



# GSFS 402: Special Topics 2 - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 3115);PHIL 442: Topics in Feminist Theory - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 4593) - Celia Edell (Winter 2022)

Project Title: **Mercury Course Evaluation (Winter 2022)**

Course Audience: **27**  
Responses Received: **15**  
Response Ratio: **55.6%**

Instructor Audience: **27**  
Responses Received: **15**  
Response Ratio: **55.6%**

## Subject Details

Course Name	GSFS 402: Special Topics 2 - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 3115);PHIL 442: Topics in Feminist Theory - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 4593)
Eval Start Date	03/21/2022 00:00:00
Eval End Date	05/01/2022 00:00:00
Term	Winter 2022
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Academic Unit	Inst for Gender, Sex & Fem St;Philosophy
Enrolment	
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.

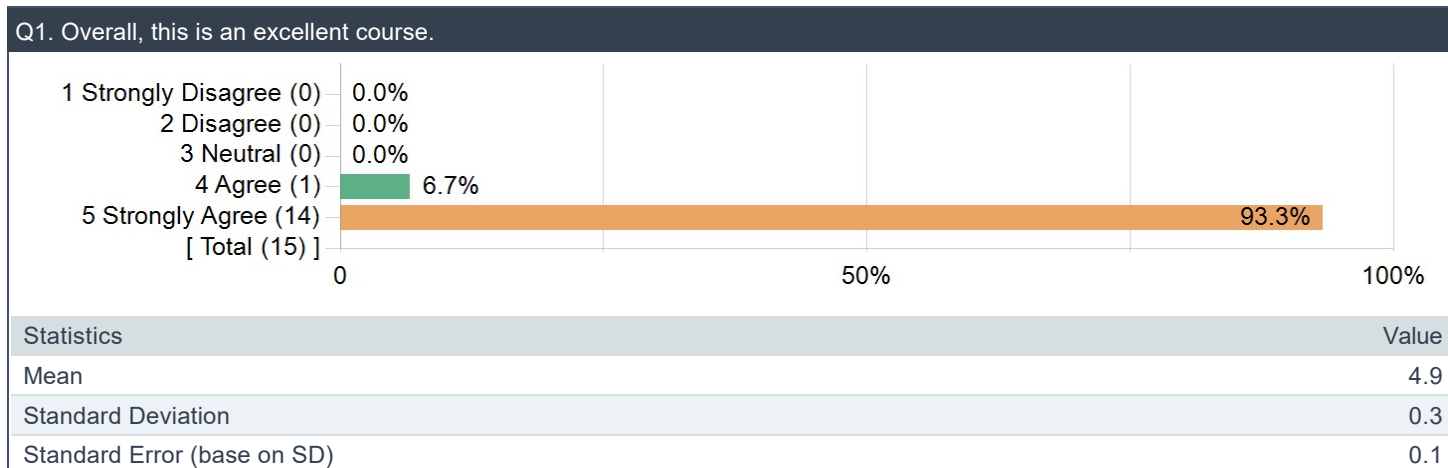
The course ratings reported here are only one indicator of teaching effectiveness and these results should be treated with caution since they represent reports on only one particular course.

Prepared by: **Rodney Jean-Paul**  
Creation Date: **Saturday, June 11, 2022**

## Q1. Overall, this is an excellent course.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.9	0.3	4.9	N/A

## Q1. Overall, this is an excellent course.



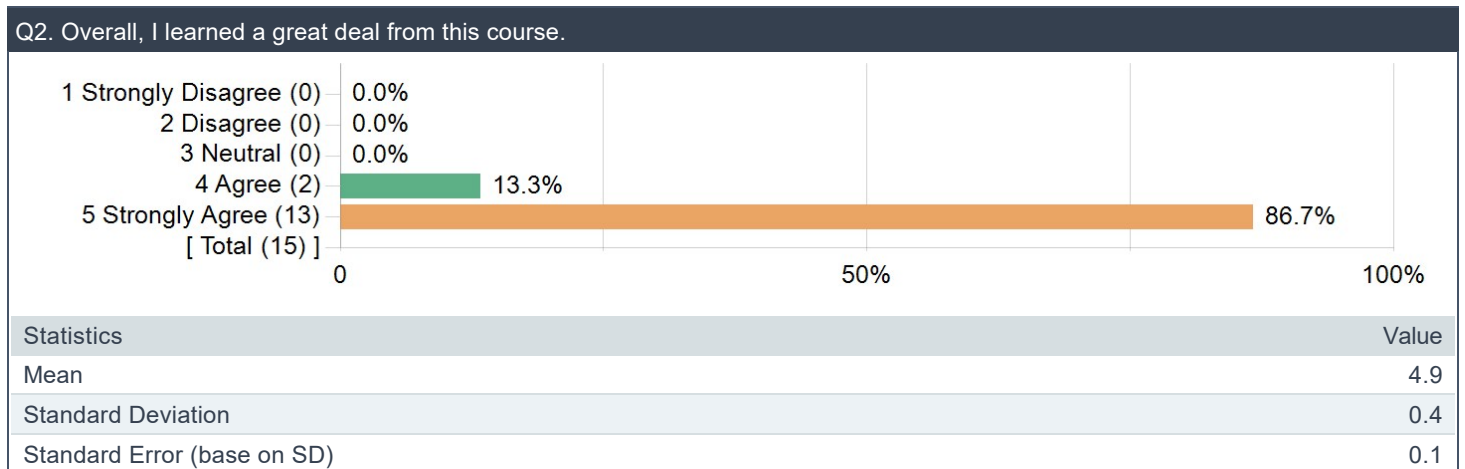
## Insert comments:

