# HIST 10101 1, ANTH 20701 1, CRES 20701 1, MDVL 10101 1 - Introduction to African Civilization I - Instructor(s): Ayodeji Olugbuyiro

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **7**

**Report Comments**

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

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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

| Comments |
|---|
| Learned that Africa was the birthplace of many modern cultures and civilizations that are known today. As someone of African heritage, this was important for me to learn as I reflect on my own background. |
| Topics ranging from ancient Egypt/Nubia up to the transatlantic slave trade. Papers focus on how to analyze texts for their efficacy as tools for learning history. |
| The nuances of African Civilization and the coinciding historical context |
| The histories of various cultures in Africa and why they are important to study. |
| African history |
| I learned a lot about pre–colonial African history, and got some document analysis / close reading experience. |
| I learned more about slavery in Africa and about ancient African civilizations. I'm African so it help me understand the history of the country my parents are from and fit my life into a larger context. |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| Class sessions were always interactive and informative. Professor usually let the students dictate the direction of the conversations. |
| Discussions were helpful to review the readings and on occasion get supplemental information from PowerPoints. Papers allowed us to think more critically about the texts |
| Some of the readings helped, but the main benefit for me were the TAST database and the ISAC museum |
| Discussions were generally pretty engaging, but readings were sometimes a little overwhelming just with the sheer length of them combined with how many needed to be read by the next class. Readings varied in length though and some weren't as dauntingly long. They were generally pretty interesting and informative. |
| The first two essays were helpful in forcing me to read the primary sources closely and think about their historical context. The readings provided a very holistic but also deep and thought–provoking introduction to African history. |
| The discussions were helpful in allowing me to understand the material. |

## Please respond to the following:

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| This course challenged me intellectually. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 80.00% | 20.00% |
| I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments. | 4.40 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 60.00% | 40.00% |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments. | 4.40 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 20.00% | 60.00% |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 3.80 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% | 20.00% |
| My work was evaluated fairly. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% |
| I felt respected in this class. | 4.40 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 20.00% | 60.00% |
| Overall, this was an excellent course. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% |

## Additional comments about the course:

| Comments |
|---|
| Very well–conducted course. |
| I wish that the timeframes for the essay assignments were a little longer. For the document analysis and the first essay, the prompts were posted on the weekend and then the assignment was due Friday/Saturday, and that made for an unnecessarily stressful week. Even just having the prompts by the previous Friday so that we could have the weekend |
| I think because the professor was new, I was graded too harshly on our first assignment. I felt like he was taking off points for things that did not matter very much. I felt that I had to change my writing style a bit too much to fit his expectations. Also, the expectations for readings were a bit too high. I felt that on top of all of my other work this quarter, the readings he assigned were a lot to handle. |

## I would recommend this course to:

| | No | Yes |
|---|---|---|
| Highly-motivated and well-prepared students | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Anyone interested in the topic | 0.00% | 100.00% |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| Allowed the class to dictate the direction of the majority of the conversations. Made it interactive rather than a lecture. |
| Leading productive discussions |
| He facilitated discussions in a way where the class was able to get everything important out of the readings |
| Dr. Ayo was a good discussion leader, always staying on top of the class and providing interesting questions. |
| The in–class discussions, especially when we did group activities together. I have an anxiety disorder and have a lot of trouble speaking up in class, so I felt that talking to my peers in small groups helped me learn. |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| Possibly having more in class videos and presentations from primary sources. |
| Dr. Ayo is fantastic. The only thing I could think of would be to provide more comments that can pertain to our future papers as well |
| The class was the same exact thing every single day, so I think switching it up and approaching the readings in different ways would help me stay more engaged |
| Give proper feedback on assignments. Taking off a significant amount of points but giving no justification except for minor unrelated comments is unhelpful. |
| Dr. Ayo could have varied the prompts a little between essays, and I wished his academic experience was more applicable to what we were learning in class. |
| I think that with some experience the issue with grading papers will be solved. Also being more mindful of the fact that a lot of us are taking a full courseload. He seemed to be upset sometimes when he felt that we weren't doing the readings after assigning long readings. |

## The Instructor . . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Organized the course clearly. | 4.40 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 60.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding. | 4.33 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful. | 4.60 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 60.00% | 0.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 80.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 80.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.40 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 60.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% |
| Motivated you to think independently. | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 60.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. | 4.60 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 60.00% | 0.00% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.20 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 80.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% |

## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

| | Mean | Median | No Gain | A Little Gain | Moderate Gain | Good Gain | Great Gain | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Laboratory Experience | N/A | N/A | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Field Trips | 3.67 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 25.00% | 50.00% | 0.00% | 25.00% |
| Library Sessions | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 25.00% | 0.00% | 75.00% |
| Review Sessions | N/A | N/A | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Writing Seminars | N/A | N/A | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |

## Other course elements not mentioned above:

| Comments |
|---|
| N/A |

## Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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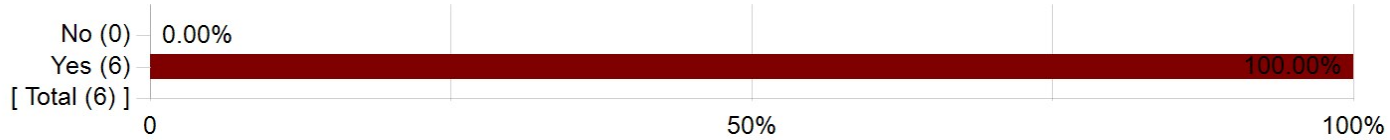
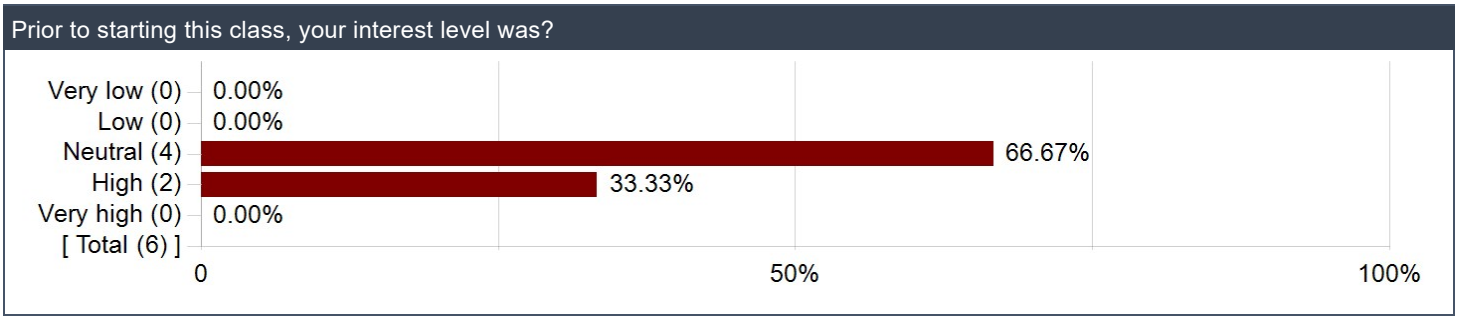
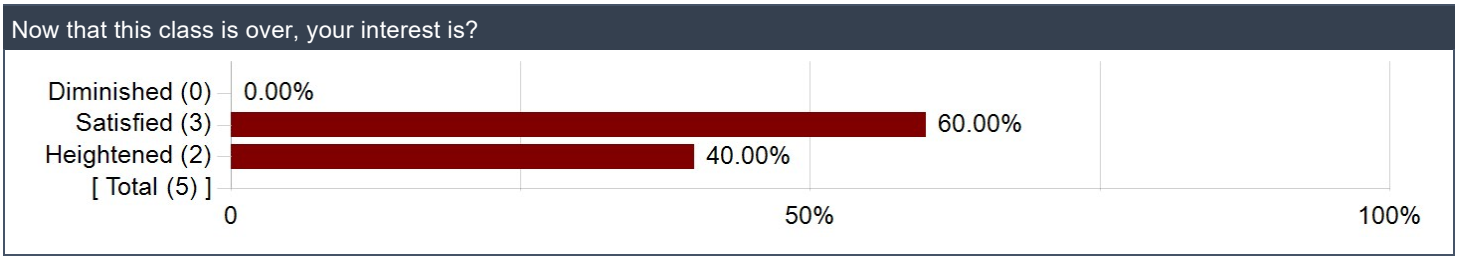


