

Howard Shaeffer

PHIL 382 - Hist of Phil:Ren-Rationalist (27565)
 No. enrolled = 22 / No. of surveys returned = 19
 2122 Spring 2012



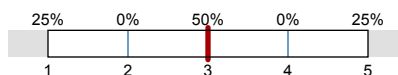
Survey Results

Legend

Question text

Left pole

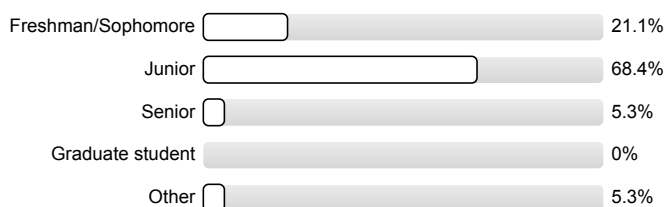
Right pole



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

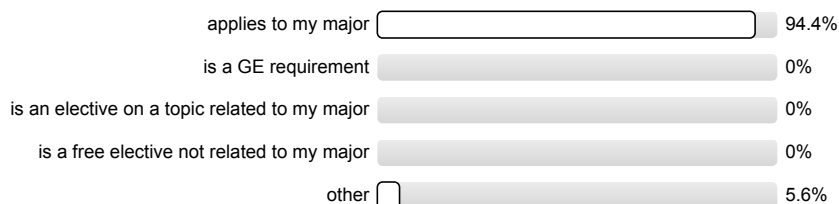
1. Background Information

1.1) My class standing is:



n=19

1.2) This course:
 (Select "applies to my major" if the course fulfills **both** GE and major requirements)



n=18

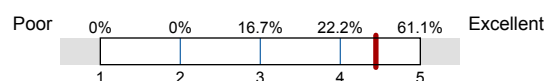
2. Instructor Rating

2.1) The instructor's contribution to my understanding of concepts/ideas was...



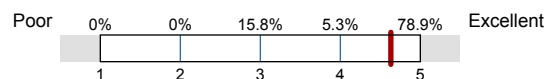
n=19
 av.=4.6
 dev.=0.5

2.2) The instructor's accessibility/availability for consultation outside of class (office hours, by appointment, email, phone) was ...



n=18
 av.=4.4
 dev.=0.8

2.3) The instructor's explanation of the grading system was ...



n=19
 av.=4.6
 dev.=0.8

2.4) The instructor's ability to present information clearly was ...



n=19
 av.=4.8
 dev.=0.4

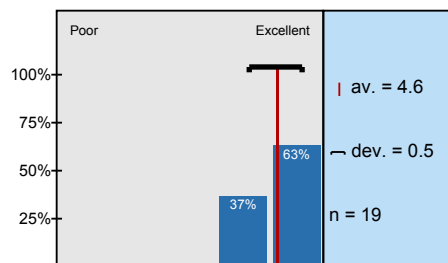
2.5)	The instructor's ability to challenge me was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	26.3%	73.7%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.7 dev.=0.5
2.6)	The instructor's ability to create an atmosphere where students were comfortable asking questions and/or engaging in discussion was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	26.3%	73.7%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.7 dev.=0.5
2.7)	The instructor's ability to create a classroom environment that was respectful of diversity (ethnicity, socio-economic background, sexual-orientation, nationality, age, ability, religion, gender) was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	21.1%	78.9%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.8 dev.=0.4
2.8)	The instructor's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	15.8%	84.2%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.8 dev.=0.4
2.9)	The quality of the instructor's overall preparation for class was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	42.1%	57.9%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.6 dev.=0.5
2.10)	The instructor's overall teaching effectiveness in this course was ...	Poor	0%	0%	5.3%	26.3%	68.4%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.6 dev.=0.6

3. Philosophy Department Questions

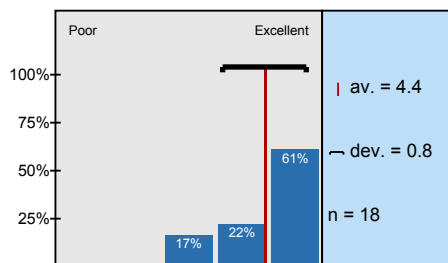
3.1)	The instructor's ability to relate course objectives with course content/assignments/tests was ...	Poor	0%	0%	10.5%	26.3%	63.2%	Excellent	n=19 av.=4.5 dev.=0.7
3.2)	The instructor's returning of work in a timely manner was ...	Poor	0%	5.6%	16.7%	38.9%	38.9%	Excellent	n=18 av.=4.1 dev.=0.9