Comments
The course content was a great mixture of expansion on concepts I was familiar with, and new perspectives which apply well within gender studies and philosophy!!
Loved this class so much!
I truly enjoyed this course and learned so much. I was very engaged in the class and actively wanted to be there. The discussions were always so interesting/
Celia is a great teacher, and knows how to make classes interactive. As a philosophy student, I usually feel very nervous/uncomfortable participating in class discussions, but this is the first time in undergrad where I've felt like I can contribute to class discussions. Taking this class felt like a big step for me in that regard, so I'm super thankful to Celia for making this class very accessible and approachable.
Interesting and complex topics were taught in very poetic yet analytic and clear ways.
Professor Edell is absolutely amazing! She is not only sweet and approachable, but knowledgeable and helpful. She made the course super interesting and really brought a breath of fresh air to the subject. She was able to deliver course content effectively and in a way that is digestible for students. She really encouraged discussion in the classroom and allowed students to express their thoughts in a meaningful way. Her knowledge about contemporary issues and feminist philosophy brought a really fascinating dimension to the course. She is a better teacher than most of the department's resident professors, and I am really glad that she was able to teach the course. It was one of the best philosophy courses I have ever taken.
I have never written a course evaluation before during my time at McGill. Largely because not many courses have inspired me enough to do so. Celia is a wonderful professor. She is warm, kind, efficient and has taught me course content that I will take into my life post-graduation. PHIL 442 is the last philosophy course that I will take at McGill as I am graduating at the end of this semester, and I can honestly say I can not think of a better course to go out on. It has been so educational, and so much fun at the same time. Honestly, I am thrilled that I got the opportunity to take it, and remind myself why I chose philosophy as my major in the first place.
The course material is extremely engaging, thorough, and diverse. Topics discussed were new, refreshing, and challenging.
It was a fantastic course! I learned to develop better writing skills as a philosophy student, and the material (even the really dense parts) was made intelligible and accessible to interact with through class discussions, which is not always the case in philosophy courses.

## Q2. 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)
4.9	0.4	4.9	N/A

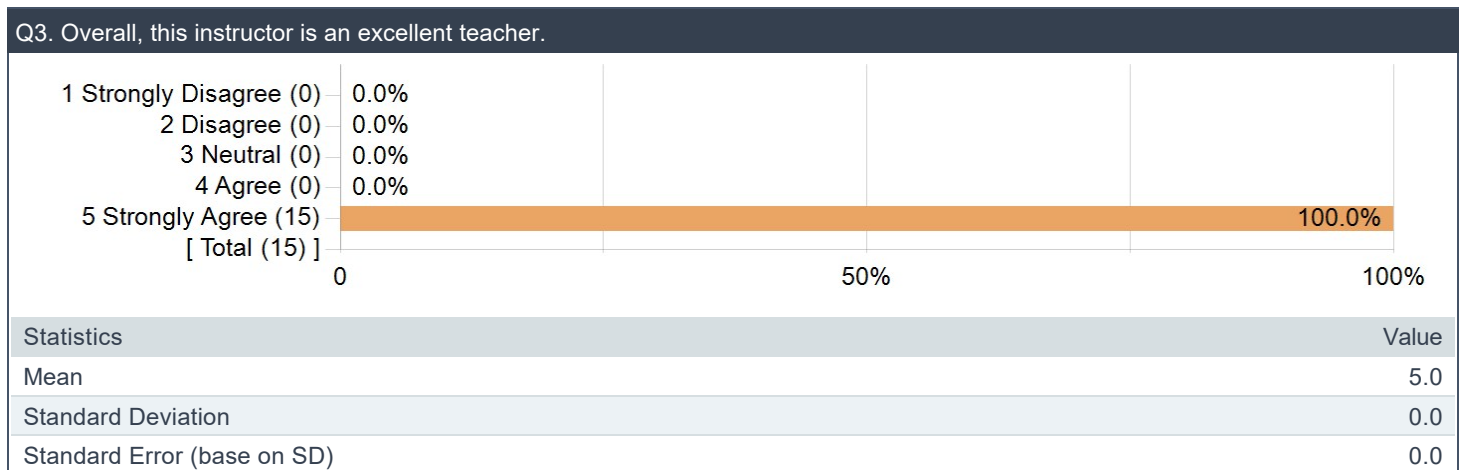
## Q2. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.



## Q3. 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)
5.0	0.0	5.0	N/A

## Q3. Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.



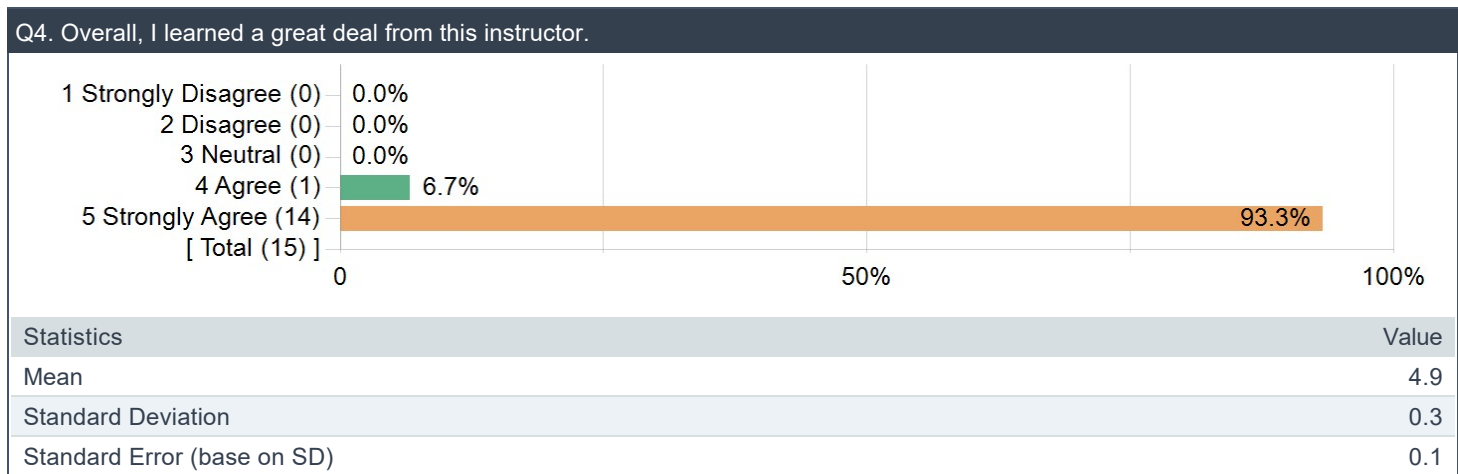
## Insert comments:

