



# HIPS 18401 1, HIST 17411 1 - Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization II: History of Medicine 1500 to 1900 - Instructor(s): Michael Paul Rossi

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

Number Enrolled: **49**

Number of Responses: **25**

---

## 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   |
|--|
| History of medicine, Renaissance and studies of anatomy, birth of the clinic, medical schools and surgery, anesthesia and pain (ethics, religion tie-in), disease theory and belief in germs, Mendel and the rise of genetics, eugenics and politics regarding human differences.  |
| I learned some of the history behind the development of hospitals and medicine as we know it today.  |
| The history of medicine between 1450–1900, particularly the advent of hospitals, the transition of medicine from the home to doctors, the role of anatomy and dissections, and generally how the perception of medicine has changed as science has advanced.   |
| The immense influence of Galen and humoralism more broadly well into the 19th century; the (often recent) historical genesis of much of what we consider to be fundamental to the structure of medicine  |
| I learned a lot about the medical structures and developments that occurred in Europe from 1500–1900, from the treatment of pain, to germ theory, to public health initiatives, to a shift towards a scientific analysis of medicine. The course was very valuable in filtering through the information given to see how these changes lay in the society from which they derived. |
| Interesting conceptions in the development of medicine, how the concept of clinic came around, and the concept of pain as an agent!  |
| I learned a lot of really cool things in this class. We read a few slightly philosophical writers like Foucault, which was not easy but I have gotten better at it. Overall it is a useful skill to have.  |
| Reading critically   |
| History of medicine  |
| We learned about the history of medicine through the renaissance and reform period.  |
| About the history of medicine between 1500–1900.   |

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

| Comments   |
|--|
| Lectures and discussions were both very interesting and somewhat helpful. You don't necessarily NEED to go to all of the classes, but you do get a great gain (and Prof. Rossi is very educated and engaging) from going, so I definitely would recommend.   |
| Lectures were great! Rossi is entertaining, down-to-Earth, and overall a chill guy!  |
| Dr. Rossi's lectures were good in providing background. I really enjoyed the visit to the Rare Books Collection.   |
| We had readings due every week along with a short (500 word) response + reflection due every 2 weeks: the weeks with the responses felt most helpful to really digesting the readings. Tuesdays would be Professor Rossi lecturing about the history that wasn't in our readings, which was interesting and helpful for context, and Thursdays would be more of that and then discussion. Discussion brought up the most new ideas, but we had a 50+ person class, so it could be really difficult to be heard/feel like you could speak and discussion was such a small portion of the class. |
| Rossi is an excellent lecturer, and I appreciated his willingness to take questions and indulge curiosity during lecture. The assigned readings, particularly scholarly ones were engaging and thought-provoking. Weekly responses are also an excellent way to get us to engage with them.  |
| The lectures were very engrossing, and the teacher provided many anecdotes and opportunities for discussion which improved my learning. The readings were all primary sources allowing me to come to my own conclusions about the ideas that were important. They were always a combination of primary sources and modern analyses that commented on them. The responses were an opportunity for me to organize my ideas, and the book review was just a cool opportunity to deeply study 1 specific topic in this field. (Highly recommend The Knife Man by Wendy Moore).                     |
| I thought that the writing assignments were super helpful for processing the readings. The addendums are great, as well – I feel they really help to explain my thinking processes. All classes should have an addendum!   |
| I also love listening to Dr. Rossi's lectures in class. He should start a podcast.   |
| Lecture was incredibly interesting despite the large calss   |
| Lectures were fascinating and the discussions were always really interesting. The response papers were time-consuming but rewarding. Our trip to special collections was so much fun and enlightening.   |
| Rossi is an excellent professor, and he's so passionate about his work! His energy and depth of knowledge was the best part of this course.  |
| Readings   |
| The lectures were set up as slideshows of interesting medical artifacts and papers, and were very helpful for gaining a general understanding of the course  |
| The lectures were great! Very informative and interesting.   |

