

Instructor Feedback for Lawrence Dallman

Introduction to Nietzsche

University of Chicago, Spring 2022

Student Takeaways

1. This course challenged me intellectually.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

2. I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

3. I understood the standards for success on assignments.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (1) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (7) – 87.5%

4. Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (1) – 12.5%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (5) – 62.5%

5. I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve subsequent work.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (1) – 12.5%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (5) – 62.5%

6. My work was evaluated fairly.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

7. I felt respected in this class.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

8. Overall, this was an excellent course.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (1) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (7) – 87.5%

The instructor ...

1. organized the course clearly.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (1) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (7) – 87.5%

2. presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (1) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (7) – 87.5%

3. facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (1) – 12.5%
 - d. Agree (3) – 37.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (4) – 50%

4. stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (1) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (7) – 87.5%

5. challenged you to learn.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

6. helped you gain significant learning from the course content.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (1) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (7) – 87.5%

7. was available and helpful outside of class.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

8. motivated you to think independently.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

9. worked to create an inclusive and welcoming environment.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (3) – 37.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (5) – 62.5%

10. Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (6) – 75%

Student Information

1. Prior to starting the class, my interest level was?
 - a. Very Low (0) – 0%
 - b. Low (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (2) – 25%
 - d. High (4) – 50%
 - e. Very High (2) – 25%

2. Now that the course is over, my interest is?
 - a. Diminished (0) – 0%
 - b. Satisfied (3) – 37.5%
 - c. Heightened (5) – 62.5%

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

1. Background information for Friedrich Nietzsche; his genealogical critique of moral judgements, punishment, and ascetism (as discussed in this course's main reading, The Genealogy of Morality), as well as his other critiques on nobility, truth, science, perennial metaphysics, and paradox of nihilism.
2. Really solid overview of Nietzsche, including how his works/sentiments changed throughout his life.
3. This class was helpful in helping me to independently read and think about not only Nietzsche, but philosophy in general.
4. I do feel I've gained a familiarity with Nietzsche in a way that extends beyond a pop-philosophy idea of him. I've got to practice, at least a bit, putting morality and assumptions that felt like default parts of life up for scrutiny.
5. Writing reading reflections on philosophical texts. Grappling with sometimes difficult to follow texts. A significant understanding of certain aspects of Nietzsche's philosophy: his conception of the origin of morality, the value of truth and illusion, etc
6. Nietzsche's views on morality, truth, and nihilism

7. I gained a comprehensive knowledge of the framework with which I could study Nietzsche.

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

1. Prof. Dallman's lectures are informative, insightful, inspiring and always a pleasure to listen to; his feedback for reading reflections in great details also helps a lot in terms of improvement.
2. Lectures were very helpful for digesting the reading assignments. Not as much discussion at the beginning of the course as we were getting familiar with the material, but in the last few weeks there was more discussion.
3. The excerpts were helpful, and lectures were great. I appreciate how the reflection papers forced us to think about Nietzsche ourselves.
4. The lectures were really well done and helped me engage with the text more richly than I was able to do on my own.
5. Lectures are really helpful and interesting
6. Whenever I wrote reading reflections for a particular meeting I took much more away from the texts, I read closer, made more effort to comprehend the mechanics of the ideas, since I had to reconstruct what Nietzsche thinks. In class discussion usually clarified texts I had read once over and were usually very interesting and engaging.
7. Nietzsche's aphoristic style means he has scattered writings addressing the same theme across his career. Dallman put a *lot* of effort into collecting and organizing Nietzsche's writings by topic and giving us a handout for each class. Dallman's lectures were also engaging and well planned, giving great insight into background knowledge and potential interpretations
8. The lectures were very well structured. The reading materials were all comprehensively explained during lectures. No reading materials went to waste, all were relevant to our discussions and were conducive to forming an understanding of Nietzsche's philosophy. Writing assignments served as excellent practices for us to put readings into perspective, and writing the final essay was an interesting and satisfying process.

