



# HIST 16800 1, CLCV 20800 1 - Ancient Mediterranean World II: Rome - Instructor(s): Jordan Johansen

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **25**

Number of Responses: **13**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.**

Comments
Roman history! I never realized how vast and varied it is, and I learned a lot from the class. Professor Johansen also put in a lot of effort to help us relate to Rome in the modern world, and the class and lecture content was very engaging. You can tell how passionate she is about the subject.
We learned a lot about Roman cultural values, religion, social structures, etc.
I pretty much learned nothing. Not surprising, given the professor was constantly absent due to interviewing for other jobs.
Roman history with emphasis on republic, how to analyze historical sources
The general history of Rome from its foundation to about 150 C.E. Also, in-depth analysis of primary sources as well as first-hand accounts of how various texts and engravings are unearthed and catalogued.
The history of Ancient Rome and how to write a strong paper related to historical texts.

**Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.**

Comments
They didn't, due to there being way to huge of a workload for a core subject that everyone must take despite their major.
The lectures (especially when Professor Johansen lectured) were fun to listen to.
The class is lectures and readings both of which made contributions. The lectures were a little hit or miss and I was frustrated when the lectures and readings had nothing to do with each other. The reading load is probably slightly below average for a core class. They consume a little time on the weekends but mostly aren't too bad.
lectures weren't much of lectures, discussions weren't very discussion-like
Monday was for lectures and Wednesday was for discussing the primary source – both were very useful and insightful. Prof. Johansen's lectures were very interesting and were crucial for a deep understanding of the time period.
The lectures were very interesting. It was clear that Dr. Johansen is very passionate about the subject. It was very interesting hearing about what she is currently working on and how historians study Ancient Rome in their professions.

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.80	4.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.70	4.00	20.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	40.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.10	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.70	4.00	10.00%	20.00%	0.00%	30.00%	40.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.78	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	11.11%	44.44%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.70	4.00	20.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	40.00%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Absolutely unreasonable workload compared to the first class of this series, ancient Greek civ, which had maybe 50% of the workload. Overall, it resulted in a horrible winter quarter experience as a senior who is busy finishing very important major requirements to graduate as well as professional work outside of class. The workload was so heavy that it actually made it harder absorb any material. Each week has overwhelming amounts of reading and a required discussion post due at the start of class, followed by two responses to other people's posts which are due after class at the end of the SAME DAY. There are two 1250 word research-blog posts which you must complete, but then you must also read and respond to two other blogs each time one is due. Finally, there is a closed-note midterm, which can only be hand written, and a 2700 word final paper. As a result, this class leaves you with no choice but to not submit many of the repetitive, "small" assignments, such as the weekly discussion posts and responses, in order to have enough time to work on other classes which are actually important to your major (given that your major is outside of the humanities). As a core subject which many people have to take despite having 0 interest in it, the workload of this civ course makes enjoying any of the material nearly impossible for students who aren't humanities/social sciences majors. If you are not intensely invested in or majoring in the humanities, DO NOT take this course until it is fully reworked from the ground up to be accessible to all students.
Great class and Professor Johansen was excellent.
Professor Johansen is perfectly fine, but I have some beef with the structure of this course. We basically learned none of the "historical events" or important people or political history or military stuff or anything like that. I know some of that is considered "old school" and now most department want to focus on society and culture, but I think that's a real shame. How can you have a Rome class without the Punic Wars or Caesar? Especially as someone who really likes political history, that's the stuff I was looking forward to and I'm disappointed we just never talked about it.
I'm fairly certain this was not Dr. Johansen's fault because she wasn't the one who designed the syllabus, but the course was organized extremely poorly. Obviously, when you talk enough about Roman history, you'll pick up on some key terms and events. But, the way we skipped around chronologically and the fact that nothing really felt tied together made me feel like I did not learn a lot about Roman history. The Ancient Greek Civ moved chronologically in order/in periods of time, which actually made some sense. I think this course would also benefit from a similar structure. I understand that we cannot learn all of ancient Roman history, but we can at least learn about the key events in order.
We had 0 feedback on assignments throughout the quarter other than the midterm grade, so I have no clue where I stand on any of my writing assignments which make up the vast majority of the grade. The structure of the lectures also made it very hard to contextualize events because each week was by topic and not chronologically (roughly), so I have a very shaky grasp of most of Roman history in relation to other events of Roman history
Prof. Johansen was great! She was super available outside of class for office hours as well!
Dr. Johansen always took the time to meet with us. Whenever I met with her I felt much more confident and understood the assignment and content better.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	20.00%	80.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	20.00%	80.00%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
I loved how she brought in her research interests (particularly in Egypt) into the class and I learned a lot from the Rome in Egypt readings.
Professor Johansen is upbeat and clearly knows what she's talking about, making class an engaging and enjoyable experience.
she talked about some things, I guess. The lecture of what historians actually do was interesting, but most of it seemed pretty disjointed
Prof. Johansen's breadth of background knowledge. She seemed almost too qualified to teach this class, and it was so interesting to hear her first-hand knowledge of what engaging in research in the classics was like!
I loved hearing about what Dr. Johansen is working on!