## Please respond to the following:

|  | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree  | Strongly Agree |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| This course challenged me intellectually.  | 4.29 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 4.17%   | 62.50% | 33.33%         |
| I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it. | 4.29 | 4.50   | 4.17%             | 0.00%    | 8.33%   | 37.50% | 50.00%         |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments.                           | 4.17 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 4.17%    | 16.67%  | 37.50% | 41.67%         |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.                 | 4.33 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 8.33%    | 4.17%   | 33.33% | 54.17%         |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 4.46 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 4.17%    | 0.00%   | 41.67% | 54.17%         |
| My work was evaluated fairly.  | 4.42 | 5.00   | 4.17%             | 0.00%    | 4.17%   | 33.33% | 58.33%         |
| I felt respected in this class.  | 4.54 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 8.33%   | 29.17% | 62.50%         |
| Overall, this was an excellent course.   | 4.50 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 4.17%    | 0.00%   | 37.50% | 58.33%         |

## Additional comments about the course:

| Comments  |
|---|
| Very, very interesting course and well planned out! The topics discussed in lecture and in discussion were very meaningful and connected well to readings (and to other HIPS classes).  |
| Michael Rossi is an amazing professor. 10/10  |
| I think we were told that it was an administrative error that our class was this big, but the size was a little untenable for what was billed as discussion style class   |
| This course (much like 18301) covers a *ton* of ground in just 9 weeks, and so lectures often feel like they're speeding through material that would be really engaging and interesting if addressed in more detail. I appreciate that Professor Rossi stops to entertain curiosity questions, since it's really our only opportunity to go deeper on a lot of the topics.  |
| The participation requirement didn't make sense. It was stressful and awkward to try to have a discussion in a lecture hall of 50+ people. I understand the value in discussion, but it didn't work with the amount of people. A discussion section in addition to lectures would have been better. Alternatively, asynchronous participation should have been allowed.   |
| Professor Rossi is one of my absolute favorite professors at UChicago. He is so immensely and deeply knowledgeable about the history of science, and his classes never feel like you're learning arbitrary facts or dates, as others may feel in alternative CIV courses. All of the lecture topics are genuinely interesting and structured in such a way that allows for students to readily ask questions, expand on topics, and so on. Plus, Professor Rossi genuinely just enjoys the topics he's discussing, and it's obvious that he enjoys teaching and hearing students' input/perspectives. It's always a pleasure being in one of his classes! |
| At no fault of Dr. Rossi, sometimes participation in a 50-person, lecture-style class is pretty difficult.  |
| This class is incredibly interesting and and fun, with a dive into what medicine actually means and how it has changed over the centuries.  |
| It's really interesting!  |

## 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  |
|---|
| His lectures were very fun and informative.   |
| Prof. Rossi is very passionate, knowledgeable, and clearly also very interested in the topic. I really enjoyed that I could sit and listen to a lecture for 80 minutes without it feeling like a lecture — and instead, it feeling like a podcast almost? I wanted to be in class and be learning, and I think that the way Prof. Rossi organized the content was good. |
| Lectures were great! Michael Rossi is a great lecturer! Lots of examples/pictures shown in the slides which helped facilitate discussion around historical objects.   |
| Professor Rossi is really passionate about the topic and it shows! His lectures were always engaging and he did a good job at juggling the amount of students in discussion. He also gave fair but helpful feedback on our responses.   |
| Q&A during lecture  |
| He was a very charismatic lecturer, and provided an enthusiasm for the material that was very motivating. He structured his lectures well and was always available during office hours to discuss ideas for responses or just the texts/ideas we were covering at the time  |
| Definitely the lectures. Also, great flexibility with finding time to meet outside of class.  |
| special collections trip was wonderful!   |
| Professor Rossi was extremely knowledgeable and had really interesting lectures. Discussions were easily facilitated and naturally flowed despite the unusually large class size. He was also always willing to help outside of class and work with us if something came up.  |
| His energy! I would highly recommend going to office hours as well.   |
| Discussions on Thursday   |
| Professor Rossi was very engaging in lecture and encouraged questions and participation.  |

