PHIL 341: Philosophy of Science 1 - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 18164) - Sarah Clairmont (Winter 2021)

Project Title: **Mercury Course Evaluation (Winter 2021)**

Course Audience: **47**   Instructor Audience: **47**
Responses Received: **26**   Responses Received: **26**
Response Ratio: **55.3%**   Response Ratio: **55.3%**

Subject Details	
Course Name	PHIL 341: Philosophy of Science 1 - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 18164)
Eval Start Date	03/22/2021 00:00:00
Eval End Date	05/01/2021 00:00:00
Term	Winter 2021
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Academic Unit	Philosophy
Enrolment	47
Questionnaire	ARTS

Report Comments

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

  a. to help instructors improve future offerings of courses;
  b. to inform students about courses and instructors;
  c. as a component of the teaching dossier; and
  d. 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**
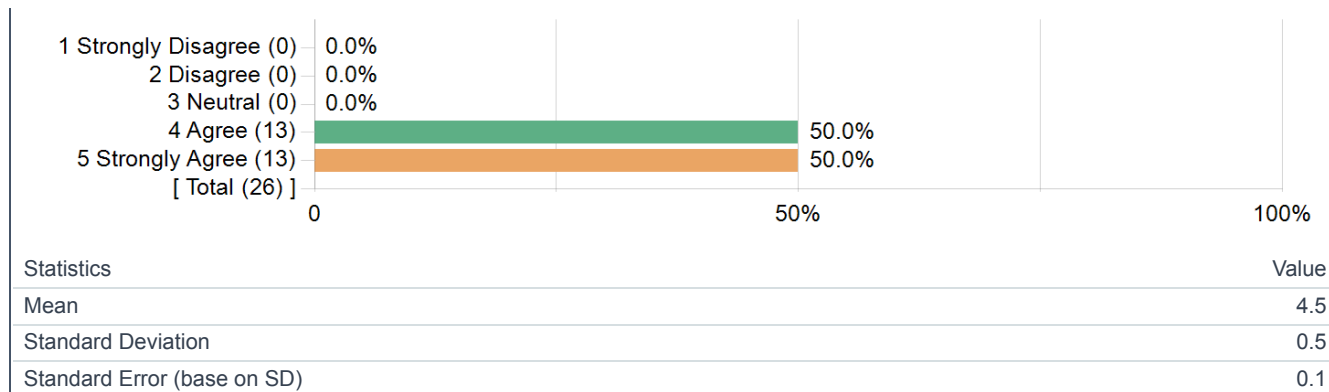Creation Date: **Monday, June 28, 2021**

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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)
4.3	0.9	4.3	0.6

Q1. Overall, this is an excellent course.

Q1. Overall, this is an excellent course.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (0)	0.0%
4 Agree (13)	50.0%
5 Strongly Agree (13)	50.0%
[Total (26)]	

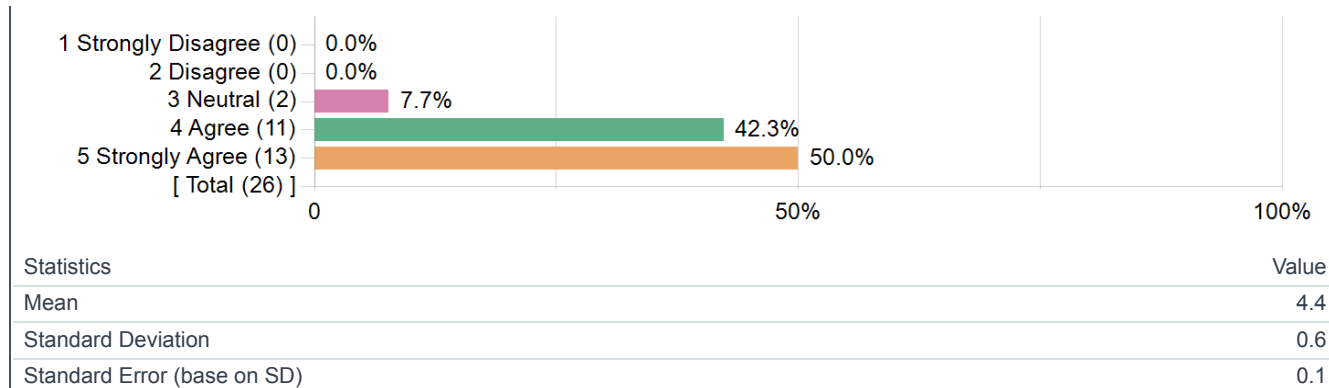| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.5
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
Really fascinating topic and I liked what the professor did with picking epidemiology as a way to focus on the philosophy of science. The course was structure well, the scaffolding method was clear and effective for building up to the term paper.
Sarah really takes her time to explain course content and makes it super interesting. I was kind of anxious taking my first philosophy class, but this class has been great!
The assignment setup was quite honestly the best setup I have seen in any of my courses for actual learning of philosophical material. They were the perfect balance and transition from material comprehension to abstract material application.
Sarah did a great job adjusting to the online format of this class. Her lectures were informative and consise, her slides were incredibly helpful, she's flexible with assignments, and is overall a compassionate and skilled lecturer and teacher!
Sarah has great teaching skills, she knows how to engage with students and she encourages constructive discussions and brainstorming. The course is organized, powerpoint slides are very helpful and Q&A sessions are stimulating.
I enjoyed the course. I thought the material was well organized and relevant, but was a little textbook heavy in terms of lecture content.
The course is most certainly a good introduction to epidemiology. Albeit a bit basic, I did learn a good deal.

