



NEHC 20012 2, HIST 15603 2, CLCV 25800 2, MDVL 20012 2 - Ancient Empires II - Instructor(s): Katherine Costello

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

Number Enrolled: **16**

Number of Responses: **8**

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 to interpret and think about texts that discuss the history of the Ottoman Empire.
The history of the Ottoman Empire, Orientalist ideas and their origin, general history of Europe and the Middle East
history of the ottoman empire, its rise, golden age, and collapse
History of the Ottoman empire.
An overview of Ottoman history with an emphasis on territorial politics and the internal changes throughout the different eras of the Empire. We read several primary sources and learned how to interpret and discuss them, and we also read lots of academic writing on the subject. Ottoman history is really under-taught, so most of the information was new to me and I learned how to trace their patterns and traditions through the centuries.
The history of the Ottoman Empire and its influences on Modern Turkey and the rest of the world today. Also became more familiar with reading primary sources and academic papers.
The political, military, cultural, technological, and social history of the Ottoman Empire. This course covered a long period (~600 years), but managed to convey what happened not only in the eyes of the Ottoman elite, but also the citizens of the Empire and those who interacted with it. Another key skill tested in this course was source analysis, where we analyzed the veracity of sources and described what can be learned from it.

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

Comments
Readings were very thorough and covered a lot of information. Lectures were very helpful in framing the parts of the readings we were meant to focus on. Kate was very helpful in office hours as well.
Lectures were fantastic, discussions were super interesting and every assignment for reading was very relevant for the course, there was never too much assigned and it never felt unnecessary. The grading structure was organised really well and the instructor made sure to be clear of what was expected from every assignment and the exams. Grading was very clear and work was always returned on time.
lectures and discussion were usefull!
Lectures and discussions were great
Lectures were really helpful to go over the readings for the day and consolidate them. The readings were often fairly long or dense, so it was nice to have Kate talk through them after reading them to make sure we understood everything properly. Discussions were great for learning how to interpret primary sources and they were also good preparation for the essays, which often were based on primary sources. The only assignments were daily readings and the papers; the readings were good overviews of everything we talked about, and even though they were sometimes hard to read, in combination with lectures they were sufficient to know everything required. The papers were all based on readings so as long as you read and paid attention in class, there was no extra research required and they were very self-explanatory.
The lectures were well-organized, informative, and thorough. The discussions allowed the opportunity to engage in deeper analysis of some of the primary sources we read.
The course revolved around readings, lectures, and discussions. The lectures covered a specific topic area and time period and covered the general history of a time period or sociocultural aspect of such a time period. The readings generally covered both general histories compiled by historians as well as samples of laws/charters, and personal accounts. The discussions generally revolved around primary sources like personal accounts or laws. These discussions generally highlighted specific aspects of such primary sources and helped contextualize them for the larger time period. Overall, the lectures were great to get a broad sense of the history of the empire, the readings were great to go in more depth, and the discussion section helped contextualize primary sources and highlight their important aspects.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Loved this course, took it for the CIV requirement but would probably take voluntarily if I knew how good it was.
Great class, Kate is awesome!

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
In class lectures were a great way to go through the reading again and highlight the most important ideas to focus on for the essays/exams. Kate was also incredibly helpful during office hours and was always willing to provide help or review parts of the material that may have been a bit difficult to understand.
The lectures, readings, assignments, the syllabus was super clear and the instructor's own knowledge and passion for the subject made classes even better
kate's lectures and slides were great!
Lectures
Kate gave really great lectures that touched on the most important parts of the readings and gave more basic information about the time to contextualize everything we read about. They were always clear and concise, easy to take notes from. The instructions for all our assignments (papers and exams) were also really clear and it made studying straightforward.
She created a very casual atmosphere in class that was very conducive to learning and being engaged in the materials. It made it easy to ask questions.
Professor Costello is a very engaging instructor who has a great degree of knowledge about the subject. She was able to convey a lot of information about the history of the empire, while pointing out relevant connections, and how these aspects influenced aspects of our world today. She also was able to lead engaging discussions and give specific essay feedback that pinpointed ways on how I could improve my writing about primary sources.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I would have maybe liked to have access to the slides before class to take notes on directly, but this was really not too much of an issue since they were always posted shortly after class anyways. The lecture slides themselves also already provided a lot of information so posting before would not have been crucial.
Nothing
having a discussion when the class was so small seemed kinda unnecessary but given how class was just straight lecture i understood why it was there. but maybe they could've been incorporated into class
Honestly not much, Kate's great. The only thing I would say is giving some instructions on her preferred writing style for essays (ex: how formal it's expected to be, what kind of tone is appropriate for historical analysis, etc) would help with polishing the first essay before we have any feedback to refer back to.
More sociocultural aspects like coffee or the role of women would be great to examine in further detail, but this class does cover a long time period already, and further exploration could neglect the aspect of the course focused on the sequence of major events.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%

