

Instructor Feedback for Lawrence Dallman

Truth and Ideology

University of Chicago, Fall 2021

Student Takeaways

1. This course challenged me intellectually.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (1) – 6.25%
 - d. Agree (5) – 31.25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (10) – 62.5%

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 (5) – 31.25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (11) – 68.75%

3. I understood the standards for success on assignments.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

4. Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

5. I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve subsequent work.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

6. My work was evaluated fairly.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (14) – 87.5%

7. I felt respected in this class.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (14) – 87.5%

8. Overall, this was an excellent course.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 20%
 - e. Strongly Agree (8) – 80%

The instructor ...

1. organized the course clearly.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (4) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (12) – 75%

2. presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (2) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (14) – 87.5%

3. facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (1) – 6.25%
 - d. Agree (4) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (11) – 68.75%

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 (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

5. challenged you to learn.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (4) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (12) – 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 (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

7. was available and helpful outside of class.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

8. motivated you to think independently.
 - a. Strongly Disagree (0) – 0%
 - b. Disagree (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (0) – 0%
 - d. Agree (4) – 25%
 - e. Strongly Agree (12) – 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 (2) – 12.5%
 - e. Strongly Agree (14) – 87.5%

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 (3) – 18.75%
 - e. Strongly Agree (13) – 81.25%

Student Information

1. Prior to starting the class, my interest level was?
- a. Very Low (0) – 0%
 - b. Low (0) – 0%
 - c. Neutral (5) – 33.33%
 - d. High (7) – 46.67%
 - e. Very High (3) – 20%
2. Now that the course is over, my interest is?
- a. Diminished (0) – 0%
 - b. Satisfied (5) – 33.33%
 - c. Heightened (10) – 66.67%

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

1. The varying views that Marxist writers had on ideology
2. Primarily the way in which Marxists have analyzed ideology through time
3. I learned a lot about Marx and the tradition of thought that followed his writings.
4. The course really helped me to track how the Marxist argument changed overtime and varied between thinkers.
5. A great and developed introduction to the tradition of ideology critique, based off current considerations about ideology and fake news. Philosophical study of ideology rather than a social science oriented one.
6. I learned about the theory of ideology by Karl Marx and how his theory laid the foundation for future theories of ideology that either agreed with him, opposed him, or modified his theory in some way. I learned a new way to think about ideas and historical outcomes through the Marx theory which lays out an alternative to what might be considered the common sense approach to thinking about ideology. And importantly understanding the differences between the two main theories.
7. what is ideology and ideology critique

8. This course allowed me to think about ideology in an entirely different manner. I now see this topic through a much different lens.
9. The historical progression of ideology analysis. How ideology has been analyzed and perspectives on ideology critique. What ideology is and why we have such a hard time defining it. I also read some super cool philosophers I'd never heard of before.
10. We covered a number of ideology writers and developed a general sense for how the field has evolved.
11. Ideology critique. Early Marx. Marxist tradition. Frankfurt School.
12. A very nice introduction to Marx and Engels' writings. We built a good foundation to understand ideologies' critiques from other philosophers.

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

1. Lectures helped in understanding the readings
2. The class is set up like a discussion, but Dallman lecture for most of the class. This is excellent! He lays out exactly how each author structures their argument in a great way. I would much rather hear an expert lay out the arguments of the authors we're reading than hear students do take about the authors. At the same time, he is not inflexible with his readings of each authors; he's willing to hear other readings out.
3. The lectures were really helpful, as they helped to make dense readings more comprehensible.
4. Organisation of the course: Extremely well problematised around an epistemological and practical theme, with very clear concepts and arguments taken away from readings. Syllabus: the sequencing of the syllabus makes the aim of the course very clear as well as its advancement. The readings were very interesting. Lecture style: the lecturing was really helpful to go through texts that needed clarification. Opening up for the discussion render the class very interesting, and the decision to have some lecture-style classes for critical texts was very helpful. Assignments: very well structured, the deadline of the final paper in Thanksgiving was retrospectively very helpful. Having a mix of reading assignments + a paper really benefits the engagement with texts and learning outcomes. All in all, nothing to change in the organisation of the course its was brilliant !
5. As a philosophy major--who has never felt more disillusioned with the study of philosophy--Prof Dallman is by far the best philosophy lecturer I've had at UChicago. Pretty much every word that comes out of his mouth is mesmerizingly fascinating