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)
4.4	0.8	4.5	0.5

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

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

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (2)	7.7%
4 Agree (11)	42.3%
5 Strongly Agree (13)	50.0%
[Total (26)]	

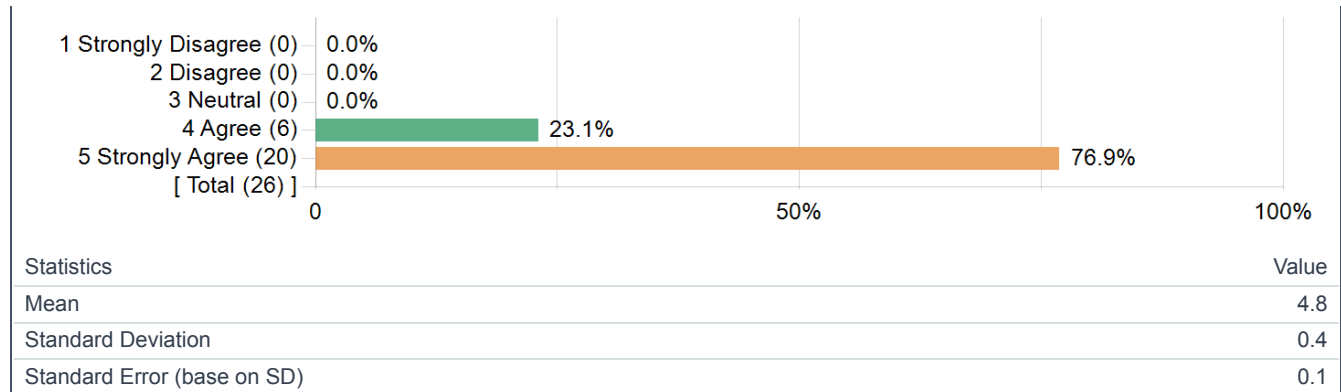| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.4
Standard Deviation	0.6
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

