



HIST 13001 3 - History of European Civilization I - Instructor(s): Daniel Jacobs

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **11**

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
An overview of the creation and legalization of Christianity, Constantine, Charlemagne, medieval law, and the Reformation
The Roman Empire, the rise of Christianity, the Carolingian Empire, experiences during the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation, Renaissance thought, European colonialism, and the start of the Scientific Revolution.
I learned how to read, analyze, and better understand historical primary source texts. We started with learning about the late Roman Empire and made it up to the early eighteenth century. A primary focus was put on the role and status of Christianity throughout Europe across this timespan.
I learned about the academic study of history, important events in European History and how the rise of Christianity changed civilization forever

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

Comments
Discussions were helpful and promoted class participation for everyone
Danny is a very good lecturer. Lectures were interesting and full of info. Discussions were also great, since Danny is all-around a really great core instructor, one of the best I've had. Readings were interesting, albeit dry (that's kind of to be expected with the time period). Discussion post assignments were P/F graded and had 2 drops, only requiring us to do 7 over the quarter, which was great. The timed midterm really helped compared to a lengthy paper during a busy part of the quarter, and although the final paper is challenging, it's a very interesting and unique assignment.
The assigned readings and lectures provided by Danny were the most helpful. The readings provided all the information we needed for the midterm and final. His lectures were always interesting and gave us clarification, along with additional information, about the time period of the texts we had read. The weekly discussion posts were easy participation points and helped me think deeper about the readings. Unfortunately the class was not very engaged during classtime, so discussions were a struggle, and I did not get much out of them as no one would participate.
our visit to special collections was really cool
The discussions were very helpful. The reading assignments were relevant to class and interesting, and when we discussed them in smaller groups I found I learned a lot of valuable information.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	40.00%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	50.00%	40.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.20	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I highly recommend this course. It was very interesting, and Danny is an amazing instructor.
I thought Danny was a good professor who clearly cared about the content and was excited to share it with us. Unfortunately, the majority of the class could not have cared less, and they were consistently disengaged throughout class and refused to participate. This made our discussions difficult and often useless, as it was the same two or three people having to talk because everyone else refused to speak. Sometimes we would be split up into small groups, and almost 100% of the time the people in my group had not done the readings so I wasn't able to get any clarifications about the content through talking with them. Overall, I just felt bad for Danny as it was clear he was trying to get the class engaged and he was just ignored.
I think Professor Jacobs did his best, but he has a lot to improve on. For any students reading this, I say to still give him a chance. This was his first time teaching as a professor, so I'm sure he'll improve exponentially. And he wasn't bad per se – he was very open and easy to talk to. I could just tell he didn't have experience teaching undergraduates. He would spend 40 minutes reading off a script in the beginning of class, so that in the 40 minutes the students could actually talk I was already almost asleep. Our entire grade was just the midterm, the final, and participation. This made it stressful since each of these were 33% of our grade. In addition, the midterm and final were take home exams instead of papers. I did not like this. I felt like I didn't really get any depth or autonomy in what I wanted to write about, and in the midterm we were even timed! I felt like I was taking an AP test again, which is not good.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.11%	88.89%
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
Danny's willingness to hear everyone and all their ideas. He always wanted people to contribute and made it easy to do so even when you didn't have time to do the reading. He understands how busy UChicago undergrads can be, and he really accommodates us and gives us a good experience.
He always gave interesting lectures that added helpful context to the readings we were assigned. He also assigned very reasonable amounts of reading so it was never overwhelming.
Danny's lectures about the texts, authors, and other events that occurred during the time were the most helpful.
group work
When he facilitated discussions. I found that being able to ask/get questions answered in this setting led to me gaining a much better understanding of the material, and learning something new and interesting.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I would've appreciated a bit less of an emphasis on Christian central/western Europe. I understand how important that is to European history, but we barely talked about Eastern Europe or religious/ethnic minorities.
While I'm usually not a fan of cold calling, at times I think it may have helped just because the majority of the class refused to participate. Besides that I think he was a good professor who is very knowledgeable about these topics and deserved a better class of people more willing to learn about these topics.
more, smaller assignments; more background on the events that were happening (like we started talking about the crusades but idk what those were about, I've never taken European History before)
The only thing would be to more clearly give an timeline/overview of the readings, to better understand how each of the readings fit together.