6. The lectures were extremely helpful in my understanding of the course material. While some readings were more difficult to understand, the lectures in regards to those readings would clear up the majority of any confusion I had about those readings
7. Lectures and readings are helpful because they strengthen my understandings of ideology and ideology critique
8. The lectures were very helpful in understanding the readings more.
9. Reading reflections were a really good idea for assignments and always kept me on top of the work that we had to do. The classes were essentially lectures with some student participation but Lawrence is maybe one of the best philosophy lecturers I've ever had so it was always super informative and interesting to listen to. I learned a lot from the lectures.
10. The readings were diverse and sensibly ordered. A great deal of thought clearly went into their selection. Class sessions consisted primarily of lectures that covered the context and nuances of the relevant reading. Not heavy on discussion, but participation was still an element.
11. Prof. Dallman's lectures usually took up the majority of the class. His lectures were super-well prepared, and he obviously put a lot of thought into the content. Not only was the explanation of concepts coherent, but the lectures themselves were smart and sounded like good writing. Dallman's knowledge of the theme of the class, ideology critique, was all-encompassing. Dallman traced the epistemic and the practical themes of ideology critique through out the course
12. Lectures are always helpful. I really appreciate the recordings too. I could always go back if I were unclear about certain concepts.

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

1. Lectures were very informative in understanding hard readings
2. The lectures! Super interesting always.
3. Dallman was an incredible instructor. His lectures were digestible yet comprehensible. He was very easy to follow in lecture.
4. Lecture – Class organisation – Concept clarification
5. My teacher's preprepared lectures were the most beneficial in my learning of the course. When he would explain and go over the reading in a way that pointed out key passages from the readings and also how he pointed out connections to past readings. This all helped to bring the course together allowing for a better overall understanding.

6. He is really clear and structured
7. Professor Dallman was able to breakdown the readings in a way that was very helpful.
8. He always gave clear breakdowns of the text that really helped with the more difficult readings, and overall just pointed out more nuances in the texts than I could ever pick up. He also made sure to inform us beforehand on which texts would be denser/more difficult and I found that really helpful so I could prepare properly to scheduling around those readings. He was also super helpful during office hours and was always open to hearing our opinions. I had a tougher time this quarter and he also posted recordings of the class on canvas, which honestly was so helpful for rough days and I wish every class did the same.
9. The lectures were very insightful, and the readings selected for the class were all interesting.
10. The fruitful lectures.
11. Prof. Dallman is very good at summarizing and explaining concepts. I really appreciate that whenever he introduces a new definition, he will repeat it to make sure we get it. He is also great at understanding students' questions and answering them succinctly. Definitely one of my favorite professors.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

1. Nothing!
2. None to signal
3. I had no motivation to do the last few readings assigned after the final paper
4. After lecture, there was usually not a lot of time for discussions with the class which made it harder to brainstorm off of each others ideas and have good discussions with each other. More time for discussions would be good.
5. I would change how we chose reading reflections. I didn't like having decide which texts to do reading reflections on at the beginning of the course because I wasn't sure which readings would actually interest me.
6. Participation could probably be better promoted in class, but I found the lectures interesting nonetheless.

