



LACS 16100 1, LACS 34600 1, HIST 16101 1, CRES 16101 1, SOSOC 26100 1, ANTH 23101 1, HIST 36101 1, RDIN 16100 1 - Introduction to Latin American Civilization I - Instructor(s): Emilio Kouri

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

Number Enrolled: **78**

Number of Responses: **44**

---

### 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
How the Spanish colonized the Americas and turned the native land into an extension of the Spanish and Portuguese Crown
Ancient Latin American civilizations, conquering of empires, and aspects of colonial labor, economies, and societies.
The processes in which structures of conquest of the Americas, mainly in the Spanish case, transform themselves into structures of colonization and exploitation.
Within this course, I learnt about Spanish colonial domination in the Mesoamerican world.
The history of hispanoamerican civilizations.
The history of pre-Columbian Central and South America. Spanish (and briefly Portuguese) efforts to conquer and colonize these areas, including their interactions with Mayan, Aztec, and Inca society. Spanish colonial society through roughly the 1700s. We also practiced how to synthesize the information we've gained into a cogent argument.
The Spaniards conquering the Aztecs and the Inca and how societies were before, during, and after.
I learned about how the Spanish and Portuguese conquered and colonized the Americas.
Conquest of Mexico and Peru
Latin American History
Learned about mainly Aztec and Inca civilization, their respective reactions to their conquest. Spent a week examining Brazilian conquest and economy.
I learned the history of conquest and settlement in Latin America. My ability to compare different parts of Latin America and their native populations and forms of conquest was sharpened.
I learned how to use historiography to add more nuance onto my understanding of primary sources of the colonists in their depiction of the conquests and development of New Spain.
The history of Latin America during the time of the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas. Also colonial rule in the Americas with the Spaniards and a bit about the Portuguese.
I have a new perspective on Indian societies before the conquest and the role Indians played in shaping post-conquest societies.
History of colonialism in various Latin American nations/regions; complex stories of colonization not only from perspectives of colonizers; lasting impact of colonization on current societies.
Spanish and native culture in early colonial America
The conquest of Mexico and Peru + the institutions that allowed this conquest to transition to into colonization
Organization of early colonial societies in Latin America.
learning about the history of latin america, mostly focusing on the inca empire, aztec empire, and areas nearby, and how they were affected by the colonial presence.
Colonialism's impact on native societies in Latin America. The difference between pre-Columbian and post Colombian societies.
Thinking through source limitations and various viewpoints to build a cohesive argument or understanding, also how to gut a large text
We covered major events in Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula from the pre-classic period (~1500 BCE) to the post-classic period (~1600 CE). The events preceding the Aztlán people, the rise of the Mexica into the Aztec empire, early Andean social organization, Incan rise to power, rise of Spain in Iberia, conquest of the Aztecs and the Inca by the Spanish, and Spanish colonial rule in Latin America following these conquests.
We ended the quarter by closely studying two cases of Spanish conquest and colonization: Huamanga/Ayacucho in Peru, and the Yucatan Peninsula.
How the Americas were conquered and colonized by Spain and Portugal. Learned a lot more about the Aztecs, Incas, etc, how they first reacted to Europeans, how they resisted colonization, and how many aspects of their cultures lived on
Learned about the formation and colonization of Latin American Civilizations (Aztec, Inca, Maya)
The Spanish conquest of the Inca, Maya and Aztec societies. The portugese development of Brazil
Understanding in more detail the history of the Spanish conquest of Mexico and Peru helped contextualize a lot of my understanding of the region today and was just super interesting!
I learned about the pre-colonial American empires and peripheral civilizations with a focus on the Aztecs and Incas. I then learned about the early period of Spanish conquest and the fall of Aztec Tenochtitlan and Inca Cuzco. Then, I learned about the process of establishing Spanish colonial control in these areas along with a brief detour to Brazil to compare and contrast Portugal's method of colonization. Finally, we discussed 2 specific case studies of Spanish colonization in Peru and Yucatan in order to get a more intimate knowledge of what colonization looked like from the ground.

Comments
Learned all about Latin American civilizations from 15th c and beyond
Overview of the conquest of the Aztec, Inca, and Maya civilizations. Differing perspectives on the conquest, as well as the indigenous experience during and after conquest.
Origins and conquest/colonization of Aztec societies, Mayan societies, and Incan societiesDiscu
Precolonial structures of society and how colonial structures slowly got implemented
Social/political structure and culture of Aztec and Inca empires, details about Spanish colonization, conquest and process of early colonization in Mexico and South America (mostly Peru). We also read texts to analyze the biases that go into the retelling of these history events.
Learned about the native civilizations in Mesoamerica (Aztecs) and in the Andes (Incas), pre-conquest. Also learned about the conquest and the process of colonization in Yucatan and the Andes.
economic institutions of spanish colonization
I learned about important figures and events in the process of conquest and colonization of places in Latin America. I learned about the political and economic situations of these places as they were being conquered and colonized.

