

Yale University *OCE Dashboard*

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary	Enrolled:	17
Fall 2018	CLCV 288 01/EP&E 322 01/PHIL 288 01/PLSC 288 01/PLSC 592 01 - Plato, Aristotle, Cicero	PLSC	Division Social Sciences	Responded:	12

Instructors

Cammack, Daniela

What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 6

Respondent	Answer
1278490	I am leaving this class with a better understanding of the political thought of the three authors we read! I can now, with confidence, summarize and cite several parts of their thought within conversations about history/politics/philosophy.
1287271	A very solid grounding in Ancient Greek politics and philosophy, and a sense of the connections between Plato, Aristotle and Cicero.
1294381	Analysis of foundational writings in Greco-Roman and western political philosophy, as well as a broad synthesis of some of the earliest literary distillations thereof. Insights developed included the distinctive and often divergent political ideologies of Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero, as well as more-broadly of classical Greece and Republican Rome.
1308596	I got a comprehensive understanding of the political thought of Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero by reading their major political works in their extant entirety.
1312753	I learned how to read (seriously!) the most significant political books from Ancient Greece and Rome from start to finish and assess the causal structure of the whole works while paying attention to salient details. I developed a far deeper sense of the history of political thought between Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero and a more thorough understanding of each author's thinking on ethics and value theory. I also learned how to write a graduate-length paper using primary and secondary sources.
1313824	This course introduced me to the major writings of three pioneering philosophers of ancient political thought. I hadn't read any of the texts covered in this course previously and left the class with a firmer understanding of the foundations of western philosophy. The writing assignments also

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Instructors

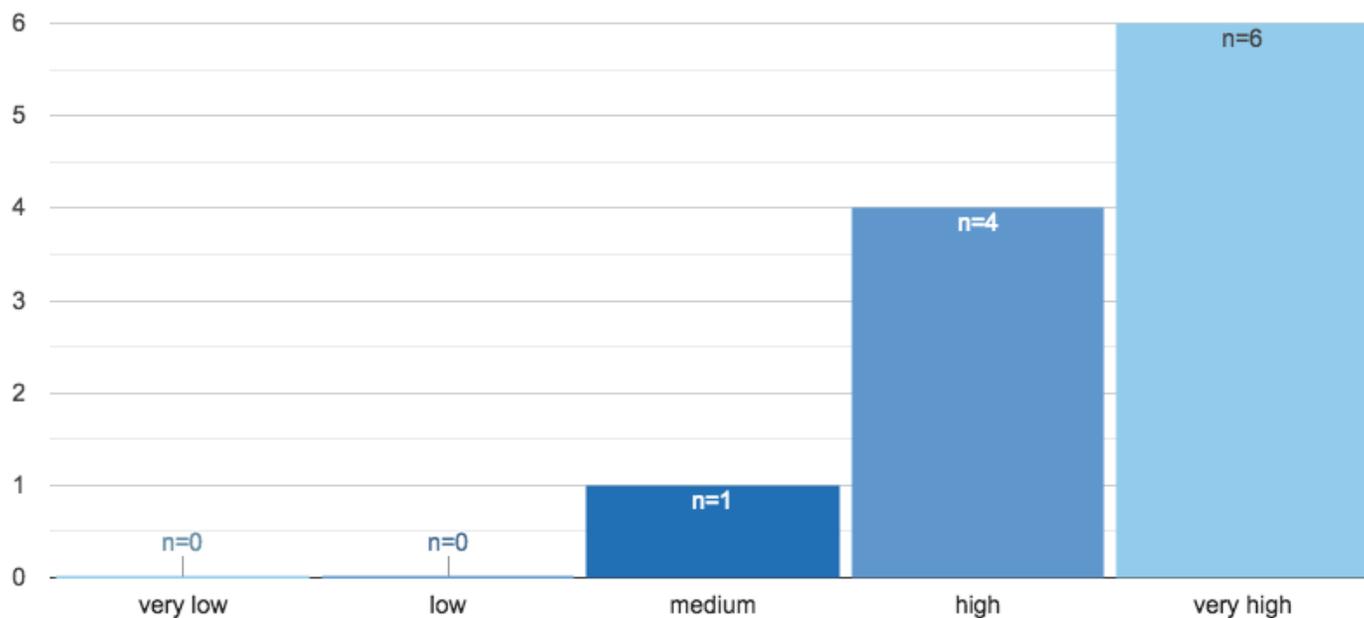
Cammack, Daniela

Your level of engagement with the course was:

