



PHIL 327: Philosophy of Race - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 27767) - Celia Edell (Fall 2019)

Project Title: **Mercury Course Evaluation (Fall 2019)**

Course Audience: **N/A - Filter Applied**

Responses Received: **22**

Response Ratio: **46.8%**

Subject Details	
Course Name	PHIL 327: Philosophy of Race - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 27767)
Eval Start Date	11/11/2019 00:00:00
Eval End Date	12/22/2019 00:00:00
Term	Fall 2019
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Academic Unit	Philosophy
Enrolment	48
Questionnaire	ARTS

Report Comments

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

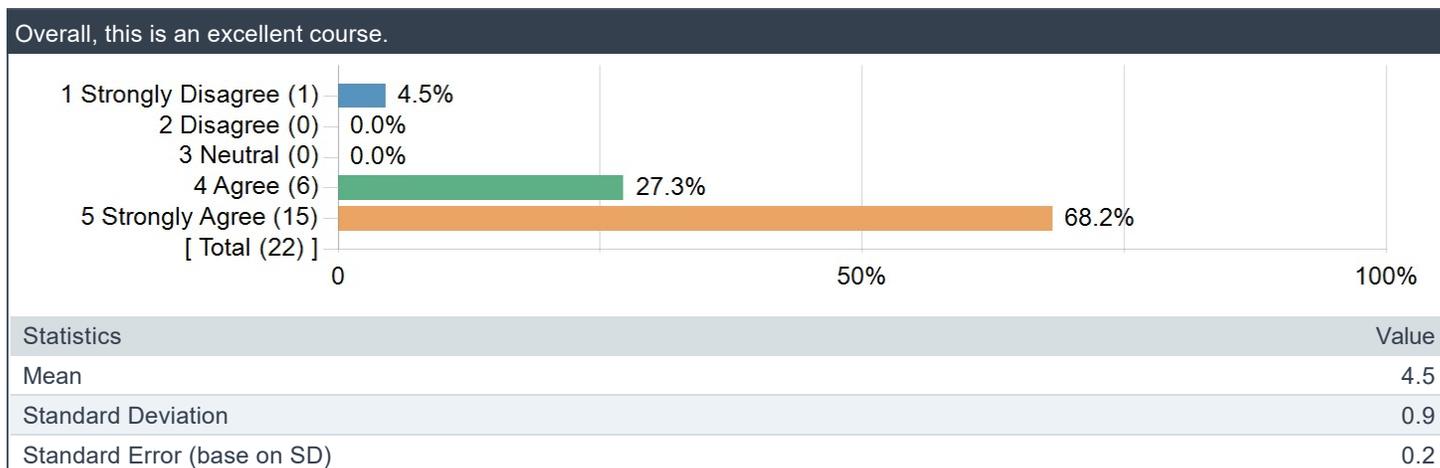
- to help instructors improve future offerings of courses;
- to inform students about courses and instructors;
- as a component of the teaching dossier; and
- to help administrators and faculty committees in their decision-making processes.

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.

Creation Date: **Friday, December 20, 2019**

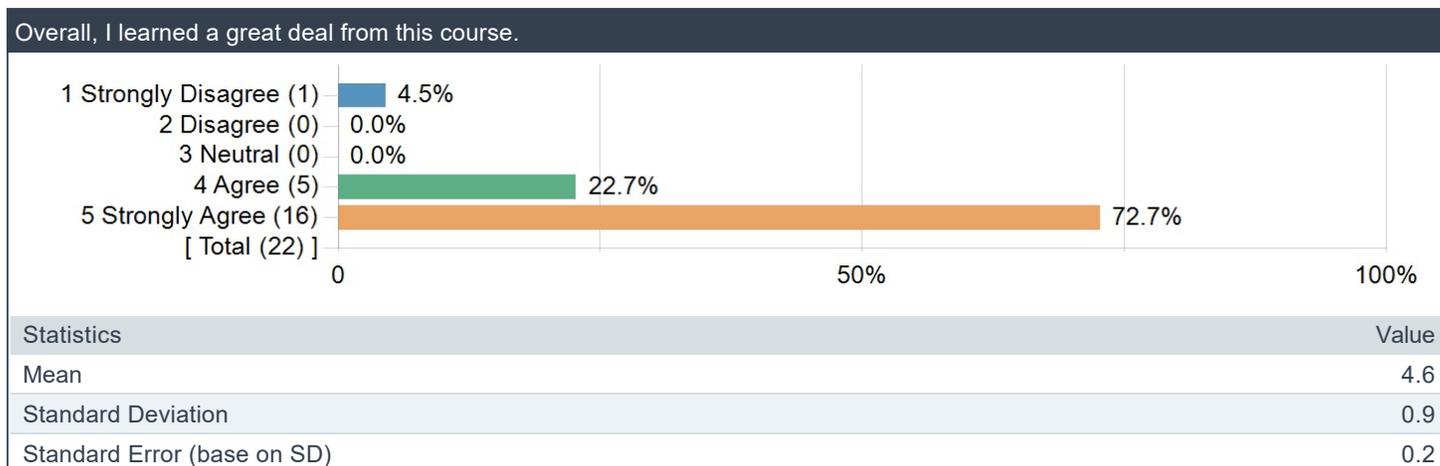
Overall, this is an excellent course.



