



2024-25 Winter Term 1 UBC-V Individual Instructor Report for PHIL_V 240-002 - Introduction to Epistemology (Elena Holmgren)

Project Title: 2024-25 Winter Term 1 UBC-V Instructor SEI Surveys

Course Audience: 44

Responses Received: 11

Response Ratio: 25%

Report Comments

Recommended Minimum Response Rates

Class Size	Recommended Minimum Response Rates based on 80% confidence & $\pm 10\%$ margin
< 10	75%
11 - 19	65%
20 - 34	55%
35 - 49	40%
50 - 74	35%
75 - 99	25%
100 - 149	20%
150 - 299	15%
300 - 499	10%
> 500	5%

Legend

N: Invited

n: Responded

Frequency Distribution

SD: Strongly Disagree

D: Disagree

N: Neutral

A: Agree

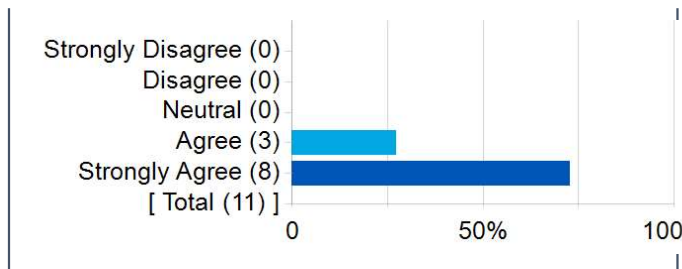
SA: Strongly Agree

N/A: Not applicable

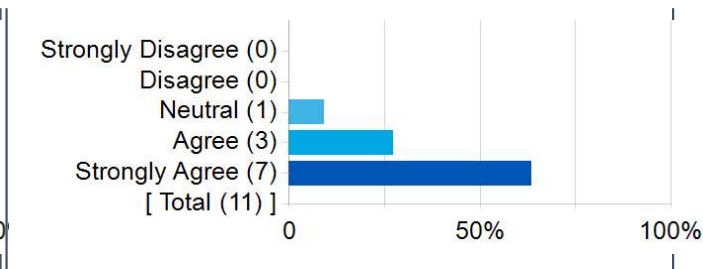
Creation Date: **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

University Module Questions

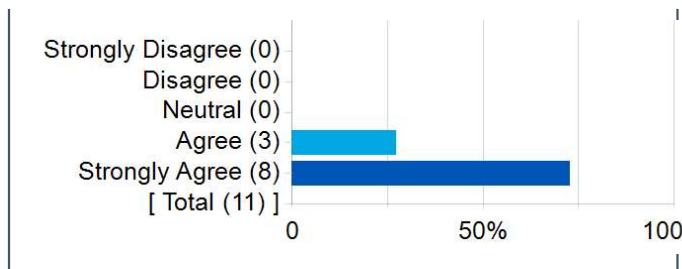
1. Throughout the term, the instructor explained course requirements so it was clear to me what I was expected to learn.



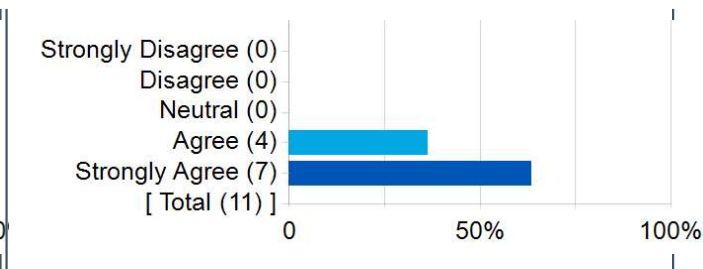
2. The instructor conducted this course in such a way that I was motivated to learn.



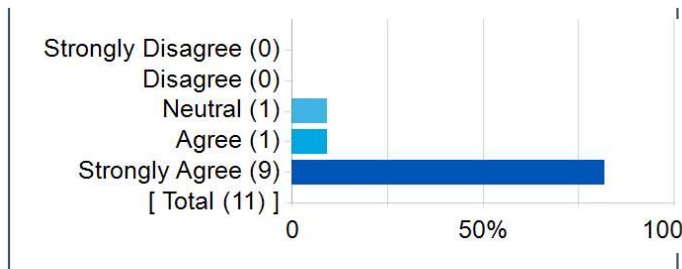
3. The instructor presented the course material in a way that I could understand.



