



NEHC 20012 1, HIST 15603 1, CLCV 25800 1, MDVL 20012 1 - Ancient Empires II - Instructor(s): Hakan Karateke

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

Number Enrolled: **30**

Number of Responses: **17**

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
Broad history, social and political life, and cultural elements of the Ottoman Empire
We learnt about a diverse range of topics surrounding the Ottomans, beyond just the conquests and battles that are more commonly talked about.
Ottoman Empire — the history, the culture, the traditions, the administration.
A more nuanced understanding of Ottoman book culture, the ulema, Ottoman Orientalism, etc
Broad themes about Ottoman society, different aspects of their culture, and major battles/events.
not only the historical facts, but a really good comprehensive understanding of the Ottoman culture
Very good foundational understanding of the history of the Ottoman Empire, especially pre–19th century ish. I really feel that I can talk confidently on a broad range of topics regarding the history of the empire and know many specifics and scholarly opinions.
Ottoman Empire. We spent some time covering the broad strokes of history, and then swapped to a topical study, focusing on things like women in the empire, religious minority groups, the ulema, sufis and heterodox religious groups, etc.
Learned about the Ottoman Empire for the first time which is shocking since they have been essential in the course of history.
Ottoman Empire origins, politics, social structures, topics (coffeehouses, legal scholars, architecture, etc.), modernization/fall
I learned so many specific topics of the Ottoman Empire (women, army, etc.)
the history of the Ottoman Empire
Ottoman history, culture, and institutions.

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

Comments
Lectures were helpful in contextualizing the readings but readings probably had the most relevance to exams
Readings were great! They could be really long at times, but overall contributed significantly to learning. Lectures were also useful, and discussions were fun (although I wouldn't say they were particularly informative)
Prof. Karateke's lecture was always very clear and structured. They helped us to grasp the most important theme in Ottoman history, and included exercises for us to engage in historical thinking. Overall, I really enjoyed his teaching style.
Lectures were very helpful.
lectures were great, discussions were really engaging.
The lectures were very good and he posts them online so you don't need to be taking rapid notes the whole time and can just listen and get an intuitive feeling for what he's saying. The readings were also very good and covered a broad range of topics.
Lectures were a tad dry, with the professor mainly narrating off of the slides. I think the slides should be denser with information than they are currently (many have too many pictures without much context). Discussions with our TA Cagdas were great, he was funny and knowledgeable. Too many readings: it felt too hard to get through the assigned reading load each week.
lectures were really nice
Lectures were dull but very well–organized in terms of content progression and flow. Discussions were fun (especially the one in which we role–played an Islamic court!) but they mainly consisted of Q&A sessions between the TA and the student asking the question. We had about 6 1–2 page writing assignments and 2 exams. These were extra work but probably helped to reinforce learning and readings.
2 lectures and 1 discussion section
lectures were great.
Lectures provided broad overviews of the topics. Writing assignments enhanced my understanding of the nuances of the material and improved my historical critical thinking.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.31	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	56.25%	37.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	47.06%	52.94%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.65	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.29%	64.71%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.41	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	47.06%	47.06%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	35.29%	58.82%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	29.41%	70.59%
I felt respected in this class.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	35.29%	58.82%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	35.29%	58.82%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
overall: 5 one page response paper on a source, 2 two page papers, midterm, final
Karateke is a great professor
Good CIV sequence and good class within the Ancient Empires sequence. Professor Karateke is good and clearly has interest in the topic. Grading is more than fair and the assignments are manageable.
I think there were too many readings posted on the canvas page, we clearly did not 'need' to do all of them so it ended up that I did very few of them since to do all of them would be as many as a couple of hundred pages a week. I think if the readings were thinned down to just a couple a week then I would've been more likely to do all of them — I really enjoyed the ones that I did read.
Professor Karateke knows so much about the Empire

