

APPENDIX A: SURVEY QUESTIONS

Welcome to the Philosophy Department Survey! The survey is designed to gather information regarding student perceptions of philosophy classes and the philosophy department. Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary, and all data that we collect is confidential. At the conclusion of the survey, you will be given the opportunity to list your email address if you are interested in participating in further conversations regarding philosophy classes and the philosophy department; however, your email address will not be linked to your survey answers. Aside from assisting us in our research, there are no benefits to participating in this survey, and there are no penalties for not participating. We anticipate that completing the survey will take approximately 20 minutes.

Have you completed or are you currently enrolled in a philosophy course at Elon University?

- Yes, I have completed or am currently enrolled in a philosophy course at Elon University
- No, I have never taken a philosophy course at Elon University

THE FOLLOWING 16 QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED ONLY BY THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN OR WERE CURRENTLY TAKING A PHILOSOPHY COURSE.

Unless otherwise indicated, the questions used the following scale:

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

My PHL course(s) is/was/were intellectually challenging.

My PHL course(s) has/have/had an open and welcoming intellectual environment.

Doing well in philosophy depends on natural talent more than hard work.

Doing well in philosophy depends on hard work more than natural talent.

I find philosophy interesting.

Topics discussed in philosophy are meaningful to me.

I am satisfied with the grade(s) I have earned in my philosophy course(s).

I feel/felt comfortable participating in course discussions about philosophy.

Philosophy professors treat/treated me fairly and respectfully.

I can imagine myself becoming a philosophy major.

I was satisfied with the quality of instruction in my philosophy class.

My peers in my philosophy class(es) treat/treated me fairly and respectfully.

Studying philosophy is useful for achieving my goals in life.

Studying philosophy is useful for achieving my career goals.

Studying philosophy is useful for achieving my intellectual goals.

I believe I can do well in philosophy.

Do you expect or hope to take another philosophy course before graduating?

- Yes
- No

What philosophy courses do you hope or expect to take before graduating? Check all that apply. (Note; upper-level philosophy courses have no prerequisites, and thus are open to all students.) [only presented if “Do you expect or hope to take another philosophy course before graduating?” was answered “yes.”]

- PHL 110: What Can We Know
- PHL 112: How Should We Live
- PHL 210: Critical Thinking
- PHL 212: Ethical Practice
- PHL 215: Ethics and Decision Making
- PHL 230: Methods of Philosophical Inquiry
- PHL 320: Reclaiming Democracy
- PHL 321: Crafting a Meaningful Life
- PHL 330: Economic Justice
- PHL 331: Ancient Philosophy
- PHL 333: Modern Philosophy
- PHL 334: Political Philosophy
- PHL 338: Nietzsche and the Death of God
- PHL 339: Martin Buber and the Eclipse of God
- PHL 341: Philosophy of Law
- PHL 345: Feminist Philosophy (also titled Sex, Gender, Power)
- PHL 346: Philosophy of the Body
- PHL 348: Environmental Ethics
- PHL 350: The Spirit of Israel
- PHL 356: Restorative Justice
- PHL 360: Philosophy of Education
- PHL 361: Contemporary Philosophy
- PHL 362: American Philosophy
- Other upper-level course not listed above
- PHL 461: Integrative Tutorial (senior seminar)
- PHL 499: Independent Research

Are there courses or topics not currently offered by the department or addressed in the offered courses that would interest you? If so, please list them in the box below.

If there are factors other than course offerings that might change your mind about taking another philosophy course, please list them in the box below. [only presented if “Do you expect or hope to take another philosophy course before graduating?” was answered “no”]

Please indicate your level of agreement/disagreement with this statement: The PHL course(s) that I have completed has/have been influential in determining whether I expect or hope to take another philosophy course in the future.

Please indicate to what degree each characteristic of the philosophy course(s) you have completed listed below has been important or not in determining whether you expect or hope to take another PHL course in the future. If you’ve taken more than philosophy course, please answer about the courses collectively.

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
The quality of the instruction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My interest in the general content of philosophy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The degree of difficulty of the course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The grade I earned in the course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The applicability of the course material to my intellectual or academic goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The applicability of the course material to my career goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The applicability of the course material to my general life goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What grade did you earn in your first philosophy course? (If you are currently enrolled in your first philosophy course, indicate the grade you expect to earn in it.)