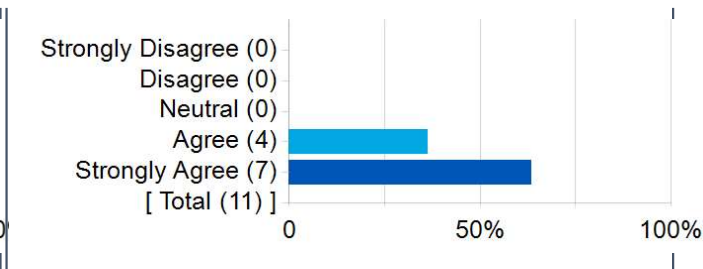
4. Considering the type of class (e.g., large lecture, seminar, studio), the instructor provided useful feedback that helped me understand how my learning progressed during this course.



5. The instructor showed genuine interest in supporting my learning throughout this course.



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



University Module Questions

Question	IM	PF	DI
Throughout the term, the instructor explained course requirements so it was clear to me what I was expected to learn.	4.8	100%	0.2
The instructor conducted this course in such a way that I was motivated to learn.	4.7	91%	0.3
The instructor presented the course material in a way that I could understand.	4.8	100%	0.2
Considering the type of class (e.g., large lecture, seminar, studio), the instructor provided useful feedback that helped me understand how my learning progressed during this course.	4.7	100%	0.2
The instructor showed genuine interest in supporting my learning throughout this course.	4.9	91%	0.2
Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.	4.7	100%	0.2

Faculty Questions

Considering everything, how would you rate this course?

N	n	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good	IM	DI
44	11	0	0	0	3	8	4.8	0.2

%Favourable
100%

Were the textbooks and/or readings used in this course appropriate for this course?

N	n	SD	D	N	A	SA	IM	DI
44	10	0	0	0	1	9	4.9	0.1

%Favourable
100%

Instructor Questions

Question	N	n	SD	D	N	A	SA	N/A	IM	DI
In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.	44	11	0	1	0	3	7	0	4.7	0.4
High standards of achievement were set.	44	11	0	0	1	4	6	0	4.6	0.3
The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	44	11	0	0	0	1	10	0	5.0	0.1
The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	44	11	0	0	1	2	8	0	4.8	0.3
The instructor treated students with respect.	44	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	5.0	0.0

Question	%Favourable
In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.	91%
High standards of achievement were set.	91%
The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	100%
The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	91%
The instructor treated students with respect.	100%

Considering everything, how would you rate this instructor?

N	n	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good	IM	DI
44	10	0	0	0	1	9	4.9	0.1

%Favourable
100%

Open ended feedback

Do you have any suggestions for what the instructor could have done differently to further support your learning?

Comments
I just think perhaps restructuring required readings as we didn't get the chance to cover about a third of those originally assigned. I think less readings and more discussions would be great!
I loved this class! Wish it had been in person but I'm a distance learner
Not at all. This course is concise, jam-packed with interesting material, and the professor is wonderful.
I think the instructor could have posted lecture slides earlier so students can incorporate them into their notes during lecture
Sometimes there was a lot crammed into the lectures and it was a bit overwhelming. I know its not always possible due to the short length of the semesters, but maybe we could have slowed down a little bit more.
Posting the slides before class would be helpful as I could prepare the lecture notes beforehand and follow along, adding additional notes.
I think this type of course is difficult to participate in when its online.
N/A, the professor tried her best teaching this course & had a kind demeanour (eg. always smiling, verbalizing encouraging comments during discussion, etc.)

Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of this course.

Comments
Elena is attentive, caring, and accessible! She motivates topics with passion, humour, and respect. She has extensive knowledge in epistemology, and is able to describe challenging concepts in accessible ways. I learned a great deal from her and am incredibly grateful for her support. She was always accessible and willing to help answer questions, or address certain ideas. She was engaging, motivated, and organized. I absolutely adored how she prepared us so clearly for tests, as I believe this was an accurate way to demonstrate our knowledge most clearly.
Very engaging and explained complicated concepts in a way that made it easy to understand
I really appreciate the structure of full-lectures on one day, then half of a lecture + debate or discussion on the other day. This helps me apply the material I have learned, and allows me to see where I need improvement.
It does a great job at providing an introduction to general epistemological perspectives.
Amazing course. Providing the relevant study topics before every exam was extremely helpful. Expectations were clear and straightforward. Content was structured in a complex yet easy to understand way.
The instructor has a genuine passion for the topic.
The professor had very straightforward slides (not vague at all), very detailed & course expectations were very clear .

