

## Patrick Frierson

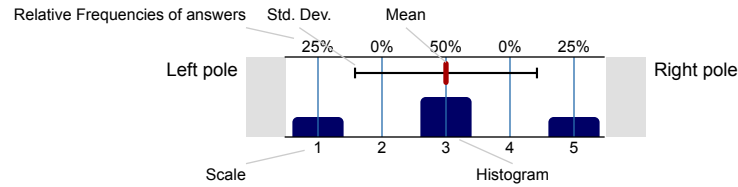
Modern European Philosophy (PHIL-202-A-23fall: Modern European Philosophy (PHIL-202-A-23fall))  
No. of responses = 13



## Survey Results

## Legend

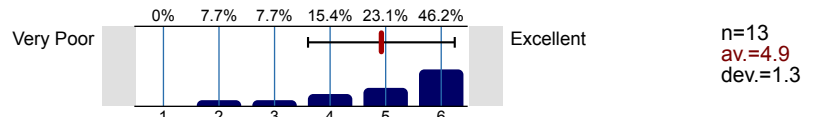
Question text



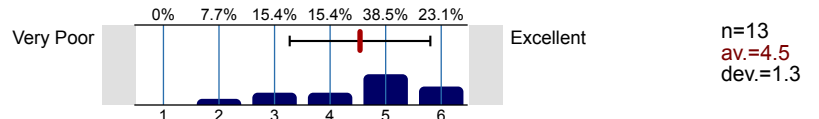
n=No. of responses  
av.=Mean  
dev.=Std. Dev.  
ab.=Abstention

## 1. About the Course:

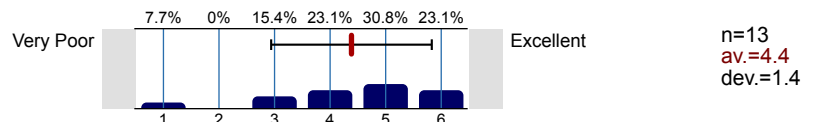
1.1) This course as a whole was:



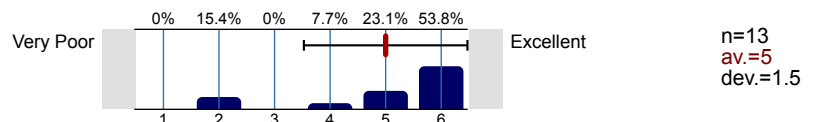
1.2) The course organization was:



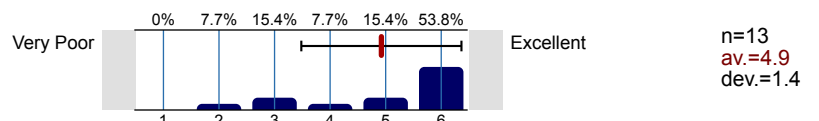
1.3) The clarification of student responsibilities in this course was:



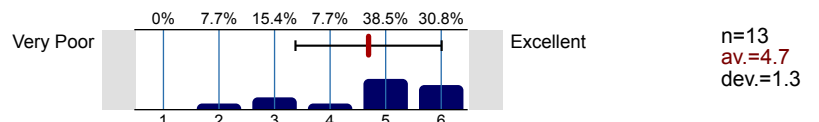
1.4) The value of the course in increasing your analytical or interpretive skills:



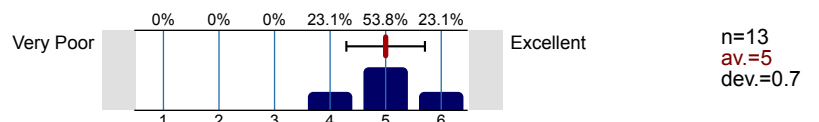
1.5) The extent to which this course stimulated your intellectual curiosity was:



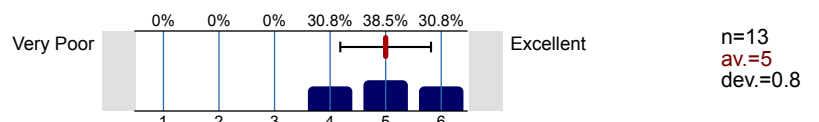
1.6) The value of the assigned work was:



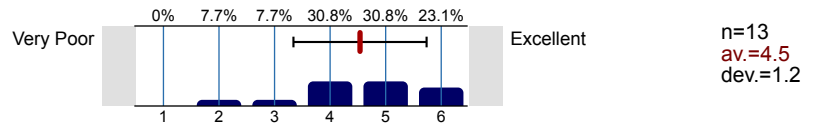
1.7) The instructor's ability to present the subject matter clearly was:



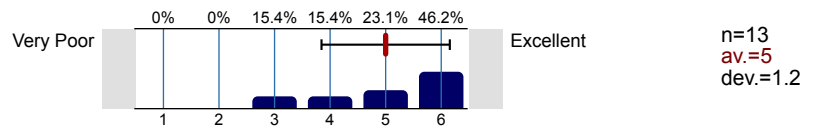
1.8) The instructor's answers to student's questions were:



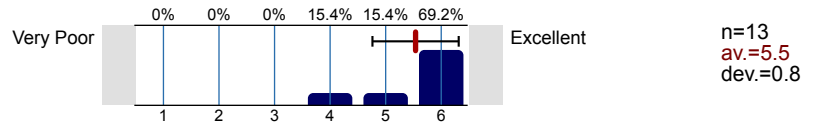
1.9) The evaluation methods (tests, papers, projects, performances, etc) were:



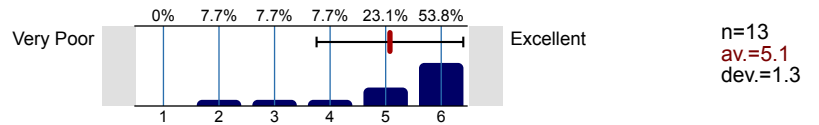
1.10) The value of the instructor's comments on tests, papers, projects, performances, etc were:



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?

