



HUMA 11600 1 - Philosophical Perspectives II - Instructor(s): Florian Grosser

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **10**

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
We covered Descartes, Hume and Othello in depth, and learned much about their epistemological arguments.
Techniques on essay writing – I sometimes worry these will not be fully transferrable to writing essays about non-philosophical topics. I also learned how much time it takes to stay on track with this course – I had underestimated the pre-reading, etc.
An introduction into foundationalist philosophers on epistemology – Hume and Descartes.
How to take skepticism into my views of the world.
Ideas of skepticism, doubt etc.
Learning how to read close to modern philosophical texts, writing philosophy papers.
I learned a lot about what knowledge is and how we can determine truth. We covered different methods using Hume and Descartes.
I was introduced to skeptical philosophy for the first time and challenged to critically engage with those ideas.
How to analyze texts, read texts and discuss complex texts
Some of the epistemic theories surrounding human thought and understanding.

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

Comments
Lectures would cover the readings and foster discussions on them based on our interpretations of them, while assignments would encourage us to come up with our own theories on the readings.
Discussions were helpful to explain and explore what Hume and Descartes are really arguing in the text.
The discussions kept you reading ahead and prepared for class, but were annoying sometimes
Lectures contributed to improved understanding of philosophical texts. Essays also helped to improve understanding.
This course is mainly lecture based, which is helpful if you're paying attention but otherwise is a class that you can kind of coast through and not come out of it with anything. I liked the lectures mostly, but felt the discussions were more helpful.
Readings and class discussion allowed to dive into skeptical philosophy and learn some pivotal concepts.
everything contributed
Class was ~75% lecturing and ~25% discussion, and I think the balance was good. The readings were mostly interesting, the papers were challenging but taught me a lot, the discussion posts were useful, and the records were helpful. Writing seminars helped with the writing process.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	50.00%	40.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.70	3.50	0.00%	20.00%	30.00%	10.00%	40.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.20	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.10	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	30.00%	40.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I would have liked to see examples of what a good essay would look like, because I often felt lost as to what to write, and what the standard was to eg. get a B– vs an A–.
There were a lot of readings but most of them felt intentional. The biggest issue is that they were poorly spaced out.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	20.00%	80.00%

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

Comments
The instructor clearly is very interested and engaged in the topic, which makes it more enjoyable to talk about the readings.
I liked how the professor used slideshows during the lecture which included key take–aways on the context of the philosophical work. i sometimes get distracted during those class so those helped me be able to catch back up when I regained focus.
Professor Grosser was very clear and explicit about the contents of the readings and was helpful in providing insights into different interpretations.
Lectures and office hour sessions.
Professor Grosser was always available to meet, which was helpful. He also was very thoughtful when responding to questions in class.
The class discussion were very useful for understanding the reading material and Grosser brought up a lot of perspectives than I had not considered before.
discussions
The way he broke down the arguments from the reading was really helpful.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Not the instructor's fault but the fact that the class was at 9:30AM was brutal.
Perhaps more time to investigate some of the content (and better spacing of the reading assignments). Perhaps skipping some chapters might help so that we can focus more on others.
Perhaps more structured lectures?
Less lecture more discussion
There were a lot of lectures and not a lot of discussion, which was less engaging than if there had been more discussions. Additionally, the discussion posts (due Monday) often required us to read the content due Thursday which created an unreasonable amount of reading that needed to happen over the weekend.
maybe more collaborative discussions in class (when we break off for group discussion)
Writing on the board important points in an argument would be helpful.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	30.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.10	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.20	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	11.11%
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.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	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 is a phenomenal TA. Very energetic, engaging, and nice, and also extremely helpful and knowledgeable. His seminars were always useful when it came time to analyze our writing and improve it for the essays moving forward.
John Lawrence. He primarily ran writing seminars and graded papers. I liked the pre-recorded lectures on writing techniques. It was helpful to be able to return to them as reference, and the multiple examples employed in each helped illustrate points.
John was really helpful, and his writing seminars were really good at delivering advice on how we should write / structure / organize our essays.
John Lawrence

