



## Fall 2017 - Teaching Survey Report for Robert Howton

### PHIL 0080 - INTRO TO PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS - 1200 - Lecture

#### 2181 - Teaching Survey Fall 2017

Total Enrollment 115

Responses Received 88

Response Rate 76.52%

#### Subject Details

Name	PHIL 0080 - INTRO TO PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS - 1200 - Lecture
DEPARTMENT_CD	PHIL
CAMPUS_CD	PIT
SCHOOL_CD	ARTSC
CLASS_NBR	23137
COURSE_NUMBER	80
SECTION_NUMBER	1200
TERM_NUMBER	2181
COURSE_TYPE	Lecture
CLASS_ATTRIBUTE	
ENROLLED_STUDENTS	120
First Name	Robert
Last Name	Howton
RANK_DESCR	Lecturer
TENURE	NT

#### Report Comments

Table of Contents:

Instructor and Course Survey Results:

- Numerical
- Comments
- Additional School or Department Questions (if applicable)
- Additional QP Questions (if applicable)

**Creation Date** Thu, Dec 21, 2017

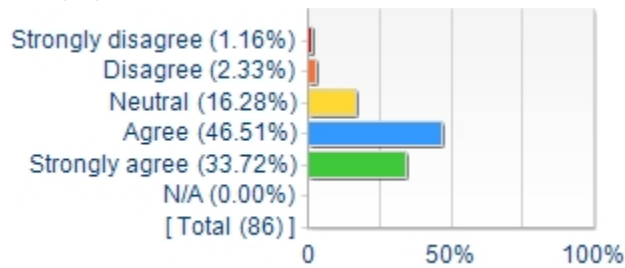
## Arts and Sciences Questions

### Summary: 5-point scale - Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

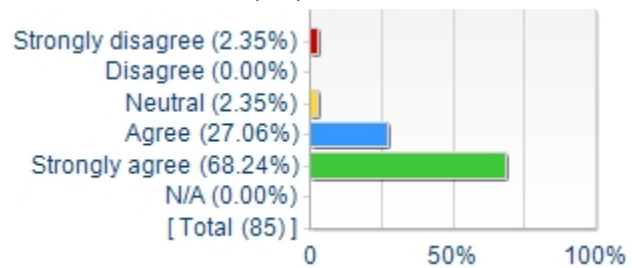
Question	Results		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The instructor created an atmosphere that kept me engaged in course content.	4.09	86	0.83
The instructor was prepared for class.	4.59	85	0.76
The instructor treated students with respect.	4.63	84	0.76
The instructor was available to me (in-person, electronically, or both).	4.37	59	0.69
The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	4.41	68	0.80
The instructor provided feedback that was helpful to me.	4.16	57	0.80
I learned a lot from this course. If there is no basis to judge or not applicable, answer N/A.	4.25	85	0.86

## Detailed Responses

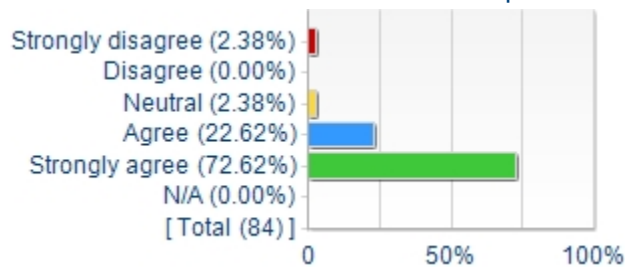
1. The instructor created an atmosphere that kept me engaged in course content.



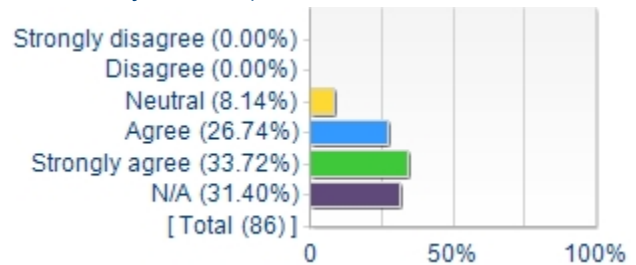
2. The instructor was prepared for class.



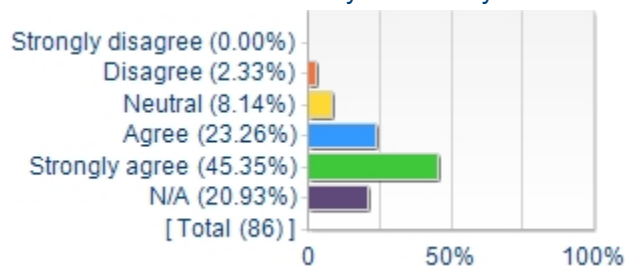
3. The instructor treated students with respect.



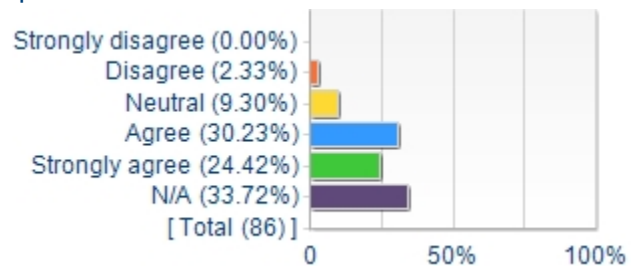
4. The instructor was available to me (in-person, electronically, or both).