- I liked the energy the class had and the willingness to explore unique ideas based on student interests
- I liked the fact that students were able to choose which themes to focus on and that we were paired in groups to each delve more closely into one theme. I feel like it made connections with peers easier and engaged us in the learning process.
- I really enjoyed how student-led this course was. I feel like this really gave us the opportunity to lead our own achievement and learning in this class, the course felt more like a sandbox exploration than a structured linear course.
- I really liked the free form nature of the majority of the course, with each group getting to do what they wanted and present however they liked. But also that Patrick was ready to jump in if something was left out or the group was confused about something and he was able to clarify anything.
- Loved getting to see all the subtopics of modern and getting to hear about a lot of philosophers.
- The large majority of the content we covered in this class was chosen by the students. Overall, I felt we covered a really good spread of philosophical themes and philosophers. I wish I had gotten to know a little bit more about some of the seven big-name philosophers and improve my literacy on the time period. I appreciated our efforts to expand the canon of Modern European Philosophers. That being said, I feel like there were times in which it felt a little forced.
- The way that the differing opinions of philosophers were presented.
- This course served as an introduction to Modern European Philosophy. In this, it allowed us to get a taste of many of the philosopher's quintessential philosophers, such as Descartes, Locke, Hobbes, Hume, and Leibniz. However, this course also had a lot to say about smaller, less well-known philosophers, such as Sor Juana, Mary Astell, Madame de Maintenon, and many more. I enjoyed being able to work with a wide range of philosophical topics, as it helped me to refine my philosophical vocabulary.

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

- For over half of this course, it was student-led. This may seem strange to note in the section about teaching - i.e. what the professor normally does - but I feel that it is a strength of this course. Patrick, through making us lead the class, pushes us to be better. When you are responsible for leading the class, it pushes you to study extensively and, as a result, it allows you to gain a lot of understanding. However, when Patrick taught, his teaching style was direct and thought provoking.
- I loved that Patrick was ready to jump in if something was left out or the group was confused about something and he was able to clarify anything.
- I really liked getting to listen to the subjects my classmates were interested in
- Patrick was a really great teacher. There were many times in which I wish we had given him more time to direct us. Student presentations and time-crunches often prevented us from exploring interesting tangential topics further with him :( which was sad.
- Prof. Frierson made philosophy fun, and introduced a lot of big ideas that I never would have considered otherwise. Also, I appreciated the pre-exam study session.
- The different topics we got to choose for ourselves.
- The professor's explanations were often pretty confusing, but in a philosophy course way that encouraged students to think about the topic in new ways.
- Whenever Professor Frierson talked about a specific reading it was very clear and helped me gain a better understanding of what the philosopher meant.

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

- I didn't like how the course was almost entirely student directed. I feel like students had too much autonomy and that led to a less comprehensive understanding of the content. I feel like the aspects of the student direction which worked really well (choosing themes, working in groups) could still be preserved while having more professor involvement with the actual teaching and deciding readings. I also really disliked how students created the exam questions, and I think a professor could have better come up with engaging philosophical questions that cover multiple themes and authors.
- I have no complaints.
- I think in the future, requiring students to cut down their class leadership presentations to at least allow for a little bit of Professor

explanation would be good. It was really fun getting to do a lot of group work and discussion, but it sometimes felt like I wasn't really able to understand certain topics due to student presenters not being as clear as they could be (and understandably so, given that they are students and not the professor). Having a little more professor explanation would be useful.

- I think reading Descartes and preparing for our presentations was a lot to take on all at once in the beginning of the semester. I really struggled with the density of those readings as a STEM major.
- I think the expectations for the group project could be made very clear right off the bat. It seemed that there was clarifying information about expectations once we had already spent many hours on the project that were not necessary for the expectations. I also think that the philosopher briefs were a little much given that the group project is already a lot of work. (But I'd rather the group projects be like this than to not have them at all)
- I think the only thing is making the expectations a little more clear for the presentations, I know my group was at first not sure if we were supposed to do a bunch, or a little.
- I wish there was more professor-led lecture. While I liked working with my group and the student-led lessons were fun and engaging, they could be harder to pay attention to, and didn't always make as much sense if the student didn't fully grasp the important parts of the philosophical text. I was fortunate enough to have great group mates, but I can't imagine making it through the semester if I didn't get along with my group or someone didn't pull their weight. Also, the final exam format was confusing and intimidating, and I didn't like that everything was submitted over email and not Canvas because it made it a lot harder to keep track of deadlines. Overall, this felt like way too much work for a 200 level class.
- More time could be spent in the beginning of the course on introducing philosophical concepts.

<sup>1.16)</sup> Additional Comments

- Loved the course!
- N/A
- None
- Patrick Frierson, I've noticed, is extremely adept at discerning the subconscious ideas - or the lack thereof - of student's essays. In doing so, he can then provide feedback that helps turn a good paper into a great one. As someone who has worked with Patrick for many semesters, I feel he is an excellent professor. Thank you, Patrick!
- This was a fun class! I've never taken a course quite like this before, and I really enjoyed it.