



SOSC 24900 1, HMRT 10100 1 - Human Rights in World Civilizations I - Instructor(s): Ben Laurence

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **10**

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
We used diverse perspectives, historical moments, and various forms of media to explore how human rights have been constructed and implemented.
I learned about the historical and theoretical developments in sociopolitical conceptions of human rights. The class was a mixture of historical and thematic progressions through human rights related declarations, political theory, and social criticisms.
Documents establishing the principles of human rights, and human rights violations across history
Human rights applications for different events throughout history.
The course reviewed the history of human rights developments and helped us define our conception of human rights. The concepts were also applied to current events.
I genuinely enjoyed the Human Rights in World Civilizations class. The sheer variety of readings – spanning historical eras, cultures, and perspectives – was pretty amazing, offering a wide lens on the evolution of human rights. Sure, the workload was hefty and sometimes the discussions could veer off track, but on the whole, they were engaging and thought-provoking. Prof. Laurence did an excellent job of keeping us on the right track. It was cool how we didn't just stick to dry texts; we explored films and novels too, which brought some life into the subject. The papers were standard fare, but they encouraged deep thinking and connecting the dots between the different concepts we studied. In summary, the class was a solid mix of challenging and enlightening, and I definitely came out with a richer understanding of human rights across world civilizations.
I learned about the history and the importance of human rights discourse as a means for establishing universal norms.
The impact of human rights on the general populous of the status quo on a global scale.

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

Comments
This course met twice a week for discussion based classes. We were expected to have already done the readings and be prepared to contribute to a class-wide discussion.
Readings, discussions, and papers were the primary components of class. Readings and discussions contributed to responding to prompts for the three paper assignments .
Lectures were essential to understanding the readings to a deeper level; essays allowed us to demonstrate this understanding
The discussions were interesting.
It was really useful to hear my peers' interpretations and opinions on the content we discussed in class. My peers were really engaged with the content, in comparison to the other discussion-based courses I have taken.
Lectures and discussions were really well organized, you can tell Ben has experience leading a classroom discussion.
Lectures were very engaging, and office hours were a great time to enhance your understanding of the material.
They were informative and helpful.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.20	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.30	5.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	60.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	20.00%	70.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Ben Laurence is the GOAT. Nuff said.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	10.00%	90.00%

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

Comments
This has been one of my best discussion–base courses at UChicago! Professor Laurence navigates discussions through encouraging comments and interesting leading questions. The structure of this course is very reasonable and I gained lots of new insights.
Professor Laurence contextualized the readings with discussions of the historical period and context, which was helpful in better understanding and relating texts.
Professor Laurence led discussions well and was helpful in discussing the essays during office hours.
He always had interesting things to say about every topic and asked good questions.
Professor Laurence always previewed our discussions with context, to clarify possible points of confusion. He also required students to create discussion questions, which would then be announced to everyone in the class for the first time. This gave everyone an equal opportunity to participate in the discussions and welcomed incomplete interpretations of the text.
I appreciate that Ben was kind and understanding. It means a lot these days.
Office hours and class sessions were very helpful.
The interactive discussions with designated discussion leaders during class time.

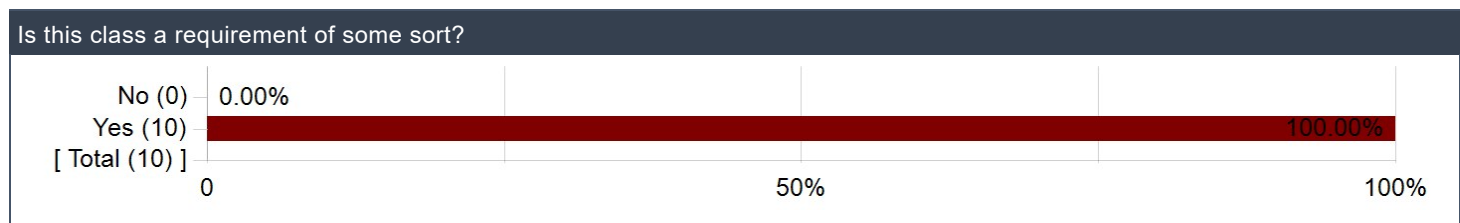
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing!
The course seemed a bit disorganized at times, with misprints in the syllabus and canvas assignments related to incorrect readings and due dates which sometimes made it hard to plan. The walk in office hours resulted in long wait times for students, and it could take a long time to receive responses via email.
The only thing I can think of is to respond to emails more consistently.
I wish more of the content was integrated with the Pozen Center for Human Rights. It would have been valuable to have events that worked in conjunction with the class, to get a better idea of the opportunities they offer.
Excellent course.
Nothing comes to mind.
Giving more specific feedback on graded assignments instead of vague and somewhat unhelpful notes.