Insert comments:

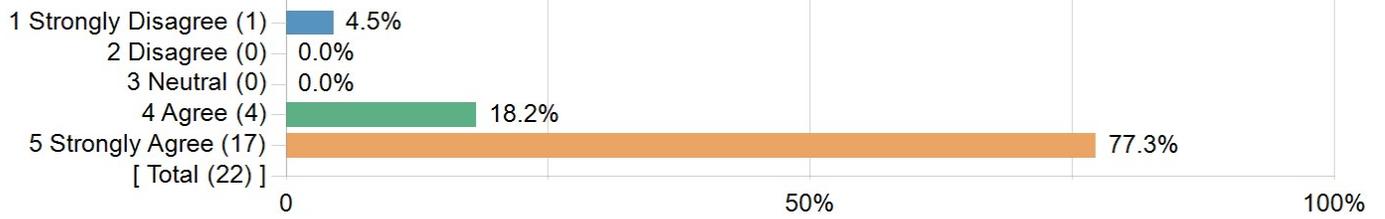
Comments
Celia is one of the most inspiring lecturers I have ever had. Each week the material is new and exciting but flows nicely from the past weeks. If I could take this course again I literally would.
This course was very engaging and content was clear
Great content, great teacher!
the readings were really diverse and rich in perspectives, so it was very easy to motivate myself every week.
Would definitely take this course again.
Very good introduction to race theory, which is absolutely crucial in my opinion. Especially for a field as homogenously white as philosophy.
This is probably my favourite philosophy course among all I have taken. Each reading is so engaging and so fulfilling. I love philosophy, but in past courses I have often had moments when I wondered why I was doing this halfway through the term as I grew tired. Not this time. I find myself enjoying every moment of studying for this course and working through sometimes obscure reading with pleasure. It has become almost entertainment for me: when I am tired of studying for other courses, I switch to this one and I feel suddenly alive again. We should have so much more courses like this. It is a shame that this is the only one and is offered but once every two years.
I took this course hoping to learn about different racial ideas. Instead, the course just criticized white people and the readings were quite close-minded.

Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.



Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

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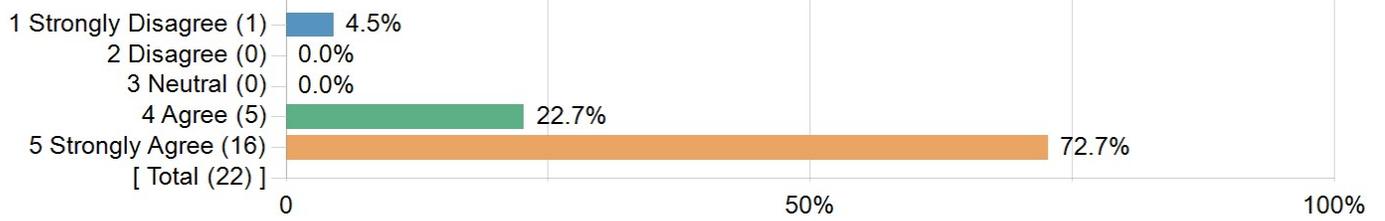
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.6
Standard Deviation	0.9
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.2

Insert comments:

Comments
Celia has made class so interesting and enjoyable. I feel comfortable approaching her and asking any questions, and I would feel comfortable reaching out to her for reading recommendations/help in the future (is a shame I'm only here for a year!). It's clear she knows the course content through and through and instigates really engaging and memorable discussions, in a space that she has made open and comfortable.
Celia was very passionate about the material which made the content very engaging, she always allowed us to engage in class discussion. She was also very accommodating and was always here to help you out.
Celia teaches clearly, efficiently, and answers all questions!
even though the topics were very difficult to talk about sometimes our teacher created an atmosphere where I felt comfortable
Truthfully, Celia has to be one of the best lecturers I have ever had. She is very easy to follow, great personality which makes the class fun and interesting, she is super kind, and all around great teacher.
Literally the sweetest prof in the entire world; she was open to everyone's ideas and opinions and always found a way to affirm people's thoughts.
Well versed in the material, and pedagogically talented! For difficult themes, I think she managed the class magnificently. Particularly impressive was her manner of translating comments made by students into coherent arguments that the students themselves identified with.
The instructor is really good at explaining difficult concept and she is there if student have questions or comments.
She made me feel welcomed and comfortable with subjects that could sometimes be difficult to talk about.
I was really impressed with Celia's teaching, especially when I learned it was her first year!! She was an incredible teacher who could easily relate to her class but also captured our attention and facilitated fascinating discussion with pretty much the whole class's involvement every day, which is so impressive and rare in my classes. i found her lesson plans absolutely ideal for the content and gained knowledge that supplemented the course materials in every assignment. I found her grading and comments to be fair and useful, and thought the assignments were appropriate for the course/materials and allowed us a good degree of autonomy in what we write about/care to delve further in. Overall, very impressed with Celia, a pleasant surprise in my courses.
On the most part she is excellent. Quite a good lecturer, very prepared in lectures, and excellent at communicating ideas in understandable terms. If I had to offer one criticism I think that she might have moderated discussions between students in a slightly more objective way. But then again this course examines very hot button issues which often connote very passionate ideas and no instructor is wholly free of bias.
Celia has an attitude with us students that was very open minded, engaged, and encouraging, which led to very interesting class conversations. Although I have a hard time speaking in class or speaking to a teacher one on one, I felt very free to do either of those things.
She is so inspiring. I would say she is one of the, if not the best philosophy teacher I have ever had. The lectures are very clearly organized, which is something many philosophy professors in this university have yet to learn after decades of teaching. And can we just take a moment to note how in touch with the students she is? She got me re-listen to the whole Earl Sweatshirt discography after mentioning the fact that Cheryl Harris is his mom. And she is very skilled at bringing discussions going on in popular culture into the class. She feels like a very knowledgable friend rather than an authority trying to inscribe centuries-old texts into your brain (which is unfortunately what lots of professors here are doing, or at least seemingly doing). If I ever become a professor, I want to be like her. Thank you Celia.
Celia is a very nice person, but a bad professor. She did not actually teach us anything. the classes consisted of her summarizing the readings. there was no reason to show up to class other than the 15% participation grade.

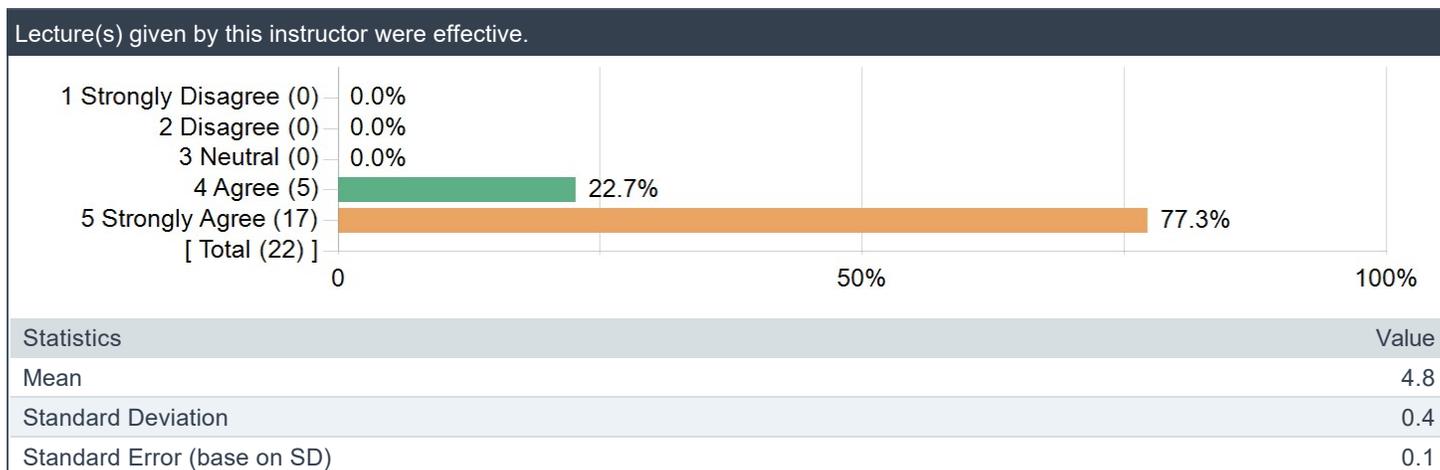
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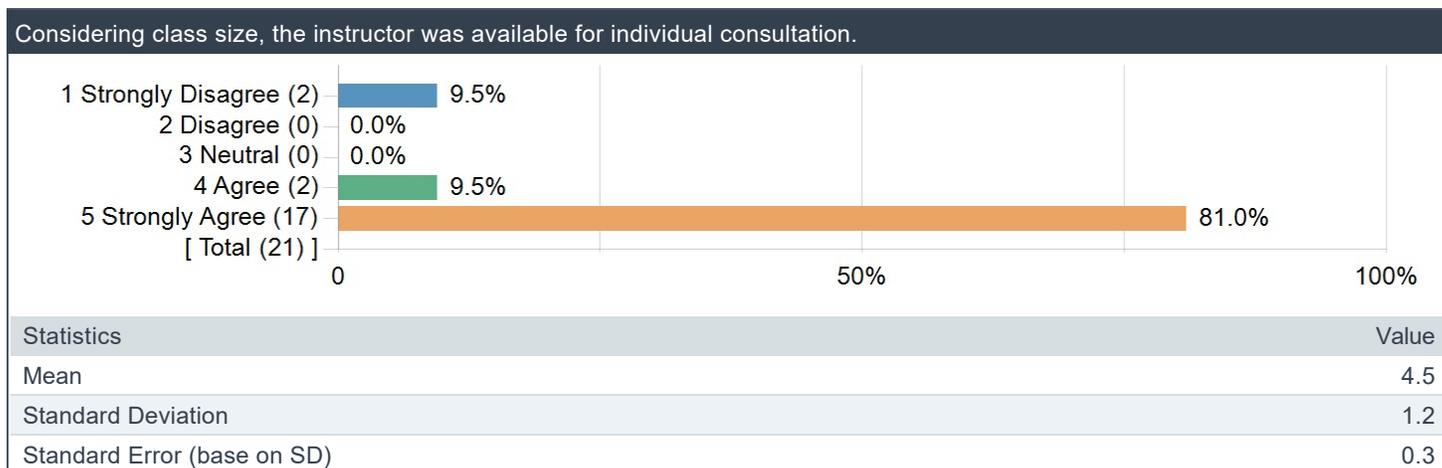
Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.



