NEHC 20011 1, CLCV 25700 1, HIST 15602 1 - Ancient Empires I: The Hittite Empire - Instructor(s): James Osborne

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

Number Enrolled: **44**
Number of Responses: **24**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
Early bronze age, middle bronze age, late bronze age (Hittite Empire) in Anatolia Conflicts with other empires, trade networks (Anatolian Trade Network, Old Assyrian Trading Colony), Hittite art
Literally nothing. This is the most content free class and should be avoided.
How to tie together archeological and written sources to make inferences about areas in history that are not well documented Anatolian linguistic history, proto–Indo–European language models early bronze age, middle bronze age, late bronze age Anatolia—and how polities in and around Anatolia interacted with one another, culturally, economically, artistically, etc.
An introduction to Archaeology in the context of Ancient Anatolia.
honestly idk random facts about archaeology, the actual content started really late into the quarter
Hittite Empire. Lots of how archaeology is actually carried out. Covered from the early/middle bronze age pre–empire period through late bronze age and collapse of Hittie Empire.
Archeological background of understanding the Hittite Empire
I learned the entire political history of the Hittite Empire, as well as features of their religion and other elements of pre–Bronze Age and Bronze Age Anatolia.
How the Hittite Empire worked and all of the intricacies in its history.
The general information/contexts explaining the rise, peak, and fall of the Hittite empire as well as its' culture
All about the Hittites
Pretty much everything related to the Hittite Empire and ancient Anatolia
Who the hittites were, why they were important, and why they were pretty neat
Geography of Anatolia, Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Hittite empire.
Hittites and what not. Various kings whose names sound like pastas
Hittite religion, What made the Hittite empire successful and what made them fail at times.
I learned about the Hittite empire start to finish (and a little bit about the time before and after). We learned about Hattusili and Suppiluliuma and the the Tudhaliya's.
Suppiluliuma and quagga!!!

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

Comments
Lectures were the most important to understanding the course (exams depended heavily on lecture material more than that of the readings) – images on slides were really helpful in visualizing what the professor was talking about Dr. Osborne was a great and very engaging lecturer, and also very approachable for office hours.
This class was an actual hour and a half of listing facts, none of which were motivated to have any reason to care about it. There isn't any sort of underlying thematic idea, its actually just a list of facts.
Lectures were highly insightful and detailed and got me to think as a historian, especially when we analyzed artifacts and texts. Readings helped supplement the lecture content and add new perspectives. Discussions could have been more interactive.
Professor Osborne is one of a kind. The lectures were amazing and the textbook was helpful as a typical history book.
there were only lectures
Lectures were super good. Prof. Osborne is incredibly engaging. I suspect many people (like myself) didn't really care too much for the Hittites before this class, but I learned a ton about them and felt connected with those guys.
Lectures were really amazing, Dr. Osborne is a fantastic lecturer
The lecture was highly informative.
Mainly lectures, that was what you needed to know and they were always engaging.
Primarily lectures, which were extremely engaging and informative
Lectures great
Lectures were engaging and very interesting. Readings often a little too long or technical so it was easy to lose interest
Lectures were amazing!!!
Mostly lectures were used to gain information about the course.
The lecture was the most important part for learning. Professor Osborne was a great lecturer and really kept the class engaged. There were also readings (and we would have a discussion sometimes in class).
The actual content of the class was really cool. The archaeology lectures were interesting but the lectures about the history and culture of the Hittites were dry and boring most of the time and made me fall asleep. The actual history and culture content was actually really cool so I don't know how it became so boring in lecture. I would highly recommend reading Bryce instead. It is a very fun book to read.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.13	4.00	4.35%	0.00%	13.04%	43.48%	39.13%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.13	5.00	4.35%	4.35%	17.39%	21.74%	52.17%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.87	4.00	13.04%	8.70%	4.35%	26.09%	47.83%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.22	5.00	4.35%	8.70%	13.04%	8.70%	65.22%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.91	4.00	8.70%	4.35%	21.74%	17.39%	47.83%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	5.00	4.35%	4.35%	13.04%	21.74%	56.52%
I felt respected in this class.	4.48	5.00	4.35%	0.00%	8.70%	17.39%	69.57%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.30	5.00	4.35%	0.00%	21.74%	8.70%	65.22%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Learning about the Hittite empire was really interesting! The ancient empires sequence as a whole is great, with a very reasonable workload. I really enjoyed this class. Graded assignments were made up of a midterm, final, short essay on an artifact, map quiz, and attendance.
Literal worst course I have taken here
This was an excellent course and made me realize the incredible detail scholars can derive from very few historical sources to understand past societies. Despite having transpired so long ago, Hittite history shares so many parallels with countless other societies. Super fascinating content overall!
I came out of this course considering a career in archaeology.
A lot of things were really unclear because it wasnt stated what was going to be on the midterm and there was no summary or review prior so it was kind of like playing a guessing game, not very well strcutured. We only started talking about the empire around 5 weeks in and the first stuff was very slow, repetitive and just random facts about archaeological research
Great class, would definitely recommend to anyone. Professor Osborne is incredibly enthusiastic and his knowledge shines through when teaching the class. Loved everything we learned, overall a great class.
Prof. Osborne is an incredible researcher and is very knowledgeable about the topic but I believe that the class lacked some organization at time. We didn't know what to expect in exams and didn't have any sort of practice tests – it was hard to know what were the standards of success.
A liitttle too much was expected on the memorizing front for a core class. If this was a history class for majors, then understandable. However, since I was taking this class for the core, it felt like it was more memorizing than I was expecting.
Excellent course. Super interesting. Perfect if you want a fun history class.
bearable
N/A
I really loved this class! Professor Osborne is a spectacular lecturer and its really fun to take a class with an archeologist.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.52%	90.48%
Anyone interested in the topic	18.18%	81.82%

