



NEHC 20016 1, HIST 20405 1 - Ancient Empires VI: The Assyrian Empire - Instructor(s) - Augusta McMahon

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

Number Enrolled: **40**

Number of Responses: **12**

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, 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
All about the Neo-Assyrian Empire – art, imperial messaging, structure, policies.
Who the Neo-Assyrians were, why they were important, what their art looked like, etc. Great survey course
assyrian empire
What distinguished the Assyrian empire from other empires. How it came to power, a lot of little details of the day to day and how it fell.
All about the Assyrian empire!
The Neo-Assyrian Empire, and how to read palace reliefs.
The Ancient Assyrian Empire and the many surrounding topics.
Very broad and thorough overview of the neo-Assyrian empire, especially great familiarity with the visual language of palace reliefs and the various crafted objects and texts of the time.
Assyrian empire culture

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

Comments
The course was mostly lectures, with only 2 discussion classes. Lectures were informative, discussions less productive, probably because students did not have the time to get to know each other and were unwilling to talk/engage with the material and each other.
Lectures and discussions were engaging and interesting. Lots of photos and the instructor and TA were both clearly very interested in the subject.
lectures were helpful
Lectures are really important but they post the slides so you don't technically have to attend except when there is a discussion class planned. The ISAC tour was really nice.
Lectures were the most important part and they were fantastic!
Lectures were really informative, and covered for most everything — readings almost weren't necessary as a result.
Lectures were great!
Professor MacMahon's lectures were amazing, they were super well-organized and packed with information but really engaging to listen to. She repeats the important information several times in different ways to make it memorable, and includes a huge variety of photos and various sources that is all organized very clearly. This was one of those great courses where at the end I was absolutely amazed by how much I had learned.
lectures useful

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	50.00%	41.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Love the content, the professor, and the course overall, but the standards for success on graded assignments were rather poorly expressed. There's a practice midterm, which is good, but I felt like I was flying blind for the final paper.
I felt like I was just sitting back to learn from the history channel when coming to this class. The material was interesting and well presented, and the workload was quite manageable.
Take this class!!! Professor McMahon is awesome!!!!
This was a very enjoyable class to take as a CIV requirement.
I had no interest in the neo-Assyrian empire before taking this course and I greatly enjoyed this class and learned so much. UChicago has such an important history with the field of near-Eastern studies so to take a course like this with such a great professor is something I'm really glad to have done in my time here.

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
Her enthusiasm for the material made the otherwise very long and content heavy lectures more stimulating.
Lectures with the photos on the slides! it was really interesting to look at all the art
her lectures
Her lectures were well organized.
I really enjoyed the lectures. The research paper was also fun.
Professor McMahon's lectures were extremely informative and the slides were great
Fantastic lectures!
The phenomenal lectures. I also think the design of the assignments and tests was superb, like a really good balance of testing things you learned from the slides and also drawing original thought/argument out of us to an appropriate degree.
lectures

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Perhaps more discussion? It was a big class though so I think they did a good job with scheduling two discussions and breaking everyone into groups on those days
not much
She talked a little low and sometimes it was hard to follow because she spoke fast. Holding office hours that are not appointment only would help a lot.
Not much, maybe a little more clear on what we need to structure the essay like?
possibly some more organization on the course material.
Nothing!
nothing

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	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
Çağlayan Bal. She gave a lecture 1 time and did 2 tours at ISAC that helped us get some ideas together for our final paper.
Caglayan Bal. She was very knowledgeable and helpful, and lead a great tour of the ISAC gallery
Çağlayan Bal
Caglayan Bal. She was a good TA, although she almost felt more like an observer than TA, since I didn't interact with her much.
Caglayan Bal
Caglayan Bal. She was very friendly and I thought that she did a very good job moderating the class discussion which is important. I found her presentation a little less engaging than those of Professor MacMahon and I was a little bit confused about how it fit into the structure of the class. But overall I think that she was a great TA and the museum visit was well-organized as well.

