



# PHIL 481: Topics in Philosophy - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 21287) - Sarah Clairmont (Winter 2020)

Project Title: **Mercury Course Evaluation (Winter 2020)**

Course Audience: **N/A - Filter Applied**  
Responses Received: **6**  
Response Ratio: **31.6%**

Instructor Audience: **19**  
Responses Received: **6**  
Response Ratio: **31.6%**

## Subject Details

Course Name	PHIL 481: Topics in Philosophy - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 21287)
Eval Start Date	03/23/2020 00:00:00
Eval End Date	05/02/2020 00:00:00
Term	Winter 2020
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Academic Unit	Philosophy
Enrolment	21
Questionnaire	ARTS

## Report Comments

End-of-course evaluations results, as one indicator of teaching effectiveness, are used:

- to help instructors improve future offerings of courses;
- to inform students about courses and instructors;
- as a component of the teaching dossier; and
- to help administrators and faculty committees in their decision-making processes.

Written comments are treated as confidential and are not made available to the McGill community.

The course ratings reported here are only one indicator of teaching effectiveness and these results should be treated with caution since they represent reports on only one particular course.

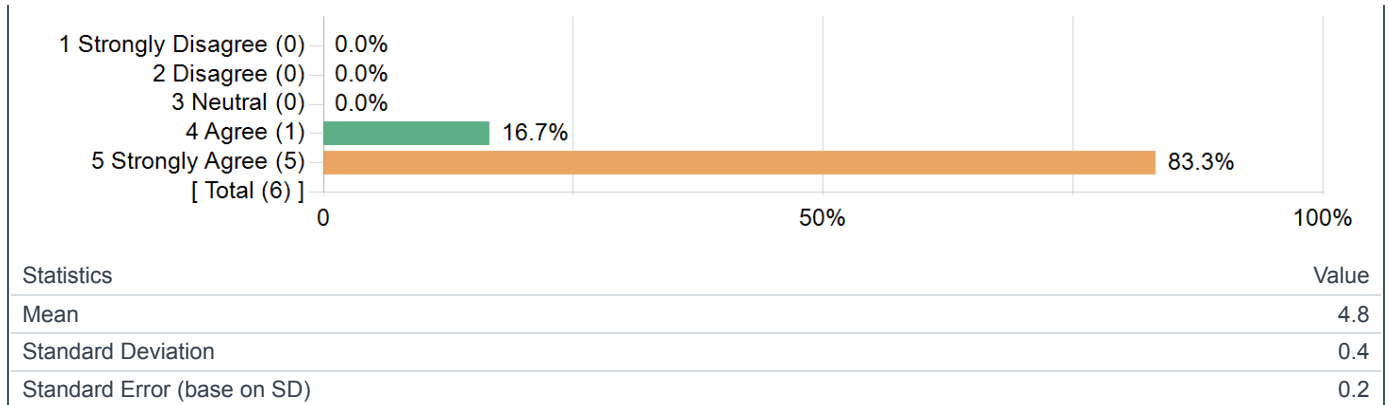
Prepared by: **Jasmine Parent**  
Creation Date: **Monday, July 20, 2020**

## Overall, this is an excellent course.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.3	0.7

## Overall, this is an excellent course.

Overall, this is an excellent course.



## Insert comments:

Comments

The course content was interesting, informative and challenging enough whilst still being able to grasp the material. In addition, lectures were a great environment to grasp the content even further, allowing us to pose more questions about the text.

I cannot say enough good things about this course! Philosophies of science and medicine are not the branches of philosophy I naturally gravitate towards, but I am so glad I took this course. It was designed logically! The readings were engaging, the topics were relevant, and the design of the curriculum in general was very well thought out.