Insert comments:

Comments
Content of the lectures is all I've been talking about outside of the lectures so I would say yes
Fun and engaging lectures. Great summaries of main points. Engaging readings !
I really enjoyed this course and loved the content. But I think the lectures were sometimes too shallow and didn't go deep enough to the materials. A lot of the readings (ie Fanon) could have definitely been taught in more than two lectures instead of one. I would recommend instead of skimming through all the readings, just focus the lectures on one reading each week and let students study the easier readings on themselves.
I really enjoyed the format – learning about the paper and what it meant, break, then presentation and discussion kept me engaged because it changed it up. I wasn't stuck just listening to someone drone on for an hour and a half. Lectures were comprehensive and helped understand the paper.
Only problem was that the lectures were so comprehensive that you didn't really need to read the paper to come to class and understand what was going on.
My one comment besides the above comments on Celia, would be to the philosophy department. I was surprised and disappointed that a class on race would be taught by a white professor. I generally consider it unjust for a white person to be profiting off of racial issues in any way, even if this includes teaching about them. I was concerned Celia would prove to be another white professor lecturing on race in a contrived and unintersectional way. Celia proved my initial assumptions of her wrong in the best way and I'm so happy to have stayed in the class.
Many other professors have things to learn from her way of teaching. It is very clearly organized, and when discussing she is very effective at bringing the conversation into focus. I felt kind of nihilist (please excuse the philosophically inaccurate descriptor) about hearing a good lecture and/or having an organized discussion in a philosophy class before taking this class and was thinking that was almost an impossibility. She proved otherwise. I especially appreciate how she does not turn this into a chaotic faux-seminar like many instructors of 300-level courses are doing, which is really important for an introverted student like me. She really hits that sweet spot where the class is neither a 90-minute brainless babbling on part of the professor nor an anarchist arena where students compete to see who can put the most meaningless question and/or opinion out there. I wish every class were like this.

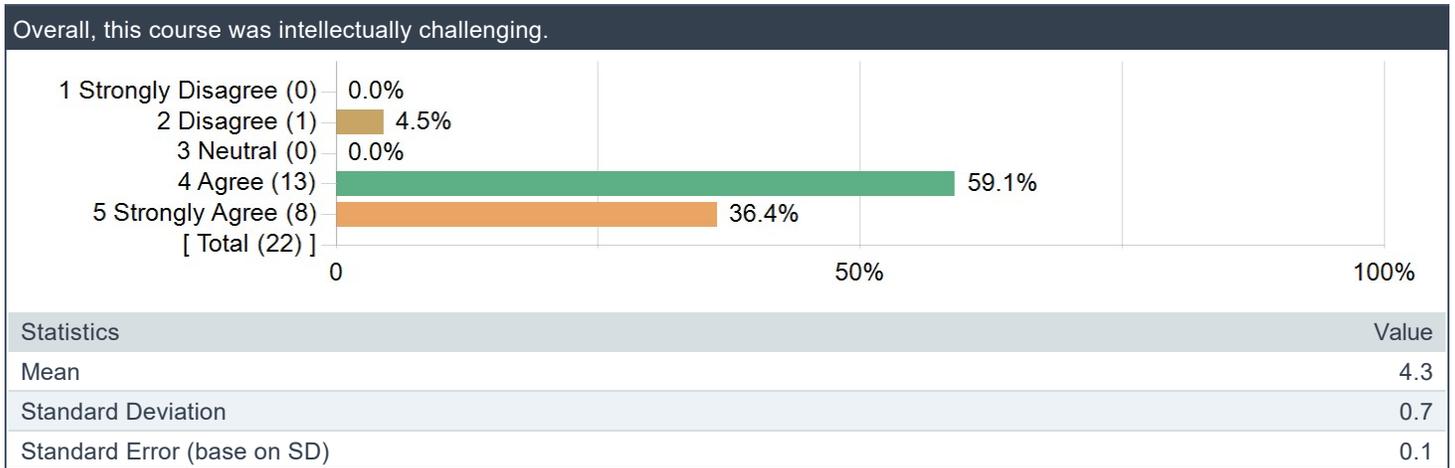
Considering class size, the instructor was available for individual consultation.



