

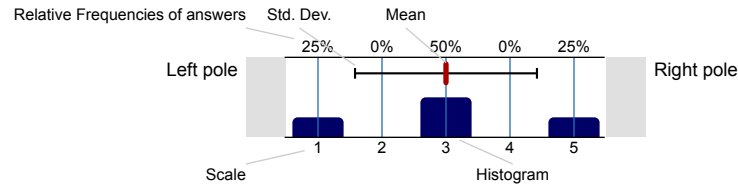
Patrick Frierson

Western Philosophy Trad:modern (PHIL-202-A-16fall: Western Philosophy Trad:modern (PHIL-202-A-16fall))
No. of responses = 13

Survey Results

Legend

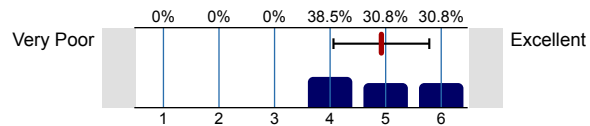
Question text



n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

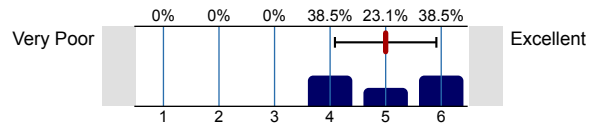
1. About the Course:

1.1) This course as a whole was:



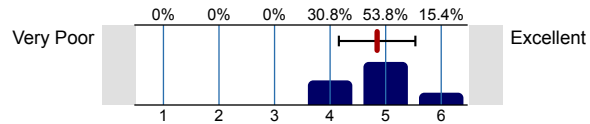
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av.=4.9
dev.=0.9

1.2) The course organization was:



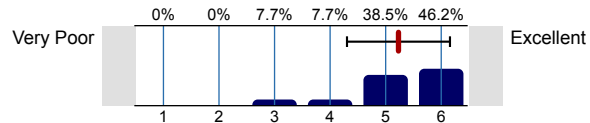
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dev.=0.9

1.3) The clarification of student responsibilities in this course was:



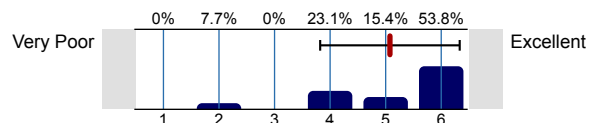
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av.=4.8
dev.=0.7

1.4) The value of the course in increasing your analytical or interpretive skills:



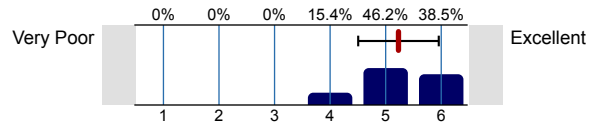
n=13
av.=5.2
dev.=0.9

1.5) The extent to which this course stimulated your intellectual curiosity was:



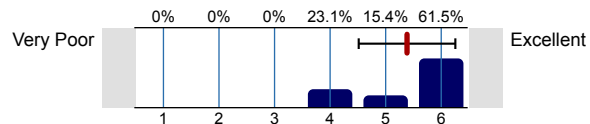
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av.=5.1
dev.=1.3

1.6) The value of the assigned work was:



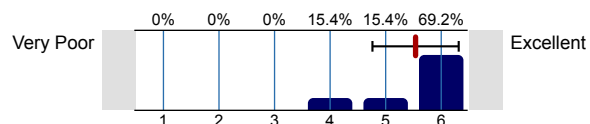
n=13
av.=5.2
dev.=0.7

1.7) The instructor's ability to present the subject matter clearly was:



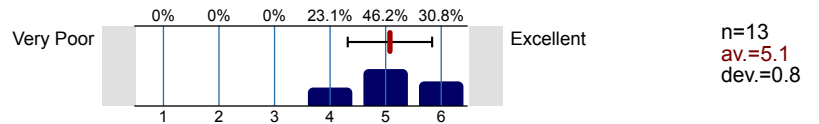
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av.=5.4
dev.=0.9

1.8) The instructor's answers to student's questions were:

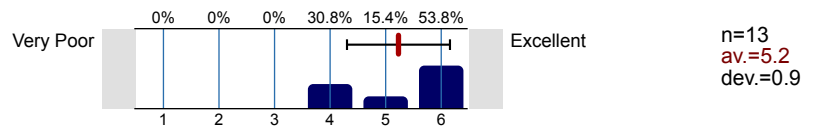


n=13
av.=5.5
dev.=0.8

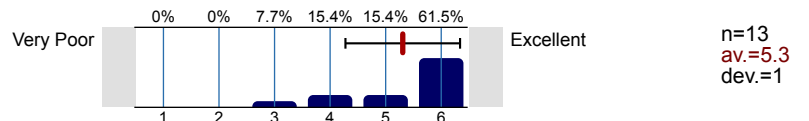
1.9) The evaluation methods (tests, papers, projects, performances, etc) were:



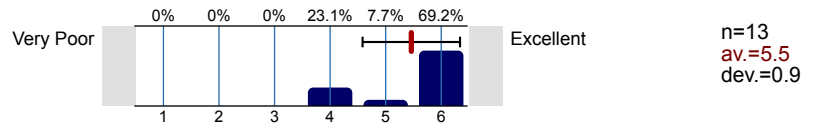
1.10) The value of the instructor's comments on tests, papers, projects, performances, etc were:



1.11) The availability of extra help when needed was:



1.12) The general, overall teaching ability of the instructor in the course was:



Comments Report

1. About the Course:

1.13) What aspects of the content of this course were especially good?

