



# NEHC 20017 1, HIST 20406 1 - Ancient Empires VII: Sumerians and Akkadians - Instructor(s) - Jana Matuszak

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **26**

Number of Responses: **13**

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## Report Comments

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

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Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
The organization of the UR III and Akkadian empires
Akkad and Ur III empires, how to analyze various historical sources (inscriptions, material culture, textual sources, recreated textual sources, geography, etc.), definitions of "empire"
How to think critically about ancient history and assess the validity of sources.
History of Akkad and Ur III, how to interpret literary and archeological sources
An in-depth look at the primary and secondary sources about Ancient Mesopotamia in the 3rd millennium BCE, as well as critical thinking skills for interpreting very old and incomplete textual evidence.
Ancient Akkadian and Sumerian history
Learned a lot about ancient Akkadian and Ur III empires, very new topics for me
Akkad and Ur III and how they play into Mesopotamian history

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

Comments
We had lectures on stuff and reading on the same stuff
Lectures are extremely well-designed and engaging, focusing on both the history and analysis of sources. Readings supplemented the lectures. Discussions forced us to critically analyze the texts, which was useful when applying them on the exam.
Loved the lectures, thought the content was great and also lead to stimulating questions and ideas.
Lectures were clear, concise, and highlighted the most important aspects from the assigned readings. Discussion were helpful to interact with the primary sources and learn how we were expected to evaluate/use the sources in the exams. The presentation/debate was a fun addition that switched up the discussion format.
Classes were about 75% lecture by Professor Matuszak and 25% discussion led by our TA, Anthony. Both Prof. Matuszak and Anthony are great! Each of their segments was interesting, though I'd have preferred even more of a discussion-based model.
Graded work consisted of two exams (each made up of five one-page in-class essays covering core course material) and a short final presentation in a large group.
Lecture, discussions, slides were helpful.
Lectures were very intriguing and Professor Matuszak clearly knows her stuff.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	27.27%	45.45%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.18	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	45.45%	36.36%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	54.55%	36.36%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I felt respected in this class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I think the ancient empires sequence is honestly pretty dull as a whole but as far as professors in it go, Professor Matuszak is pretty chill.
Course was 30% midterm, 30% final, 30% group presentation, 10% attendance. Cutoff for an A is a 94. Felt that the Professor's grading, particularly on the group presentation was harsh

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
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
I think that the discussions were pretty helpful
The lectures were wonderful.
Lectures were interesting and well-organized.
She presented information in a very balanced, rounded way and made sure to acknowledge the difficulties in collecting/interpreting evidence from so long ago. She also helped us learn how to get all the information we can out of the sources we have, and used a wide variety of primary sources to supplement the secondary readings. She encouraged reading of both textual and literary sources, and I really like that she devoted class and exam time to discussions of how we learn about history in addition to factual information.
The slides contain lots of information, but lectures can help make them more clear
Her always being ready to take questions. She was also very helpful in office hours.

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

Comments
I think the formatting of midterms and lectures isnt great, i think a reading response per week instead of exams would be better for learning
Maybe more notes on lecture slides

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
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.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	40.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	50.00%	30.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%	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
Anthony Ray
Anthony was amazing and always led engaging discussions.
Anthony
Anthony was a great TA! He led all our discussions and he broke down the primary sources in an easily understandable way, especially ones that were more confusing because of how old or incomplete they were. He was an entertaining speaker and made sure to include everyone in discussions.
Anthony – great TA
Discussions were led by the TA, enhance understanding of sources
The TA was awesome and very knowledgeable about the topics

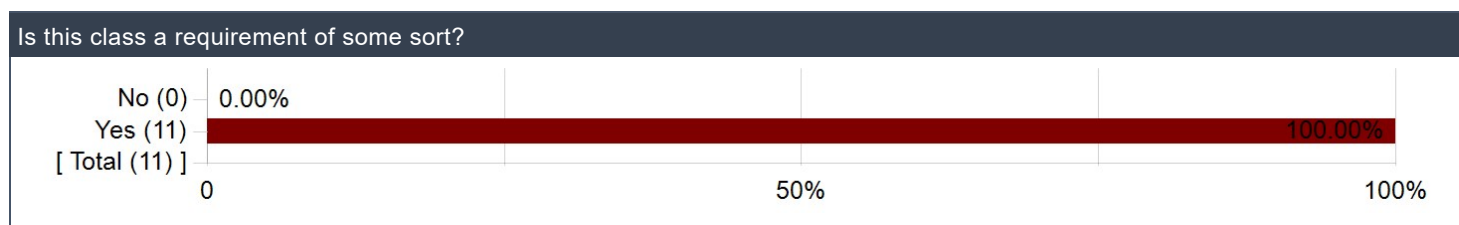
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%