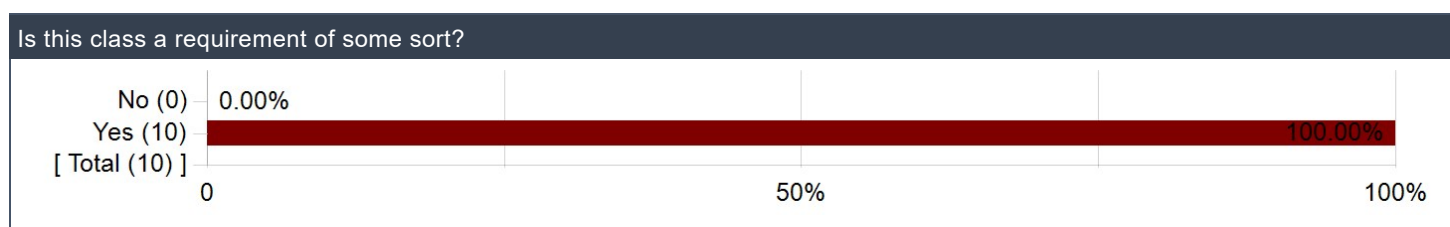
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think it would be helpful to modify the reading list at times because they were sometimes very dense and people could not complete them in time for class to understand + discuss it.
I was frustrated when the lectures had nothing to do with the readings. Especially when the textbook readings that talked about major historical events, the lectures were always on something else that the professor wanted to talk about.
make the lectures more coherently organized to facilitate learning of Roman events in relation to each other
Nothing really
Maybe more group work during class? It was nice to have some smaller group discussions occasionally.

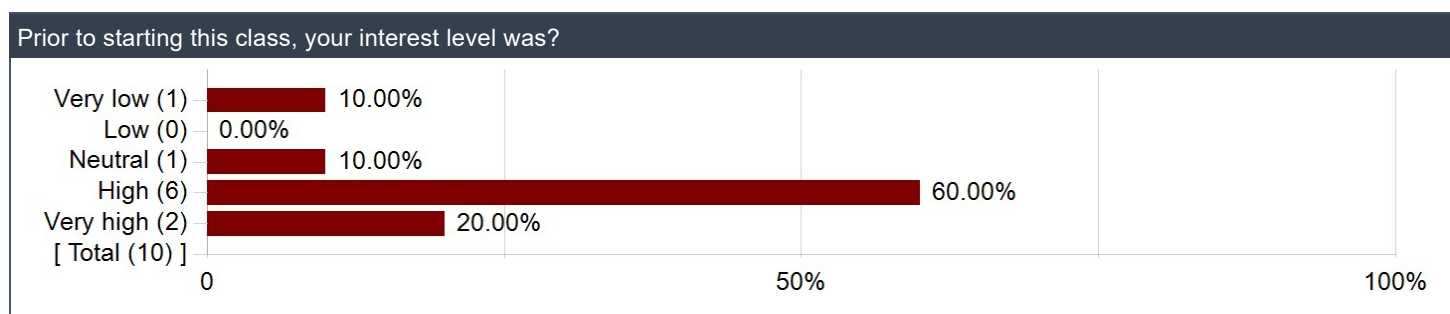
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.22	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%

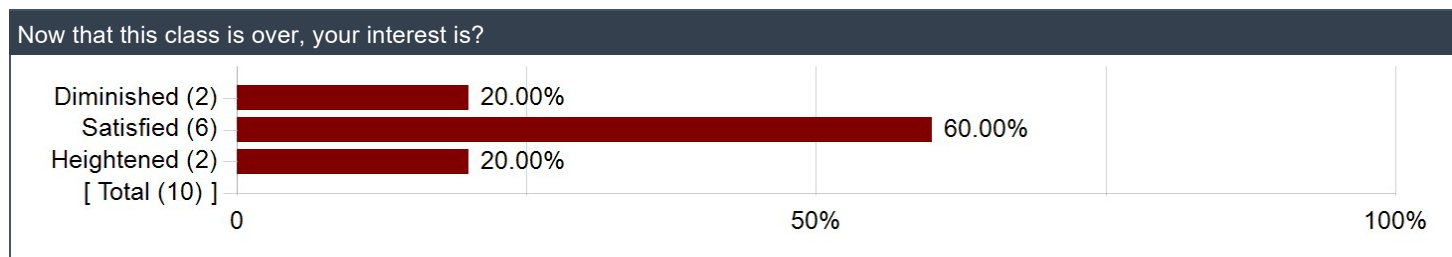
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