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
It was useful to hear professor karateke's thoughts in class to frame the important information, especially at the beginning when we dived straight into the history of the Ottoman Empire
The clear study guides for the midterm and final were also very helpful in identifying exactly what information was relevant
The lectures were really good!
Clear lecture
Lectures / answering questions
amazing lectures, it was very clear that Hakan hoca was extremely knowledgeable on our topics.
Professor Karateke is really great, I took this sequence because it was the only one that worked with my schedule and I ended up really being fascinated by the content in large part because I think he's a very good professor.
The professor's lectures were pretty good, though a bit dry.
lectures
Clear lectures.
his slides and readings/lecture
lectures
Prof. Karateke clearly explained the material and answered all questions. He clearly loves the subject.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Sometimes the readings were quite long, especially having hour long videos or podcasts in addition to readings (but overall course difficult was very manageable)
Discuss the readings more in class and tie them in to what is covered in the lectures.
I liked the youtube videos he would assign — I wish he recorded lectures but his policy is that he doesn't, so it makes reviewing the slides a little more difficult.
None! It was great all around.
Nothing much
nothing.
I think the reading load should be cut down. Some were very interesting pieces of material (I recall a diary from a woman in the harem very insightful), but others were super long and dry and did not contribute much to my learning. I also would have appreciated spending more time on the history of the empire, particularly on the empire from 1800 onwards. The topical lectures were interesting, but I preferred the history lectures. I liked the modernization lecture a lot and I wish we covered more about the politics and internal movements in the empire.
DO NOT INCLUDE THINGS ON THE FINAL THAT WERE NOT ON THE STUDY GUIDE.
nothing
I think the class would have benefited from a quicker pace and a more discussion-based model.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.20	5.00	6.67%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	53.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	46.67%	20.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	53.33%	6.67%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.67%	53.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.47	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.33%	46.67%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Cagdas Acar – his review session for the midterm was very helpful in constructing a broad overview. Weekly discussion sessions were helpful in clarifying the information, especially if you had specific questions you wanted to ask. He also graded essays and midterms promptly which was much appreciated.
Cagdas Acar — he's a pretty solid TA, and he definitely knows a lot on the topic.
Cagdas was very good. Receptive to questions, hosted good review sessions, and was a fair grader.
Cagdas was a great TA. Very thoughtful, knowledgeable, and provided great support! His feedback was useful and he seemed a real expert on the subject. He had some of the most interesting discussion section planning by far that I have experienced at UChicago (particularly his mock court exercise).
Çağdaş Acar
Çağdaş Acar was very knowledgeable and gave good feedback on the many papers he had to grade. Sometimes the discussion sections felt a little useless but when people were tired he would just let us take turns asking interesting questions about the class and always had a lot to say. The activities/discussions we had in the sections were also good and contributed to my learning. Çağdaş was a very good TA
Cagdas Acar, led the discussions, provided a lot of good insight into the topics we were learning about, promoted group discussion, gave good feedback on my papers
Cagdas Acar. Cagdas is hilarious and also very knowledgeable about the subject. He made discussions interesting.
Cagdas
Cagdas was awesome! He was really kind in discussions and answered a lot of questions with great care/knowledge.
Cagdas was very helpful and knew so much about the Ottoman Empire. he helped clarify concepts during our discussion section. he hosted review sessions for our midterm and final.
Cadash. He was very helpful in discussion sections.
Cagdas Acar was our TA. He loves Ottoman history and put significant effort into the course.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	78.57%	7.14%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%

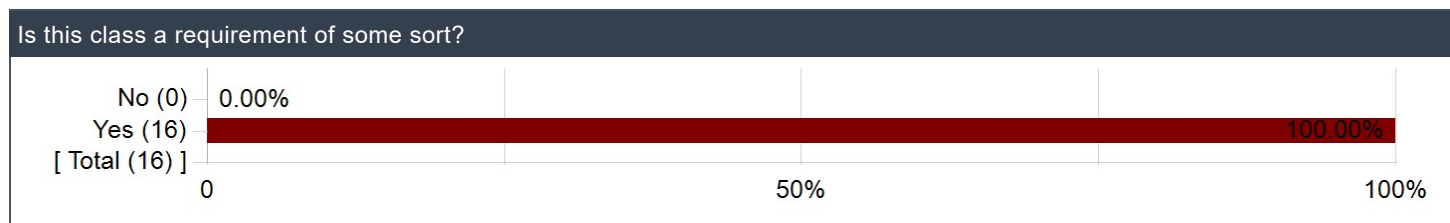
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

