Northwestern

Student Report for HISTORY_250-2_20: Global History II (Robin Bates)

Project Title: **Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC Spring 2024**

Courses Audience: **88**	Instructors Audience: **88**
Responses Received: **69**	Responses Received: **64**
Response Ratio: **78.4%**	Response Ratio: **72.7%**

Report Comments

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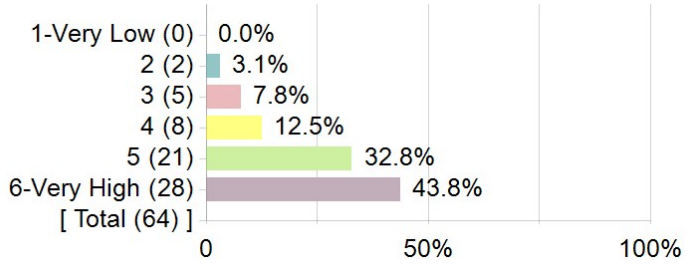
Prepared by: **Alison Lanser Phillips**
Creation Date: **Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

COURSE QUESTIONS

1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction.

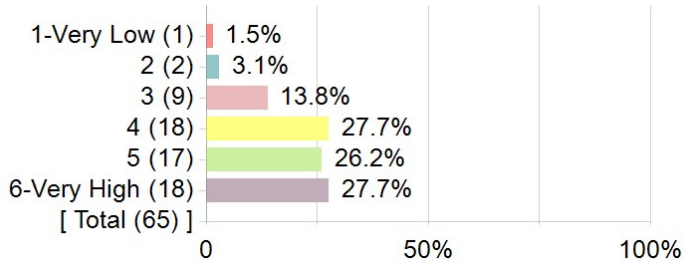
Provide an overall rating of the instruction.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	5.06

2. Provide an overall rating of the course.

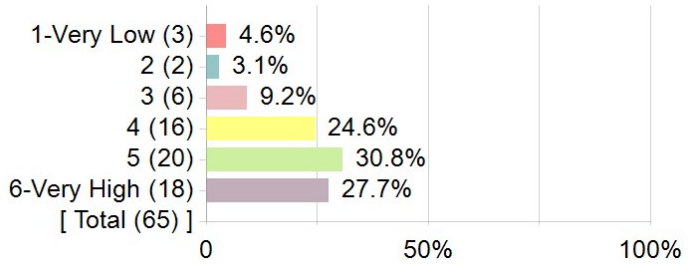
Provide an overall rating of the course.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	65
Mean	4.57

3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.

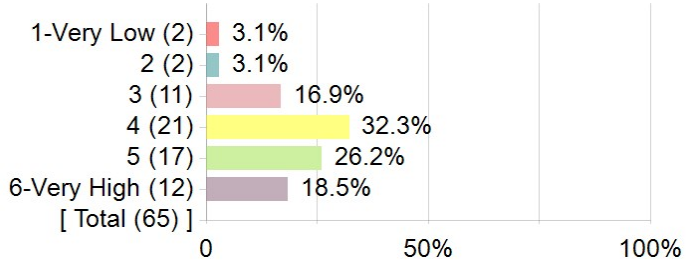
Estimate how much you learned in the course.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	65
Mean	4.57

4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.

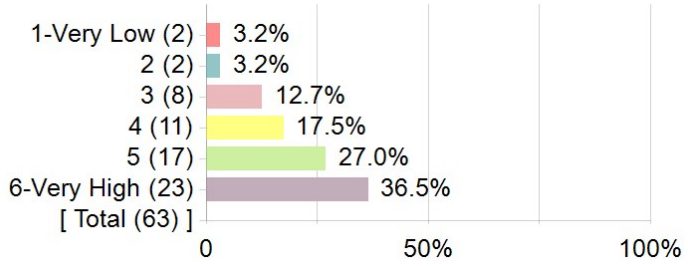
Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	65
Mean	4.31

5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

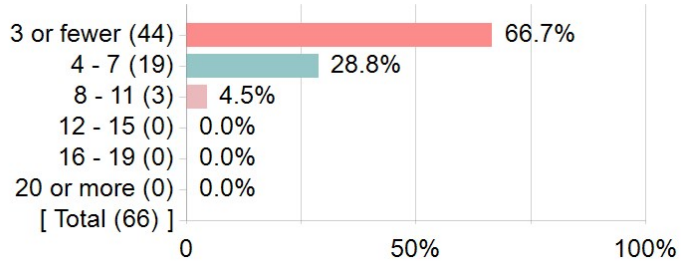


Statistics	Value
Response Count	63
Mean	4.71

TIME-SURVEY QUESTION

6. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.

Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.



Options	Count	Percentage
3 or fewer	44	66.7%
4 - 7	19	28.8%
8 - 11	3	4.5%
12 - 15	0	0.0%
16 - 19	0	0.0%
20 or more	0	0.0%

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.

Comments
This class is a pretty good distro. Like some other history classes, it's sometimes pretty boring, and it focused on climate change way more than I thought it would. We're able to revise our essay which is pretty nice, and the TA's are really helpful throughout that process.
If you need to take this course for a major or minor requirement, you will LOVE it. It is fairly light in terms of coursework: your grade is primarily composed of two long essay assignments that you have weeks to prepare for. Professor Bates is an incredible lecturer, and if you enjoy writing, this is the course for you.
Grading on paper was harsh lowkey. Also, wouldn't recommend TA Kenneth at all... Grading: Take–home final (pick 5 prompts to answer, each 150 words; one 1200 word essay) = 30% Research paper = 20% Research paper revision = 20% Research paper draft intro and thesis = 5% Participation = 25%
This course was okay. I am taking it P/NP so I did not put much effort into it.
Super informative and insightful through carefully crafted lectures and selected readings
This class was very interesting and I enjoyed readings a lot. I think lectures could be a bit monotonous at times. Discussion section helped me gain a better understanding of certain topics and connect themes across timelines. I would definitely recommend this for a history distro but if you're a history major, take something more stimulating.
Not too bad, overall alright for distribution credit
only a paper and a take home final which was really nice! lectures definitely packed in a lot of information though sometimes it was a bit hard to stay engaged for an entire hour and a half. professor clearly very knowledgeable and kind.
Very low–effort class and lowkey pretty interesting. However, the fact that there is one assignment means you have very few points to lose. Don't mess up the essay or your grade is going to be not great.
This course is great. The readings are easy and have guides, the essay project is easy, and Jacqui is a great TA! Professor Bates is