Comments
As a professor she is incredibly well read and able to facilitate rich and beneficial class conversations! Not only did I feel incredibly comfortable in the class setting, but she went above and beyond in taking student considerations moving to in person teaching in a safe and effective way, and always had a very engaged and uplifting presence.
Professor was very interesting in her lectures, made room for discussions and guided them very well, I felt comfortable to speak. The material was very well explained and super insightful.
Professor Edell was able to structure a 3 hour class so well, managing to foster unique discussions without letting the class fly off on unrelated tangents. Edell was always respectful and receptive to everyone's ideas and this made it so everyone felt welcome and safe to contribute to the class.
When dealing with texts which were more difficult, Celia carefully went through important concepts to facilitate class discussions.
One of the best professors I've had in my undergrad experience. She's taught another philosophy course I've taken earlier and both times she was a greatly informative, enthusiastic, and approachable instructor. It was refreshing to have a professor who really did care about her students, and was incredibly open to feedback as to how she should conduct the course that would be the most preferred by students. Overall she is an amazing person, a great instructor, and a joy to listen to.
Celia is the best professor I have ever had at McGill. She is so kind, informative, and inspiring. She made the classroom a place that I genuinely looked forward to every Wednesday (which is saying something because the class is 3 hours long)! Feedback was always fast on papers, and very insightful. Not only that, but she offered so much help and support during the paper writing process. I would send her multiple emails, that honestly made no sense, and she would understand exactly where I was going and advise me brilliantly. I am sad to be leaving McGill, but it's nice to know she is leaving at the same time so I won't miss out on anymore of her amazing courses! Thank you, Celia!
Prof. Edell is a wonderful teacher who cares deeply about her students' learning and the course content. She used effective and engaging teaching methods which challenged students while providing a safe learning environment.
Celia is a wonderful, kind, and understanding professor! She brings a great deal of knowledge to this course and works hard to get to know students and understand their situations. She is extremely respectful and hardworking and does her best to ensure that students have a good experience in the course. She is also very knowledgeable and eloquent, bringing creative, unique, and fresh ideas to class. Celia is an outstanding professor and any student will be lucky to have her in the future.
Celia is an excellent instructor, constantly working with students to understand complicated concepts together. She entertained every student's comments, questions, and critiques while keeping the conversations grounded in the material. It was wonderful to be part of such productive, nuanced, and important discussions.
Amazing professor. Best professor I had this year, and one of the best I've had in my entire degree. She had a unique way of explaining very complicated readings and concepts that was super clear, yet in-depth. I learned so much, favourite course this semester. I'm grateful to have taken this course in my last semester — I'm certain I'll be taking the knowledge I gained in this course with me everywhere I go, both in school and in life.
There were several classes where I came in lost about the readings' content and left feeling confident in my understanding of them. Celia explains things so clearly, and simplifies the content to make it make sense without losing the nuances and complexity of the work, and made me feel confident in my ability to implement the jargon of the readings properly in my own work. She was also really in-the-know about pop culture and current events, which made discussing them in class and connecting them to the material feel very natural.

## Q4. 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)
4.9	0.3	4.9	N/A

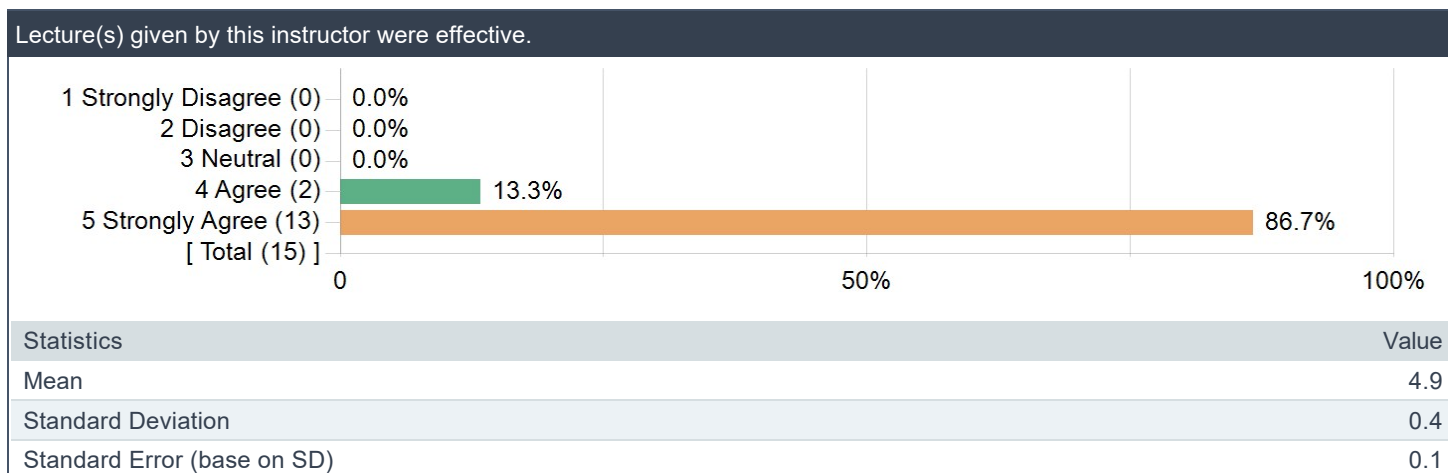
#### Q4. Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.