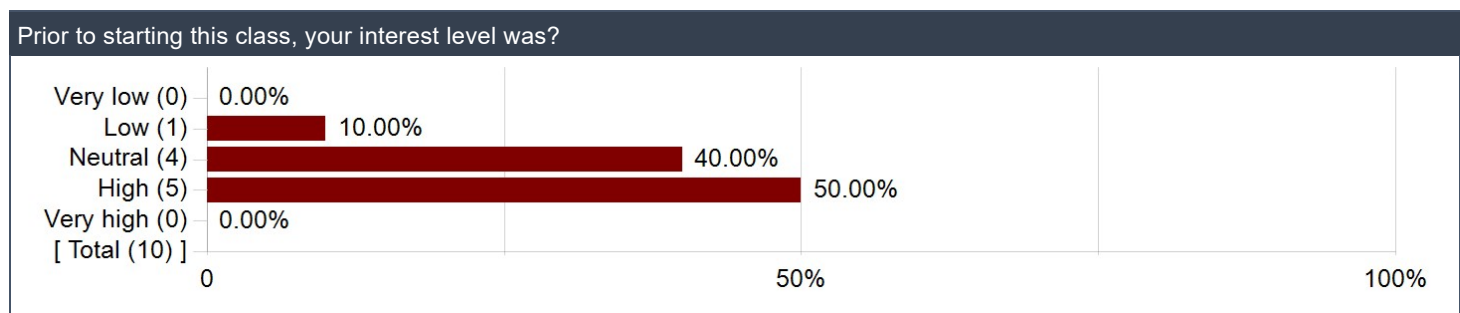
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	60.00%	10.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.30	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	80.00%	10.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	0.00%

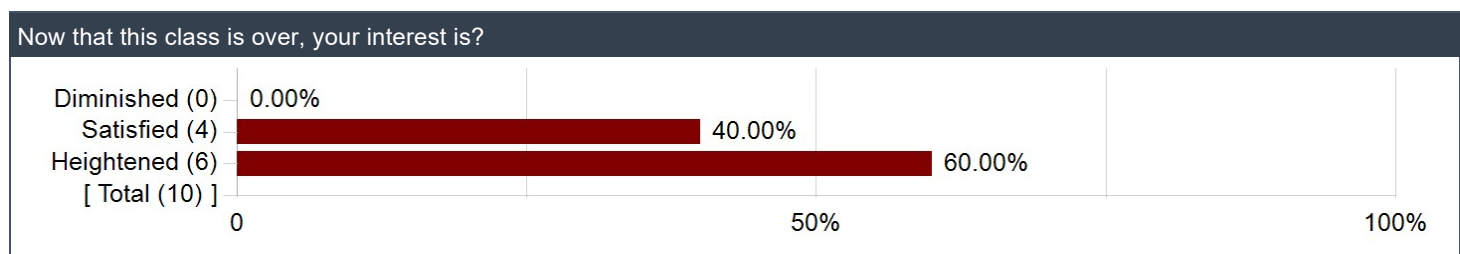
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



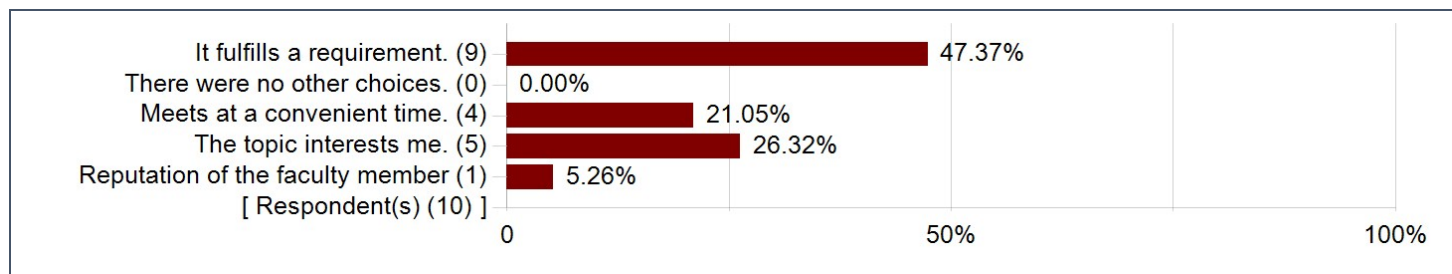
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



