



HUMA 11500 9 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Malte Willer

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **13**

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
a lot of philosophy. how to write a philosophical argument. we read a plato's five dialogues, the republic, theban plays, and nichomachean ethics
I learned about the philosophies of Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle, as well as how to effectively write philosophical papers.
Learning how to write analytical papers on philosophical works.
I learned how to be more nuanced in my writing and be able to tackle and write about abstract concepts in a concise and direct manner.
What a virtuous character entails.
I learned how to work through difficult texts and think critically.
I thought it was really helpful in learning how to parse through dense texts and better understand them. I think I gained a lot of skills in this regard.
How to approach the reading and discussion of major philosophical texts.
Of course, what I learned in this class can best be summarized by the literary content we covered and the ways of thought that we studied. But I think the skill I gained the most in would more accurately be my argumentative skill, and more specifically my capacity to build a well defended argument on complicated subjects.
I began learning how to write a philosophical paper and about key thoughts from Plato and Aristotle.
I gained fundamental knowledge on Plato's and Aristotle's ideas on the topics of justice and virtue, an pondered on the meaning of what it is to lead a moral life. I also learned about the moral conflict between the individual and society.
There isn't a single way of looking at anything.
To defend an argument exhaustively, predicting the possible counterarguments and dealing with them in advance.

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

Comments
discussions helped, but I also really appreciated the summary sheets Professor Willer made
The lectures were very interesting and expanded the topics in the readings very well.
In-class daily discussions helped interpret and understand the text.
The class discussions were always helpful and collaborative and we always talked about the themes in the readings, helping with my understanding of the text.
Class discussions provided useful recaps of reading material.
The lectures were really discussions and they helped a ton in understanding the text.
In class discussions were very helpful, writing seminars were great too.
Lectures and discussions were most productive. Essays, though necessary, were consistently rather separated from course discussions.
I believe that the in-class discussion format was especially helpful because it forced me to constantly question my own thoughts and assertions and ensuring they are right while I was in class as I was part of the conversation. This directly translated to it being easier for me to do the same in essays.
Classes usually consisted of a brief summary from the professor followed by relatively open though somewhat guided discussion. Professor Willer is clearly extremely knowledgable and familiar with the texts—and philosophy more generally—which made for an enjoyable environment. He also provided summary sheets which were excellent.
Discussions during class were very interesting and thought provoking. For each of the topics covered, the discussions lead either by the professor, or the students, expanded on the topics of the readings and provoked interesting insights from everybody which were helpful to extract value from the author's ideas. The essay prompts tested the student's understaing on the topics of the class while also giving him certain ammount of liberty to explore the topic on his own.
This course has improved my writing skills and analytical ability to examine a text.
The discussions were very helpful for me, it allows you to see what other people think and either to reinforce your views or to challenge them. This is further done in the lectures themselves.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	53.85%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	61.54%	38.46%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.77	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	46.15%	15.38%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.15	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	0.00%	38.46%	46.15%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.31	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	30.77%	53.85%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	53.85%
I felt respected in this class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	76.92%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I had a great prof.
Professor Willer is also incredibly hilarious and nice

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	7.69%	92.31%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.69%	92.31%