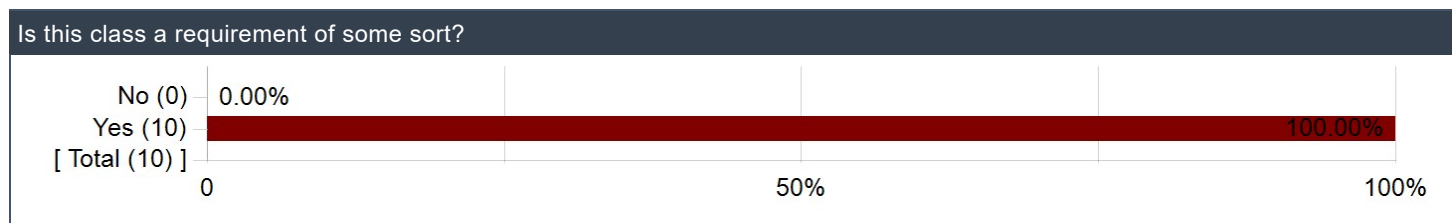
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	30.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.10	4.50	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	30.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	30.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	40.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	30.00%	50.00%	0.00%

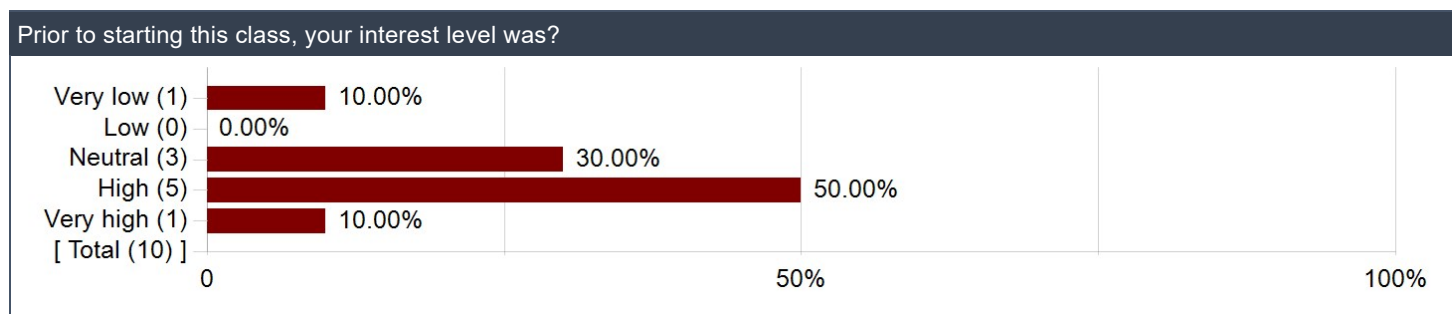
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Library Sessions	2.00	2.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%
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%

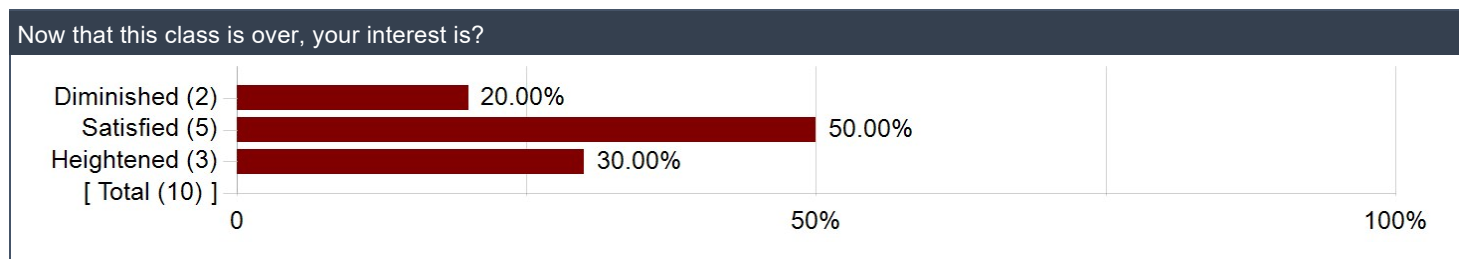
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



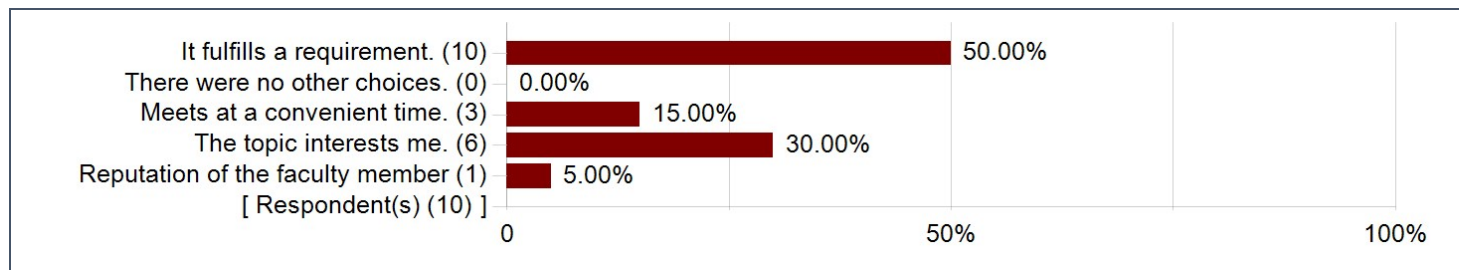
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