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

1. Professor Dallman always talks at a pace easy to follow, not too fast nor too slow, with a smile on his face. What makes the lectures most enjoyable is how well he prepares the material to give a very organized and smooth lecture that runs through the whole class. I

personally prefer well–designed informative lectures than other formats of classes, so that really helps me.

2. Probably Prof. Lawrence's interpretations of Nietzsche. We looked at many different works but he was always there to pick out the overall main ideas of Nietzsche.
3. Professor Dallman is extremely knowledgeable, and is a skilled lecturer. He also gives great detailed feedback on writing.
4. Very, very, well structured lectures. Reconstructing the text in different ways to have me consider the ideas more clearly.
5. The instructor's knowledge of Nietzsche, other philosopher's views and the philosophical tradition in general, helped supplement and make sense of the texts we read.
6. Dallman's lectures were quite good! They addressed the main points of every text, but also went well beyond this in making connections between different ideas, texts, and patterns in Nietzsche's thought. Dallman provided excellent interpretative insights throughout the quarter. Dallman also provided the most insightful and detailed feedback on my writing that I have received in several years, despite the fact that I earned high marks and there was relatively little to criticize. I was very impressed by this level of attention and care
7. The instructor was very well prepared for every lecture. He gave comprehensive and highly understandable lectures. The instructor was also very welcoming of questions and opinions. I felt thoroughly valued even when I think I may be asking a stupid question, and in this way my interest in the course never reduced. I was able to intellectually engage in the course.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

1. The only thing I hope is that the university can allow a discussion section for this class. I feel like my classmates have a lot of great points and thoughts, but we don't have enough time to discuss them.
2. Possibly more discussion of the reading, such as any questions or annotations we had while reading.
3. Maybe leave more room for discussion, and perhaps provide some lecture notes.
4. I'm not sure.
5. This isn't a huge thing, and didn't impact the quality of lectures but, the instructor could say um less.
6. More class participation would be nice, although I understood that this was a mid level course

7. The instructor could include a discussion session for there were many things that we could have talked about. Moreover, the instructor could have gave additional readings surrounding our excerpts for students who wished to learn more about the context of Nietzsche's thoughts.

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

1. Some philosophical background would be nice, although general interest without any previous knowledge would be perfectly fine.
2. As a first year not enrolled in HUM, I was apprehensive of the difficulty of the essays. However, Prof. Dallman was very reasonable in his expectations for our papers. Overall, if you are a proficient writer and commit to the readings, you should have no problem with this course.
3. I'm entirely unfamiliar with this specific topic but also philosophy classes in general. I found that the text was difficult but the class itself was not discouragingly demanding.
4. This was my first philosophy course. I did not find anything especially difficult. The writing is challenging, only because the concepts are difficult to reconstruct. I did not struggle to understand the concepts themselves, but they typically required a very focused effort to reconstruct well.
5. Not that bad
6. The course is not difficult at all if the student does the readings for the instructor organizes his lectures very well. The writing assignments and essay were difficult, but they were very clearly assigned and conducive to our learning too.

Additional comments about the course:

1. This is the philosophy class that I've always dreamed about before I came to college. The course is extremely well-designed, the lectures are always a pleasure to listen to, and as a first-year who was still unsure about majoring in philosophy before taking this class, I am now fully assured as all the time and effort spent into this class is so enjoyable.
2. A discussion portion would have been interesting, though I would not have wanted to sacrifice one of two lecture classes each week for a discussion.
3. Excellent course



PHIL 28710 1 - Introduction to Nietzsche - Instructor(s): Dustin Dallman

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2022**

Number Enrolled: **20**

Number of Responses: **8**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Monday, April 4, 2022**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Background information for Friedrich Nietzsche; his genealogical critique of moral judgements, punishment, and ascetism (as discussed in this course's main reading, The Genealogy of Morality), as well as his other critiques on nobility, truth, science, perennial metaphysics, and paradox of nihilism.
Really solid overview of Nietzsche, including how his works/sentiments changed throughout his life.
This class was helpful in helping me to independently read and think about not only Nietzsche, but philosophy in general.
I do feel I've gained a familiarity with Nietzsche in a way that extends beyond a pop-philosophy idea of him. I've got to practice, at least a bit, putting morality and assumptions that felt like default parts of life up for scrutiny.
Writing reading reflections on philosophical texts. Grappling with sometimes difficult to follow texts. A significant understanding of certain aspects of Nietzsche's philosophy: his conception of the origin of morality, the value of truth and illusion, etc
Nietzsche's views on morality, truth, and nihilism
I gained a comprehensive knowledge of the framework with which I could study Nietzsche.