Comments
also a really good lecturer.
This class was fine but decently easy. Robin Bates is cool and his lectures are good but if you're not totally bought into the content it's so easy to not care or keep up with readings. I also didn't love the theme of the class, it felt more like a climate history class than a global history class. If you need to take this class it's good with Bates but in general wasn't my fave
Great class! I went in with very little interest in history and only took this as a distro, but was surprised by how interesting I found lecture to be. There's only one paper assignment, participation, and a final paper that make up your grade, so the workload is very doable. The topics were super interesting and Bates is a really engaging lecturer. You can tell he has so much passion for what he's talking about and is super knowledgeable and personable. In general, writing was graded well so it's a pretty easy A. Definitely take this as your history distribution or if you have any interest in modern global relations.
This course was AMAZING! Professor Bates is so kind and he is wonderful at lecturing and answering questions. He clearly loves what he teaches and he teaches with so much enthusiasm. The readings he chooses are always interesting and are never too long. The class is not a lot of work but you get SO much out of it. I will take so much of this course content with me and think more critically about the world around me. This is a top 3 course at Northwestern for me.
meh it was alright.
I thought the readings were dense and hard to read. I thought the lectures were interesting though.
Awesome class, great history distro, very low workload, lectures were usually pretty interesting
The class can be either good or hard, just depends on your TA. Jacqui encouraged me a lot, unfortunately she ia not TAing in 2024–2025. Overall, NO work in the class, just a big paper that is breaking down in sections so you can get a lot of feedback and an A by the end. The final is take home and you have 2 weeks to do it. However, I found the class super boring, and sleepy. That is not Bates fault, it is because I am not that interested in the topic, just took it because my friends recommended to me.
Overall this course is fairly easy. You'll do well if you do most of the readings and go to lectures. There's only an intro essay, an essay, a revised essay, and then a take–home final. The grading isn't too harsh and TAs are understanding and helpful (especially Jaqui!). The readings are pretty interesting and eye–opening.
This class was super interesting, and Robin Bates is the best. The discussion sections were helpful, and the assignments were manageable and graded fairly.
This class was okay. A lot of the time the lectures jumped around in time period and for each country and it just became confusing to keep everything in mind. It was easy though. Grading depends heavily on TA. My TA sucked and gave super harsh grades and the other one gave 100% always
worst class i’ve taken at northwestern – and i’ve taken bad classes here. pointless and they take attendance which is very unfortunate because I did not learn anything relevant to global history, or any of the topics we were meant to be discussing. Easy A though. Don’t take this class unless you HAVE to.
overall an interesting course! prof. bates is a great speaker and lecturer which made fulfilling the requirement for the is major a little more enjoyable. there was one paper which was written over the course of much of the quarter and was very manageable.
Made up of only two papers that are basically worth your entire grade. Wish there was more of a break up in terms of the weight of those assignments
Good distro course
Great!
Decent distro, only two assignments – one 1,500–word essay and one take–home final that includes five 150–word short responses and one 1,200–word essay. You get the opportunity to revise your first essay based on feedback, but my TA Kenneth honestly gave minimal, unhelpful comments (and responded to emails slowly, if at all). Might end up with an A– in the class because Kenneth lowkey grades on vibes. I heard the other TA was good, though (Jacqueline). The course material itself is decently interesting; I only did about half of the readings but enjoyed the ones that I did do and probably would've done more if I wasn't so busy in my other classes. Prof. Bates's lectures weren't anything crazy interesting but they weren't boring either.
The readings were all very interesting and did not take too much time to read. They were also very digestible and easy to grasp the meaning of. The lectures were informative and provided great context for the readings. Light workload.
class is pretty boring if you're not engaged during class but its a good history distro
No it was kind of boring. This course/professor follows a narrative of an everlasting Malthusian trap. In my opinion it overlooks contributions from technology and does not stress other things that affected history as much as I think it probably should have. That is not to say that the lens is bad just that is does not help paint a more nuanced picture of history nor is it very interesting as it gets repetitive. The readings are pretty interesting though.
Professor Bates might be the most well–read professor the history department has. Almost every lecture would be about something that I had little or no experience studying, but by the end of it, I would feel like I could explain that thing myself. He's clearly an insanely good researcher and every point he makes is thoroughly backed up by really impressive scholarship. The readings are typically manageable, though some can be a bit dense due to the high–level thinking of the writers. Other than the readings and the take–home final (which was easy for anyone who took good notes in lectures and was able to understand the readings), there's

