

Project Title: **AY2018/19 Semester 1 - Course Evaluation**

Project Audience: **18**

Responses Received: **18**

Response Ratio: **100%**

Report Comments

This report contains the results gathered during the last week of the Semester.

Students were invited to share their feedback on the teaching and the course material, ultimately to help improve the overall quality of education at our institution.

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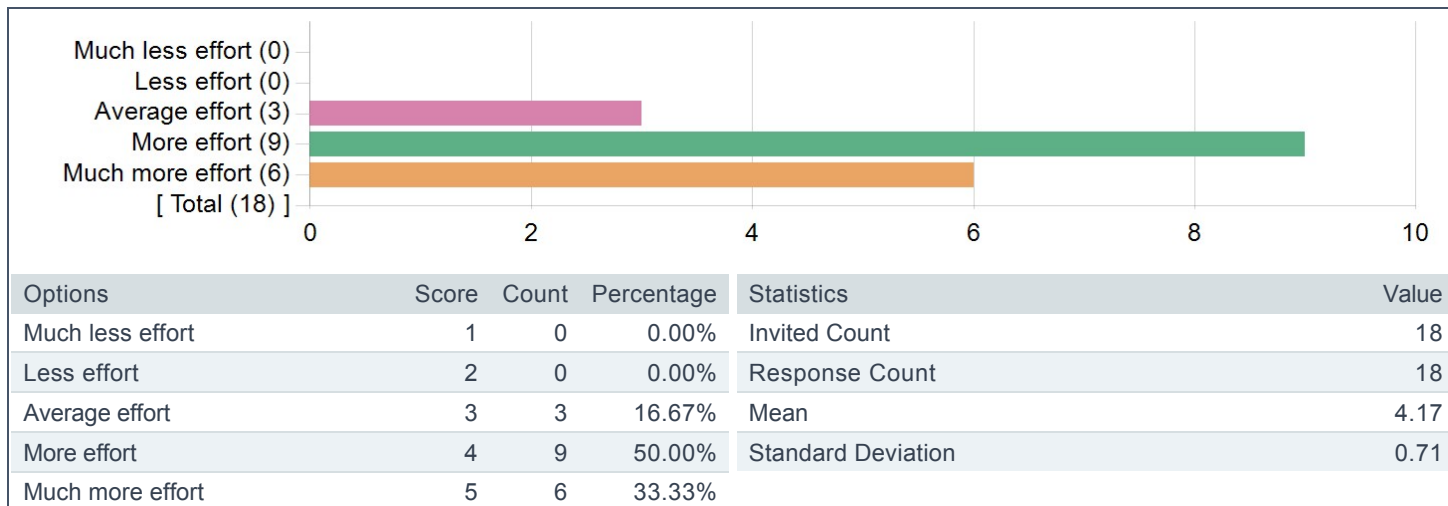
Creation Date: **Wed, Dec 19, 2018**

Response Rate

Raters	Students
Responded	18
Invited	18

Quantitative

B1: Describe your effort in this course compared to others you have taken at Yale-NUS.



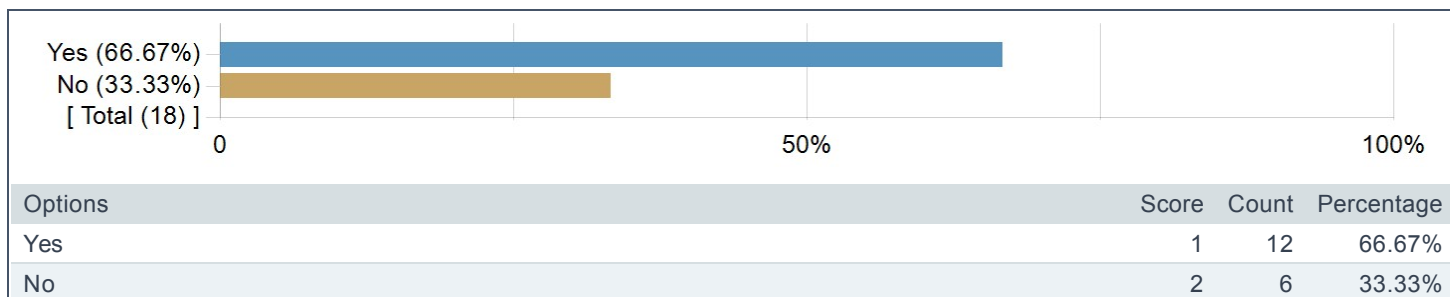
B2: Please select the exact number of hours you spent on this course in a typical week, not including scheduled seminar or lecture time.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	3	16.67%
3	3	2	11.11%
4	4	6	33.33%
5	5	5	27.78%
6	6	0	0.00%
7	7	0	0.00%
8	8	0	0.00%
9	9	1	5.56%
10	10	1	5.56%
11	11	0	0.00%
12	12	0	0.00%
13	13	0	0.00%
14	14	0	0.00%
15	15	0	0.00%
16	16	0	0.00%
17	17	0	0.00%
18	18	0	0.00%
19	19	0	0.00%
20	20	0	0.00%

