

# JHU - Krieger School of Arts & Sciences / Whiting School of Engineering

## ASEN.2014.Spring

**Course:** AS.150.129.01.SP14 : The Theory of Knowledge : Classic and Contemporary Questions

**Instructor:** John Waterman \*

1 - The overall quality of this course is:														
Response Option				Percent Responses					Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%						4.32	3.94	4.00			
Weak	(2)	0	0%											
Satisfactory	(3)	2	10.53%											
Good	(4)	9	47.37%											
Excellent	(5)	8	42.11%											
N/A	(0)	0	0%											
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School Level			Mean	STD	Median	Department Level		Mean	STD	Median
19/19 (100%)	4.32	0.67	4.00	16,415			3.94	1.02	4.00	353		4.00	0.99	4.00

2 - The instructor's teaching effectiveness is: John Waterman														
Response Option				Percent Responses					Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%						4.58	3.97	4.14			
Weak	(2)	0	0%											
Satisfactory	(3)	1	5.26%											
Good	(4)	6	31.58%											
Excellent	(5)	12	63.16%											
N/A	(0)	0	0%											
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School Level			Mean	STD	Median	Department Level		Mean	STD	Median
19/19 (100%)	4.58	0.61	5.00	19,448			3.97	1.11	4.00	351		4.14	1.04	4.00

3 - The intellectual challenge of this course is:														
Response Option				Percent Responses					Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%						4.42	4.04	4.13			
Weak	(2)	0	0%											
Satisfactory	(3)	1	5.26%											
Good	(4)	9	47.37%											
Excellent	(5)	9	47.37%											
N/A	(0)	0	0%											
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School Level			Mean	STD	Median	Department Level		Mean	STD	Median
19/19 (100%)	4.42	0.61	4.00	16,326			4.04	0.91	4.00	351		4.13	0.91	4.00

4 - The teaching assistant for this course is:														
Response Option				Percent Responses					Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%						4.67	4.00	4.00			
Weak	(2)	0	0%											
Satisfactory	(3)	0	0%											
Good	(4)	1	5.26%											
Excellent	(5)	2	10.53%											
N/A	(0)	16	84.21%											
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School Level			Mean	STD	Median	Department Level		Mean	STD	Median
19/19 (100%)	4.67	0.58	5.00	16,322			4.00	1.08	4.00	350		4.00	1.06	4.00

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5 - Please enter the name of the TA you evaluated in question 4:	
<b>Return Rate</b>	2/19 (10.53%)
- Dr. Waterman	
- John Waterman	

6 - Feedback on my work for this course is useful:														
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses					Means					
Disagree strongly	(1)	0	0%						4.41	3.79	3.95			
Disagree somewhat	(2)	0	0%											
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	1	5.26%	■										
Agree somewhat	(4)	8	42.11%	■■■■■■■■										
Agree strongly	(5)	8	42.11%	■■■■■■■■										
N/A	(0)	2	10.53%	■■										
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School Level			Mean	STD	Median	Department Level		Mean	STD	Median
19/19 (100%)	4.41	0.62	4.00	16,277			3.79	1.12	4.00	350		3.95	1.02	4.00

7 - Compared to other Hopkins courses at this level, the workload for this course is:														
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses					Means					
Much lighter	(1)	0	0%											
Somewhat lighter	(2)	5	27.78%	■■■■■					2.89	3.16	3.01			
Typical	(3)	11	61.11%	■■■■■■■■■■										
Somewhat heavier	(4)	1	5.56%	■										
Much heavier	(5)	1	5.56%	■										
N/A	(0)	0	0%											
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School Level			Mean	STD	Median	Department Level		Mean	STD	Median
18/19 (94.74%)	2.89	0.76	3.00	16,320			3.16	0.97	3.00	349		3.01	0.83	3.00