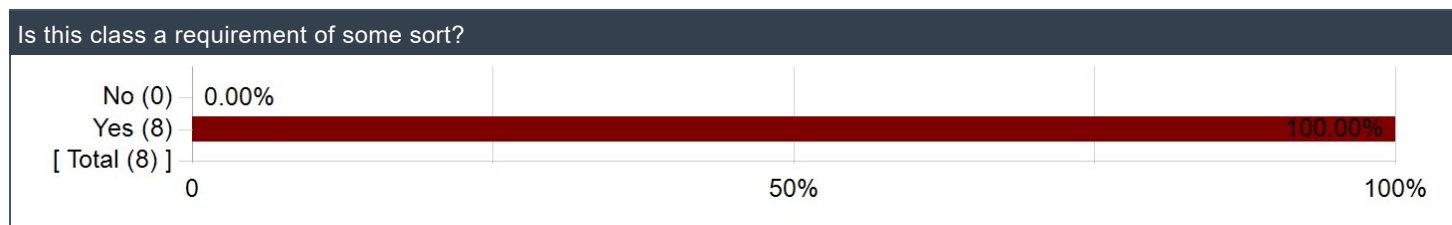
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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%

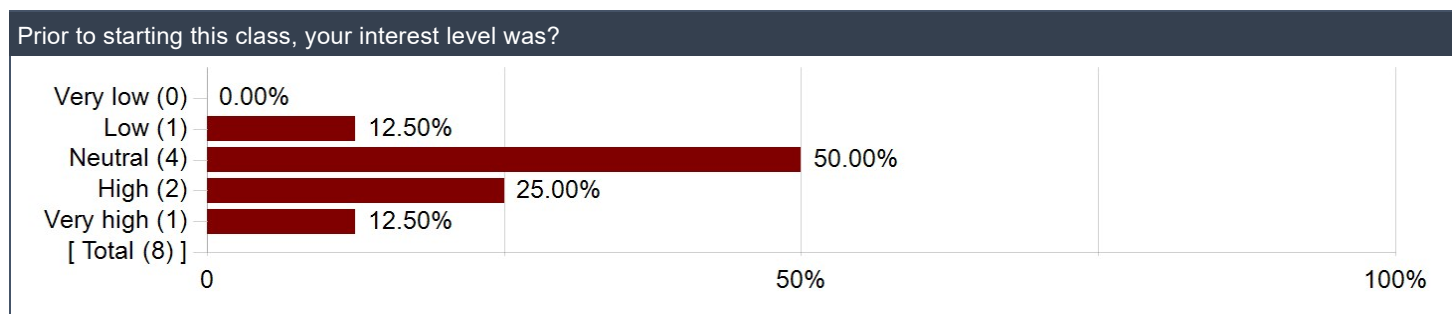
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
The discussion sections were really interesting and definitely fostered a deeper interest in the material.

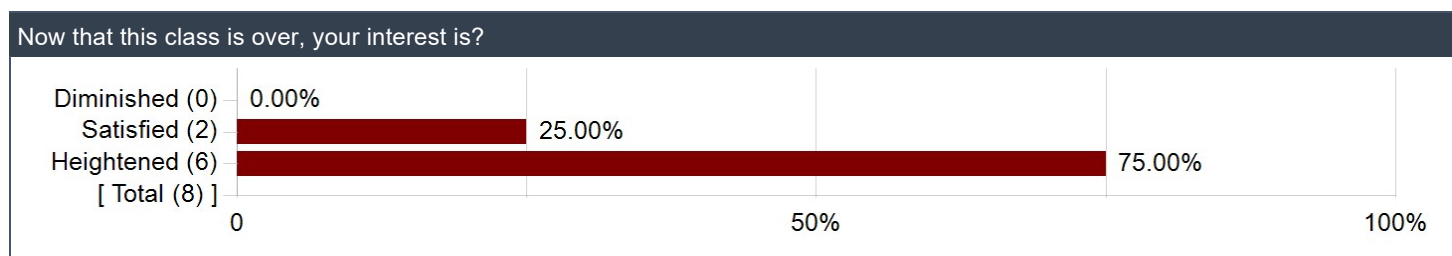
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



