HUMA 11500 7 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Zachary Loeffler

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

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

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
The most important things I learned were how to closely read a text and critically think about various interpretations. Lessons and ideas from the texts we read in class also gave me insight on various issues and better prepared me to articulate my own thoughts.
How to write in the specific way we need to for this class (argument reconstruction). How to analyze and break down and argument to fully understand it. How to conceptualize an argument made in a text and then present it in your own way. The actual history and philosophy we learned.
Two books from Plato, one book from Aristotle, Antigone from Sophocles, and some Hegel.
I learned a ton about philosophy and thinking in a more philosophical way. The argument constructions in class were really helpful.
Crafting strong, argument–based essays. Knowledge of philosophy in general, how to approach difficult texts and participate effectively in a class environment to enrich learning of subject.
Argument Reconstruction, reading philosophical texts, crafting a critique
How to write, introduction to philosophy.
Perspective on philosophy that I didn't have before
How to critically examine dense texts, and analyze key ideas without the confines of modern bias.
Argument reconstruction and concise writing. I learned to read for more in–depth concepts rather than just the plot.
I learned about Aristotle, Socrates and other notable philosophers. I gained info about all of their beliefs, whether or not I agreed or disagreed, and feel I have a more well rounded knowledge of the subject now.
I learned to look past the surface of any epiphany or statement made in philosophical text, and dig deeper into it. I've learned to make deep analysis of texts a habit.
I learned to look at greek philosophy in a new light through this class. I was originally very dismissive of the greek philosophers, but the prof.'s lectures helped me connecet them to my daily life and thoughts and I began to see them as quite relevant.
How to do philosophical reconstruction. Learned perspectives of Plato, Aristotle, and other philosophers.
–Argument reconstruction (structure of conclusion, premises, and implicit premises) –Developing an argument in the context of philosophy, using hypotheticals and lines from the text as evidence –Meno's paradox, Aristotelian friendships –An suitable answer to "What is the good life?" and response to nihilism –How Antigone allegorizes pre–modern ethical consequences
The most important thing I learned this term was that everything that I take as self–evident (my perceptions of reality and ethics) are just that: taken as self–evident. Through reading these works, and Professor Loeffler clarifying them during lecture, I came to understand not just ideas about philosophy, but why it is important for my life. As for skills, I learned how to effectively some very challenging texts and then how to write about them (argument reconstructions) and then present my own opinions about the texts via class discussion and prescribed essays.
To analyze texts on a new and higher level. Rather than simply reading a text and understanding the basics, I have sharpened my ability to create my own understandings, arguments and find proof for such understandings.
The knowledge and overview of many important texts that are foundational to western philosophy. The ability to decipher and deconstruct arguments, especially ones that are often colloquial and ambiguous.

