



HIST 13002 2 - History of European Civilization II - Instructor(s): Oliver Cussen

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **7**

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 europe from the enlightenment to ww2
In-depth, small scale analysis of the developments of the 18th–20th century in Europe. Learned how to analyze primary source documents, understand their relation to broader historical events, their relation to the period they were written (if it was a memoir for example).
Transformation of civilisation on the European continent from the French Revolution to the end of WWII.
The Enlightenment, the rise of commercial society, the French Revolution, Napoleon, class politics between proletarians and the bourgeoisie in the mid–1800s, the rise of the modern idea of states and nations, imperial expansion in the late 1800s, communism/fascism, the Holocaust, and impacts of World War 2 and colonialism on post-war Europe.
About the evolution of thought and government in Europe from the 17th century to the totalitarianism of the 20th century
I learned a lot about the cultural dynamics of early modern Europe.
History of European civ

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

Comments
discussions were very fruitful
Professor Cussen's lectures were a mix of historical background and group discussion of the readings. Though there are no slides systematizing the content, there's a clear structure to how class is organized, which helps keep track of the ideas that are going to be the focus for class time. The midterm essay was a great opportunity to combine different ideas that were brought up in the lectures together.
Discussion based class – I though Prof. Cussen was good at facilitating the class.
I really appreciated that all we had were readings, discussions, a midterm paper, and final exam. No 4–paper quarter and no discussion posts. The readings could be kind of long sometimes but seldom felt boring; I really enjoyed most of them. Oliver is very, very good at running discussions and is a great lecturer. Oliver asked great probing questions and the discussions seldom got quiet; it never felt hard to participate. When they did get quiet eventually, Oliver would interject with a brief lecture and keep the class moving. Great experience in the classroom. The midterm paper was very reasonable, but I feel like it should've been due at midnight instead of noon to avoid horrendous all-nighters. The final was also pretty solid, but I find it kind of odd that about 30–40% of the points on it relied on us being able to place very specific quotes in the texts we'd read. If we hadn't literally just reread those texts, there was basically no way we were going to remember.
The lectures were very informative and engaging.
Discussions were very helpful for understanding the text, but the lectures felt a bit poorly integrated. Use of slides would help a lot for historical context.
Interesting course, liked the text

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
oliver is a great discussion leader, very insightful and humorous which i think is essential in a good history professor
Awesome course from an awesome professor.
The curriculum and assignments feel much more geared towards understanding ~20 specific texts about history, rather than the history itself.
I liked the course, and the professor is kind, but they could have supported us better for our interesting final exam – I am not exactly sure why that happened. Felt very specific, for ex he asked us to IDENTIFY single sentences from the 20+ sources /100s of pages we read

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
he broke things down to a way i could understand them, which i appreciated as someone without a strong history background
The split between lecture–style and discussion–style moments during class time.
I really liked Oliver's great ability to lead class. Also, I liked that we only had 2 large assignments outside of discussions rather than having piles of discussion posts and multiple essays.
The lectures on the context of the readings were very helpful
Different exams

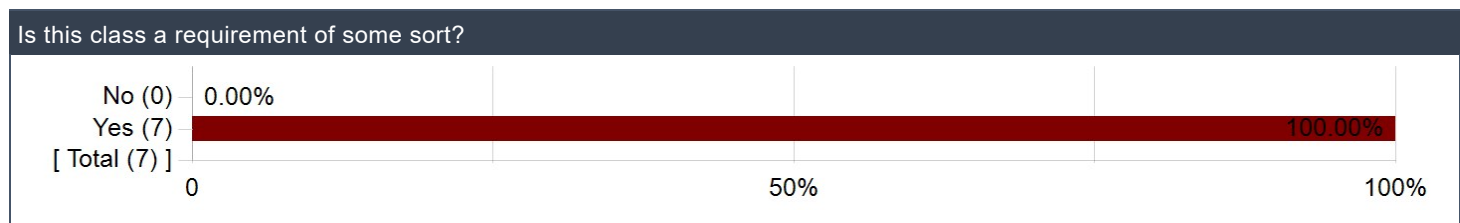
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing tbh
Sometimes more towards the end, or after important aspects of the discussion/readings are raised, take a bit more time to systematize the ideas would be good just to keep track of the relevant things being discussed.
Symptom of the course I suppose but seemed like we rushed through decades only looking at one or two brief texts.
I found the final really reasonable and kind of enjoyable, but asking us to identify the source text and author's full name of 7 excerpts from the ~40 things we'd read all quarter was really rough. That's not an accurate measure of whether we read over the quarter, but is an accurate measure of how much reading we crammed right before the exam. Also, I think a midnight deadline on essays is better than noon for anti–all–nighter reasons.
Different Exams

