



LACS 16200 1, HIST 36102 1, ANTH 23102 1, LACS 34700 1, SOSC 26200 1, HIST 16102 1, CRES 16102 1, PPHA 39770 1, RDIN 16200 1 - Introduction to Latin American Civilization II - Instructor(s): Mauricio Tenorio

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

Number Enrolled: **65**

Number of Responses: **35**

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
Latin American History from late 17th century to early 19th. Obviously very general, but managed some specialization in social structures. Generally very interesting stuff, but honestly I preferred the readings of the first course in the sequence.
The way that latin-american society was structured during the virreinato.
Latin American History in a very brief and general sense. I learned how to read a large amounts of reading and retain the main points.
The independence era was very important to cover, and Iberian dynamics and how they play out in Latin America
I learned about Latin American history from the 17th to the 19th century, covering notable topics such as the Baroque period, Bourbon reforms, Iberian independence movements, revolts, and the complexities of trade within the region.
history of Latin American countries from colonization to Independence
Learned about Latin America from the period just following colonization through the end of the 1800s
I learned about the patterns in Latin America, specifically how there were a lot of the same 'ingredients' but that led to different outcomes. It was helpful to approach this class by looking for overarching themes because otherwise we are learning the history of ~30 countries over 300 years which is unmanageable.
Learned about the latin american wars of independence.
That perspective is very important when discussing history topics, and in the history of Latin America is important to look beyond the information textbooks offer because there is a lot of nuance.
The history of colonial Latin America and how Latin American countries gained independence.
Mexican independence, Argentine oligarchs, Casta system (or not).
Latin America's political evolution in the 19th century.
I learned about the development of Iberian America in the 18th century and the process of independence in the New World.
I learned how to critically analyze historical documents and writings in order to understand how complex history is. There is a lot in history, especially concerning Latin America, that tends to be generalized, so it was good to actually gain an understanding of the factors that shaped these countries
Independence movements, Latin America from the 16th–19th centuries including Brazil and Mexico as well as surrounding areas with how they developed, were reformed, and eventually became independent
History of independence revolutions and post-independence conditions of countries in Latin America
latin america's general trajectory between 1650–1900
How to think critically, how to think creatively, and Latin American civ!
Colonial structures of Latin America (economies, government, social hierarchies, etc.), independence movements, European struggles during colonialism, general development of Latin American countries and societies across time
History of "Latin America" in the 17–19th centuries.
I learned how the culture in Latin America and the different agriculture
Causes for independence of Latin American countries like, for example, Argentina and Mexico. Learned about the post-independence situations of Latin American countries. Learned about the political and social currents of Latin American countries at the time.