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)
4.4	0.9	4.4	0.6

Q3. Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

Q3. Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

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1 Strongly Disagree (0) ─  0.0%
       2 Disagree (0) ─  0.0%
        3 Neutral (0) ─  0.0%
          4 Agree (6) ─  ████ 23.1%
5 Strongly Agree (20) ─  ████████████████ 76.9%
      [ Total (26) ]
                        0              50%              100%
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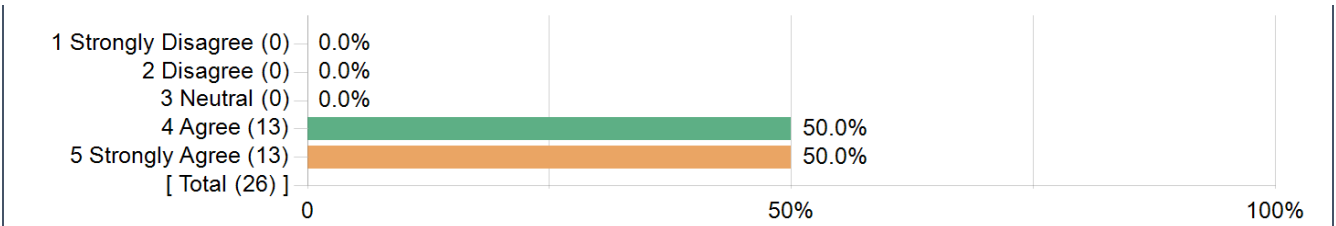| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.8
Standard Deviation	0.4
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
Professor Clairmont was always engaged, did a good job at getting other students engaged, and created a good space for students to talk and share ideas. The Q and As were helpful and honestly fun to talk with other students about what made us curious, and she put a lot of effort into making them engaging. the workload was manageable, and the reading was clear and never too extensive.
Enthusiastic and excellent teacher!
I really appreciated the structure of the course and Sarah's teaching methods. The scaffolding of the assignments really helped me better understand the concepts.
Super understanding with her students and compassionate. I think it is so important for professors to be understanding with their students' mental health, notably stress and Sarah has always showed up for her students.
Really enjoyed Prof. Clairmont as an instructor. Very good at presenting concepts and designed a great syllabus. The one thing I would say is that they could have more confidence in their abilities. They were a great professor, but the only small thing is that they sometimes questioned themselves when they did not need to. Really enjoyed their instruction overall.
Sarah was an excellent instructor. Her lectures were informative and she went to extra lengths to encourage students to connect with each other through organized socials and group projects which was greatly appreciated.
Sarah is a fantastic professor! She is very knowledgable but always slows down if necessary to re–explain concepts or topics that not all students may be familiar with. Her course is fairly well organized and the readings given were never excessive, and all of them felt necessary to the course. I liked that we looked quite in–depth at all the concepts in the readings and it felt like the whole course was really tied together well, with the different concepts we learnt and the guidelines for the assignments. She was also very flexible and kind with deadlines, knowing that the online semester has been particularly hard for many people.
Sarah was probubaly one of the best teachers I've had this semester. She understands the struggles of online learning and adapts her lectures and content accordingly. I was never bored in her lectures and she offers plenty of help. I also love how she tries to make this as much of a normal semester as possible, offering us social opportunities that helped me meet other students in the class and feel a part of the mcgill community!
She always gives feedback, she taught us how to learn and acquire knowledge through scaffolding.
This instructor goes to great lengths to make this course enjoyable. Also, she is a dedicated and hardworking teacher.
Sarah is a capable instructor who demonstrates a sound knowledge of the course and her field. She was also open and understanding when it came to adjusting to online learning and the needs/circumstances of students.
Apart from some very confusing marking (is red good or bad? what does underlining mean?), Sarah was kind, attentive and clearly put in a lot of effort towards making this course interesting and accessible.

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)
4.4	0.8	4.4	0.5

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

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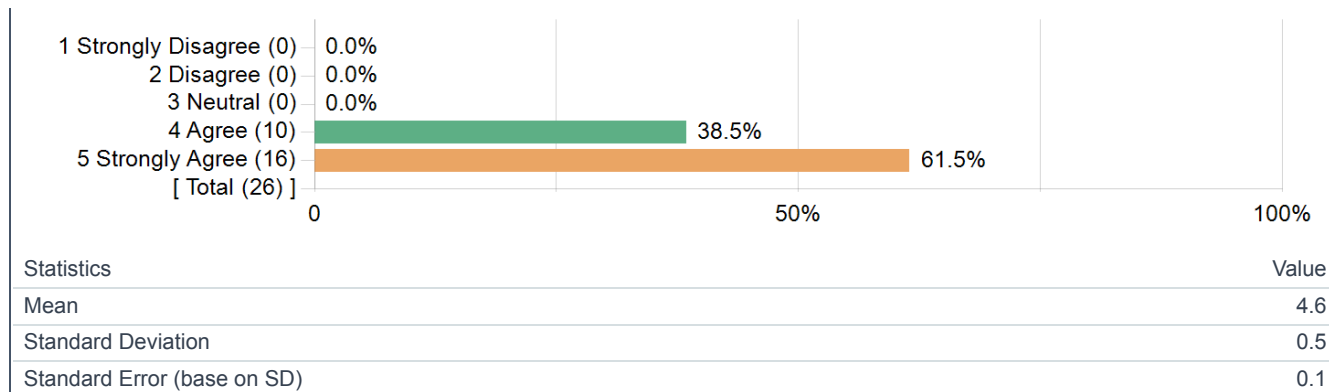|	
1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (0)	0.0%
4 Agree (13)	50.0%
5 Strongly Agree (13)	50.0%
[Total (26)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.5
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

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	0.8	4.3	0.6

Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.

Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (0)	0.0%
4 Agree (10)	38.5%
5 Strongly Agree (16)	61.5%
[Total (26)]	

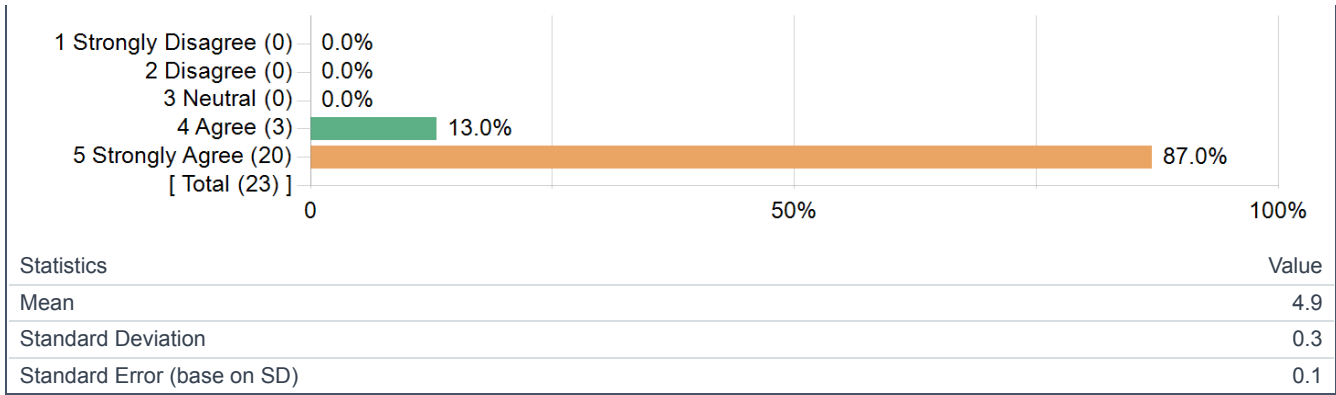| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.6
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
The lectures were effective; the only criticism is that many of the slides were very text–heavy, and it would have helped me to see more broken–down versions of the ideas and readings if possible.
All of the lectures were presented in a thoughtful manner. They tied both tied in and expanded upon the assigned readings very well.
I felt like some of the lectures were mainly recapitulations of readings so I slowly stopped doing readings because I knew they would be covered in class.
What I found helpful with her teaching method was that we were never bombarded with 100 slides and so many information like your typical university courses, it was concise and clear. That being said, it was easy to be fully focused and engaged with the material.
Lectures were very clear.
Yes slides were informative and told us the main points of the argument in a concise manner.
Great lecturer! Never too fast and takes her time to make sure everyone understands.
Her lectures were very consise, to the point, I loved her slides they helped facilitate learning, she provided lots of examples and during lectures would offer time to ask questions.
She delivered her lectures in an organized manner and helped students understand the course material whenever questions would be raised.
The lectures did well to unpack the readings and provide a comprehensive "narrative" for the course.

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)
4.3	0.9	4.4	0.6

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

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

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (0)	0.0%
4 Agree (3)	13.0%
5 Strongly Agree (20)	87.0%
[Total (23)]	

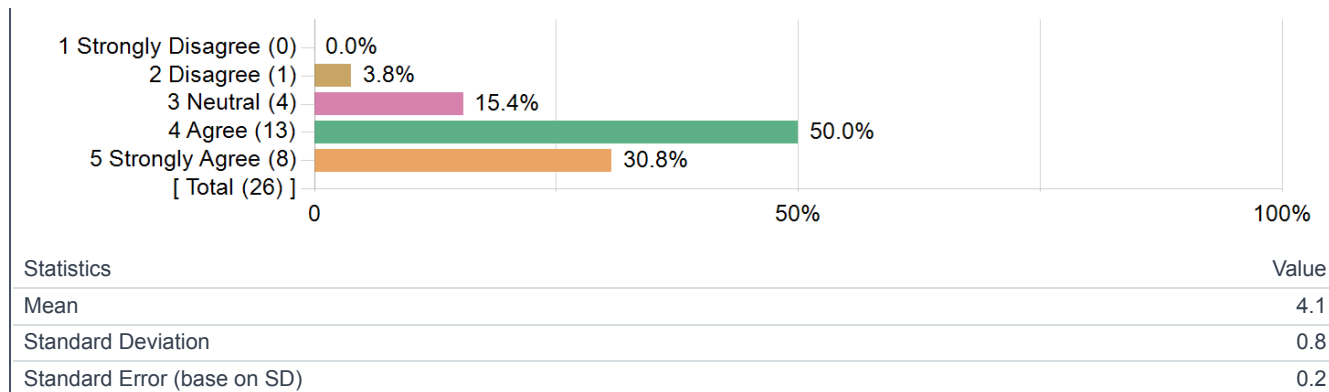| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.9
Standard Deviation	0.3
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
Professor Clairmont was very responsive to emails, understanding about difficulties, and available for communication when necessary.
Professor Clairmont was extremely flexible with finding time for me and ensuring I received all the help I need.
was very available. Had weekly office hours and made additional time for students to discuss certain assignments. This was far better than all of my other courses.
Sarah had a designated Q&A session which I thought was helpful. Even if you did not attend, it was recorded. She is also really fast at replying emails which is great and helpful.
I incredibly appreciated the accessible office hours!
They were always easy to reach and responsive.
Bi–weekly Q&A sessions made it really easy to ask questions. Also the instructor always responded to emails in a timely fashion
I loved the idea of a Q&A instead of office hours. I hate going to online office hours as they feel kinda awkward but her Q&A sessions with other students helped answer my questions and learn from other students.
She held office hours regularly and they were sufficient to address the needs of individual students.
The booking slots were helpful, and I appreciated the confirmation email sent close to the arranged time.