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

Comments
The discussions in class (which were based on the readings) contributed the most to my learning. I was able to practice expressing my ideas about the different texts in a concise and meaningful way.
Classes are very helpful because we go over everything we've read and I like how it's part lecture and part class discussion. I think it's a good breakdown. Writing seminars are also helpful.
The lecture is generally intriguing and the Professor tries his best to extend the main thoughts from the book to the real life.
There are few outside of class assignment except for readings and papers. I thought the readings were all super interesting.
Discussion allowed me to engage with other students in class and go over ideas that I may have found confusing in readings. Lecture allowed for further clarification on readings and allowed for student input which added to my learning experience.
The lectures help clear up some of the misunderstanding from the readings, I think the discussions did not help much
The lectures were very helpful to my understanding. In addition, the feedback on essays was useful and the grading reflecting whether or not you took the feedback into account. If you take the feedback into account, you will do well.
Reading, discussion, and lectures
Lectures help me learn a lot. But, I also feel like I get a lot out of the class discussion. We often cut the class discussions short and I think it would be very useful if we let them reach their natural end.
He would allow us to discuss what we had read for the first half of the class and then lecture us in the second half. I found the lecture a bit useless, as it was just him talking, but the discussion was quite nice.
The writing seminars helped with writing our essays, but I do find that there were some discrepancies in what I was told worked in the seminar and the eventual feedback that I received on my essay.
The readings were all quite difficult, but the professor did a great job of making lectures that not only clarify the readings, but also inspire you to look at them from a perspective you were perhaps not open to originally. The way the readings and lectures worked together to build understanding was amazing in this course.
Discussion sections really confused my understanding of the readings.
The lectures were helpful to my learning.
Class discussions and lectures help me better understand the texts we read and then the assignments (essays) make me really think deeply about these texts and formally present my ideas.
Lectures really helped me listen in on what other's understood from the text and having the professor speak upon the dialogues also helped me understand better. In the beginning I had no idea how to reconstruct an argument, but with the lectures I learned by listening in and discussions.
The discussions often helped me to see additional dimensions or perspectives of arguments that I had not considered before. The lecture allowed more for a more structured or clear understanding of particular arguments.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.32%	73.68%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.26	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	21.05%	31.58%	47.37%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	10.53%	26.32%	15.79%	47.37%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	5.56%	5.56%	38.89%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	27.78%	61.11%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.32	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	36.84%	47.37%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	33.33%	61.11%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I had a lot of fun in this course. My class often had great discussions and the professor is really insightful. Although lectures can be extremely confusing at time, they encourage you to think about the content.
Professor was extremely passionate about topics which made class interesting to attend and increased my fascination with the topic. Standards on written assignments were a bit confusing, but feedback and writing seminars helped with this a little.
This was my favorite course this quarter. If you like philosophy, you must take this course. Professor Loeffler is the best. You will go beyond what you understand from reading, with his guidance in class.
If Prof. Loeffler is teaching it, take this class!
A bit too many readings compared to other Philosophical Perspective professors. I thought at times there was too much (reading and analysis) to cover in class.
Very good course, Professor Loeffler is very fair, and I am genuinely glad I have taken this course — despite of how hard it was sometimes.
N/A

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	5.26%	94.74%
Anyone interested in the topic	15.79%	84.21%

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

Comments
The instructor provided some guiding questions during the readings and then helped focus the discussions during class sessions. This was very helpful in teaching me what to look for when reading different texts. The lectures at the end of each class were also useful in providing a fuller picture and filling in any details I may have missed.
His willingness to let us discover the text through discussions amongst ourselves but also his own explanations.
The lecture and argument reconstruction.
The discussions and lectures were all helpful. The discussions were great for getting to see how other people read the text and lectures helped you think deeper about the text.
Opening discussion to class so I could learn from the perspectives of other students, allowing for time to review central concepts in reading
I think the lectures and speaking to him outside of class were helpful in understanding the reading and what to do for writing assignments
The lectures and asynchronous feedback.
His explanations on readings
The way he leads class discussions and adds to his student's points.
Our in–class discussions
The lectures were very clear and engaging, and class discussions were fun. The lectures were definitely the most useful bit of the course.
The prof. had an extraordinary capacity of helping us understand the readings through his lectures. Amazing lecturer.
His ardent interpretations of the text is what contributed most to my learning. It's rare to see professors be so visually evocative of their interest in their material and I appreciated that.
Professor Loeffler's lectures were quite helpful in clearing up what we have read for class. But more than that, he made us think critically about what we read by posing us questions. If it weren't for class, I would only have an extremely superficial understanding of these texts.
After allowing us to try and speak about our understandings of a text, the instructor would go over the true meaning of a text and help us understand. Many texts were difficult so there was alot of confusion that the professor assured for me.
The careful guided reading and analysis of specific bits of the text and really going step by step the premises, assumptions and conclusions of central arguments.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think his lectures could be a little bit more clear but I didn't find it to be a problem.
The lecture pace.
Maybe make lectures a bit clearer to reinforce main ideas, but overall instructor was still good/effective in helping me learn.
Nothing
Maybe go over some concepts a bit slower, especially those that are difficult to put into coherence.
Allow class discussion to rach their natural conclusion
I felt his lectures were a bit long and weren't that productive for the students.
I'd wish the discussion could be more guided as opposed to open ended, but I understand why they're done that way.
Nothing. Maybe hold office hours to chat if he has the time?
Talk more clearly and be more supportive to the discussion atmosphere
N/A
Perhaps send the students notes about what he said during the lecture because the lecture moves quite fast and it can be hard to grasp everything.
I found reading questions not helping me when trying to form a reconstruction. I would prefer a background or ideas to base upon. Questions felt like they led me to more questions. It's never ending.
This is likely out of the bounds of control but possible reduce the amount of content that is meant to be covered and focus in more detail on specific texts. Also sharing his class notes could be very helpful.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.26	4.00	0.00%	5.26%	10.53%	36.84%	47.37%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	10.53%	5.26%	47.37%	36.84%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.16	4.00	0.00%	5.26%	15.79%	36.84%	42.11%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	5.26%	0.00%	31.58%	63.16%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.11%	57.89%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.37	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	52.63%	42.11%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.24	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	47.37%	31.58%	10.53%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	36.84%	57.89%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	26.32%	57.89%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.37	4.00	0.00%	5.26%	0.00%	47.37%	47.37%	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.