### 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)
4.9	0.4	4.9	N/A

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



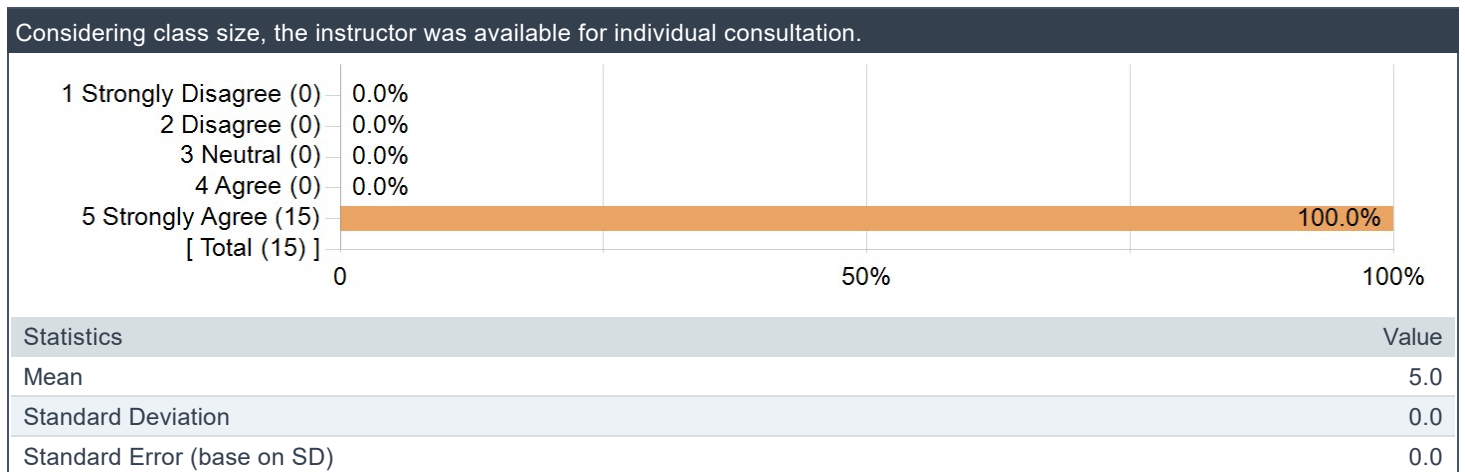
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Comments
She fostered a "lecture" environment which was more about collaborative learning than traditional lecturing, which was refreshing. I felt empowered as a student to share my opinions, and knew that she would fully take into consideration everyone's viewpoints and contributions.
I like that Prof. Edell would open the class with a breakdown of the reading so that everyone could participate even when they did not understand the reading. Then, we would add our thoughts to the reading—we would garner a far deeper understanding of the reading this way. Instead of linear teaching, we would extrapolate beyond the text and really understand its fullness. It was like bringing together theory and reality.
Lectures were incredibly informative yet interactive at the same time which increased the students' energy and motivation. The classes could be seen as divided into two parts: lecture and discussion – Celia really beautifully blended these two learning methods.
Lectures were always super clear, and she did an amazing job moderating class discussions to help students engage with the material.
The lecture content was always fresh and insightful. Celia would lecture on topics that were very complex, but she always made sure to break them down into bite-size segments so I never felt lost or overwhelmed. I had not taken a feminist course at McGill prior to this, so I was tentative about signing up for PHIL 442, but I am so glad that I did!
Her method of teaching is exceptional! She uses a blackboard and chalk and focuses on discussion-based teaching which makes learning more effective.
I would've expected more parallels and material related to the Feminist movement. I managed to write both the midterm and the final and doing my presentation without referring to feminism at all. I don't know if this is a good thing or not. Regardless, I loved the course and the material!
The format of the class meeting times was simple, consistent, and effective. Her summaries of the content at the beginning of each discussion were very concise and helpful. It was a great way to break up a 3-hour class block.

### 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)
5.0	0.0	5.0	N/A

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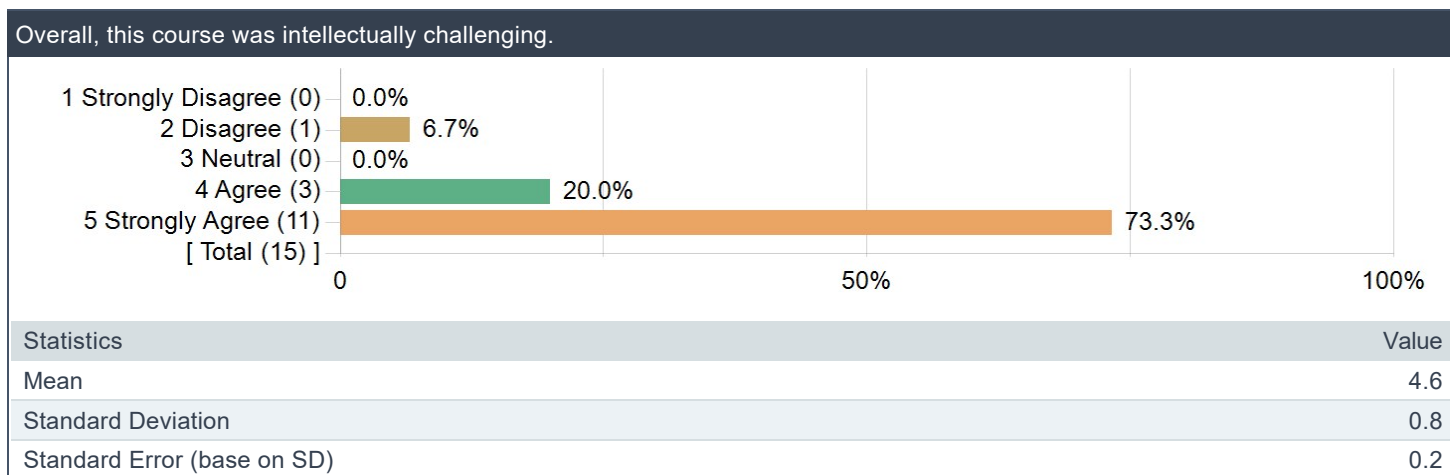
## Insert comments:

Comments
All of the assignments were prefaced with an open invitation to discuss ideas with her; even a paper writing/brainstorming session before the term paper was due, which I found very beneficial.
Professor Edell was always super accommodating of students outside the classroom.
Celia always made herself available for consultation about papers, and whatever we needed. I never went to her office hours because I was working during the time they were held, but she always responded to my emails in detail. I received so much help over the time of the class and I feel as though I have learnt a lot as a consequence.
Celia was always there when you needed her! She was extremely responsive in emails and very kind. She was also available to talk in office hours and would give detailed help and guidance to anyone who asked.
Answers emails and questions thoroughly and fast!!
She was incredibly helpful during office hours and really great at discussing ideas for paper topics.
Super easy to meet with her! And incredibly helpful too, she really took the time to discuss my paper ideas and difficulties thoroughly.

**Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.**

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.6	0.8	4.6	N/A

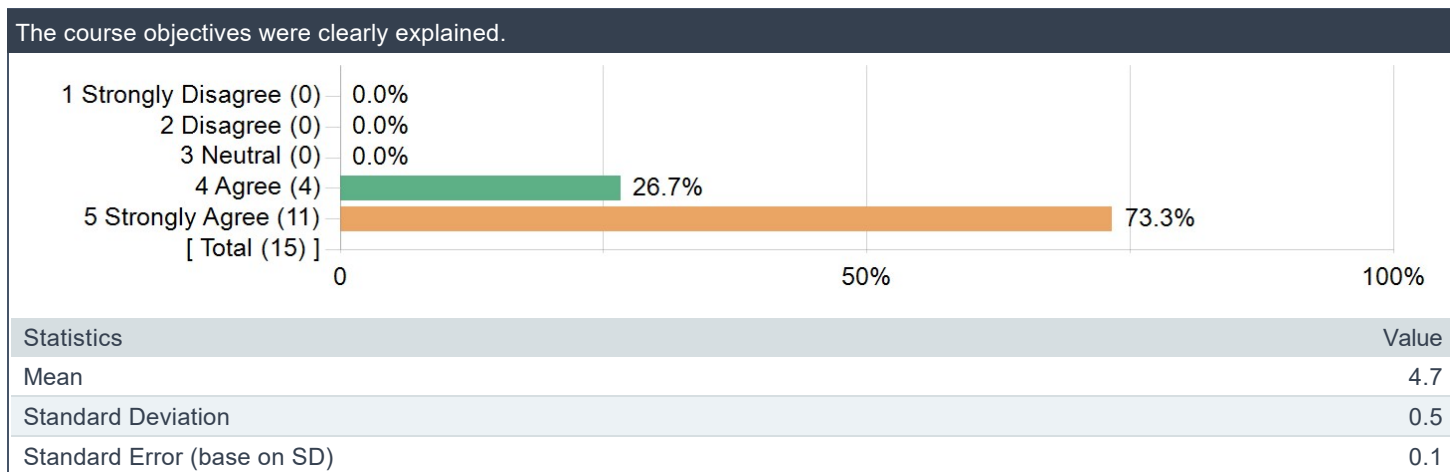
**Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.**