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

Comments
office hours helped. also the summary sheets were nice
Just listening to him talk about the material was enough to understand it better.
The balance between student-led discussion and explanation of concepts was good!
Our class discussion regarding the reading and different themes for the specific book and the course overall.
When he elaborates on the material
Instructor lead discussions.
I think just generally the way that class was directed, meaning the discussion/lecture hybrid style, allowed me to understand the texts and focus on elements of the readings that I wouldn't have other wise picked up on.
The discussions and subsequent summary sheets were very strong companions to the text. Lecture was for the most part minimal, open discussions bookended by commentary from Prof. Willer.
I was personally very appreciated of the way he presented himself as a part of our discussion. Although he was of course taking on the role of the professor, he was always willing to question whether he knew the answer to a certain question or the right way to go about a certain problem. Of course, I would probably not appreciate this that much from my math professor, but in a subject like philosophy where a clear solution can rarely ever be found, I thought this made the class very compelling.
Definitely his expertise and openness to answer questions made the class better. I also think the provided summary sheets were a key component in recalling everything we had read since there was a lot covered.
I liked Mr. Willer's friendliness and relaxed aura that helped the students feel comfortable to participate during class. I felt that his focus was equally divided into discussion and theory, which is great for better understaing and exploration of the topics.
Level of engagement and interaction with all students
What helped me the most was professor Willer's approach to teaching the class, I really appreciate how he directs dialogues and gives everyone the chance to participate.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Perhaps there could have been more structured discussions.
Nothing, the course was actually very good.
I feel like we kind of jumped around some texts which made it confusing.
I'm not really sure...
Though I had great confidence that the pedagogy was very informed at each step, pertaining particularly to the introduction and contextualization of concepts, some concept for how we were going to progress through the course would have been appreciated. Though there was continuity looking backwards, there was rarely such a confidence looking forwards.
I am sure this is just due to curriculum requirements, but I felt the course was half way between an intro and a survey course, which made it feel a little aimless or superficial at times. I would have appreciated opportunities to go deep into specific parts of texts in class just as we did on papers.
Absolutely nothing
Nothing, professor Willer does an excellent job in clearly explaining things.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	7.69%	84.62%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	84.62%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	69.23%	7.69%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	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
I do not know if John Lawrence, (Our writing instructor/ Co-Teacher), can be considered a TA/CA/Intern, however just in case, I shall write about his contributions to my learning. John, in my opinion, did an excellent job, I really learned a lot from the writing seminars and videos and felt how the lessons had an impact in my writing. In my view, there is no need to change anything.

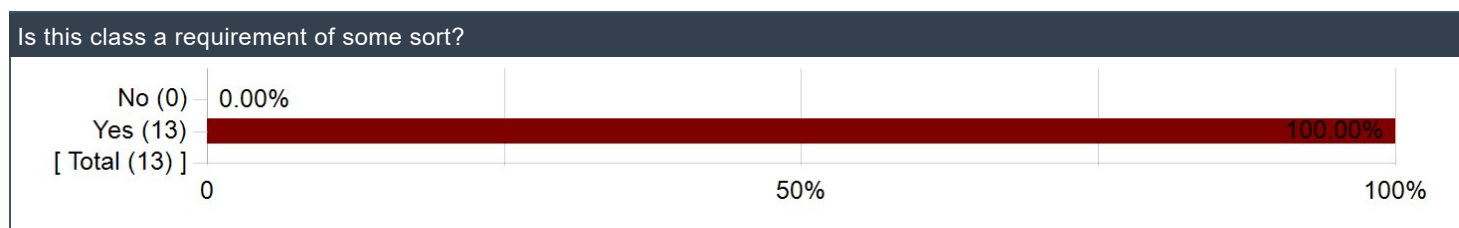
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

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

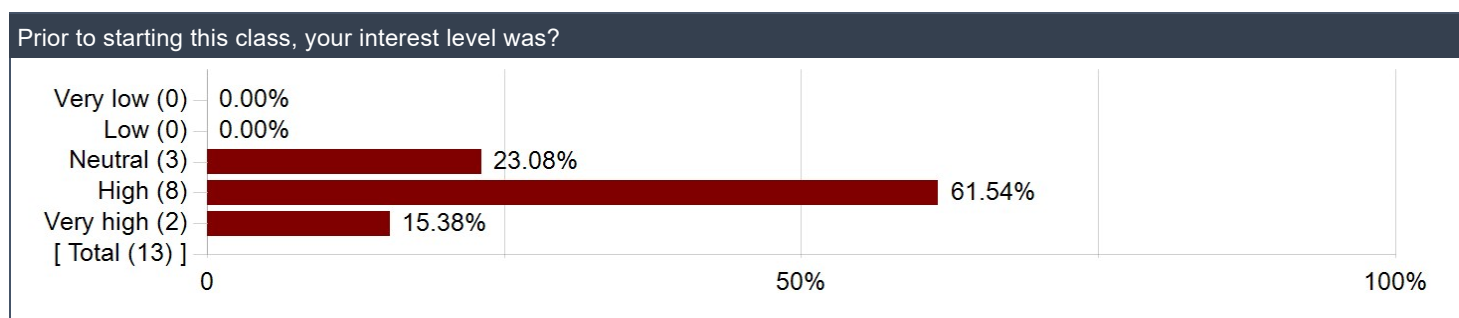
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.08	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	53.85%	30.77%	0.00%