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.5 ±0.7	3.8 ±0.9	3.7 ±1.0	3.8 ±1.0



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Instructors

Cammack, Daniela

What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 6

Respondent	Answer
1278490	I loved the open conversations that Prof. Cammack would help lead it helped us all engage in the material based on our sets of interests! I think because of the difficulty of the readings and the heavier course load, we also were lucky to get a very engaged set of students who clearly cared enough about the readings to be there1
1287271	Great course. I wish we had connected the authors more and discussed their similarities and differences in an overarching fashion, and I wish we had read some Platonic dialogues such as Apology, Crito, etc
1294381	The strengths of the course include its rigorous expectations, the intellectual honesty of the seminars, and the facilitation of both peer-to-peer and student-to-professor interaction both within and outside the classroom.
1308596	The main strength of this course is simply that it forces you to read such important works in their entirety without being too fast paced. It allows you to engage with the material without really ever having to skim. The single session per week seminar format allows for good extended discussion as well. I do think that this course could have benefited from the introduction of some secondary literature, but I understand that that would have made it more difficult to include the amount of primary material that the course had. There were times when I had to use obscure ancient sources to make pretty obvious claims, and while it was never too detrimental, it felt unnecessary.
1312753	This course is a gem and should be offered every year. I appreciated having the chance to consider the texts of Plato and Aristotle in full for the first time -- usually only excerpts are assigned. The syllabus was well crafted to show the development of each thinker's philosophies, especially through Plato in the Laws, Aristotle in the Rhetoric, and Cicero in De Officiis. Professor Cammack's decision to have us read the Loeb editions of each work (which include the original Greek or Latin text) was also excellent. She would guide students through each text to point out where Greek words (such as arete=virtue) would remain constant in the text where translators would substitute different words. I enjoyed having an hour and fifty minutes per week to talk about a single text, but I wish the class was broken into two separate hour and fifteen minute classes instead. The first class could be spent setting each work in its historical context and assessing its general structure and most important contributions in the history of philosophy, while the second could be devoted to close reading and discussing critical passages. That said, Professor Cammack did an incredible job managing the class each week and we were always able to get through the most important parts of the reading with one class.
1313824	The reading list is the strongest part of this course. Professor Cammack has curated a phenomenal syllabus. Weekly assignments were well paced and allowed time for thorough reading. I also enjoyed the essay-based framework of the class. The option to write one, two, or three papers over the course of the semester allowed for independent exploration depending on the interests of the student. In my opinion, the weekly seminar was the weakest part of the course. Conversations felt guided primary by a desire to summarize the text. Discussion questions were geared towards making sure everyone understood the texts at a foundational level. Questions such as "what is a polis" and "what is rhetoric" were useful to get everyone on the same page and open the class. However, weekly discussions often sagged halfway through each session. I would have preferred a more involved debate-style seminar that encouraged students to tackle controversial questions and exchange arguments. Also, the class might have benefitted from meeting twice a week instead of once a week. The first seminar per week might be focussed on summarizing the reading while the second seminar might shift more towards more argument-based analysis.