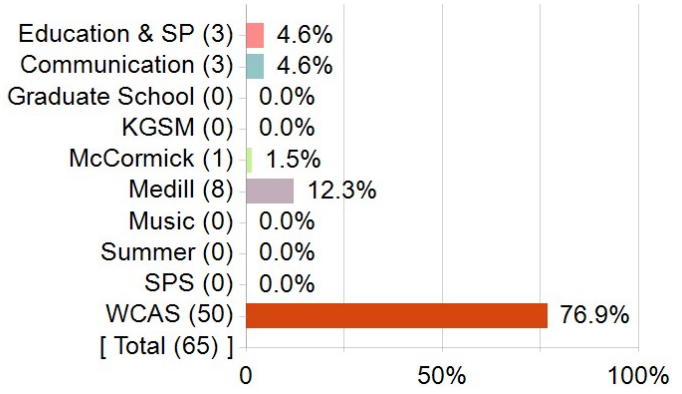
Comments
only one real assignment for this class. The essay is supposed to be around 1500 words, though they're pretty flexible on the exact count. You have to come up with a thesis by halfway through the quarter, then turn in a draft of the essay about 10 days later. After that, you have two weeks to revise it before turning in a final draft. Overall, this course was extremely content–heavy, but all the content was interesting and explained in lecture really well. If you need a global history class (or just a history distro), I would highly recommend this class, especially with Professor Bates.
This class is very cohesive. The lectures, reading, and discussion sections do a great job of complimenting one another. The workload is light — one essay, one take–home final, and about 50 pages of reading per week. The grading is not necessarily easy, but it is fair. The course content also explores some fascinating and oft–neglected aspects of modern history. Prof. Bates' Canvas page is also well–designed and easily navigable.
I took this class for a distro and am not a huge history lover so it was fairly good class. Content was pretty interesting, though it had a higher emphasis on climate change than I thought it would. You have readings every class and then 2 large writing assignments, but as long as you read the material and engage with it in discussions or by listening in class, I don't think you'll have a hard time with the assignments. Overall a solid distro and Professor Bates is a really nice professor who is clearly knowledgable and passionate about the topic.
This is easily the best non–STEM course I have taken at Northwestern, if not the best overall course. Professor Bates is one of the best (if not the best) lecturer I have ever had in my life. It is evident that he spends a lot of time preparing for lecture, and listening to his lectures is both fun and intellectually stimulating. I learned so many new ways at looking at different events. He is also extremely understanding of different individual circumstances. For example, I once was going home for the weekend, and he allowed me to switch my discussion section for that week just so I could make my flight without having to rush to the airport. This course is not too much work. There is a reading for each lecture (~20 pages of content), with 2 lectures a week. Note that your entire grade in the course is decided by your TA. Having said that, they TAs were very approachable this quarter and genuinely wanted to help, so I didn't find any difficulty with that.
Take this class. Bates is a very intriguing lecturer and keeps me engaged most of class. The topics are very interesting and helped me understand more about the world today. The best part is that there is only one paper in this class that you work on the entire quarter to really perfect the craft. The final is a bit brutal but it is take home which is really nice.
A great distro for everyone. Good introduction to the historical events that lead to the world we are experiencing today. Readings are interesting and relevant. The workload is fair, but grading can be TA–dependent. Prof Bates is passionate, articulate, and he cares about his students.
Very interesting class, I thought that the topics for every lecture were very engaging.
This was the most general world history class I have taken, it seemed super akin to a gen ed history course. The course covers such a wide span and narrows in on certain events, especially the world wars, that a lot of the portions of the class don't connect, so its hard to sync a lot of the readings and lectures to each other in the final. That being said, the class was super light in terms of assignments, one paper (5 pages), one discussion post (500 words) and one take–home final where you get the questions before hand. The class difficulty all depends on what TA you get, so the effort you put in can be super slight or more intensive depending on the person.
I really enjoyed this course. Professor Bates is a great lecturer, very supportive, and always happy to answer questions. The course material is also very interesting, and I learned a lot.
I mostly enjoyed this course. It was organized thematically rather than chronologically, which made it a bit harder to follow for me personally and felt like we were jumping around a lot, but it's very doable. Not too much reading, not too many demanding assignments (one essay that you revise, participation, and a take–home final) and Bates is a pretty good lecturer.
This class was very good for a history distro! It did not require too much effort, and the lectures were actually very engaging and interesting. The grading of the essays can be really picky with not much feedback, but if you get a good TA you should be fine
Bates is a good and organized lecturer. Final was a bit excessive as far as writing imo but class is fair and not too diffiuclt. Themes and readings are very interesting as well, you look at historical narratives from many perspectives
Would not recommend this class as a distro. it's full of history majors. theres only two assignments the final exam essays and a 1500 word essay. I found the essay very difficult and felt like I was going into it blind. The class is very large and it does not set you up well for the essay. The lectures were based on readings and some of them were very dense.
This is a really great class— I know it doesn't have the same star power as Immerwahr's Global History II, but you really can't go wrong with this class either. Professor Bates is a solid lecturer and is always willing to help students with their papers or advise them on course selections for next year. I really appreciate his willingness to build time into the lecture for students to ask questions about the material— it truly enriches the quality of the classroom environment and maximizes student engagement. The workload is completely manageable. The readings are engaging and cover a wide range of fields (from anthropology to economic history to popular commentaries on climate change)— some might find a few of them generic, but I found that I was able to gain something from all of them. There are only two essay assignments— a summative midterm paper (5–6pp) and a take home final, which has a short answer and essay section. I will say that one of the weaknesses of this class was the guidelines for these essays, which were pretty general (which was fine, since most history classes don't have rubrics for their essays) and yet there were apparently expectations that we needed to follow that were not clear in the assignment guidelines— there were a lot of issues with citation and formatting among students, because the citation guide provided was not very clear (e.g. it never said that students couldn't use ibid.,