C1: Express your level of agreement with the following statements

	Course Code	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Standard Deviation	Mean
The seminar professor helped me understand course concepts.	YCC1113	18	0	0	0	0	0.00	5.00
The seminar professor challenged me to actively engage the material.	YCC1113	18	0	0	0	0	0.00	5.00
I am motivated to explore beyond the material I encountered in seminar.	YCC1113	13	5	0	0	0	0.46	4.72
I found it easy to obtain prompt feedback from the seminar professor.	YCC1113	17	1	0	0	0	0.24	4.94
The seminar professor's response to my work were valuable.	YCC1113	18	0	0	0	0	0.00	5.00

C2: Did you interact with professor outside of class?



C3: Indicate your level of agreement to the following statement.

	Course Code	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Standard Deviation	Mean
I received constructive assistance.	YCC1113	12	0	0	0	0	0.00	5.00

Qualitative

A1: What helped you learn in the course overall? (for example, lecture, seminar discussions, seminar professor, readings, assignments, and connections to other courses). Briefly explain why you found them helpful.

Comments
Seminar discussions carried out by Prof Mehta were the most helpful because of the conversational way his class is structured. It is both easy to follow and engaging.
seminars! the seminars were amazing
Lectures were useful in understanding the core ideas of each thinkers.
So so much! I found the synthesis for each of the lessons incredibly helpful in understanding the entirety of content. Also. I don't think I've ever experienced a philosophy class with so much rigour demanded of me, but loved every moment of it.
Everything seminar-related was exceptional. These were best classes I have had in Yale-NUS so far. Please make Neil teach as many courses as you can!
The homework handouts were highly effective in allowing us to understand the necessary skills at our own pace such that we can apply the skills we just learnt in class to practice and test our understanding. The contextualising of skills with our readings was also highly effective as it pulled both expects of the course together.
seminar, seminar discussions, and seminar professor
seminar discussions, explanations by seminar prof, group discussions, peer review exercises(for essays), homework, summaries of each philosopher in class
Prof Neil moderates seminar discussion effectively; this helps ensure that class discussions are usually insightful. The homework we were given before class was helpful in encouraging to think about key questions for the readings.
Lecture, SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS, SEMINAR PROFESSOR, readings, ASSIGNMENTS
The professor was exteremely clear and structured in conducting seminars through readings and handouts during class
The seminar discussions were the most important. They were very well executed, and I learned a lot from them.
I found lectures very helpful in understanding the texts. Often the content would be confusing because it involved philosophy and arguments I had never encountered before, but the lectures always added clarity and context.
Seminars and lectures were both extremely effective. Professor Neil Mehta's insight was enlightening and I think he really changed my perspective on philosophy. I can safely say that this was one of my most enjoyable classes.
Prof's insights, seminar was very well structured, assignments were extremely helpful since they targeted different skills every week. Lectures were ok, but we did more synthesis in the class.
My seminar professor was especially very inspirational and influential in my life. I don't only learn about the course material but also so many things about life such as an office hour of discussion about any question that came to my mind. The seminars had the best course structure and content I have ever experienced.
My seminar professor Professor Neil Mehta is simply the best in explaining and teaching everything, and conducting seminar.
Everything was useful. Especially the seminar discussions!!! And my seminar professor's extremely structured, quirky, useful explanations and examples in class. The handouts he gave were incredibly useful as well and the weekly homework assignments really helped to solidify my understanding of the course material.

A2: How could this course change in the future to improve student learning?