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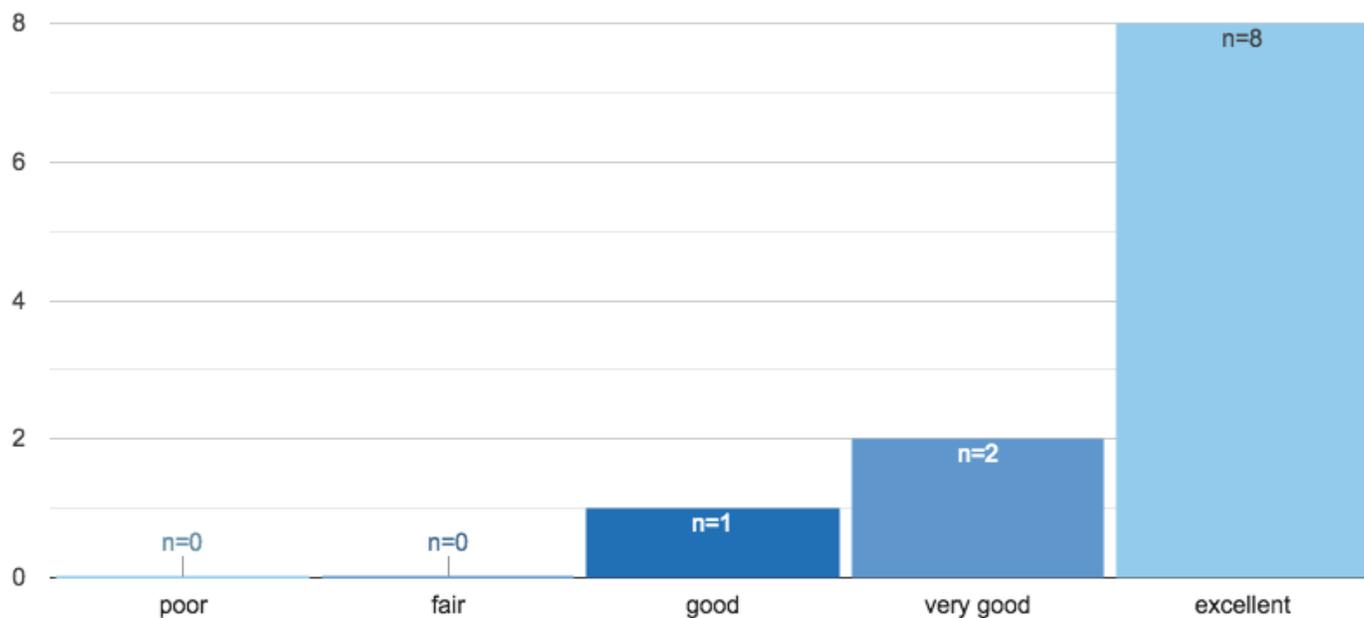
Cammack, Daniela

What is your overall assessment of this course?

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.6 ±0.7	4.0 ±1.0	3.7 ±1.1	3.8 ±1.1



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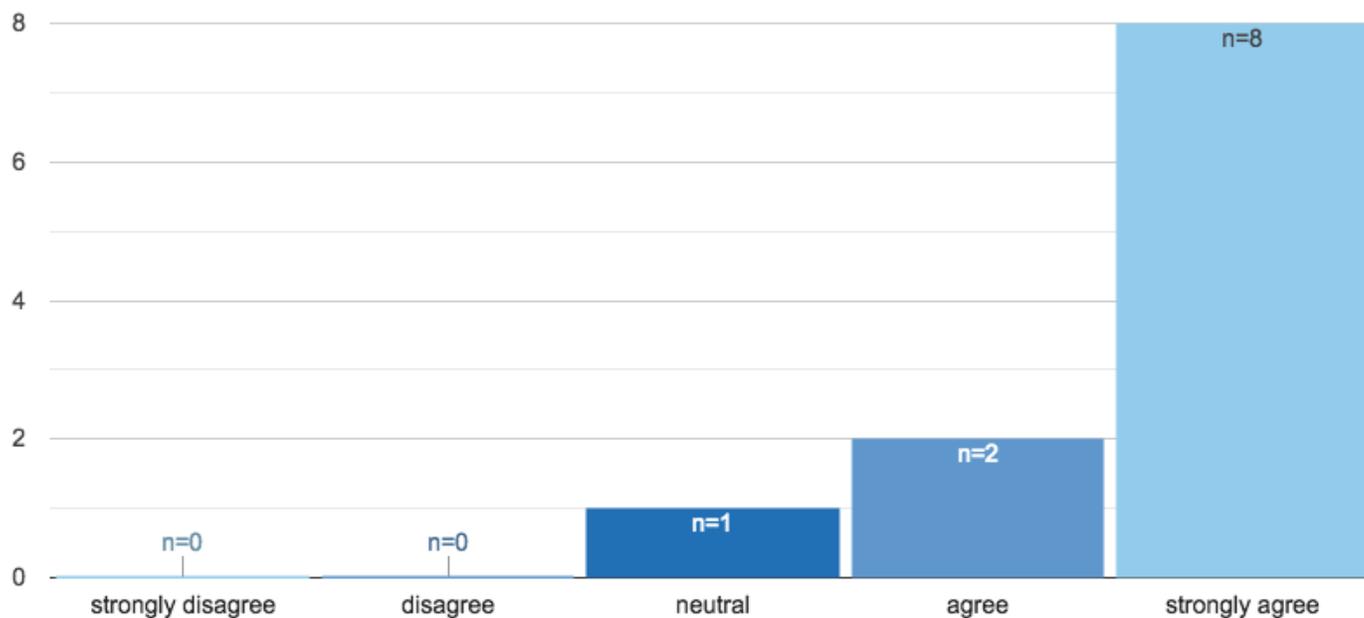
Cammack, Daniela