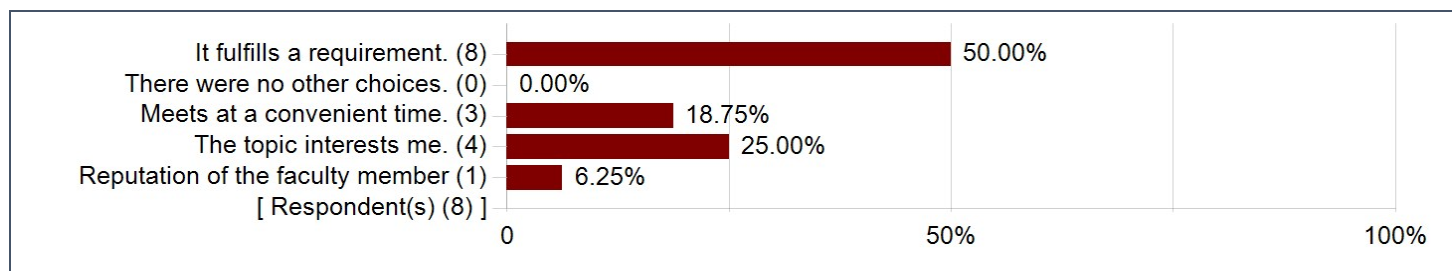
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



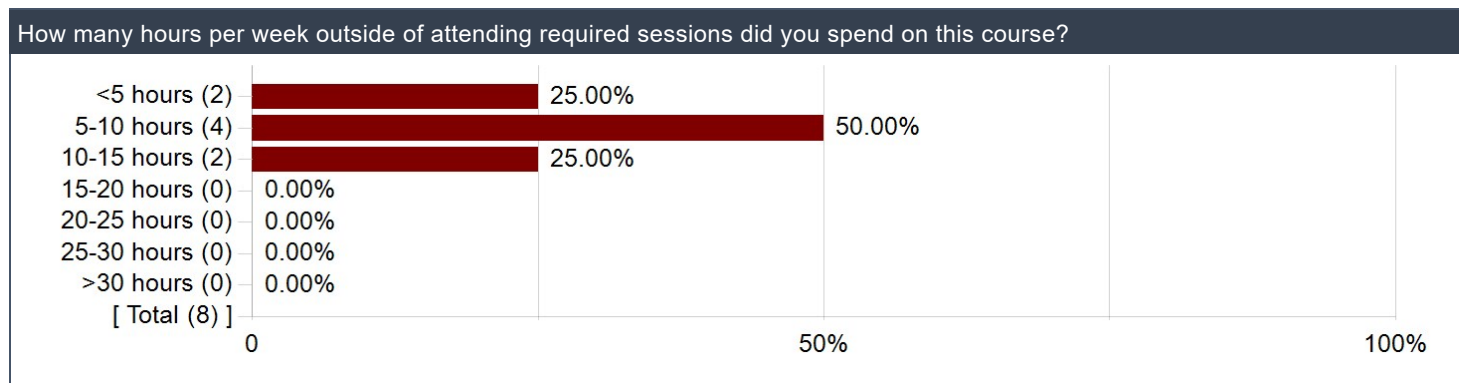
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



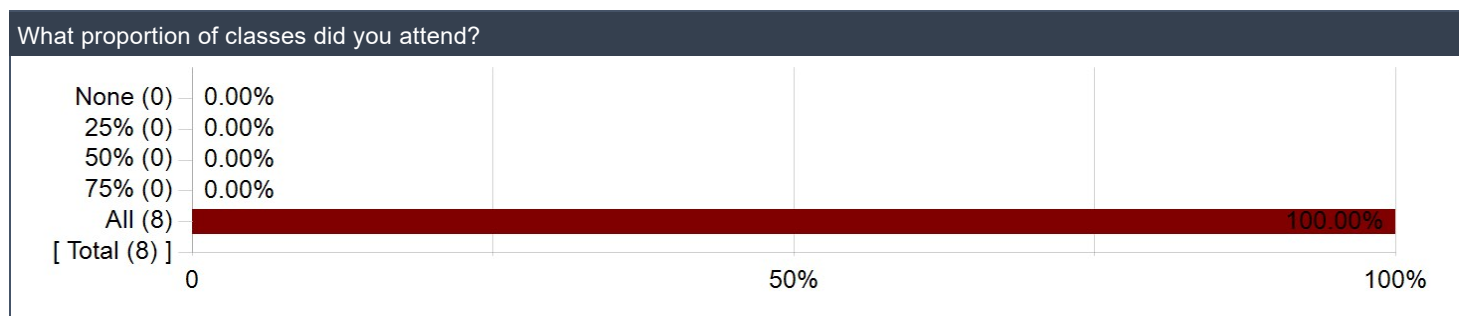
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
This course is very manageable without any background knowledge.
Not difficult, not an easy class but very interesting and engaging so you want to do the work
Pretty standard, nothing crazy
this class was very manageable. kate was super cognizant of peoples' other classes which was really nice
Easy
I'm really interested in ancient history and I have a fair amount of experience with it, so this was not super challenging for me. It was still really interesting though, and I don't think it would be overly challenging for someone with little to no experience with history classes.
It should not be a very difficult course for anyone who has already completed their HUM requirements.
This course should be fine for anyone used to college-level writing and source analysis as shown in a standard humanities or SOSC class.