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

Comments
Lectures often not particularly related to the readings, lots of tangents, usually interesting. Discussion sections never enough time to get through the readings, but the readings were where most of the learning was done.
Lectures were the most helpful. Prof. Tenorio was just an amazing lecturer and made everything really interesting.
Discussions have been most helpful in netting out what is important to remember.
Lectures were usually informative but sometimes confusing, discussions were helpful to review readings and lecture material but there was often a lot to cover in a short discussion
I say the discussion sections has contributed the most in relation to learning and understanding the material for this course.
Kevin is great, discussions were helpful
Lectures were very helpful but discussions were essential to grasp all of the content
Lectures were definitely interesting and helped shape what I should focus on in the readings, but were also a bit hard to follow. Discussions were very useful in synthesizing what I should take away from the reading.
The lectures were not very helpful. Mauricio is very engaging but the lectures felt a little unstructured and hard to understand his main point. The best place I learned was in discussion sections with Kevin, who made it very easy to understand what the key takeaways are.
Discussions helped out a lot with understanding the lecture material, and discussing the readings also provided more information that helped out in my papers.
The assigned readings and discussions contributed the most to my learning.
Discussions were far more helpful than the lectures.
Readings covered most of what lectures covered, tough to sort through lecture material.
Readings and the professor's statements during lecture
Professor Tenorio's lectures were a great way to learn the material in the context of other events. His knowledge was apparent as he gave the straight facts of whatever he was lecturing on, but he also would include enough dry humor to incentivize students to stay tuned in. In addition, the readings were great to supplement the lectures for facts or to provide additional context. Discussion sections were also a good way to retain the information week by week as they required a discussion of the assigned readings.
The graded assignments are based primarily on the readings, not the lectures
It's very helpful to go to lecture and discussion. Professor Tenorio and the TA are really great at teaching the material.
Readings were a big help for learning
Lectures were very engaging and informative. The readings were very informative and were usually of a reasonable length. Essays had interesting topics that led us to engage with the material critically. Discussions were a great way to reinforce important concepts of the course and make sure that our understanding of certain topics is correct either by asking the TA directly or by listening to peers' contributions.
lectures were a bit difficult to follow, doesn't really mean anything since the lacs civ sequence is being changed anyway though. discussions were productive but it was hard to cover all of the readings in one 50 min period
The lectures were world-class.
Didn't really go to lectures and did just fine in the class, but I also did the readings so this was really helpful and probably made up for my lack of attendance. Readings are critical for passing this course 1) for an understanding of the material, and 2) to be able to participate in discussion and know what's going on
Lectures, readings and discussion sessions were most useful to my learning.
Lectures were generally an overview of topics with some specific figures and situations referenced. Discussions were focused on readings and often the importance of the readings in relation to the lectures and class.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.16	4.00	0.00%	3.13%	12.50%	50.00%	34.38%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.16	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	6.25%	53.13%	34.38%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.91	4.00	3.13%	6.25%	15.63%	46.88%	28.13%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.84	4.00	3.13%	12.50%	9.38%	46.88%	28.13%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	6.25%	56.25%	31.25%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.13%	56.25%	40.63%
I felt respected in this class.	4.28	4.00	3.13%	0.00%	3.13%	53.13%	40.63%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	3.13%	18.75%	43.75%	34.38%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Tenorio is absolutely phenomenal. Great guy, really interesting opinions, and his takes are really informed and add a lot to the course.
I felt the professor could have prepared powerpoint lectures better. Sometimes the lack of structure contributed to my confusion.
Good course, but probably the least organized and engaging of the three Latin American civ courses
Part II (this class) was much better than Part I (Fall quarter) of this sequence, both in terms of structure and expectations.
Professor Tenorio's nonchalant and dismissive attitude towards the minutia of teaching like splitting hairs over grades, responding to the myriad emails regarding the midterm or final after giving time for questions in class, or offering extensions could maybe be seen as aggravating, but I personally found it particularly endearing and respectable. In a way, I believe it made him feel more human and relatable, and I appreciated that.
Class was fun to go to. Professor Tenorio made the topics interesting, and would encourage us to think outside the perspective of what history books traditionally teach
there were hardly any readings. i have taken a lot of different civs as electives and this by far had the lowest work load of any of them
One of the best professors at UChicago. We need more professors like him that are unafraid to challenge the norm.
Kevin was a fantastic professor!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.68%	90.32%
Anyone interested in the topic	12.90%	87.10%