The course was well organized to facilitate student learning.

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.6 ±0.7	4.0 ±0.9	3.8 ±1.0	3.9 ±1.0



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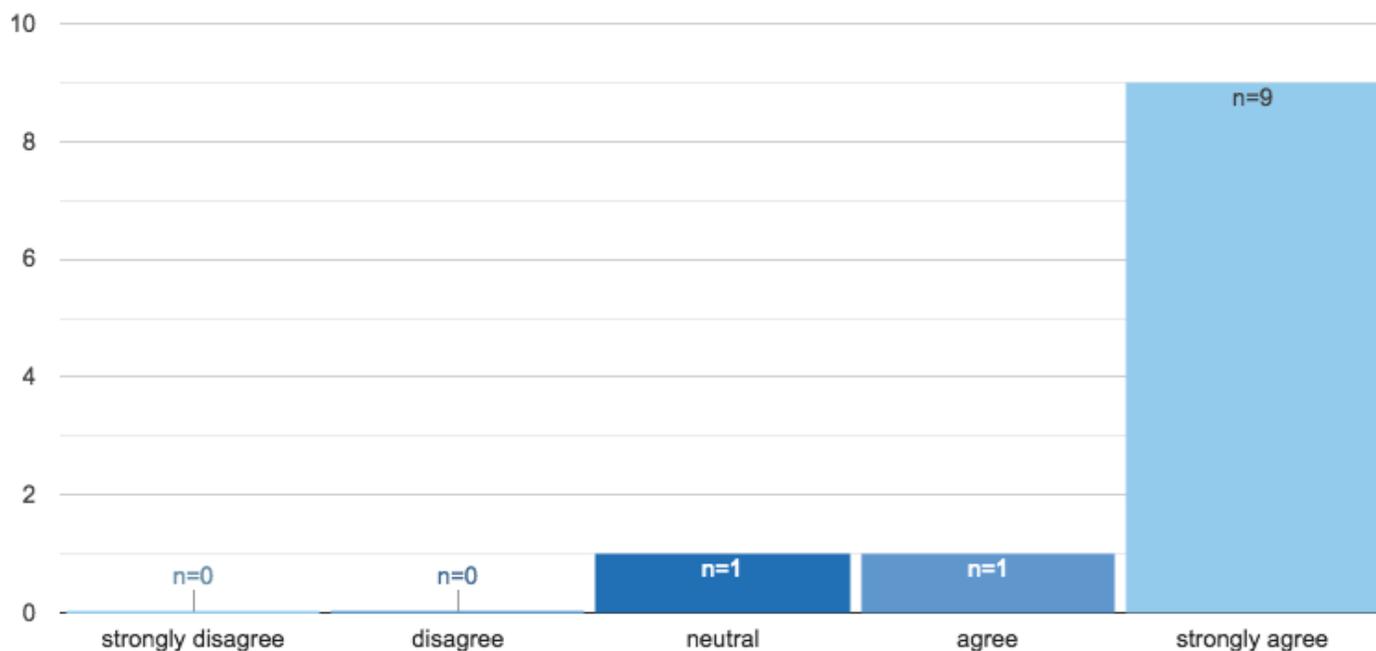
Cammack, Daniela

I received clear feedback that improved my learning.