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

1. Office hours made it very manageable
2. Challenging but doable for motivated students
3. Fair
4. Medium
5. I had zero philosophy experience going in and it was still a good class. I probably would have gotten more out of it if I had taken a few philosophy classes before (or the history of philosophy sequence at least) but I was still able to catch up to speed and take a lot away from the course.
6. The course was pretty difficult relative to my background, but I didn't have much of a background. You would probably be served well by taking this after some of the philosophy introduction courses, just so you have a sense for the writing expectations.
7. Challenging, but in a good way. Rigorous philosophy.
8. I have taken three philosophy classes, but I haven't had much exposure to ideologies. This class was taught in a very beginner friendly way that people with different levels of background could all benefit.

Additional comments about the course:

1. Very interesting and would highly recommend taking it !
2. It was a bit frustrating to have a final paper (10–12 pages) due the day after Thanksgiving. I'm not even sure if that's allowed. However, it was nice to be done with the class after that
3. Very good course
4. An excellent course and great professor, the final essay prompts were also fantastic. I loved every minute of this class.



PHIL 22503 1 - Truth and Ideology - Instructor(s): Dustin Dallman

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2021**

Number Enrolled: **24**

Number of Responses: **16**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**

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

Comments
The varying views that Marxist writers had on ideology
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I learned a lot about Marx and the tradition of thought that followed his writings. The course really helped me to track how the Marxist argument changed overtime and varied between thinkers.
A great and developed introduction to the tradition of ideology critique, based off current considerations about ideology and fake news. Philosophical study of ideology rather than a social science oriented one.
I learned about the theory of ideology by Karl Marx and how his theory laid the foundation for future theories of ideology that either agreed with him, opposed him, or modified his theory in some way. I learned a new way to think about ideas and historical outcomes through the Marx theory which lays out an alternative to what might be considered the common sense approach to thinking about ideology. And importantly understanding the differences between the two main theories.
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This course allowed me to think about ideology in an entirely different manner. I now see this topic through a much different lens.
The historical progression of ideology analysis. How ideology has been analyzed and perspectives on ideology critique. What ideology is and why we have such a hard time defining it. I also read some super cool philosophers I'd never heard of before.
We covered a number of ideology writers and developed a general sense for how the field has evolved.
Ideology critique. Early Marx. Marxist tradition. Frankfurt School.
A very nice introduction to Marx and Engels' writings. We built a good foundation to understand ideologies' critiques from other philosophers.

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

Comments
Lectures helped in understanding the readings
The class is set up like a discussion, but Dallman lecture for most of the class. This is excellent! He lays out exactly how each author structures their argument in a great way. I would much rather hear an expert lay out the arguments of the authors we're reading than hear students do take about the authors. At the same time, he is not inflexible with his readings of each authors; he's willing to hear other readings out.
The lectures were really helpful, as they helped to make dense readings more comprehensible.
Organisation of the course: Extremely well problematised around an epistemological and practical theme, with very clear concepts and arguments taken away from readings.
Syllabus: the sequencing of the syllabus makes the aim of the course very clear as well as its advancement. The readings were very interesting.
Lecture style: the lecturing was really helpful to go through texts that needed clarification. Opening up for the discussion render the class very interesting, and the decision to have some lecture–style classes for critical texts was very helpful.
Assignments: very well structured, the deadline of the final paper in Thanksgiving was retrospectively very helpful. Having a mix of reading assignments + a paper really benefits the engagement with texts and learning outcomes.
All in all, nothing to change in the organisation of the course its was brilliant !
As a philosophy major—who has never felt more disillusioned with the study of philosophy—Prof Dallman is by far the best philosophy lecturer I've had at UChicago. Pretty much every word that comes out of his mouth is mesmerizingly fascinating
The lectures were extremely helpful in my understanding of the course material. While some readings were more difficult to understand, the lectures in regards to those readings would clear up the majority of any confusion I had about those readings
Lectures and readings are helpful because they strengthen my understandings of ideology and ideology critique
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The readings were diverse and sensibly ordered. A great deal of thought clearly went into their selection. Class sessions consisted primarily of lectures that covered the context and nuances of the relevant reading. Not heavy on discussion, but participation was still an element.
Prof. Dallman's lectures usually took up the majority of the class. His lectures were super–well prepared, and he obviously put a lot of thought into the content. Not only was the explanation of concepts coherent, but the lectures themselves were smart and sounded like good writing. Dallman's knowledge of the theme of the class, ideology critique, was all–encompassing. Dallman traced the epistemic and the practical themes of ideology critique through out the course
Lectures are always helpful. I really appreciate the recordings too. I could always go back if I were unclear about certain concepts.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	31.25%	62.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	31.25%	68.75%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Very interesting and would highly recommend taking it !
It was a bit frustrating to have a final paper (10–12 pages) due the day after Thanksgiving. I'm not even sure if that's allowed. However, it was nice to be done with the class after that
Very good course
An excellent course and great professor, the final essay prompts were also fantastic. I loved every minute of this class.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	6.67%	93.33%

