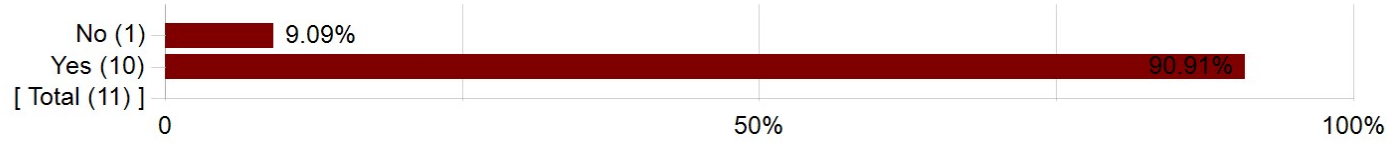

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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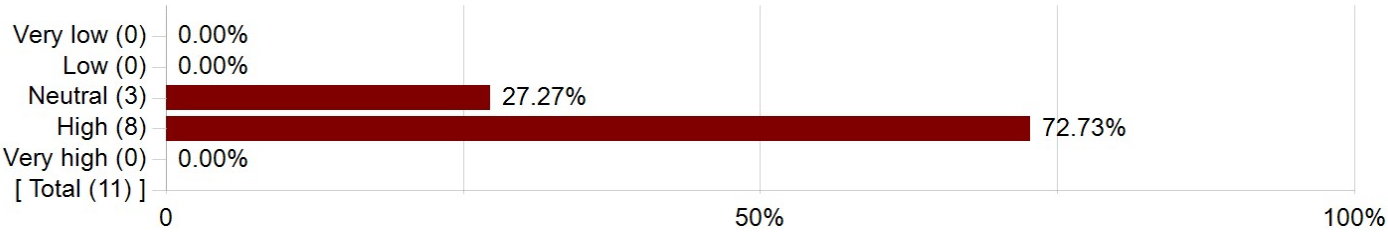
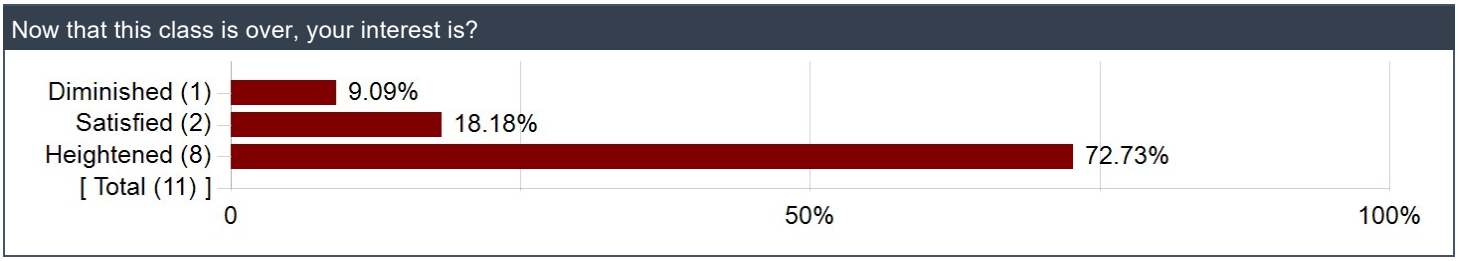
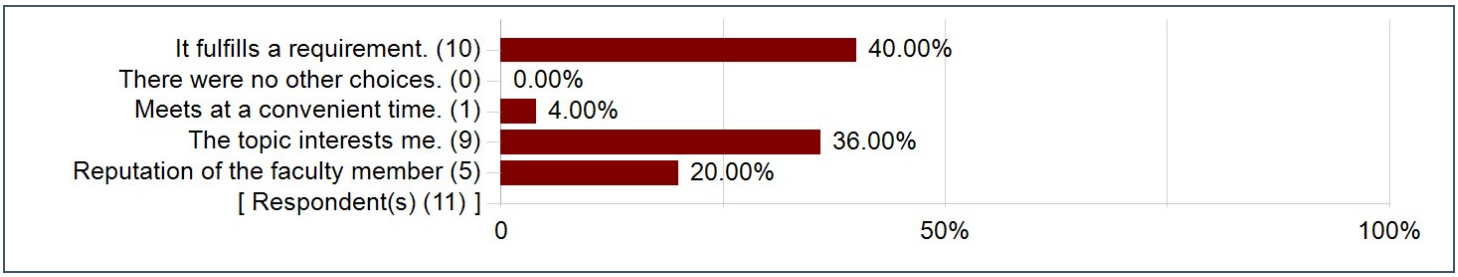