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	0.4

Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.

Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.

1 Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
2 Disagree (1) — 3.8%
3 Neutral (4) — 15.4%
4 Agree (13) — 50.0%
5 Strongly Agree (8) — 30.8%
[Total (26)]

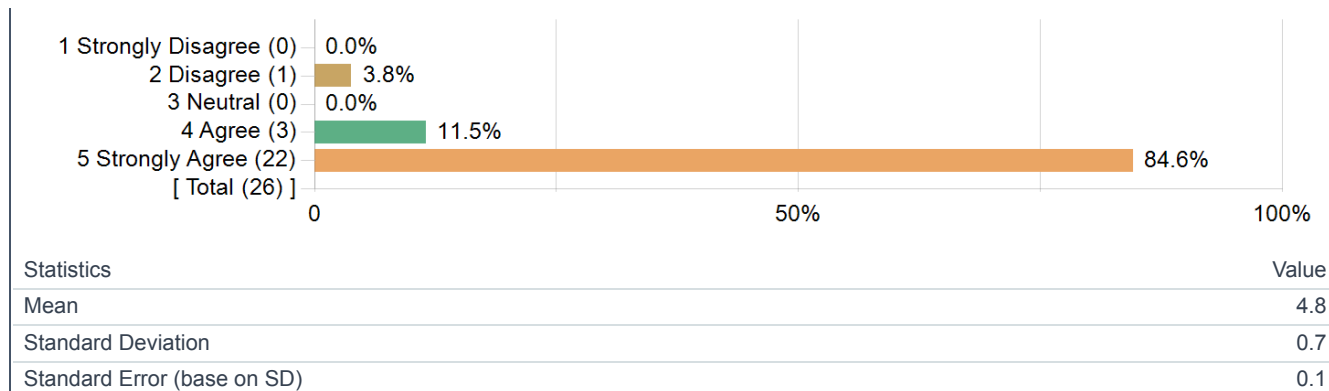| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.1
Standard Deviation	0.8
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.2

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	0.9	4.3	0.8

The course objectives were clearly explained.

The course objectives were clearly explained.

1 Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
2 Disagree (1) — 3.8%
3 Neutral (0) — 0.0%
4 Agree (3) — 11.5%
5 Strongly Agree (22) — 84.6%
[Total (26)]

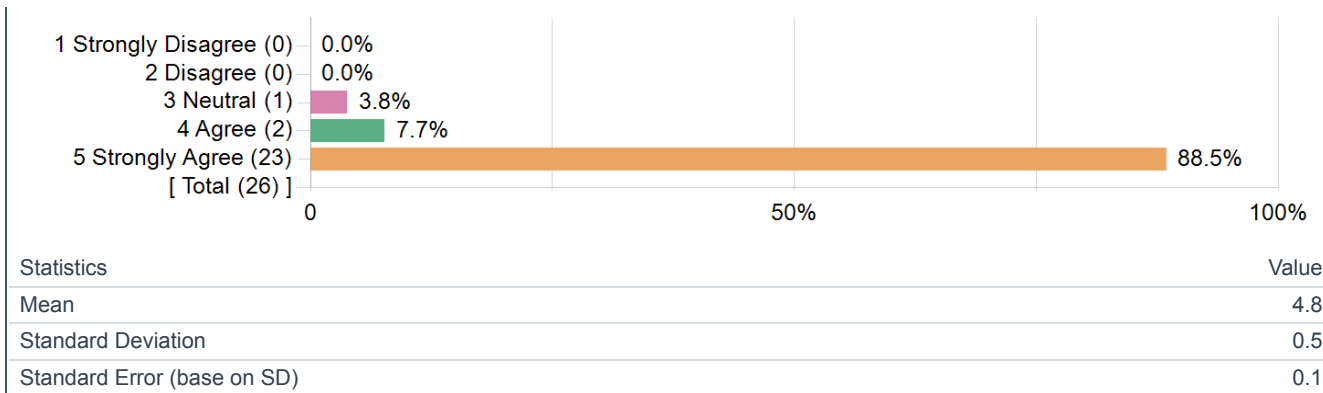| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.8
Standard Deviation	0.7
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

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)
4.6	0.7	4.5	0.8

Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.

Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (1)	3.8%
4 Agree (2)	7.7%
5 Strongly Agree (23)	88.5%
[Total (26)]	

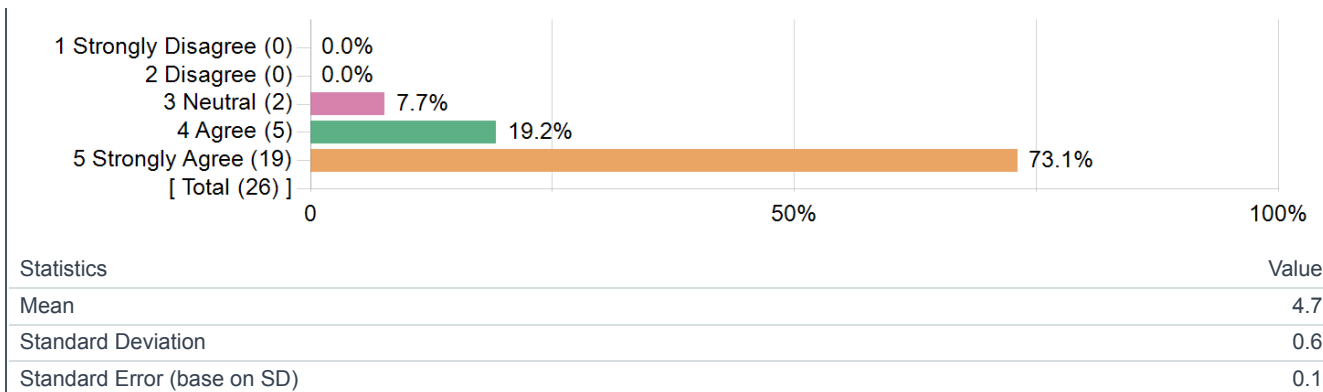| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.8
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
Course was challenging in terms of material, but active discussions on the material helped me understand it. Additionally, lectures and office hours helped me to grasp the material a lot.
She often asked for our input and further touched on them! This course was challenging but Sarah made it go smoothe.
She had really good rubrics that were very clear and easy to understand. Her syllabus was always up to date, she provides instructions for assignments and was really good at answering questions in the zoom chat box, something alot of other teachers struggle with
It was my first philosophy course. Although the terminology in the initial stages of the course was confusing, I was able to adapt and comprehend the philosophical jargon reasonably quickly.

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	0.7	4.4	0.4

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

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

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (2)	7.7%
4 Agree (5)	19.2%
5 Strongly Agree (19)	73.1%
[Total (26)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.7
Standard Deviation	0.6
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

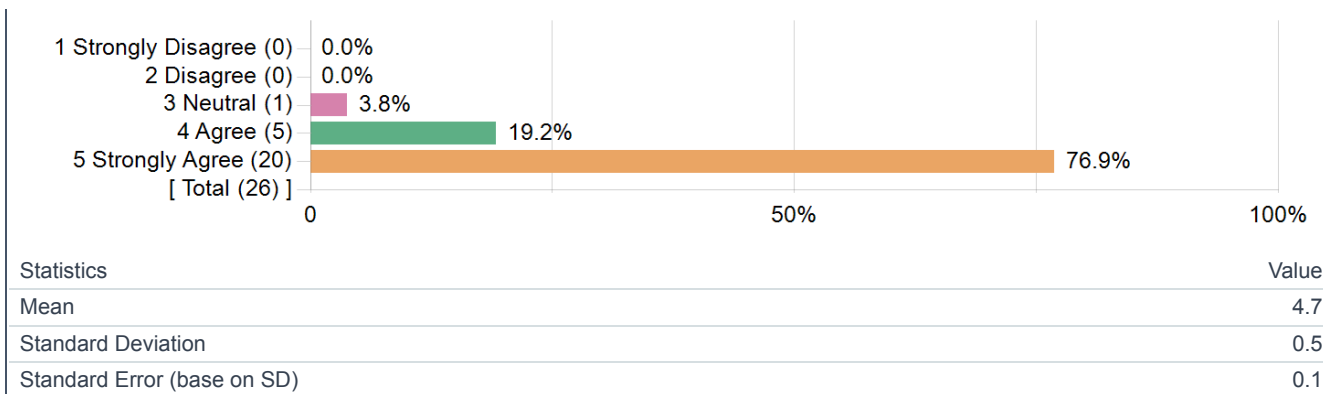| Comments |
|---|
| Assignments were planned very well. They all seemed relevant to the current progress of the course and built upon each other (in terms of material and complexity). |
| The assignments were structured really well so that students could play to their strengths while still demonstrating their knowledge of the subject. |
| Her strategy of assignment scaffolding has helped us prepare for the more complex assignments. |
| I felt everything was very fair, and we were not overloaded with a ton of unnecessary work or readings. |
| Assignment scaffolding was well explained to us and well executed. |
| This was the perfect workload she was really understanding and it wasn't too hard or too easy |
| Tests and assignments helped me to comprehend the material better while also testing my knowledge. |
| There was a good variety in types of assignment. I found the length of all assignments to be much too short. I was asked to explain things that I couldn't (and I don't think anyone could) reasonably fit within the word count. I did my final paper in a few hours the night it was due and received an A despite knowing I had barely scratched the surface of what we had learned in the course. |