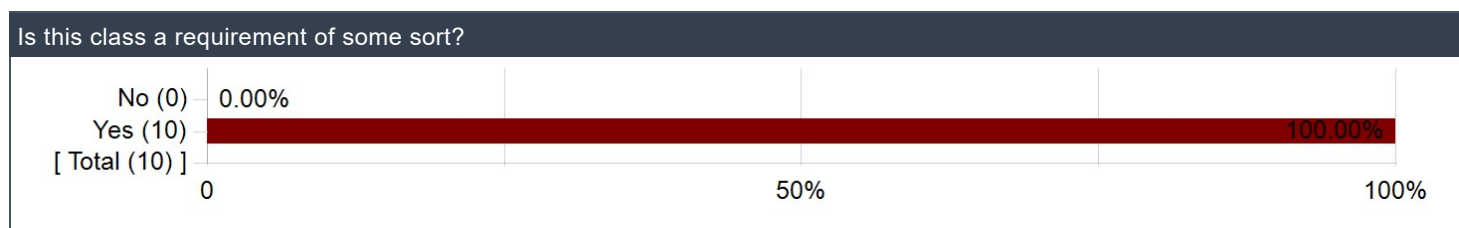
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
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.	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	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%

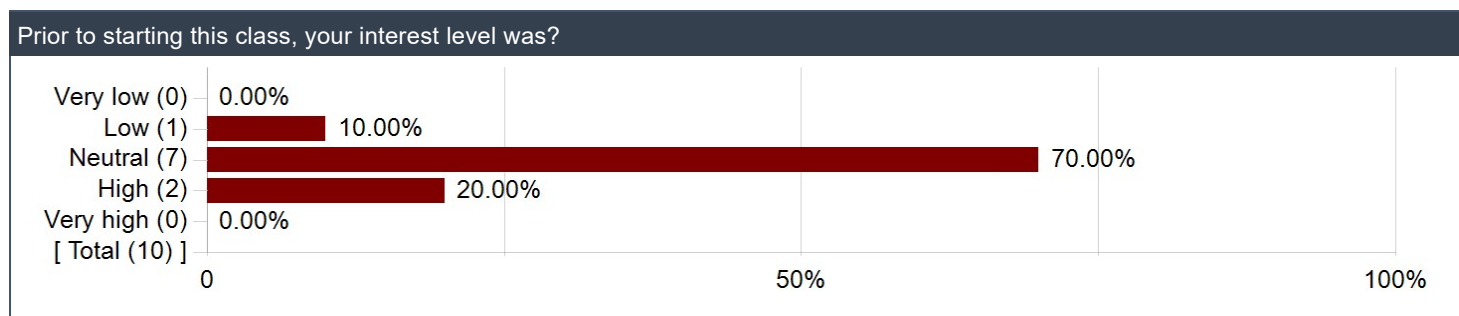
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	62.50%	25.00%	0.00%

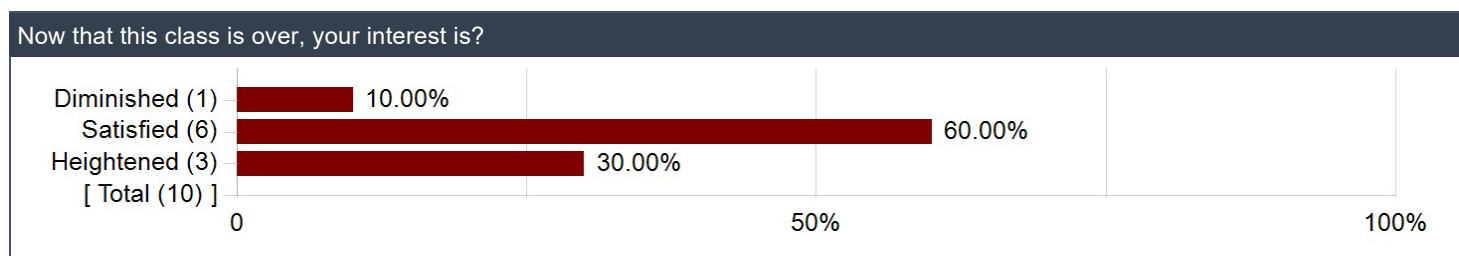
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



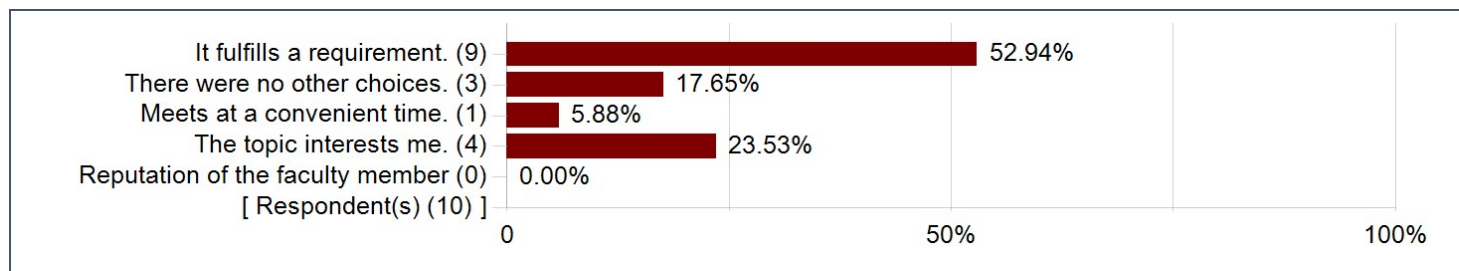
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