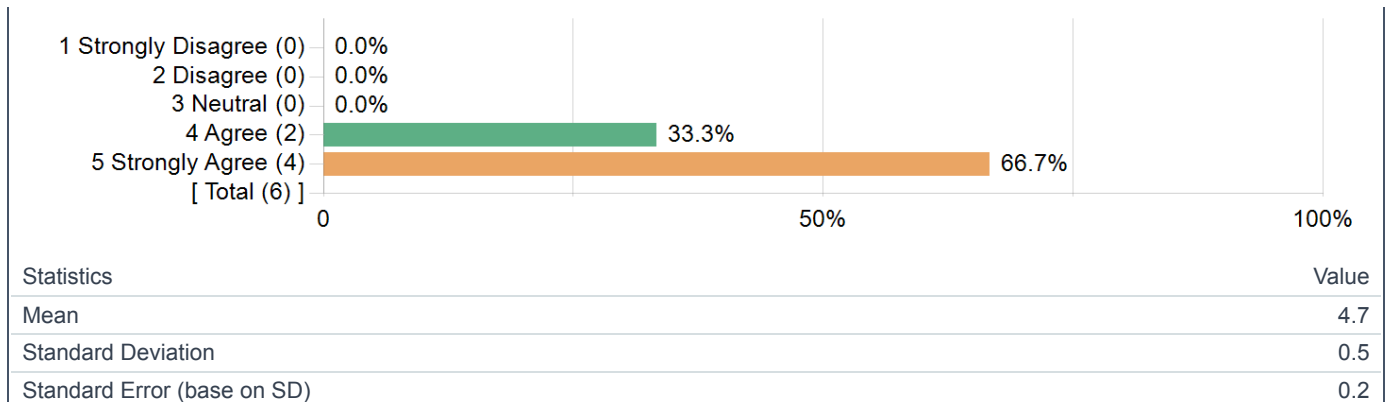
I loved this course so much that I'm not sure I can put it into words. The impact it has had on my life and thinking is tremendous and will last for years to come. I apologize that this is gushingly enthusiastic and inarticulate, but it's oddly hard to explain how this was exactly the right course at the right time. The course was deep, interesting, thoroughly engaging, participatory, with wonderful readings and direct societal relevance. It welcomed people from a variety of backgrounds to bring their perspectives to philosophy of medicine as a sub-field of philosophy of science. It was a joy, truly, to be part of this course.

## Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.4	0.7

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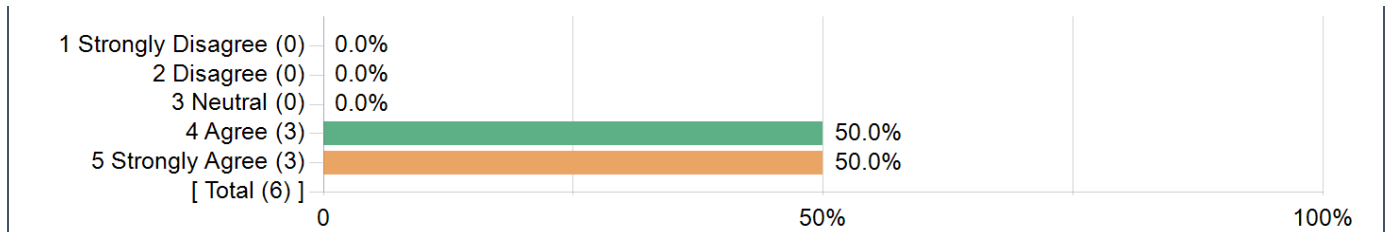


## Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.5	0.8	4.5	0.7

## Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.5
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.2

## Insert comments:

### Comments

Sarah was an fantastic teacher who made the classroom a comfortable environment to pose questions, concerns, and opinions. Sarah really put in the effort to make sure all her students felt like they could share ideas and thoughts about the course material while making sure that we understood the main arguments of the text. In addition, Sarah really helped with improving my writing skills.

