THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

HUMA 11500 12 - Philosophical Perspectives I - Instructor(s): Thomas Pendlebury

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

Number Enrolled: **18**
Number of Responses: **11**

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
How to formulate deductive arguments onto paper and how to dissect Aristotelian and Socratic arguments.
How to reconstruct an argument. How to better understand philosophical texts.
How to better understand and read philosophical texts in an efficient manor.
I learned very clearly how to reconstruct an argument and how to approach central ideas in a text – particularly clarifying these central ideas in dense philosophical texts.
I learned about the Socratic method and Aristotle's moral psychology. Also, I learned how to reconstruct an argument and raise reader doubt.
How to analyze, reconstruct, and write about philosophy
I learned about the concept of happiness when reading the Nicomachean Ethics. In the case of skills, I learned how to be a better and more analytical reader and writer.

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

Comments
The seminars required us to engage in them for the conversation to continue rolling. Mr. Pendlebury rarely just gave us the answer; he wanted us to work out way to it.
Lectures and discussions were essential to this class. Lectures by the instructor clarified the main points of the readings, and made them more manageable to understand.
Taking notes in class from his explanations of the stories and books.
The class discussions were great and it was clear our teacher had extensive knowledge of the topics, often bringing in the original Greek translation to deepen our understanding of what we were discussing.
Discussion posts helped me prepare for in–class discussions.
Lectures are very important as this is when the professor truly takes the time to explain each argument. There are discussion post due before every class on every reading that are quite casual since he just uses these to evaluate your thoughts/where he should steer the class.
What contributed to my learning was the ways in which my instructor was able to breakdown arguments and explain them in a simple manner.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.91	4.00	0.00%	18.18%	18.18%	18.18%	45.45%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.18	3.00	0.00%	36.36%	18.18%	36.36%	9.09%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.73	4.00	9.09%	18.18%	0.00%	36.36%	36.36%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.50	4.00	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	60.00%	30.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.91	4.00	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	9.09%	45.45%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I loved this class – I enjoyed doing all of the readings and I enjoyed going to class. However, I do think we didn't receive that much feedback over the course so it is hard to know how we are doing.
I enjoyed the course, i really enjoyed the reading for the class.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
Anyone interested in the topic	18.18%	81.82%

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

Comments
His writings on the blackboard.
Lectures were helpful and necessary to digest some of the heavy philosophical work.
His talking and notes on the board.
He led really great discussions
In–class breakdowns of certain philosophical arguments.
His close–text lectures
The fact that he broke down arguments and explained concepts with the use of the blackboard in a highly successful manner.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Make classes more of a discussion, not just a lecture.
Nothing I can think of.
Discussions should be more welcoming to the students. I felt like I was being talked at most of the time, and did not feel a place to contribute to the discussion.
Rely less on arbitrary understanding of the text by the students, and correct the students on what a work really means or the true implications of a philosophical work.
n/a
I think class would be more engaging if there were even more discussions of open–ended philosophical questions, rather than the fine details about particular theories.
Find a way to make the class engaging beyond questions
Maybe focus more on making discussion in the classroom more engaging.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.73	4.00	0.00%	18.18%	18.18%	36.36%	27.27%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.82	4.00	0.00%	18.18%	9.09%	45.45%	27.27%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.36	4.00	9.09%	27.27%	9.09%	27.27%	27.27%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.45	4.00	18.18%	18.18%	0.00%	27.27%	36.36%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.20	4.50	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.36	4.00	18.18%	18.18%	0.00%	36.36%	27.27%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	18.18%	45.45%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.55	4.00	18.18%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	27.27%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.64	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%	18.18%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.73	4.00	18.18%	9.09%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%	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 |
|---|
| Nick Nurre |
| Nick Nurre – facilitated writing seminars and recorded videos, which were useful for feedback on writing assignments. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

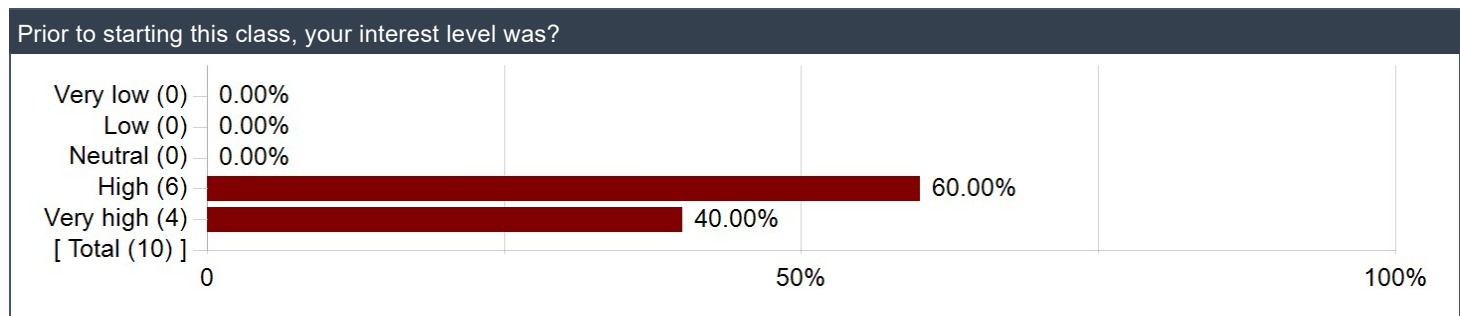|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	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.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	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	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Review Sessions	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Writing Seminars	3.14	3.00	0.00%	42.86%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%