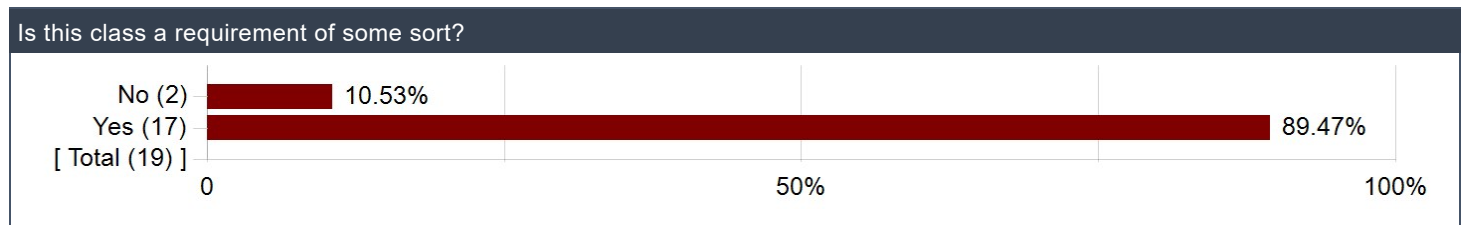| Comments |
|---|
| My TA was Katie Howe. The TA helped instruct students in writing seminars to prepare for upcoming essays. The feedback she offered on my drafts helped me better understand the style of writing and the texts themselves. |
| Katie is really really helpful. She provides me with lots of support and suggestions on revision to help me. |
| Katie Howe |
| Katie Howe |
| Katie Howe |
| Katie Howe |
| Katie Howe |
| Katie Howe. Katie was very very helpful in her feedback on our drafts in the writing seminars. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

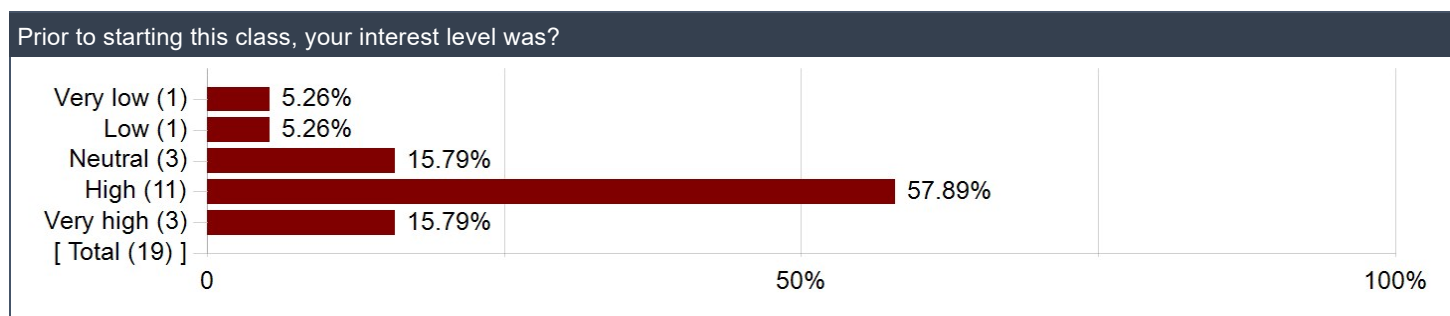|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	60.00%	20.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	70.00%	10.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	50.00%	10.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%	20.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	60.00%	10.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	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	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
Review Sessions	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	9.09%	72.73%
Writing Seminars	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (2) — 10.53%
Yes (17) — 89.47%
[Total (19)]