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

Comments
The lectures contributed most to my learning – the readings contained more supplemental information, but the lectures highlighted the key points and provided a lot of visuals and maps of the cities that were helpful in organizing the material in my mind.
I think the exams with fill–in blank is very inefficient as it is very hard to review what is important and would be put in the exam. would make more sense to have multiple choices as the quiz
I have nothing positive to say about this class.
The instructor was clearly passionate in his lectures and empowered me to think as a historian in analyzing artifacts and texts.
The instructor is so fascinating to listen to. Lectures were great.
Lectures! He was fantastic.
James is one of the coolest, down–to–earth profs I've had so far. sick lectures. Genuinely strives for learning. I dig James massively
Professor Osborne was an excellent instructor and was very passionate & knowledgeable in this field. He also shared his own excavation experiences when teaching, which was really intriguing.
Dr. Osborne really loves his subject and this is highly apparent in his lectures.
Osborne is an incredible lecturer, who manages to keep it funny and enjoyable while very efficiently imparting a lot of information.
The lectures
The general enthusiasm/engagement in lectures brought the subject to life, made it easier to understand and dive deeper into readings
Great lecturer and enthusiastic
Lectures and tangents about archaeology
Professor James Osborne is one of the best teachers I have had at this school. He is so passionate about the subject and that really shines through during lectures. He is also extremely knowledgeable and gave excellent lectures. They were interesting and engaging and fun.
Lecture I class was the most that contributed to my learning.
The lectures were great. Prof. Osborne is really passionate about all the content, so it made learning a lot more fun. I really enjoyed learning about all the political intrigue.
the museum object paper

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
It was great!
I think maybe put more emphasis on thematic ideas instead of just forcing an unbelievable list of facts to get memorized and saying we should know things because 'theyre cool'
Honestly not much, the class was organized very well and I didn't feel like any part was inefficient.
structure the class better and stick to the structure, provide a more coherent understanding of what topics are being tested in the midterm, if you learn nothing for five weeks its hard to guess what you might be tested on
I would have appreciated better communication for expectations on the midterm. I got penalized quite a few points for identifying objects correctly, but not stating enough about their importance in history. I did not understand that these details would be worth most of the points, or I would have written more.
Nothing
The course structure seems to swing between a historical chronology and a few border themes, such as monuments and the arts, it could be better structured. Prof. Osborne is a very enthusiastic lecturer, and I enjoy the lectures a lot.
The amount of reading assigned was excessive. I could barely really keep up, especially whenever I couldn't devote total attention to it.
Maybe condense the readings to what we actually need to know.
Nothing
Not much
Perhaps talk a little bit slower
Please be more specific about what is or isn't going to be on exams, but besides that, nothing!
Not go into too much tangents
N/A
Overall the class was great, but sometimes the stratum levels were confusing. I think it would be helpful to talk about the different ways that site excavators number different levels.
make the lectures more fun

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.33	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.38	5.00	4.76%	4.76%	9.52%	9.52%	71.43%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.33	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.52	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	9.52%	76.19%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.29	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	14.29%	23.81%	57.14%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.43	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	14.29%	9.52%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.45	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	14.29%	66.67%	4.76%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.38	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	23.81%	61.90%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.52	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	9.52%	76.19%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.48	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	14.29%	4.76%	76.19%	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
Cagalyan and Naomi
Naomi and Caglayan were both fine.
Naomi L Harris and Çağlayan Bal
We didn't interact with the TAs much, but the review session at the end was helpful.
Caglayan Bal. Legendary TA