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

| Comments   |
|--|
| Really no fault of Prof. Rossi's, but it was unfortunate that the way this class was scheduled it became way too big. Because of this, the class discussions were not very useful. Maybe splitting into smaller groups for discussion would have been better.  |
| I'm not sure that Prof. Rossi has control over class sizes or classrooms, but I felt that the larger class size this quarter and the room we were placed, it felt more like a lecture rather than a seminar. I would have liked to contribute more to in class discussions, but the size and classroom were not conducive of that.   |
| N/A  |
| My only gripe with the course was class size and feeling kind of dwarfed/unable to speak in such a large class, but Professor Rossi did offer accommodations at the beginning of the course and it was my fault for not taking him up on that.   |
| Not much. Very good experience.  |
| Other types of assignments. Perhaps extra credit opportunities as well, including attending a conference or a talk.  |
| Can't think of anything... maybe no Foucault lol   |
| I understand that there were a lot of people in the course, but grading the mini essays before the next one was due would have been helpful for feedback purposes.   |
| I appreciate the sources provided in the email on how to write a book review for our final paper. I wished that I had seen it earlier as it could also help us write our biweekly papers. There are different standards for essays in different fields, so it would be great if we were provided with some sample essays at the beginning of the quarter so that we could understand the standards on the response papers a little bit more. |

## The Instructor . . .

|  | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree  | Strongly Agree | N/A   |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Organized the course clearly.  | 4.57 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 4.35%    | 0.00%   | 30.43% | 65.22%         | 0.00% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.                       | 4.68 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 4.35%   | 21.74% | 69.57%         | 4.35% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.                     | 4.39 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 8.70%    | 4.35%   | 26.09% | 60.87%         | 0.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.                  | 4.65 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 34.78% | 65.22%         | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn.   | 4.61 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 39.13% | 60.87%         | 0.00% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.              | 4.52 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 4.35%    | 4.35%   | 26.09% | 65.22%         | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class.                                | 4.73 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 4.35%   | 17.39% | 73.91%         | 4.35% |
| Motivated you to think independently.                                      | 4.74 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 26.09% | 73.91%         | 0.00% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.          | 4.68 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 4.55%   | 22.73% | 72.73%         | 0.00% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.65 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 4.35%    | 0.00%   | 21.74% | 73.91%         | 0.00% |

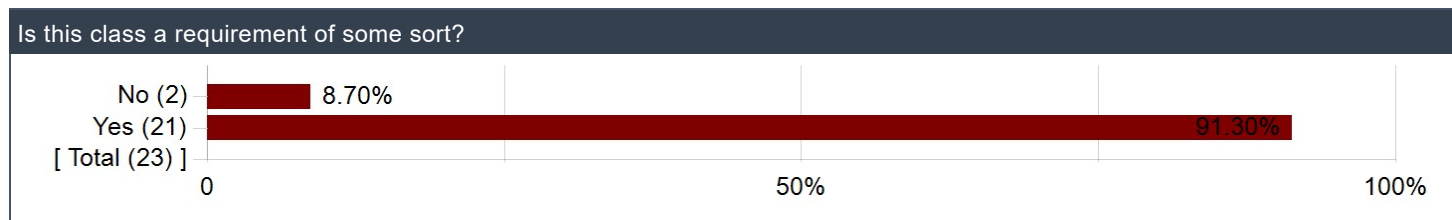
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

|                       | 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           | 4.36 | 5.00   | 0.00%   | 6.67%         | 0.00%         | 26.67%    | 40.00%     | 26.67%  |
| Library Sessions      | 4.80 | 5.00   | 0.00%   | 0.00%         | 0.00%         | 7.69%     | 30.77%     | 61.54%  |
| 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% |