Please provide suggestions on how this course might be improved.

Comments
I think just condensing material, and perhaps offering more than one day for the lectures covering initial background concepts. I think it was beneficial to spend more time on the historical aspects, and I do wish we could have spent more attention on some later arguments. But overall the structure was fabulous!
I cannot think of any, this class was wonderful!
It might be improved by spending a bit less time on Social Epistemology. Compared to the first two sections, it felt like we spent more time on the latter end, talking about social epistemology, as we did talking about the rationalism, relativism, and skepticism.
N/A, great course!
Online meetings dont work very well for a discussion based philosophy class.
Since it was online, there was demotivation to attend lectures at times (due to also being recorded)

Which parts of the course taught you the most?

Comments

The parts covering background ideas in epistemology, and when we had class discussions. I also appreciated the review list of topics prior to tests, or sample questions, as this allowed me to assess my progress and understanding throughout the course.

The beginning when we talked about Descartes and Hume, and the problem of of the veil. I took my LSAT this semester too, and taking this course helped me to re-cement in the beliefs I had surrounding logical reasoning that made it easy to remember on test day

I would likely pick the discussions or debates we would have in class. Not only was I able to apply what I had learned to answer difficult questions, but it also allowed me to see where I needed to study further.

Lectures and doing written discussion activities

As someone who had never studied epistemology, the entire course was new to me. However, I think I learned the most about skepticism, as I was least familiar with that epistemological position.

Everything, honestly. Epistemology has been my toughest philosophy subject by far, but the format of the exams made me motivated to learn and think. Understanding traditional epistemology before moving to more modern concepts, such as social frameworks, offered a great transition.

The slide shows and in class discussions helped a lot when it came to better understanding the more complex topics by presenting it in a simpler manner.

the selective readings were appropriate for our course, teaching me the most about different philosophers' epistemologies.

How, if at all, would you recommend improving this course?

Comments

I would just say that perhaps shortening lectures a little bit, as sometimes they were quite dense and long.

less long readings, maybe something that's a little more summarized with the 'big' ideas

It is easy to see that not only does the professor know a lot about each topic, but she has a genuine interest in each one. She continually made lectures engaging and interesting, even throughout the dense material being covered. I personally cannot think of a way to improve this course, as I feel it efficiently taught me content in a way I can now apply in other courses. I'll definitely miss her! :)

Going through the content a bit slower/more spread out.

Posting lecture slides before each class would be extremely helpful as many students, including myself, tend to want to have our notes all in one place in addition to things said in lecture.

I don't think this course should be held online.

discussion days can be held separately (in-person), instead of all together as they can be overwhelming online.

Explanatory Note

The reported metrics are as follows:

1. Percent Favourable Rating

This is the percentage of respondents who responded with a 4 or 5 (Agree or Strongly Agree) on a scale of 1 to 5.

2. Interpolated Median

The data collected for Student Experience of Instruction (SEI) are ordinal in nature, with a natural order (from 1 to 5). The usual measure of central tendency for ordinal data is the median (50% percentile). The Interpolated Median (IM) is an adjusted median that considers the number of responses less than the median, greater than the median and equal to the median. As such, IM reflects the distribution of students' responses.

Consider the following example:

Frequency Distribution

Response for University Module Item	Section 1	Section 2
5 = Strongly agree	5	5
4 = Agree	3	5
3 = Neither agree nor disagree	6	0
2 = Disagree	1	2
1 = Strongly disagree	0	1
Mean	3.8	3.8
Median	4.0	4.0
Interpolated Median	3.7	4.2
Percent favourable rating	53%	77%

3. Dispersion Index

The dispersion Index is a measure of variability suitable for ordinal data (Rampichini, Grilli & Petrucci 2004). This dispersion index has values between zero and 1. A zero dispersion index indicates that all students in the section gave the same rating. An index value of 1.0 is obtained when the class splits evenly between the two extreme values (Strongly Disagree & Strongly Agree), a very rare occurrence. In SEI data at UBC, the index rarely exceeds 0.85, and mostly for evaluations not meeting the recommended minimum response rate.