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.7 ±0.6	3.8 ±1.0	3.6 ±1.1	3.7 ±1.1



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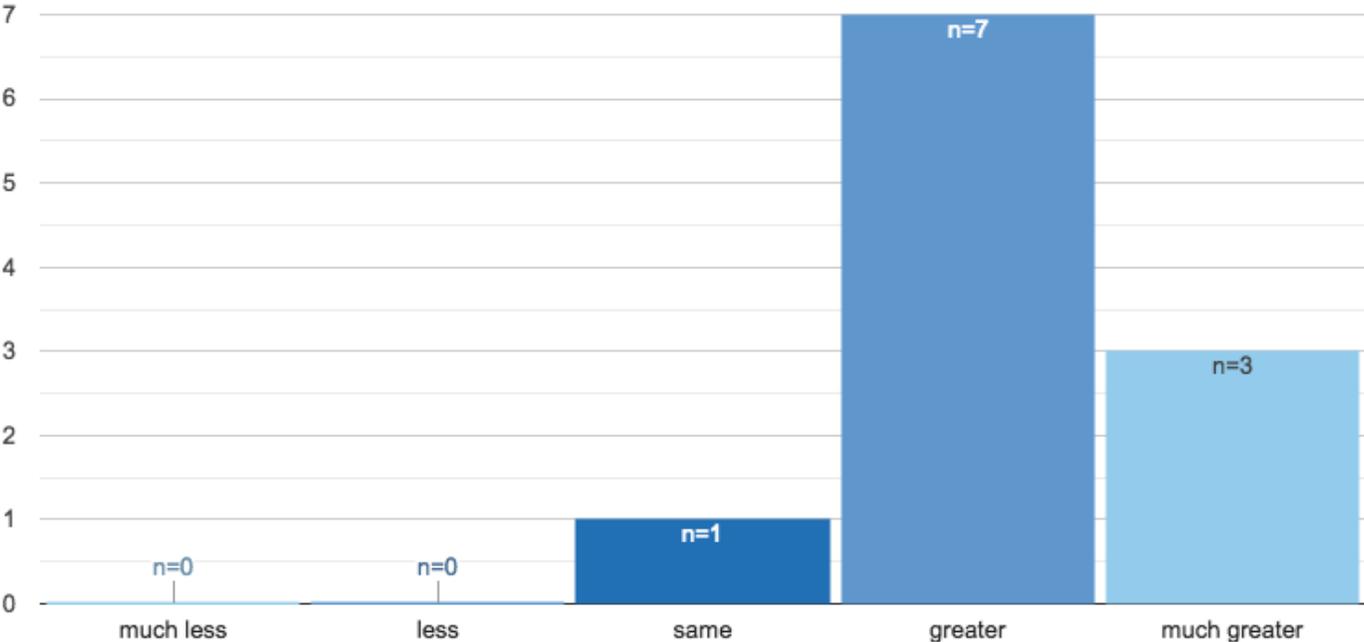
Instructors
Cammack, Daniela

Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the level of intellectual challenge of this course was:

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.2 ±0.6	3.4 ±0.8	3.3 ±0.9	3.3 ±0.9