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

Comments
Prof. Dallman's lectures are informative, insightful, inspiring and always a pleasure to listen to; his feedback for reading reflections in great details also helps a lot in terms of improvement.
Lectures were very helpful for digesting the reading assignments. Not as much discussion at the beginning of the course as we were getting familiar with the material, but in the last few weeks there was more discussion.
The excerpts were helpful, and lectures were great. I appreciate how the reflection papers forced us to think about Nietzsche ourselves.
The lectures were really well done and helped me engage with the text more richly than I was able to do on my own.
Lectures are really helpful and interesting
Whenever I wrote reading reflections for a particular meeting I took much more away from the texts, I read closer, made more effort to comprehend the mechanics of the ideas, since I had to reconstruct what Nietzsche thinks. In class discussion usually clarified texts I had read once over and were usually very interesting and engaging.
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The lectures were very well structured. The reading materials were all comprehensively explained during lectures. No reading materials went to waste, all were relevant to our discussions and were conducive to forming an understanding of Nietzsche's philosophy. Writing assignments served as excellent practices for us to put readings into perspective, and writing the final essay was an interesting and satisfying process.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This is the philosophy class that I've always dreamed about before I came to college. The course is extremely well-designed, the lectures are always a pleasure to listen to, and as a first-year who was still unsure about majoring in philosophy before taking this class, I am now fully assured as all the time and effort spent into this class is so enjoyable.
A discussion portion would have been interesting, though I would not have wanted to sacrifice one of two lecture classes each week for a discussion.
Excellent course

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

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

Comments
Professor Dallman always talks at a pace easy to follow, not too fast nor too slow, with a smile on his face. What makes the lectures most enjoyable is how well he prepares the material to give a very organized and smooth lecture that runs through the whole class. I personally prefer well-designed informative lectures than other formats of classes, so that really helps me.
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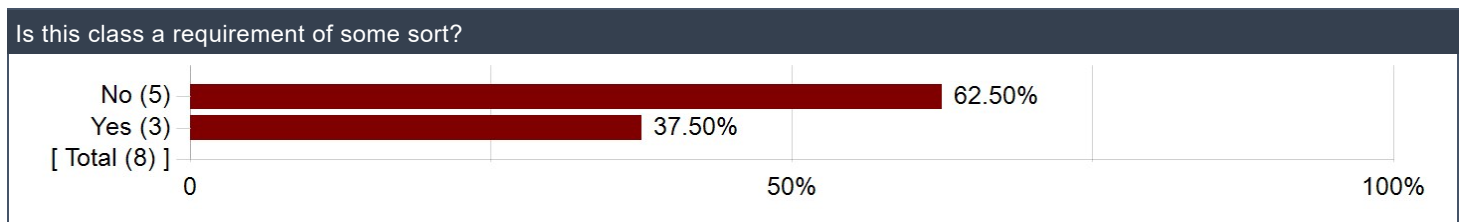
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The only thing I hope is that the university can allow a discussion section for this class. I feel like my classmates have a lot of great points and thoughts, but we don't have enough time to discuss them.
Possibly more discussion of the reading, such as any questions or annotations we had while reading.
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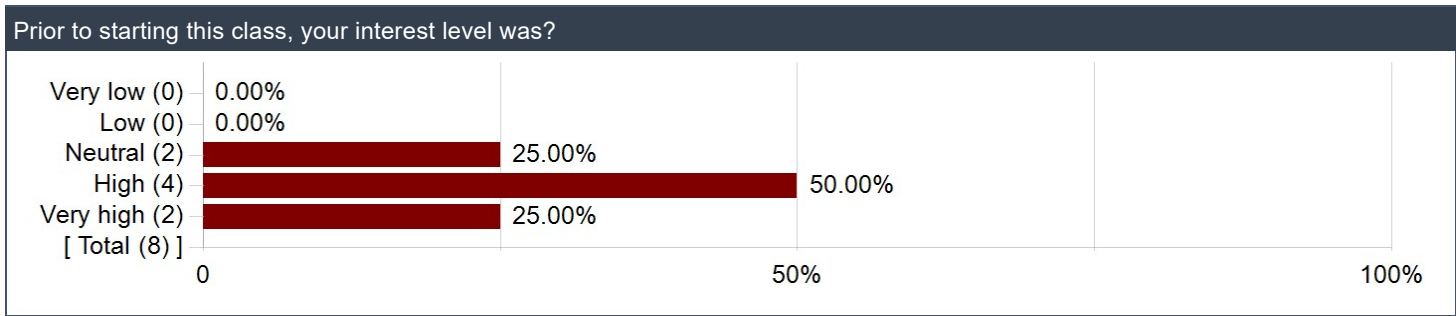
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%