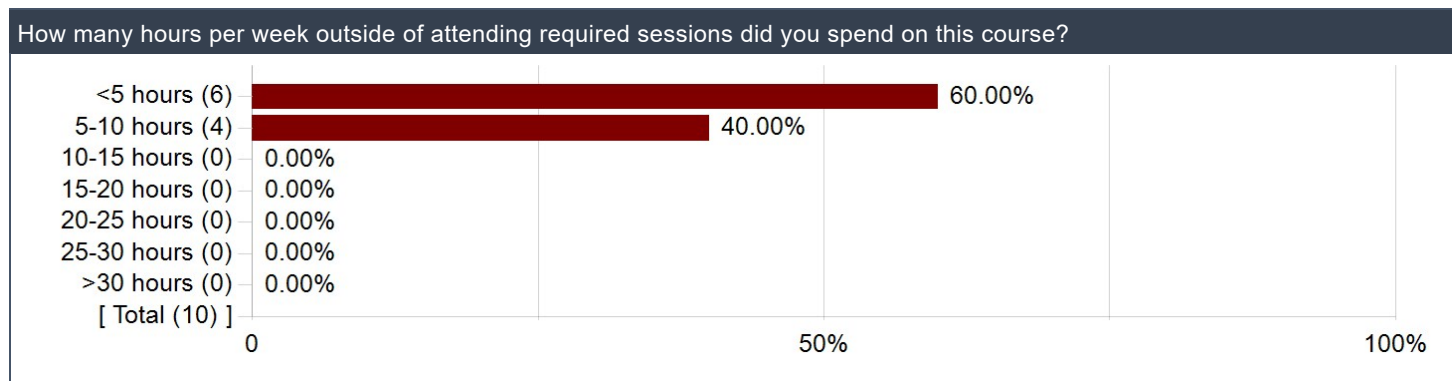
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



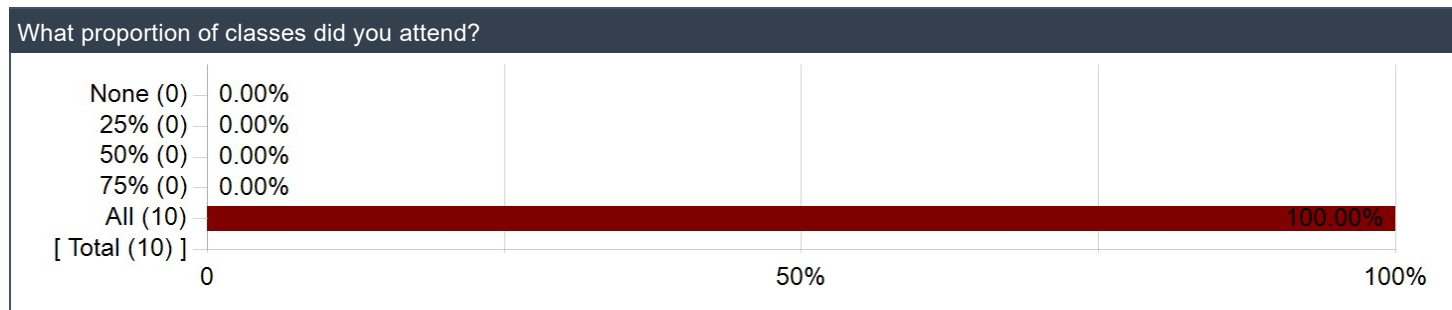
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
This was my first discussion and essay course in while and I found it very manageable! The topics and readings were very interesting and accessible
This course is not particularly difficult, especially after having taken both HUM and SOSOC.
This course was at a good introduction for someone who hadn't had much knowledge about or experience in human rights before. I am looking forward to the next course in the sequence.
This is a pretty easy civ requirement, you only have to write three six-page papers.
This course challenged me to think critically about the definition of human rights.
Great course, good reasonable difficulty.
It was difficult but manageable.
I had zero knowledge on this topic as a whole, but because I had dealt with political, argumentative discussions in my past through debate I found it relatively easy to contribute to contentious discussions and write papers on subjects I didn't fully read about.

