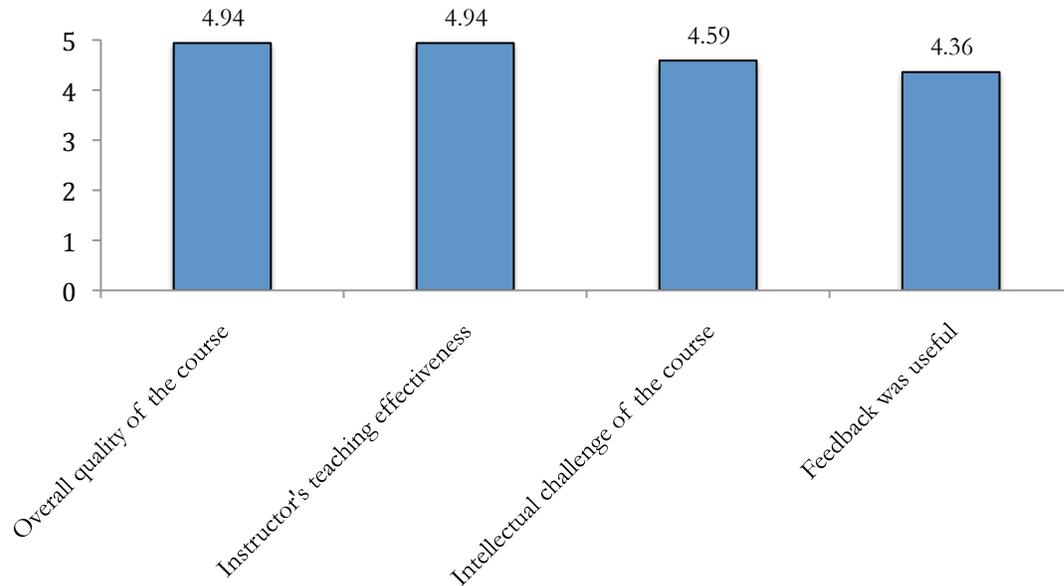


The Good, the Bad, and the Guilty Winter 2017

Students were provided the following instruction: “5” means excellent and “1” means poor, please choose the number you feel best describes your teacher in the categories below. Scan of full evaluation is available upon request.



Selected Student Comments

“This is an amazingly organized course. We are grouped up into our ‘philosophical think tanks’ early in the class, a group of 3 or 4 students also in the class. We’re encouraged to get to know each other and memorize each other’s names and what we’re like. It works – I’ve never actually enjoyed group work this much before. Alex gives us some readings for the days and leaves us with questions on it sometimes. When we come back the next day, we discuss what we’ve read under a prompt given by Alex. (Sometimes Alex starts off with some lecture to give us context for what we’ve read and what we’re going to talk about.) He’s a charismatic, energetic, and truly wonderful teacher and professor. The group dynamics he have set up feel safe, comforting, and encouraging for everyone to continue talking and state their thoughts, and I who normally hate participating find it easy and fun to do in this setting. This is a perfect example of what a philosophy class should be like. Alex answers questions rarely; he instead directs us to lines or concepts in our readings and asks us to think on the answer ourselves, which has always worked so far. Instead of our discussions being fumbling around in the dark, we are given a direction to share our thoughts in. In the latter half of the class all of the small think tanks get together and start talking about what they’ve discussed, and we work out our “philosophical knots” together. It’s such an enlightening and fun class. I can’t even describe how great Alex is. He’s an ineffable amount of good.”

“Alex is a fantastic teacher who engages students. He is extremely knowledgeable and very approachable. Alex is the type of teacher students will try as hard as possible to have classes with as much as possible. Not only does he impart interesting information, but he also encourages students to think critically about the topics discussed in class and share their opinions. He makes an effort to make all students feel like they are integral parts of the class.”