

## Howard Shaeffer

PHIL 485 - Seminar in Philosophy (25643)  
No. enrolled = 20 / No. of surveys returned = 13  
2122 Spring 2012



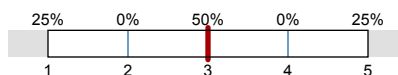
## Survey Results

## Legend

Question text

Left pole

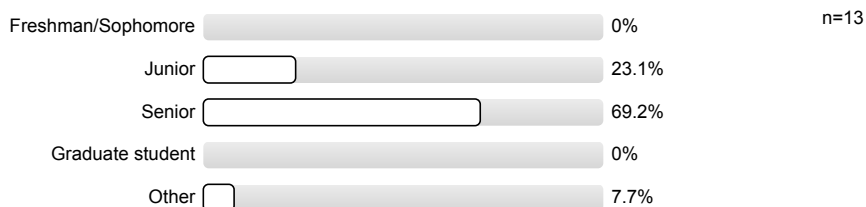
Right pole



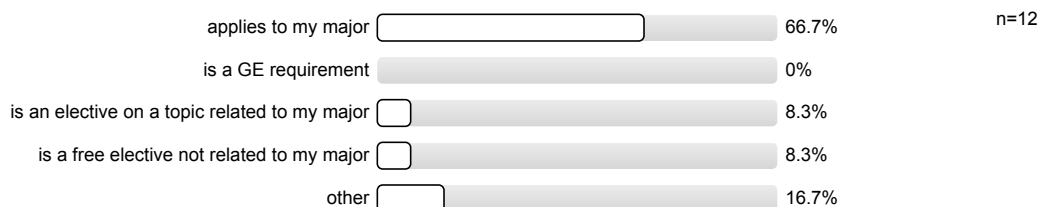
n=No. of responses  
av.=Mean  
dev.=Std. Dev.  
ab.=Abstention

## 1. Background Information

1.1) My class standing is:

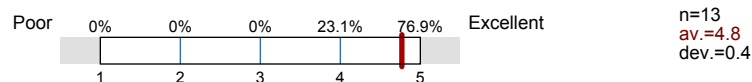


1.2) This course:  
(Select "applies to my major" if the course fulfills **both** GE and major requirements)

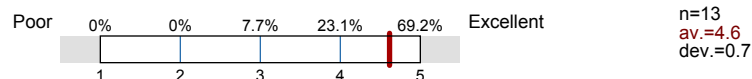


## 2. Instructor Rating

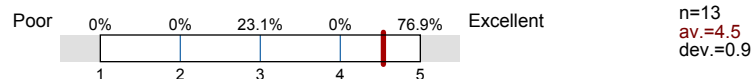
2.1) The instructor's contribution to my understanding of concepts/ideas was...



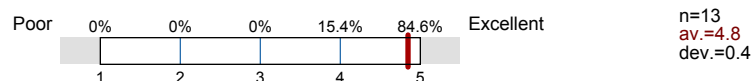
2.2) The instructor's accessibility/availability for consultation outside of class (office hours, by appointment, email, phone) was ...



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



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



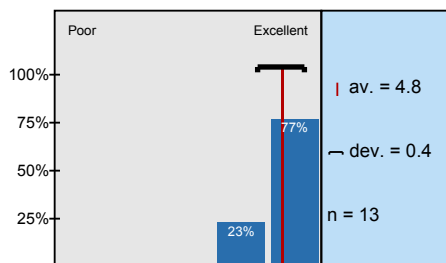
2.5)	The instructor's ability to challenge me was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	7.7%	92.3%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.9 dev.=0.3
2.6)	The instructor's ability to create an atmosphere where students were comfortable asking questions and/or engaging in discussion was ...	Poor	0%	0%	7.7%	15.4%	76.9%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.7 dev.=0.6
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%	7.7%	7.7%	84.6%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.8 dev.=0.6
2.8)	The instructor's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	7.7%	92.3%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.9 dev.=0.3
2.9)	The quality of the instructor's overall preparation for class was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	30.8%	69.2%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.7 dev.=0.5
2.10)	The instructor's overall teaching effectiveness in this course was ...	Poor	0%	0%	0%	23.1%	76.9%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.8 dev.=0.4

### 3. Philosophy Department Questions

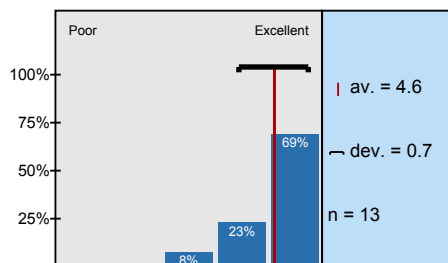
3.1)	The instructor's ability to relate course objectives with course content/assignments/tests was ...	Poor	0%	0%	16.7%	0%	83.3%	Excellent	n=12 av.=4.7 dev.=0.8
3.2)	The instructor's returning of work in a timely manner was ...	Poor	0%	0%	23.1%	15.4%	61.5%	Excellent	n=13 av.=4.4 dev.=0.9

## Histogram for scaled questions

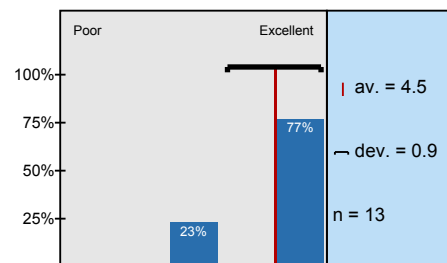
The instructor's contribution to my understanding of concepts/ideas was...



