



Dear Instructor James Pearson

## Student Opinion of Teaching Questionnaire Results

This form contains evaluation results for TOPICS IN ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY(PHIL-1210).

Attached is a pdf report containing your Student Opinion of Teaching Survey from last term.

The evaluation results are broken down into three distinct categories. The first part of the report shows a breakdown of student responses to the quantitative questions. The number of students (n) who responded, the mean (av.), standard deviation (dev.), and median (md) will be displayed. If your school had previously calculated norms, they will be on OMET's website ([www.omet.pitt.edu](http://www.omet.pitt.edu)).

The second part displays individual comments to each question in the open-ended section of the evaluation.

The final part gives you a profile of the student responses to the quantitative section of the evaluation.


If the number of respondents for any of the scaled items is fewer than seven please be cautious in interpreting the quantitative results.

Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching (OMET)

# Instructor James Pearson

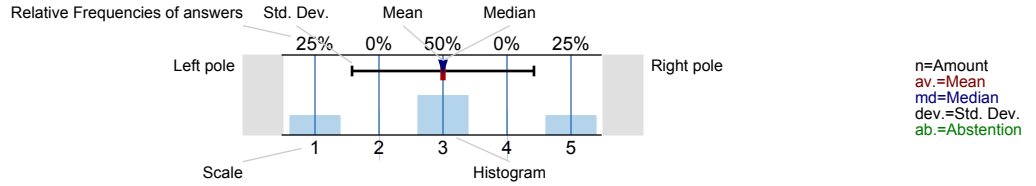
## TOPICS IN ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY(PHIL-1210) (37332)

2104



**Legend**

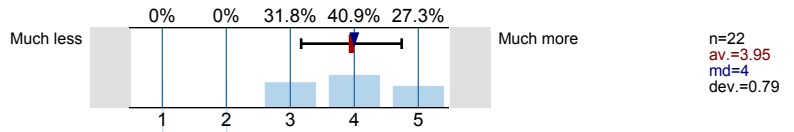
Question text



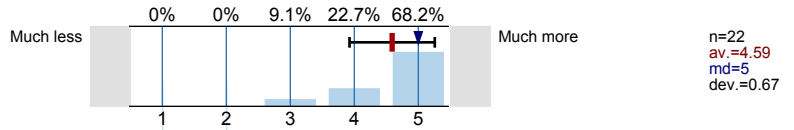
### 1. SELF RATINGS

**DIRECTIONS:** Mark the category which best describes your judgment compared to most courses you have taken.

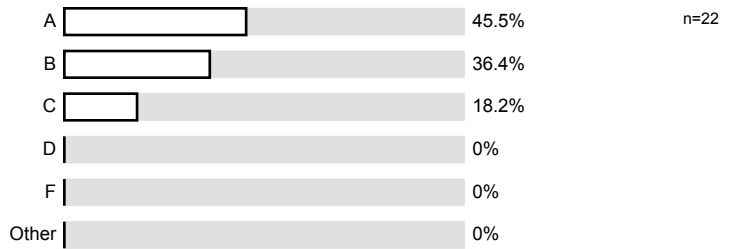
1.1) Compared to other courses at the same level, the amount of work I did was:



1.2) In this course I have learned:



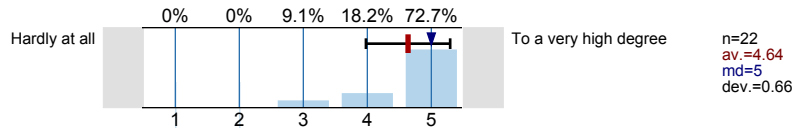
1.3) The grade I expect in this course is:



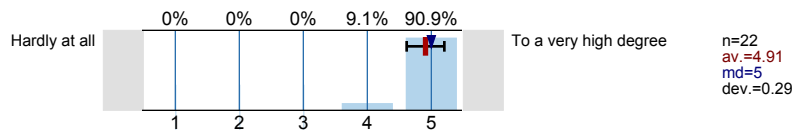
### 2. TEACHING EVALUATION

**DIRECTIONS:** Please indicate your response to items 2.1 - 2.9 by choosing one category. Judge each item separately.

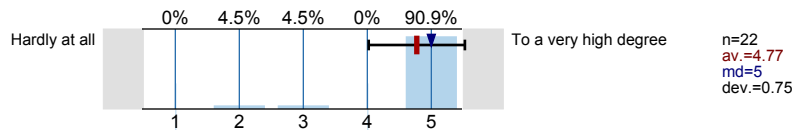
2.1) The instructor presented the course in an organized manner.