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

Comments
Lecture, reading, and discussion sections
Lectures were very informative
The lectures are not engaging; it provides an overview of the topics pertaining to the reading, but everything in the course day-to-day (attending lecture, reading, attending discussion section) feels very disconnected from one another; the material we read is only covered in the discussion section, and it's a very heavy load of reading that then is only analyzed in-depth in 50min every week. One useful thing is the "key terms" slide at each lecture, otherwise class slides are not helpful when it comes to reviewing.
Lectures often reflected readings, and, in the final two weeks, lectures summarised the readings. Discussions every week were a great way to gain reading knowledge in a different light / summarise readings.
Lectures were interesting, but seemed to be usually short on time for Prof. Kouri to cover everything he wanted. Discussions were great to have a better understanding of the selected readings, which tended to be really long; having actual conversations regarding them made them immensely more understandable.
Some of the lectures cover the readings, but the readings often stand alone. Discussion sections allow me to put together key parts of the reading. Although the lecture can at times be not very helpful (as it feels that Professor Kouri will glance over what he deems "key terms"), they are interesting regardless.
Lectures discussed the topics of the class, but discussions broke down the readings and led to a better understanding of the material overall.
Lectures and discussion contributed most to my learning.
Lectures were extremely boring and I could not absorb much from them. The discussion in turn compensated for it, the TA was just amazing in leading an actually useful discussion.
Contributed somehow
Lectures largely reiterated the readings (still useful to go to), discussion sections allowed a more in depth analysis of the reading, but I largely found them a bit short for anything extensive (given the amount of readings we were doing).
The TA sessions were absolutely wonderful, where Kevin used very creative and engaging methods in discussion to help his students digest the very dense readings at times.
Lectures were mostly oral information, professor himself lecturing a lot. Discussion met once a week with discussion posts due every Thursday. Then there was a map quiz (p light if you studied) and two exams, midterm and final. Lectures were occasionally difficult to get through but the discussions were super useful to recap the lectures during the week.
Lectures help with a timeline probably. Discussions help get the relevant information out of the readings.
Lecture slides were posted, lectures were informative, discussion sections with the TA were helpful for exams
discussions and lectures. Lectures are hard to follow sometimes but discussions wrap everything together
Discussion sections were super helpful. Really allowed us to clarify any misconceptions/dissect some of the more nuanced parts
TA discussions were useful, but overall, reviewing with peers was what helped best.
there were lectures twice a week, with one discussion. the lectures were a little tough to follow (mostly just slides with no text, only pictures, and lecture for 50 minutes straight). the readings were REALLY long (like hundreds of pages per week, which was so hard