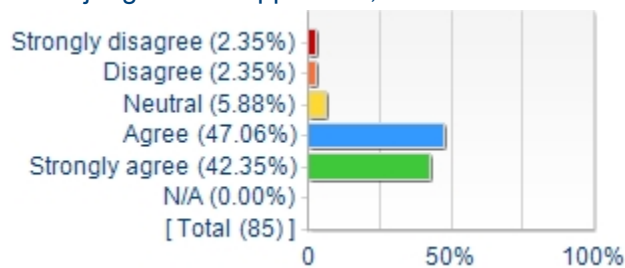
5. The instructor evaluated my work fairly.



6. The instructor provided feedback that was helpful to me.

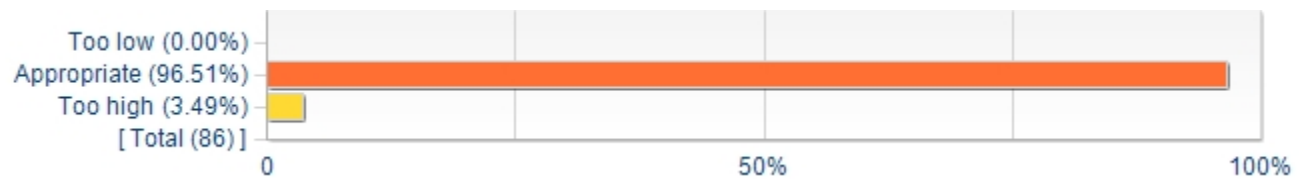


7. I learned a lot from this course. If there is no basis to judge or not applicable, answer N/A.



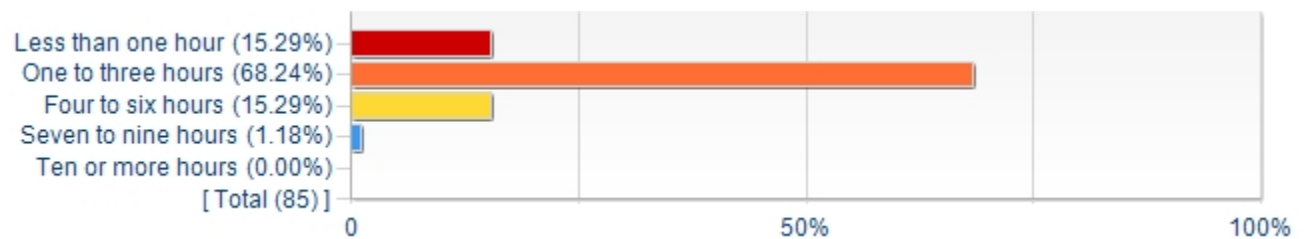
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### The standards the instructor set for me were:



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### How many hours per week did you usually spend working on this course outside of classroom time?



## Comments

### What did you like best about how the course was taught?

Comments
I liked how the lecture was an overview of the topic, and we got into detail during recitation.
I liked how the powerpoint helped to guide my notes.
I appreciated how easy it was to ask questions and discuss concepts during lecture.
The range of topics covered were very interesting and the instructor conducted the class in a way that helped me engage and think critically about the information.
He provided the arguments really clearly
Explaining basic philosophical concepts.
Lecture way
Lectures were always very well thought out
I appreciated the clarity of the course
I like the overall materials since I've never learned philosophy course before.
I liked the engaging lecture and teaching style. the readings were ok
Way to think
Fun, relatable, information was interesting and thought provoking
I liked how interactive lectures were.
Robbie is obviously really smart. He lets students asks questions and answers them thoroughly. The lecture slides were very organized and helpful.
I liked how Robbie provided us with the slides before lecture so we could take notes directly on them.
All the material was conveniently organized and located on courseweb, negating the need to purchase materials or flip through pages.
It was very engaging and handled touchy topics very gracefully.
I liked how he would touch on one topic during lecture and then during recitation we would review and it allowed me to really grasp the content
the slide is full of clarity
The lectures were very interesting.
the examples were interesting
The topics were related to interesting real world things
Lectures were usually engaging, easy to follow along.
Recitation helped.
His enthusiasm about what we were going over.
Each new idea introduced in the class was clearly presented in a logical format, which was very helpful since philosophy can be confusing.
Having prep material
The instructor was very animated, likeable guy
I liked the notes being online to follow along with. That made it easier to engage in lecture.
I really enjoyed the readings we were given and found that they have helped me to become better at analyzing and breaking down the main ideas of the author
The examples were well thought out and the notes are very helpful.
The units were organized well. All the ideas had central themes that played into the core of the philosophical arguments.