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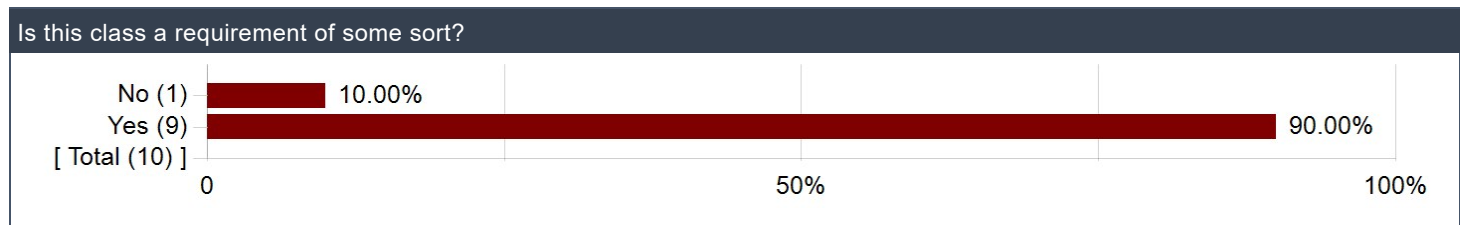
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

- No (1) — 10.00%
- Yes (9) — 90.00%
- [Total (10)]

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 (0) — 0.00%
- High (6) — 60.00%
- Very high (4) — 40.00%
- [Total (10)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (3) — 30.00%
- Satisfied (4) — 40.00%
- Heightened (3) — 30.00%
- [Total (10)]
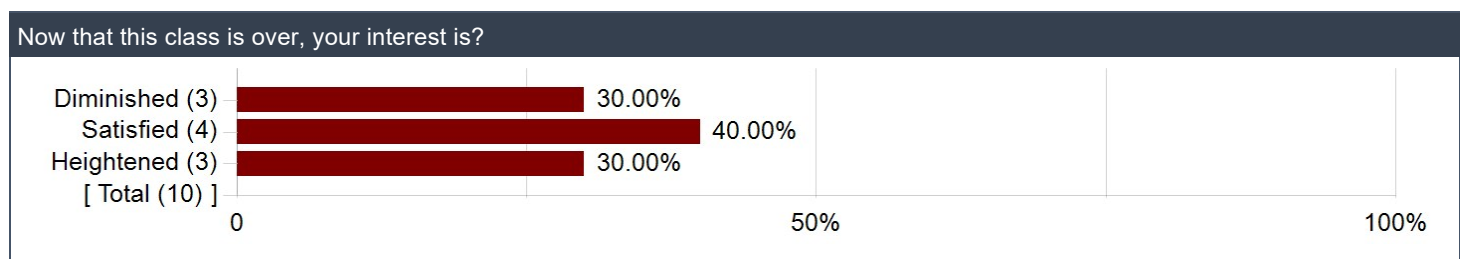
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
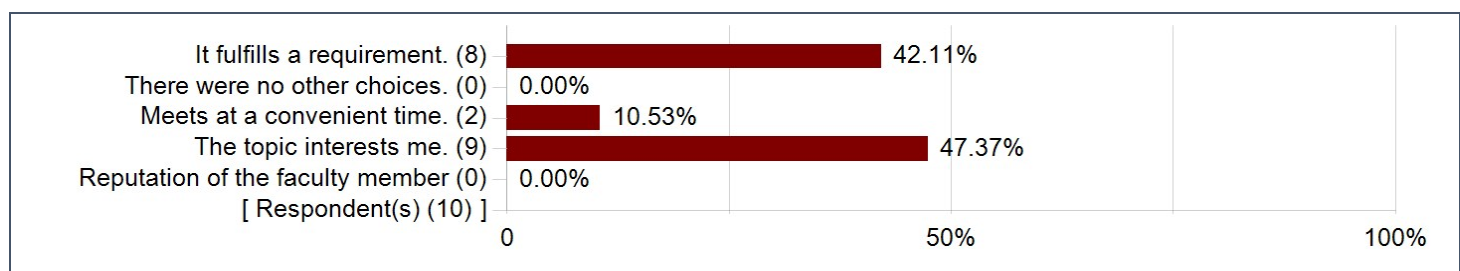
- It fulfills a requirement. (8) — 42.11%
- There were no other choices. (0) — 0.00%
- Meets at a convenient time. (2) — 10.53%
- The topic interests me. (9) — 47.37%
- Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
- [Respondent(s) (10)]

