

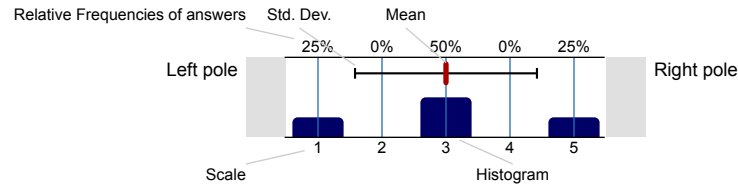
Patrick Frierson

Western Philosophy Trad:modern (PHIL-202-A-17fall: Western Philosophy Trad:modern (PHIL-202-A-17fall))
No. of responses = 13

Survey Results

Legend

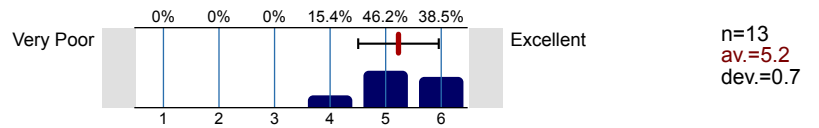
Question text



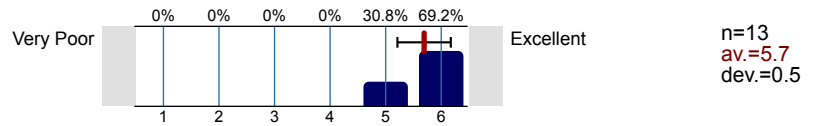
n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

1. About the Course:

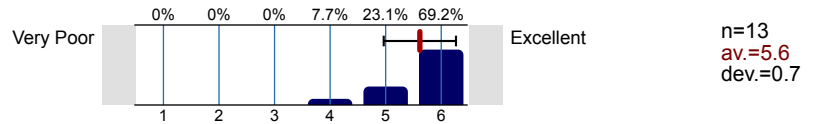
1.1) This course as a whole was:



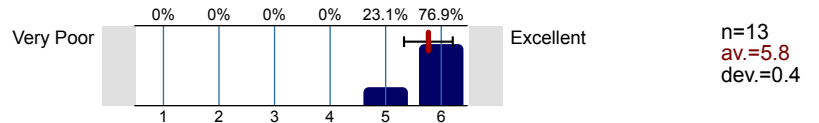
1.2) The course organization was:



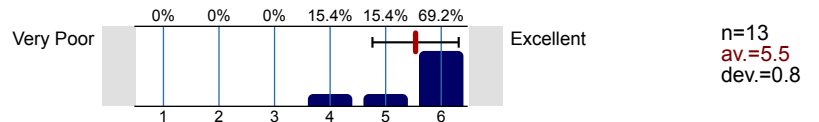
1.3) The clarification of student responsibilities in this course was:



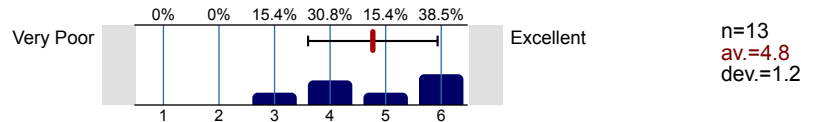
1.4) The value of the course in increasing your analytical or interpretive skills:



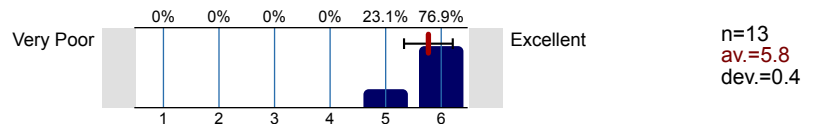
1.5) The extent to which this course stimulated your intellectual curiosity was:



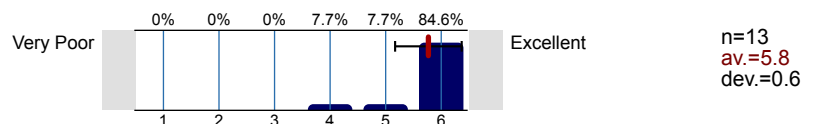
1.6) The value of the assigned work was:



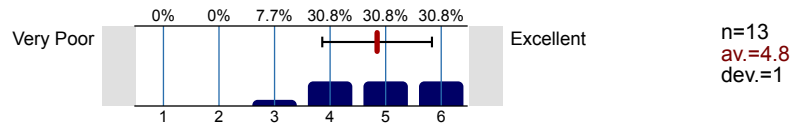
1.7) The instructor's ability to present the subject matter clearly was:



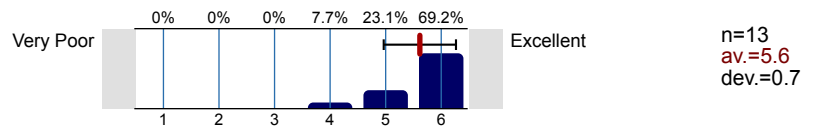
1.8) The instructor's answers to student's questions were:



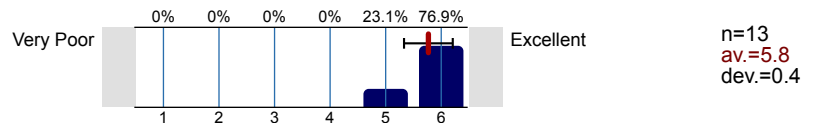
1.9) The evaluation methods (tests, papers, projects, performances, etc) were:



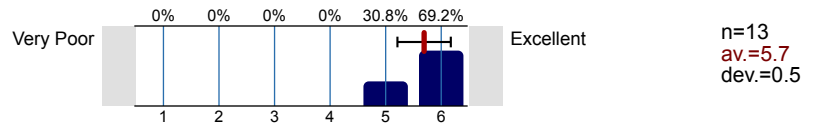
1.10) The value of the instructor's comments on tests, papers, projects, performances, etc were:



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?

- Dr. Frierson is incredibly intelligent and versed on this subject. His ability to teach and knowledge of the information was extremely helpful. However, it sometimes left a lot of questions because we moved so fast through the material and through the philosophers.
- I thought it was a very comprehensive account of an exceptionally large period of time in the history of philosophy. I feel like my depth of knowledge about the history and development of the study of philosophy through this time period and in general was greatly enhanced by this course.
- It is always important to understand how a thinker, and their thought, is placed within the history of philosophy. Taking Modern proved the importance of this again and again. It elucidated how concepts and themes from Ancient were reinterpreted, how concepts we take for granted today actually came into being, and how the ideas of philosophers from the 20th century through today came into their own as unique and as reinterpretation. It seems that, particularly with philosophy, understanding the history and progression of ideas and structures of thinking is invaluable for any real understanding. And that is exactly what this course provides: an in depth understanding of modern philosophers--both on their own and in the context of their predecessors and contemporaries.
- It was a great survey of modern philosophers. I thought we hit the main ones well, for a good amount of time. I would have preferred to spend more time on Kant, and perhaps Spinoza. Maybe at the cost of Descartes?
- Overall very fair class that encourages actual learning as opposed to just a grade.
- Presentations. Class discussion. (Kant Hume Descartes)
- The breadth of the course was both amazing and at times suffocating. Taken altogether however, the content was wonderful and stimulating. I especially enjoyed the last few weeks which focused on Kant.
- While we covered a breadth of material quickly, Frierson's brilliance revealed some interesting new ways of thinking.

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

- Clear that professor Frierson has a vested interest in the course material and his students success.
- He was incredibly knowledgeable about the philosophers we discussed in class.
- I really appreciated the way Patrick engaged the class with discussion, as well as presentations throughout the course. The class flow was smooth throughout the semester.
- Lectures were helpful in understanding difficult course material. All resources necessary were provided.
- Patrick has the amazing ability to take complex, dense philosophy and explain it in terms that anyone can understand. He helped me understand Kant, which I didn't think was possible. I found that the used of the chalkboard, and in particular the numerous diagrams and arrows were a very effective way to learn the material.
- Patrick's excitement, and willingness to answer questions. The collaboration amongst students is wonderful.
- Professor Frierson is most definitely the most knowledgable person I know. He has an vigorous understanding of what seems like every thinking within the Wester philosophical tradition, but this understanding also extends beyond the bounds of philosophy. The point being, Professor Frierson is able to contextualize the content of his course in more than just philosophy itself, and this is incredibly useful to his students. Professor Frierson is also extremely willing to meet outside of class for anything from a quick chat to more intense extra help with a concept, etc. He truly cares about the subjects he teaches and about his students, and this care shows in his teaching.
- Professor Frierson is very knowledgeable and exceptional professor, in my opinion one of the best I have had at the college. He was both helpful and engaging, with high but reasonable expectations and insightful advice. He also communicates subject matter with exceptional clarity, and facilitates dialogue in lectures in an engaging way.

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

- Add Thomas Reid to class content.
- Assign secondary literature (Stanford Encyclopedia?) at the outset of starting a new philosopher or new idea. This would give us a better framework to learn all the technicalities of so many people. While it sacrifices some of the joys of reading something for the first time, I think we need a little help in such a large survey course.

More time on Kant!

The amount of reading/workload is very difficult, so maybe sacrifice some of this for secondary literature.

- I hate survey courses because of the pace and work, but, for what it is, Modern Philosophy is very good.
- I know this isn't the best suggestion that could be made, however, maybe moving a little slower. In addition maybe moving it more to a discussion based class.
- I would change very little. Possibly the format of the group projects, I felt that there should have been an option to complete additional group projects as a single student, if someone had already completed a group assignment. This was mainly because no other people signed up for either of the last two group projects.
- The only thing I can think of that would be a nice improvement would be if the final research paper were due at the end of finals week rather than on the last day of class before finals begin.
- The workload fluctuated drastically in this class. I would have appreciated a little more spacing in the assignments. That being said, everything turned out to be manageable, albeit with a few long nights.

^{1.16)} Additional Comments

- I liked the extra credit opportunities - a good way for those who want EC to get it.
- None
- None, thanks for the great year.
- Thanks for a great semester.