Comments
Lectures could be made more engaging – the quality of lectures tends to vary with the lecturer.
it would be cool to have someone talk about how these thoughts have influenced current day philosophies/thoughts. would be nice if all the lectures placed an emphasis on clearly fleshing out the contexts of things and the content of the argument, almost like an overview of the thinkers and texts. many did though! which was great!
Mention the implications of the conclusions of the various thinkers, and how it is relevant to our life. Other professors should adopt ideas from Professor Neil Mehta's pedagogical methods.
N/A
I believe it would be better if the materials were studied through a practical lense. Some readings were extremely metaphysical ,and sometimes I felt as if it might not be helpful in real life. However, Prof. Neil ensured the practicality of classes through clear objectives, feedbacks and well–thought system of teaching.
Great summaries and larger ideas about the schools of thought of philosophy could be provided to give a greater contextual understanding the readings we are doing as initially, it often felt like we are studying isolated ideas until we realised that many were dialogues with each other.
no change at all
for lectures to be better structured/more clear and concise
–
Have more lectures by Neil Mehta! Spend more time on each book which perhaps mean there has to be less books
Spend proportionate time on each book
The course should focus more on politics and political theory – it was much more of a philosophy class than much related to political philosophy. This is important, because knowing how we can act as leaders and orient society in philosophical grounding is important.
It was often a lot of content at once, and the transitions felt rushed between schools of thought.
Some of the lectures were difficult to understand so maybe clearer structure.
Prof Mehta should continue adhering to students feedback and further improving his weekly assignments. The readings chosen are relevant and expose to multiple perspectives on reality, ethics, self and politics. Lecture could do
I think more people should have the opportunity to experience this amazing course.
More professors should teach like Professor Neil Mehta.
The professor should give more "intervals". Other than that, nothing much.

A3: Briefly describe how your seminar professor taught the seminar, including any distinctive features or activities.

Comments
His weekly homework, and the instructions and practice exercises that accompany it are very clear and helpful. The seminar itself has a clear agenda, and delves into detail while being concise and easy to follow.
everyone has a chance to speak in class and we have amazing homework. almost every word spoken by the prof has a clear and distinct purpose and we were all given the silence and space needed to independently and sufficiently engage with the content and the thoughts themselves.
Very structured way of teaching.
All of the lessons were so incredibly clear! Even though we could not cover all of a text, the brief parts that were discussed helped me garner such an interest that I was encouraged to read and (try to) understand all of it.
Prof. Neil regarded us as already highly responsible human beings (we are not really), and the majority of students started to meet professor's expectations. This man is a genius.
We had homework handouts that had readings, warm-up exercises, and exercises that we had to submit. Lessons often delved into a mixture of required skills and key ideas from the studied philosopher as well as a synthesis of main idea of the philosopher. Most of the time, students were identified (so that everyone gets a chance to challenge themselves) to answer specific questions. If not, students had moderated discussions to promote productive discussion threads.
encouraged all students to speak, gave everybody a chance to think, specific homework exercises were given to improve our skills and deepen our understanding of the content.
prof neil always keeps all his explanations/handouts really clear and concise which i really appreciated. he's good at facilitating discussions and coming up with objections to the things we say like instantly (which is a good thing!). small group discussions are also really helpful. it's also clear that he puts a lot of thought into planning everything he does/says and makes us do, and cares a lot about our learning experience :) thanks neil
He would randomly call on students during seminar, making sure that everyone spoke at least once during class. Before our first class of the week, he sends us homework with helpful questions to think about and warm-up activities to practice skills. Each piece of homework is tailored to help us practice specific skills.
Being really structured, having very clear expectations, giving us guided exercises and homework assignments to practice on specific skills
The professor provided us with handouts and facilitated student discussion with a clear written agenda
The seminar was based on core topics we would go down, and use variety of philosophical tools to unpack them. This would end with a summary of each unit, and a variety of packets and warmups to act as better philosophers.
Prof Mehta usually had us split into small groups for discussion before coming back as a whole class. This was very useful to help formulate and critique ideas before having a large discussion. He also picked people to speak, which forced the conversation to keep moving in a productive direction, but he would also allow people to speak whenever they had a point they wanted to contribute. We had a homework assignment each week which was helpful in having productive points at each seminar. He was very receptive to our class suggestions for improvement, and had us do an informal evaluation partway through the seminar to give him feedback.
Professor Neil Mehta would facilitate class and would teach us skills in-depth. It was extremely effective and allowed all of us to grow throughout the semester.
Prof was incredibly well structured in his class, his small group in class discussions were helpful because of constant and instant feedback. Him calling on students structure s the class discussion and leads it where he wants.
I will never forget how my seminar professor was really good and influential in many senses. He was one of the best teachers I had in my life. He was very supportive, helpful, and guided us so well. I am so lucky to have him as my prof.
Amazingly. He commanded respect and was completely in control of the class.
Seminar discussions were highly inclusive of every single student in class modelled on the "dance class". Each student was given a chance to speak at every single lesson. I think that was the single most important/useful aspect of his lessons. He gave consistent chances for discussions between each student, which really engaged me and made me feel completely immersed in each lesson. Also, he's a very confident and structured teacher; every lesson wraps up perfectly on time and it takes skills to plan and do everything you set out to achieve. In fact, he's so confident in the effectiveness of his teaching that he doesn't make it compulsory to attend lessons. also, he grouped us into small discussion groups almost every lesson to answer discussion questions.

