



HIST 14000 3, REES 26012 3, SOSC 24100 3 - Introduction to Russian Civilization II - Instructor(s): William Nickell

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **6**

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
Russian history from the October revolution to the present day
I learned about Soviet and Russian history post–October Revolution to now. We went through each time period in great detail, going from the Imperialist Revolution, Stalinism, Holodomor, the Holocaust, the Thaw, Putinism, and the invasion of Ukraine. We also touched on topics like Soviet art, women's rights, the dissident movement, perestroika, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.
The rise and fall of the Soviet Union
Russian history from the 20th century to the present

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

Comments
readings and Prof. Nickell's lectures were the most important. the readings gave me knowledge and his lectures gave flavor and perspective not available anywhere else. Office hours were also extremely helpful.
His lectures at the beginning of class were helpful in putting the readings into context with other important events going on in the world as well as giving a first person account of how some of these themes looked like for everyday people in the country.
Professor Nickell would begin class with a mini–lecture. Then, we would go through most of the readings and discuss them.
In–class discussions were great; Professor Nickell asks provocative questions that help facilitate interesting discourse on the topics at hand. I also really liked the examination of primary sources at the beginning of each class, especially as we began looking at the Cold War era. However, assignment grading was a little unclear to me – it would have been great to have a rubric for the papers

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	20.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	40.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.40	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
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.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
good class, I liked Nickell's laid back and personal classroom style compared to my autumn quarter professor.
Grading somewhat arbitrary
I liked it but it spanned too many years to focus in on any specifics that would've been interesting to learn. Would've also liked more historical context

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
I liked the slideshows. They are not the most engaging by any account, however I you close your laptop and really focus on what he is talking about and what is on screen, I find that they really contribute to my subjective sense of soviet history
His lectures
Professor Nickell is really knowledgeable about all things Soviet Union/Russia. You could tell he has a great passion for the subject and it shows through his lecturing, and the content he decides to show us.
Discussions and his real passion for the subject.

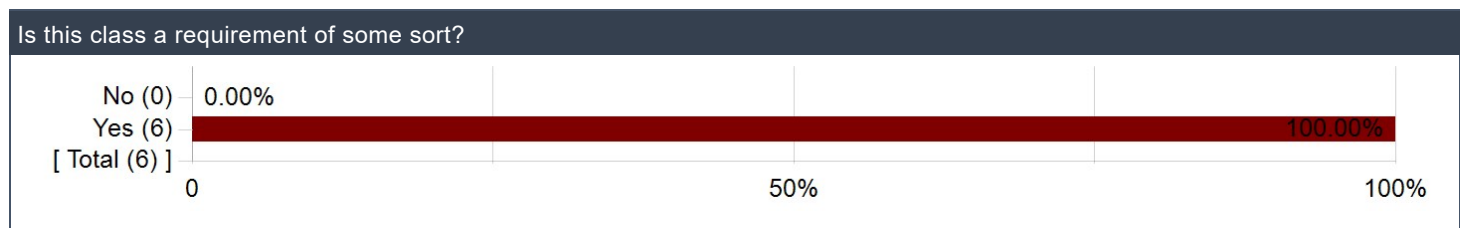
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I wish he was more purposeful with the readings he assignment. One reading per class would either be a 25 page ideological speech that was not very informative or an announcement of crop numbers or something else like this from which there are very few nuggets of k owl edge to be gained
Not assign so many readings. We rarely cover all of the ones he assigns.
Sometimes, we wouldn't get through all of the readings that were assigned for a certain class. There could be a lot of readings for a given class period, which did sometimes feel like you "wasted" time reading them. If we weren't in a quarter system, this wouldn't really be an issue because the readings were interesting, but it did feel that way at times.
I wish we could have examined academic evaluations of the problems with the Soviet economy more so that the discussion in class could have been better informed.