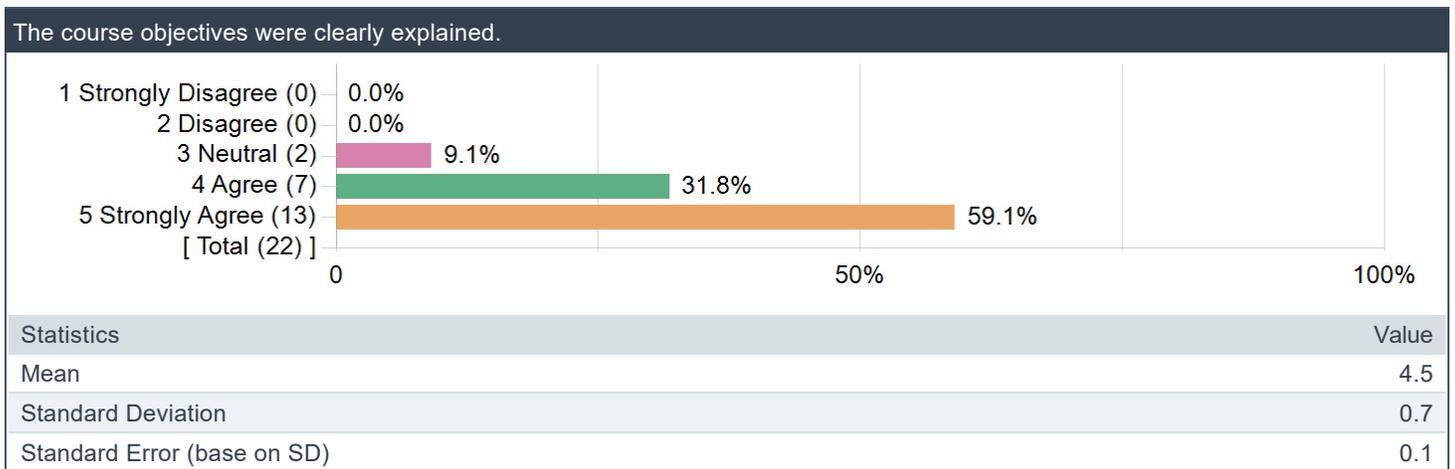
Insert comments:

Comments
Whenever I have emailed Celia she has been quick to respond (I haven't visited office hours)
Always able to consult after class, emails answered quickly!
Office hours, quick to respond to emails and available by appointment.
I had a number of conversations with her during office hours, she was always extremely amenable and easy to get an appointment with, and she always responded to emails quickly and efficiently.

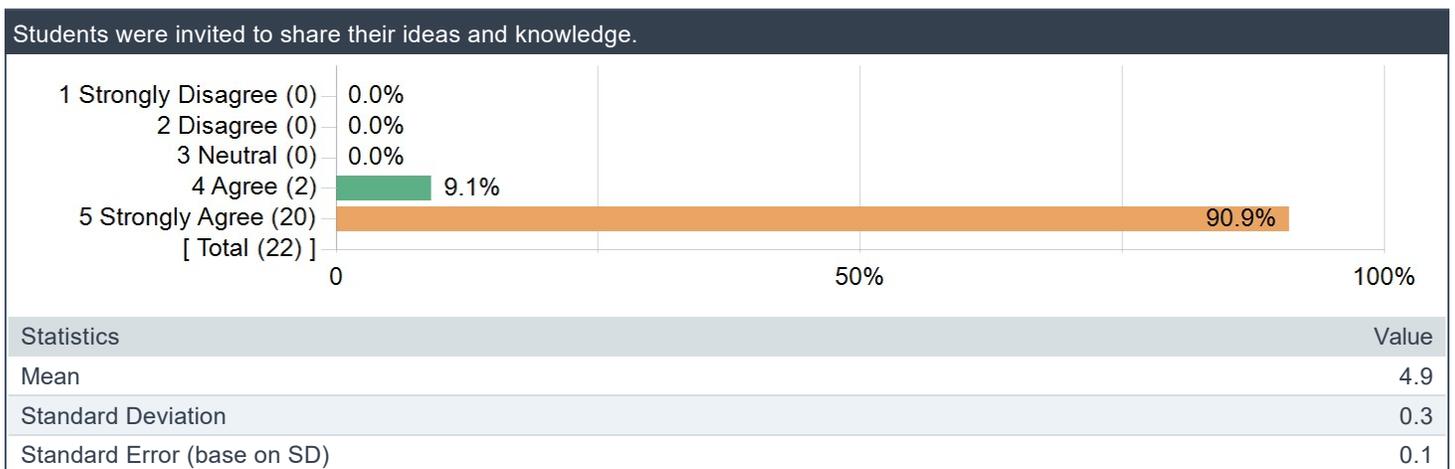
Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.