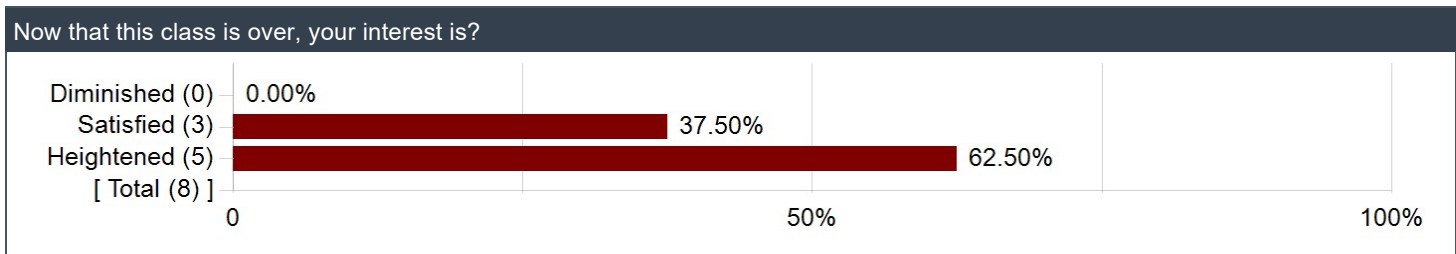
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



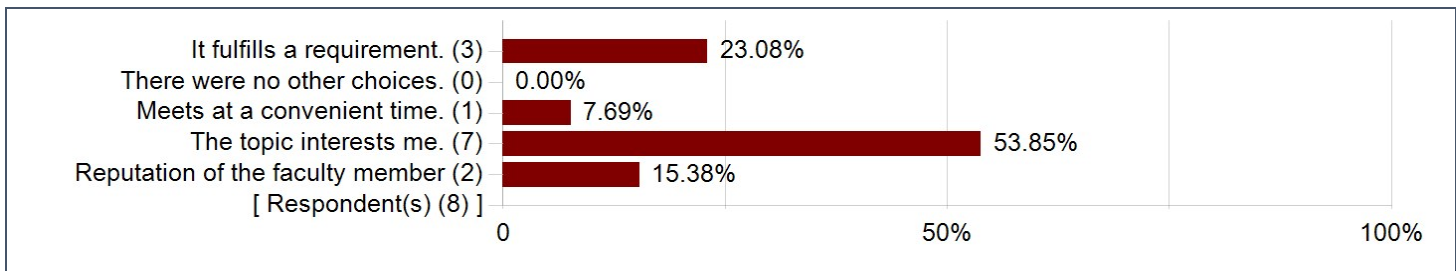
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