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

Comments
Lectures were very informative in understanding hard readings
The lectures! Super interesting always.
Dallman was an incredible instructor. His lectures were digestible yet comprehensible. He was very easy to follow in lecture.
Lecture – Class organisation – Concept clarification
My teacher's preprepared lectures were the most beneficial in my learning of the course. When he would explain and go over the reading in a way that pointed out key passages from the readings and also how he pointed out connections to past readings. This all helped to bring the course together allowing for a better overall understanding.
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He always gave clear breakdowns of the text that really helped with the more difficult readings, and overall just pointed out more nuances in the texts than I could ever pick up. He also made sure to inform us beforehand on which texts would be denser/more difficult and I found that really helpful so I could prepare properly to scheduling around those readings. He was also super helpful during office hours and was always open to hearing our opinions. I had a tougher time this quarter and he also posted recordings of the class on canvas, which honestly was so helpful for rough days and I wish every class did the same.
The lectures were very insightful, and the readings selected for the class were all interesting.
The fruitful lectures.
Prof. Dallman is very good at summarizing and explaining concepts. I really appreciate that whenever he introduces a new definition, he will repeat it to make sure we get it. He is also great at understanding students' questions and answering them succinctly. Definitely one of my favorite professors.

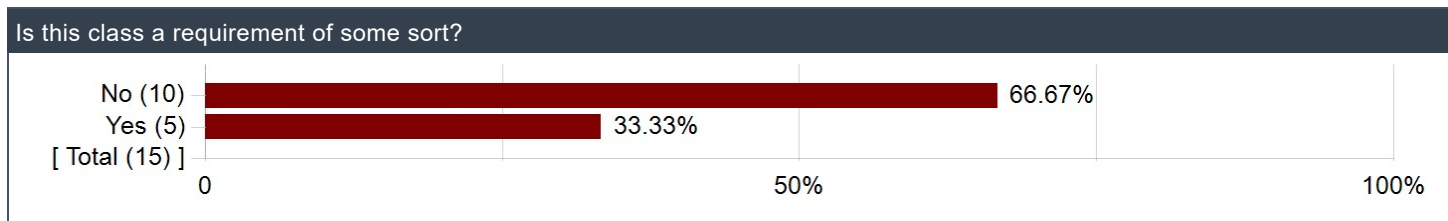
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing!
None to signal
I had no motivation to do the last few readings assigned after the final paper
n/a
NA
After lecture, there was usually not a lot of time for discussions with the class which made it harder to brainstorm off of each others ideas and have good discussions with each other. More time for discussions would be good.
I would change how we chose reading reflections. I didn't like having decide which texts to do reading reflections on at the beginning of the course because I wasn't sure which readings would actually interest me.
Participation could probably be better promoted in class, but I found the lectures interesting nonetheless.
n/a
N/A

