Report Comments

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

Comments
The history of Russia leading up to the Romanov period with a focus on primary texts.
I got an incredible outline of Russian history from 800 AD to the mid 19th century, with close looks at marginalized areas of Russian society and examinations of everyday life often neglected by historians
Early Russian civilization, society, and culture. Like rulers, law codes, and cultural norms.
Russian history
I learned the history of Russian civilization from Kievan Rus' to the Decembrist revolt primarily through reading primary sources.
Learned about Russian history from the 800s until the 1800s.
Russian history, origin of Russia, key players, historical moments through reading a lot of primary historical texts.
Russian history is pretty complicated
I really enjoyed this class and learned a lot. I have always found Russian history fascinating, and this class has only heightened my interest in it. Obviously, this does not equate to the support of the current actions of the country; it simply means one is interested in history.
Russian history from its origin stories until the period of the Decembrist revolution. This includes its medieval history, the period of Mongol rule, and the rules of Ivan the Terrible, Peter and Catherine the Great, among other notable social and political trends.
How to learn history like a historiographer and how to interpret primary sources. Also learned about the complications of the whole Russia–Kievan Rus debacle, i.e., why exactly it is so awkward for either Russia or Ukraine to exclusively claim Kievan Rus as their historical/cultural/spiritual legacy.
The events of Russian History up until 1825

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

Comments
the readings were amazing; the lectures were also great and helped explain events better
The professor is very knowledgable and was a very good speaker. The readings were also chosen very well.
Lecture introduced much of the historical content and context to me and were very insightful. Class discussions would clarify the readings and point out things I had missed. Essays let me formulate a response to a question about historical processes and forced me to closely read and analyze primary sources.
The lectures and reading were very insightful
We had one lecture and one discussion every week but the discussions ended up just being lectures. Lectures were overall a bit hard to keep up with because there was so much to be covered, but they were interesting.
Lectures are great and comprehensive but discussions are not always as engaging as they could be because most of the class does not seem to do the readings. This is no fault of the professor though
I really enjoyed the lectures and the discussions.
Lectures were very helpful, and professor Gilburd is extremely knowledgeable on the topic. Readings also provided great context for the content we learned in lectures.
Many many readings, which prof Gilburd would string together in a fascinating way during our discussions. But we always ended up being very pressed for time.
The lectures were really helpful because they provided important context for the readings

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
the class and reading schedule was often disorganized, making it difficult to know which readings would be brought up in which class, and the extra lectures professor Gilburd posted were sometimes difficult to get to
Nice course, and good learning experience. Essay grading was ok, and professor was nice.
I think it was an interesting course and Professor Gilburd is a great professor, but I think she could have been slightly more organized as we had many extra recorded lectures to watch
Eleanor is so sweet and understanding as well as incredibly knowledgable. That being said, the planning of the course leaves something to be desired because the amount of long recorded lectures we were expected to watch outside of class got unreasonable by the end because we were moving so slowly behind the syllabus
One thing I would change is that we had a lot of recorded lectures to watch because not everything could fit in during class time. This made the course material jumbled in my brain, and it also sucked up a lot of time because we still had our usual amount of reading. I hope next quarter we can stick to keeping lectures during our designated class time.
I had no idea Russia was this interesting.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	9.09%	90.91%

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

Comments
I enjoyed the lectures, and found the wide range of historical sources engaging. Professor Gilburd is passionate about this topic which makes class time more interesting.
The lectures were definitely the best part of this class
The lectures
Essays are a good recap of what happened.
Professor Gilburd is very knowledgeable and passionate about Russian history—I learned a lot from her lectures alone. She asks good guiding questions in discussions and is in general very thoughtful with responding to students' questions and giving essay feedback.
Lectures.
Lectures
Great professor. Lectures are packed with information, but it can be tough to follow along with because there are so many different points to know.
Professor Gilburd is an excellent lecturer, and I think the quarter system hinders our ability to learn. There is so much for her to teach but nowhere near enough time, and so she records many lectures for us to watch outside of class, which became quite a struggle. I think Professor Gilburd is fantastic overall and is just so passionate about the subject that it is a struggle to fit everything into such a short amount of time. I am excited to continue the second level of this class with Professor Gilburd next quarter!
Her knowledge of the topics and how they related across periods.
Prof Gilburd gave us many, many readings that were always very thoughtfully selected. These were (almost) all primary sources from the respective eras, gave me not only a new perspective on Russian history but on the method of studying history itself.
The lectures were very thorough and super interesting, which helped me feel like I had an understanding of a cohesive narrative of Russian history.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

