



HUMA 11600 8 - Philosophical Perspectives II - Instructor(s): Zachary Loeffler

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **16**

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
Learned about the different ways of viewing the world and concepts that different philosophers had. Gained skills in comprehending difficult texts, making sense of the whole philosophical frameworks that writers set out, and thinking about the cracks in their arguments or the way they frame things.
That we think we have free will but we actually don't
One of the most important things that I have learned in this course is how to improve my way of thinking. I feel that this operation of the mind is truly pushed to the outer limits in the course in the best way possible. We are taught how to critically evaluate text and to not accept the immediate, surface-level understanding that might first arrive when reading through an argument. This has led to transformative lectures and discussions that been tremendously valuable. This course not only preserves the importance of humanities but raises the bar for other courses similar in nature.
More general knowledge about famous philosophers like Hume and Descartes.
I gained skills in breaking down complicated texts.
Just about anything can be related to Karl Marx.
how to read and critique philosophical texts, how to write philosophical papers, and the philosophical arguments of Descartes, Hume, Spinoza, etc.
I learned how to manage my time and read closely. I learned to more specifically interpret specific words in broader contexts. In terms of the readings, I learned about philosophers' definitions of knowledge, God, religion, free will, and more.
Descartes — interesting man
I learned very little about how to read and write but plenty about the specific philosophers we covered.
How to think about a text in terms of itself and also to see how it fits into a broader context (more specifically for this course, the transition from feudalism to capitalism).

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

Comments
I think lectures were very illuminating especially in pointing out which parts of the texts are especially worth paying attention to or which parts may carry more meaning than they seem to at first glance. They were also helpful in clarifying understanding of the text, as well as pointing out things we might not have caught or thought of when we read the texts.
The lectures helped me clear up some questions about the text
The lectures truly embody the spirit of UChicago. Zach Loeffler discusses the material in a way that is captivating and forces you to think about the consequences about what is being said. I walk away from each lecture internally reflecting about the reading and the meaning of it all.
We would be assigned a reading after every class and discuss the reading as a group in the following class.
We did close readings on specific passages and had discussions on them.
they didn't
Lectures provided a lot of background knowledge and analysis that are necessary for deep understanding of the texts.
Lectures and readings contributed most to my understanding. The lectures clarified concepts I did not understand.
reading the book is the most helpful. Zach asks thought-provoking question in class that will help you write your paper
I found the lectures to be useful with the reading not very helpful, even with the guiding questions.
in class discussion helpful for identifying salient points of text/readings

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	43.75%	56.25%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.94	4.00	0.00%	18.75%	12.50%	25.00%	43.75%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.50	4.00	6.25%	25.00%	12.50%	25.00%	31.25%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	4.50	6.25%	12.50%	6.25%	25.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.81	4.00	0.00%	18.75%	12.50%	37.50%	31.25%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	31.25%	25.00%	43.75%
I felt respected in this class.	4.19	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	18.75%	56.25%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.50	3.50	6.25%	18.75%	25.00%	18.75%	31.25%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Really enjoyed how the historical context was brought in and also we went through more of an introduction of the writers; it made the course and their philosophy feel much more grounded and highlighted the massive impacts that their seemingly deceptively theoretical writing had on the world.
One of the best courses that I have taken at UChicago. It is challenging and forces you to step outside your comfort zone. If you are willing to buy in, the experience will be life changing.
It is much more challenging than Phil Per I.
The readings were engaging and interesting but the lack of clarification on the expectations of assignments made it very difficult for me to feel comfortable submitting my best work.
Professor Loeffler is a great guy. He is fun and knows a lot about these topics

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	25.00%	75.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	25.00%	75.00%

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

Comments
I think the synopses of the readings were extremely helpful. I also think the prompts were very thought-provoking and challenging, which pushed my understanding of the texts and was very fulfilling intellectually. I think office hours were also very helpful.
The lectures. Although they are intense, you can walk away with a greater understanding of Descartes, Spinoza, and Hume.
Lectures
The instructor provided helpful lectures on each reading and gave helpful reading guides.
N/A
lectures
The teacher's choice to walk through specific passages in a very detailed way was super helpful.
His questions
Reading specific passages helped, but it felt like there wasn't preparation on both the professor's side and our side in reading. Very few times did we cover any material beyond the required reading.
Zach's way of explaining the core arguments in the text, and also setting us in the general historical context of those works. The reading guides for the readings were also extremely helpful!

