Howard Shaeffer, PHIL 485 - Seminar in Philosophy
2012 Spring 2012

Survey Results

Legend

Question text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Left pole</th>
<th>Right pole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1. Background Information**

1.1) My class standing is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Standing</th>
<th>n=13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman/Sophomore</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate student</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2) This course:

(List "applies to my major" if the course fulfills both GE and major requirements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>n=12</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applies to my major</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a GE requirement</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is an elective on a topic related to my major</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a free elective not related to my major</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2. Instructor Rating**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>3%</th>
<th>23.1%</th>
<th>76.9%</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>av.=4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dev.=0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>7.7%</th>
<th>23.1%</th>
<th>69.2%</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>av.=4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dev.=0.7</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>23.1%</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>76.9%</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>av.=4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dev.=0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>15.4%</th>
<th>84.6%</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>av.=4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dev.=0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.5) The instructor's ability to challenge me was ...

2.6) The instructor's ability to create an atmosphere where students were comfortable asking questions and/or engaging in discussion was ...

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 ...

2.8) The instructor's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter was ...

2.9) The quality of the instructor's overall preparation for class was ...

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

3. Philosophy Department Questions

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

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

The instructor's ability to create a classroom environment that was respectful of diversity (ethnicity, ...

The instructor's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter was ...

The quality of the instructor's overall preparation for class was ...

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 ...

av. = 4.8  dev. = 0.4  n = 13

av. = 4.6  dev. = 0.7  n = 13

av. = 4.5  dev. = 0.9  n = 13

av. = 4.8  dev. = 0.4  n = 13

av. = 4.9  dev. = 0.3  n = 13

av. = 4.7  dev. = 0.6  n = 13

av. = 4.8  dev. = 0.6  n = 13

av. = 4.9  dev. = 0.3  n = 13

av. = 4.7  dev. = 0.5  n = 13

av. = 4.8  dev. = 0.4  n = 13

av. = 4.7  dev. = 0.8  n = 13

av. = 4.4  dev. = 0.9  n = 13
4.1) Please comment on the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness:

Howard Shaeffer is the most challenging professors I've had, however it was rather intimidating speaking in class.

Keep him forever!
Good method. Discussions were a great part of the course.

He is LEGIT.

Shaefter is one of my favorite professors. He is extremely knowledgeable and gives a large amount of feedback while grading. He makes a 3 hour lecture entertaining and worth going to.

The material was challenging but the professor made the class enjoyable.
Wittgenstein is not an easy philosopher to grasp. Benjamin did a terrific job presenting the material in a clear way.

As always in my experiences Shaeffer has been excellent this semester. A very thick difficult text, that take much effort on us as students as well as the instructor, he always explains his point, well answers any questions & is always open to a discussion.

Shaeffer is very good at laying out the difficult subject matter in a very clear & concise manner. He does a great job at using examples to convey the point.

as best as could be done
Very enjoyable instructor to have which inspires my studies. Rewards ideas and concepts well.

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

the weekly essay was a good way to keep me continually reflecting on the reading and to solidify my understanding.

Amazing!

The content of the course was studied in depth which was nice. Didn't go beyond what we couldn't understand at first. The speeches were a really good way to help focus in on a particular idea.
Text was insanely dense but that’s just the way that Wittgenstein writes. Not Benjamin’s fault.

Too much writing. 2-3 page paper due every week on topics we choose made me spend far more time than I believe should have been spent.

The assignments & grading were made clear at the outset of the class.

Even though I did not like doing the write-ups each week I found it very beneficial to my overall understanding of the course content. The presentation & commentary was very professional and made me feel like I was at a serious conference.
the most challenging and difficult, and as much as I would
like to say most rewarding, rather impossible to accomplish in
one sitting of week. That being said, an hour at a time
three a week would be far less satisfactory. Perhaps a 4-unit
or more type arrangement

interesting and thought-provoking material

43) Other comments:

Spectacular!

He's one of my two favorite philosophy teachers
His drawing skills are fantastic. Especially drawings of Randall.

Not many professors can be so engaging for three hours. Benjamin obviously knows his Wittgenstein and has a passion for the material.

Shaeffer is a very good professor and is very friendly and approachable. I find that an important aspect needed to be an effective teacher.

Thoroughly distracted me from all my other courses. In the best way, though...
Sometimes you say part of what you are writing on the board but not all of it.