The course objectives were clearly explained.



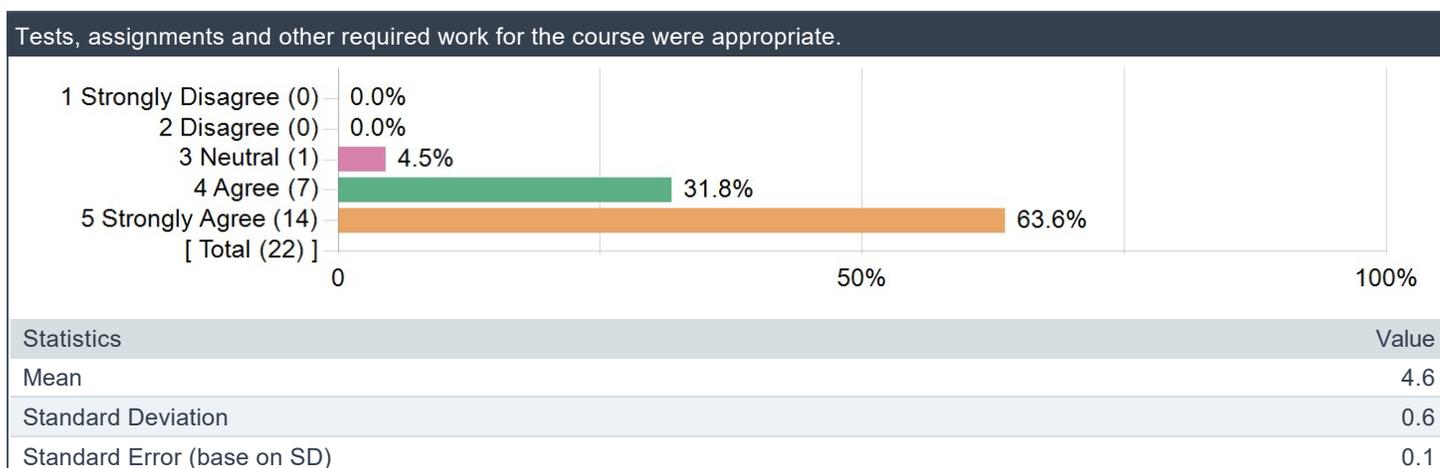
Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.



Insert comments:

Comments
A really comfortable environment for discussion
Content that is particular to the course in a stimulating discipline. It is fun and challenging :)
Students are always encouraged to have class discussions. She is always encouraging people's ideas as well.
Some of the Taylor readings from the beginning of the semester were a bit difficult and loaded, so I kind of felt like I wasn't understanding some things for a little bit.
Participation is being graded and the presentations/discussions in the last half hour gave people a chance to share.
GREAT conversations in this class! I learned so much from my peers.
There was quite a lot of good discussion in this class
The discussions in this class are among the best I have heard. Being the socially anxious kid I am, I do not like talking and discussing in general so obviously I have not participated a lot in it, but it is not common when you hear a discussion that does not just wander off all over the place. But this class somehow made it work by framing the discussion with student-presented examples instead of just putting vague, broad questions out there.

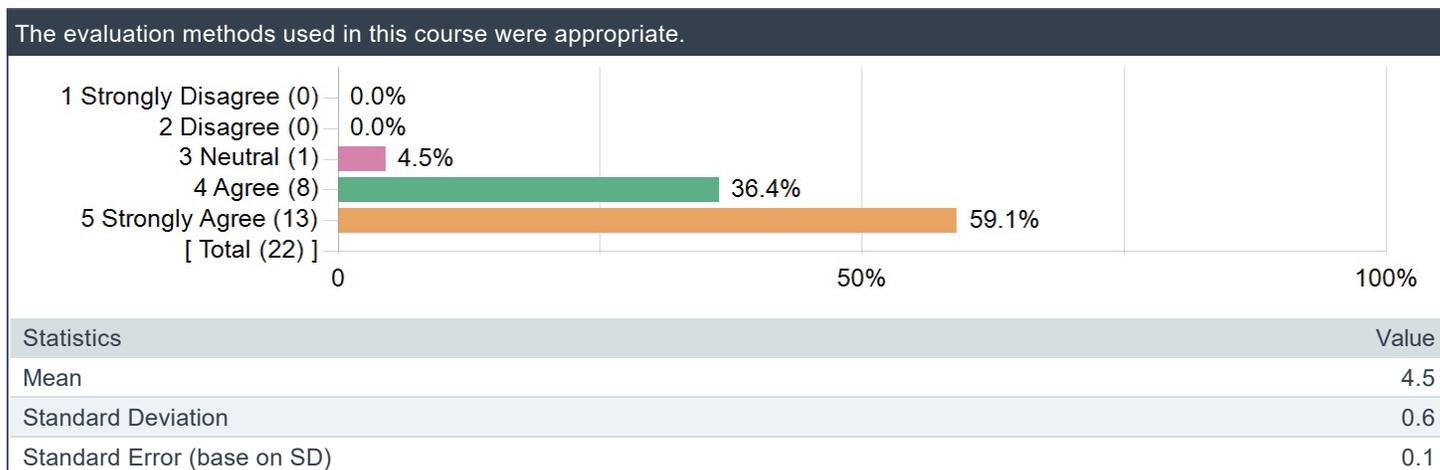
Tests, assignments and other required work for the course were appropriate.