**The course objectives were clearly explained.**

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.7	0.5	4.7	N/A

**The course objectives were clearly explained.**

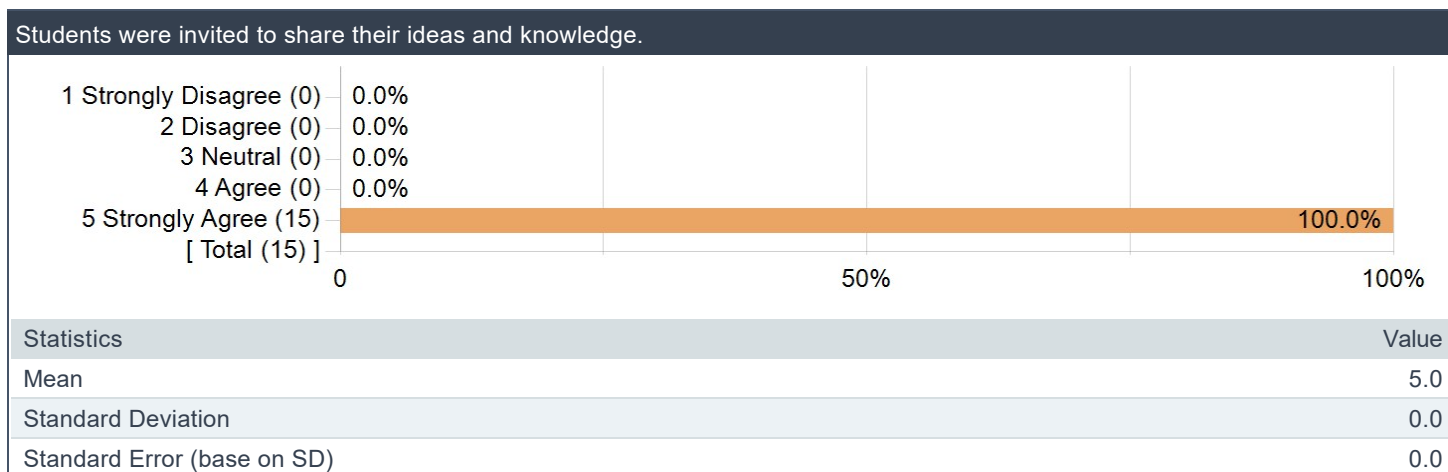


**Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.**

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
5.0	0.0	5.0	N/A



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



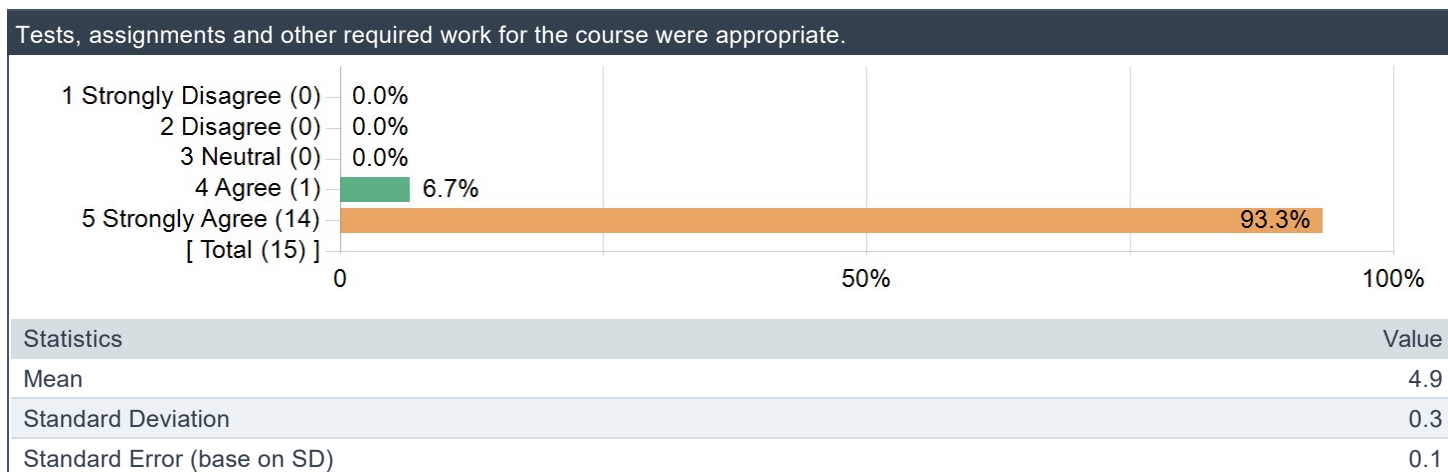
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Comments
With such a specified topic such as the one in this seminar, readings were presented in a very cohesive and clear manner, and her class time explanations of the text really reinforced learning from individual reading. I found compelled to spend time outside of the class work to think over the philosophical concepts that were presented, and very high level theorizations were explained effectively by her.
We were very invited to share our ideas and knowledge, and despite there being no requirement attached to participation, I really felt that most people in the class contributed to the fullest extent. When everyone is engaged and interested, discussion flows so easily and naturally. Prof. Edell fostered that through syllabus design and teaching style.
We had endless opportunities to interact with the course content in class by sharing our thoughts and presenting on our selected readings.
Professor Edell really encouraged students to think for themselves and not just mindlessly absorb the material, which I really appreciated!
Class discussions were encouraged throughout the duration of the course, which was really refreshing having done nearly 2 years of online school. I learnt a lot from my peers, and although I get nervous to speak in class, we had to do a presentation and I actually enjoyed it due to the great atmosphere that Celia created.
This was really the highlight of the course, the space Celia made for us to share our thoughts, ideas, and experiences related to the material really brought the ideas to life and made them less abstract and more concrete. It also felt consistent with the spirit of the course, with me and my peers recognizing each other as agents with unique experiences that inform our understanding of the material and of the world.

