



JWSC 12000 2, NEHC 22010 2, RLST 22010 2, MDVL 12000 2, HIST 11701 2 - Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period - Instructor(s): Larisa Reznik

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

Number Enrolled: **25**

Number of Responses: **11**

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
Jewish civilization in its earliest historical period
Why the Tanach is central to Jewish Civilization. Oral Torah. Judaism in the context of diaspora and exile.
I learned how to think about ancient Jewish texts in a historical and critical context.
Ancient jewish history
Learned about the origin and evolution of Jewish civilization through the late medieval era.
Jewish history from conception to the middle ages.
I learned about Jewish history from the ancient to medieval periods. I gained a deeper understanding of my people and the traditions around which my culture is based.

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

Comments
Lectures were a bit dry, but Prof. Reznik makes them interesting by sprinkling in document-readings and discussions
Lectures and readings were the main two aspects of the course
Class discussions, lectures and readings were all fascinating and taught me a lot.
Lectures were helpful, I also really appreciated how the structure of the midterm was changed when the final came around. The final's structure was much more helpful.
Class was largely organized around lectures.
Readings were very interesting and engaging. In class lecture, more often than not, was brief and did not give enough historical context in a direct, not-overly academic and confusing way. In class conversations were very helpful.
The readings and discussions were extremely helpful, as they allowed me to better process and understand the information presented in the course.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.18	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	45.45%	36.36%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.18	4.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	36.36%	45.45%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.73	4.00	0.00%	27.27%	9.09%	27.27%	36.36%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%
I felt respected in this class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Great class! Highly recommend!
The course has 10ish page essays for the midterm and final as well as interesting 20–30ish page reading assignments every class.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
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
There will be quizzes on the terms covered in lectures, so it's always helpful to take those down
Reznik gives good overviews on the readings and the key aspects we should be focusing on.
Prof. Reznik is an engaging lecturer and is very good at facilitating class discussions.
Lectures were most helpful
The discussions were always very interesting, and I enjoyed learning about the historical context.
Prof. Reznik made sure we got the main points of the readings. She was kind and available for help outside of class.
Her facilitation of discussions allowed me to deepen my understanding of the material.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Not much honestly, this class was great
Making the expectations for the quizzes clearer. Having one essay for the midterm and one for final instead of two for each would allow for better analysis.
I think taking more time from each class to discuss historical context could've helped, especially when discussing the late roman era. That being said, the course was really great!
More clearly explaining the chronological information that was directly related to the text. Also, sometimes it felt like she was trying to over academia-ize concepts.
Due to my style of learning, more lecture-style classes would have been extremely helpful.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.27	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.27	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	9.09%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	18.18%	63.64%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%

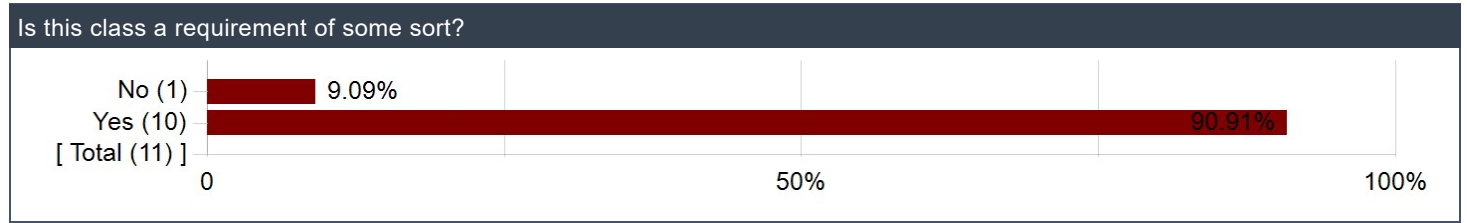
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Miriam Bilsker
Miriam Bilsker
Miriam
Our TA would sit in the class and contribute once every few lectures but often did not contribute clearly related/clarifying contributions. I'm not sure if that was because of the structure of this course, but she was not really a TA in a conventional sense.