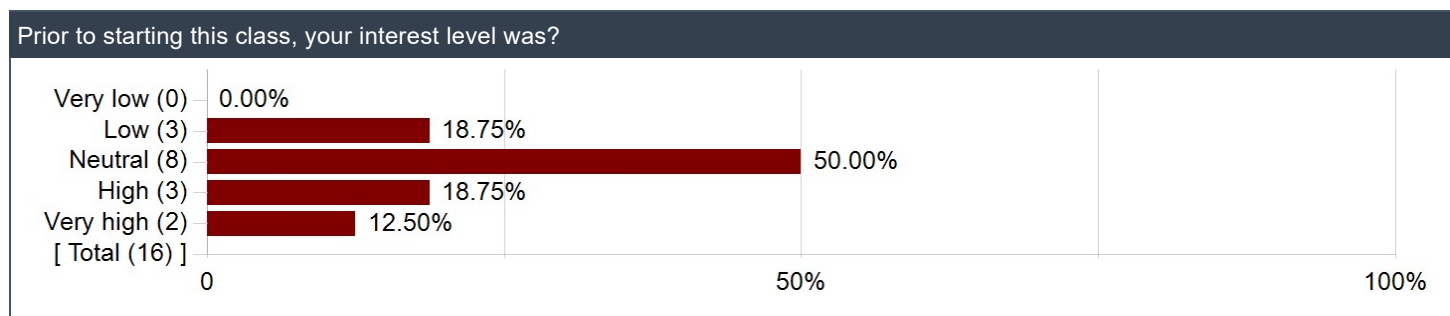
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion sections. This course really did NOT need a discussion section

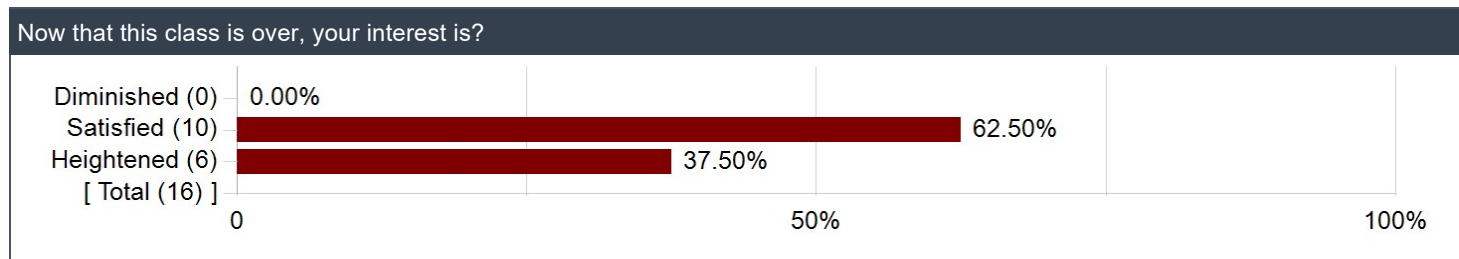
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



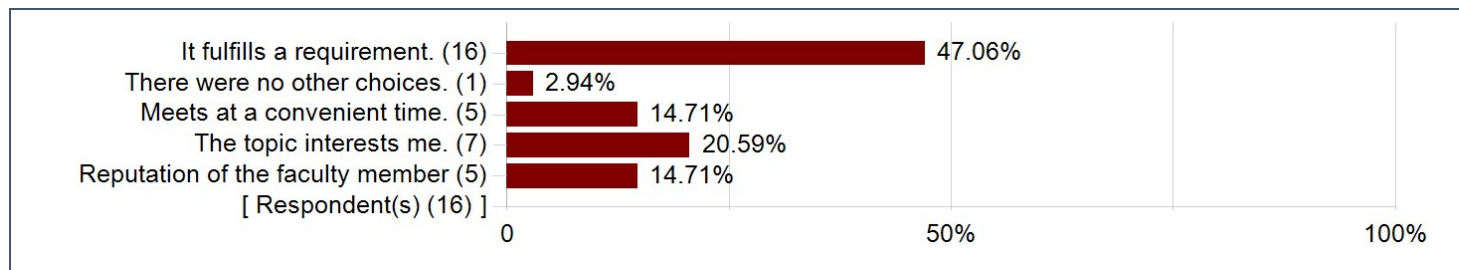
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



