



# HUMA 11500 10 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Ryan Simonelli

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **9**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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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
How to analyze philosophical arguments
Close reading & writing skills.
Learning and understanding foundational texts and ideas in Western philosophy including those of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Being able to explain philosophical ideas and form an informed opinion about them through writing.
The main concepts covered in this course are the Aristotelian, Platonic, and Socratic schools of thought. Through examining each of these, we learned how to break down and understand specific philosophical arguments.
Close reading, detailed writing, dialogical learning.
I learned how to reconstruct and respond to arguments this quarter in philosophical perspectives.
Uh mainly just the foundations of western philosophy. I gained some ability to understand what the heck old people are saying, and the essays did help me learn how to condense my writing.
Philosophical writing skills and argument analysis.

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

Comments
The lecture is very clear and informative.
Discussions allowed for good questions to be asked and clarify the sometimes unclear ideas the philosophers expressed in their writings. The professor was good at facilitating these conversations and answering questions from students.
The lectures were very helpful and I appreciate how professor Simonelli was willing to take his time to explain and draw out the concepts while accepting questions. Sometimes, lectures would turn into classroom discussions.
The papers and the feedback have made me a more confident writer.
Lectures helped me understand the difficult readings. Discussions allowed me to test my arguments against my peers. Writing seminars showed me what I did well and what I could've improved in my papers.
Lectures were helpful for understanding what actually happened in the readings, but the only problems is that there was like 0 discussion, which is sort of important philosophy course. I also wish that there were a little bit more contemporary issues; I never felt like I had reason to actually care what Plato was saying because all of it was stupid.
Readings were mostly interesting and lectures were helpful to understanding readings and getting to discuss and respond to them with classmates.

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	77.78%	22.22%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	22.22%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	62.50%	25.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	77.78%	22.22%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.78	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	44.44%	22.22%
I felt respected in this class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%
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
The essays could be graded more leniently and I would appreciate if more time could be allotted for classroom discussions.
I think some problems just stemmed from the fact that we were studying philosophy when philosophy tried to be a science (specifically before the enlightenment), so a lot of it I can't take toooooo seriously, and there's not much discussion to be had. I am excited for Hume and Kant, and when we get to ethics and get to actually debate stuff.
At times the standards for grading on papers were a bit unclear and I didn't fully understand the reasoning for why I got points off.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.11%	88.89%
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
Thoroughly explaining different aspects of the assigned readings and making it clear what the philosophers' ideas were. Contrasting the ideas and outlook between different philosophers.
Professor Simonelli's willingness to take and answer questions regarding the content contributed the most to my learning.
The discussions in class and the review packets helped to clarify and distill the ideas presented in the texts we read.
The instructor's lectures contributed to my learning the most.
Probably the explanations of what the philosophers were saying; some of it was definitely hard to follow.
Recaps of readings and facilitation of discussion in class.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Offer a chance for students to take a side on an philosophical issue and make informed arguments that they could present before the class.
The instructor could allow more time for classroom discussions regarding the philosophical arguments. I believe hearing classroom perspectives on topics such as whether living the unexamined life is worth it would be very helpful.
I thought the class was close to perfect. I would prefer for no changes to be made, and if there are changes, I hope they will be minimal.
Maybe instead of having one big discussion group during class we could split into smaller groups and discuss.
Like, I feel that I would learn more if you taught less during the class (still teach some of course cuz some passages are whack) and let us have more discussion time. Like, if we know that you're going to teach the whole passage in class, there's less motivation to read it all the way through ahead of time. If we had more class discussion, I think my opinions would be more challenged. I don't think my mind really changed over the course of the class, which isn't exactly what you're hoping for in a philosophy class.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.75	4.00	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	62.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	28.57%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	28.57%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	28.57%	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
Mike Ossman