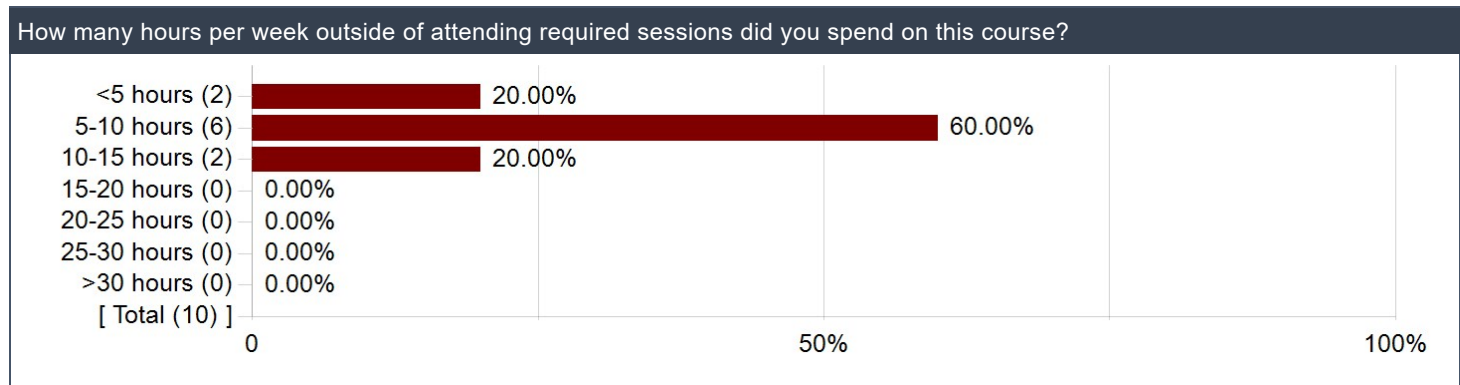
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



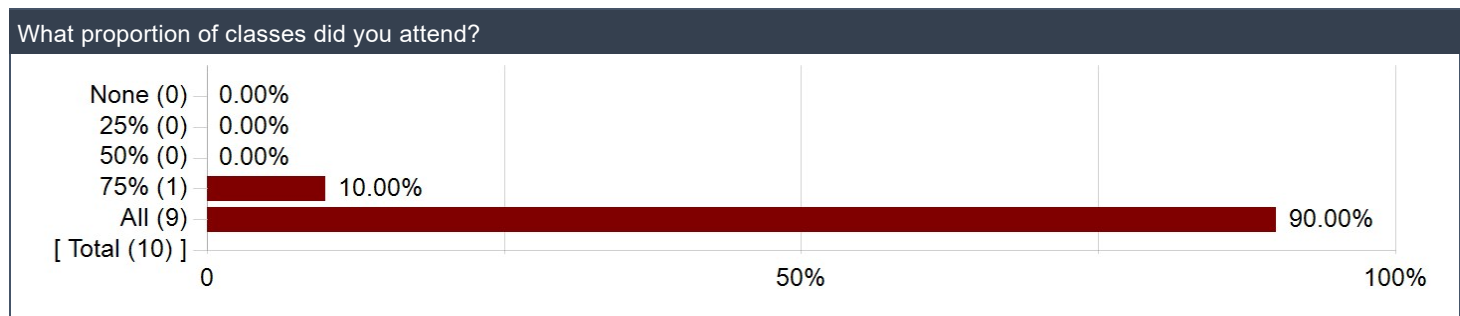
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 found it challenging to know how much time to expect to spend on pre-reading. It would have been good to have gotten some brief advice on reading efficiently
Fairly manageable.
Ok difficulty, had only previous experience from the first quarter
Having only HUMA 11500 as background, this class was quite challenging.
I have previous background in philosophy but I don't think nay prior experience is needed. The specific content covered is useful and accessible to all.