Comments
to do). i think hands down the BEST part of this course were the discussion sessions. first off, they kept you accountable (its hard to stay quiet, so you kinda need to read), and second the ta (dr. chrisman) did a great job of facilitating conversation, ensuring we stayed focused on the most important themes, and being there for help outside of class. i think without the dicussion section i'd be screwed for this class – because the lectures are just very dry and hard to stay focused during.
Lectures were interesting, and supplemented by readings. I appreciated how often the readings did not directly overlap with lectures so they could extend the topics.
Discussion sections were the most helpful for figuring out what information was necessary for the course
Lectures were really instrumental to doing well in this course, mainly because they were very information dense and provided THE most critical information you needed to know to perform well on the exams and during discussion.
The TA–led discussion sections were mostly unhelpful, they always touched upon topics that you could either read from the books themselves, from the web, or ask the professor about.
This course had a component of weekly readings, which you were expected to do every week to participate in discussion. The readings were really fascinating and very enlightening... when I could actually do them!! It is not uncommon for a week's reading to be an entire book, or large sections of two books. As the UChicago weeks go on, especially if you're a STEM student like I was, it just becomes an impossible task to do all the readings, there's just way too much content to cover in them.
The lectures were really good. The discussion sessions as well, which I found surprising as they're are almost always awful in my experience. Discussion was used to talk about the book we read that week, which very different material from that in lecture, so it was nice having TA–led recap of each book.
Class was composed of lectures, discussion sections, and weekly reading assignments. Prof Kouri knows his stuff and is a good teacher, although I would argue his lectures are heavily catered towards those who have experience / enjoy traditional academic lectures. That is, active listening is expected from the class as opposed to created by the professor. He is very accessible after class, and to the extent you have particular interest in a topic is willing to spend time exploring it with you. Discussion sections were led by Kevin, who did a fantastic job. Weekly reading assignments were in large part too long, although I think the importance of the last two readings warranted being read in their entirety.
Lectures were hard to follow and lecture notes were even harder.
Lectures are essential for understanding the broad trends and themes of the course while readings are more useful for specific details.
Lectures were very helpful as Professor Kourí would discuss the highpoints from the readings as well as provide some insight as to grand motivations or themes we should be aware of, which were great to have in mind when taking the tests in the course. Additionally, the required discussion post was helpful as it provided motivation to not only sit down and read the material but also to think critically with it and engage with the text in a way that was likely to leave more solid memories, which were also helpful on the tests. Finally, the discussion sections with the TA were nice to have a more seminar–based approach to recalling and engaging with the material.
Lectures were good and TA sections were very helpful
Lectures were somewhat helpful. Prof. Kouri lectures with slides, but they are almost exclusively images and maps which are cool, but not understanding the outline of lecture or being able to organize notes by subtopic is difficult.
Discussions greatly contributed to learning because it was a chance to get a general overview of the week's readings by breaking it down into sections
Readings were discussed in discussion sections which helped to understand the biggest things we should take away from them
Lectures were essential since much of the content would be available only there. Readings were also necessary and often interesting, although I felt that the length of the readings were sometimes too much for me and trying to "gut" the book sometimes left me missing important information. Discussion sections were very helpful for recapping the content from the past week to get a sense of what details were most important for the course as a whole.
Lectures, discussion sessions, and office hours were all really helpful. In lectures, Professor Kourí discussed the reading material, and context leading up to it. In discussion sessions, the TAs led fruitful conversations on the week's prompt and additional highlights from the readings.
lectures were well organized and informative.
Lectures helped me understand and synthesize topics in the readings. Discussions helped with a review of the main topics covered in lectures and readings.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.10	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.20%	65.85%	21.95%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.12	4.00	2.44%	7.32%	4.88%	46.34%	39.02%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	2.44%	2.44%	19.51%	43.90%	31.71%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.93	4.00	4.88%	9.76%	7.32%	43.90%	34.15%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	2.44%	7.32%	9.76%	48.78%	31.71%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.15	4.00	4.88%	0.00%	17.07%	31.71%	46.34%
I felt respected in this class.	4.37	5.00	2.44%	0.00%	7.32%	39.02%	51.22%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.02	4.00	4.88%	2.44%	21.95%	26.83%	43.90%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I was disappointed after the first 2 weeks when we speed through the content about the ancient Latin American civilizations. The course description markets this class as having a heavy emphasis on the Mayan, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations before doing a conclusion of the quarter with the Spanish and Portuguese conquests ("Autumn Quarter examines the origins of civilizations in Latin America with a focus on the political, social, and cultural features of the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec. The quarter concludes with an analysis of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest, and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America").
In reality, we spoke only a few words about the Mayan Empire, spent one day learning about the Aztec Empire, and one day to talk about the Inca empire (only to learn about the 'entirety' of the Aztec and Inca Empire in two books that we read in unison when learning about the political and economic structure of the Spanish). all of the content after the 3rd week of classes was focused on the conquest and colonization of the Americas.
While the content taught is still interesting and important to learn, I was disappointed in how little I got to learn about the Ancient Latin American Civilizations (What i was expecting to learn about based on the course description).
Readings were really long...
It's just a really fascinating course about a fascinating topic with long-term implications for the region.
Unbelievable amount of reading
Disappointing.
I have no idea how to write a good essay for this class, and that is most of your grade. :(
none
This class was a let down for me. There is an excessive/unrealistic amount of readings and lectures are hard to follow. Weeks 2 and 3 had exceptionally hard to follow and disorganized lectures in particular– I had never felt more lost in a class before, although it gets more organized from then on. What helped me most for this class was reviewing with peers, who were equally confused and disappointed by how this class was being organized. If you really want to take this sequence, you'll make it through, but consider doing it abroad (if possible) or another CIV sequence– especially if you are taking a 4 class quarter/other challenging classes.
the best part of this class was the discussion section. there were two ta's, so i cant speak to the other ta's ability – but dr. chrisman was really great. i felt motivated to come to discussion, and also motivated to do the reading (which was tough like VERY TOUGH). i thought dr. chrisman's enthusiasm about the material and little quips of humor were the best part of this class. I learned infinitely more from his discussion sections than lecture. with regards to lecture, professor kouri clearly knows a lot about this topic and is one of the best in his field. the only hard thing is focusing in lecture – its about 50 minutes of talking, with little accompaniment from the slides – which is really hard to focus on. i didn't gain that much from lecture. the last part of the class was the readings. these readings need to be shorter – its impossible to do the entirety of the reading for a student with a normal schedule. even more than that, during discussion section, we only covered a small fraction of the reading, given that it was so long. i think this class would seriously benefit from shorting readings, given that it would make discussion sections more focused and encourage student engagement by making the assignments doable.
Highly recommend this course, the workload is manageable and the concepts are fascinating!
Syllabus had about one book per week, which we barely discussed in class. Discussion sections were helpful, but there was too

Comments
much content in the books to completely cover
The professor specifically structures this class so that the lectures are mostly disjoint from the information found in the readings, meaning that once you dedicate the many hours needed to complete the readings, it's usually never talked about again save for the one discussion section a week. If you want, you can cite the readings to inform your written exam essay responses, but I only did this on a *very* cursory level on the midterm and still performed well, so the reading isn't even worth it for the exams.
I think your performance on this course is highly dependent on the TA you get and the relationship you build with them. The TAs grade your exams, your attendance and participation, and your discussion posts. The TAs determine your entire grade, so if they don't know who you are, you're less likely to be graded generously. That is to say, it's wise to attend all discussion sections for this course, but for the wrong reason (my grade shouldn't depend on social rapport).
I actually really liked the in-class essay format. Seems scary at first, but in reality saves you a lot of time throughout the quarter.
I think this course suffered from a massive disconnect between what Prof Kouri and the TAs wanted us to take away from the course and what was actually tested on the exams (which were worth a total of 75% of our grade) were not at all in alignment. Prof. Kouri began the first lecture with a discussion about how the word "Indian" as it was used to describe the indigenous people of Latin America by the Spanish obliterates the diversity of ethnicity, culture, and language that was present prior to the Spanish conquest. But instead of having us write papers to explore the nuance of this history, we had what were essentially high school history DBQ exams. The final exam required significantly more thought and reasoning compared to the midterm, but the midterm exam essay question was essentially "why and how did the Spanish conquer the Aztecs" which is a question that almost anybody with a cursory understanding of American history could answer without actually studying. My frustration with this class was that we were asked to think critically about the history of conquest, but what actually made up the bulk of our grade were sit down in-class essays that ultimately did not require much critical thought.
Some form of lecture notes would have helped immensely. Also, decreasing the length of the reading or having explicit instruction on how to effectively read a book without reading each page would have helped me with the reading assignments in general
Loved it!
i felt the midterm was graded too harshly ; too much detail was expected from a 50 minute test. if you are looking for a well developed essay, it should be an assignment rather than an exam
None.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	21.43%	78.57%
Anyone interested in the topic	23.81%	76.19%