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (1)	5.26%
Low (1)	5.26%
Neutral (3)	15.79%
High (11)	57.89%
Very high (3)	15.79%
[Total (19)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (2)	11.11%
Satisfied (10)	55.56%
Heightened (6)	33.33%
[Total (18)]	
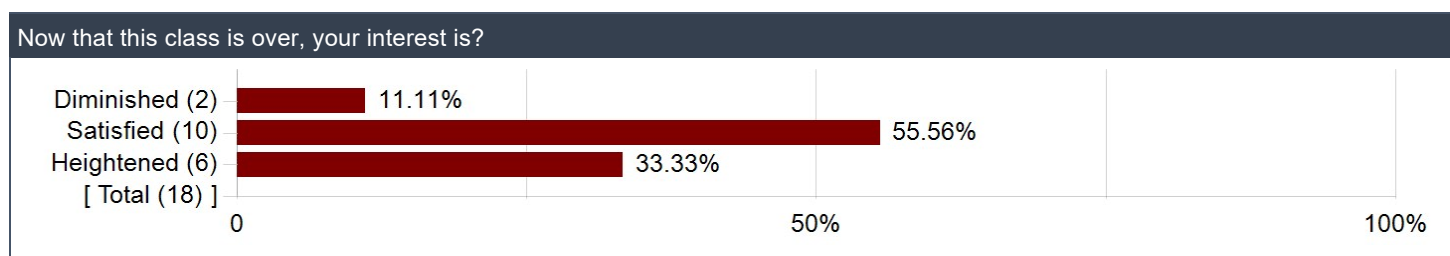
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
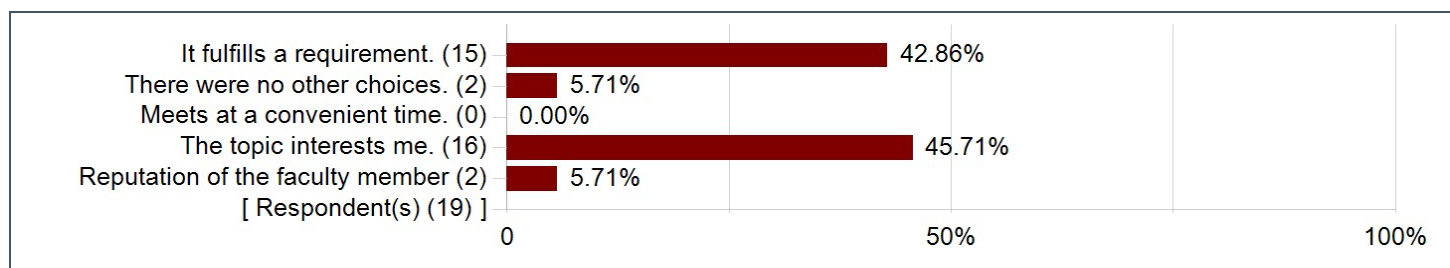
It fulfills a requirement. (15)	42.86%
There were no other choices. (2)	5.71%
Meets at a convenient time. (0)	0.00%
The topic interests me. (16)	45.71%
Reputation of the faculty member (2)	5.71%
[Respondent(s) (19)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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<5 hours (4)	21.05%
5-10 hours (10)	52.63%
10-15 hours (3)	15.79%
15-20 hours (2)	10.53%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (19)]	

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% (1)	5.26%
All (18)	94.74%
[Total (19)]	