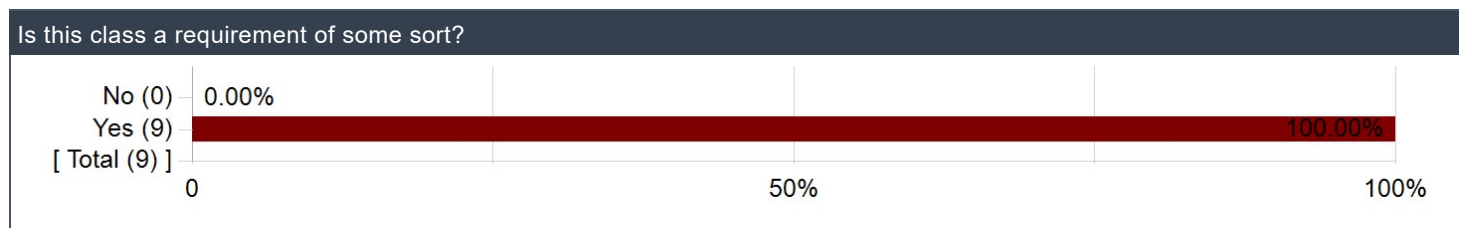
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
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.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

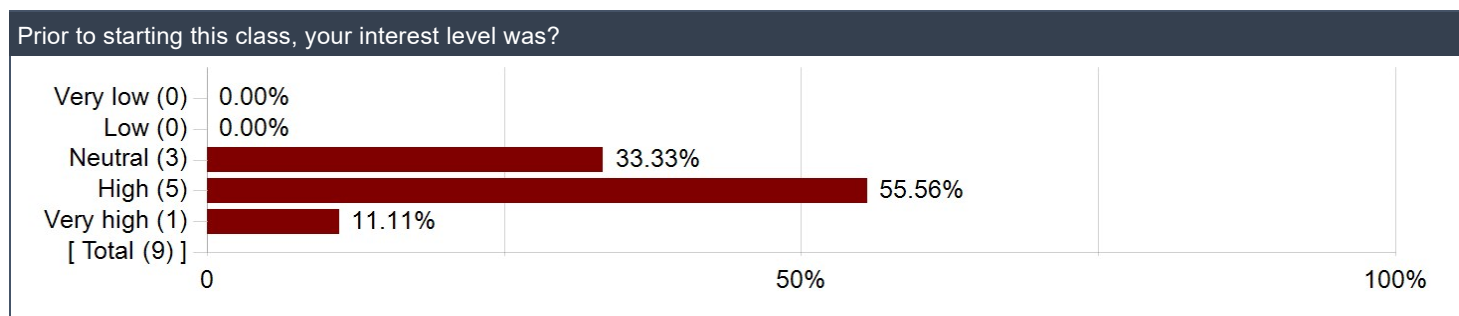
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	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	3.75	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	0.00%

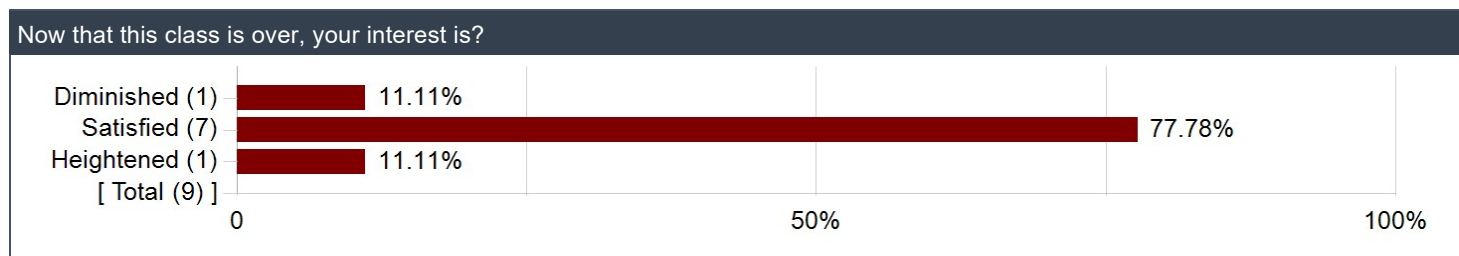
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



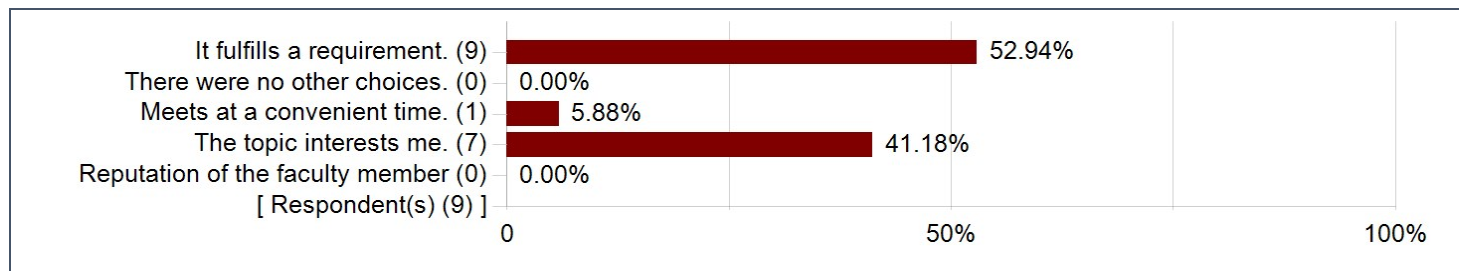
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