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

Comments
Lecture
Lectures were very helpful especially by centering the lectures around key terms
Professor Kouri is very knowledgeable about the subject, however the lectures are not engaging; it's pretty much a monotone monologue that most times does not connect with the readings assigned for that week.
The lectures giving new light to the readings.
His clear explanations on the history of the region. Sometimes he was just covering exactly the same content of the readings, but he did it in a compelling and interesting way.
The keynotes used were helpful for providing visual evidence in conjunction with the lecture content.
Discussions helped the most because they really broke down the information and made it accessible.
great lecturer
The lectures
The list with the key terms.
Lectures and readings.
I really appreciated the way Prof. Kouri posted slides before lecture in order to review/have an idea of what we were to discuss.
The TA sessions were by far the most helpful aspect of the course.
unsure
He's a good lecturer, clear in his lectures, posts slides in advance.
discussions
Kouri's excellent lectures. His powerpoints were also super helpful when I had to miss class!
He is passionate about the topic. The key terms sheet also helped.
the ta. best and only saving grace for this class.
The lectures were super helpful in focusing what I should be paying attention to in the readings. Additionally the discussion sections were the most helpful in fully understanding the topics covered there.
Prof. Kouri is a truly legendary lecturer, it felt like nearly everything he said was super important to understand and dedicate to memory. It is clear he has a deep and nuanced understanding of the topics, and he's able to convey this information well by being an excellent speaker.
The lectures were really good
None
Professor Kourí has incredible depth of knowledge. My favorite parts of class was when he gave examples or answered questions in a way that connected the individual historical context to the broader themes— it really helped me appreciate the course more.
Professor Kouri's incredible base of knowledge of fact and wealth of insight made lectures a rewarding experience. Going to lectures would not only provide you with a good idea of the material that would be relevant in the future but also give information about greater insights that helped contextualize the events. Additionally, very rarely did Professor Kourí have to respond to a question with anything less than a full explanation, no matter the question's scope, which showed me that he was not just knowledgeable about the material which he had prepared, but was genuinely an expert on the topic as a whole.
Lectures were good to help clarify the readings
Broke down concepts well in lecture
Professor Kourí clearly loves to talk about the material and gives very detailed answers to questions. He was also available regularly in weekly office hours, which helped with clarifying parts that I was unsure about.
Lectures, discussion sessions, and office hours were very helpful.
lectures synthesized the readings well
He clearly explained the significance of specific events and figures and how they applied to the main topics. He would remind us of the main objectives and goals and how our lectures applied to these.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Change the content to focus more on the ancient Latin American civilizations



Comments
Maybe have more information on the slides
engage more with the texts being assigned, and organize lecture in a way that content feels more structured
Stop talking so fast.
Select more precisely the chapters that were to be read for classes. Sometimes I felt like I read hundreds of pages entirely in vain.
Text on the slides.
Make better slides and actually follow them.
Sometimes the lectures felt like summaries of the readings, which could be a bit boring at times (although at other times was rather useful).
The reading assignments are a lot. I'm talking like 200–400 pages of reading a week. A lot of times the information is very interesting and important, but specifically for the silver and early conquest articles, they got pretty repetitive and redundant. I also would have liked if the readings would've been broken up per lecture, as the reading assignment was overwhelming and I never knew what part of the reading he would address for lecture. I feel like I would have been better prepared if the readings were sectioned off in parts and assigned for specific days (i.e pg. 1–100 for monday's lecture, 101–200 for wednesday's).
The instructor could use more notes on his lecture slides as they aren't that useful in review to understand big themes or insights within the timeframe we cover.
It was mainly only lectures. Perhaps more information on the lecture slides instead of just pictures.
Better visuals. Write down important information. Record lectures. Provide examples of good essays. Assign less reading.
Shorter readings/choose readings more selectively so they're less overwhelming and we can actually engage with them more.
more of a chronological or clear timeline when lecturing. A lot of the time it feels like a podcast where he just jumps around events
Not lecture is SS126. Something about the echo makes is hard to hear
Prof. Kouri, while very passionate about the topic, has an unorganized lecture style, which is furthered challenged by a speaking style that is too fast and too quiet to follow. It was challenging to keep up in lecture. Putting a few bullet points in his slides could help. And once again, the amount of reading is simply excessive.
please please please please PLEASE for the sake of future students make the readings shorter. the readings are too long to be effective – most students don't do it fully, and it makes discussion less focused. this class would REALLY BENEFIT FROM SHORTER READINGS.
Cut down on the readings, and try to have them more focused on what we were discussing in class and discussion. We did a lot of reading per week, and while it all was on topic, it felt like a decent portion of it was not heavily emphasized in class or in discussion section.
Syllabus with more relevant texts to the topic instead of entire books that give a general overview
The professor doesn't maintain lecture notes of any kind, only the slides that give keywords the student should know (which isn't very helpful for content review). He does refer to some kind of written keynote in-class when speaking though, so if those could have been uploaded in some way, it would have been very helpful for review.
This means you really need to take good and detailed notes in this class, as virtually everything the professor says will be a useful piece of information to study for the written exams. The professor's lectures are so good, they are almost to his detriment. I found at times I could rely purely on what the professor said without even doing the readings and instead supplementing with Wikipedia. A massive timesaver, but probably not what the professor wants out of the student
I think it's a great class. I was unsure about the midterm/final being a handwritten, timed essay, but the questions asked were fair and pretty general. We had plenty of time to write the essays.
Slides could have more content for post-class review.
Make the slides easier to follow and use a microphone
This is pretty minor but every once in a while I couldn't properly hear Professor Kourí (as in he was literally too quiet), a microphone or a different lecture hall layout would probably fix that problem.
The readings were often a bit much for their weekly rotations. With how dense and dry most of these books were, reading ~300 pages a week was no small task that I do not think many accomplished. Perhaps providing excerpts rather than assigning the entire work would make the readings feel less tedious and more digestible week by week.
Sometimes when he spoke it was a little quiet and hard to hear
Too much of an economic focus on most things,, also wish we spent more time talking about precolonial indigenous cultures,, also sometimes was hard to hear in the large classroom because would mumble but overall not too big of a problem
Having a visual aid during lecture such as using chalk or more detailed slides would have helped me follow along in class, but this was generally not a big issue.
Some lectures felt a little scattered at times.