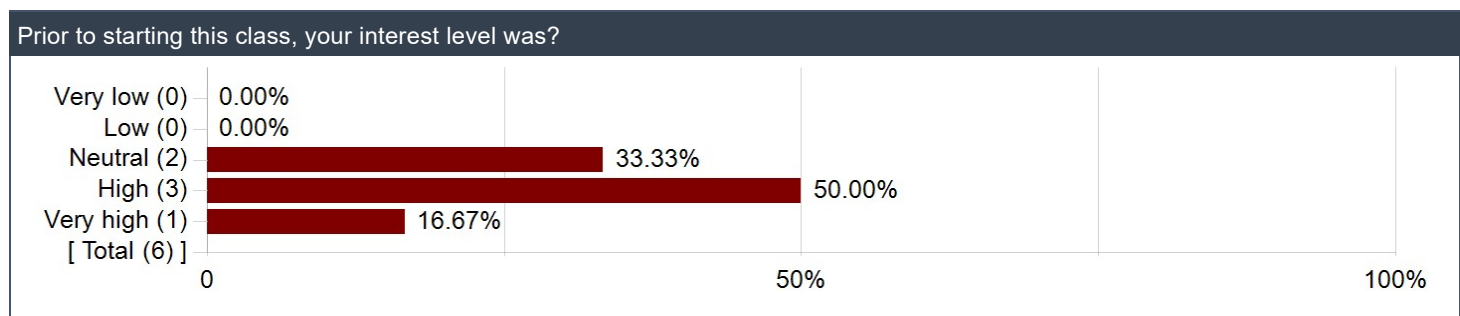
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	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.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%

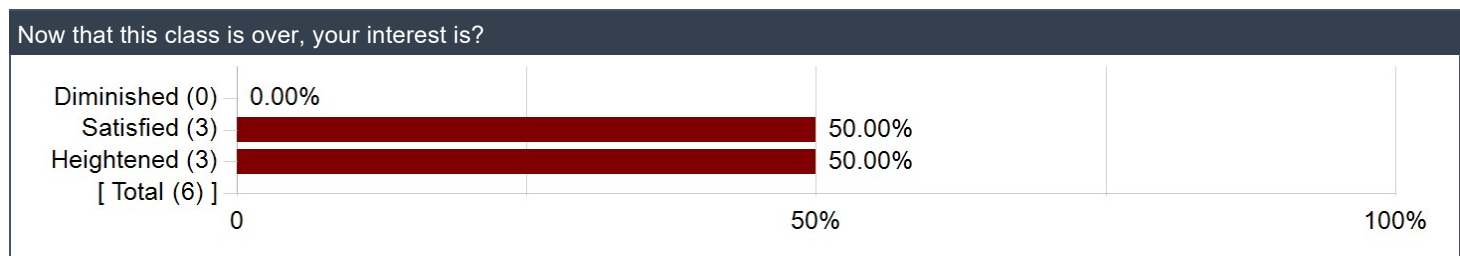
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



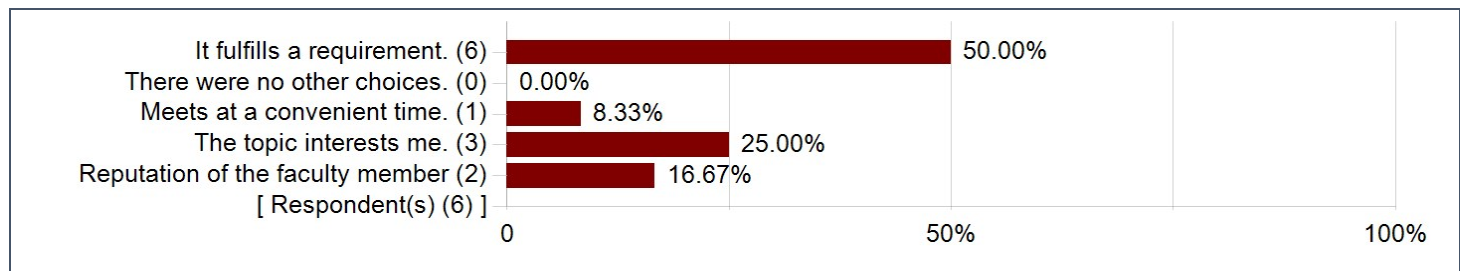
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



