

Fall 2024 Individual Instructor Aggregated for PHI4542: Philos Space and Time (Christopher Dorst)

Project Title: **University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2024 Main Project**

Courses Audience: **18**
Responses Received: **7**
Response Ratio: **38.9%**

Instructors Audience: **18**
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Report Comments

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is a fundamental purpose of the University of Florida and the dissemination of new knowledge in our classrooms, studios, and clinics enables our students and trainees to fully explore their intellectual boundaries. Assessment and evaluation of our courses are designed to enhance instruction and maximize learning to meet the mission of the university. This report contains the results gathered through the new GatorEvals system. Students were invited to share their feedback on the teaching and course material. We invite every faculty member to examine the analysis in the report and utilize the resources provided in the report. Thank you for your continued great work!

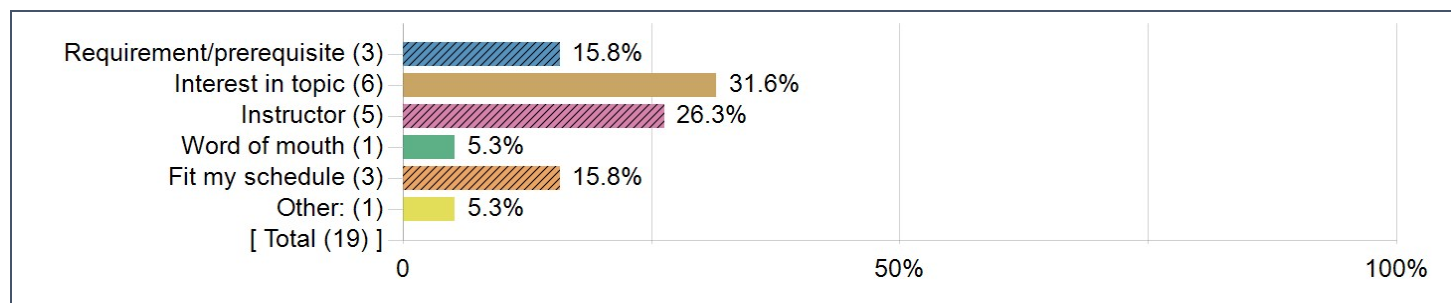
Chris Hass, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs

Resources to help you with this report:

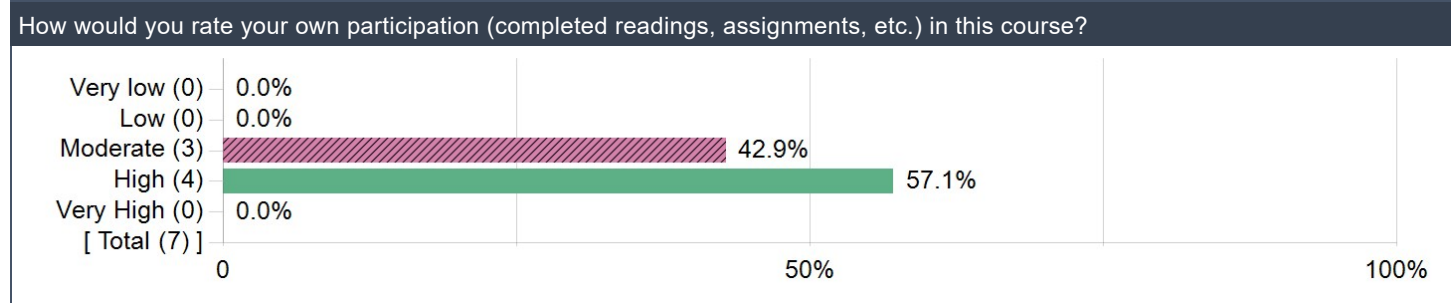
1. Consult our [GatorEvals Guide](#) for interpreting and using teaching survey results.
2. [Register for Elevate](#), a new Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) initiative to help you create a customized trajectory for professional development, focusing on growth in areas you have identified through self-reflection.
3. GatorEvals offers the ability to [opt-in to a midterm](#) evaluation. This formative feedback offers you a chance to address student insights and adjust the course before the term concludes. Reports are only available to you and are not considered part of the T&P process.
4. Register and attend a [CTE workshop](#).
5. Schedule a [consultation](#) with a CTE staff member or your internal unit to help you interpret your results and develop a course of action.
6. Visit the [CTE Resource Library](#) for additional support.

Student Self-Evaluation Questions

Why did you take this course?



How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?



Comparative Evaluation Results

How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?