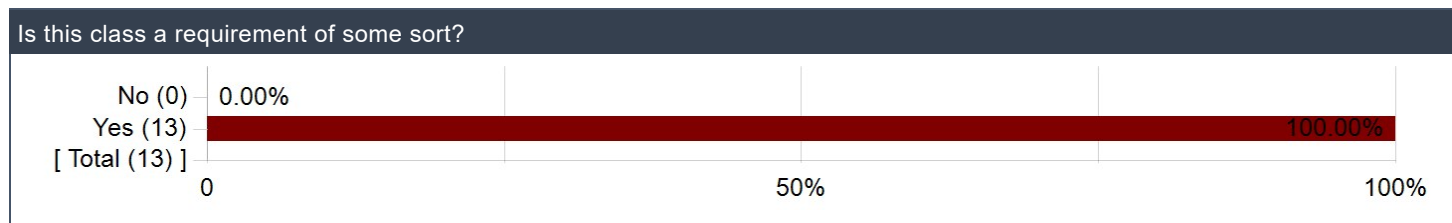| Comments |
| --- |
| Handouts covering the key points in the lecture would be useful as I sometimes had trouble following / making note of the various dates, individuals, and key terms. |
| I think trying to make a more efficient and streamlined schedule would be better, although it might come at the cost of cutting some material |
| Nothing I can think of. |
| The readings are mostly ok, content and length wise. I do think that not including some of the very poorly printed one, and the one with all "s" replaced with "f", would improve the reading experience. |
| I think Professor Gilburd is aware of this but she could plan more carefully the time spent on discussing each document in class. We sometimes went over time or didn't discuss some documents, so they spilled over into the next class period. This wasn't a huge issue to me though. |
| I think being a little more organized could have been helpful. |
| Maybe structure the lectures a little more. |
| Too much reading to be able to discuss it all adequately during class time. Overall maybe we go too into depth and then some of the more important events are brushed aside |
| I just really don't want to have the recorded lectures next quarter because it again confused my brain, and I just didn't have time to watch all of them and do the readings not including my three other classes. |
| There were too many classroom digressions (although fascinating!) which ultimately slowed us down. |

The Instructor . . .

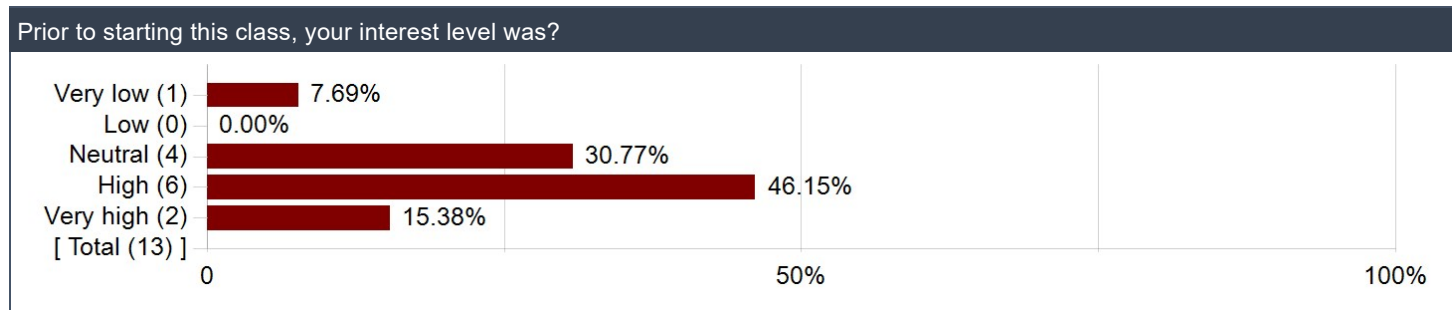|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	18.18%	45.45%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
We had one extra session over zoom during thanksgiving break because we had lagged behind. She ended up recording and sending out about ten video lectures throughout the quarter, some of which were well over an hour long.