D1: Please use this space to elaborate on your previous responses or to address other issues such as classroom atmosphere; most or least helpful course materials, readings, or topics; or any other specific suggestions or concerns about the course.

Comments
I would like to see the course varied a bit more; since most of the readings focus on Greek or Indian philosophy.
a text at the very start to broadly go through what exactly philosophy (as we understand it today) is and how we got to today's understanding of it and how that is not necessarily the same way the ancient civilisations we've studied see what we retroactively call "philosophies" would be cool– i find that this is something i arrived at because of independent learning and hope this would be a clearer starting point for the course
Other professors should adopt ideas from Professor Neil Mehta's pedagogical methods.
I love it and this reaffirmed my love for philosophy.
–
Prof Mehta inspired a lot of us to take our realisations of philosophy outside the classroom by giving us examples of how ideas relate to our lives which I really appreciated. The structured and moderated lessons also ensured that everyone in class were learning at the same pace and benefitted equally. The approach he had for philosophy translated into the way he interacted with his students and this left a deep impression in all of us about the value of philosophy and reasoning and how it influences our lives.
The most helpful course materials were the homework handouts, especially the warm up exercises.
i thought the nagasena readings were the toughest and it would've been helpful if we had more time to discuss it in class
–
Neil Mehta is the greatest gift to Yale–NUS. Other students should get to experience his teachings too as the skills he impart are really important to our academic life in college and in our general lives. Really enjoyed the Bhagavad Gita reading.
this class was amazing and the professor was great
I can confidently say that Prof. Neil Mehta's teaching style is the best I have ever encountered in my entire educational career. I was more attentive, engaged, and motivated to learn than any other. I am not sure if philosophy would be my major, but I still am much more motivated to want to learn about it than before. I hope to apply some of the theories learned to my life, and keep learning to become a better person. Further, I feel like I have a complete new toolkit to approach the world. I always tried to figure out my personal opinions in free thought – randomly making claims and objections to different arguments. But now, I care much more about argument form, providing evidence, and unpacking what I hear. I have also become a much better class member in discussions. I would talk a lot in discussions before and not listen, but having my responses be based on being called on rather than voluntary action allowed me to care more about listening attentively, and thus the points that I made were much more substantive. I could go on for these skills' applications in writing, talking, and everyday affairs. But overall, PPT 1 was absolutely vital for my Yale–NUS experience. It was rigorous, but through that has whipped me into shape to take on my college and life experience the right way. I really hope I can take another class with Prof. Mehta.
Classroom atmosphere was incredible, it felt like a safe place to explore ideas and arguments but I always knew I would receive honest feedback. I honestly cannot express how good of a teacher Neil Mehta is.
Everything was excellent.
Least helpful were Pythagorean women, there weren't too much depth nor time spent on them. It was almost as if the curriculum HAD TO include women authors for the sake of it. Aristotle was the greatest reading that made me question reality a lot.
This class should be a model for every other class.
Professor Neil Mehta has been one of the greatest professors/teachers I have ever had the pleasure of being taught by. In class he commands respect and everyone pays attention completely. He gives extremely fair amount of time to each student and makes sure everyone is on the same page and that the class progresses. In homework, he gives an extremely fair amount of homework that tests students' knowledge almost completely, but is extremely economic in that it tests in x amount of words or less which is only taxing mentally. I greatly appreciate that. He also gives key passages to focus on and we are able to zoom in and give these passages our fullest attention, instead of a messy amount of readings. Lastly, he gives timely, constructive, and prompt feedback on all of our assignments and as a professor and person he is truly the best. I wish to be taught again.
The Bhagavad Gita was quite difficult to understand as it is mostly a religious text. I did not really enjoy studying it.