



HIST 17521 1, ENST 27521 1, HIPS 17521 1, CEGU 27521 1 - Energy in World Civilizations I - Instructor(s): Fredrik Albritton Jonsson

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

Number Enrolled: **28**

Number of Responses: **16**

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
How to understand energy systems through history
How to analyze large societal transformations is energy and otherwise from a multicausal view.
We learned about energy systems throughout different time periods. We specifically looked at how it influences society, the economy, the political landscape and policy, etc.
Energy history from the beginning of human civilization to the end of the Industrial Revolution
History through an energy lens. We focused on the Anthropocene, early foragers, early agricultural societies, the Roman Empire, Song China, and the British Industrial Revolution. I learned that most things in history are multicausal.
How energy and the evolution of its use has shaped the world entirely
Learning that things are not simple cause and affect reactions when it comes to history, and that inventions are built on the back of the economic systems, the societal conceptions of energy and more. We learned the nuance of history in this class.
How to compare and contrast different energy systems, how to interpret historical pieces, and how energy history can help us learn how to address climate change today
Understanding history through the lens of energy transfers
I LOVE this course, really one of my favorite courses that I've had the pleasure of taking at this university. Learned a lot about historical thought and various energy systems leading up to the industrial revolution.

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

Comments
Lectures were very helpful. I found the readings very interesting.
The readings were often quite dense, but the lectures elucidated them immensely. Overall, the discussions were indispensable for the course. The assignments and workload were fair and useful in formalizing the knowledge in the readings.
The readings helped me gain background information about energy systems and historical events. The class discussion helped me dissect the concepts of secondary and primary sources and apply them to larger course themes.
Discussions were very insightful.
Discussions were great, especially because readings were a little tricky at times, and the Prof is incredibly knowledgeable on the subject
The lectures were always insightful. Even if I read the readings inside out, going to the lectures were mandatory because there would be a new perspective to look at the readings from.
Lectures, review sessions, and office hours were all helpful
The readings were interesting, but the discussions were usually not very deep. My section was far too large (~30 people, whereas civ classes are usually capped at 19), which also hurt the quality of the discussions.
The in class discussions were the primary learning opportunities, but the short responses and term paper were also important. I haven't taken the written final yet, but I think it probably seems like the least important aspect of the course and primarily a way to ensure you have been paying attention and showing up to class.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	69.23%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	69.23%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	15.38%	76.92%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	84.62%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%
I felt respected in this class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This was my favorite core class! Prof. Jonsson is amazing.
Love the professor! Check out his latest book!
This class was harder than I thought
It often felt like the purpose of written assignments was to reconstruct the professor's arguments rather than to develop our own.
Great course, if you have the opportunity to take it I definitely would.

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
Lectures
He had a good balance of questioning and hints for us to discover history for ourselves.
Professor Jonsson is well-versed in energy history, specifically the British Industrial Revolution. He always asked questions throughout the class that sparked discussion and used the readings. Slides offered helpful summaries of course concepts, maps, dates, and important figures. The review sessions for the midterm and final exams were very helpful when preparing for them. Professor Jonsson was always good at responding to emails and setting up meetings as needed via zoom or in person.
Lectures
His genuine interest in the topic
Discussions. Prof did a really good job at making a comfortable constructive conversation in which everyone participated
Slideshows, writing key terms on board, making good points
Great facilitation of discussions and selection of primary/secondary sources

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I found the short responses to be a little bit stressful, especially since they were due before class which meant we only had a day or two to work on them.
n/a
Nothing
Nothing – probably the most engaging class I've taken here
Help us know more how to do historical writing
More discussions/maybe an optional "discussion section" that could go more in depth, as the quarter is a very short time to cover the breadth of prehistory–19th century

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	76.92%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	84.62%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	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%