Response Count	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
7	38.9%	3.57	3.63	3.87	3.93	4.12	4.20

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.64	4.79	4.50	4.74
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.39	4.68	4.24	4.58
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.49	4.72	4.43	4.69
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.48	4.72	4.37	4.67
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.25	4.60	4.18	4.56
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.28	4.63	4.14	4.56
Overall	38.9%	5.00	-	4.42	-	4.31	-

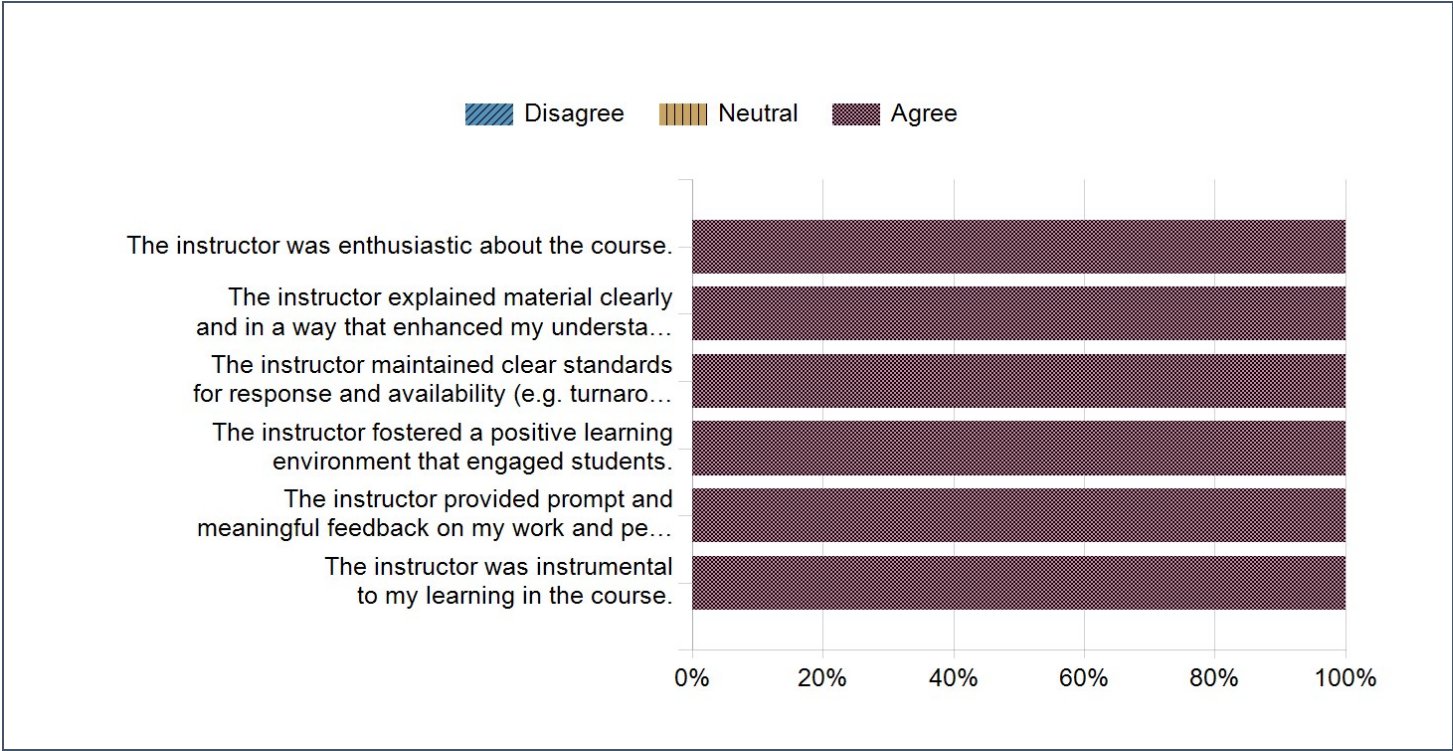
University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.25	4.37	4.21	4.32
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.11	4.30	3.95	4.15
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.19	4.38	4.17	4.30
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	38.9%	5.00	5.00	4.17	4.40	4.20	4.36
Overall	38.9%	5.00	-	4.18	-	4.13	-

