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
We read a lot of aristotle and other grwat authors, talked a lot about religion and god and bigger topics about why things are the way they are and honestly cant say I've enjoyed another class more. The converations we have in class are extremely engaging and are on topics that are turly fascinating and fun to think about.
I learned how to engage in philosophical debate and thinking.
I learned what it means to question what it means to be a human being and a citizen. This was a good introduction to philosophy and offered the space to be curious about conceptions and identities we often take for granted. I think that I am a better read and questioner of the world around me because of my time in this course.
How to interpret and apply the ideas of texts we read (Aristotle, Augustine of Hippo, Dante) to our understanding of ourselves and the real world.
What a human being is (maybe) – and literally every question you can connect to that. Even ones you wouldn't think to connect to that. Plus others that will hurt your brain but be so interesting you don't care
Dante's Inferno, St. Augustine's Confessions, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics. Through these texts, I gained a deeper understanding of different views on the human condition and Christianity. Close reading was an important skill, especially for the Ethics. On each essay, I also improved my ability to read arcane texts, identify necessary and sufficiency components of a definition or argument, and write strong deductive reasoning. I think the last part is the most important because good deductive reasoning allows people to argue and make convincing points, regardless of whether they're rich, famous, powerful, etc. Unless people are wholly irrational, they can't refute logic.
Various aspects of being human

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

Comments
Discussions were engaging, we were encouraged to participate and share our ideas, and it was a great learning experience
The discussions were the best part of the course. Prof Brooks is great at asking questions and explaining philosophical concepts through example.
The lectures were engaging and thought–provoking spaces of intellectual discourse in a way that felt accessible and encouraging due to the character of my classmates and the support of our understanding professor.
Lectures and class discussion were amazing intellectual experiences. Professor Arnold asks the most thought–provoking and challenging philosophical questions.
listening during class was more important than reading when it came to writing the essays, because he has some takes that change the avg interpretation and make your essay trash if you didn't pay attention.
The readings were essential; sometimes, I would use Sparknotes or related sources to try and figure out some of the chapters, and they were usually rather off from what I gleaned from the text and what Professor Arnold gleaned too; basically, you have to read to do well. The lectures were very useful too: Professor Arnold (like last quarter) provided really good analysis of each of the texts we read, especially the Ethics (because he's an Aristotle scholar). Essays helped my learning too: the prompts were quite intriguing and not just argument analysis or regurgitation.
The discussions prompted you to think and helped gain a much better understanding of the topic
Classes were very helpful for essays

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.36	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	63.64%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	18.18%	27.27%	45.45%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.45	4.00	9.09%	18.18%	18.18%	27.27%	27.27%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	36.36%	36.36%
I felt respected in this class.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	5.00	9.09%	9.09%	18.18%	0.00%	63.64%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I would have appreciated more timely feedback.
I would highly recommend taking this course alongside the Democracy SOSC because the topics and content of the readings overlap a ton.
Professor Arnold takes a much more philosophy focused approach on the text rather than analyzing its details. I find this very helpful, especially for Biblical texts, as talking about why God is wonderful may not be the most interesting discussion. However, this means that often we won't read a single line from the text for the entire class, rather just summarize the key ideas.
Professor Brooks was fantastic. He always had an answer or response to any comment. Genuinely one of the smartest people I've met.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	18.18%	81.82%
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
Discussions, he provided great examples to help us understand what the authors were trying to say, was always open to debate and enocuraging us to participate and see new ideas
The examples and stories he told to explain topics in a more tangible manner.
The professor was a sincere listener and put a lot of intention and effort into each lecture he gave/discussion he led. He explained things thoroughly and would explain things in new ways if it wasn't clear.
Lecture was the most helpful and interesting part. Professor Arnold is always able to clearly explain the ideas of the authors. But instead of just telling us, he forces us to think about it too and learn through our own discovery. He also gives excellent and very helpful feedback on essays and is very flexible with extensions.
his lectures (even though this is a seminar) – we got lots of insight into Aristotle that was cool. also he is great at engaging people with questions to challenge their views (it just makes it scarier to participate and when he changed participation to 1 percent people were either like whats the point or ok now I can talk without worrying abt being absolutely flamed in front of everyone)
Professor Arnold's discussions contributed the most. Although we read a great deal of material, we only had time to discuss small parts of it in depth. I also think office hours were very useful. He was always willing to answer questions, even if it was about stuff we didn't cover in class; they were quite easy to schedule too.
Discussed topics that would be related to essays