Comments
smile more : )
.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.90	4.00	4.76%	9.52%	9.52%	42.86%	33.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	16.67%	35.71%	33.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.82	4.00	2.38%	4.76%	23.81%	38.10%	23.81%	7.14%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.93	4.00	2.38%	7.14%	19.05%	38.10%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.07	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	14.29%	50.00%	30.95%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.07	4.00	0.00%	9.52%	11.90%	40.48%	38.10%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.97	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	16.67%	47.62%	23.81%	7.14%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.12	4.00	2.38%	0.00%	11.90%	52.38%	30.95%	2.38%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.12	4.00	2.38%	0.00%	11.90%	54.76%	30.95%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.98	4.00	2.38%	2.38%	23.81%	38.10%	33.33%	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
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin is an excellent TA who is very helpful in building understanding of the readings
Kevin
Kevin Chrisman
Benjamin was a wonderful TA, always being available and having incredibly stimulating conversation within office hours. His discussion sections were often fruitful, and the change to reading summaries for the last few weeks was a great choice.
Benjamin. He was just a great guy. Facilitated the discussions in an amazing and chill way, he was just amazing.
Chrisman. Chrisman did a fantastic job of helping break down what we learned through the readings and made the class much more manageable.
Kevin Chrisman
Dr. Chrisman was my TA and he was awesome. Discussions were facilitated very well, they were chill but still helpful.
Benjamin Montano. BEST TA I HAVE EVER HAD AT THIS UNIVERSITY. He was actually focusing on seeing if we understood the material instead of checking if we had done the 300+ pages of reading of the week.
Jose Montano
Kevin Chrisman
Benjamin Montano was a FANTASTIC TA. He was incredibly helpful during office hours and in discussion section. He was very engaging and offered ideas and perspectives outside of lecture and reading material. Cannot say enough good things about him. He was a significant contributor to my understanding of material and comfortability with the material in the class. He's great.
Kevin Chrisman was extremely helpful and a very active presence within the class. Kevin truly used all the time he had in discussion really testing everyone's understanding and breaking down major themes of each reading we were assigned. Not only did he review important material, but he also helped us understand how to digest long pieces of text with very delightfully entertaining methods. Kevin was the best part of this class.