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	33.33%	11.11%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%
Challenged you to learn.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.13	4.50	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	33.33%	11.11%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	44.44%	22.22%	11.11%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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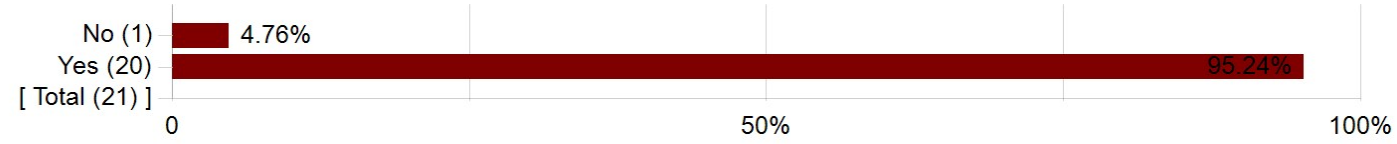

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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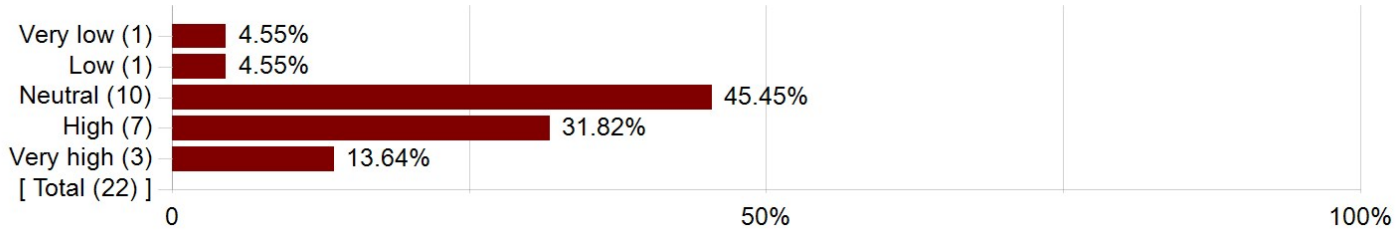
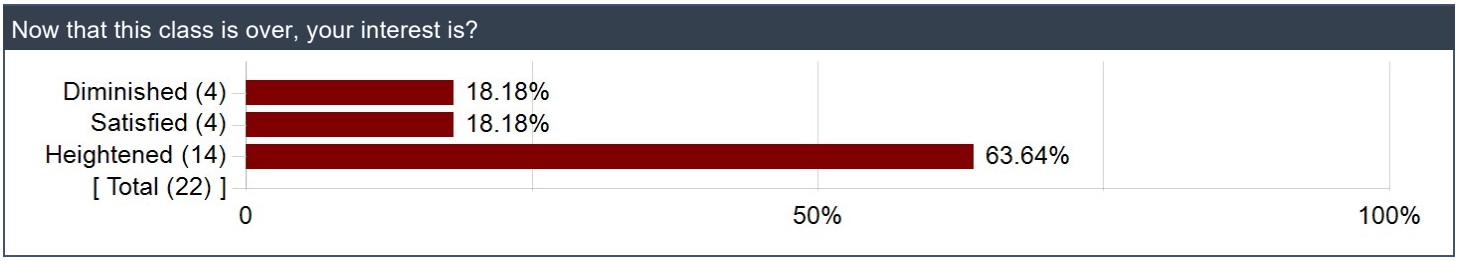
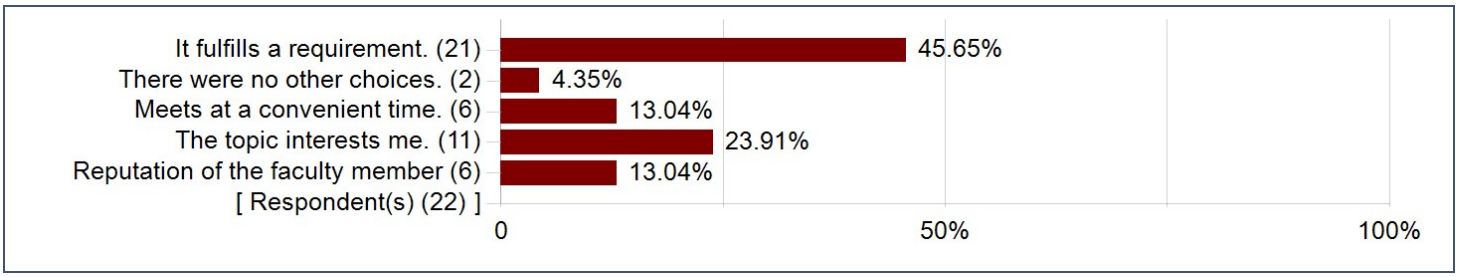