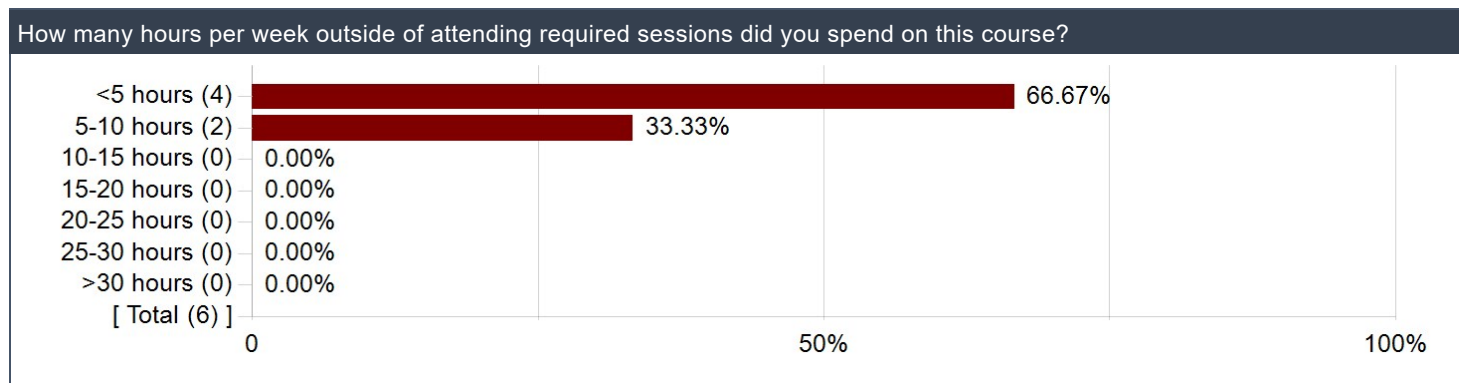
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



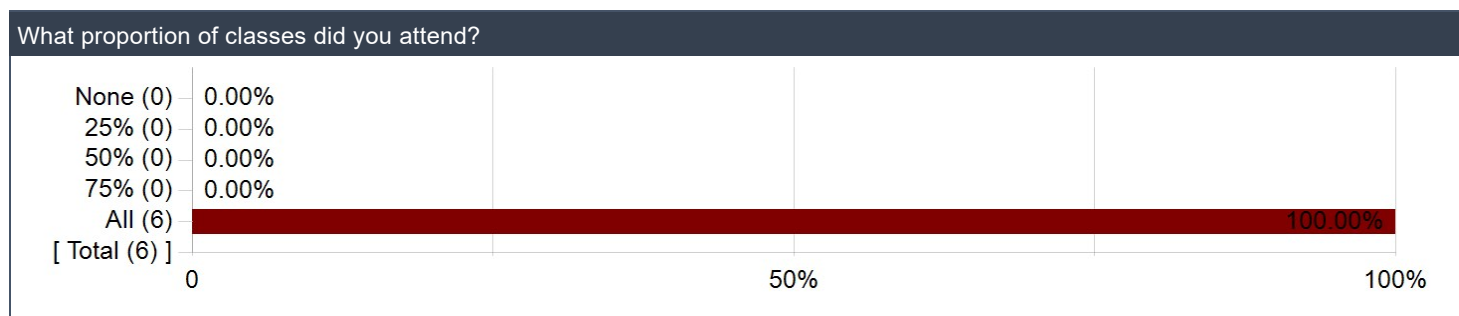
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
easy class, but not because the material is. Nickell is more focused on his students learning (or at least, those of us who want to. many students never spoke and stared at their laptops all class. they likely didn't care to learn anything but I don't think Nickell or anybody could reach them) than on assigning tons of work or many writing assignments. This laidback style made me learn more
Not difficult good civ to take.
Not difficult, especially if you take Russian Civ 1 first to help provide some context. However, it's definitely not a requirement to do so.
Not hard
This is a fun class that covers interesting topics in Russian history. The most difficult thing was not knowing exactly how assignments would be graded.