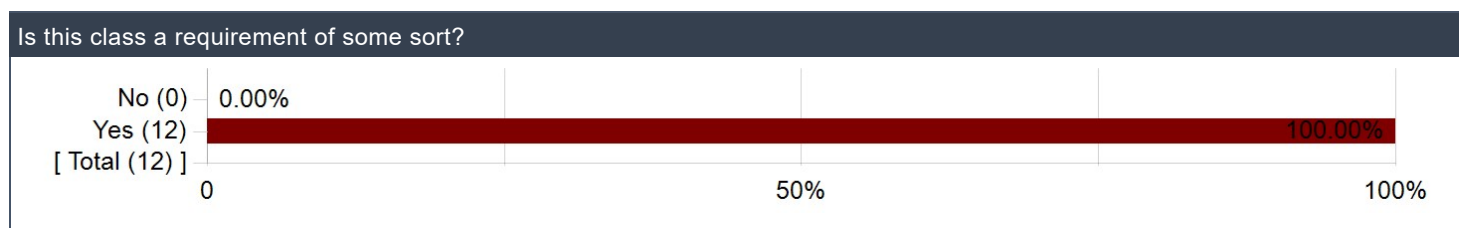
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%
Challenged you to learn.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%

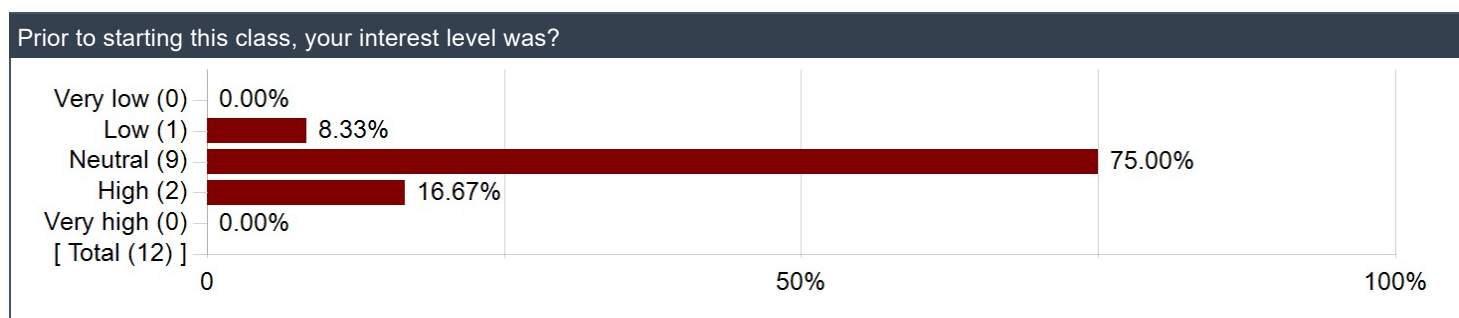
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	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%

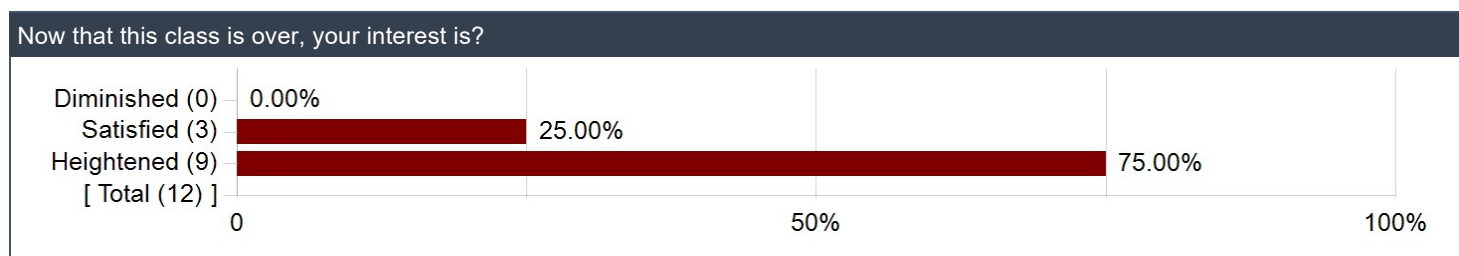
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



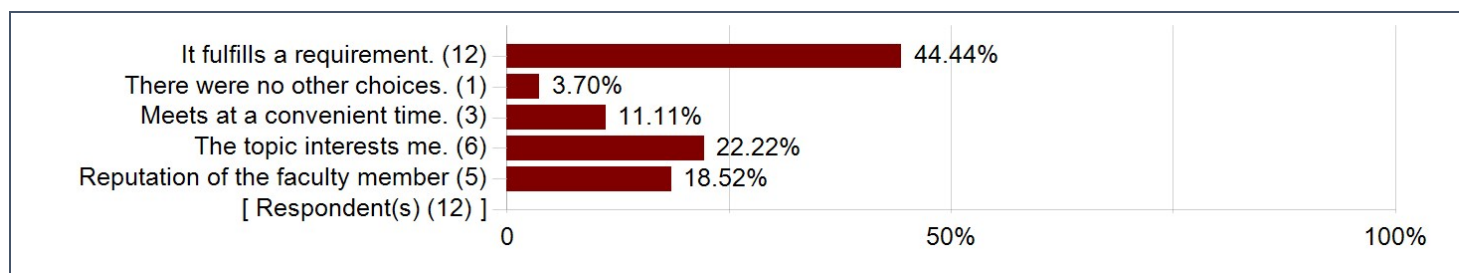
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



