



HIST 13500 3 - America In World Civilization I - Instructor(s): James Vaughn

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

Number Enrolled: **20**

Number of Responses: **9**

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
I feel that this course increased my understanding of the colonial United States and the events that led up to the American Revolution and the formation of the United States as we know it today.
The most important things I've learned is how to contextualize primary sources in historical context, how to garner meaning and the "so what?" behind dense theoretical political texts, and how to construct an assertive argument based on a vast plethora of knowledge. Also, as a first year, I've learned how to efficiently read large amounts of text, and take specific, targeted personal notes which help me best synthesize and understand the material, as well as help me participate in class discussions. I've also gained the skill of not writing historical essays riddled with commentary and opinions garnered from my experience as a young person in the 21st century, but rather really understand the socio– political climate of the time which contributed to widely held opinions which may be unpopular today. I've also learned how to learn and listen to my peers (ex. from the presentations of primary sources in class) which has been invaluable!
The founding of the American republic. We also learned about Lockean political theory and its effects on the early America.
The origins and lead up to the American Revolution
I learned about the history and context of colonization in America of different European powers and the journey to American Independence as well as the aftermath
The origin of America in a more comprehensive manner.
Professor Vaughn is very clear on the fact that this is NOT a history survey course, however I found that my general knowledge about the discovery and development of the Americans by Europeans, as well as the history of the British colonies as a whole, was greatly improved. I particularly enjoyed learning about the theoretical motivations of the American Revolution, and then the flaws in their new government and how the Constitution fixed a lot of those issues.
If you're interested in learning about what makes a government successful, this might be a good civ class for you.
How to read primary sources and interpret them to reveal something about the time we are studying.

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

Comments
The discussions were very helpful as a way to further explore how the readings fit into the historical context of the time, and all the class discussions helped me significantly when doing the wiring assignment.
The presentations of the primary sources, like I mentioned above, really help me complete my understanding on the material by filling in information I missed that my classmate presented on. Also, Professor Vaughn's lectures greatly helped me contextualize and ground my essays in historical facts, which helped me piece together arguments for all three of my essays. I also really appreciated that we could pick any primary source to do our primary source analysis on, because, due to the fact I got it done early, helped me understand how to most effectively write an argumentative historical essay and pull the most relevant pieces of information from a vast array of knowledge to contribute to my claim.
Lectures were very informational. We also have student presentations every class that sparked discussion.
Professor Vaughn is a fantastic lecturer and genuinely cares very passionately about the material he teaches, genuinely recommend his class to everyone I speak to
Vaughn's lectures are really interesting and good at communicating the key themes. I usually pay attention the whole time.
I think the context that Professor Vaughn gives is extremely helpful in understanding the text at a deeper level
The brief lectures in class were engaging and informative.
Class time was amazing. Prof Vaughn one of the most engaged teachers I've ever had. Always made class fun and exciting.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I recommend history enthusiasts of all grades to take this course! Though I was told I should wait until junior year, and though that caution was valued because I knew how much time I should expect to dedicate to the course before hand, if history is your passion and you are genuinely excited about learning as much as you can, this is the course for you. Also, I thought the class size was perfect. Take this class!!
Great class. Would recommend to all wanting to learn more about American history.
The grading was extremely fair and he provides excellent feedback on what to change for next papers. he communicates clearly on the expectations for everything in the course, including the participation and attendance grades, and he even provides an opportunity to dispute those grades if you feel as if it doesn't adequately represent your effort in the course.
Professor Vaughn can be a little repetitive in how he speaks sometimes, but this isn't a bad thing. You cover a lot of content in this course, and having a professor who doesn't just rush through content makes it so you'll come away from the lectures with both a better understanding of the content, and a better idea of how to write a good essay on the content.
One of my favorite courses. Take it!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.11%	88.89%
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
The class discussions led by the professor aided my assignments and made the class manageable.
I think Professor Vaughn's lectures, and the energy which he brought to them, as well as his availability to talk with me in length about any questions I had about my essays, really strengthened my understanding of the content as well as my performance in the class. I wasn't afraid to ask questions I didn't know the answer too, or talk about an essay draft which was not perfectly polished, which I think is something unique to Professor Vaughn from what I've heard from some of my other friends.
Office hours and the lectures in class. I also appreciated the fact that everything was well-structured and he was very clear in terms of assignments and grading.
The lecturing and primary source readings
the lectures are really good, and it's nice that he offers to read our essay drafts
I think the discussions were very engaging and he did a great job of providing historical context for our readings.
The lectures in class, office hours, and feedback was informative and helpful.
The lectures were great! If you familiarize yourself with the concepts behind the readings before the class (not reading *everything* ...) then the professor's lecture will complement this level of preparation perfectly. There won't be any explicit discussion of the background readings during the lecture, but the content ends up getting discussed in relation to other things, so you can take away a lot of information from the lectures.
Prof. Vaughn leads great class discussion and you always walk away with a great understanding of the material and what we're learning. Awesome course.