Comments
Kevin Chrisman. He is an incredible TA and led the discussion sections super effectively, while constantly keeping us engaged. Gave useful feedback on midterm exam and grades very fairly. The only tiny drawback was that we often couldn't cover all the material because it was so much for 50 minutes and we would present information in groups, and our own presentation/summation of information would take too long. He should be a little stricter on letting us talk so much. Really appreciate his impact on my performance in this class, 100% is the reason I will get a decent grade in this class.
Kevin Chrisman. Kevin is very good at leading a discussion and getting people to talk. To help me learn more, he could clarify the standards expected for assignments and essays. He also incorrectly decided that I was not doing the reading for some unknown reason and graded my work incredibly harshly as a result of this false determination. He also did not show up for his office hours when I was looking for feedback.
Benjamín Montaña
BM
Benjamín – a truly phenomenal TA. Oftentimes had to miss class to work and he was always available in office hours to discuss what I had missed. Led super engaging discussions.
Chrisman was helpful and his discussion sessions helped synthesize the overwhelming amount of information going on in the readings. The weekly response papers were also a fair assignment.
dr. kevin chrisman. he was great – he really encouraged students to learn, do the reading, and was funny. he was the bset part of this class. he was intimidating at times, but that played into the motivation to read more (so it was a good thing).
Kevin Chrisman – discussion sections lead by Kevin were extremely helpful in learning the subject. Having that part of class be devoted to more discussion based learning I think really helped focus us on what we were supposed to read more closely about, and it really helped overall.
Kevin, he was a great TA. Made himself available for discussion on topics and clearly had both a deep understanding and interest in the topics which made his energy infectious. My only piece of feedback is that it felt like both the discussion section and discussion post were designed to be a check on if you did the base level of reading necessary each week. This was at times frustrating because the discussion questions were basic and didn't provoke much thought and the discussion was focused on recapping. I think either one or the other should be focused on a basic check and the other is more open so we can have more fun exploring ideas in the readings.
Kevin Chrisman: very helpful, very willing to meet outside of class hours, able to explain and interact with text in clarifying terms
Kevin was an absolutely fantastic TA. He helped walk us through the readings and engage with them on a higher level. He was always open to questions and never made us feel any less for not being completely confident on a topic. His teaching style was great, where he would incorporate not only oral discussion but also summarizing our points on the board. This was super helpful for me since I'm a visual learner. He was always very respectful and understanding and was overall great at his job.
If it weren't for Benjamin Montano, I don't think I would have performed as well in this course as I did. Super knowledgeable, really understanding, and a relaxed person overall. I felt comfortable approaching him to ask questions. Great guy!
Only gripe is that Benjamin is a slightly awkward person at first before you get to know him, he could do with being a little more high-energy during those first few weeks.
Kevin Chrisman. He was a really good TA. He just had great discussion sessions, really taught a lot. He was very helpful with any questions we had, and just a great guy. Funny too
Kevin Chrisham
Kevin! Fantastic teaching assistant. Worked tirelessly to cater to all levels of interest / understanding. Created a very welcoming / inclusive classroom environment. To the extent the lectures explored Latin American Civ from a more macro to micro perspective, Kevin was far more interested in how the small details of native civilization contribute to our larger understanding of Mesoamerica (i.e. he was more micro to macro). On a separate note, he was also a very good writing instructor and, upon request, sent me a very detailed email with tips on how to improve my writing.
Kevin Chrisman. Kevin is great! He recognized that not everybody was as passionate about the subject, but worked to make everyone feel comfortable and prepared.
Kevin Chrisman – he led excellent discussions to ensure every student understood the core ideas of the course
My TA was Benjamín Montaña, and he was incredible. He worked week by week in discussion sections to find what the best way to structure the time was, and he used topics from philosophy or sociology to further contextualize what we were talking about beyond the "pure history" of raw facts that the books largely focused on. He was always very attentive to students' contributions to the discussion, accommodating to his students' needs, and an invaluable teacher and grader. I am very grateful to have had him as my TA for this class.
Kevin Chrisman
Kevin Chrisman. Kevin did a fantastic job making discussion sections engaging and encouraging us to think critically and collaboratively about course material.

Comments
Chrisman – Humorous, made discussions feel relaxed, structured discussions efficiently towards the end by making students briefly presenting readings in sections which maximized the reading in such a short amount of time
Matt Chrisman Knew the material very well and facilitated good conversations in the discussion sections and was very interesting
Kevin Chrisman demonstrated a great understanding of the content and what was important to the course as a whole, which was very helpful for discussion sections because it enabled him to guide us towards understanding information that will be particularly important for next week's content. He was also regularly available and gave helpful clarification on material.
Benjamin Montaño was an amazing TA! He led discussion sessions effectively and always raised powerful points useful for creating debate. He answered emails promptly and was available to meet outside of class, both during his office hours and at other times. I appreciate the effort he put into the course!
kevin chrisman. discussion sections were relatively helpful but it is hard to cover hundreds of pages of reading in 50 minutes
Kevin Chrisman. He was very helpful in discussion sections as he clearly synthesized the main topics covered in lectures and readings. He provided feedback that was useful for the final exam.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	2.50%	0.00%	20.00%	77.50%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.60	5.00	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.55	5.00	2.50%	2.50%	7.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	2.50%	2.50%	12.50%	82.50%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.63	5.00	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	15.00%	77.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.53	5.00	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	17.50%	72.50%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.63	5.00	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%	20.00%	75.00%	0.00%

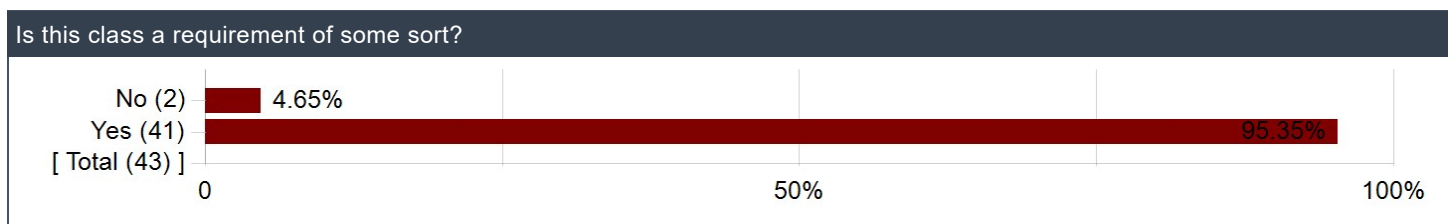
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
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%

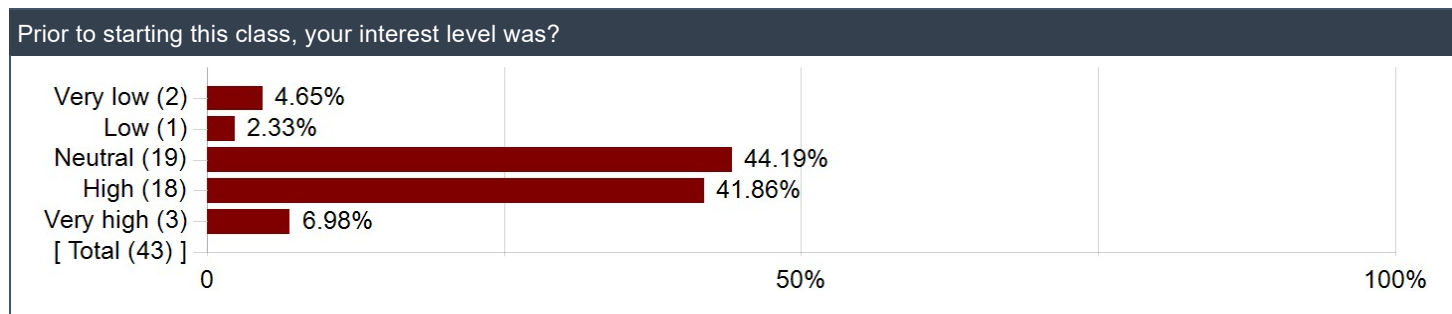
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion sections weekly helped me piece together the information of the week.