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)
4.2	1.0	4.4	0.5

The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.

The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (1)	3.8%
4 Agree (5)	19.2%
5 Strongly Agree (20)	76.9%
[Total (26)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.7
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

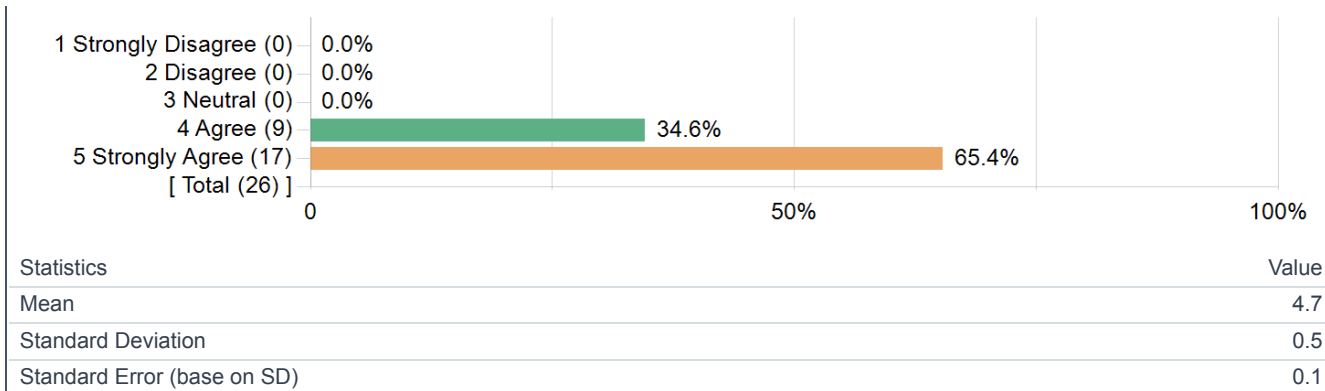| Comments |
|---|
| Evaluation methods used in the course were fair. Extensive feedback was provided on all assignments, which was helpful for studying and correcting mistakes. |
| She provides feedback when evaluating our work and it was helpful to know where we went wrong. |
| she's a good grader who gives good feedback quickly |
| There was an appropriate number of assignments for the course distributed fairly over the course of the semester. |

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)
4.4	0.8	4.2	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.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (0)	0.0%
4 Agree (9)	34.6%
5 Strongly Agree (17)	65.4%
[Total (26)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.7
Standard Deviation	0.5
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
All of the course materials were presented in an organized fashion.
All information presented in class was available to students before/after class which was great! The myCourses page was well organized by week and readings were also uploaded at the start of the course which was great because it made navigating through the course material very stress–free
My only suggestion would be posting the lecture slides BEFORE the lecture, as many people like to annotate alongside them.
the reading expectation was clear, her slides were perfect, and she provided extra resources like a class dictionary and a brainstorm document for our term paper
Everything was well organized on the myCourses hub.
There was a substantial amount of due–date adjustment and we were presented with the option to redistribute our grading percentages. I understand this was all to make life easier for the class' students but it came at the cost of organization (and stress) for those students (like myself) who did prepare their work on time and who operated based on the syllabus/course outline.