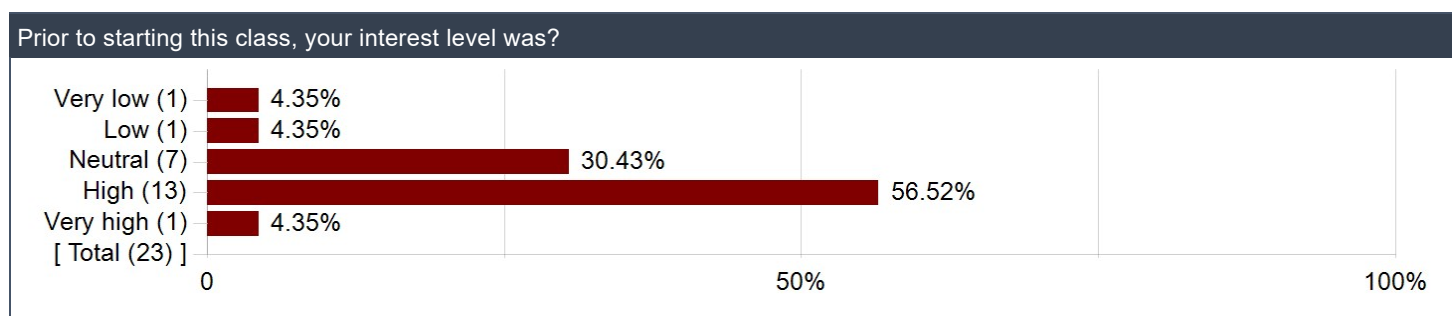
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

| Comments  |  |
|---|--|
| Special Collections Visit: very cool to see the old books and instruments retained from the early modern period. Also nice to finally visit the collection in Regenstein Library. |  |

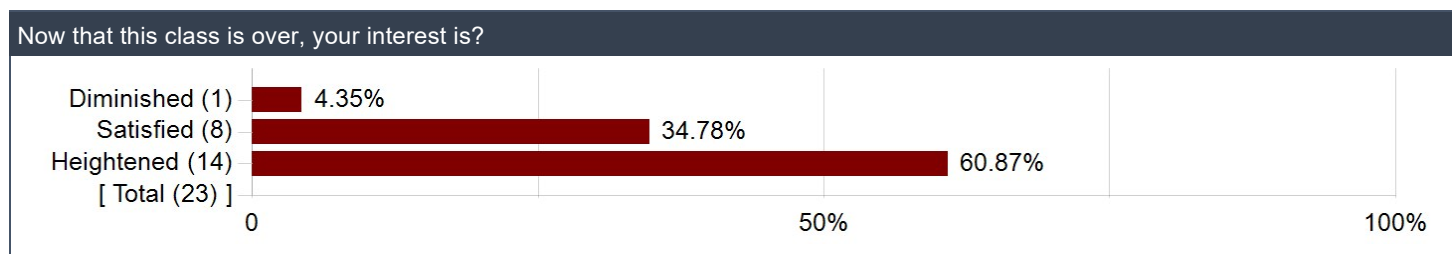
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



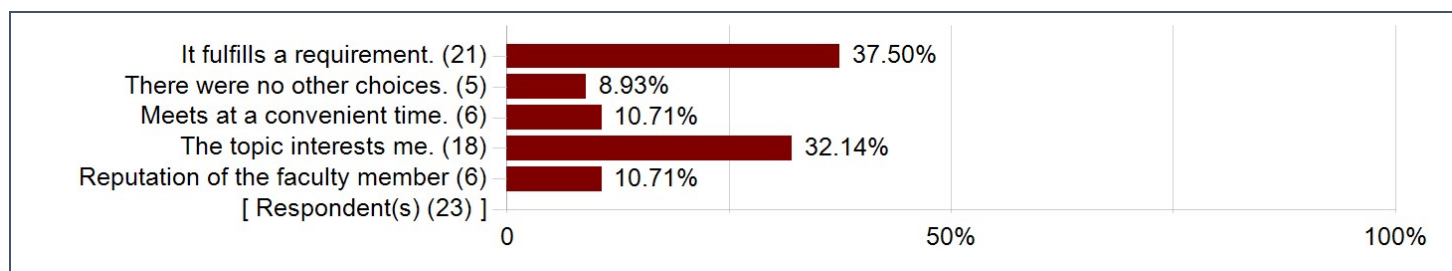
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



