



HUMA 11500 13 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Chris Kennedy

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **14**

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
I learned how to analyze arguments and present them in simplified forms. I learned how to understand the main ideas of philosophical arguments. I learned how to revise my writing to increase efficiency and clarity. I learned how to structure argumentative writing.
Philosophy of ethics. We watch Plato and Aristotle try to answer what virtue is and how to live a good life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – different perspectives on virtue, good, intelligence – writing essays (content, how to support argument)
i learned the different ideas that well known pbilopsphers have and their writing style. I learned how to read philosophical text and it increased my understanding in how to interpret such texts.
I liked seeing how relevant everything the philosophers were talking about in the books still is today. The texts about justice and goodness were very interesting.
Basic intro into the main ancient greek philosophers, lots of Socrates Plato and Aritotle
I learned ancient philosophical ways of thinking that impacted my modern day though process.
Writing skills
Introductions to philosophical ideas and how Plato and Aristotle may define the 'good life'. I learned how to argue critically and logically in my papers.
How to read the text and pick out key concepts, importance of these key concepts from Nicomachean Ethics and Republic, how to create an argument
Unpacking arguments in philosophical texts
This course was a great introduction to the philosophical way of thinking and writing. The assignments were reasonable, and the source material is obviously incredible. I learned a lot about how to convey complex ideas clearly, and I also learned a lot about moral relativism and what we are talking about when we say that something is "good."
What is Aristotle's account of virtue, the difficulties in defining virtue, what is the nature of a thing, Socrates' allegory of the cave, and Socrate's vision of a perfect city
I learned how to read often–dense philosophical texts and distill their central arguments, as well as how to better construct cogent persuasive arguments with sound reasoning and textual backing. Regarding content, I learned the basics of Plato and Aristotle's ethics, covering topics such as forms, the good, the doctrine of the mean, intellectual vs. moral virtues, etc.

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

Comments
Discussions allowed for a greater understanding of the text. The main ideas were broken down and explained. The discussion posts required me to analyze the text briefly in order to have something to contribute to the discussion. The papers challenged me intellectually and taught me how to analyze an argument profoundly.
The classes with the discussions is the meat of the course. I like how Dr. Kennedy builds each class around what we found interesting in the reading through our discussion posts and will generally go anywhere the class takes him. Definitely a class that lets you be impressed by your peers. The writing instructor often made interesting contributions to the class and the writing seminars were enjoyable despite how primed I was to be annoyed by an additional commitment.
The assignments were very fun and allowed for us to have a richer class discussion each week.
Discussion was very helpful as it allowed me to better understand the reading.
Discussions helped me made sense of harder texts and clarify questions/misunderstandings. Essays were good to really dive deep into a concept.
The reading was interesting, and the assignments forced you to have a deep understanding of the texts
I really appreciated the discussions and writing seminars as it helped explain and elaborate on ideas I wasn't sure about.
assignments and discussions
The lectures and office hours were usually insightful. The online discussion posts were interesting. Office hours were also helpful for understanding the more complex areas of the text.
Lectures were very engaging and interesting
I really liked the discussions in class
The discussions were decent. There wasn't a lot of contribution, but that wasn't Kennedy's fault. In fact, I think he actually did a great job of facilitating conversation in spite of a lot of reluctance to speak. The writing seminars were extremely helpful as well. Plenty of practical advice and feedback on our work.
No lectures, discussion-based classes facilitated by his summary of our comments on the reading. Writing seminars were pretty useful. Essays helped me understand the text more. Discussion posts (homework) were alright; for dense texts it was non-trivial to write something interesting since we struggled on understanding it.
The readings were fairly interesting, but could be very challenging at times. Our discussions did a great job at breaking down complex topics into manageable terminology.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	57.14%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	57.14%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.79	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	21.43%	35.71%	28.57%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	35.71%	42.86%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	28.57%	64.29%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	28.57%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	57.14%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
no rubrics or clear expectations were set for paper assignments, so learning the expectations was a bit difficult, especially because the writing expectations are changed from high school to college.
Its really interesting, the professor is great, but the grading is somewhat harsh in comparación to other Hume classes. Its a good class though
I really appreciated the openness and willingness of the teachers to help me out with any problems I had.
N/A
Pretty high-quality

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	7.14%	92.86%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.14%	92.86%