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing, I loved this course
The timing of feedback. I would have liked to get feedback on an essay before having to submit the next one.
I wish there were more days for office hours or instead of just Monday. Since it's at the beginning of the week, we don't really know what we're going to talk about it class yet.
A rubric for essays, a better explanation of what he means by "build understanding, do not persuade". He left some pretty uselessly mean toned comments on a few of my papers and I was like I do not see how this could be this constructive, but it also is just hw. he talks. he'll be real with you for sure, just prepare to rethink your writing style
I wish we could extend the length of the discussion sections; there was never enough time. Other than that, I think Professor Arnold did a very good job.
N/A
Feedback on time

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	30.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	18.18%	63.64%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	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
Tommy Pfannkoch; He would help. bring relevant writing techniques to each seminar in order to prepare us for the papers. He was super well organized and was eager to offer constructive feedback.
Tommy

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

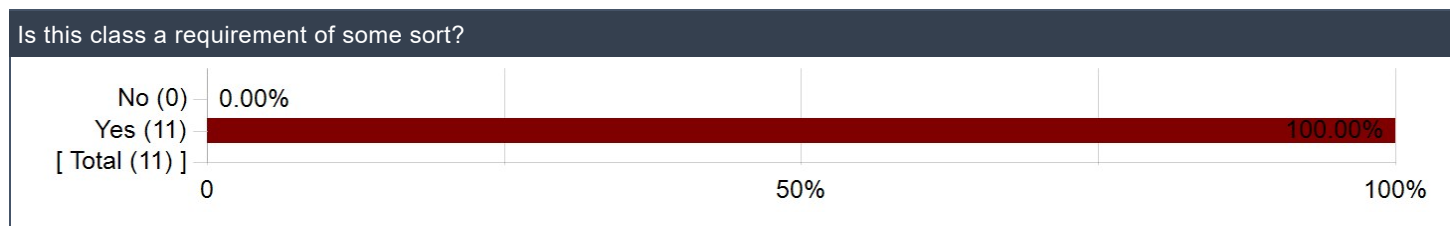|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	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.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

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

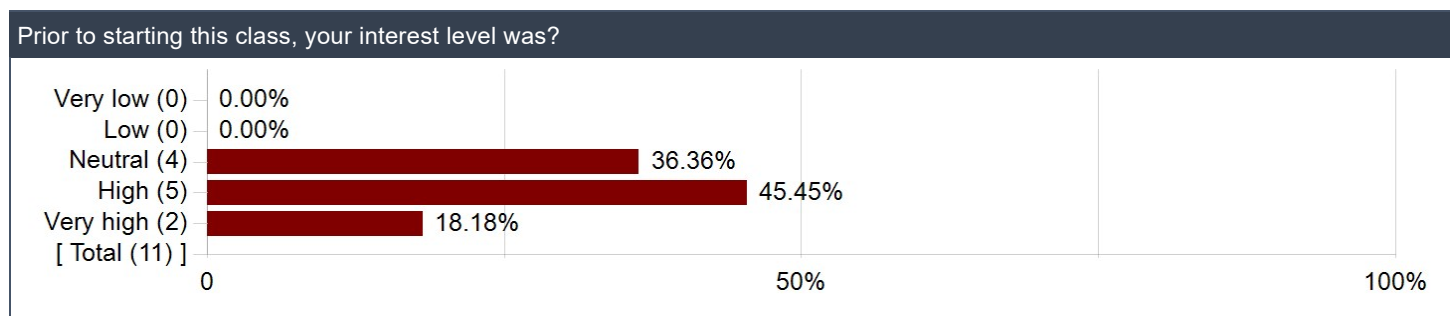|	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
There was a 'required' event to attend Antigone at the Court Theatre. It was very enjoyable.

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

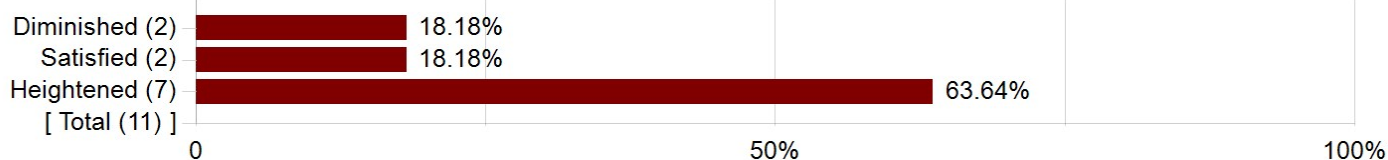| Is this class a requirement of some sort? |
|---|

- No (0) — 0.00%
- Yes (11) — 100.00%
- [Total (11)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

- Very low (0) — 0.00%
- Low (0) — 0.00%
- Neutral (4) — 36.36%
- High (5) — 45.45%
- Very high (2) — 18.18%
- [Total (11)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (2) — 18.18%
- Satisfied (2) — 18.18%
- Heightened (7) — 63.64%
- [Total (11)]

Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
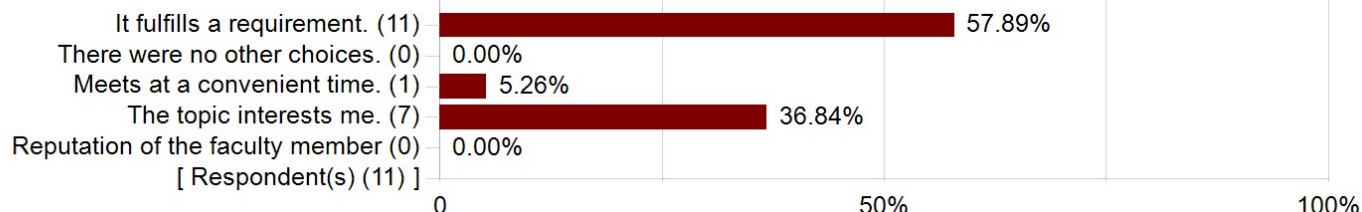
- It fulfills a requirement. (11) — 57.89%
- There were no other choices. (0) — 0.00%
- Meets at a convenient time. (1) — 5.26%
- The topic interests me. (7) — 36.84%
- Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
- [Respondent(s) (11)]

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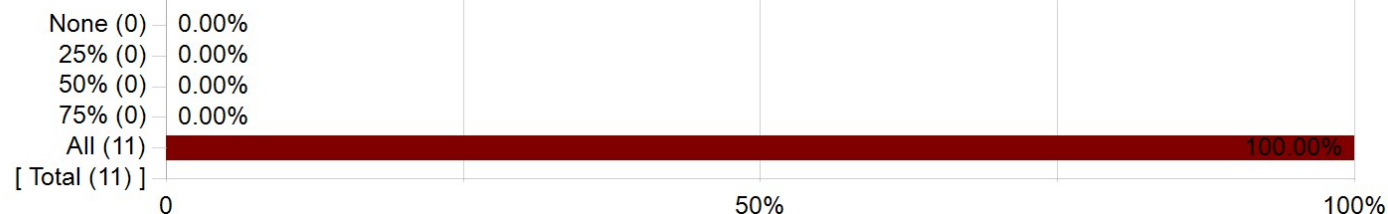
How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

- <5 hours (4) — 36.36%
- 5-10 hours (7) — 63.64%
- 10-15 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 15-20 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 20-25 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 25-30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- >30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- [Total (11)]
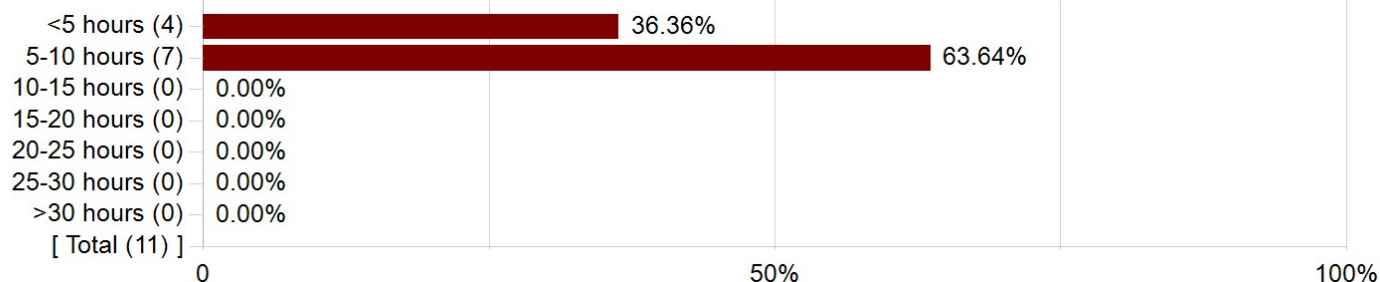
What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

- None (0) — 0.00%
- 25% (0) — 0.00%
- 50% (0) — 0.00%
- 75% (0) — 0.00%
- All (11) — 100.00%
- [Total (11)]

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Not too difficult, I would recommend, It is very interesting and as someone who doesnt even love to read, these books were interesting
Insanely easy and I have no prior experience with philosophy
This course is appropriate for first years. Be prepared to dive into philosophy.
It was challenging as good classes should be, but not overly difficult.
Very similar to AP Literature. Less reading than SOSC. More philosophical based approach.
I took the first sequence with the same professor; other than that, I had no background in philosophy, and I don't think AP Lang/Lit helped much with the expectations for this course–general writing skills and editing are always useful, but the types of essays we were expected to write focused a lot more on deductive reasoning vs. rhetorical analysis or citing evidence. On the contrary, we were told not to directly quote. However, I did not think the second quarter was more difficult than the first, and I enjoyed the texts more.