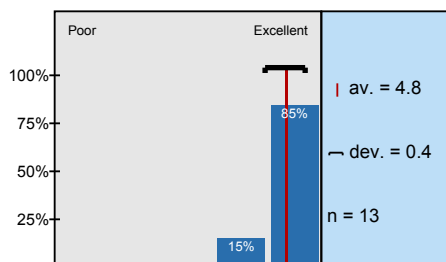
The instructor's accessibility/availability for consultation outside of class (office hours, by appointment, email,



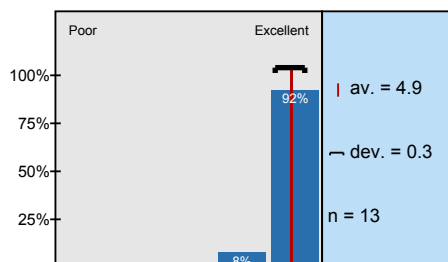
The instructor's explanation of the grading system was ...



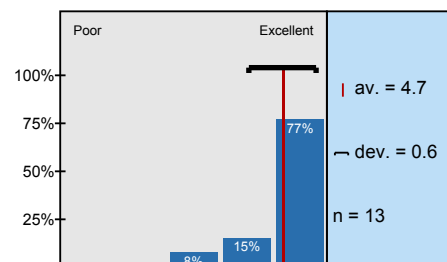
The instructor's ability to present information clearly was ...



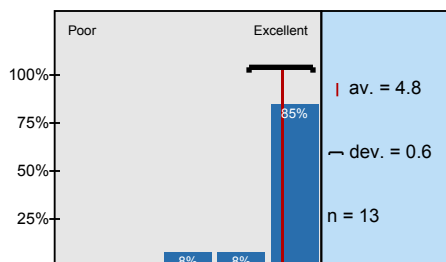
The instructor's ability to challenge me was ...



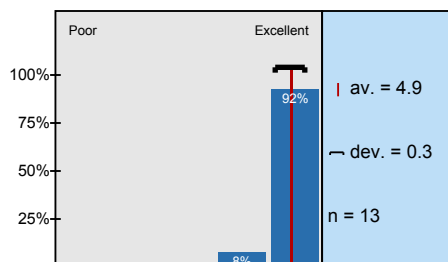
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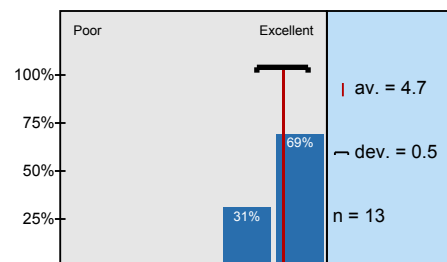
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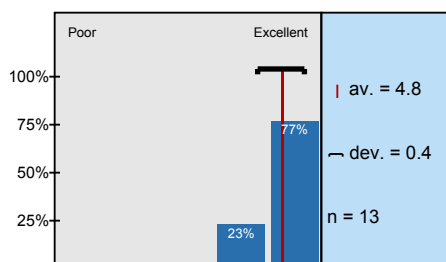
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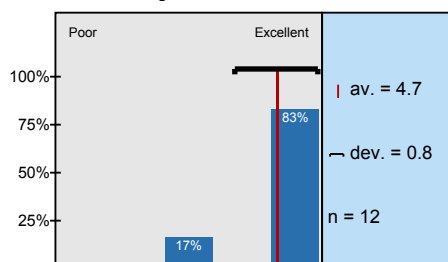
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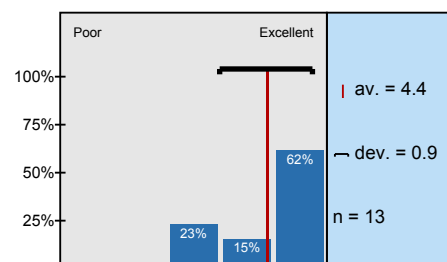
The instructor's overall teaching effectiveness in this course was ...



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:

was able to provide very thorough, detailed accounts of the arguments and concepts, and also what was at stake philosophically, given the <sup>historical</sup> context of the work.

Shaeffer is the most ~~challenging~~ 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.

Shaeffer 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.

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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

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Shaeffer is very ~~not~~ 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.

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as best as could be done

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Very enjoyable instructor to have which inspires my studies. Rewords ideas and concepts well.

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4.2) 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

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Amazing!

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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.

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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 of 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 & comments 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 a week. ~~That~~ That being said, an hour at a time  
 3x a week would be far less satisfactory. Perhaps a 4-visit  
or more type arrangement!

interesting and thought-provoking material

4.3) 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 + has a passion for the material.

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

~~He~~ Thoroughly distracted me from all my other courses. In the best way, though...

Sometimes you ~~don't~~ say part of ~~what~~ what you  
are writing on the board but not all of it.

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