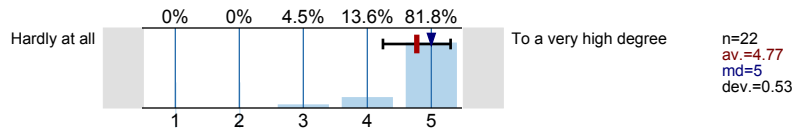
2.2) The instructor stimulated my thinking.



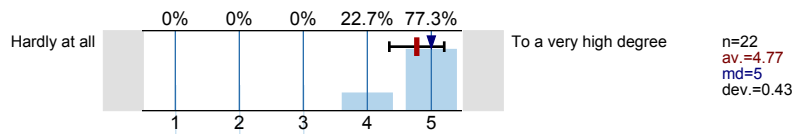
2.3) The instructor evaluated my work fairly.



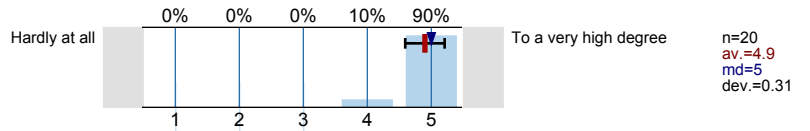
2.4) The instructor made good use of examples to clarify concepts.



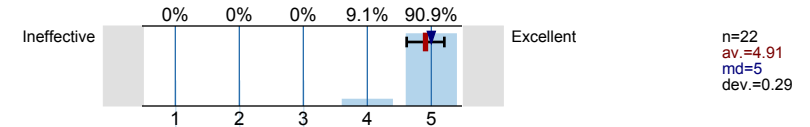
2.5) The instructor maintained a good learning environment.



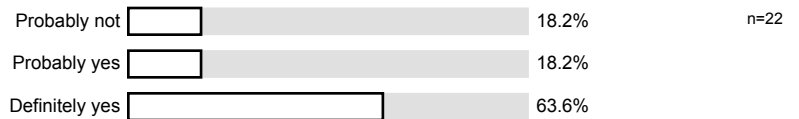
2.6) The instructor was accessible to students. (Do not answer if no basis to judge)



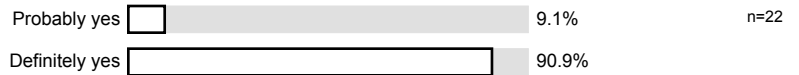
2.7) Express your judgment of the instructor's **overall teaching effectiveness:**



2.8) Would you recommend this course to other students?



2.9) Would you recommend this instructor to other students?



### 3. TEACHING COMMENTS

3.1) What were the instructor's major strengths?

He is incredibly good at leading discussion and is clearly knowledgeable.

able to explain/clarity topics extremely well  
personable ~ easily approachable

He is very informative, charismatic, and helpful in discussions. Additionally, he was organized, interesting, and always prepared.

Organized

Good grasp of material and explained it well.

Brings a high level of energy into classroom

His ability to relate thoughts of students to what the philosophers we studied were thinking.

James was very accessible to students and did a great job explaining concepts.

was very organized each class & created good discussion groups so that everyone could be engaged

The instructor was all around a goer.  
~~He~~ He would do anything to help a student I think.

Lots of energy.

Very good course.

Excellent all around, Passionate, very knowledgeable. Accessible.  
Well structured class.

Extremely knowledgeable, very apt at clarifying questions and presenting different philosophical views, excellent examples, great learning environment, friendly, organized & unifies what's going on

Knowledgeable, very approachable, encouraged dissenting opinions.  
Approached course with enthusiasm and desire to see  
Students get something out of the course

JAMES IS AMAZING ~~PH~~

- ABILITY TO GENERATE UNDERSTANDING THROUGH  
ASKING EDUCATING QUESTIONS \*

Able to explain concepts and guide discussion excellently.

The biggest thing, in my opinion, was attitude. He was very positive + enthusiastic, and this translated to a good class atmosphere.

Animated

Good Examples

Broad knowledge base

James is a very animated and engaging instructor, and it is obvious that he puts a lot of thought and planning into his teaching. This has been one of my favorite philosophy classes and much of that can be attributed to James's clarity, enthusiasm, and friendliness.

James knows his stuff. I never once saw James stumble with clarifying a concept or developing examples to explain the somewhat cryptic texts we read this semester.

enthusiasm

engaging lectures

Facilitated good discussion + inter-student debate gave great perspective on the material.