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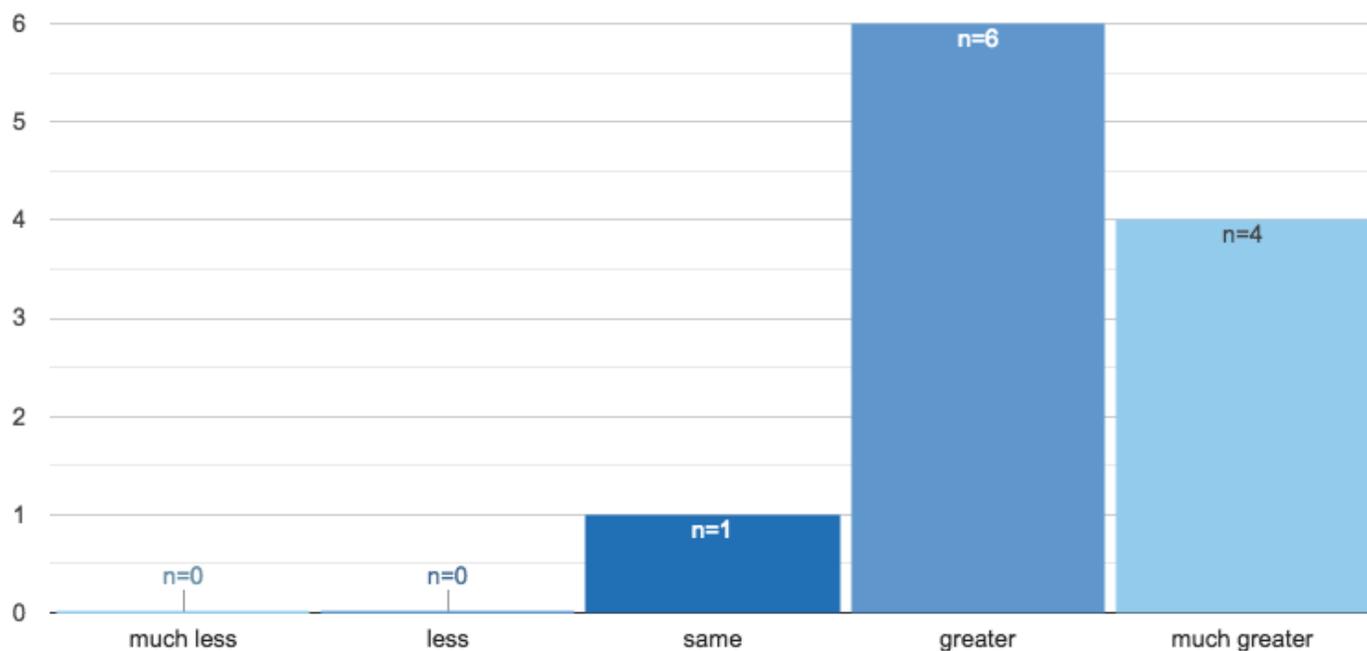
Cammack, Daniela

Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the workload of this course was:

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.3 ±0.6	3.2 ±0.8	3.0 ±0.9	3.2 ±1.0



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Instructors

Cammack, Daniela

Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 3

Respondent	Answer
1278490	Absolutely would recommend taking this course! If you want to have a motivator to read staple ancient texts and have thoughtful dialogue each week, I would recommend taking this. I would not have been able to learn this material in the same way on my own! I have a much better understanding now of the foundations of western political thought.
1287271	Absolutely. Anyone interested in the Ancient Greeks should take this course. I would recommend some grounding in Greek philosophy and/or fluency in Latin or Greek.
1294381	Heartily. The course is a broad overview of foundational texts and ideas in Western political philosophy. It is as valuable to the student of political theory as it is to the student of intellectual history. The breadth of the course, however, did not preclude multiple inroads to be made into detailed and difficult portions of texts and history. Further, the course is quite unique for its emphasis on historically-contextualized readings of Plato and Aristotle's political writings.
1294442	While an advanced course on Plato and Aristotle would be great regardless of the professor, the biggest draw of this course is Professor Cammack's approach to teaching. In all my time at Yale, I have never had a professor teach with so much enthusiasm, zeal, and passion for the course material and for her students. Cammack draws on an incredible wealth of knowledge about ancient Greek history and political philosophy to guide her students through these difficult, incredibly important texts. She dedicates enormous amounts of time each week to meet with every single student in her seminars, offering extra opportunities to engage with these thinkers and craft your own takeaways about the course material. On top of all that, she's done groundbreaking work on Aristotle as a scholar, which makes the class even more interesting. Long story short, just take this class. Lots of reading but it's all worth it. You will not regret it
1306424	Absolutely take this class or any class led by Daniela Cammack. She is amazing: super helpful, very knowledgeable, and endearingly passionate about the subject. It also is really great to delve into seminal philosophical works that might otherwise be glossed over or only partially examined in other class.
1307213	Absolutely, I would recommend this course to others interested in political science, philosophy, and ancient political thought.
1308596	This is primarily a reading course. There are a few papers you have to write and some standard discussion responses, but for the most part, your engagement in this course will be just reading the large amount of course material. This is a good chance to go more in depth into texts which you've probably only read in part or very quickly.
1312753	I would recommend this class to everyone! It will be incredibly difficult to keep up with the reading if you haven't been exposed to political theory or philosophy before (we essentially read a book per week), but getting a solid grip on these three authors will affect the way you view any other course (and your life, really). The ideas laid out by Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero need to be assessed and discussed to fully understand our modern condition. I would even venture to say the class should be required for students of political science, classics, history, or philosophy; it's that important.