I don't know if Sarah has done much research into motivation psychology, but if she hasn't somehow her intuitions are spot on time after time. In her lectures, she created a safe and welcoming environment, where students felt comfortable with debate and disagreement, while also gently reminding us of the need for sensitivity and compassion in many of these discussions. She shared with us the responsibility of teaching the class, which encouraged me to care more about the topic on which I was presenting. The two papers had very clear expectations but gave us a lot of room for creativity and exploration, ultimately allowing us to make the projects our own. At the end of the day, it was clear Sarah wanted all of us to be better philosophers, i.e. to be more thoughtful. And I think she was able to achieve this because in every decision she made about the course, she put the students first. It really shows and it is really appreciated! More professors should teach like Sarah.

Equal parts challenging and approachable, she pushed us to think through our comments while being graciously charitable in her interpretations.

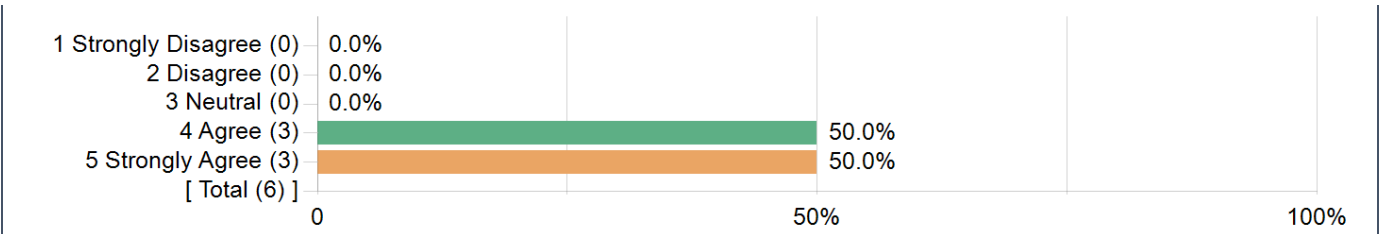
Sarah is really lovely. She tried to be accessible, equitable, and approachable as an instructor. She solicited and listened to student feedback. Her marking was super fair with lots of commentary to guide student improvement. I think my only minor criticism would be that sometimes she got sidetracked with personal anecdotes – in another context this might be a good thing (reminder that profs are people too!) but given her proximity in age to us, it sometimes felt a bit too raw/vulnerable.

## Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.4	0.5

## Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.

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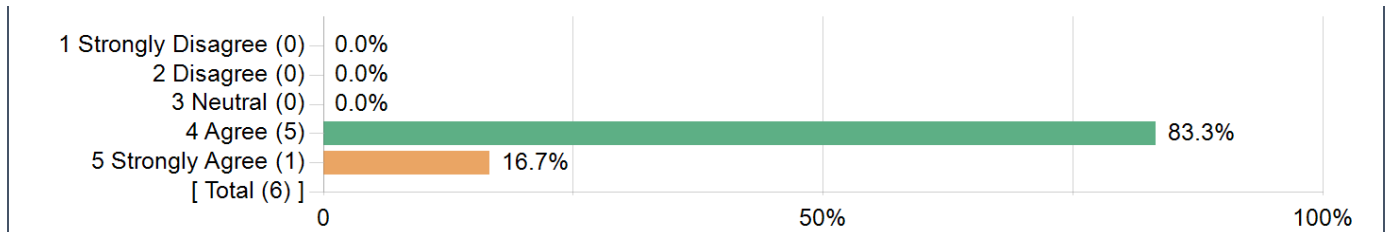
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.5
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.2

### Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.9	4.3	0.7

### Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.

Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.2
Standard Deviation	0.4
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.2

### Insert comments:

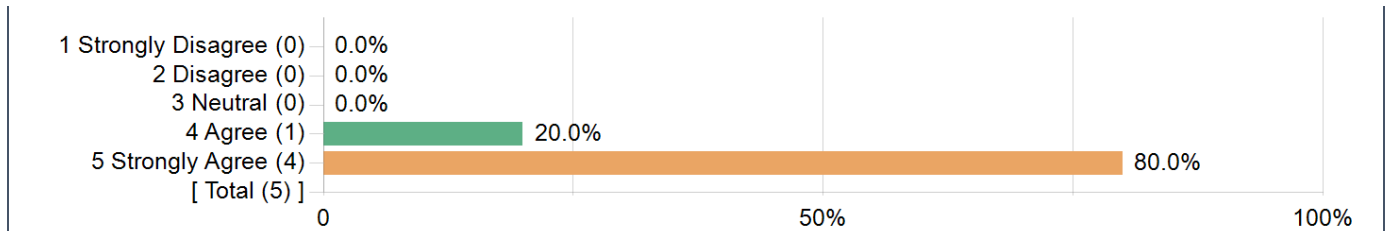
Comments
Sarah made each lecture engaging and relevant to the course material.
I liked the pulling out of key terms and ideas before diving into the sometimes challenging readings.
The class was set up to have debrief/lecture on the readings, by Sarah and/or presenting students, followed by class discussion. The lectures were important to make sure everyone was on the same page before jumping into full-class discussion, but sometimes seemed like they ran too long by 10–15 minutes. Maybe incorporating more small group work where students got to ask one another questions would be a more interactive way to spend that time while also potentially providing more full-group discussion fodder (since individual people were sometimes hesitant to start things off).

### Considering class size, the instructor was available for individual consultation.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.5	0.8	4.5	0.4

### Considering class size, the instructor was available for individual consultation.

Considering class size, the instructor was available for individual consultation.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.8
Standard Deviation	0.4
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.2

## Insert comments:

### Comments

Sarah put in a great deal of effort to make sure she was available for individual consultation through office hours, including after the school shut down. She was patient and helpful during office hours and I never felt like I had to rush through any questions or concerns with her. In addition, Sarah would take time to answer all questions to the best of her ability and providing the clearest explanation possible.

Particularly exceptional to me was her willingness to chat after class for sometimes more than half an hour on nothing but COVID coping. Thank you for that, seriously. The extra effort and commitment to us was heartwarming and appreciated.

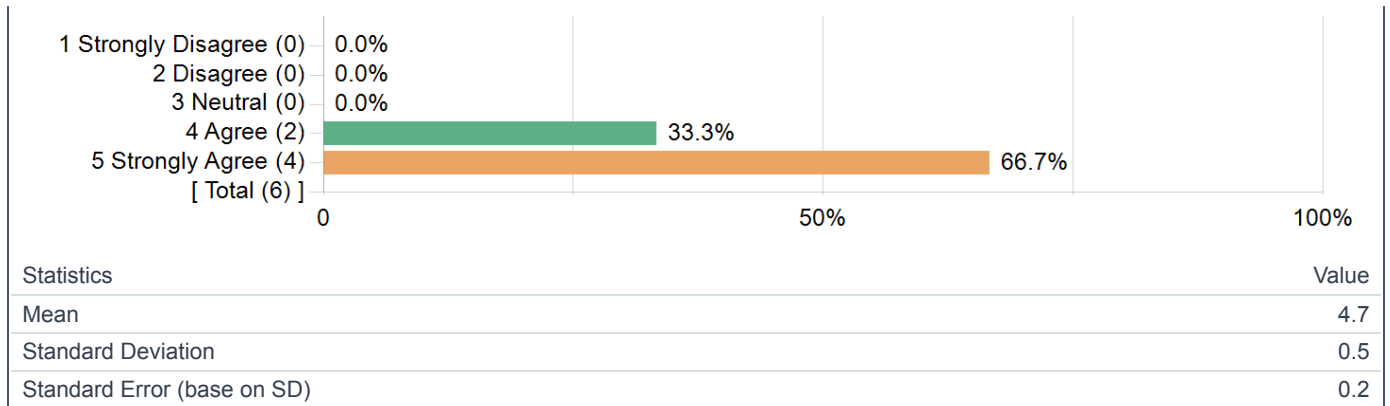
Because of the way she structured the class presentations, it sometimes seemed like there were a lot of people who needed to be in her office hours at once. Office hours were held once a week, so maybe splitting to twice a week (although more time-consuming for her as the instructor) could help it seem less rushed. She was willing to schedule consultations outside of office hours if students wanted/needed, though, which was helpful.

### Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.3	0.8	4.4	0.5

### Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.

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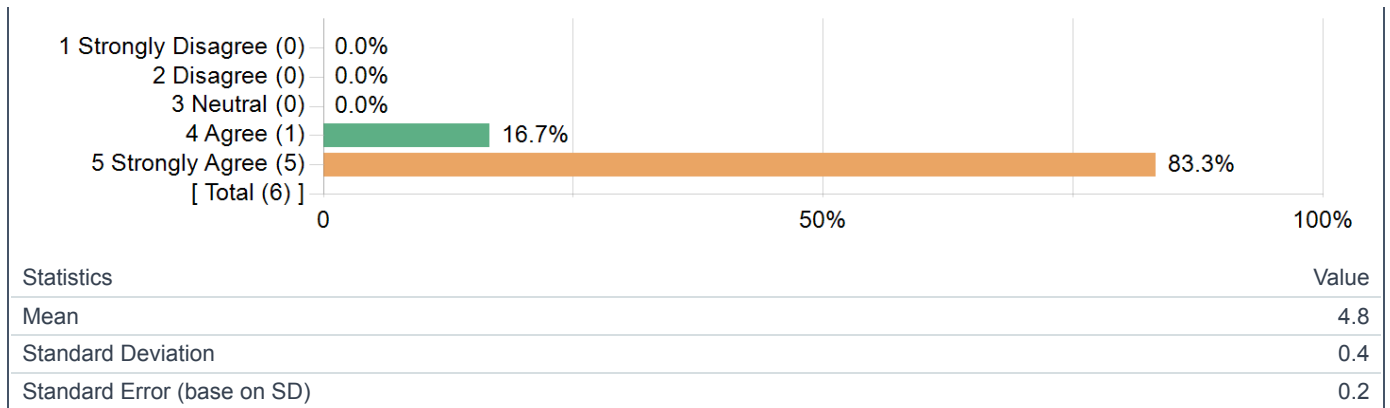


### The course objectives were clearly explained.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.2	0.6

### The course objectives were clearly explained.

The course objectives were clearly explained.