James' grasp of the subject matter is far above what I would expect from a graduate student. He takes students' suggestions seriously and seeks to lead them to the correct answer instead of simply telling them that they are wrong and supplying the answer. Overall, He is one of the most helpful, coherent and instructive professors I've had at Pitt.

talking about the dissent opinions within the field, keeping it interesting and upbeat.

3.2) What were the instructor's major weaknesses?





Kryptonite.

too much info to present/discuss!!!

None really - though he memorizes sometimes!

NIL

The class sometimes became disorganized during discussions, but this was more an issue with individual students than James.

None that I can think of

N/A

HOWEVER, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY — SORTS

The choice of material was somewhat ~~re~~ repetitive. Frege, Russell, & Wittgenstein are awesome to read, but reading 2 philosophical essays ~~for~~ per week 14 weeks straight can get tedious. Maybe add in some movies or other types of sources to shake things up?

Ninjas.

#### 4. COURSE COMMENTS

4.1) What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

It tied into many other things I was learning.

grp discussion / lecture

On Wittgenstein

Learning about how the early analytic period influenced contemporary philosophy.

The readings were wonderful.

Learning that this complex field of philosophy was beneficial

reading many different philosophers  
good course structure.

Discussion board, weekly ~~readings~~ writing  $\Rightarrow$  reflection on a deeper level than otherwise needed. Small group discussion w/ classmates who had similar interests/concerns.

All of it. I learned so much.

Helped me clarify my views on these philosophical issues  
I have struggled with. Enabled me to actually have an idea  
of what I think

- THE ORDER IN WHICH WE READ PAPERS ✓
- I LOVE CIRCLE + SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS -  
MORE!
  - ALLOWING WEEKS/MONTHS FOR FINAL PAPER -  
BRILLIANT!

The weekly writing assignments  
Student presentations

Exposure to this field of phil.

Journal forced both reading and thinking  
Great reading list; helped me to  
conceptualize how many views were  
wrong-headed.



The group discussions were always fruitful under Jane's direction. He really knows how to guide a seminar.

Reading response papers (comments helped me understand the reading, also, forced me to keep up with reading assignments)

The understanding of philosophical works in an historical context, as well as stimulation of thinking, good writing practice.

-The course provided me with a terrific foundation for my studies in analytic philosophy. The course was organized in such a way that I'll leave with a story of how one philosophy leads to another as opposed to an incoherent collection of theories.

reading the articles first hand

4.2) What suggestions do you have to improve the course?

None.

less material

I really wish we could have spent more time on Wittgenstein. He's awesome.

NZL

Skip the foundations of Arithmetic. It didn't really add to the course.

less lecturing more discussion (being  
not rigid) as he balances  
1 + 1 = 1/2

More! 😊 I would have liked to read more Wittgenstein,  
Sellars, & Quine, but I know that time-constraints make this  
difficult.

~~More~~ MORE QUINE & SELLARS - Possible? ~~Yes~~  
NOT

Smaller class sizes may help everyone participate, if that's possible.

None

Spend 30 sec. to ensure everyone has the same conception of a "page"

Sometimes, I felt that the course was a bit fast-paced in that we didn't have enough time to fully explore some of the ideas and concepts in the readings. Although, looking back now I do wouldn't want to eliminate anything from the course

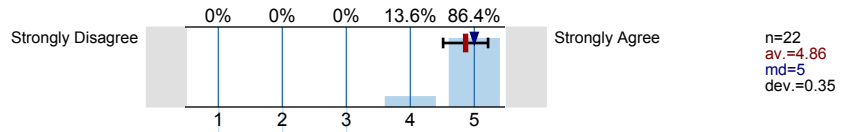
Mix in some videos or other sources besides essays. Maybe some biographical info?

this course tried to pack a lot of material into a short amount of time. did we really need to read the Blue + Brown books?

if the books had introductions saying the purpose of ~~the~~ each article and how it fits with philosophy as a whole. to often I read a work and wondered if the author had gotten to his main idea yet.

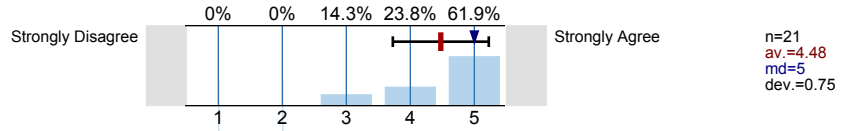
### 5. SMALL GROUPS

5.1) The instructor designed meaningful tasks for small groups.

