



# HUMA 11700 11 - Philosophical Perspectives III - Instructor(s) - David Finkelstein

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

Number Enrolled: **14**

Number of Responses: **9**

---

## 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, July 11, 2024**

## What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Different philosophical theories for morality.
hume's an enquiry concerning the principles of morals, kant's a groundwork of the metaphysics of morals, jane austen's emma, mill's utilitarianism
How to analyze more complicated pieces of argument and writing which differ greatly from normal writing and deal with metaphysical concepts, and how various ethical systems differ from each other and the point of ethics in general were all highly important and interesting subjects we covered.
I have learned the moral philosophy of Hume, Kant and Mill and the differences between them.
I gained new perspectives in moral thought from philosophers like David Hume, Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill. Understanding why you are bound to morality and studying several lenses to determine what is good or bad was the most valuable thing I learned from the course. Furthermore, you will improve your writing and ability to think clearly.
Hume's moral philosophy and how to decipher Kant's atrocious writing.
A lot of challenging philosophical ideas, especially Hume and Kant on causality and morality. Outside of just the concepts themselves, I learned a lot about about how to engage with really complicated and dense texts, drawing out the most important ideas for essays.

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

Comments
Discussions were very helpful, the professor thoroughly explained the readings and what we were supposed to get out of them.
lectures and discussions
Both lectures and writing Seminars were incredibly helpful. Professor Finkelstein is a very engaging and clear lecturer, who helps make some expecially difficult concepts much easier to understand. Professor Finkelstein was also always willing to engage in discussion an answer students questions and listen to their ideas and interpretations, which contributed to a very good class experience.
The lectures were AMAZING, the prof really broke down the core ideas of the philosophers and explained everything perfectly.
The discussions were great. Professor Finkelstein is an excellent lecturer, and he makes the content engaging and clear.
I loved reading Emma and analyzing it through a philosophical lens—I would never have thought of reading a novel through the lens of a philosopher.
Professor Finkelstein did a great job balancing lecture and discussion. While the class leans lecture-heavy, I feel like that was not only helpful but necessary to facilitate good discussion. The books we read were complicated, so we would have had really surface level discusions without some prior explanations. The questions that came out of the lecture part were the most interesting and helpful.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	44.44%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	37.50%	37.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The professor can grade slow.
late with grading
Overall great course, anyone who liked the previous two courses in the sequence should absolutely stick with it, as ethics deals with some more directly relevant topics even as the backing becomes more metaphysical.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	11.11%	88.89%

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

Comments
His thorough explanations. Very clear
lectures and in class discussions of canvas discussion posts
The professor's openness to questions and explanatory capabilities were all very helpful, and the class discussions where we would write questions and thoughts we had regarding the text and class would be dedicated to discussing these questions and thoughts were incredibly helpful in building a clearer picture of the topic from multiple viewpoints, who might've each picked up on or focused on a different part.
Prof Finkelstein is just AMAZING!! He perfectly explained the hard ideas of the philosophers in a way we can understand. He was always open to questions to make sure we understand everything. He is one of the best professors I have ever taken with!!
The way he communicates the information, he provides interesting insights to better understand the authors and their views, and he is available and helpful outside of class. Furthermore, the atmosphere of trust and openness that he promotes in class is great for learning and makes it easy for students to engage with the material.
His breakdown of Kant and delving deeply into the mind of the German philosopher's thought made his writing easier to understand.
The explanations of the topics in class were very helpful and helped me have a base of understanding going into the papers, where I put the ideas together.

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

Comments
n/a
Maybe spend less time reviewing Hume and causality earlier in the quarter? Sometimes it was hard to see the direct relevance of Hume's view of causality on his ethical system and in turn on Kant's ethical system. Overall tho, nothing I can really think of in terms of teaching style specifically.
nothing everything was perfect
I cannot think of anything that Professor Finkelstein could do to help me learn more, he is an excellent Professor and I recommend that you take the course with him.
More reading.
Not much, I really liked the style and set up of the class.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	11.11%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	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
John Lawrence
John Lawrence. He is a great writing specialist that gave me both useful and applicable feedback on my writing, helped me improve my writing skills, and was available and helpful outside of class. Moreover, he gave additional insights on the moral theories we were studying that helped enrich the discussion. I don't think John can do anything more to contribute to my learning, he did a great job.
John Lawrence, writing specialist. Very very helpful writing specialist. Really knowledgeable and cares a lot about student success.