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Could facilitate more discussion instead of lecturing for most of the class.
He sometimes asks us to figure out the problem urself and we cannot learn as much from the text as a result
The instructor could lead more discussions and let students bounce off of each other more.
structure his classes more. oftentimes, it felt like there was no point to any discussion we were having, or that Prof. Loeffler didn't really know what he was talking about... if we asked questions he would ask us our thoughts without giving a glimpse of an answer or probing further inquiry.
maybe give lectures first before we discuss, so the discussions can be more fruitful
I wish the instructor would answer students' questions. Instead of providing the answer he asked the question back to the student and had them try to answer it.
I think they could have been more to the point in in class discussions. Sometimes in class it felt like I left with more confusion about the text than I came in with.
Maybe he can start sharing notes after each seminars
I think that professor Loeffler should either understand that most students don't read the material and therefore bring us up to track in class before asking us questions or he should motivate us to read by showing that he also is prepared and has more to a lecture than asking us what we thought. I really appreciate the format of pure discussion, but it fails when most are not prepared.
perhaps taking more time to be a facilitator of a discussion rather than trying to push everyone to make the same conclusion

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.81	4.00	6.25%	18.75%	6.25%	25.00%	43.75%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.81	4.50	6.25%	12.50%	25.00%	6.25%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.56	4.00	6.25%	12.50%	25.00%	31.25%	25.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.56	4.00	6.25%	25.00%	12.50%	18.75%	37.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	25.00%	56.25%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.69	4.00	6.25%	18.75%	18.75%	12.50%	43.75%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	12.50%	31.25%	37.50%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.13	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.00	4.00	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	43.75%	37.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.69	4.00	6.25%	12.50%	25.00%	18.75%	37.50%	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. I think the writing seminars were somewhat helpful in poking at our arguments and seeing how we could make them stand up better. It was also helpful to see what other students were thinking about and writing about, since this class wasn't very collaborative otherwise. I think Katie as a writing instructor was very helpful in critiquing our essays as well as providing feedback and helping us think about how we could consider other points we might have missed or tweak our arguments to make them stronger.
Katie Howe
Katie Howe. She was really helpful during writing seminars. She provided specific feedback for my work and had clear instructions for the seminar sessions.
Katie Howe
I'm evaluating Katie Howe, the writing specialist. I think she covered the material of how to write and introduction and the format of a philosophy essay wonderfully. Only thing I think she could modify would maybe be shortening the material she gives us to evaluate one another's papers. I think it could be much simpler and still get the same value.

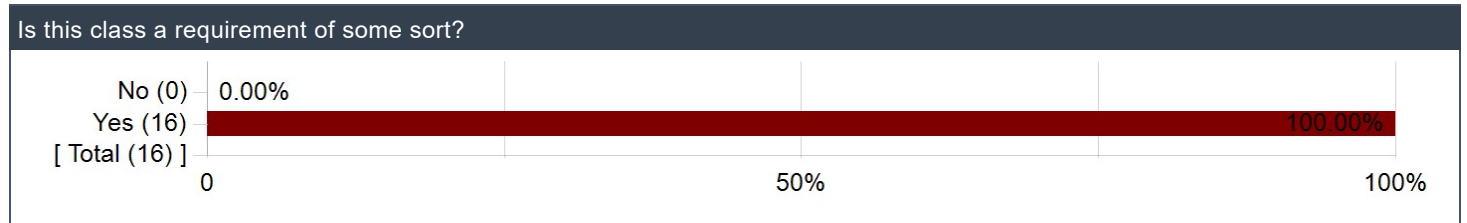
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	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.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.17	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	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.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%