Please provide written comments with respect to the instructor and the course (including course materials, readings etc.).
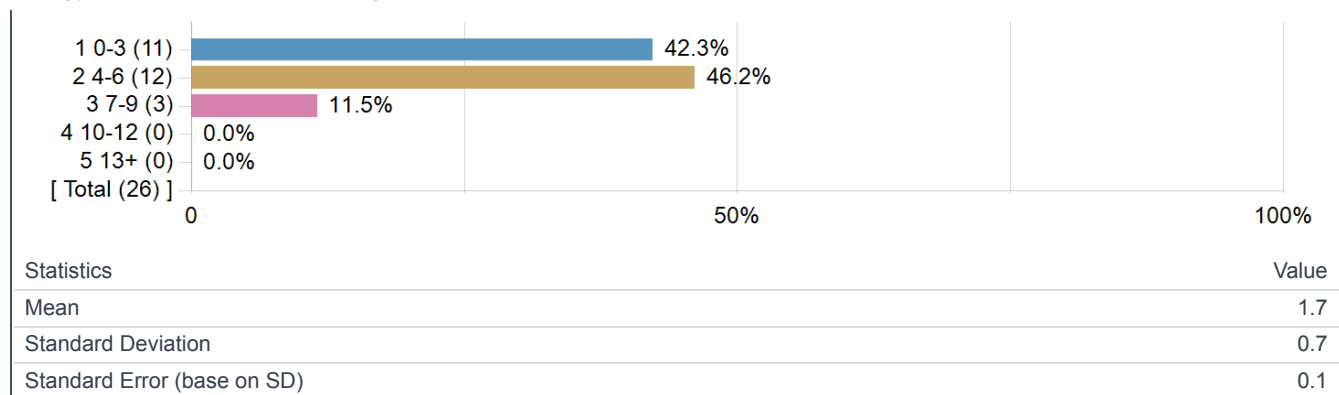
Comments
Sarah's class was informative and insightful. She herself was also as understanding and patient as can be. I really appreciated her class!
Overall, this course was one of my favorites taught at McGill. The professor was both interested and engaged in the material, which helped the class understand the material being taught. Additionally, the class was very relevant and practical.
I felt the choice of topic for this semester's Philosophy of Science course to be especially interesting and topical in the case of the pandemic. It felt really contemporary in comparison to other classes I'm in right now that feel less applicable to my everyday life. For that reason, I really thoroughly enjoyed the course, as well as Professor Clairmont's teaching.
I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your class and how much I appreciate the way you really care and showed up for your students. I was really nervous for this course because I had no background in philosophy nor science, but you made this course easier to follow than I would have expected. The course material was interesting and I learned a lot. It was also super helpful that you would go into detail about the assigned readings during the lectures, to expand and ensure our understanding of the material. I honestly do not have any constructive criticism to give, because I really think your method of teaching and the course in general was great. Thank you again Sarah! :)
Great course about a topic that I really didn't know much about! The readings were good explanations of the concepts and not too long or difficult to grasp.
Probably one of the only courses I am taking that was adequately accommodating to students during COVID, without sacrificing quality. The effort put into this class by the Professor was undeniable, always with a focus on making sure we achieved learning outcomes while maximizing student welfare. The only thing I thought could be improved would be a closer tie–in with the main–stream concepts of the philosophy of science. Although the philosophy of Epidemiology was very interesting and relevant, at times it felt like it wasn't what I signed up for.
Course material was really interesting, the readings could be long but sarah split them up into managable chunks, and i again love the slides
I really appreciated Professor Clairmont's flexibility with submission deadlines. It was very kind of her to try to provide as much support as she can to the students (Q&As, video explanations, class bonding opportunities, etc.). The content was interesting, but I would have loved it if we had the time to dive deeper on certain topics (ex. ecosocial theory).
Not sure what else I should be saying in reference to what I've already said. The course was enjoyable; Sarah was a kind professor.
I really appreciated the individual video uploads responding to student questions.

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	2.3	0.7

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

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

1 0-3 (11)	42.3%
2 4-6 (12)	46.2%
3 7-9 (3)	11.5%
4 10-12 (0)	0.0%
5 13+ (0)	0.0%
[Total (26)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	1.7
Standard Deviation	0.7
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.1

Insert comments:

Comments
Workload was around 4–6 hours a week.
manageable amount of work
The course's required time commitment was reasonable.
This course is interesting but much too basic (and easy) for McGill. The quiz worth 20% could be taken an infinite number of times; the module 2 exercise was the only genuinely challenging part, though that was mostly due to the minuscule amount of space allowed for responses; and the term paper was similarly much too short to enable one to provide depth. That said, this course was interesting (and topical), and all assignments did survey every aspect of the course really well (and they effectively built upon one another). Having the final paper tie in the learned epidemiological theory with a real case study was a very good way of "actualizing" our knowledge. Sarah was crucial to making this course interesting and enjoyable.

Insert comments:

Comments

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.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)	0.0%
2 Disagree (0)	0.0%
3 Neutral (0)	0.0%
4 Agree (0)	0.0%
5 Strongly Agree (0)	0.0%
[Total (0)]	

0   50%   100%

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

Insert comments:

Comments
Not Answered