## 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%	75.00%	25.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

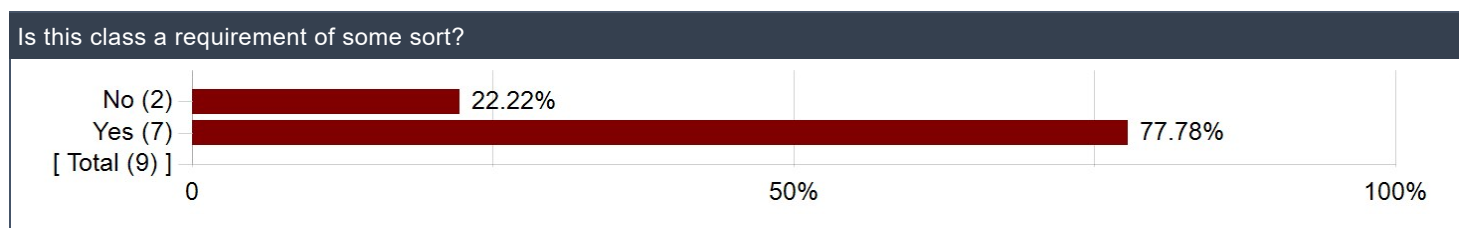
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Review Sessions	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Writing Seminars	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%

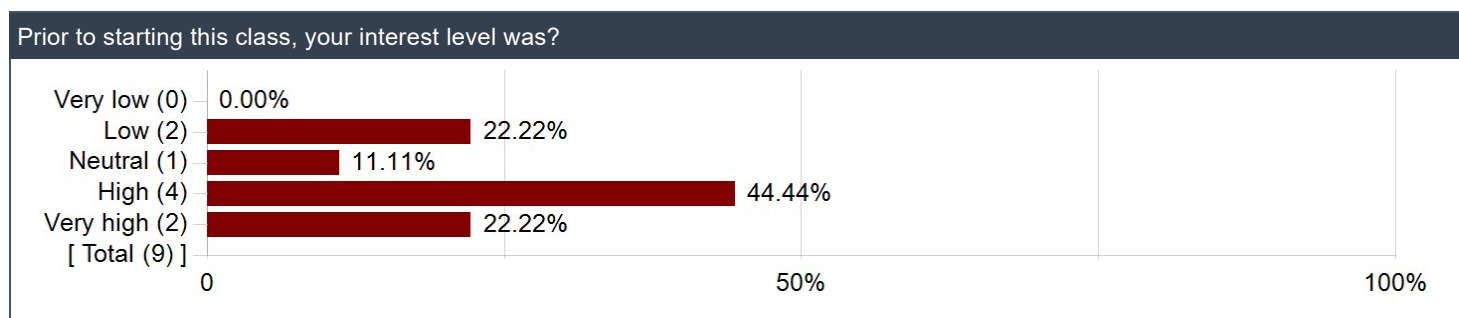
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A

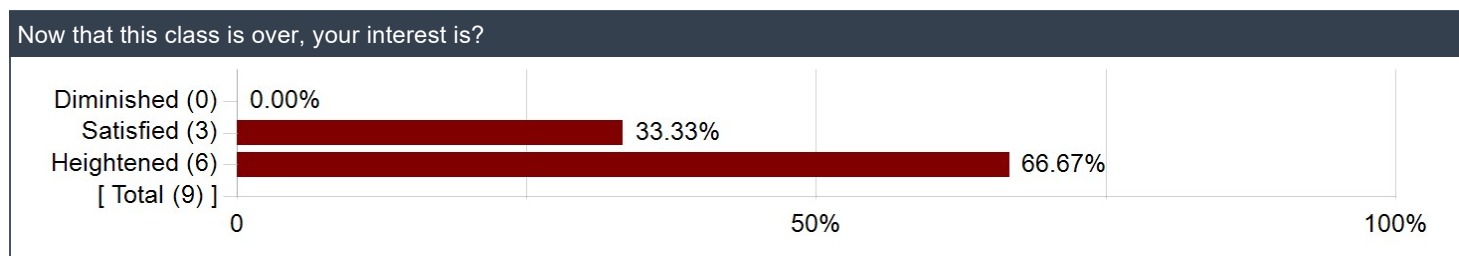
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



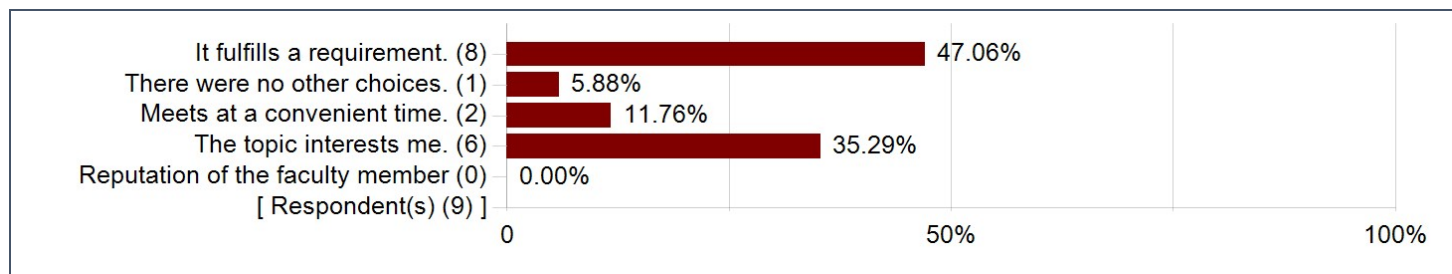
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