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

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<5 hours (2)	20.00%
5-10 hours (6)	60.00%
10-15 hours (2)	20.00%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (10)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (1)	10.00%
75% (1)	10.00%
All (8)	80.00%
[Total (10)]	
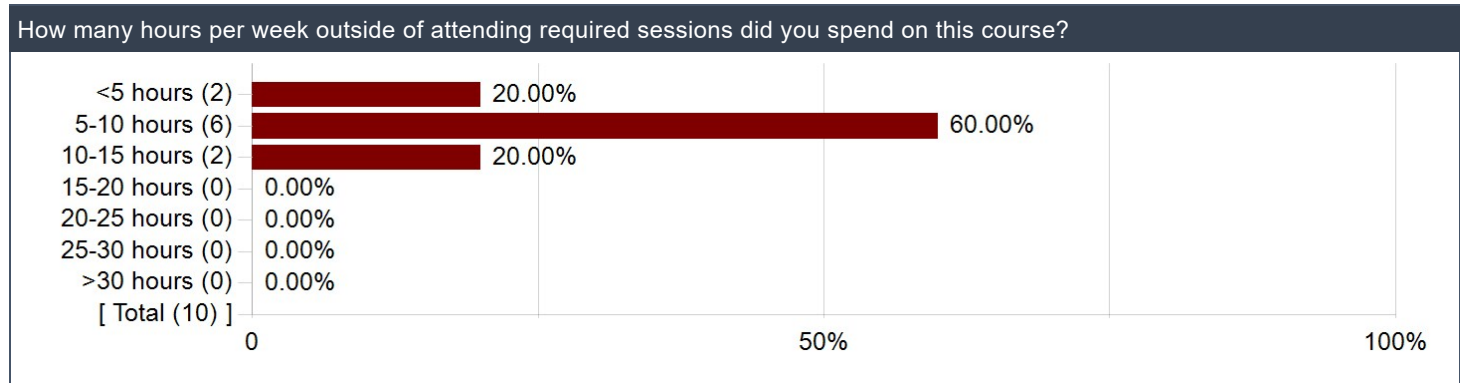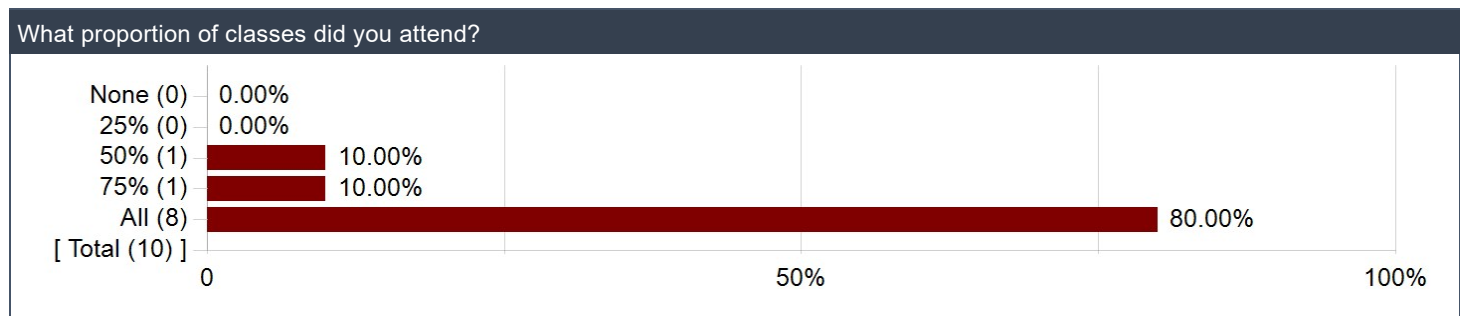
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Not difficult at all. Very easy hum course, just very boring.
Pretty rigorous
Course was more difficult than average for someone who has little background in philosophy.
I had very little background experience discussing philosophical texts beyond high school English classes, and no previous experience with argument reconstruction. I think the difficulty level felt very reasonable and the volume of work was incredibly fair.
It was pretty simple for me.
I think it was only difficult at times, closer to the end of the quarter, when we were tackling the ideas found in the Nicomachean Ethics.