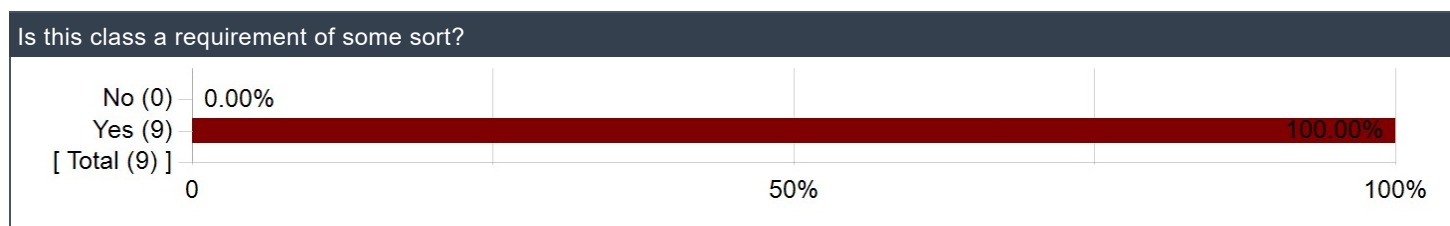
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing, he made help easily and readily available.
Nothing honestly!
Nothing. Everything was great.
Nothing!
na
I can't think of much

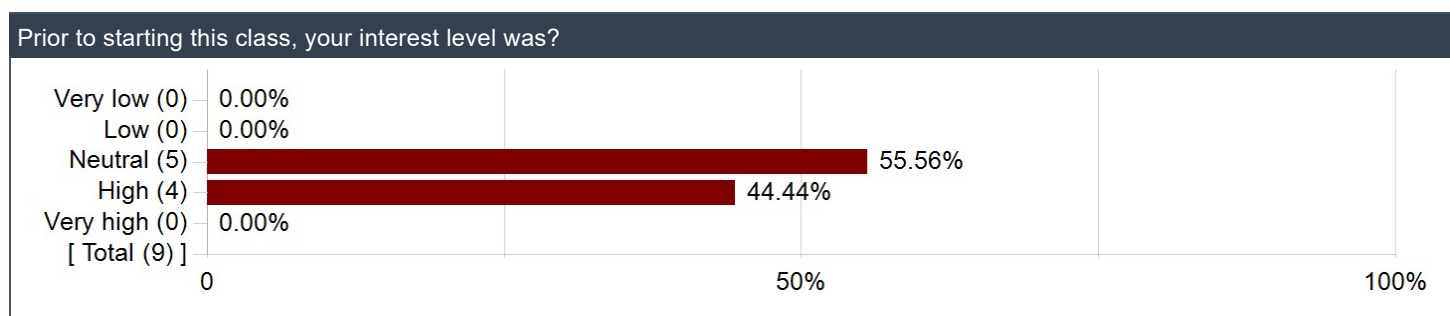
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%

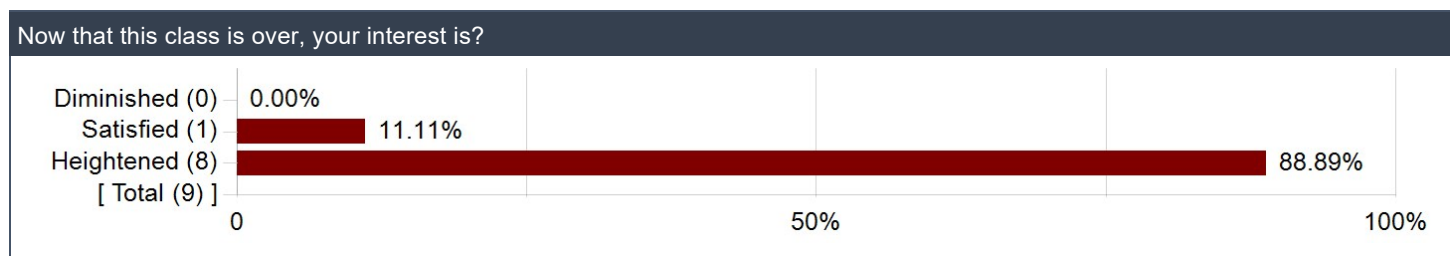
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