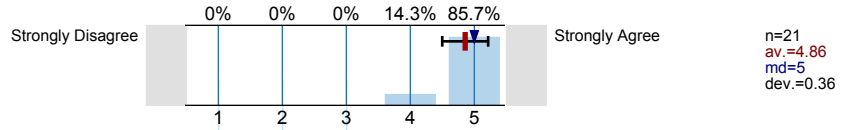


### 6. TEACHING-RELATED ITEMS

6.1) Conferences with the instructor were helpful.

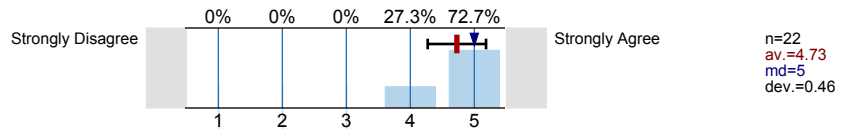


6.2) The instructor created an atmosphere that was open and positive.



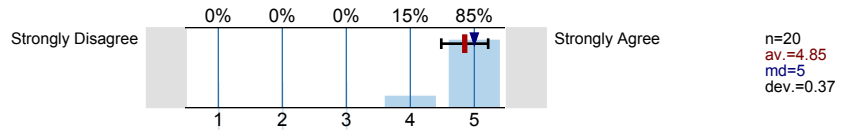
### 7. STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

7.1) This course helped me learn to identify main points and central issues in this field.

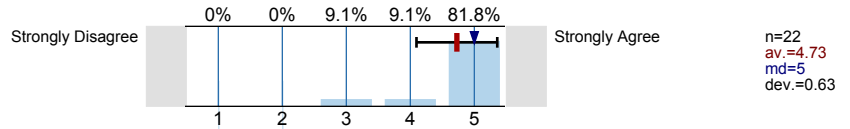


### 8. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

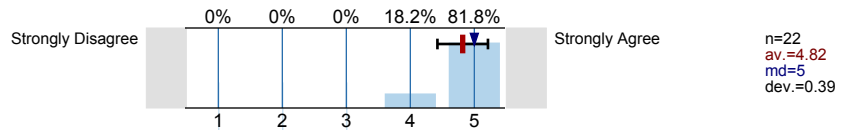
8.1) The instructor kept the balance between discussion and lecture well-suited to this type of course.



8.2) The instructor maintained an environment where students felt comfortable asking questions.

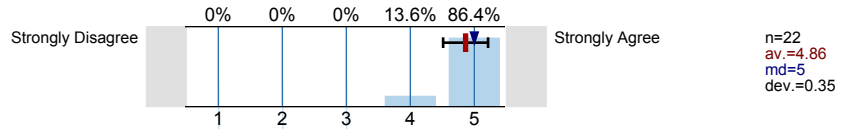


8.3) The instructor asked challenging questions.



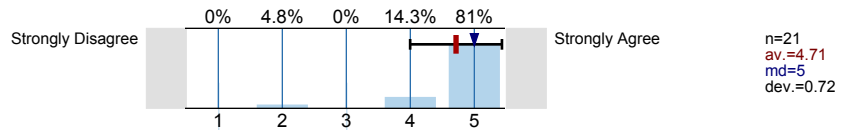
### 9. FEEDBACK

9.1) The instructor gave constructive criticism on written work.



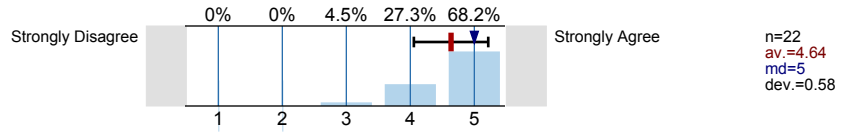
### 10. DEPARTMENT-RELATED ITEMS

10.1) The instructor stimulated my desire to take additional courses in this department.

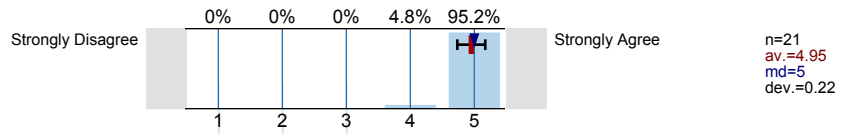


### 11. INSTRUCTOR

11.1) The instructor helped to clarify difficult concepts.



11.2) The instructor was readily available for assistance.



# Profile

Subunit: ARTSC  
 Name of the instructor: Professor James Pearson  
 Name of the course: TOPICS IN ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY(PHIL-1210)  
 (Name of the survey)