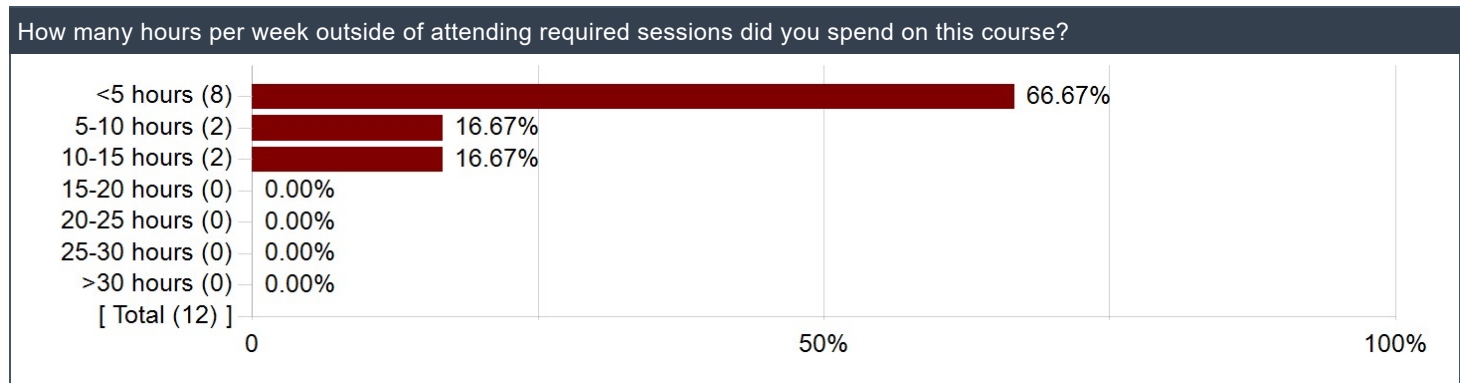
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



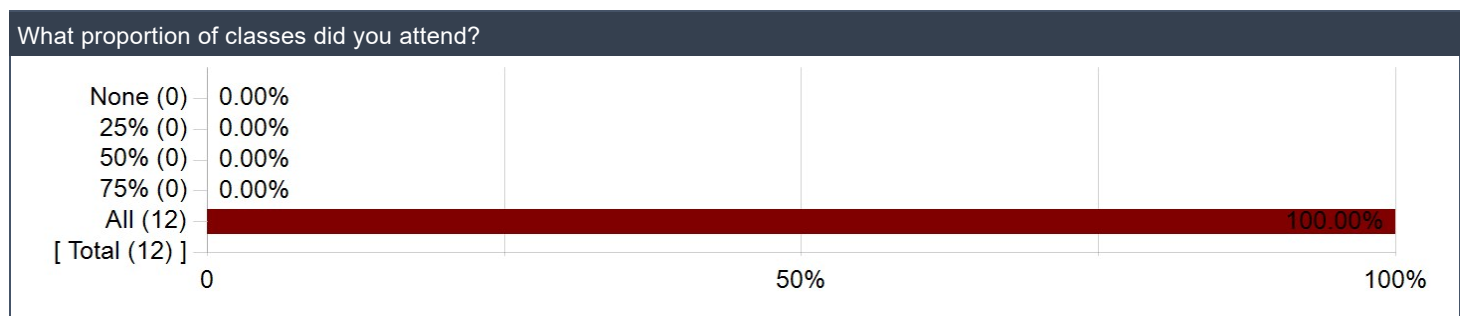
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
A good amount of reading, but no different from any other core sequence course. 1 paper and 2 exams (which contain short essays of shorts), very manageable.
Pretty reasonable workload– some reading, one ~10 page paper, a midterm and a final
Not difficult
It's very beginner friendly. Maybe better to take as a second Ancient Empires core class, because it has a lot of connections to a lot of other ancient empires.
not that hard if you got to class