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

Comments
He is really passionate about what he teaches. Also, he's extremely knowledgeable.
His enthusiasm
The professor was very knowledgeable on the topics but sometimes went on tangents
One of the instructor's strengths was his passion for the topics, which he conveyed through storytelling and by linking past events in Latin America to current-day examples. Additionally, his definition of history offered a fresh perspective, challenging my previous understanding of the subject.
He tried to make the content relatable, which helped a lot.
The lectures were not very helpful. TA sessions with Kevin were the only part of this course that were instructive towards my learning.
The professor was very engaging. Often provided a commentary of historical events and presented information in a way that was easy to understand.
Humor. Tenorio is funny.
His deep knowledge on the topic
I think professor tenorio has a cool lecturing style and is definitely engaging. The lectures do not always contribute to my understanding of course materials, but they're certainly enjoyable.
Professor Tenorio's extensive knowledge on the subject allowed him to give context to the big facts, which made them feel more like a story rather than straight recitation of key points. This made it far easier for me to remember both what events were taking place and why they were happening. He also was sure to preface which comments and ideas were his own and always reminded us to think for ourselves and believe what we felt we'd seen evidence for.
He was really good about teaching the material in a way that felt like we were in those times. He would present the topics in a digestible manner, and he would often tell jokes
Not much. Lectures had some interesting content
He was very engaging by speaking with good intonation and having an entertaining sense of humor. He also has strong opinions about this period in history and articulated them well which contributed to the engagement of lectures and encouraged us to think critically about the material.
prof tenorio is very silly. like a little owl.
Lectures
Lectures, and essay prompts.
The slides with an overview of the main figures and events of specific countries were very helpful. The connections to modern-day examples and situations were helpful as they gave a familiar perspective on new topics.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Sometimes the lectures felt a bit repetitive
Diversify the case studies. We talked a lot about México, but very little about Perú, despite how important of a city it was.
His clarity
More structured powerpoint slides would be helpful, and I think less time should be spent on things covered in Civ I and III, instead more time should be spent on independence movements than just one week
It would be helpful for the instructor to clearly define the topics of discussion in lectures. Additionally, I believe it's important to encourage students to ask questions. I noticed that class discussions flowed better when students actively engaged by asking questions, which helped clarify concepts.
put more important info on the slides so that they can be effectively used for review
Share the slides with the students after class
Perhaps being more overt about what we would cover in a class period would help us know how to follow his lectures (and might help his lectures stay on track a bit more?)
The instructor should stay more focused. He is very engaging but goes on unrelated tangents, and doesn't make it clear what we should takeaway from lecture. He also had a rule where we could not contact him during the final or midterm essays, which was frustrating.
It would help if the slides provided more captions about what was discussed in lecture. Most of the slides had names or pictures of maps, and it would have helped if the slides contained at least a key takeaway or main idea relating to lecture for future reference.
Maybe make the lectures more organized? Had a really hard time following.
Have a more detailed layout of class structure.
Adding a few more bullet points to his slides would be great
I think the slide shows should be posted on canvas and the class as a whole should be better organized
Perhaps structuring the slides that corresponded to the points of each lecture so that they more clearly followed what was being said would have allowed for notes to be taken more efficiently. This quarter, we would, on average, get through 2 or 3 slides of information per lecture, which were often totally filled with names, ideas, and events. The material would likely be more easily digested if these slides were broken up and specific ideas addressed one at a time.
The lectures often felt disconnected from what was happening in the readings and what we were being graded on. Professor Tenorio is very knowledgable, but the presentation of that information is not always clear.
He would not publish the notes. Often the lecture didn't really focus on the material in the slides, but sometimes it would have helped if he had posted them, especially when we were going over multiple historical figures and dates
Record lectures/publish slides on Canvas
he does not seem to enjoy teaching this course very much, which is fair because it is a core class, but still
I wish he was harsher on grading; I feel that UChicago is shifting to becoming a "Harvard" in regards to its level customer service and giving grade-inflated grades that students don't deserve. I would expect our professor, someone who surely thinks outside of the box, to give grades that are more grade-deflated.
The lectures could be a little more structured.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.66	4.00	3.13%	15.63%	15.63%	43.75%	21.88%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.81	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	21.88%	37.50%	28.13%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.86	4.00	3.13%	6.25%	18.75%	31.25%	28.13%	12.50%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	3.13%	12.50%	56.25%	28.13%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.16	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.63%	53.13%	31.25%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.97	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	34.38%	34.38%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.57	4.00	6.25%	12.50%	21.88%	28.13%	25.00%	6.25%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	21.88%	43.75%	34.38%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.03	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.13%	40.63%	31.25%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.97	4.00	0.00%	9.38%	18.75%	37.50%	34.38%	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
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman. Very good discussion leader
Kevin Christman – absolutely amazing!
Kevin Chrisman. Kevin aided in my understanding of the Professor's Lecturers. He was enthusiastic and cared about the content he was aiming to teach. The TA was nice and I dont think he needed to improve much. I like the splitting up of the class for small discussion and then coming back for larger discussions. I think he needs an 1hr 20mins not 50. Its too short.
Kevin is a great TA that is always available to communicate with. It is always clear that he wants us all to succeed and because of that discussions were always helpful to improve understanding of the wide range of information in lectures and readings.
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin! He's great, super good instructor and very nice. Good at motivating us during discussion section and helping us to focus our understanding of the history we're studying.
Kevin Chrisman – Fantastic. Could not speak higher of him and his efforts to teach us.
Kevin was awesome! He really was the reason I felt confident in the class and discussions were incredibly helpful in getting me to understand what the professor was getting at. I really appreciated time in discussion section, and I think because he didn't have much control over any other parts of the class there's not anything I would suggest he modify.
Kevin. Kevin was amazing – the only part of this course that was helpful, since the teacher was not providing much information. Kevin would structure discussion sections around main ideas he had taken away from the reading, and help us all reach these main points without pushing us. He was incredibly engaging, very supportive and kind, and great at conveying information. He is truly the only reason this course was manageable, given that the instructor was relatively confusing and absent at times when students needed him most. It was mentioned in discussion that the discussion sections may be taken away next quarter, and i cannot emphasize how TERRIBLE of an idea that is – I learned nothing in lecture and needed discussions to stay rooted in what were the important takeaways.
Kevin Chrisman. Kevin was great at facilitating our discussions, and would also include additional information that was necessary to understanding the readings of the week and lecture material.
My TA was Kevin Chrisman. Kevin was very good at leading discussions and explained concepts clearly, all the while being very chill and nice