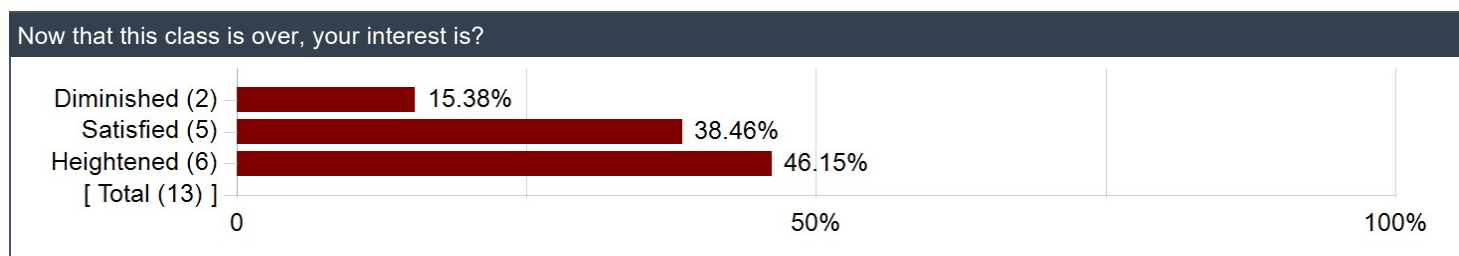
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



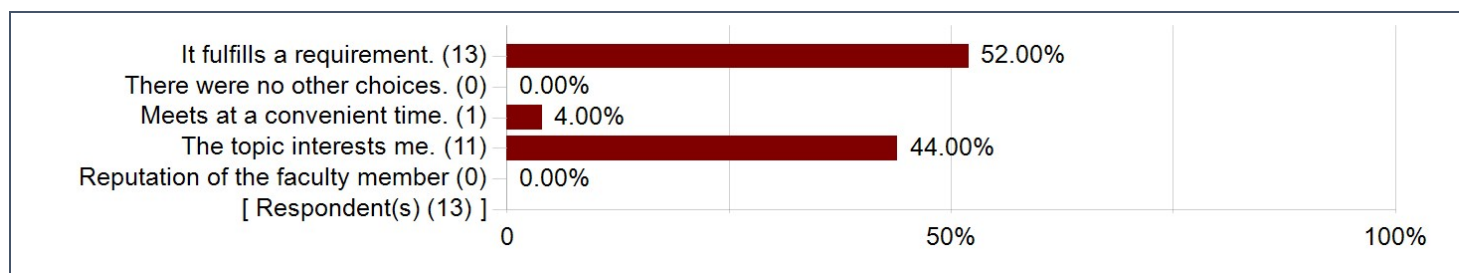
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