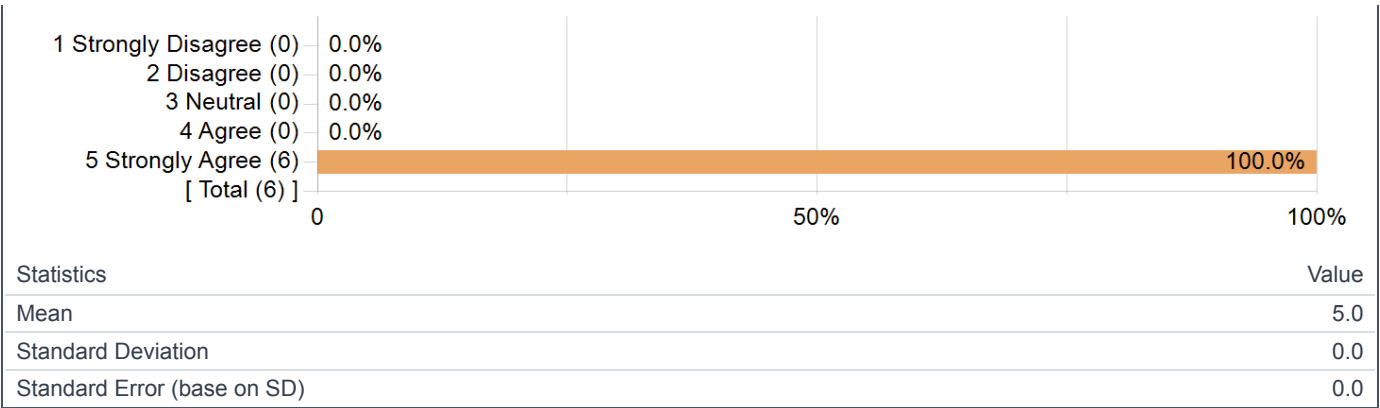


### Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.5	0.8	4.5	0.6

## Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.

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### Insert comments:

Comments

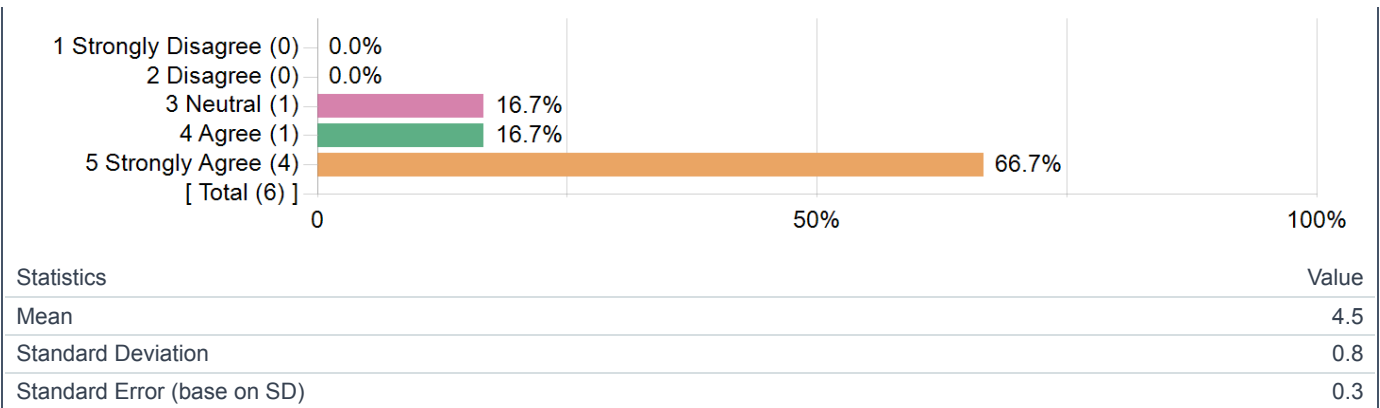
100%. More than in any course I have been in to date.

## Tests, assignments and other required work for the course were appropriate.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.4	0.5

## Tests, assignments and other required work for the course were appropriate.

Tests, assignments and other required work for the course were appropriate.



### Insert comments:

Comments

The distribution of assignments, both time- and mark-wise, was quite good.

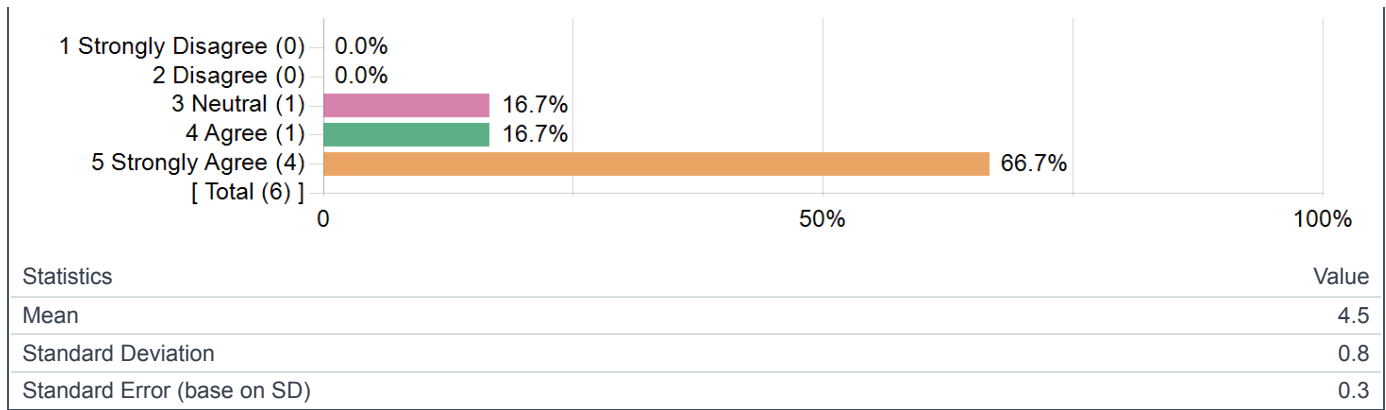
## The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.3	0.9	4.2	0.5