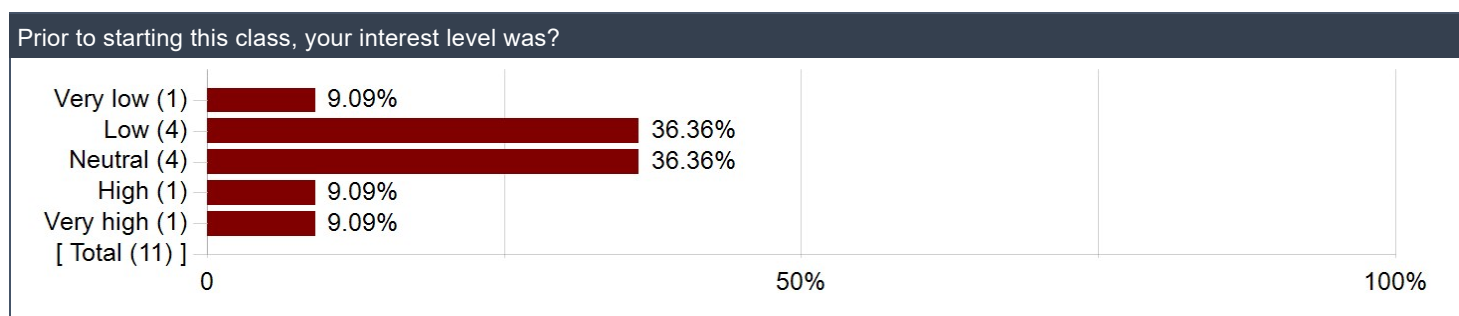
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
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%

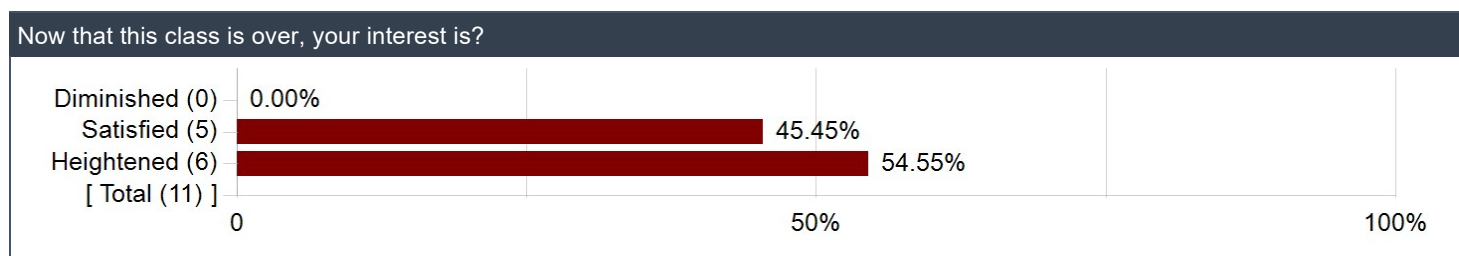
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



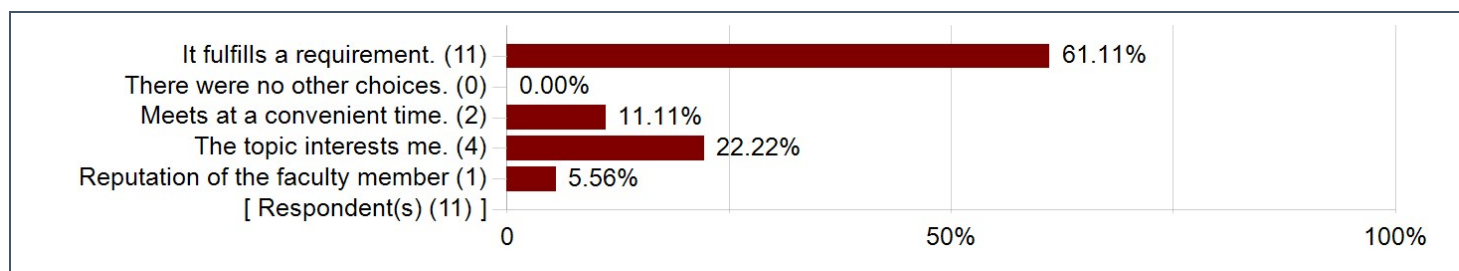
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