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

Comments
His ability to clearly break down and explain arguments from the text in class.
He is just very good at leading interesting discussions based off of our ideas and that makes the content far more enjoyable
The instructor was great at facilitating group discussions and making everyone feel included but not targeted.
Writing down topics that will be discussed at the beginning of lecture helps you know what to expect and allows you to follow along with the discussion. The writing/drawing on the chalkboard also helps with understanding of material.
Him writing down the important takeaways on the board helped a lot.
He is very good at listening to student responses and understanding their point immediately. Also some diagrams that accompany the presentations are helpful
I liked the constant motivation to have everyone talk.
Always very open to what everyone says. His interest in the subject persuaded people to learn more.
He led class discussions in a way that allowed for students to voice their thoughts but also guided us towards talking about the major concepts at play in the texts.
Kennedy would organize the author's argument on the board, helping me better understand key concepts from the books and preparing me for writing assignments
I liked the in-class discussions, and the fact that he uses the online discussion posts as a frame for the discussion of that reading.
Kennedy did an incredible job of directing the in class conversations. I also think that the prompts that he picked out for the essays were well-thought-out. Finally, if he does it the same way the next time he teaches the class, you'll have four 3 to 5-page papers for the quarter, which can balance out pretty well with another class (like a SOSC sequence) that has longer papers.
His focus and summary of the text. He also added an interesting linguistics angle to the course. He's also decently funny.
The discussions were very clarifying, particularly when Professor Kennedy diagrammed difficult topics and described them piecemeal.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Provide examples of exemplary papers so the students can understand what is needed to succeed in the class.
Readings should be assigned proportional to the time we have to do it. It is usually far easier to complete the homework somewhere between wed – mon than mon – wed.
Clarify essay prompts once they are initially given.
set clearer expectations about paper and briefly explain prompt during class to clear up any confusion.
N/A
Let the discussion flow a bit more in class
I think having a few more assignments so essays are not worth so much.
Make some discussions more organized
There could be a clearer rubric for graded assignments or general explanatory session for what is expected.
nothing
Nothing really. Maybe engaged everyone a little bit more in the conversations, but there's only so much you can do.
Maybe better pacing with the readings: it started out fairly slow but then got really fast

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	50.00%	35.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	64.29%	21.43%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	57.14%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.29	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	28.57%	50.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	57.14%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	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. He was the writing instructor for the class. His writing seminars were useful and he provided great individual feedback that allowed me to improve my performance on assignments.
John Lawrence
Dr. John Lawrence. His explanations are very clear and he provides good feedback during writing sessions or appointments. The examples he provides during writing sessions and videos help you better understand the concepts being taught.
John Lawrence
John Lawrence
John Lawrence, he was our writing seminar instructor. He was very helpful in explain proper writing ways and I feel like I benefited from him.
John Lawrence
John Lawrence was really fantastic as a TA. He did a great job explaining fundamental philosophy writing styles to us, and I felt like I grew a lot as a writer from the first paper to the last paper. He was also available to meet and look over drafts soon multiple occasions.
John Lawrence

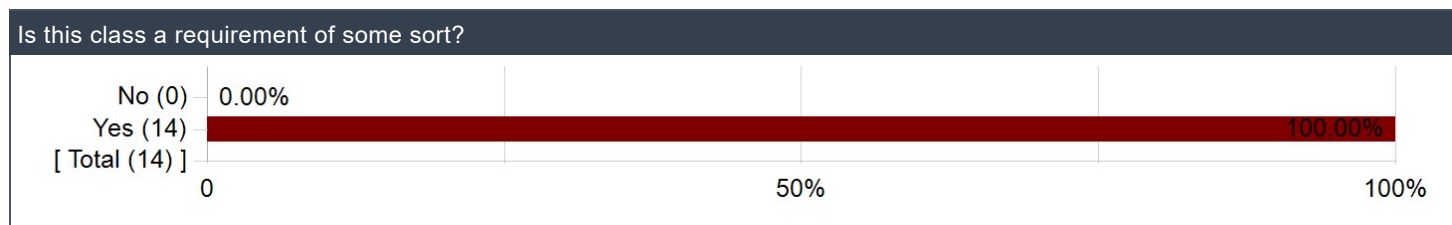
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	22.22%	33.33%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	22.22%	22.22%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	11.11%	33.33%	22.22%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	0.00%