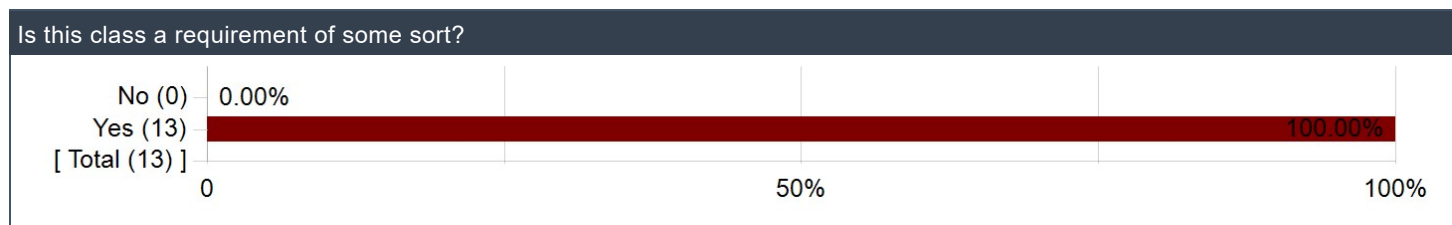
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Maureen McCord. She was incredible — always easy to reach out to to schedule meetings and super willing to help explain assignments and give me new ideas to consider.
Maureen McCord. She was incredibly helpful in assignments and for understanding the readings. She was accessible through her weekly office hours, in emails, and often after classes, so I had no trouble finding time to discuss the course with her. One of the most interesting lectures was the one she gave in class. In every sense of the word, she is a great teacher.
Maureen McCord
Maureen McCord. Maureen was available during her office hours or via email to answer any questions as they came up. She was able to offer helpful advice when it came to the short topic, term paper, final exam, and further understanding of course topics.
Maureen C.
Maureen McCord. Couldn't have asked for a better TA. She's super passionate about energy history.
Maureen was great, she was more like a 2nd professor than a TA. The lecture that she led was by far my favorite, her well structured slides made the discussion easy to follow, which was appreciated.
Maureen is the best TA I've had. Her insights were so helpful – and often hilarious. She went above and beyond, making time outside of her normal office hours to hold one on one meetings to assist me. A gem!
The TA could always pull from a vast bank of historical knowledge to draw analogies from, which was always relevant.
Maureen was awesome and honestly one of my favorite TAs I've ever had. She was really helpful and added helpful comments in class to help us further understand class material.
Maureen McCord. Maureen did a great job of building on the professor's lectures by adding points that she, having a different research specialty, was more familiar with. Maureen therefore made substantive contributions to the instructive content of the course. Maureen also was very conscientious with regard to making herself available for consultation on short writing assignments and the term paper and providing guidance on student outlines. Having Maureen as a TA made me get a lot more out of the class I would say.
Maureen was kind and helpful. Her area of expertise (British East India Company) gave her a unique and valuable perspective on the course content. Maureen delivered one of the lectures, and my only comment on her lecture is that it included a lot of historical detail that, while interesting and exemplary of her extensive knowledge, was only tangentially related to the course's central themes.
Maureen Mccord

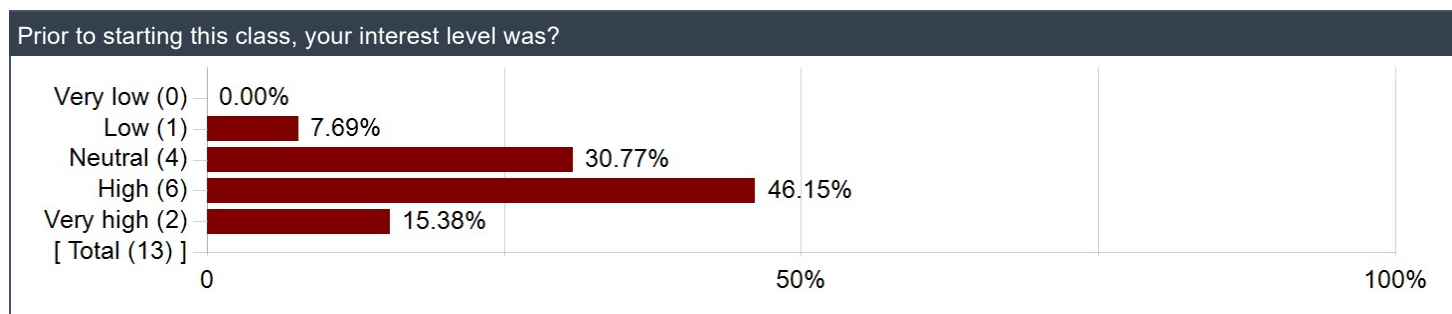
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	13.33%	80.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%

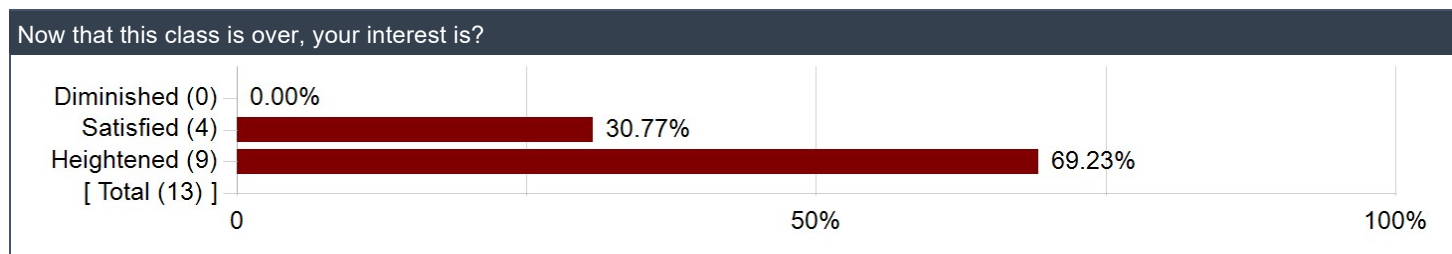
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