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (0) — 0.00%
Yes (13) — 100.00%
[Total (13)]

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (1) — 7.69%
Low (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (4) — 30.77%
High (6) — 46.15%
Very high (2) — 15.38%
[Total (13)]

0   50%   100%

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (0) — 0.00%
- Satisfied (1) — 7.69%
- Heightened (12) — 92.31%
- [Total (13)]
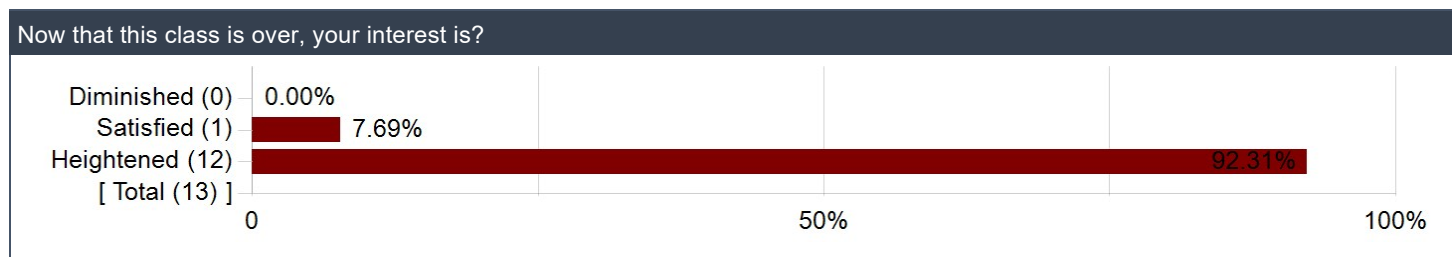
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
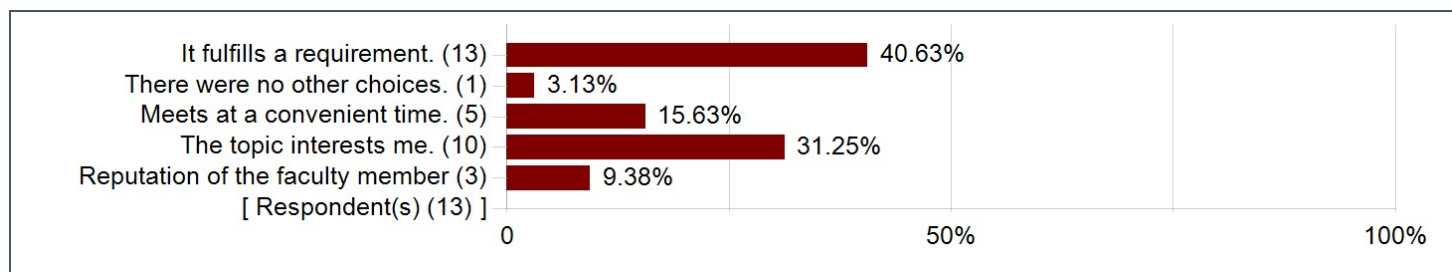
- It fulfills a requirement. (13) — 40.63%
- There were no other choices. (1) — 3.13%
- Meets at a convenient time. (5) — 15.63%
- The topic interests me. (10) — 31.25%
- Reputation of the faculty member (3) — 9.38%
- [Respondent(s) (13)]

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

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

- <5 hours (4) — 30.77%
- 5-10 hours (4) — 30.77%
- 10-15 hours (3) — 23.08%
- 15-20 hours (2) — 15.38%
- 20-25 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 25-30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- >30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- [Total (13)]