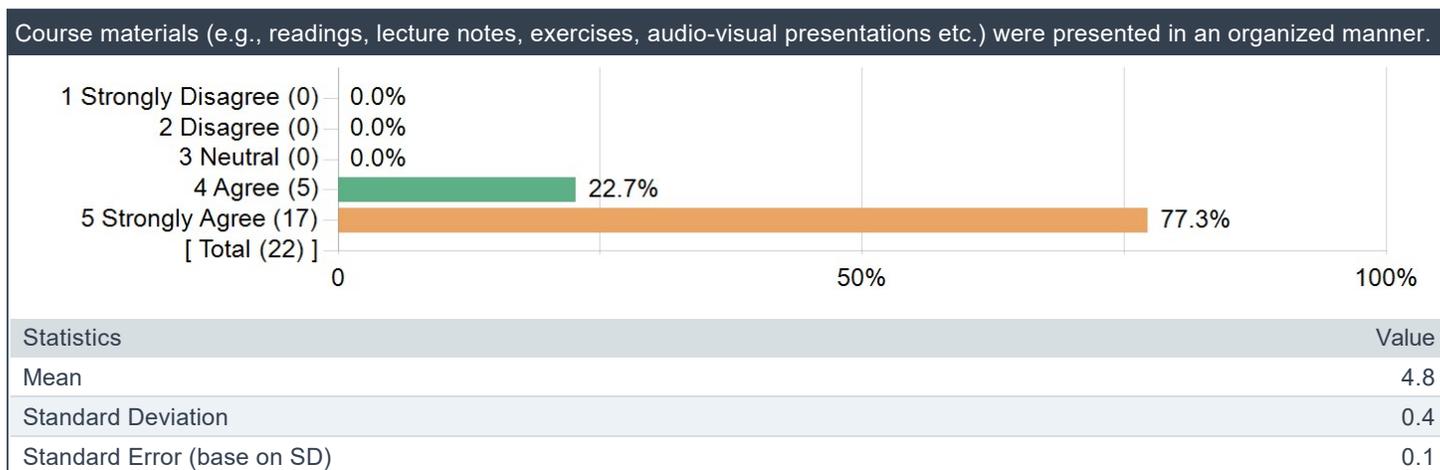
Insert comments:

Comments
Good scope of grading/evaluations:)
Overall, the work in this course was split up well, and I appreciated the fact that we were given small opportunities to earn extra marks, such as with the reading journals and the term paper outline. The group presentation was definitely the most difficult component of this course. I was ultimately unhappy with the way my presentation panned out, mostly because I had wanted to take it in a different direction and the video one of my group members chose was missing the mark/somewhat insensitive. It's difficult to reconcile everyone's ideas into one cohesive presentation, especially with such a short time limit, and I felt badly about mine because I don't think my ideas on the topic had been represented in the way I'd wanted them to be. That being said, I think the presentations were helpful in bringing certain tense issues to light, as difficult as they may have been to discuss. Ultimately, I think they were an essential part of the learning experience and demonstrated the importance of working through some of these big issues within philosophy of race.
Overall I really like the organisation of the grading methods. However, the fact that the outline was graded 10% was not great for me, because I am not used to doing an outline for philosophy essays and I felt very pressured to write my essay in a way that does not work that well for me. Additionally, I don't mind that there was a participation grade but there was no clear instruction on how our participation would be evaluated since the prof did not take attendance, I wasn't sure how she would evaluate us on that. I like the journals and the presentation very much.

The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.