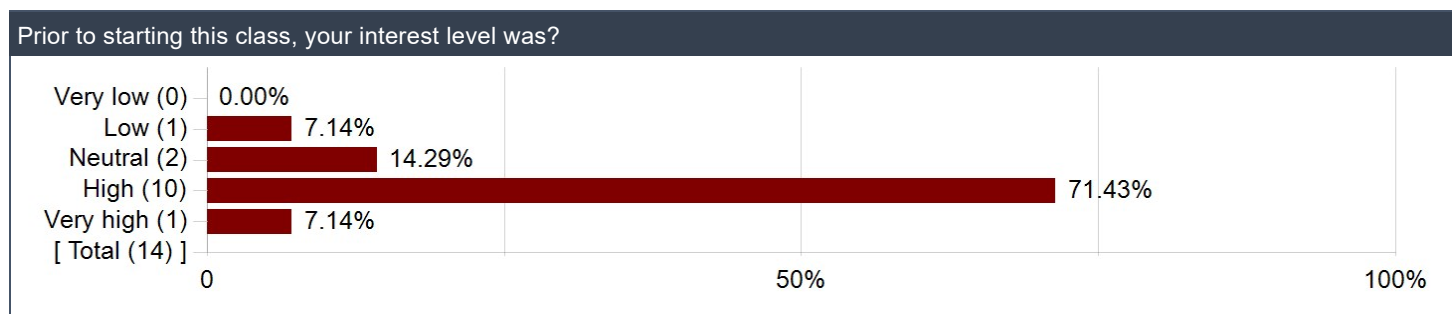
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	36.36%	36.36%	0.00%

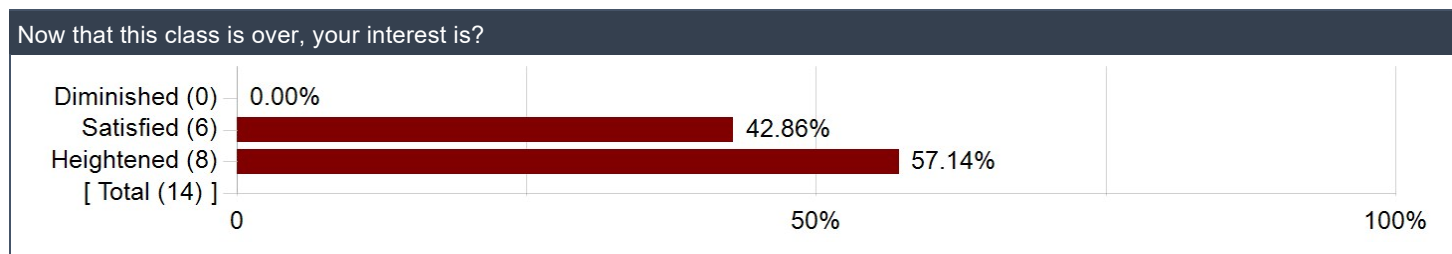
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



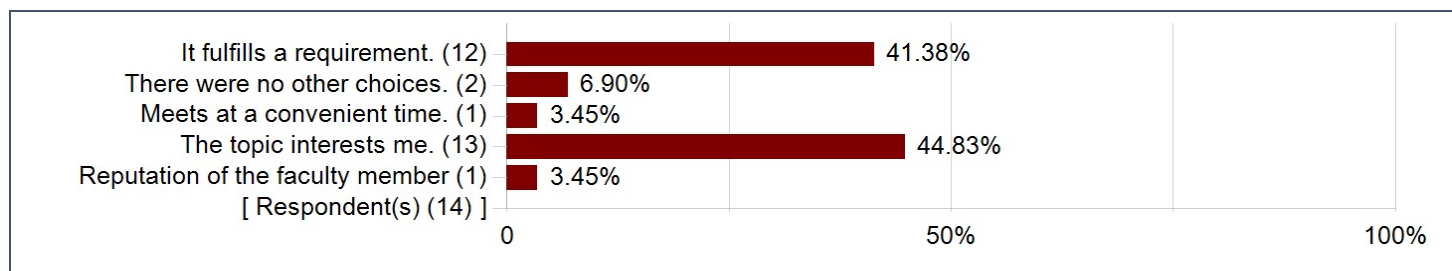
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