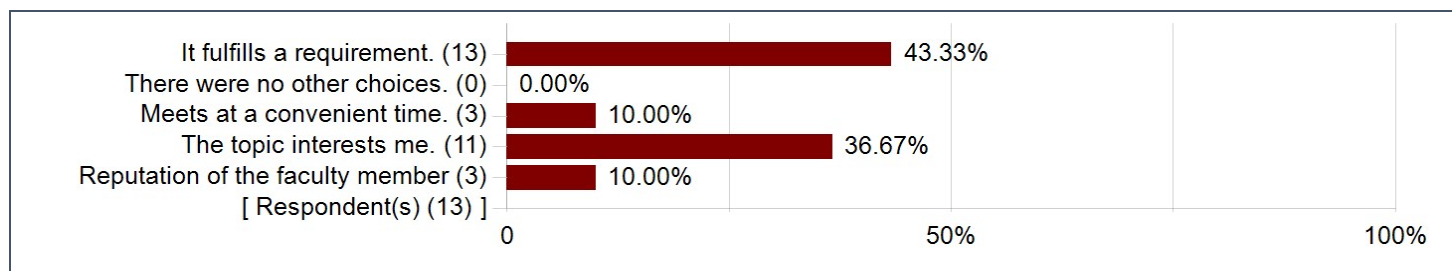
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



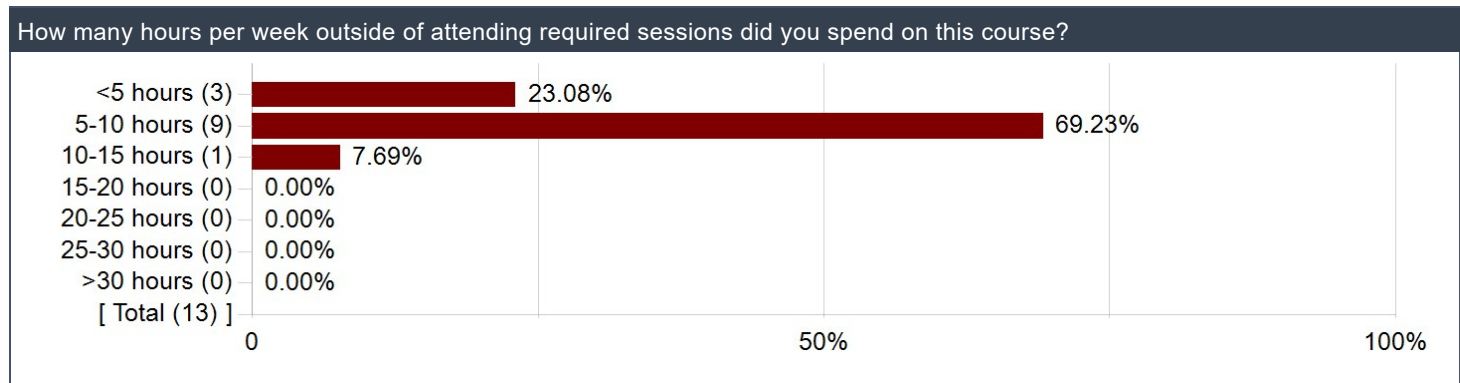
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



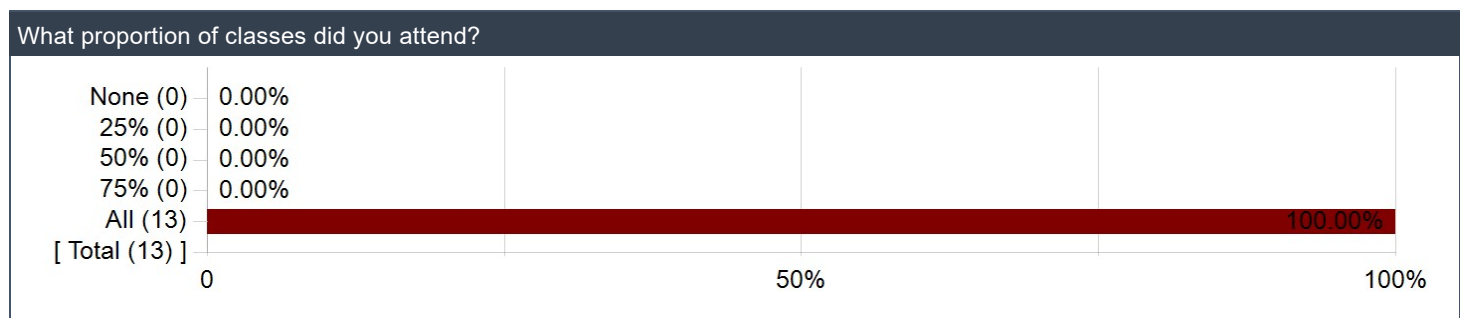
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Not too hard.
I have a mathematics and physics background like much of my classmates. Despite this, I found the class to be quite manageable both in terms of workload and content. The material was difficult, but Prof. Jonsson and Maureen did very well to answer any questions I had.
Challenging but rewarding
Maybe harder than the average civ, reasonable though
Harder than I thought
Not difficult. The review sessions for the written assignments were very helpful.
If you participate and have fun it is not a stressful class