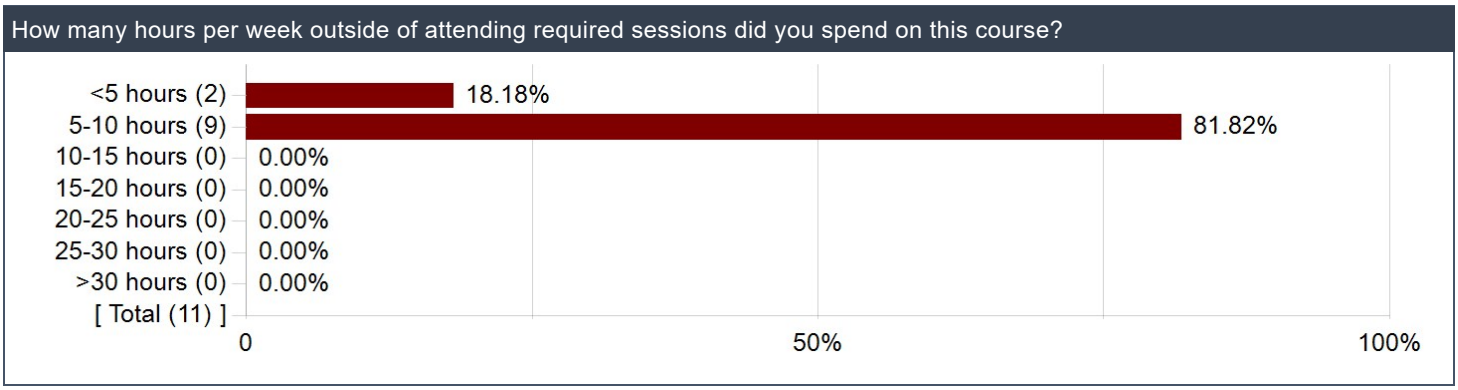
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



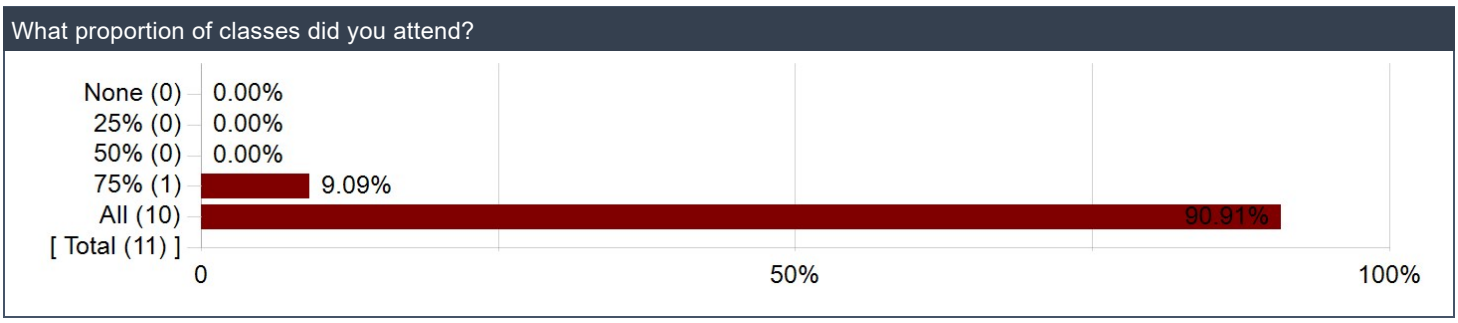
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
It was manageable and definitely easier if you are interested in the subject.
The content was easier than what I had previously addressed in my senior year philosophy course, but the expectations for written assignments were slightly difficult to understand and definitely required work for someone not used to writing in english.
Having no background in philosophy, I had some difficulty in learning how to write a philosophical paper at first but was able to figure it out pretty quickly
Not too difficult; reading assignments are reasonable and the paper–writing process, while time–consuming, is manageable. Prof. Callard and writing specialist Nick provide a lot of support.
No experience in philosophy. Wasn't that difficult, but you do need to spend significant time on the essays.
Reasonable
You require no background to succeed in this class. The content is not challenging, but you will be challenged to think independently.
It's about the same level of difficulty as 11500, so be prepared for roughly the same amount of work. I think it's a bit easier than 11500 thanks to me having a quarter of HUMA already under my belt.