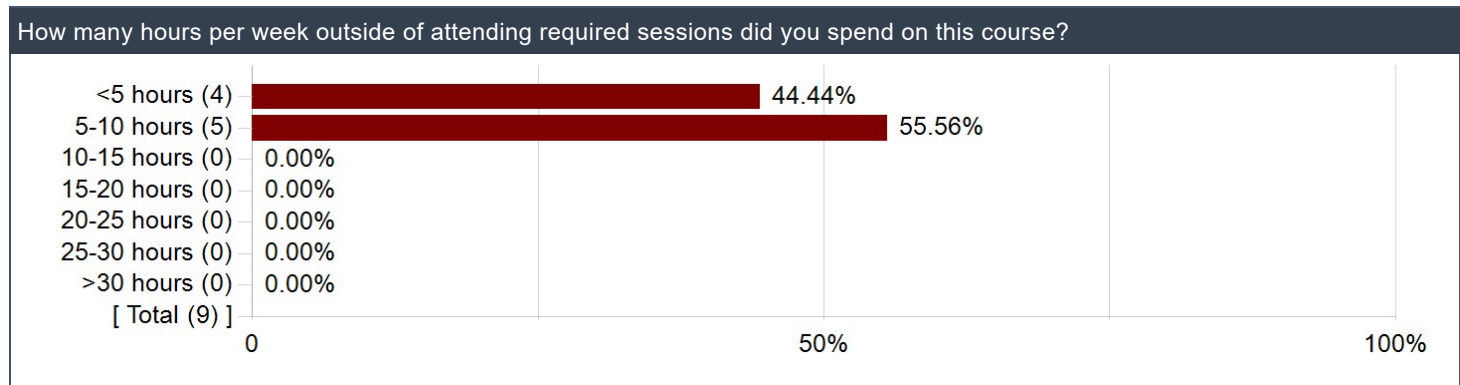
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



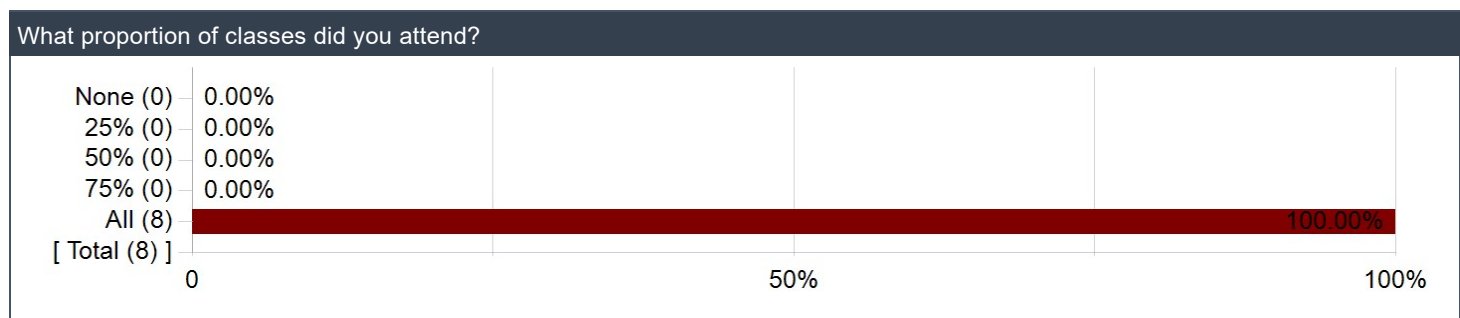
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Generally not difficult
I would say the class is moderately challenging coming from someone who didn't have much experience with argumentative writing.
I have taken an ethics course at a different university and this course is about in line with that. The prompts in this course allow you the freedom to write about what really interests you, which I think makes for better papers.
Decent