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8 - What are the best aspects of this course?	
Return Rate	15/19 (78.95%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Detailed explanation of philosophical readings which are usually hard to understand.</li><li>- Engaging class discussions, comprehensive and patient teaching methods</li><li>- everything</li><li>- Great teacher</li><li>- I learned a lot</li><li>- interesting discussions, grade is completely based on participation and 2 essays, great professor</li><li>- It was very engaging and allowed for very interesting discussions.</li><li>- The best aspect about this course are the class discussions.</li><li>- The intellectual content.</li><li>- The material covered in class</li><li>- The professor</li><li>- The professor is easy-to-understand and makes sure the entire class can follow his discussions. He assigns an average amount of work, but allots a large portion of class towards going over the material and clarifying concepts, which is helpful for the complex cognitive science research data. The best quality of the course, however, is the enthusiastic professor who brings the lectures to life.</li><li>- The readings: challenging, and followed a pre-determined progression through epistemological concepts (with the readings tracking very closely to a pre-determined line of thought made gleaning important conceptual points much easier)</li><li>- This is a fun class to take, anyone who is interested in Philosophical questions will really be able to dive deep into this class.</li><li>- Very engaging professor who is passionate about the subject, and is open to suggestions/discussion</li></ul>	

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9 - What are the worst aspects of this course?	
Return Rate	15/19 (78.95%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Class notes (at times) were somewhat difficult to follow: class notes followed only in a cursory outline structure which sometimes seemed to obscure the nuances of each text.</li><li>- long class time, papers can be a bit confusing</li><li>- meeting once a week for 2 hours was too much.</li><li>- minimal class participation</li><li>- None</li><li>- Not much</li><li>- Not much to complain about, only the fact that since it is once a week the class is a little long to sit through.</li><li>- nothing</li><li>- only meets once a week</li><li>- Only two real grades, two essays</li><li>- Readings are very dense and long.</li><li>- readings can be hard to understand</li><li>- The class tends to have many students who don't care very much about the material, since the workload is lighter than other typical courses. Otherwise, the course had very minimal faults.</li><li>- The length of the meetings made things a bit difficult.</li><li>- The teacher was a little bit disorganized</li></ul>	

10 - What would most improve this class?	
Return Rate	15/19 (78.95%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Class notes made available in an electronic format after that day's lecture so as to allow students supplementary materials from which to reflect.</li><li>- I feel that the topics could have covered a bit more, and it would have been nice to have had more topics and wider ranges.</li><li>- If the class met more than once a week and the teacher was better</li><li>- If there were more smaller assignments</li><li>- Mandatory class participation.</li><li>- more discussion of essay assignments in class</li><li>- More student participation</li><li>- Not much, i really dont have any suggestions to John to improve this class</li><li>- Nothing</li><li>- nothing</li><li>- Nothing that I can of.</li><li>- Reduced amount of assigned reading.</li><li>- Some kind of weekly evaluation of the material, or more reciprocal explanations by the students, to ensure understanding and weekly reading.</li><li>- Spreading the class times</li><li>- the readings were hard to digest. A primer would help</li></ul>	

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11 - What should prospective students know about this course before enrolling? (You may comment on any aspect of this course such as assumed background, readings, grading systems, and so on.)

Return Rate	14/19 (73.68%)
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- AWESOME INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY CLASS. Ancient to modern
- Be prepared to read a lot and have an open mind towards ideas.
- great professor
- Heavy reading
- It is a fun interesting class
- It requires no prior knowledge in philosophy. It was a very good introductory level course.
- It's a very discussion oriented class. Your grades depend highly on the papers so make sure to do well on them. Other than that the material is long but very interesting.
- It's an interesting course. You don't really need to do the readings but they help for class discussion
- its awesome
- Only meets one time a week, therefore it is a necessity to keep up on the weekly readings.
- the teacher is amazing and you will learn a lot
- The workload is very light and the material is interesting, which means you can spend a lot of time understanding the weekly readings. The grading system is simple and sensical, and the professor is extremely enthusiastic about the material.
- There are a lot of readings required.
- This is a great class, read the articles and pay attention and you should have an enjoyable time