Respondent	Answer
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1313824	<p>I'm not sure that I would recommend this course to another student. The reading list is excellent and every student at Yale should have experience reading Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero. However, I'm not sure the class is quite well organized enough to provide students with anything more than they might receive if they read these texts on their own time. Weekly discussions were often slow and I don't think I got that much out of seminar discussions. Professor Cammack does provide students the option of writing either one, two, or three papers over the course of the semester. I enjoyed this feature of the class as it allowed for independent exploration.</p>
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Instructors

Cammack, Daniela

Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 2

Respondent	Answer
1278490	She is a stellar professor. I cannot say enough how happy I am to have been a pupil of hers given her intellectual prowess and love of her field! She really cares about all of her students (or at least pretends really well) and makes it a requirement to meet multiple times throughout the semester. Wow. We are blessed to have her here.
1287271	Daniela is a great teacher. She is infectious with her enthusiasm, extremely intelligent and well-versed, creative in her approaches to class and overall very positive and welcoming. She consistently guided our class through great and deep discussions and helped keep us grounded. I would highly recommend taking a course with her; she's awesome.
1294381	The strengths of the professor include their accessibility, facilitation of in-class discussion, eagerness to continue the conversation in office hours, and ability to synthesize large portions of difficult texts to the course in an accessible manner. I always left class satisfied with the discussion but eager for more, and I always knew that I would be able to continue the discussion with Prof. Cammack in office hours. This, in my experience, is quite rare. Prof. Cammack was enthusiastic about the course material and always open to considering multiple perspectives.
1294442	As I stated above, I do not have enough words to express my gratitude for Professor Cammack. In all my time at Yale, I have never had a professor teach with so much enthusiasm, zeal, and passion for the course material and for her students. Cammack draws on an incredible wealth of knowledge about ancient Greek history and political philosophy to guide her students through these difficult, incredibly important texts. She dedicates enormous amounts of time each week to meet with every single student in her seminars, offering extra opportunities to engage with these thinkers and craft your own takeaways about the course material. On top of all that, she's done groundbreaking work on Aristotle as a scholar, which makes the class even more interesting. She is an exceptional professor, scholar, and mentor with an incredible future at Yale. Our university is incredibly lucky to have professors like her.
1306424	She was very accessible, very helpful in formulating paper topics, and great at leading discussion.
1306500	Great professor -- cares so much about teaching really challenging material to every student, regardless of their previous experience.
1307213	Professor Cammack created a very well structured seminar with "Advanced Topics in Ancient Political Thought." The syllabus was phenomenal, and I learned a great deal from seminar discussions and in writing the course paper assignments. Professor Cammack was generous with her feedback in office hours, and I benefited from her advice and academic criticism.
1308596	Dr. Cammack had no major weaknesses. She came in with lots of background materials and extra knowledge, and obviously put a lot of time into this class. Her feedback was very helpful, and she was willing to meet quite a bit to discuss writing.