Comments
philosophical ideas
Very interesting topics covered, always was applicable to us as human beings and easy to understand why we should learn about it.
my first philosophy course, so it was interesting to learn a new subject and way to approach problems
The lecture slides were easy to follow and explained the arguments thoroughly.
the slide presentation.
clear, concise power points
I liked the outside material we reviewed before class, it was very relevant.
The recitation was helpful
Learning from videos and podcasts outside of class.
I liked how there were different examples and resources provided for each topic in order to better our understanding.
Powerpoints always available before class, a lot of reading that could enhance understanding
How much Dr. Howton loves what he teaches. It is evident in how he lectures and in his energy level.
The progression of lessons made sense and the slides made it easy to understand
I like how the powerpoints were online so i could really focus on the lecture without having to worry about writing down everything.
He made the concepts pretty easy to understand with very planned out powerpoints.
I liked that the presentations were available to us and we could write the notes on them. It helped me to focus on what he was saying rather than what was on the slides.
There was an air of egalitarianism, and Robbie is clearly enthusiastic about the subject to the point of it being infectious.
It was a very open ended course that help create a basis for philosophical thinking.
I really liked the lectures they were always on an interesting topic and he presented them very well. Always handled the questions from the class very well also.
Readings weren't mandatory and the exams closely matched the lecture notes.
Philosophy is a fun topic to learn, and Professor Howton does a good job at using examples to convey his messages.
The lecture slides made it easy to follow along.
The lessons were interesting and lecture was enjoyable
I liked the discussions
the exams paralleled the power points slides. no surprises
It engaged us in various subject matter related to philosophy and expanded my thought processes.
good teacher
I enjoy lecture and that the tests don't make us give our opinions
introduction to formal philosophy and thinking process
The system of prep materials before the content and options to learn more after we covered that material in lecture
I liked that the lectures were engaging
We were able to cover a wide variety of topics in just enough depth to be able to understand them without spending too much time on any one thing.
I enjoyed the topics and the discussions in recitation.
The instructor made easy examples to connect
The professor doesn't go too fast over the material, so it helps me understand.
I like how there was no book

**If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?**

Comments
Too many powerpoints, so it got a bit boring toward the end.
I don't think I would do anything differently, I think that the course was taught very well.
N/A
It's an intro class, so I'm not sure that this applies. That said, I really wish we would have dived deeper into some of the topics. It felt as though I gained a shallow understanding across a lot of topics, but I really enjoy thorough learning.
Preventing using long paragraphs in lecture slides.
Could be more interesting
nothing
Have the exams less word for word from slides
i wish there is something a bit more interesting in the lecture than just go over the presentation.
Maybe supply some outside work that helps drive home examples
The papers were very difficult, and since they are only on 1 subject each, I don't think they should be worth an equal amount as the exams – unfair to students whose writing comprehensions/abilities aren't accustomed to philosophy
I wouldn't have the thing in recitation where we present topics and pretend to know everything about it
make it smaller. Also, not force us to read the readings. I got better grades on the quizzes when I did not read the readings and just read the lecture slides.
Robbie can sometimes rush through things at the end when the class is almost over, so maybe pacing himself better throughout the lecture might help with that.
Nothing!
Make sure both of the TA's were on the same page for grading when it comes to papers and evaluations.
I will introduce some video to the class.
Nothing.
Dr. Howton basically went on rants and read off the slides. So I would rather we have a little more in depth discussion.
Cut down on the length of readings, there was a lot. Have worksheets to tell us what to look for in the readings because philosophy is really dense and difficult to understand
I would probably inject less of my political agenda into lecture discussions.
He is not a bad professor but too often made his own beliefs known and put them in a way that was suggesting that those were the correct ways. That isn't a knock on him as a professor, he really knows his material I would just stand more neutral on what you are teaching.
Nothing – it is taught in a clear and concise way.
Not have fill-in the blank questions
Some of the lectures i feel droned on, possibly make them more engaging for the students
On multiple occasions, he inserted his own political views into lecture. I had a problem with that and think professors should remain neutral when they are describing situations/examples.
I would focus less on vocabulary for my exams as they don't necessarily prove that one has learned the philosophical topics we discussed.
make the material more interesting
Less tangents in lecture
not much, i thought this course was run very smoothly
None
take more time on certain topics.
lectures were the same every time, so I'd add some variety and group work
Better communication between professor and TA's
Different essay topics.
I would not change anything

Comments
Focus more on developing the views of the students
Nothing
I wouldn't
nothing
I feel the fill in the blank portion of the exam was unfair and personally I would change that part.
I think I would change the exam style. I thought it was strange that the exam had fill-in-the-blank style questions. There was a lot of exact phrasing necessary for those questions.
I might spend less time summarizing the assigned reason and more time adding to its nuances/complexities.
I would have done it so that a student knew that almost everything that was being talked about would not have a right answer, but more possible reasons and objections
If I was teaching the course, I would try to emphasize to do the preparatory materials.
N/a
Small homework assignments to make sure everyone understands whats going on
More review sessions.
nothing
Do less extensive readings, more videos. The videos help students comprehend difficult topics more than thirty page papers.
not much
N/a
n/a
I would grade differently the papers, tests and essay quizzes are too much
no
Invite more opportunities for questions in lecture
nothing
Honestly, there's really nothing I would change. I thought the course was taught extremely well.
Clearer grading
Nothing
Provide more examples and applications of the philosophical concepts we learn in class