## 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)
4.9	0.3	4.9	N/A

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



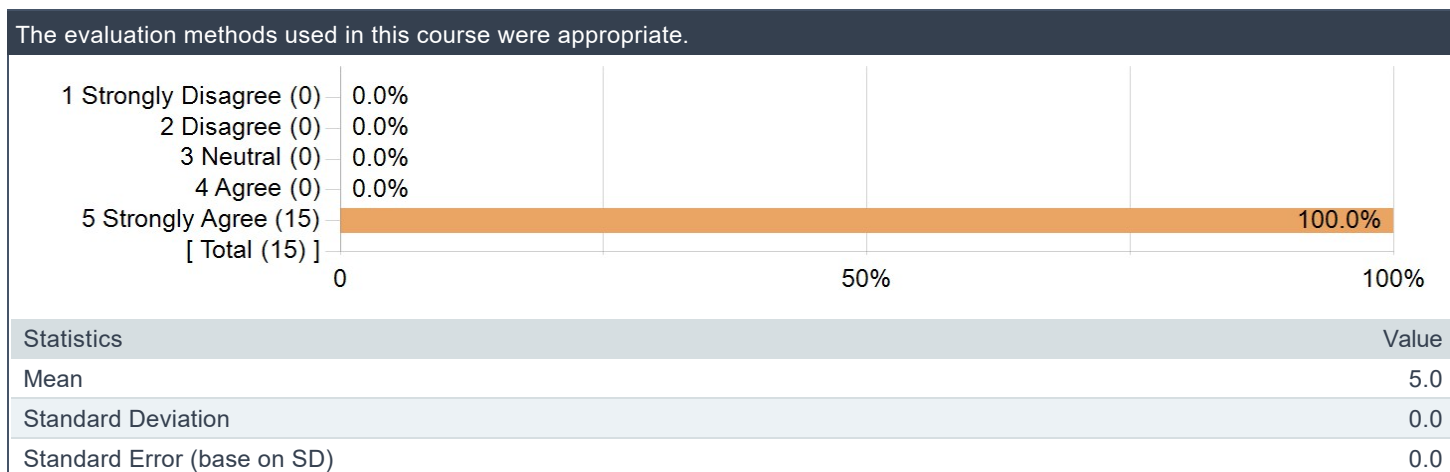
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Comments
With such a small class, it might have been interesting to incorporate some small team assignments throughout the term, however I felt that this type of learning was already present in class discussions so I enjoyed having less weekly assignments to worry about for this class.
I really liked that the midterm assignment challenged me to reflect on myself and relate course material to my own life; it made me think very deeply, much more so than I have for other philosophy prompts. And if deep thinking and reflection isn't the point of philosophy, then I don't know what is!
As well, this course did not demand incessant work; instead, it emphasized quality over quantity. This means that when it does come time for assignments, I felt motivated to do them well. I find that having a million little tasks to do every week makes it harder for me to engage in a class, and often ends up in me doing the bare minimum to finish the tasks. I liked the way the assignments were structured in this class.
I think the midterm essay was an excellent choice, especially for this kind of class.
Clear and appropriate assessments for the course. The grading was also very fair. the assignments were exciting to write as they were minimally controlled and mostly up to our interests in accordance with class theories.
Not too many assignments, but they were all intellectually challenging and interesting. I especially loved the flexibility of the prompts. This is something I have never had doing philosophy in my time at McGill and it made the course so much more engaging. All philosophy profs should encourage this!

## 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)
5.0	0.0	5.0	N/A

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



**Insert comments:**

**Comments**

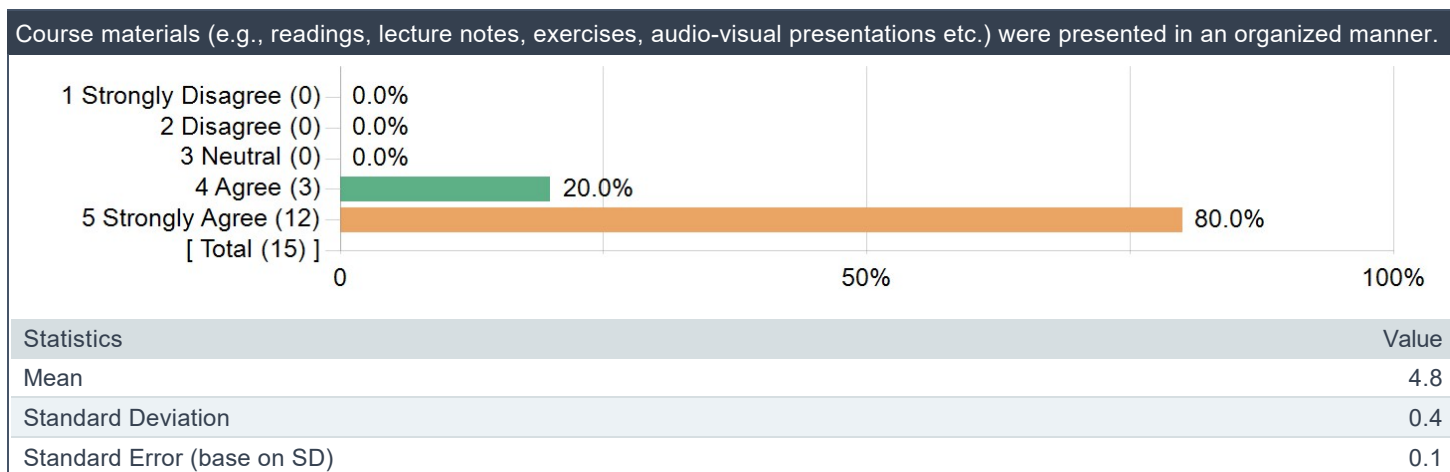
Since much of the content was based in personal experiences of identity, I felt that more personal writing assignments were appropriately reflective of the content and goals of the course.

All assignments were clearly explained and appropriate for the course (not to mention interesting!).

**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)
4.8	0.4	4.8	N/A

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



## Insert comments:

Comments
All weeks had a central topic of which readings were well related to (and built off of prior concepts,) and there was a nice balance of more accessible writing, and more advanced topics.
The readings were super interesting. I found the length to be appropriate. Again, when professors assign a manageable amount of readings per class, you get richer discussions because students actually do the readings. Some of the readings I found difficult to parse or I found slightly tangential to the course, but overall most were super interesting.
I thought the flow of the course really made sense. Starting with more individual aspects of ignorance, then seeing how ignorance can be understood as a more systematic, collective, social beast. Of course, this is simplified, but I think it really made sense looking back.
Course content organized well on MyCourses
The course was hybrid, the people on zoom struggle a little bit to understand what's written on the black board in class, but you rectified it by posting photos of the board. Thank you for that! It would also help writing on a white board with a black pen instead of white chalk on the black board but we know this is out of your control, so it's all good.
I really appreciate how the course was made hybrid to accommodate students with immune difficulties or other COVID concerns!