Histogram for scaled questions

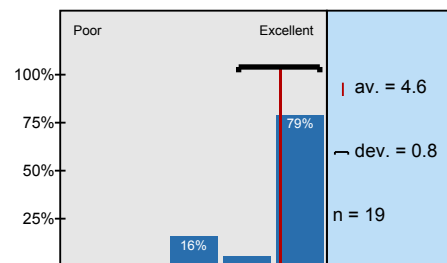
The instructor's contribution to my understanding of concepts/ideas was...



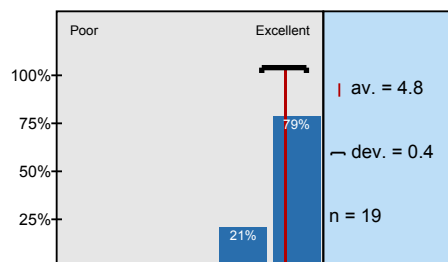
The instructor's accessibility/availability for consultation outside of class (office hours, by appointment, email,



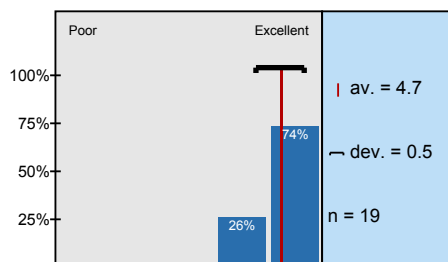
The instructor's explanation of the grading system was ...



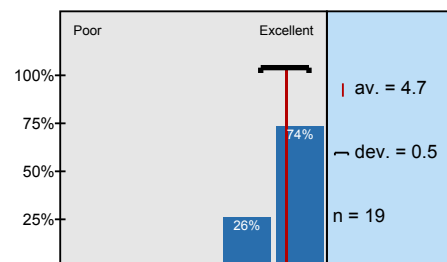
The instructor's ability to present information clearly was ...



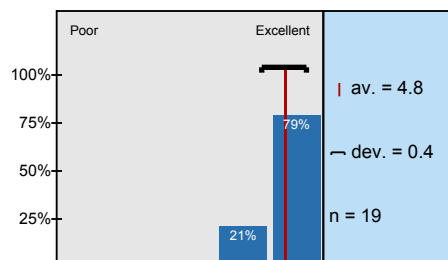
The instructor's ability to challenge me was ...



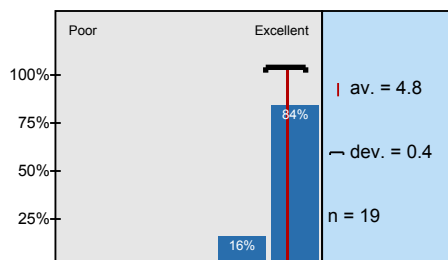
The instructor's ability to create an atmosphere where students were comfortable asking questions and/or



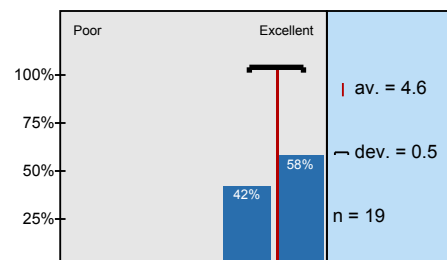
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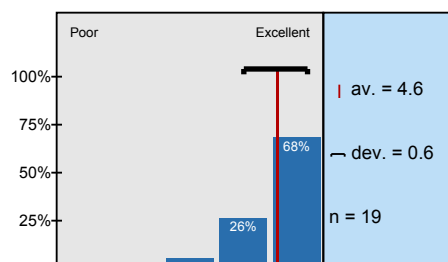
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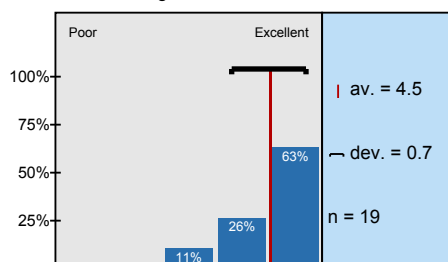
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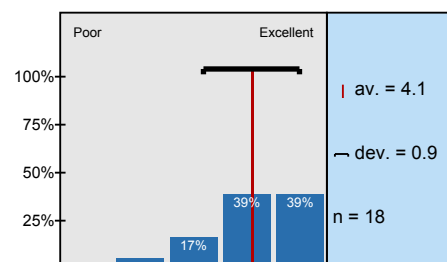
The instructor's overall teaching effectiveness in this course was ...