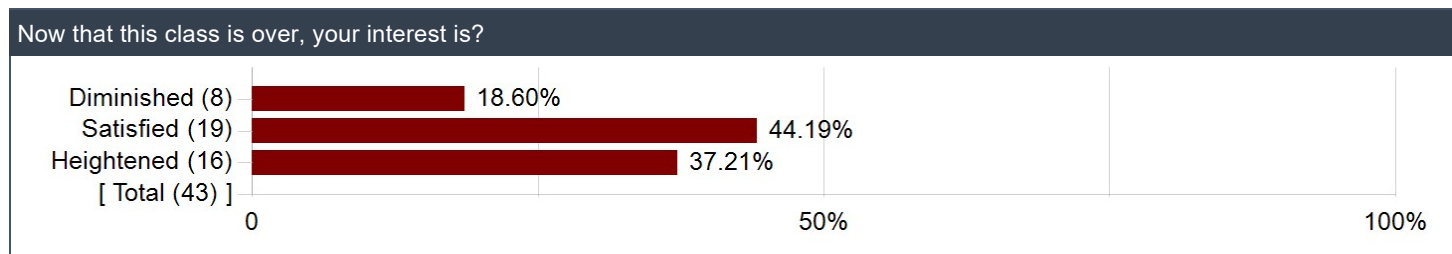
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



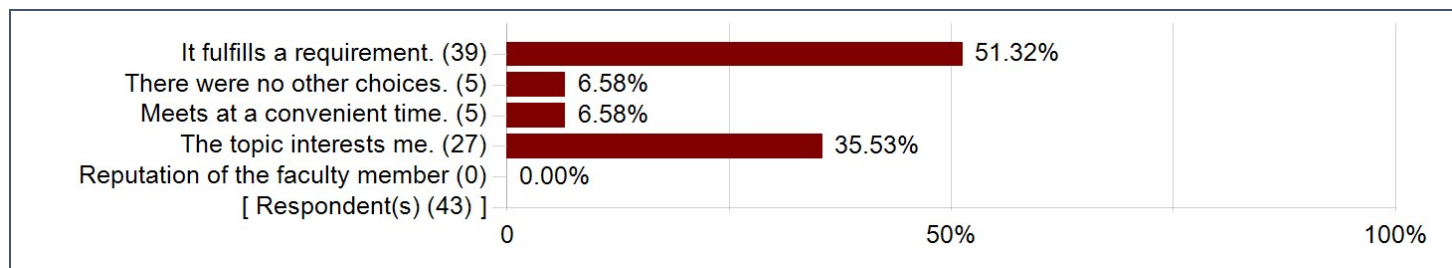
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



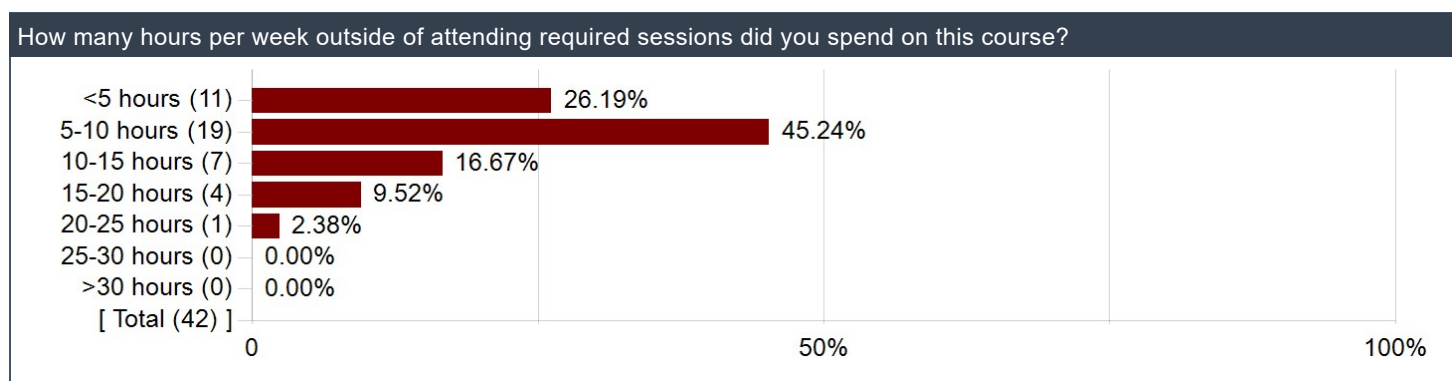
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