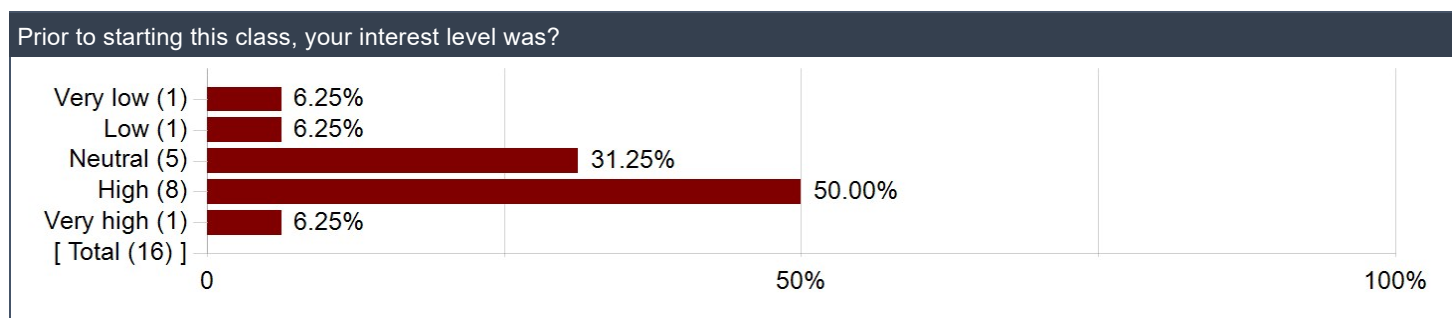
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%	0.00%

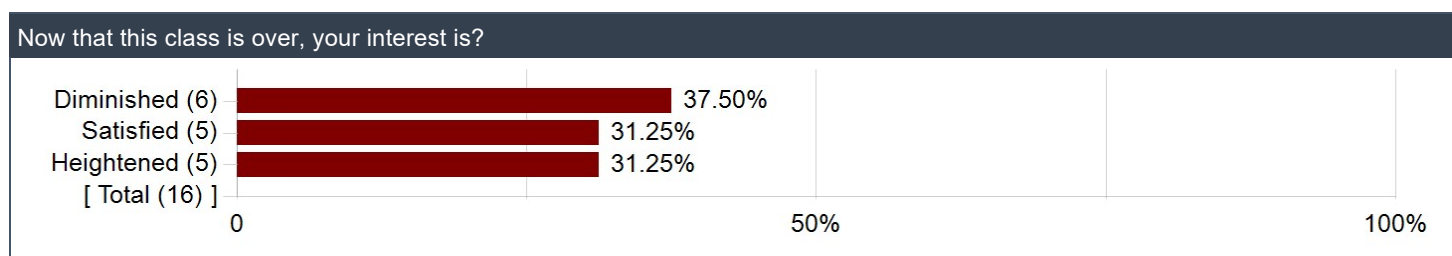
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



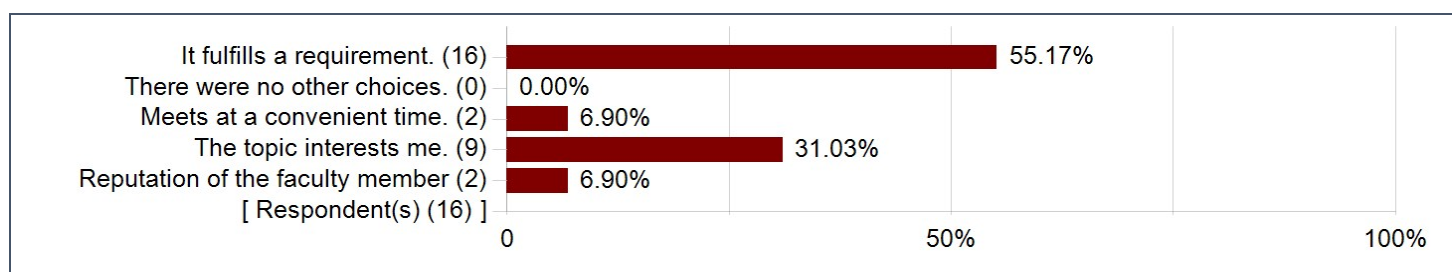
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