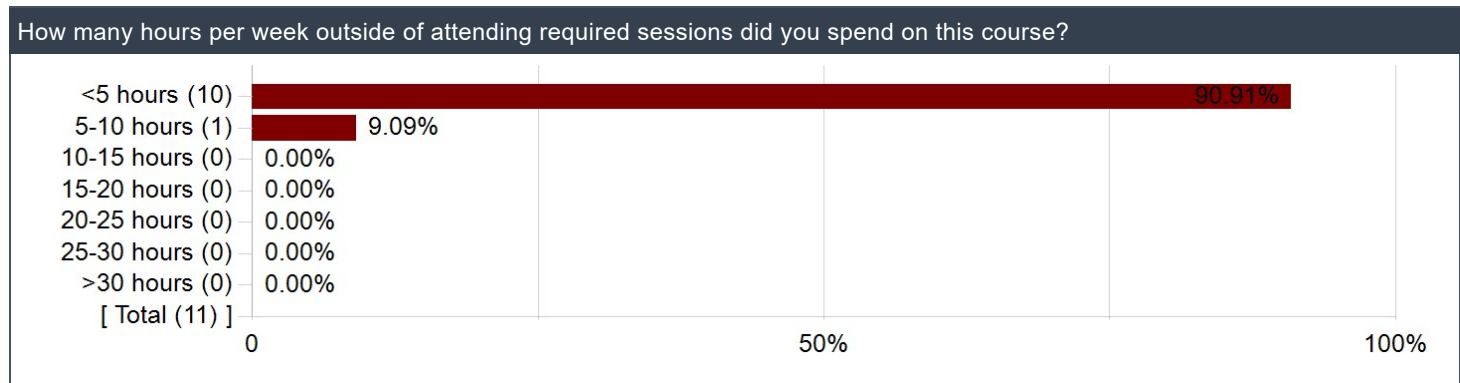
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



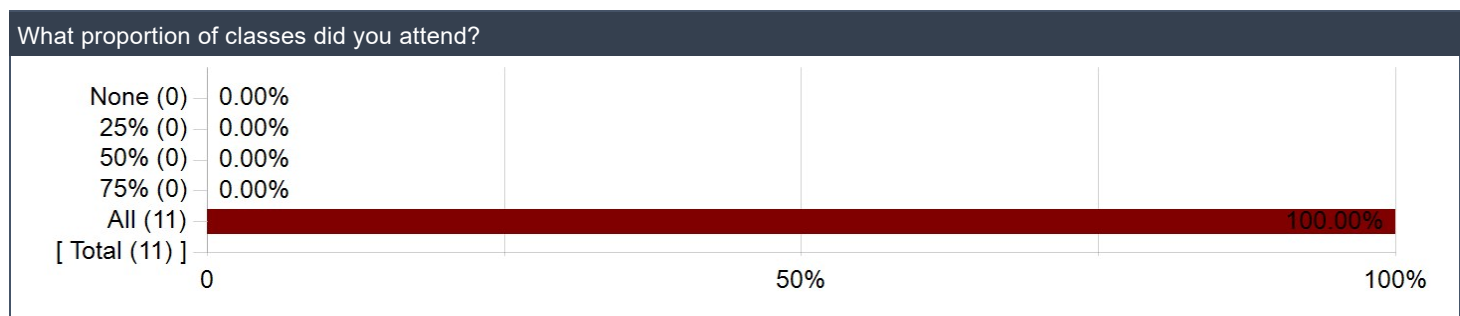
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Involves lots of material and memorization. There is a midterm, final, and project. During lectures, professor mentions many things that might seem mundane but must be retained later for exams. More challenging within the Ancient Empires sequence.
Pretty chill and fun given that it was an ancient empires course
Not a difficult class but found it difficult to focus during long lecture classes
It's not a particularly difficult course (not in terms of workload, at least) but it's super interesting regardless of background. I was already really interested in this time period, but this course heightened my interest and gave me access to a lot of resources to do my own research.
Not difficult
I'm new to the topics, it was not too bad
Manageable despite the topic being very niched