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

- None (0) — 0.00%
- 25% (0) — 0.00%
- 50% (0) — 0.00%
- 75% (2) — 15.38%
- All (11) — 84.62%
- [Total (13)]
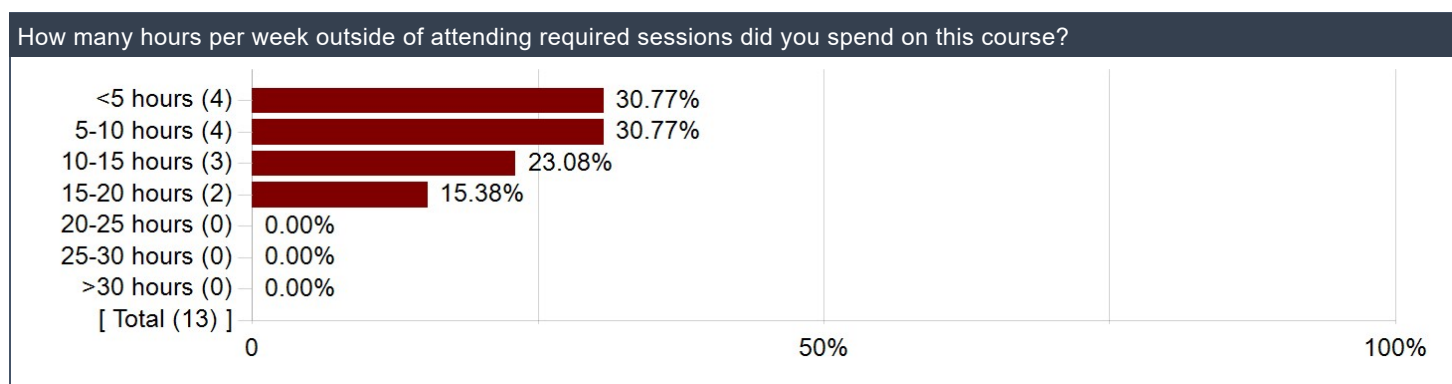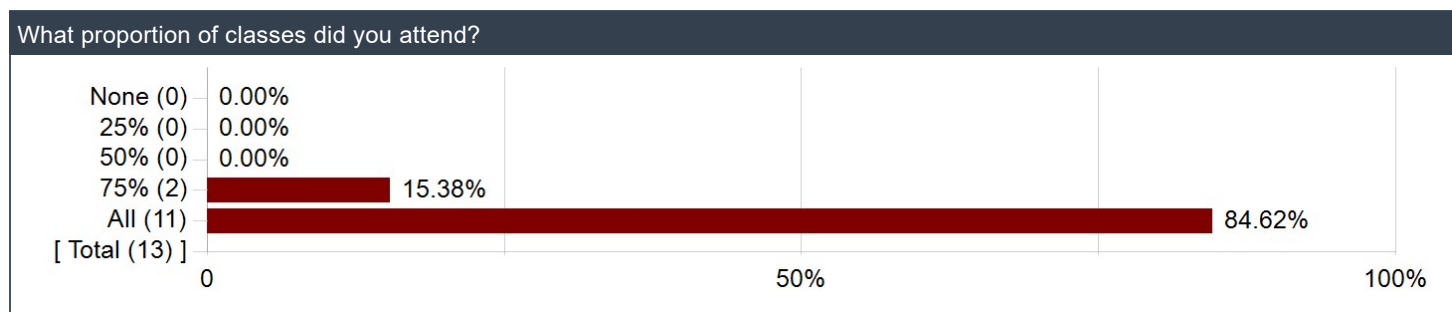
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
not difficult at all
It was relatively easy because I had background in Russian history
As a STEM major, not very difficult. A lot less stress than Self. Essays prompts are kinda like APUSH, and there's no need to reinvent the wheel, which I really appreciate. Reading lengths are acceptable for most weeks.
This is the first history class I've taken at UChicago, and it's appropriate for anyone interested in Russian history. It is an introductory class, after all.
Meant to be an introductory class so no prior knowledge needed.
not difficult but the final did require some cramming
No background, felt it was standard for what I was expecting from Civ.
If you struggle with reading a lot of stuff quickly, you will have to adapt. The scary part of the class is figuring out how to do all of the readings, and which parts to focus on, but she illuminates all in the lectures.