Comments
Kevin Chrisman. Had him as a TA a quarter ago and much better experience this time around. Felt like he was more accessible and open to discussion if we had questions.
Kevin Chrisman was incredible — always motivated, always helpful out of class whether it be essay structure, topic help, or just being friendly. The best TA I've had throughout my UChicago career.
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin! Great discussions, helpful with questions/office hours. I think his discussion sessions in the last ~3 weeks of the class were the best structured (combining discussions with some additional content to kick start the discussion) were the best discussions and a model to follow going forward.
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman ran the discussion sections where we discussed each week's readings, and he did a great job! The more intimate setting of discussion allowed for Dr. Chrisman to serve as a less daunting point instruction than Professor Tenorio, and he worked to facilitate interesting discussions by leading the students to important ideas through lines of questioning, which was a far better way to build familiarity with the material than simply being told what was important.
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman – good TA. Appreciate his enthusiasm.
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman. Kevin is an incredible TA. Super helpful, led great discussions, and was absolutely fantastic overall. By far the best TA I've ever had. Incredibly helpful with essay revisions as well — great feedback and guidance for improvement. I learned the most from him.
Kevin Chrisman is very charismatic and great at guiding discussions and helping us understand the material. He demonstrates a great understanding of the topics and talks about them in a very clear and engaging way. Specifically, he taught us a bit about 'gutting' books which was very helpful for working through the readings assigned for this class. His questions during discussion sections led to very engaging discussions. One small critique is that he sometimes tries to encourage participation through cold-calling, which doesn't usually work too well. Giving a few moments of silence after relatively simple questions to see if someone new participates might be more effective. Overall, he was a great TA that helped me succeed in two quarters of a class I was very unfamiliar with.
kevin chrisman. he is a very good instructor and organizes things quite clearly/works to get students in the class engaged and is obviously very passionate about what he does. i have no suggestions for improvement
Kevin Chrisman; one of the most hard-working TAs I have had; he is well-knowledged and went out of his way to guide students and offer writing advice.
Kevin Chrisman—cool guy, made discussions very engaging (I think this is the first time a discussion section has actually felt like a discussion to me rather than uncoordinated responses to a question), makes sure everyone gets a chance to speak
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin was very helpful and available outside of class hours. He organized his discussion sections very well and made them so that we would feel more open to engaging with our peers and with the class as a whole. He made connections between the readings and the lecture material that were very helpful in understanding the big picture of what we were learning. He had a great dedication to his students and their learning.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	9.38%	87.50%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.66	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	3.13%	18.75%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	21.88%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.72	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	18.75%	78.13%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	15.63%	81.25%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	3.13%	12.50%	78.13%	3.13%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	15.63%	81.25%	0.00%