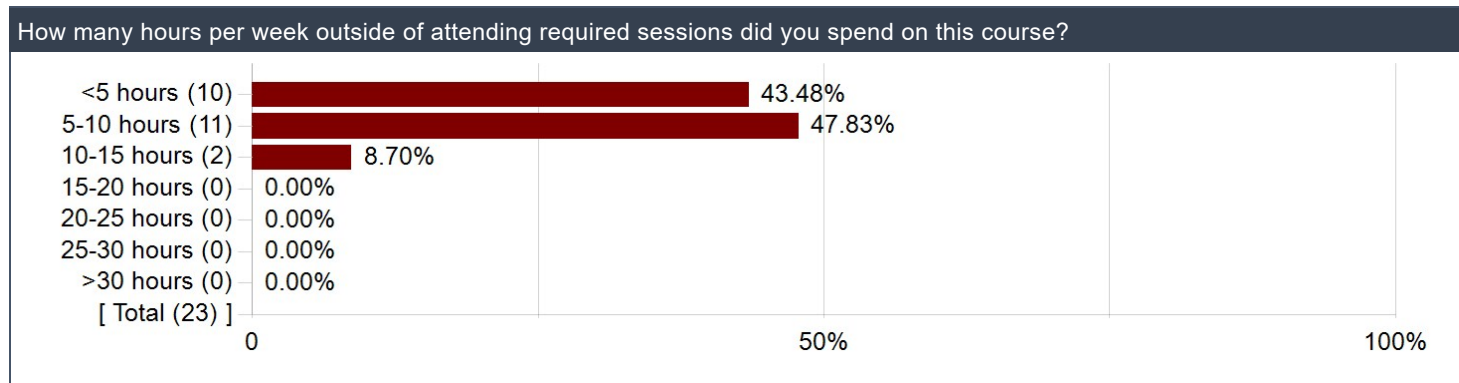
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



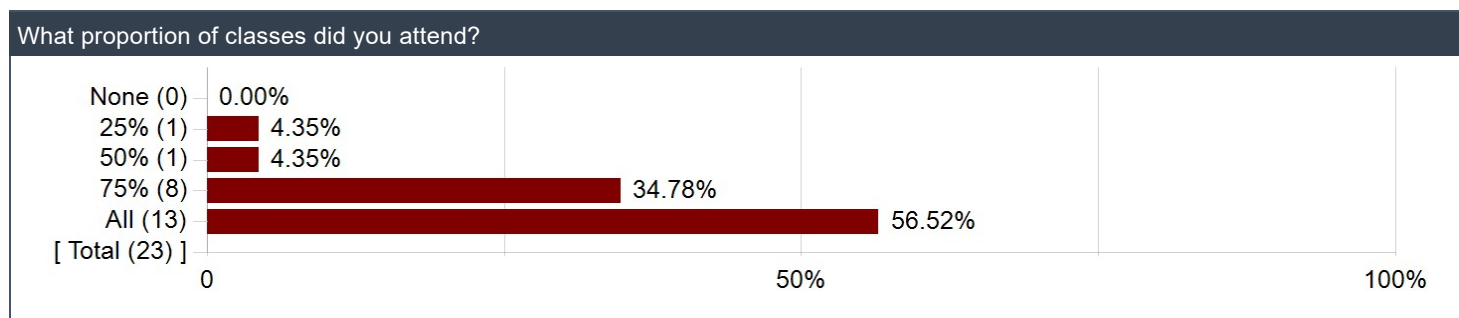
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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   |
|--|
| GREAT class. It is very easy to navigate as a non-HIPS non-PreMed student. I also really appreciate Rossi's flexibility with writing assignment structure and deadlines. I was very busy with extracurricular commitments throughout the quarter, so the flexibility really benefitted me and my absurd schedule (other classes this quarter decided to go ballistic). |
| I couldn't take part 1 of the sequence, which was not strictly necessary, but did make me feel a little behind at the beginning, especially in discussions, as I was not familiar with the writers the class was referencing.  |
| Not particularly difficult; really all that is asked is that you read and write analytically   |
| Very fair difficulty, especially for a core class.   |
| This was a really enjoyable class and inspired me to take more HIPS courses!   |
| Rossi can be a little harsh on essay grading, but he made really good points about my writing. I would definitely go to office hours to discuss what he wants to see and how you can improve!  |
| assignments were graded harshly  |
| Some readings were not easy because they were written hundreds of years ago, but Prof. Rossi was happy to help during office hours. Some of the feedback he provided on response papers was ambiguous and did not tell you how to improve. Make sure to go to office hours to ask for clarifications. He was very accessible. I wish I could go to office hours more.  |