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



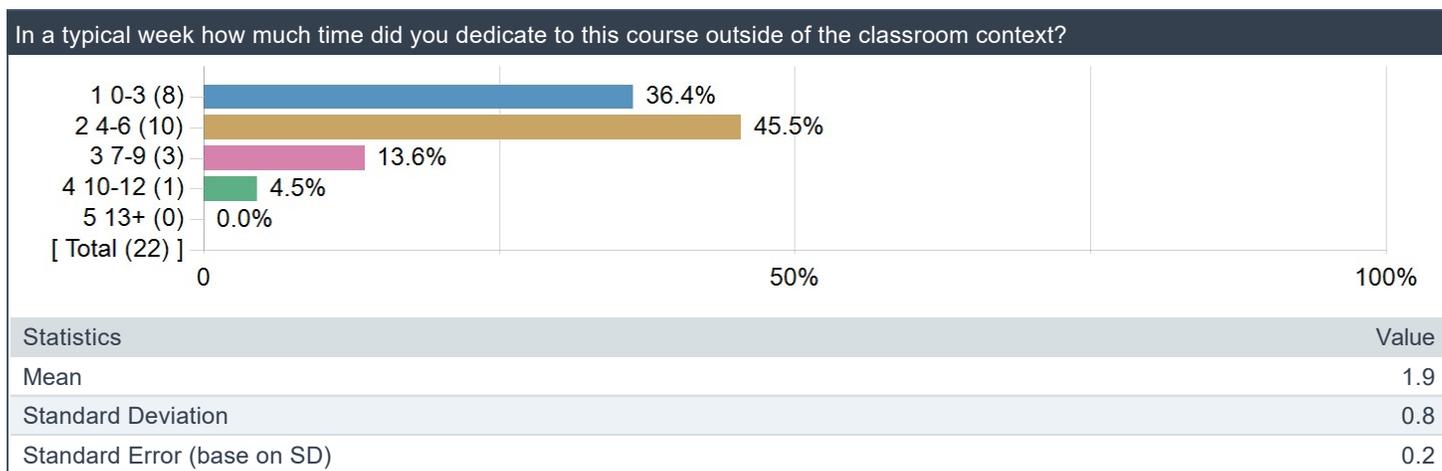
Insert comments:

Comments
I think the one thing I would say is that there aren't many resources available if you have to miss a class (like slides or handouts), but the lectures follow the readings closely so I guess it isn't really necessary
The course followed a very clear path and the links between previous work and work that followed was interesting and clear.
I liked how we had a theme for each week, and I found that doing the presentation helped me understand the topic of that week super well.
Thank god! Someone who is gifted with a chalk board. Her use of the board was refreshing and helpful, and I'm so glad she didn't present a powerpoint.
Celia really tried her best to make the class both interesting and accessible. Although she did not use slides she made sure to provide class notes which none of my other profs do so I really appreciated that. It made the class less intimidating and felt like more of a positive learning environment where the prof is on your side rather than against you. This way I was able to listen in class and not stress about writing down every word she said.
Posting key notes from the readings was also really nice

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

Comments
The readings have been challenging but so so interesting. Cannot stress enough how much I have enjoyed the course so far (before coming out here on exchange I had zero ideas on dissertation topics for my final year back home, now I am picking between topics that have all come up on this course). Celia is so engaging, approachable and knowledgeable, and has dealt with sensitive topics that have come up really well
All-round great course ! Celia is fantastic and deserves tenure. Not a thing I would change!
Celia is an excellent instructor. She consistently provides clear and thoughtful lectures which illuminate the most important concepts from the readings, and she handled the tense moments in class very well. It was inspiring to have such a young (and female) professor, and I could always tell how much thought Celia had really put into her lectures and guiding discussion questions. The conversation we had in class towards the end of the term on hesitation really resonated with me in particular. Although I attended every lecture and was consistently engaged in discussion, I rarely participated because I personally experience a great deal of hesitation. I'm not sure whether this is because I'm a woman in philosophy or because I'm an introvert (or a combination of both), but this is something I'll keep in mind from now on as I pursue my philosophy degree. Celia is truly inspiring and a testament to the importance of having female leaders in philosophy!
Once again, Celia was such a sweet and open prof! She was so willing to help her students throughout the semester. Absolutely love the class and the prof and would highly recommend! Good luck with your PhD, and I hope you get to teach another class!!! <333
Celia was a great instructor, possibly the least intimidating instructor I've ever met. She was kind and caring. She did her best to create a positive learning environment. She was easy to approach which I usually don't find in Profs as someone with anxiety disorder. I was able to email her without getting nervous even after the course ended. She was a good discussion facilitator as well. She taught the class content in an engaging manner, the classes were not at all boring.
The reading list was awesome, the presentation and journal entries kept me engaged with the readings – and I didn't have to buy a textbook! It was obvious that a lot of thought went into figuring out what readings we should do and in which order, because everything flowed really nicely.
Quite a well organized course, with interesting papers disseminated in effective ways.
I absolutely loved this class and everything about it. I wish i could take it every semester of my degree so i could continue to be challenged in my thoughts and beliefs the way that I was while in this class. I loved it!!!!
The readings were very interesting and seemed to me to approach the subject from a wide scope of angles and presented the most salient ideas from those angles. I couldnt imagine a better course progression or readings.
I just wanna say thank you to Celia. I have not been so satisfied with a course for a long while.

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



Insert comments:

Comments

sometimes far less but sometimes a bit more depending on when I chose to journal, present etc. (which has been great as I could choose when to get some of the workload out of the way to fit around other deadlines)

3.5

I didn't go too in-depth taking notes on most of the readings because I knew I would understand better after the lecture. Otherwise, there wasn't a lot of weekly work to do (which was actually really nice considering how stressful other classes can be.)