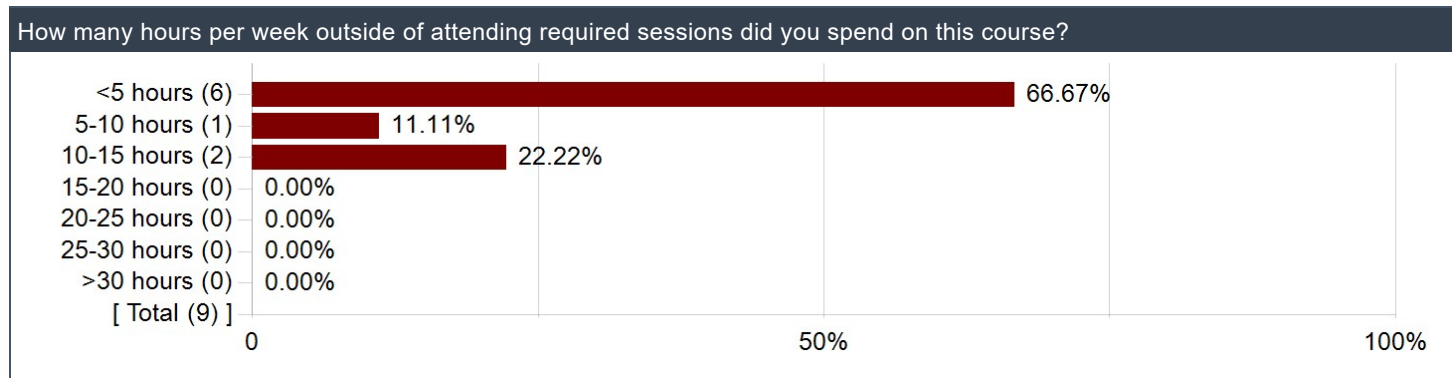
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



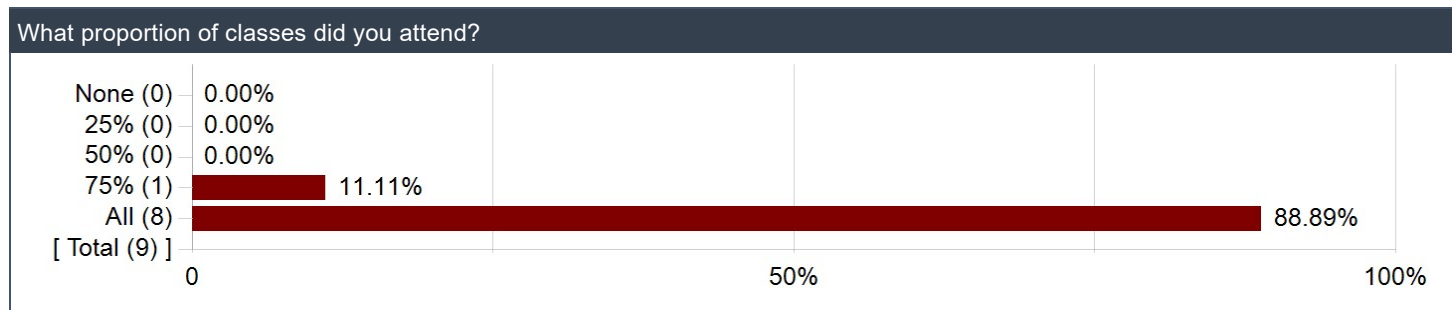
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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
Had only taken 2 quarters of phil per before this. no other philosophy experience, but I felt prepared. the professor knows that it is an intro class and is understanding about lack of experience
Overall, same level of difficulty as the previous Philper classes. 2 essays total, same number of readings, approximately the same difficulty of readings tho Kant can be a little dense.
The course had an adequate difficulty, if you put genuine effort into the class you will have no problems and learn a lot.
This course is good for people interested in philosophy and those with a solid background in the other Phil Per classes. The class is challenging. It's a hard option for the third quarter of HUMA required for medical school, but if you put in the work it's possible to get a good grade.