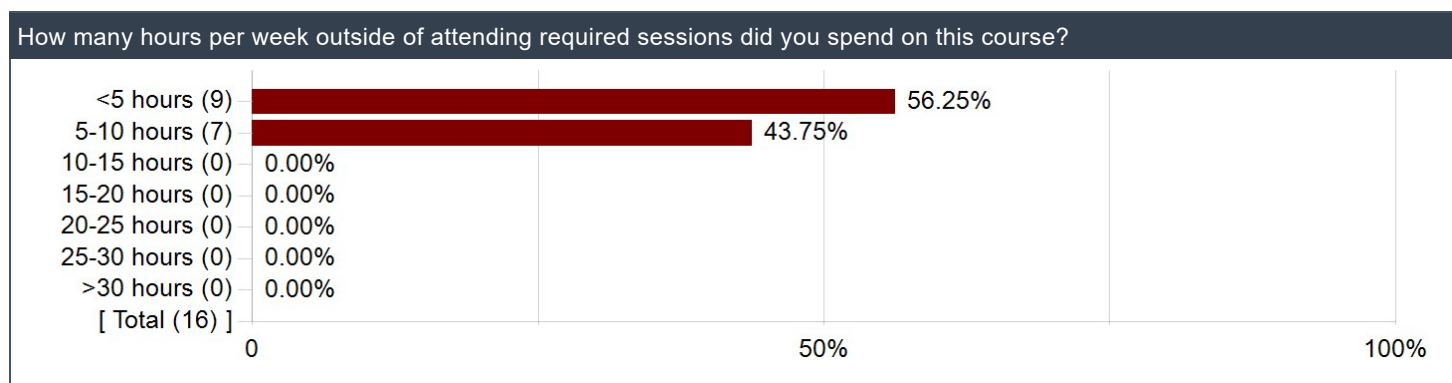
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



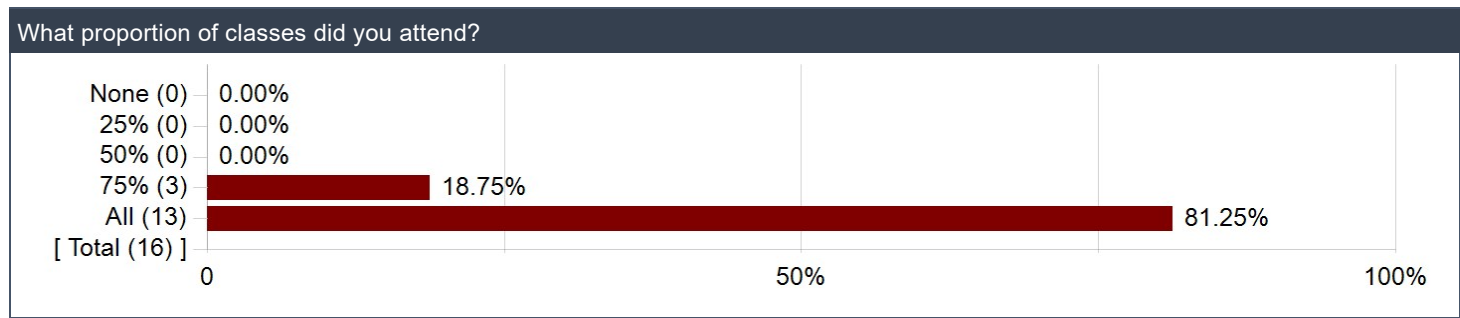
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Somewhat difficult, but manageable since I'd taken other challenging philosophy and reading/writing classes before
Not difficult, just make sure you do the readings!
Challenging
it was kinda hard
The readings of the course is quite challenging.
This course, in my opinion, was quite difficult. It felt much more difficult than last quarter in that the texts seemed very technical yet it was expected of us to interpret them in our own ways.
Not too difficult, those expecting rigor would want to take a harder course
not a hard class to pass nor are the assignments in themselves particularly difficult but if you want to do well, it does take a but of work in terms of readings and analysis