Aggregate Evaluation Results

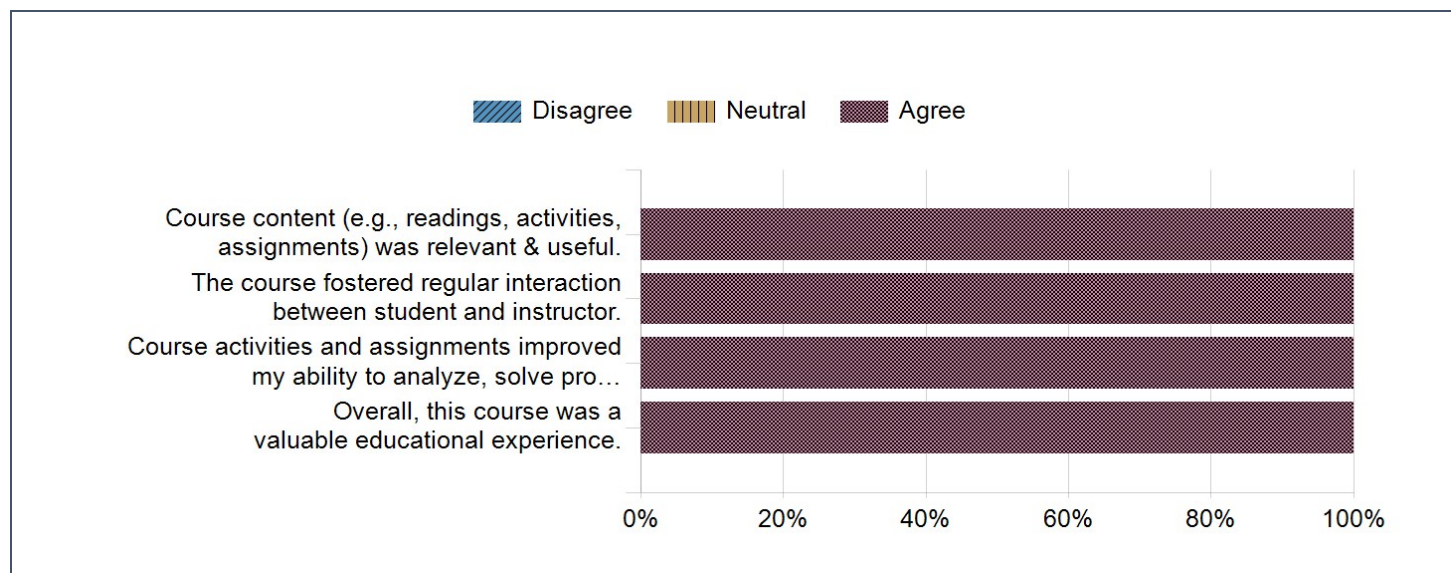
University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



University Core Course Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



Percentages Evaluation Results

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	Count	Mean	Median	SD
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00

University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	Count	Mean	Median	SD
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	7	5.00	5.00	0.00

For additional information and resources in each of these question areas, please visit the GatorEvals Website at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/resources--policies/question-set/>

Free Response Section

Please identify the instructor's strengths that contributed to your learning in the course.

Comments
Highly knowledgeable and helpful! Always incredibly eager to make sure students understand course material.
He is interested in the material and has a good understanding of the physics and philosophy concepts, allowing students to ask questions and receive meaningful answers
worked slowly through difficult material, took the time to answer questions
Dr. Dorst is very enthusiastic about the material and always eager to answer questions during and outside of class. His explanations are clear, he is patient with students' circumstances, and he makes class engaging and fun. He is one of the best professors I have had at UF.
Dr. Dorst's experience with the course material (including his own paper) was super helpful for getting a grasp on content. I think any other philosophy professor at UF would struggle immensely to communicate the ideas that Dr. Dorst did with ease.
Whenever my friends ask me which philosophy classes to take every semester, I always tell them to look if Dr. Dorst is teaching. Truly he is one of if not the best philosophy professors, and professors in general, that I have ever had. He is so patient, and makes incredibly difficult material not only interesting but exciting to learn. The assignments are structured in such a way that they're focused not just on completion but understanding, which I really like.

What additional constructive feedback can you offer the instructor that might help improve the course?

Comments
While the lecture material did correspond to the readings, I wish we more closely called back to specific quotes or regions in the readings just to tie everything together better.
I like the design of the course to be about half physics and half the philosophy of, it helps ground me while not being overly physics heavy
N/A
Though I appreciate how thorough Dr. Dorst is when explaining the readings, sometimes he provides so much detail that students don't need to read the readings beforehand, so they don't. Perhaps he could switch to more of a question and answer format rather than a lecture format so that students have to read, allowing for discussions to happen at a higher level.
None! The course was already splendid.
N/A

What constructive suggestion(s) do you have for improving the course materials, organization, and assignments?

Comments
making instructor notes available for at least the caroll reading, and the essays too if they exist, is immensely helpful, because it helps structure the information in a relevant way to us, while the texts could be aiming at other things and thus the points get lost or mixed up when reading.
N/A
Make the in-class quizzes a bit harder. Spend less time on the debates surrounding the nature of time in relation to special and general relativity. Go a bit faster when introducing physical concepts. Get into foundational issues—for example, probing the methodology used when making philosophical judgements based on physical theories, exploring literature (historical and contemporary) on what "real" means when discussing whether past, present, and/or future are "real," etc.
Maybe instead of in-class write ups, shorter but more often Quizzes might be better. Just in terms of having class time fully dedicated to digesting reading material while we can work through deeper understandings on assignments.
None!

Please identify the topics and/or skills you learned in the course that you believe will have the highest application for future courses or professional growth.

Comments
Critical thinking
This helps give me a greater understanding of the physics and kind of work people do in philosophy of science/space and time, which is a very interesting field, and more basic physics knowledge and accompanying philosophy is always helpful
N/A
– thinking critically and creatively about both high–level philosophical and physical concepts – articulating complex ideas and arguments clearly and succinctly – broad layperson’s understanding of Lagrangian Mechanics, Hamiltonian Mechanics, and special and general relativity – broad understanding of contemporary philosophy of science approaches to space and time
All! This was super useful for any future pursuits I will have in general.
Critical analysis of both difficult readings and scientific material