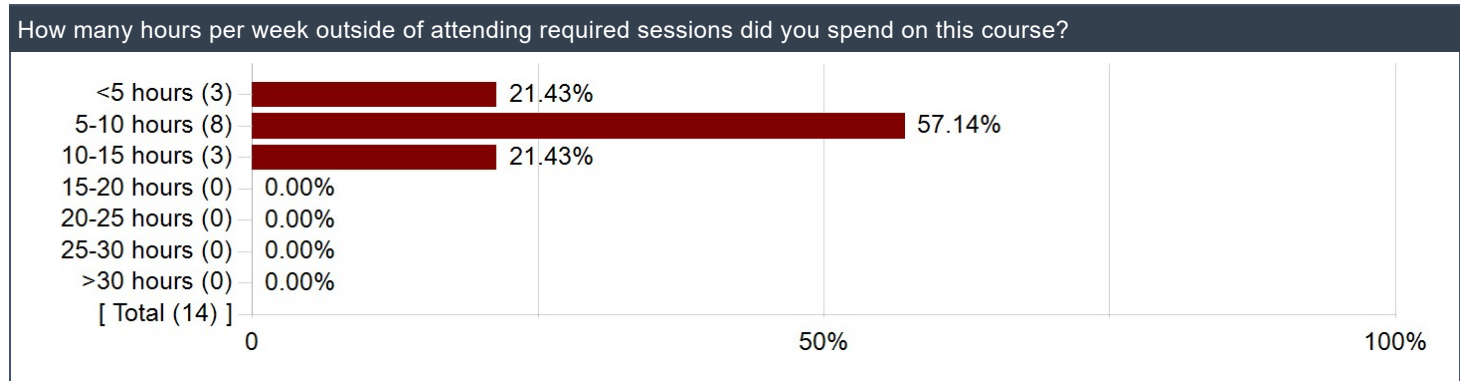
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



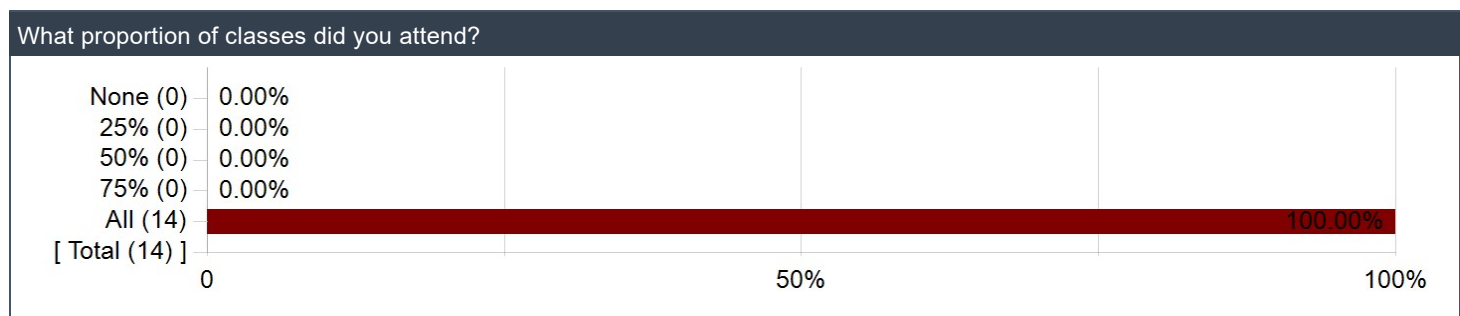
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 experience with writing philosophy papers, so it was hard to adjust to the style of analysis and writing. With no prior experience, this class can be very challenging.
The course was just the right difficulty for me.
5/10, had no background experience but text are a bit challenging to read. Writing was pretty challenging 6/10
Doable, just read the texts.
Its manageable, but the assignments take a lot of time and can be very technical at times
I did not know anything coming in to it and I feel I gained knowledge
Challenging due to paper handout times. We only had one week for each paper
Difficult but not unmanageable, having never really studied philosophy before.
Had no experience, but this course is designed as an introduction to philosophy so it was fine, texts took a little while to read but the rest of the class was understandable and made the texts understandable
I had taken a few philosophy courses in high school, and I think that this class was difficult but not impossible.
I had had experience doing this kind of writing with Plato and Aristotle as subject material before, so it wasn't too bad. You do have to be willing to get pretty heady with the topics, because it's philosophy at the end of the day.
Appropriate difficulty—even with an interest and some knowledge of philosophy, class was interesting (mostly because I don't know much Greek philosophy)