## The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.

The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.



### Insert comments:

#### Comments

I know it did not end up happening, but I think the option to get bonus marks for the peer-evaluation is a really great idea. When so often (due to department grading standards) we are implicitly pitted against our peers, where their success negatively affects our own, it is incredibly refreshing for cooperation to be so explicitly valued in a course. Not only would it allow us to further engage with the material, but I think (especially in philosophy) there is so much students can learn from each other, but we're rarely given the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for adapting evaluation methods post-COVID so reasonably.

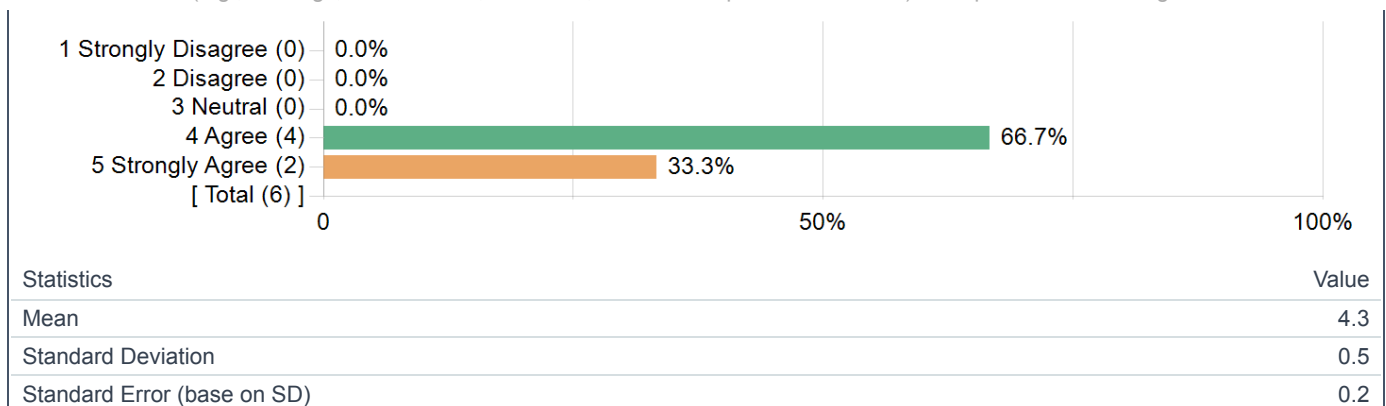
Sarah is a tough but fair grader, which is the highest praise I can give. She has high standards and expects high-quality work out of students while also pushing them to do their best and providing support to make their work better.

## Course materials (e.g., readings, lecture notes, exercises, audio-visual presentations etc.) were presented in an organized manner.

Mean, Department Mean (DM)	SD, Department Mean (DM)	Mean, Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD, Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.5	0.7	4.3	0.7

## Course materials (e.g., readings, lecture notes, exercises, audio-visual presentations etc.) were presented in an organized manner.