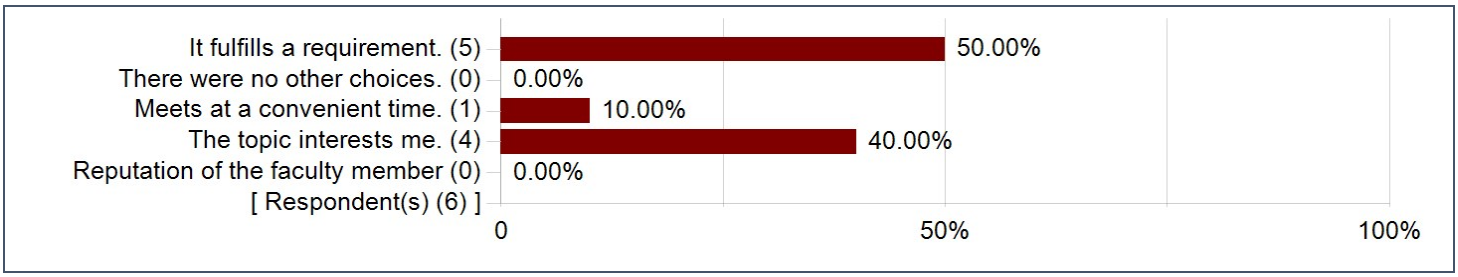
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



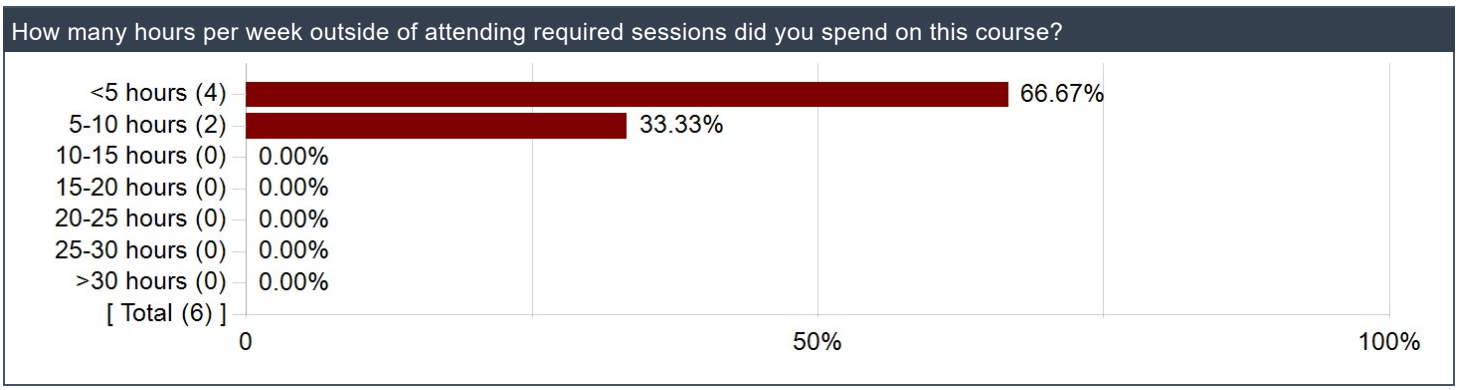

## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



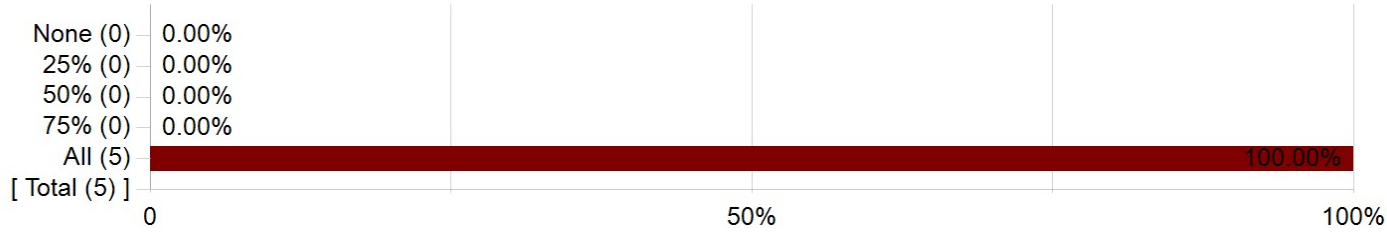

## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)




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



## What proportion of classes did you attend?

| What proportion of classes did you attend? |
|---|
|  |



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

| Comments |
|---|
| Relatively neutral in terms of difficulty. |
| Readings can sometimes be long/dense, but everything is usually clarified in class discussion. Overall, it is appropriately difficult for a core class |
| It was respectable for a core civ class. |
| The class was not that difficult relative to other classes I have taken; the readings were easier to get through and the essay prompts were not hard. |
| I spent almost three years away from college during the pandemic and this is one of the first classes I've had to write in since returning. I don't think writing was difficult, but it was hard to be thoughtful about the material sometimes because I lost a lot of the skills I had before leaving. |