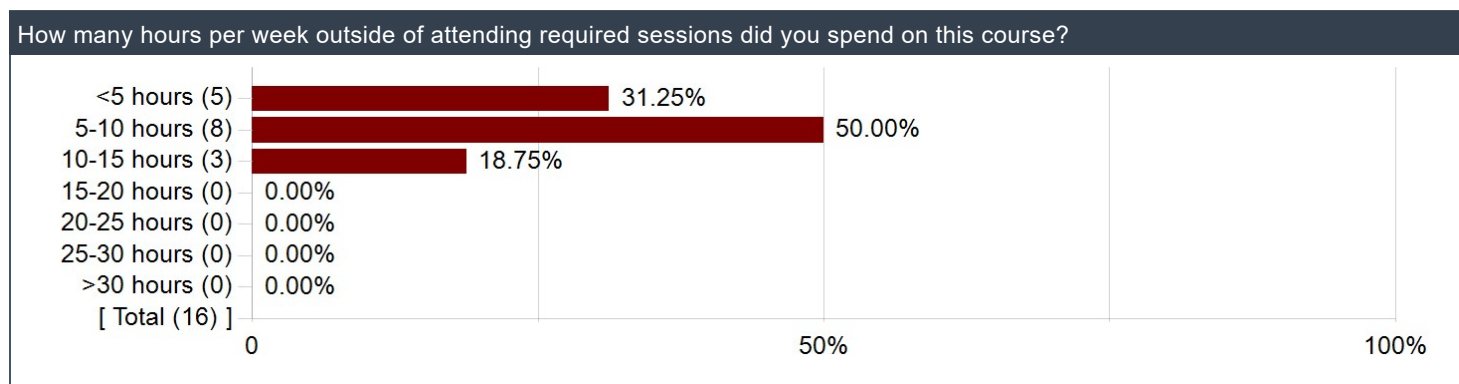
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



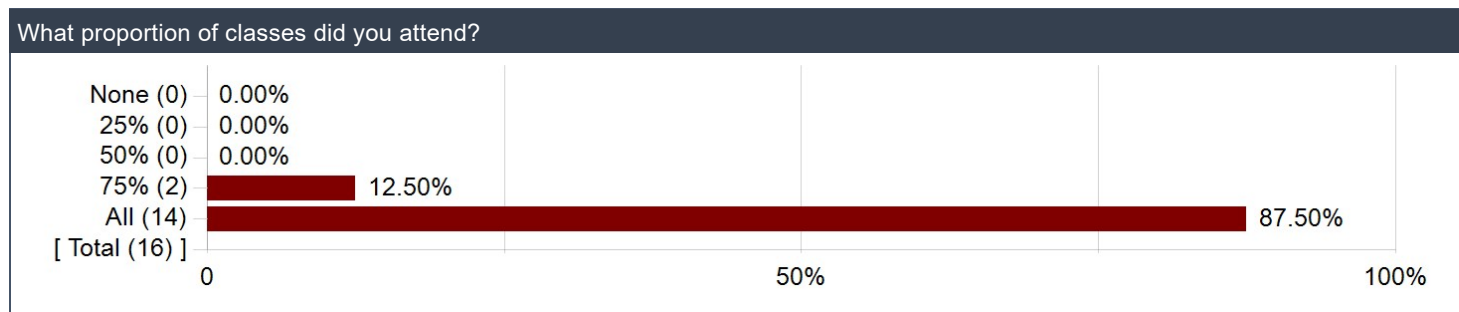
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
No prior experience with the Ottoman Empire and course was very manageable, though a lot of reading was required
Not very difficult to understand the material, but there are lots of readings to do if you really want to learn as much as you can.
Not too difficult
It's friendly to people without background knowledge
Very manageable. Good class, would recommend this.
I didn't find the class particularly hard, yet it was fascinating — especially compared to the bland Ottoman history courses I've taken before
Overall, a reasonable civ course. I think the Ottomans are interesting because they helped to define European history, and understanding them also helps to understand the current political situation in the middle east.
pretty ok
I'm taking this as a CIV. I don't think you need any background on the topic, just some interest to motivate you to do the readings and pay attention in lectures.
I didn't know anything about the empire but the professor gives you a study guide to help study for your exams.
Very doable if you go to the lectures.
The class requires some degree of work but it isn't difficult if you put in a base level of effort.