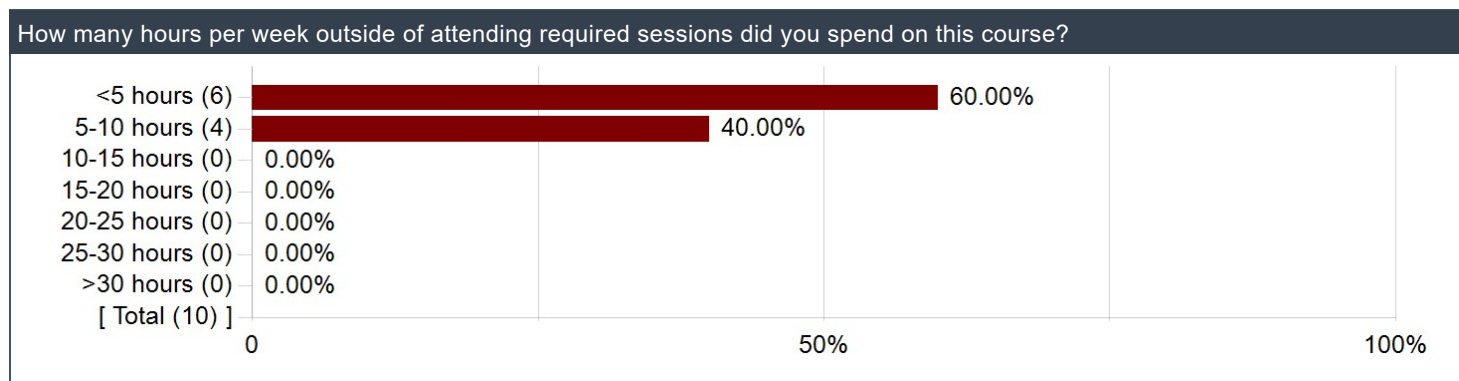
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



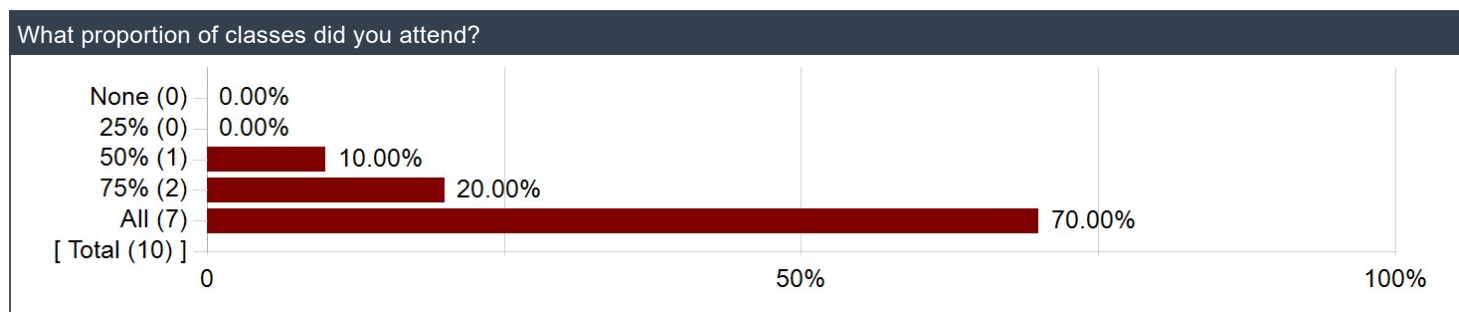
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
As someone with basically no experience in European history aside from it being mentioned in passing during World History and AP US History in high school, I found it difficult to follow what was happening at times, just because of how quickly we were moving through time periods (this course covers ~500 AD to 1650 AD). However, I never felt like this made it harder to succeed in the class or diminished my learning, it's just a consequence of the quarter system. The assignments were all reasonable and discussions were great.
Manageable.
I had very limited knowledge about European history coming in, as I had learned very little in high school, and I did not have any difficulty with this course. I think taking HUM and SOSC prior to this definitely helped in being able to better understand the assigned readings. Overall, it was not difficult.
pretty easy, I just didn't really get that much out of it