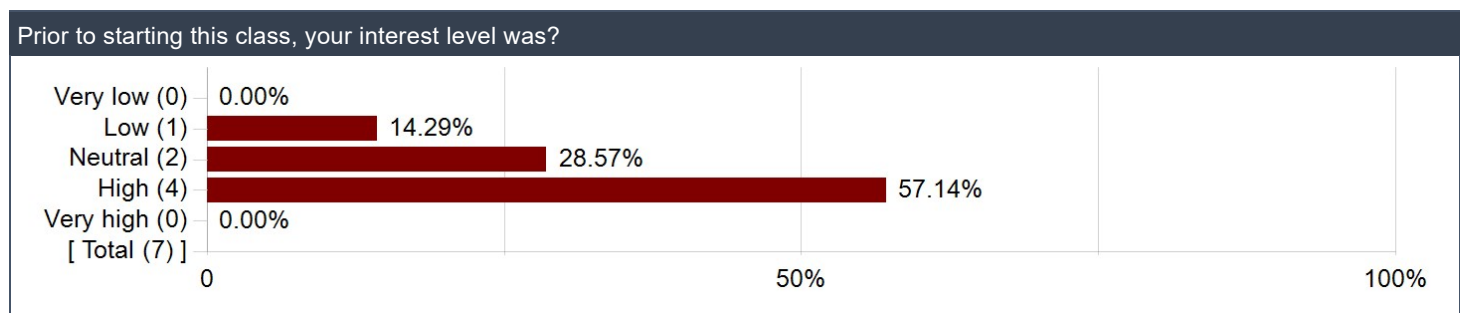
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

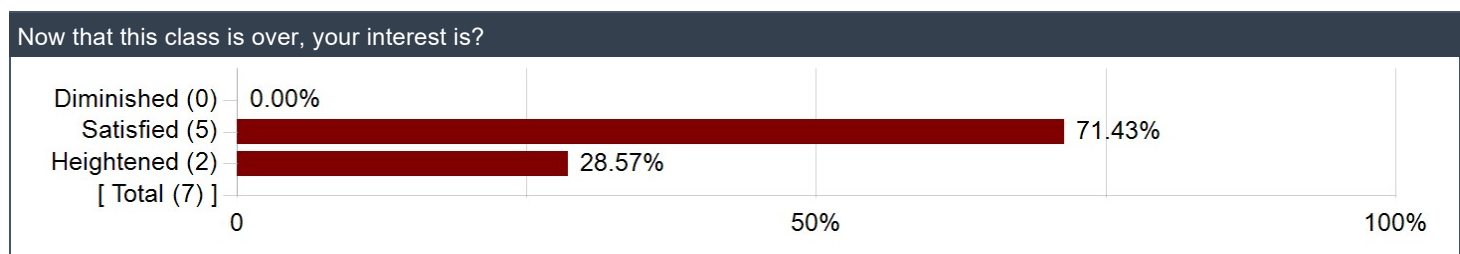
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



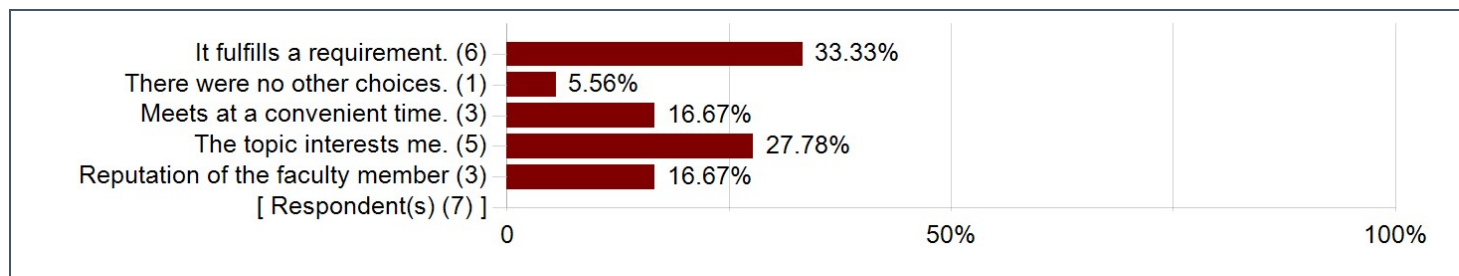
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