- -
- Chalk.

I found it very worthwhile to learn these philosophers' ethics as well as their metaphysics, epistemologies, etc. Very nicely done.
- I really enjoyed how we did not limit what branch of philosophy was the focus when reading so many different philosophers. For each philosopher, we spent a few days on metaphysics/epistemology and a few days on ethics or moral philosophy and sometimes political philosophy. This was helpful because as a required course for the major, I felt that including all that material is a smart way to approach the discipline. That being said, there was so much material to cover.
- I think, obviously, that it is important for philosophy students to study the big names in Western modern philosophy. I appreciated Patrick's ability to draw connections between thinkers that we had read, and to talk us through the content when it was especially tricky or dense.
- Professor Frierson is a wonderful teacher. He has an extensive knowledge of modern philosophy and was able to present each philosopher in a way that was simultaneously accessible and nuanced.
- The class spent a sufficient amount of time on each philosopher given the amount of material the class needs to get through.
- The in class lectures were both insightful and extremely fun.
- The project assignments were especially good for really exploring and thinking about certain philosopher's ideas.
- We read A LOT of different philosophers, but I think they were all too quick. I would have liked to spend more time on each and hit fewer philosophers.

1.14) What aspects of the teaching of this course were especially good?

- -
- An aspect of the course I really appreciated was having each student do a presentation on a modern philosopher. This was a chance for students to both do a bit of individual research and present to the class, so having students do a bit of teaching was an interesting change of pace compared to having a professor lecture for the majority of the class period. However, Professor Frierson is a great teacher and his lectures are engaging as well as informative. I'm not a big fan of straight lecture, but Frierson lectures in a way that keeps the class material interesting. Frierson's projects/papers are structured very well. They helped me a lot with understanding modern philosophy.
- Frierson is brilliant, there's no two ways around it. His ability to answer tough student questions in class always impressed me, but he often let us wander down rabbit holes that he knew were wrong. This often resulted in upwards of 30 minutes of wasted time in class which was aggravating because he was letting us discuss ideas which he knew were wrong. I wish he would have stepped in early in these discussions, corrected our misunderstanding of the philosophy, and got us all on the right track before letting the incorrect concepts cement themselves in our minds. That said, Frierson in general was a wonderful, thought-provoking professor who kept class every day interesting and engaging.
- Frierson is great at answering questions and keeping the class discussion going in interesting and engaging ways. It is clear that he cares about his student's writing and offers useful advice about how their writing can be improved.
- Frierson was always willing to change the direction of the class discussion to better fit his students' needs.
- Patrick is an incredible teacher- very energetic, very available for extra help and assistance whenever we needed it, and very enthusiastic about the material. Always gave very thorough feedback on assignments and showed us where we could improve.
- Patrick's use of chalk.

Patrick is very approachable. The conversations we had outside of class were just as stimulating as those inside.
- Professor Frierson was very good at breaking down complex arguments and explaining them in the clearest terms.
- Professor Frierson's ability to engage with students stood out. He'd flesh out ideas that other professors might overlook.
- Professor frierson clearly broke down hard concepts and made them readily accessible.
- The info in discussion is presented clearly and is interesting

1.15) What changes could be made to improve the teaching or content of this course?

- At the beginning of the semester, I really hated how there was so much reading and so much content packed so heavily into the semester. But somehow, everything worked out okay. (Maybe this course just trains students to be smarter and more efficient.) However, I think being clear of expectations and addressing the amount of work on the first day of class is a good idea. I definitely was not expecting this much work for this class, but I'm glad that I made it through. Honestly, I would like more shorter papers due for this class. The projects were very helpful in understanding class content but papers hold students accountable on a level more than just daily quizzes.
- Discussed above.
- I honestly just really didn't like a lot of the material in this course. I was frustrated by the often uncritical perspective we would adopt toward any one philosopher's work (for example, John Locke was responsible for crafting an ideology that was appropriated as a tool of colonial oppression, and this was never something we talked about in class). I think that in the future, allowing students more leeway to apply their own perspective or philosophical thinking to texts will make people more excited about the material, and more willing to engage with the material in a way that feels meaningful. Though it is obviously important to try to understand what each thinker is saying on their own terms, when this project of comprehension takes up too much time, it doesn't leave a lot of room for students to engage with these thinkers in a way that feels more relevant to life in the 21st century, in an era where many other thinkers have responded to these philosophers and the ideologies they are responsible for spawning. Perhaps future renditions of the course could allow room for more recent responses and critiques of thinkers such as Locke, Kant, Hume, Descartes etc... But I also understand that this would broaden the scope of the course in a way that would make even less room for the already voluminous number of thinkers we try to cover in one short semester... I don't know. Great professor, tough gig.
- I would have liked to have spent more time on Kant. I found the student presentation's to be somewhat insightful.
- I'd suggest more required papers and required exams.
- More female philosophers.
- More vocal about when assignments and projects are due.
- Patrick should update his syllabus.
- maybe more examples than just the chalk??? I gets boring.

1.16) Additional Comments

- Loved the course.
- N/A