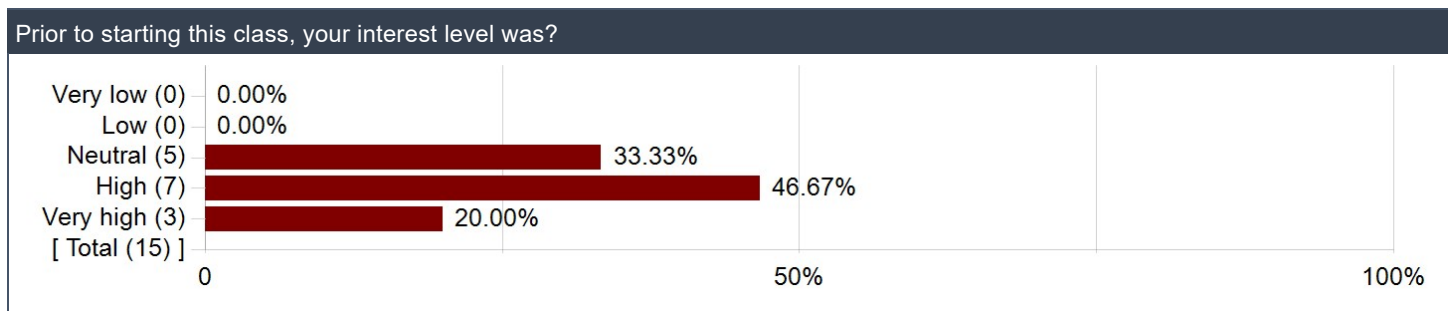
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	68.75%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	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.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	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.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	0.00%

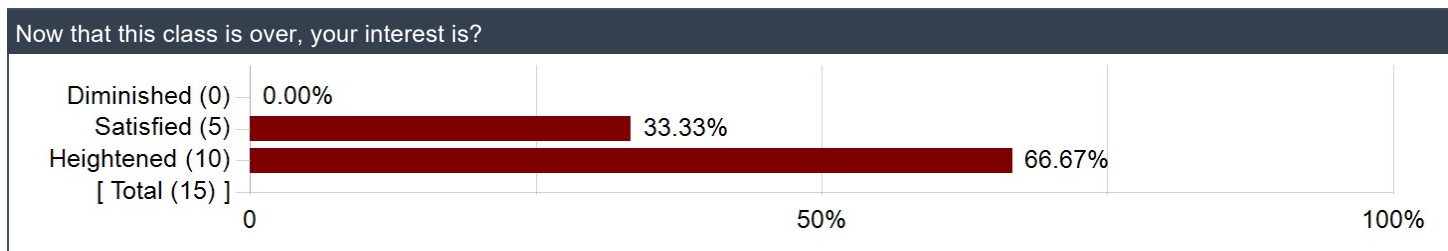
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



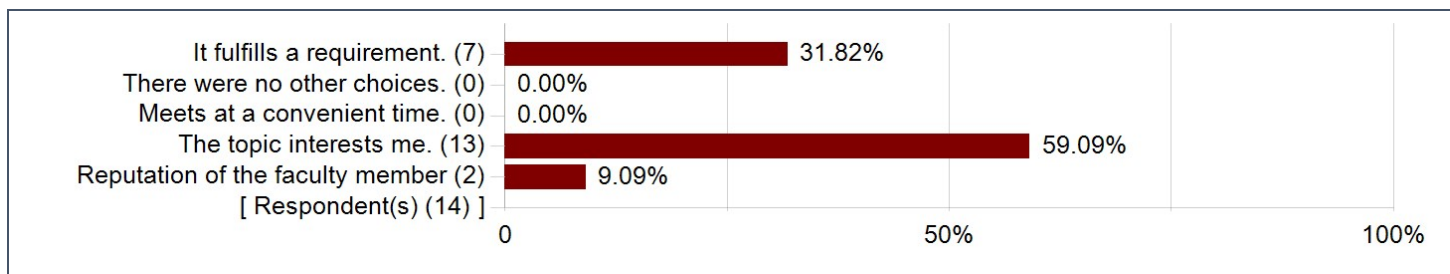
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