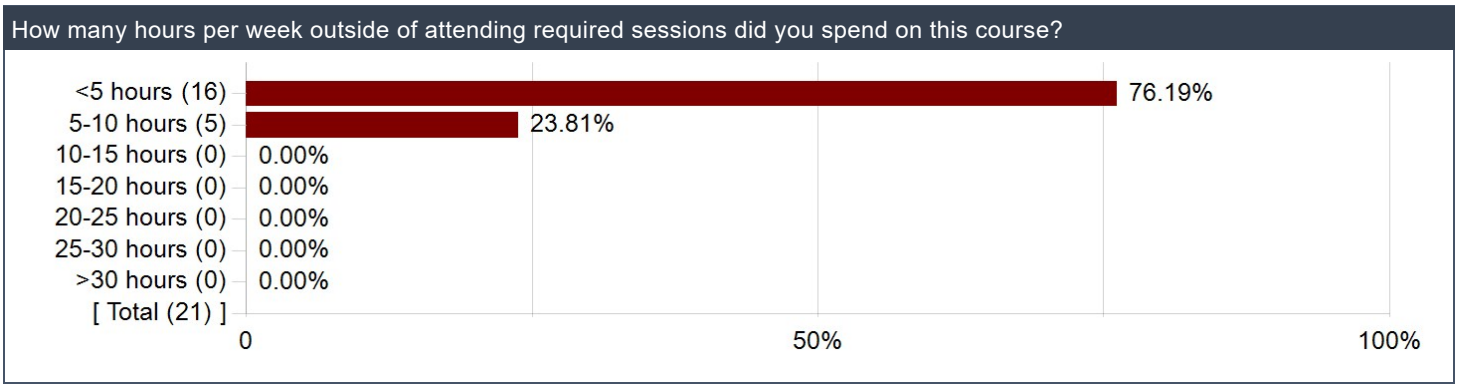
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



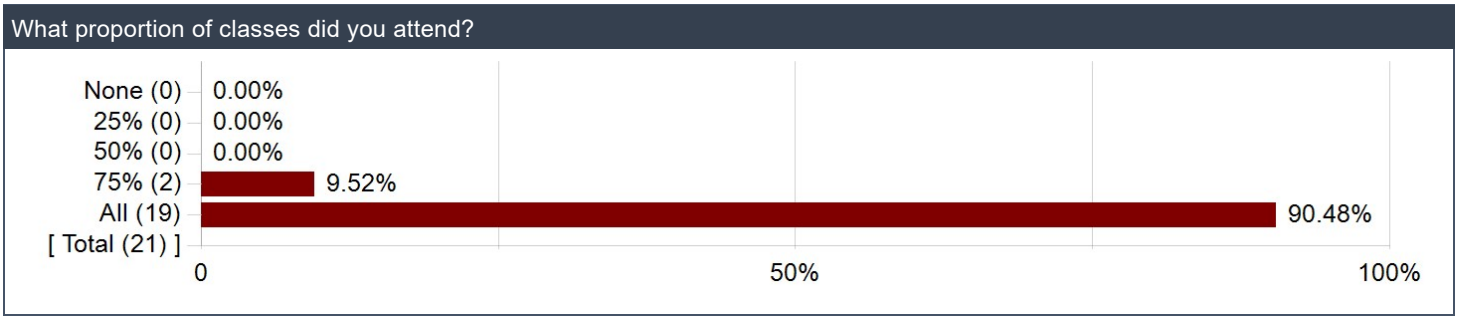
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
I had no background in the Hittite Empire, but this course was very approachable and I learned a lot! Make sure to attend all the lectures to do well on exams (and attendance is recorded as well). Highly recommend this course.
It is hard to tell what matters in this class, and feels like it has reduced to memorizing large lists of facts. This made the class a lot more difficult then most of the other core classes I have taken here.
Highly doable if you listen in lectures and digest the information.
Quite easy, + you actually learn about the Hittites.
Just got really mundane and therefore became difficult, too many grading components as well
Enjoyably challenging in terms of memorization load. It's not too hard. Great class!
Just take it. You won't regret it. Easy–A and extremely intriguing class.
Some ancient history knowledge is helpful but not needed
Knew basic things about the Bronze Age, pretty chill as long as you pay attention in lecture
STEM major that knew nothing coming in; pretty interesting course and not hard if you pay attention; just know everything on the slides to do well on tests
Content is interesting but I'd say that other civilizations studies classes might be easier for sure. Professor was very nice and passionate about the topic but course clearly lacked organization.
I would recommend this class for the core, although it wasn't a complete walk in the parks. Go to class, do the readings, study a bit and you should be fine
Not difficult at all. Very fun course, but the exams do take some studying.
While Professor Osborne is clearly passionate about the subject, this class is kind of a pain for someone with a bad memory. To do well in the exams you actually have to take notes word by word instead of just reviewing the slides. The workload is very light but I wouldn't consider it an easy civ.
I don't think you need background knowledge on the Hittites I think in fact professor Osbourne said that the Hittites are a very niche empire to know about.
this is a super manageable course for anyone!
hardest class I have taken at UChicago by far because of the unclear expectations on the exams