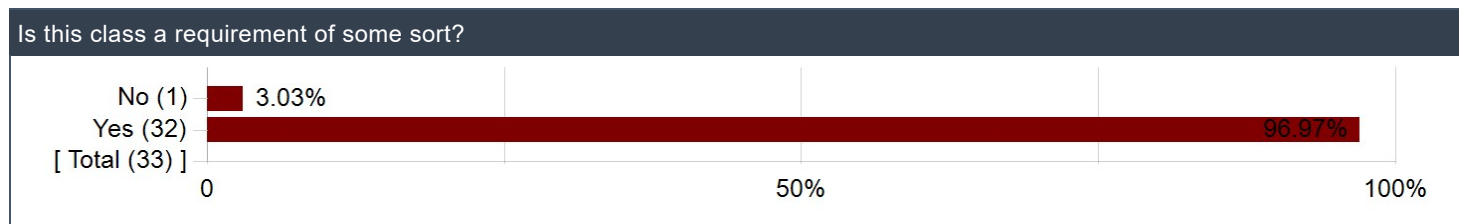
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Field Trips	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Library Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%

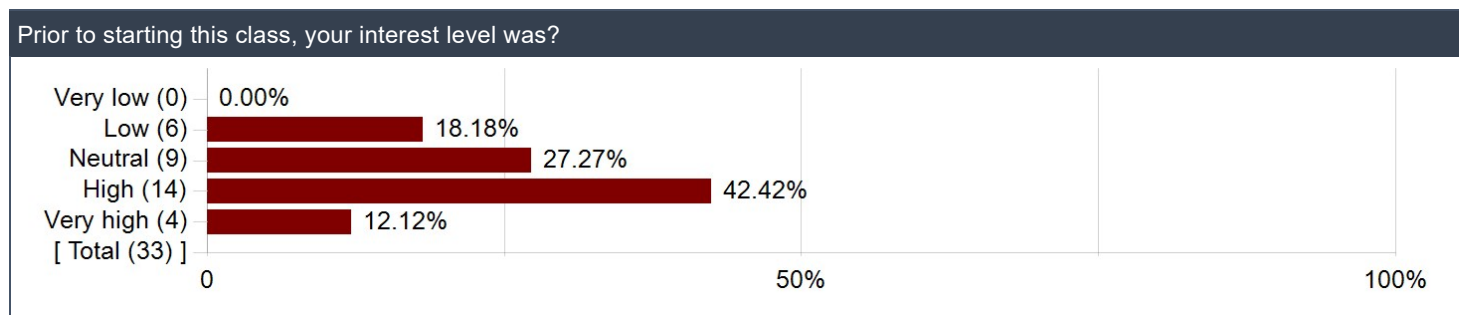
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
discussion sections
Discussion sessions with Kevin were extremely helpful for understanding the course material. He is an excellent instructor who really cares about teaching.