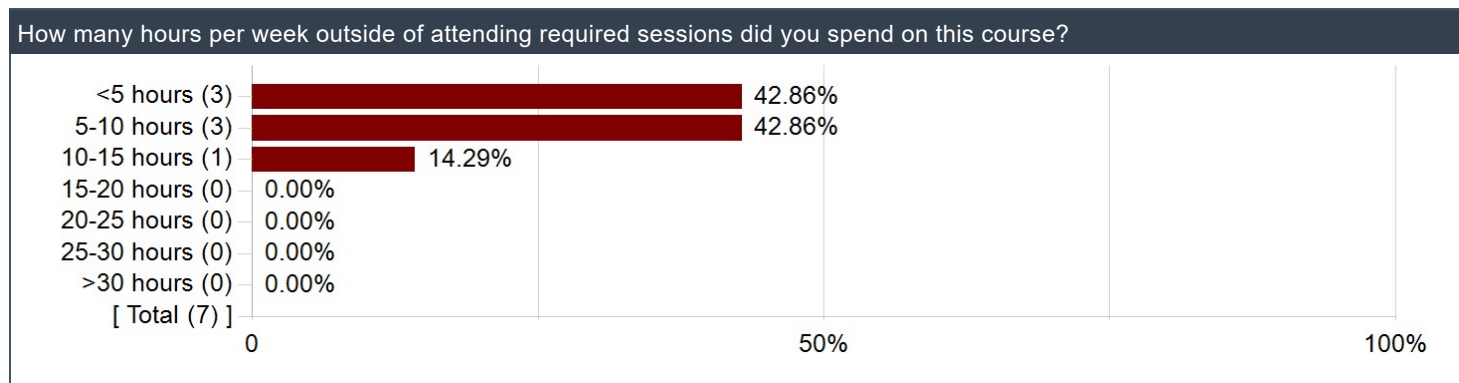
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



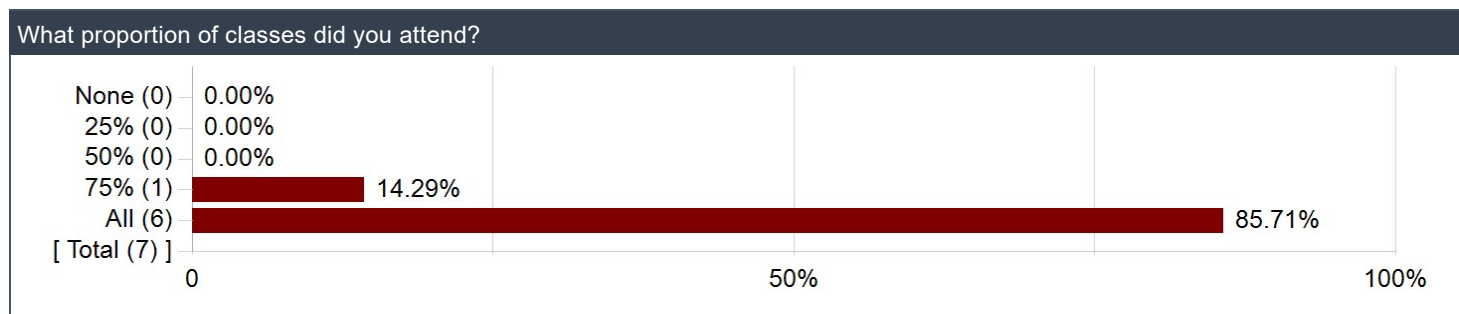
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
not difficult, u get as much as u put in
I found this course really doable. Reasonable challenges but not overly difficult. If you're interested in taking this course, be warned that Oliver gives B+/A– scores to the average in the class and reserves above/below that as significantly deviating from the average. So, doing well is very doable, but getting an A would be pretty difficult.
Reasonable
This course was very accessible for anyone with a basic knowledge of European history and core–level experience reading historical social science texts.
Medium except final