Comments
although apparently we were later told, after we submitted our essays for grading, that that was prohibited). Other than that, this is a decent intro into history at Northwestern. Definitely recommend.
Great course and a good introduction to history classes at Northwestern
This is a big class where lecture is great because it helps put readings in context, and final is okay as long as you take notes and understand lecture. Professor Bates is great at office hours and I always enjoy discussions with him! However it's also a TA heavy course and all your assignments are graded by your TA, so make sure you talk your idea through with them for the essays.
great course and professor, loved learning about modern history in it
Solid distro but the essay assignment and the final can take a lot of time.
A lot of content is covered in the course, which can be a bit overwhelming, but the assignments allow you to focus on specific topics of interest.
This was a great course! It really developed my perspectives on many issues and was extremely informative. I thought that readings were chosen well, lectures were interesting, and the time demands of the course were extremely reasonable. Readings, however, can be time consuming if you're a slow reader.

DEMOGRAPHICS

What is the name of your school?

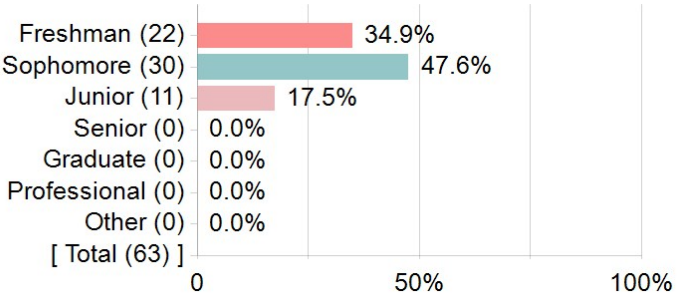
Your School



Options	Count	Percentage
Education & SP	3	4.6%
Communication	3	4.6%
Graduate School	0	0.0%
KGSM	0	0.0%
McCormick	1	1.5%
Medill	8	12.3%
Music	0	0.0%
Summer	0	0.0%
SPS	0	0.0%
WCAS	50	76.9%

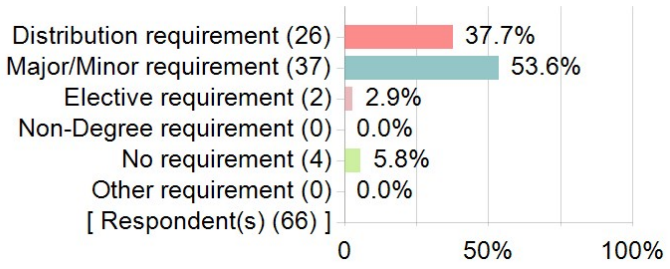
Your Class

Your Class



Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	22	34.9%
Sophomore	30	47.6%
Junior	11	17.5%
Senior	0	0.0%
Graduate	0	0.0%
Professional	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

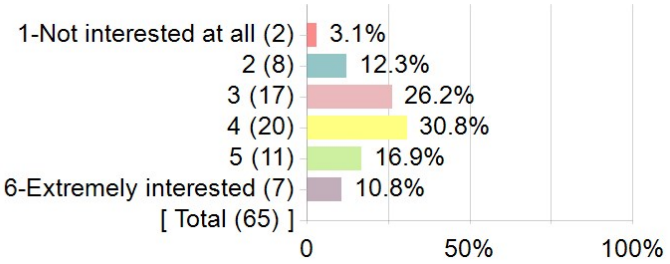
What is your reason for taking the course? (mark all that apply)



Options	Count	Percentage
Distribution requirement	26	37.7%
Major/Minor requirement	37	53.6%
Elective requirement	2	2.9%
Non-Degree requirement	0	0.0%
No requirement	4	5.8%
Other requirement	0	0.0%
Respondent(s)	66	

What was your Interest in this subject before taking the course?

What was your interest in this subject before taking the course?



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not interested at all	2	3.1%
2	8	12.3%
3	17	26.2%
4	20	30.8%
5	11	16.9%
6-Extremely interested	7	10.8%