- A or A-
- B+, B, or B-
- C+, C, or C-
- D or F

If there is a characteristic of the course(s) not listed above that has been influential in determining whether you expect or hope to take another PHL course in the future, please describe it in the box below. (Please refrain from making any references to individual philosophy professors by name; we are primarily interested in general perceptions of philosophy courses.)

Which philosophy courses have you completed (or are currently taking)? Please check all that apply

- PHL 110: What Can We Know
- PHL 112: How Should We Live
- PHL 210: Critical Thinking
- PHL 212: Ethical Practice
- PHL 215: Ethics and Decision Making
- PHL 230: Methods of Philosophical Inquiry
- PHL 320: Reclaiming Democracy
- PHL 321: Crafting a Meaningful Life
- PHL 330: Economic Justice
- PHL 331: Ancient Philosophy
- PHL 333: Modern Philosophy
- PHL 334: Political Philosophy
- PHL 338: Nietzsche and the Death of God
- PHL 339: Martin Buber and the Eclipse of God
- PHL 341: Philosophy of Law
- PHL 345: Feminist Philosophy (also titled Sex, Gender, Power)
- PHL 346: Philosophy of the Body
- PHL 348: Environmental Ethics
- PHL 350: The Spirit of Israel
- PHL 356: Restorative Justice
- PHL 360: Philosophy of Education
- PHL 361: Contemporary Philosophy
- PHL 362: American Philosophy
- Other upper-level course not listed above
- PHL 461: Integrative Tutorial (senior seminar)
- PHL 499: Independent Research

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (UNTIL THE DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS) WERE ANSWERED ONLY BY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN A PHILOSOPHY COURSE.

Unless otherwise indicated, the questions used the following scale:

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

We are interested in knowing why you have not chosen to take a philosophy class. For the following set of questions, please indicate the degree to which you do or do not agree with the statements provided.

- I didn't know enough about philosophy to know whether it would be interesting.
- I preferred other courses to fulfill Core/GST requirements.
- I didn't find the course offerings in philosophy interesting.
- The course offerings in philosophy didn't forward my academic interests.
- The course offerings in philosophy didn't forward my career interests.
- I expected the workload in a philosophy course to be too great.
- I had/have a negative perception of the quality of teaching in the philosophy department.
- I had/have no knowledge concerning the quality of teaching in the philosophy department.
- The kinds of students who take philosophy courses are not the kinds of students I want to take courses with.
- I expected philosophy courses to be too intellectually demanding.
- I did not want to have my views challenged.
- I didn't think I could get the grade I wanted in a philosophy course.
- I don't see myself as the kind of person who takes a philosophy course.

Please rate the following factors in terms of their importance in determining whether you do or do not expect to take a PHL course in the future.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
My knowledge of philosophy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How philosophy courses compare with other courses that fulfill Core/GST requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My interest in philosophy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My perception of how philosophy courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

forward my academic interests			
My perception of how philosophy courses forward my career interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My perception of the quality of instruction in philosophy courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My perception of the kinds of students who take philosophy courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My perception of the intellectual demands of philosophy courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My course schedule	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My perception of the workload in philosophy courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My perception that philosophy courses will challenge my views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My expectations regarding the grade I would likely earn in a philosophy course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether I can imagine myself taking a philosophy course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If there were other reasons that influenced your decision not to take a philosophy course thus far, please describe them in the box below. (Please refrain from making any references to individual philosophy professors by name; we are primarily interested in general perceptions of philosophy courses.)

If my schedule allows, I will likely take a philosophy course in the future.

Doing well in philosophy depends more on natural talent than hard work.

Studying philosophy would be useful for achieving my career goals.

Studying philosophy would be useful for achieving my personal goals.

I have the ability to do well in philosophy.

I am interested in the topics addressed in philosophy courses.

In an ideal world, I would take a philosophy course.

ALL RESPONDENTS RESPONDED TO THESE FINAL QUESTIONS

In what year do you expect to graduate?

- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018

With what gender do you identify?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Genderqueer
- I identify with a gender other than those listed (if willing, please identify gender in text box).

- I prefer not to answer.

What is your major?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the philosophy department, philosophy courses, or your impressions of either? Please use the box below to do so. (Please refrain from making any references to individual philosophy professors by name; we are primarily interested in general perceptions of philosophy courses.)

If you would like to engage in further conversations about this survey, or student perceptions of philosophy courses and the philosophy department, please provide your email address here.