

APPENDIX. SURVEY RESPONSES

Table 1
Survey responses: Quantitative

Applying Political Philosophy to Real-World Cases Survey to assess the pedagogical impact of the 'opinion piece' exercise and the Equality & Democracy website project		1	2	3	4	5	Average score	Percent response for Agree or Strongly Agree
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree		
1	Understanding							
1.1	Did writing the opinion piece deepen your understanding of course content?				7.5	6.5	4.46	100
1.2	Did writing the opinion piece deepen your understanding of the real world problem that you analysed?		1		5	7	4.38	92
1.3	Was writing the opinion piece easier than writing a scholarly essay?		5	3	2	4	3.36	43
2	Understanding in Asia							
2.1	Did you write about a real world problem in Asia?		no: 3		yes: 11			79
2.2	If yes for 2.1, did the course content provide you the tools you needed to think about that problem?			2	3	6	4.36	82
3	Engagement							
3.1	Did writing the opinion piece increase your interest in the course content?			1	5	8	4.5	93
3.2	Did writing the opinion piece increase your interest in real-world problems?				5	9	4.64	100
4	Community of Learning							
4.1	Were you proud to have your work made public on Equality & Democracy for others to read?			4	5	5	4.07	71
4.2	Did you self-censor (whether in your choice of topic, or in the arguments you made) because it would be made public?	3	6	5			2.14	0
4.3	If yes for 4.2, were you in a 2016 or 2017 course cohort?							

4.4	Did you read others' pieces on Equality & Democracy?			7	7	4.5	100
4.5	If yes for 4.4, did reading others' pieces deepen your understanding?			6	8	4.57	100
4.6	If yes for 4.4, when you disagreed with others' pieces, did the course content provide you the tools you needed to understand your disagreement?	1	4	5	2	3.14	58
5 Comments							
	Please provide any other comments on the opinion piece exercise, and/or on the Equality & Democracy website project.	Did Not Provide Comments : 3		Provided Comments: 11			79

Table 2
Survey responses: Qualitative

Applying Political Philosophy to Real-World Cases			
Survey to assess the pedagogical impact of the 'opinion piece' exercise and the Equality&Democracy website project			
5 Comments			
	Please provide any other comments on the opinion piece exercise, and/or on the Equality&Democracy website project.	Did Not Provide Comments: 3	Provided Comments: 11

- “Both are excellent!”
- “One of the best Yale-NUS courses with an adequate balance between the lecturing portion led by the professor and discussion portion amongst students.”
- “I really appreciate being forced to apply what I learnt into a real-life scenario. It makes the content covered in the seminar more relatable. I will highly recommend this course to anyone interested in political philosophy!”
- “A very interesting pedagogy. I particularly enjoyed writing the opinion piece as I have just been writing scholarly pieces my whole college life. It feels nice to write something that a person outside the course could understand, especially on the topic of political theory and philosophy, which affects everyone living in a polity. It is also an excellent way to showcase what Yale-NUS students are learning in the classroom, alongside our obvious concerns for the political events happening in- and outside of Singapore (Man, as Aristotle says, is a political creature). In all, I really enjoyed this part of the coursework, and believe in the value of the website project.”
- “The opinion piece exercise allowed us to apply our understanding of the material to real world cases. It was extremely effective of utilizing the discussion sections for real world applications.”
- “Great course, fun and interesting final project that takes us away from simply theoretical content.
- “I enjoyed writing the opinion piece because it engaged me to think about philosophy in a real world context and made me aware of the relevance of philosophical debates in understanding different ways of living. It would be good if we can receive more comments from our classmates to learn about each other's thought process.”
- “Thanks for a wonderful course, Professor Field!”

- “This course could almost exclusively focus on democratic theory in Asia if it wanted to. We could read Rajaratnam, Soekarno, etc. after this course I realized I didn't care about the west and never will again. We cannot teach democracy in a western vacuum while the largest democratic institutions exist outside of it. we need to study the Indian parliament, the Indonesian pancasila. we need more [NB This comment is from a student who gave 'Strongly Agree' to all survey questions (except 4.2-3 on self-censorship).]”
- “The opinion piece was a great way to engage in our course content on a deeper, more practical level and it contextualised our semester well. After all, the goal of education is not for knowledge to remain theoretical and the opinion exercise aided the bridging of the gap between the theoretical and the practical.”
- “I deeply appreciate having an assignment that is both made public and opinion-based. For the former, I value it because I think many of us put in so much time and effort into our assignments, but we don't necessarily share our work/insight with others, and I feel like that's a big learning opportunity lost right there. Maybe we don't share it because we are shy, awkward, or afraid of judgement—whatever it is, I am really happy to be able to read the work that my friends have done. Seeing how they have used the same things I've read and spun it according to their personalities and interests has been a thrill for me. For the latter, I value it because I think scholarly papers can obscure what students really mean to say as well as our personalities. I have never understood the reason why we ought to remove our personal colour from our work in college; I think it takes the fun/excitement out of writing. Most importantly, the formal tone and uselessly complicated words/sentences of scholarly essay all too often makes our work harder to understand. Maybe other students and profs find such work fancy and intellectual, but I detest it because it is so hard to understand. I think a big part of the beauty and value of a college education, for me, lies in being able to share my knowledge with others (read: other non-profs and non-college students) and being able to apply it to real life cases that matter to me. For these reasons, I think an opinion piece is a much better platform for me than a scholarly essay.”