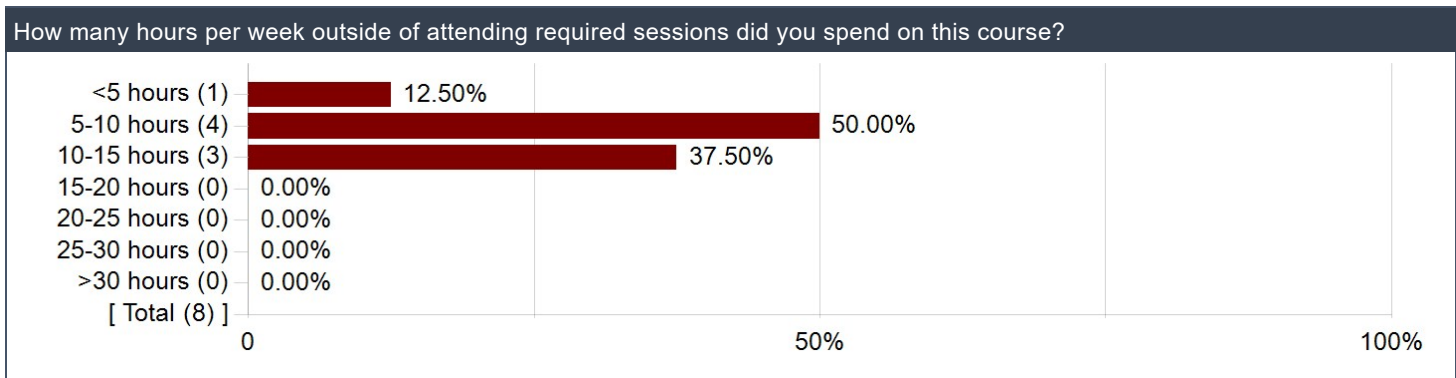
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



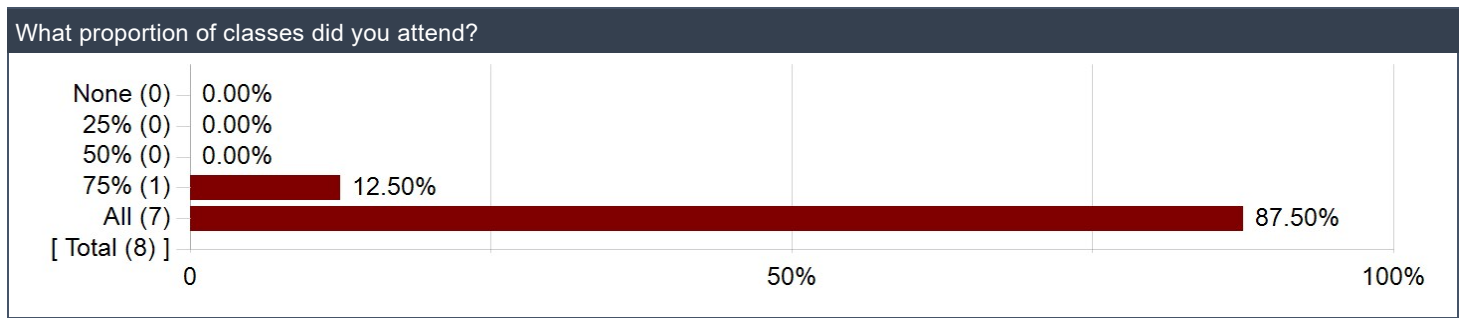
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Some philosophical background would be nice, although general interest without any previous knowledge would be perfectly fine.
As a first year not enrolled in HUM, I was apprehensive of the difficulty of the essays. However, Prof. Dallman was very reasonable in his expectations for our papers. Overall, if you are a proficient writer and commit to the readings, you should have no problem with this course.
I'm entirely unfamiliar with this specific topic but also philosophy classes in general. I found that the text was difficult but the class itself was not discouragingly demanding.
This was my first philosophy course. I did not find anything especially difficult. The writing is challenging, only because the concepts are difficult to reconstruct. I did not struggle to understand the concepts themselves, but they typically required a very focused effort to reconstruct well.
Not that bad
The course is not difficult at all if the student does the readings for the instructor organizes his lectures very well. The writing assignments and essay were difficult, but they were very clearly assigned and conducive to our learning too.