Respondent **Answer**

1312753

Professor Cammack is the most brilliant, enthusiastic, and kind teacher I've had at Yale. She makes it clear how much she enjoys reading these works in her excitement in class, which is always inspiring and energizing. There are several classes this year, especially during our discussions of Aristotle (Cammack's expertise) where I would walk away thinking: "That was one the best seminars I've had at Yale." She is one of the few professors I've had who isn't afraid to blend philosophy, history, and philology and bring them all to bear on close-reading texts in a way that is more thorough than I've seen from any single discipline. She has her own (extremely well-developed and convincing) views on these ancient authors, but she does an excellent job being open to any criticism and she always brought up secondary work that posed questions for her own work. Class discussions were well-moderated and she does a good job drawing out a variety of people to speak in class. Sometimes, I thought she let students interrupt her expositions too frequently with questions or comments, but that dynamic improved as the semester went on. The only substantive improvement I could suggest (selfishly) is that she give a short (maybe twenty minute) overview lecture at the start of class before launching into discussion. Her work is poised to be quite literally game changing very soon in the field of political theory (and hopefully in classics as well) and Yale is incredibly lucky to have her. As for her rapport with students outside of the classroom, she is astonishingly easy to contact and always flexible in meeting to discuss papers or ideas about the reading. She'll listen to your ideas carefully and will support and criticize you rigorously but fairly. I'd advise students to take every class with her that they can -- she's really one of a kind.

1313824

Professor Cammack is unquestionably brilliant. She knows this material back to front and has a clear passion for teaching and studying these texts. That being said, I sometime struggled with studying under her instruction. In seminars, I wished that she had asked more leading questions and allowed for students to engage with each other. Her seminar questions were often aimed at trying to get students to summarize the reading. Other times, I felt as though she was looking for a "right answer" as opposed to asking for our thoughts and opinions. Her biweekly "questions to ponder" were always very useful in helping me prepare for weekly discussions. However, I'm not sure that these "questions to ponder" always materialized into engaging seminar discussions. I wish she had challenged students more and encouraged students to challenge and engage with other members of the class. Also, I would sometimes leave office hours feeling slightly frustrated. I like to visit professors in order to better understand the material and further engage with the texts covered in class. When I would go to visit Professor Cammack, I felt as though she would sometimes shoot down my ideas and appeared more interested in making sure I was working on my paper than seeing if I was curious about the material. When I would ask her questions, she sometimes didn't answer, as though she thought I was trying to trick her when I was just there to listen to her opinions.

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Instructors

Cammack, Daniela

“How have the teaching and feedback you've received in this course affected your writing? What have you learned about writing that you can use in future courses?”

Instructor: Cammack, Daniela

Declined to Answer Question: 6

Respondent	Answer
1278490	Professor Cammack is an incredible writing instructor in that she really presses students to write to a question. She is very thoughtful in posing these questions which allowed us to work within helpful scaffolding. I will be continuing to work on my form and writing voice because of the feedback she provided in my essays!
1287271	Daniela gave a lot of insightful comments for how to structure various papers and left us breathing room to be creative and experimental.
1307213	My writing has improved thanks to Professor Cammack's feedback.
1308596	Dr. Cammack gave a lot of feedback about structure, and it was good practice in writing comparison papers, as I had written mostly about single philosophers at a time before.
1312753	I chose to write a graduate-length article for the class (25 pages). Professor Cammack was an excellent guide through the early process, showing me how to compile evidence and making great suggestions for shaping my topic and looking for primary and secondary reading. Every meeting in office hours was incredibly productive, leaving me with a clear direction to pursue in writing. The handout she gave to our class about writing is the most useful I've been given so far and should probably be adopted as a pedagogical standard at Yale. Her feedback on my paper was meticulous in regards to my ideas, language, and especially structure, and she even helped to describe ways I could transform the paper into an article with the potential for publishing. She spent more time than most professors do in giving line-by-line thoughts on my writing -- I'll be able to carry forward her exact suggestions into my thesis-writing next semester and all future academic work.
1313824	Professor Cammack is an excellent editor. She writes copious and thoughtful notes on all papers. She also always looked at drafts and was willing to help throughout the writing process. Her comments will inform my future writing.