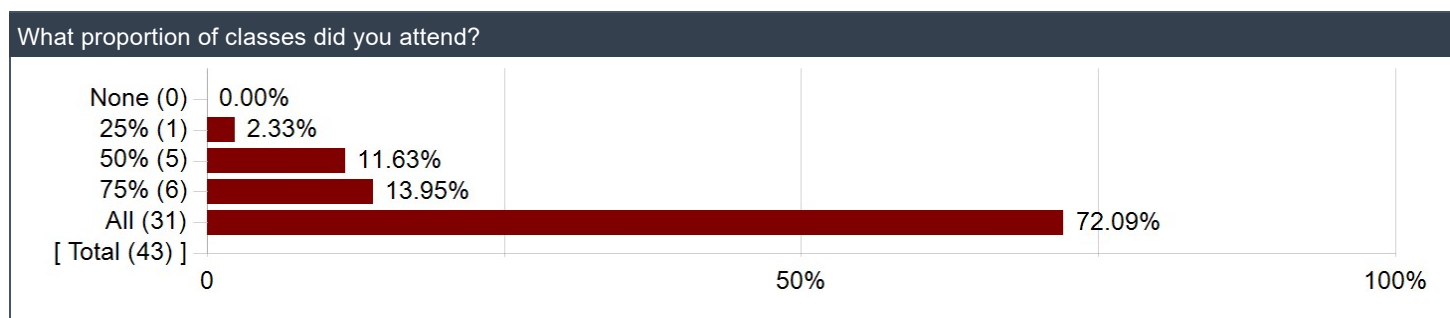
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
The course is not difficult as long as you attend discussion, do as much of the reading as you can, and participate in the discussion sections
Not very difficult, but a lot of reading
This course has a LOT of readings weekly. Basically a book a week (so 200+ pages). Have that in mind prior to taking it.
No background, a large amount of reading required but not too difficult.
I am from Hispanic America, so I was already familiar with a bunch of content, however, the readings really took me off. They were sometimes dense and boring about topics I already knew, but needed to freshen up. I'm certain that better texts could be picked while also reaching the same level of understanding.
Decently difficult, to the point that it was a satisfactory challenge for me. Not super challenging, but is not a cake walk.
Overall not a super difficult class. One 300 word discussion post per week and the midterm and final were in class essays which was nice
Easier than it should be.
Pretty Difficult
Not difficult in terms of assessment, but the readings themselves could be rather dense and were always rather long. (Can expect 200–400 pages a week). I took notes on them which made the homework take longer as well, but the content was always interesting to learn.
If you are prepared to read a lot, take this class. Also make sure you are comfortable with timed, in class writing. Both the midterm and final were in person essays, but they were not anything too difficult, and if you did the readings you were ok.
I like learning about history. AP World and AP US History were some of my favorite classes in high school, and I wrote amazing essays for those classes. I listen to history podcasts and read history books. I was interested in Latin American civilization before this course. This class will almost certainly be the worst grade I receive at this school because I have not figured out what the professors are looking for. I thought I wrote a good essay in the 35 minutes I had on the midterm, but I received a failing grade on it. Most people are doing fine with it though.
not that hard. Just understand the broad themes and how they relate to the readings.
I missed every Wednesday lecture because unfortunately am a low-income student (and had to work). Despite this, found keep up with the class manageable.
Having previous knowledge of the topic helps a lot, especially when having to pick what things of the convoluted readings and lectures are most important for exams and response papers.
i am not a humanities student, so this class was kind of a monster for me. i cannot read the long readings. im also terrible at writing, and we never learned the standards for success in writing the essay (although the grading wasn't very tough, so this was ok). HANDS DOWN THE BEST PART OF THIS CLASS was the TA, kevin. i would have zero motivation to read, and also would be terrible at writing if it weren't for him. he was the reason why i was able to succeed in this class.
Was not more or less difficult than the Social sciences and Humanities courses I took previously
It is definitely a manageable class, just go to the lecture and you will be fine.
This course was not terribly hard, though I imagine this was made much easier for me by already having taken reading dense HUME and SOSC (phil. per. and classics). It's not hard, but it's a massive timesink if you actually want to do all the readings. If you're a STEM major, either reconsider taking this course, or accept the fact that you probably won't have the time to do all the readings alongside your STEM classes.

## Comments

If you're comfortable reading on a screen, DO NOT buy the books for this course!! There are so many of them, you'll probably be spending over \$150 on just books for this one class. Don't bother, and just scour the internet for PDFs of the books instead, they're all available online to read.

Its a lot of reading (a book a week), but the TA said to just read the first and last page of each chapter and we should be good.

It was a lot of reading– you need to know how to skim, but if you do it's super manageable

Having taken the Hum and Sosc sequences already and being used to the reading that accompanies those, I had to adapt my style of handling text to this class. The sheer volume was something that was unusual to me and required me to either cut sections I thought were less likely to be important or were redundant and lower the degree of precision I included in my notes. The tests were quite balanced, in my opinion. They were both mostly comprised of timed essay writing, and mismanaging your time was the most present danger, but the questions were approachable, and it was certainly not impossible to do succeed. Overall, managing the reading each week was the most difficult part of the course, but once you could do that, you were likely to succeed in this class. 5/10 difficulty

Keeping up with the readings was difficult when trying to balance other coursework

A difficult course in general because of the amount of material/reading. Background with reading historical texts would help, but it isn't necessary. Detailed pre–requisite knowledge of history isn't really necessary

A doable class if you put the work in! Office hours with TA are very useful. Participate in discussion sessions!

it is not hard but there is quite a bit of reading each week. the readings come from the same set of books generally which makes it easier to comprehend, though