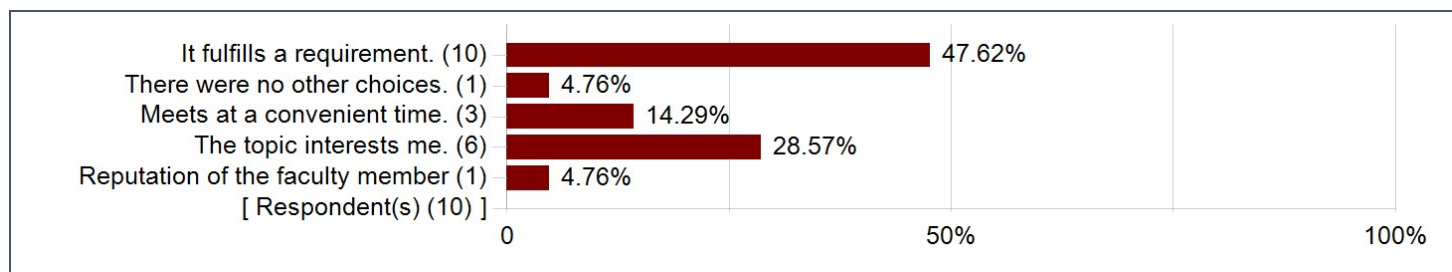
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



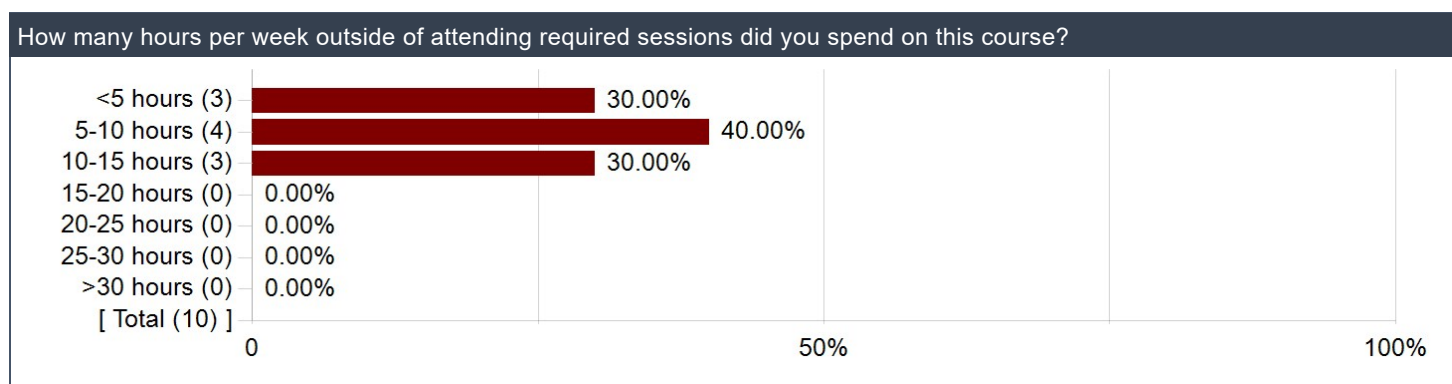
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



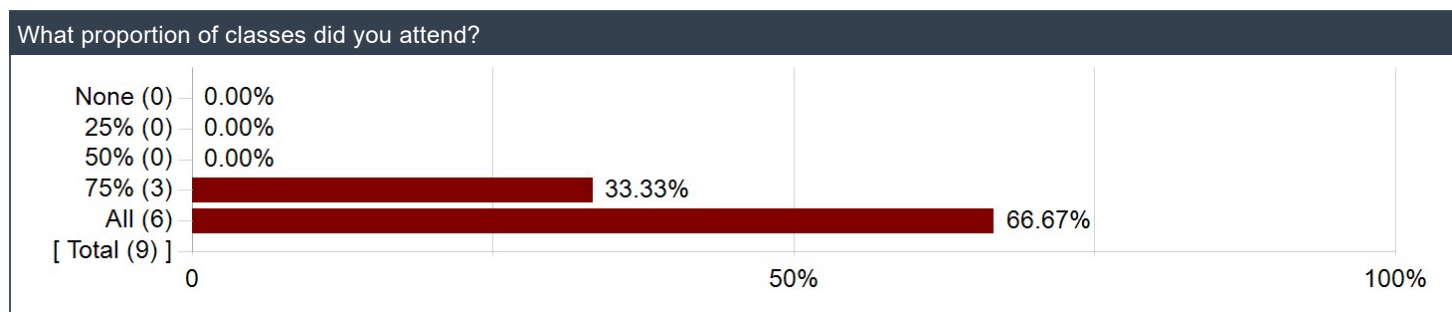
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



**Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.**

Comments
This was not a hard Civ class and it was also very engaging.
Professor Johansen made it very clear she wanted all of us to succeed, so it was not too difficult.
It didn't seem to be particularly difficult.
This course was manageable if you schedule time to do the readings (which aren't all that long anyways)
As someone who didn't know much Roman history before taking this class, it was not too challenging. Dr. Johansen is always there to help if you are struggling!