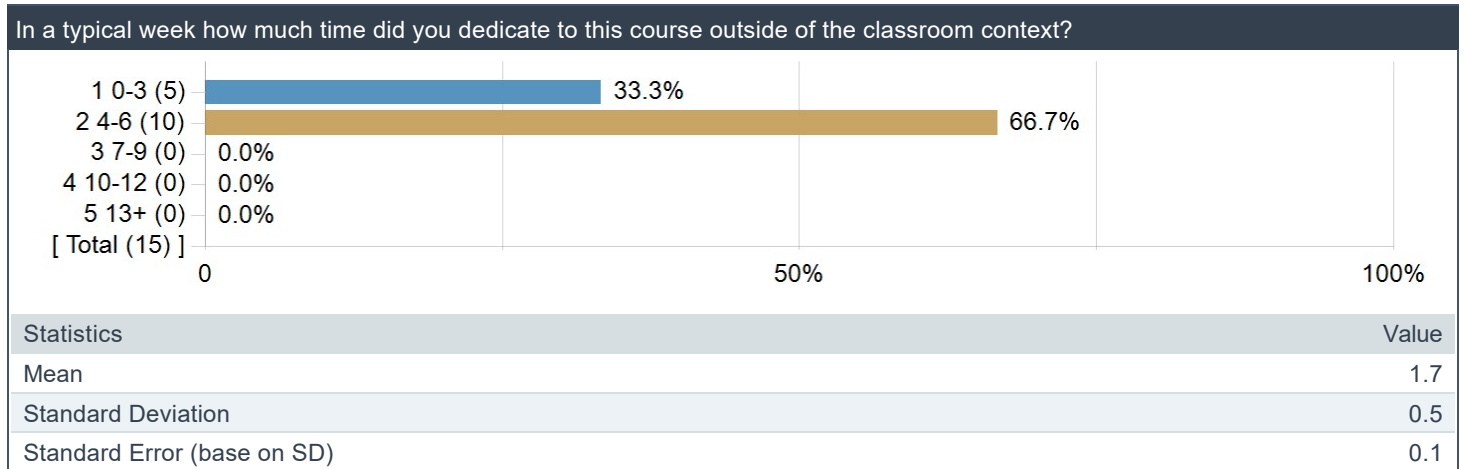
## Please provide written comments with respect to the instructor and the course (including course materials, readings etc.).

Comments
I've already covered quite a bit in other sections, but Celia Edell is a wonderful professor whose passion for learning and connection comes through in her teaching style! As a young professor, she is very much in tune with contemporary issues relevant to the undergraduate student demographic, and encourages extension of classic theories onto these topics.
The readings were very interesting and nicely chosen, each week the readings worked well together and were insightful. This class is definitely of a higher level, challenging in personal ways as well due to the nature of it's content and needing to be present and reflect on yourself constantly.
super interesting readings, great teaching methods, and overall an amazing course that I would recommend to any student.
Great reading materials, thoughtfully chosen and intellectually stimulating.
This class was a complete highlight of my degree. Instructor Edell is a once-in-a-lifetime type of Prof who made this class environment so delightful and stimulating. 10/10 would recommend this course to anyone. The readings were amazing, the discussions were insightful and fun—even the assignments were fun and engaging.... LOVED everything about it.

## 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)
1.7	0.5	1.7	N/A

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



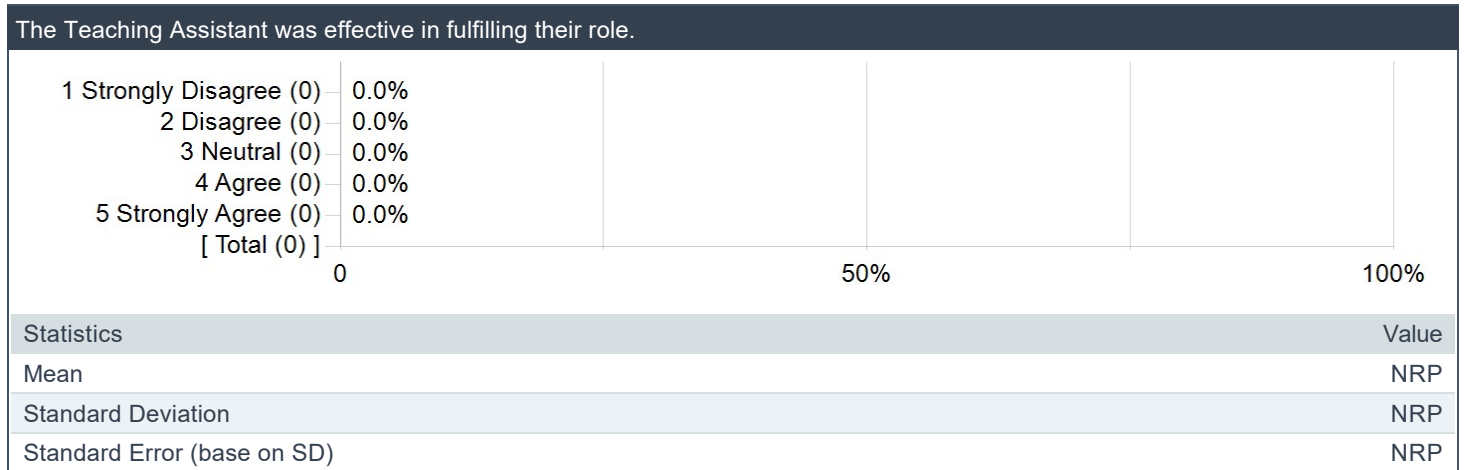
## Insert comments:

Comments
Readings were sufficient to learning the course content without being overwhelming. All time spent felt intentional and valuable.
Celia is so incredible at lecturing. She clearly explains course content and uses examples to further our understanding. The way the course and class time was organized was effective and engaging. She is passionate about the subject and works to help her students succeed and learn! So happy to have taken this course. Thank you!
Though this course did not demand much of my time outside of class, I often spent time thinking about what we discussed and talking about it with friends. That doesn't count as formal time spent 'on the books' but I did want to mention that!

## 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)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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



## Insert comments:

Comments
Not Answered