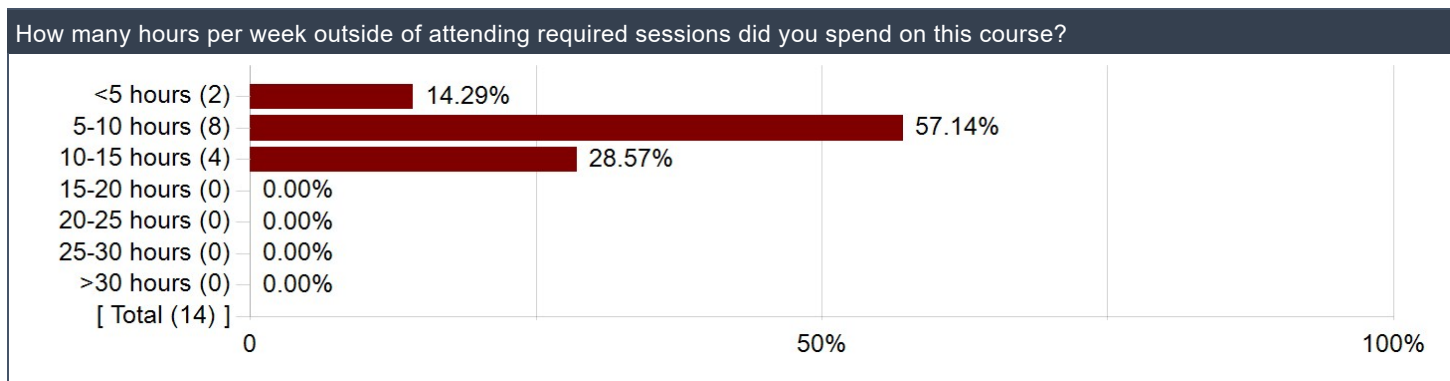
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



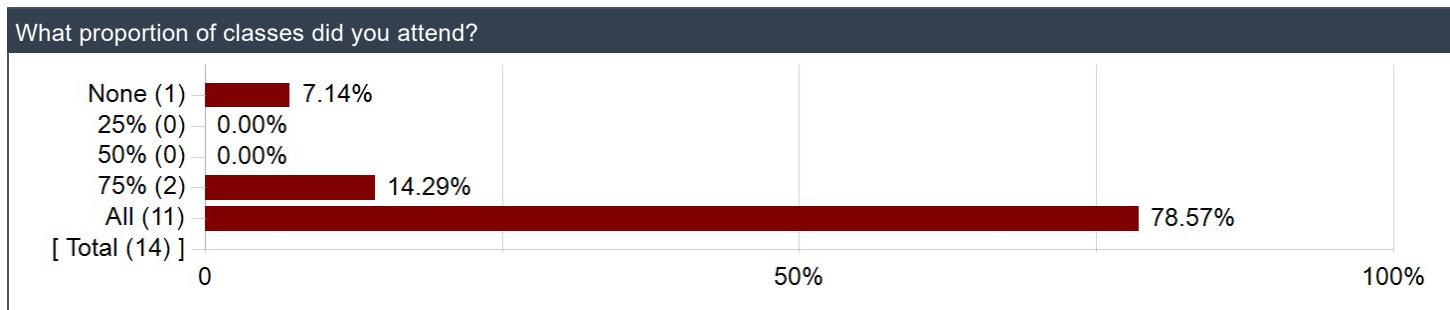
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Office hours made it very manageable
Challenging but doable for motivated students
fair
Medium
I had zero philosophy experience going in and it was still a good class. I probably would have gotten more out of it if I had taken a few philosophy classes before (or the history of philosophy sequence at least) but I was still able to catch up to speed and take a lot away from the course.
The course was pretty difficult relative to my background, but I didn't have much of a background. You would probably be served well by taking this after some of the philosophy introduction courses, just so you have a sense for the writing expectations.
Challenging, but in a good way. Rigorous philosophy.
I have taken three philosophy classes, but I haven't had much exposure to ideologies. This class was taught in a very beginner friendly way that people with different levels of background could all benefit.