The instructor's ability to relate course objectives with course content/assignments/tests was ...



The instructor's returning of work in a timely manner was ...



Comments Report

4. Student Comments (Only writing within the textboxes will be recorded.)

4.1) Please comment on the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness:

Excellent instructor

Only positive things can be said!

Dr. Shaeffer is very explicit in his teaching style. He clearly sets forth important concepts through the use of blackboard

Benjamin is a great, engaging teacher who encourages students to actually do philosophy in class. He is courteous to the ideas of students and does a very good job of answering questions, especially when the questions are not completed ideas.

BEN IS A STRONG TEACHER, THOUGH I BELIEVE HIS CRITERIA FOR GRADEWORTHY ESSAYS IS SOMEWHAT AMBITIOUS. HE GAVE A HANDOUT BUT IT WAS HARD TO FRAME A GRADED ESSAY ON THAT.

Enjoyable class, instructor presented topics clearly + precisely. Kept me engaged throughout discussion

Benjamin is great. He is very knowledgeable of the subject matter and gives very thoughtful answers to students' questions.



Concepts well explained. ⚡ Ⓢ

A constant atmosphere for both learning and philosophical reflection/argumentation.

good at separating historical arguments from present-day information and providing the necessary context

Highly effective instructor, demonstrating excellent knowledge of the subject & making it accessible to students.

A lot of info, well explained, just needs to be organized/visualized better.

Highly effective. I appreciated his writing on the chalkboard and his sequential presentation of information which made difficult, often convoluted information more easily accessible.

More cat examples!
Very knowledgeable and able to direct discussion.

Great class, very well instructed.

The only class I actually enjoyed attending

Outstanding - Bea is very intelligent, articulate, and very funny.

- used visuals to help demonstrate concepts
- directly quoted from text, put in real world perspective.
- answered questions throughout class, really going into depth.

4.2) Please comment on the content of the course (for example, topics, tests, texts, organization, etc.)

Course material is engaging and relevant.

Descartes is a sack of crap.

I feel that due to time, we were unable to cover more extensively the rationalist, - making stronger comparisons between the rationalist and their publications and correspondence. TIME was a problem for me

I liked how an honorable mention was included, those 2 essays on African folks and philosophy, but that was a little random.

I highly enjoyed studying the three philosophers that we did this semester. It seems a shame that Spinoza & Leibniz will be lost from the curriculum next semester.

I am glad that Charles Mills's work entered into the discussion.

Essay topics where well explained, and quizzes successfully challenged me.

The content of the course was excellent. Especially Spinoza. I hope there is a way to continue teaching Spinoza next semester/year.

quizzes and essay questions were appropriate to the curriculum

Very solid except for visualization.

I liked that the tests were used as preparation/clarification for the essays and thus were not so serious. Having a test every week helped immensely to clarify key concepts.

Quizzes on thursdays were great.
Writing the essays was a great experience.

Quizzes were easy, essays challenging. Didn't like buying the textbooks off campus - they were expensive and can't be sold back.

- SPINOZA, DESCARTES, LEIBNIZ
 - I felt we spent the most time on Descartes, so I felt I understood his writing the best.
 - We barely discussed Leibniz and I wish we could have!
- Quizzes helped on essays as well
- lecture notes = great

4.3) Other comments:

Give this guy a raise!

I found this a most interesting class. I regret to find out that it will be ~~combined~~ combined ~~to~~ other courses when it is deserving of special treatment due to its importance in western philosophy

Ran out of time for Leibniz. Sad b/c he was the trippiest philosopher.

Also, I appreciate the depth of comments on the paper submissions. I've found Ben is a very fair grader and has pushed me to really apply myself when writing papers.

I always left class pondering the ideas discussed in the lecture. This was my favorite course this semester.

N/A

• A highly enjoyable class!

Mr. Shaeffer did an excellent job instructing the course.

Ben is awesome.

This was a great course! Really intense!