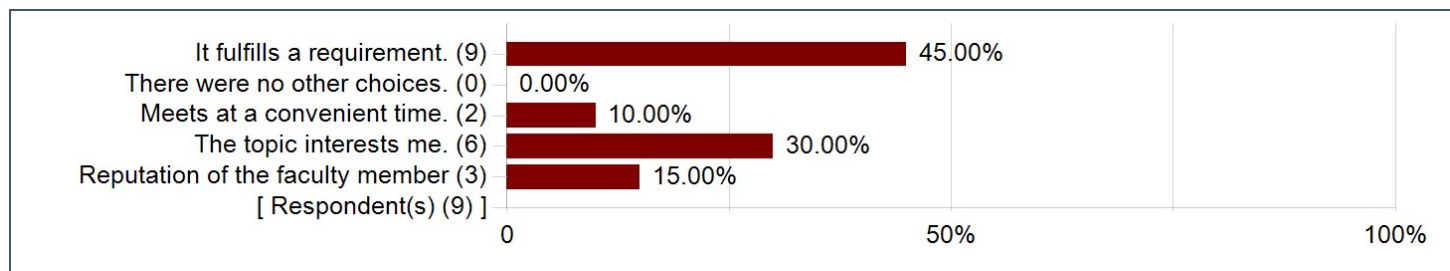
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



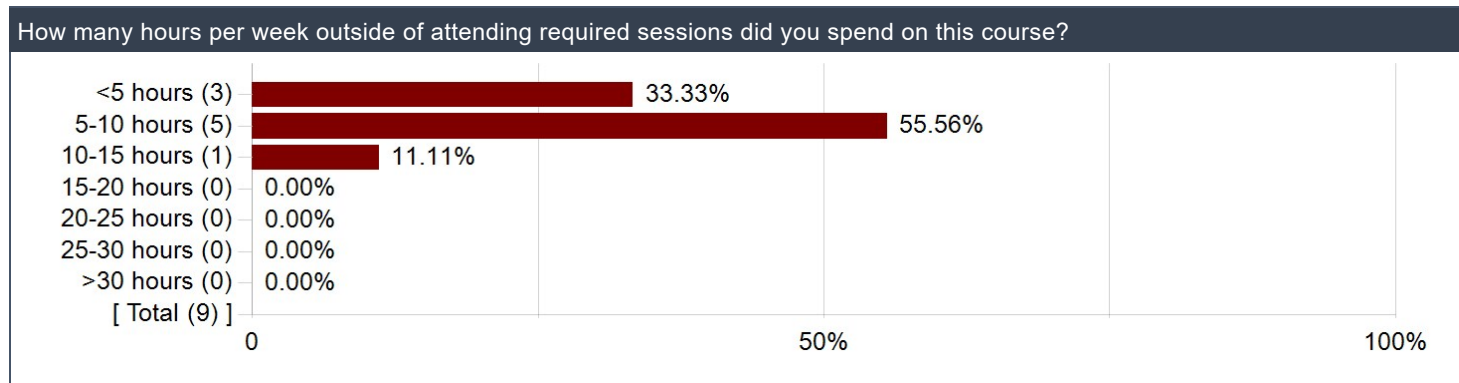
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



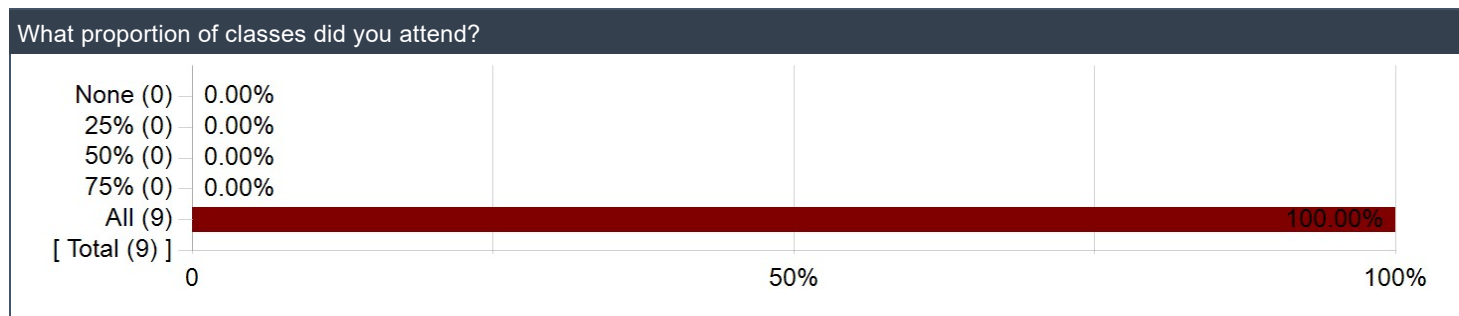
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
The class was moderately difficult on par with the majority of writing–focused classes at the college
There is definitely a lot of reading for this course, but all of it really helps your understanding of the topics discussed in class and with your essays in the end– so it is time well spent. Also, the selections of reading were all very relevant and interesting, and I learned so much which I still have internalized.
if you already took your socs then this will be a breeze with the essays but even if you didn't this is very manageable. the readings can be a lot but that is to be expected with any history course
The essay grading is much easier than socs
The difficulty is fine, some prior familiarity with American history is helpful.
If you pay attention and engage with the material than you should do well. 3 essays but he gives you all the info and tools to do well if you pay attention in class.