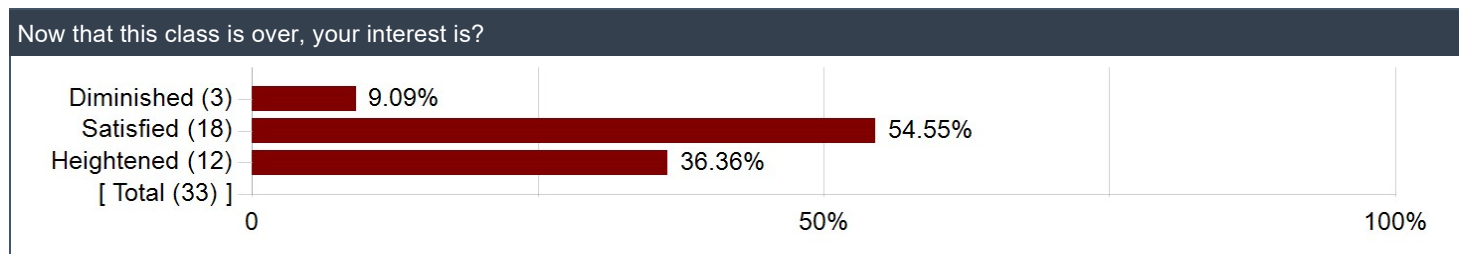
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



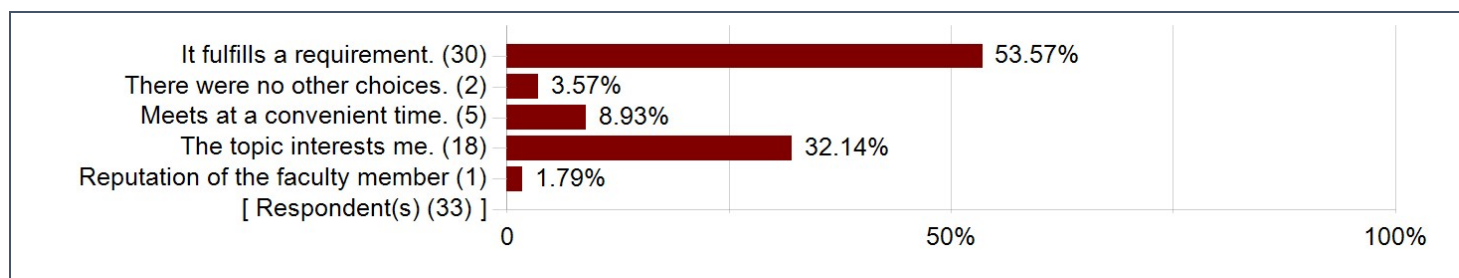
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



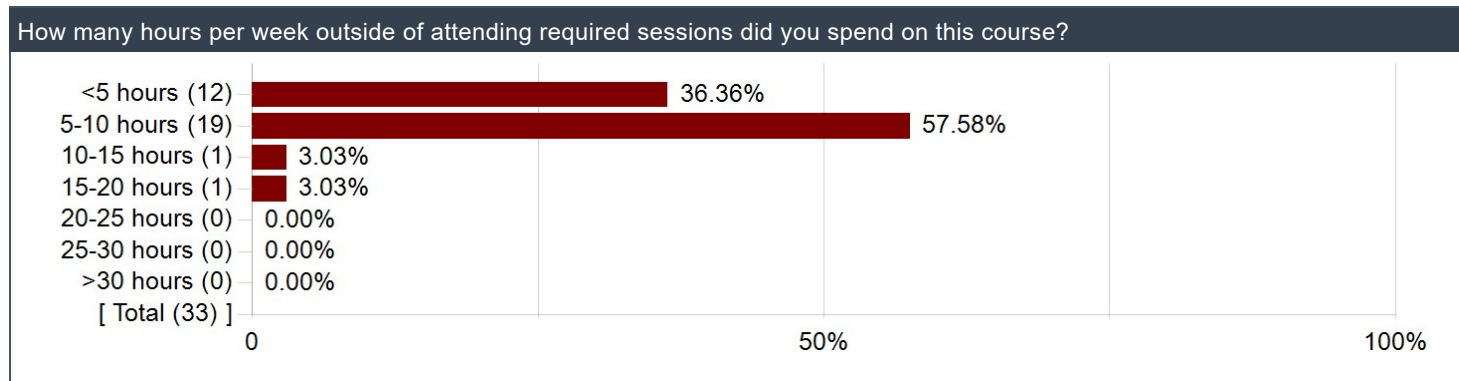
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