0   50%   100%
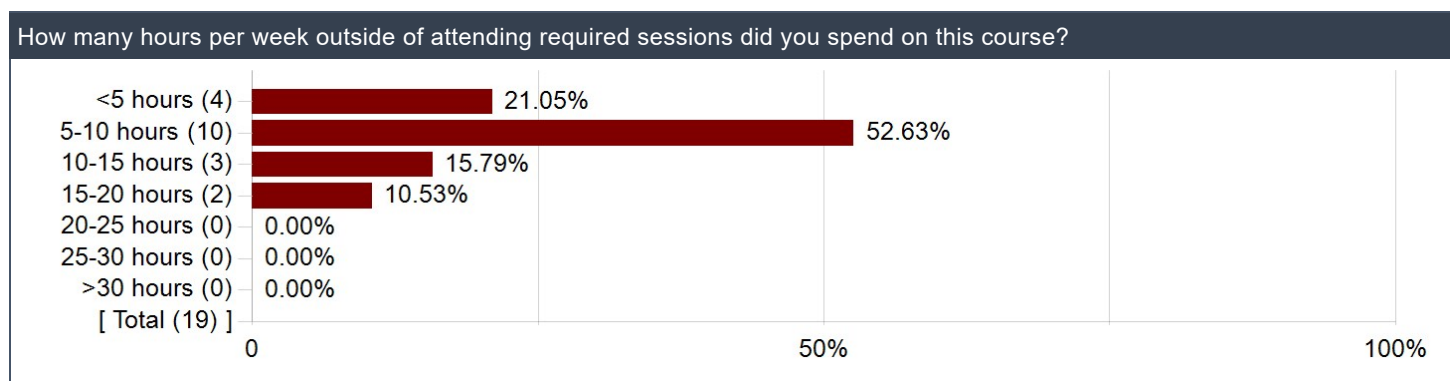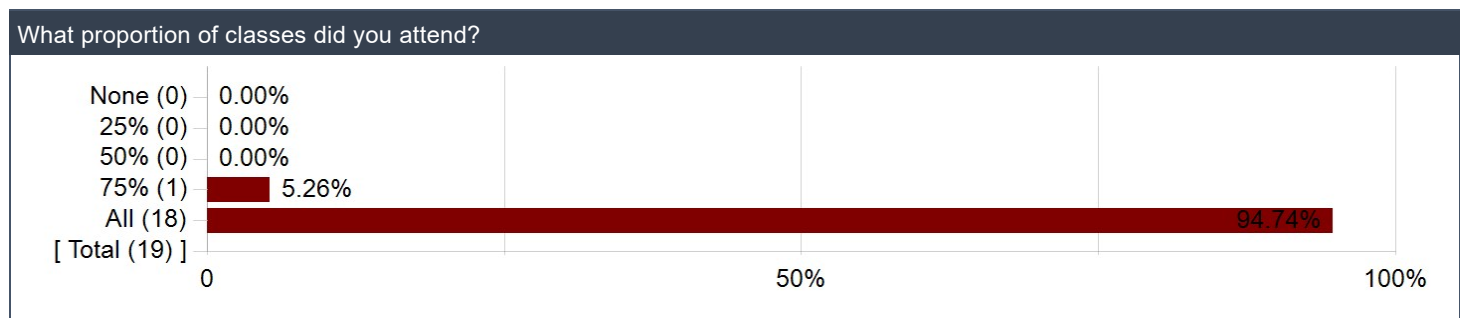
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
The course requires you to put in work but is not unreasonable.
It was difficult, especially certain texts, but definitely manageable.
It is a fairly difficult HUMA class since it's a philosophical topic. I think Professor Zach and TA are supportive and available in class. However, you should think over before registering for this class since it is difficult and it is a little bit time–consuming.
I had taken an into level philosophy course before so some of the material was familiar and some of it was new. The course is not difficult as long as you do the readings.
Course reading relatively difficult but workload was manageable
It is not too difficult as long as you do the readings
Pretty challenging
Background in philosophy is helpful
This course is not very difficult, but requires close attention to readings and lectures and honest effort in your essays. If you put in the work, you will do fine.
Difficult to understand particularly because the discussion session is not really helpful, it actually confuses me. The writing seminar is helpful for our assignments.
Pretty accessible for first–year students.
I haver never really done any philosophy in class before, so this was all new. So, pretty tough.
Very difficult texts that took a long time to understand.
The difficulty varied, some texts where very challenging while others were more approachable.