Course materials (e.g., readings, lecture notes, exercises, audio-visual presentations etc.) were presented in an organized manner.



### Insert comments:

#### Comments

Not Answered

Please provide written comments with respect to the instructor and the course (including course materials, readings etc.).

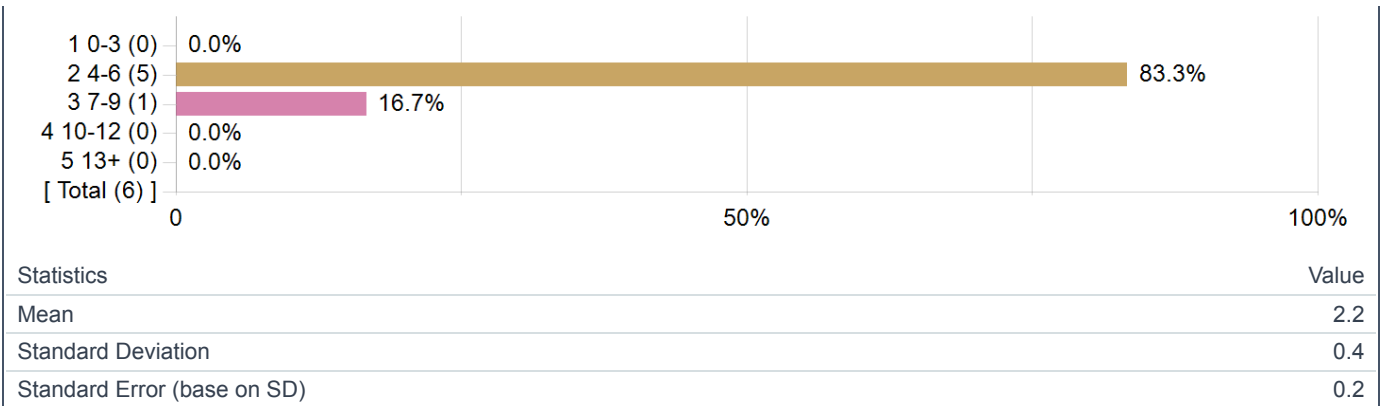
Comments  
Not Answered

In a typical week how much time did you dedicate to this course outside of the classroom context?

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
2.0	0.8	2.2	0.6

In a typical week how much time did you dedicate to this course outside of the classroom context?

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Insert comments:

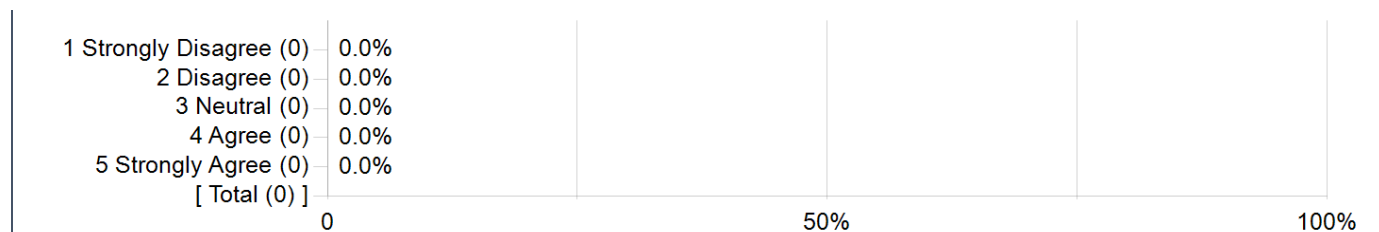
Comments  
Not Answered

## The Teaching Assistant was effective in fulfilling their role.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.2	1.0	N/A	N/A

## The Teaching Assistant was effective in fulfilling their role.

The Teaching Assistant was effective in fulfilling their role.



Statistics	Value
Mean	NRP
Standard Deviation	NRP
Standard Error (base on SD)	NRP

### Insert comments:

Comments
Not Answered