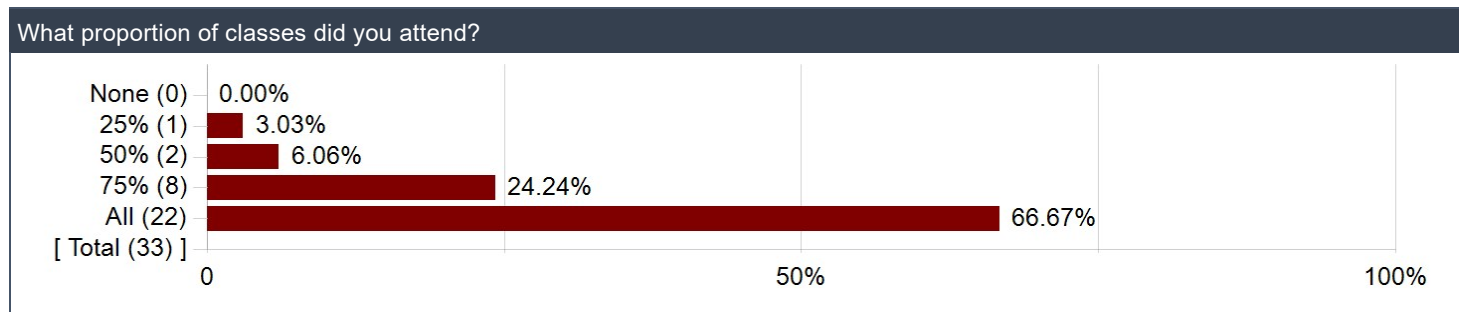
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 many readings, but the midterm and final are fairly hefty essays
fair
I took the previous quarter of LatinAmerican Civs – also I am peruvian. It was fairly easy. Just a bunch of reading.
Not difficult at all just required effort. Essays were basically free-write
Take civ I before this course, it flows into civ II very well
I think taking the first quarter of CIV would be helpful if you want to connect the topics from this class to the previous quarter.
Though I haven't finished the final yet, I think this course was most certainly manageable without ever having taken a course on Latin America. I also didn't take the first quarter of the sequence and felt like I could still succeed. Speaking Spanish was definitely helpful for this class, but isn't required (I think I would have been much less comfortable without having this background because sometimes the professor would say things in Spanish or Portuguese)
This class also has an unreasonable amount of reading assigned, especially when we don't use it all. Cut down on the readings so everyone can actually do it, and dicussion sections would be way more productive.
Not incredibly difficult but lots of reading
Felt like the class was really disorganized. The midterm and final questions were also pretty challenging.
No experience, difficulty was fine.
The course was sufficiently challenging to learn a lot but not too demanding in that I was able to complete the assignments on time and without too much difficulty. Overall, it was an easy class if you had the time and diligence to stay up to speed with all the readings. Kevin Chrisman, our TA, helped out tremendously with keeping the readings feel relevant to our discussions in class and he highlighted the main arguments of the authors (or at least got us to highlight them) in our discussion sections. I can confidently say that Kevin Chrisman has made me a better reader and historian through this class.
The amount of reading required for this class was certainly a full plate each week, but it was not unmanageable. There were only 2 non-participation grades for the class: the midterm and final papers. The midterm was ~2000 words, and the final a maximum of 2500. These relied heavily on the readings, but you could also cite from the lectures, which made attending extremely valuable. All in all, this class was quite accessible. 6/10 Difficulty
Background not necessary, the readings give all the information needed
Taking the first quarter helps but didn't feel super necessary. Knowing a bit of world history in general (particularly the Napoleonic Wars) also helps
there is nearly no work (no discussion posts and like 70 pages of reading a week)
Knowledge of pre-colonial Latin American societies (the first part of the sequence) is very useful, and I would argue necessary to a degree since it contextualizes everything that goes on in this quarter. Readings are a bit hard to balance since there are usually multiple long readings a week, but they contain very interesting content so to those who are genuinely interested in Latin American history, I suggest reading as much as you can