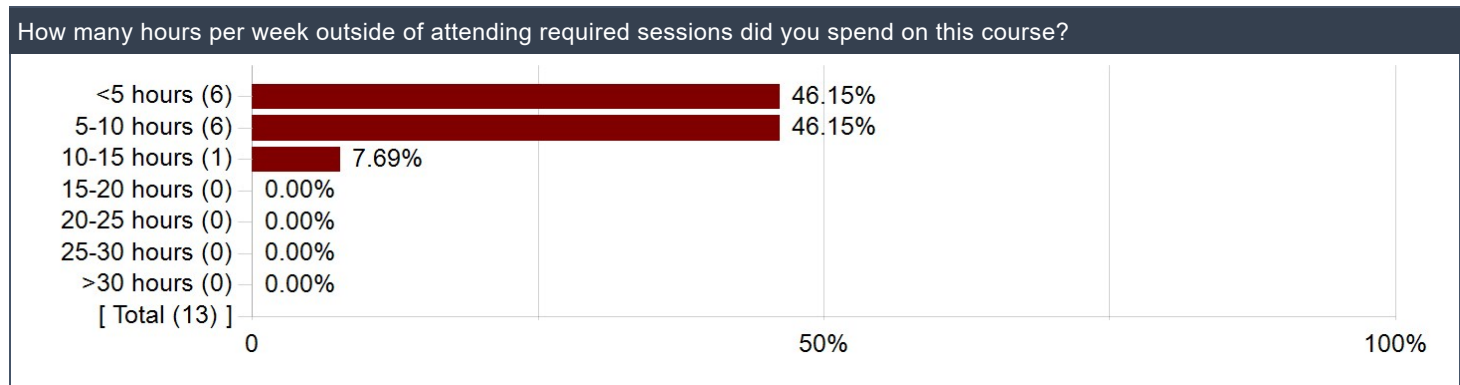
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



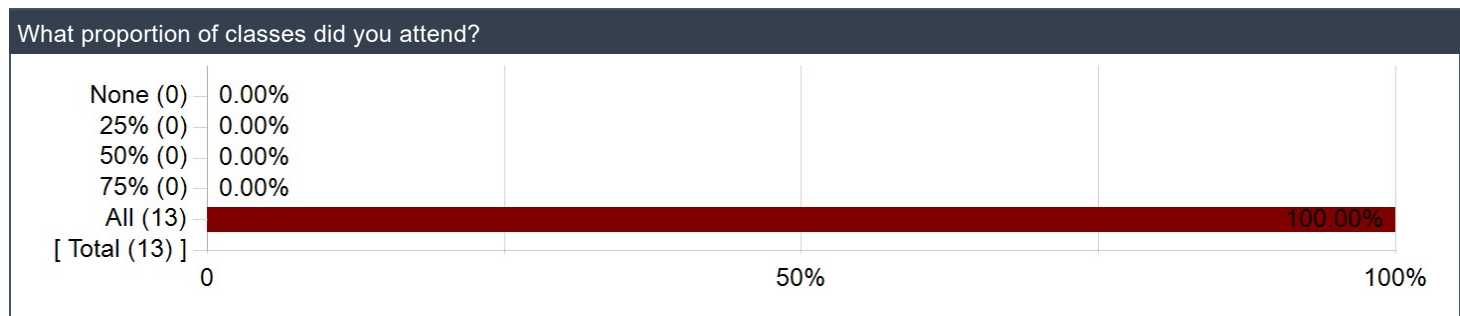
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
I had no background in philosophy and I found the course to be rather challenging.
This class was quite doable in line with my experience.
easy. the readings were dense but short and very manageable. the essays were graded on a generous curve
Certainly sufficiently intellectually demanding to be engaging, but I would not call it difficult per se.
I had little experience in philosophy or especially philosophical prior to this course. I felt that this did not prevent my success in discussion or participation, though it certainly was difficult writing the papers for the first time. I, of course, do not yet know the final outcome so it is hard to precisely evaluate difficulty.
This course was moderately challenging due to the complexity of the readings, and with no previous experience reading philosophy, it was a little bit of a challenge.
It was an appropriate level, the amount of readings was reasonable, and I believe that anyone that that is willing to put in the time can be successful in the class.