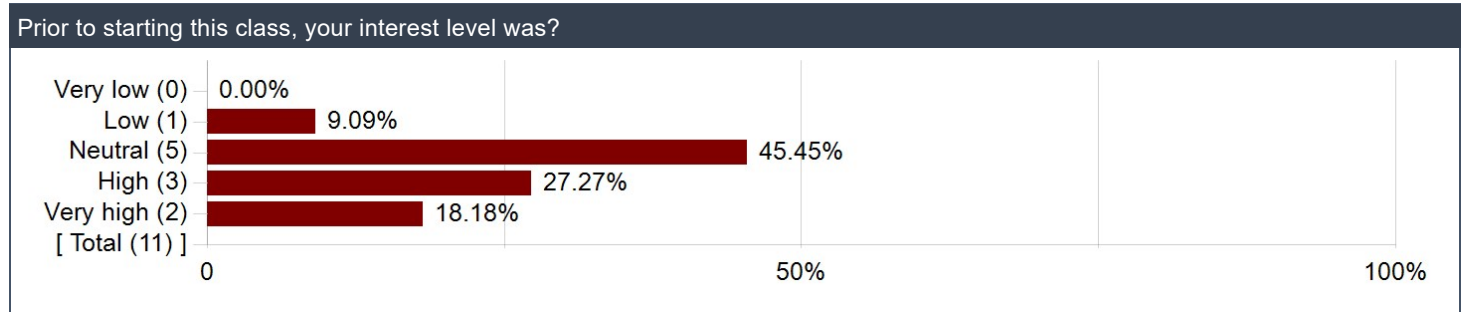
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.13	3.50	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	11.11%	11.11%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.50	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.25	3.50	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	22.22%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	3.14	3.00	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	22.22%	22.22%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.29	4.00	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	22.22%	22.22%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.50	3.50	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.00	3.00	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	11.11%	22.22%

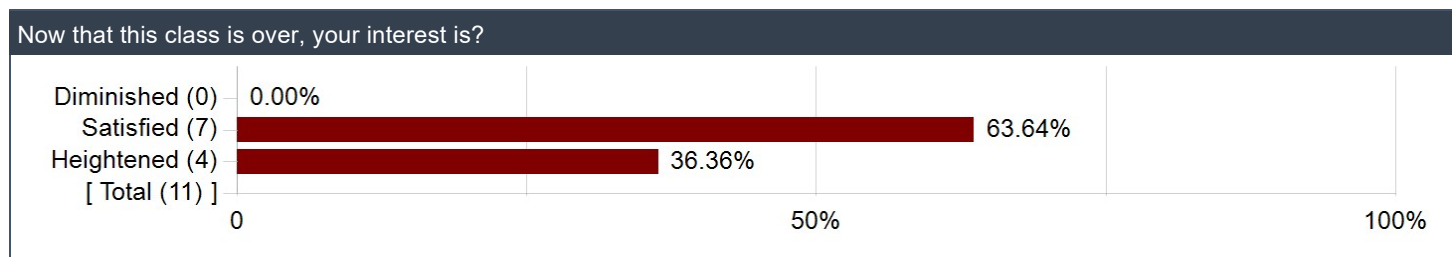
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



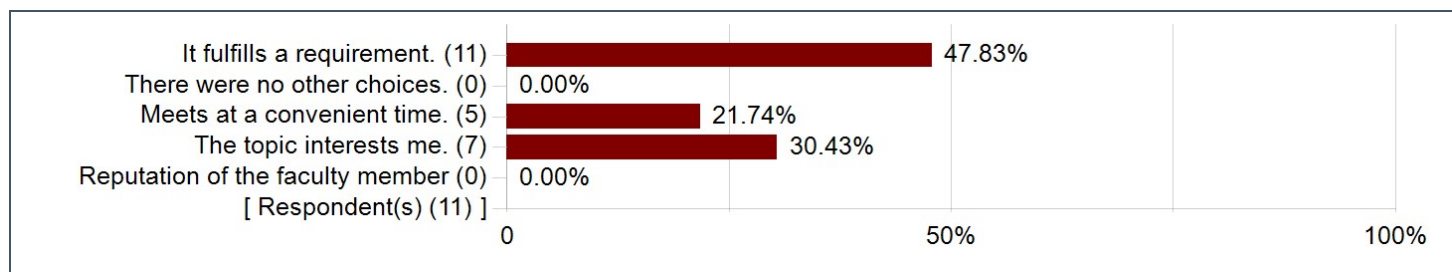
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



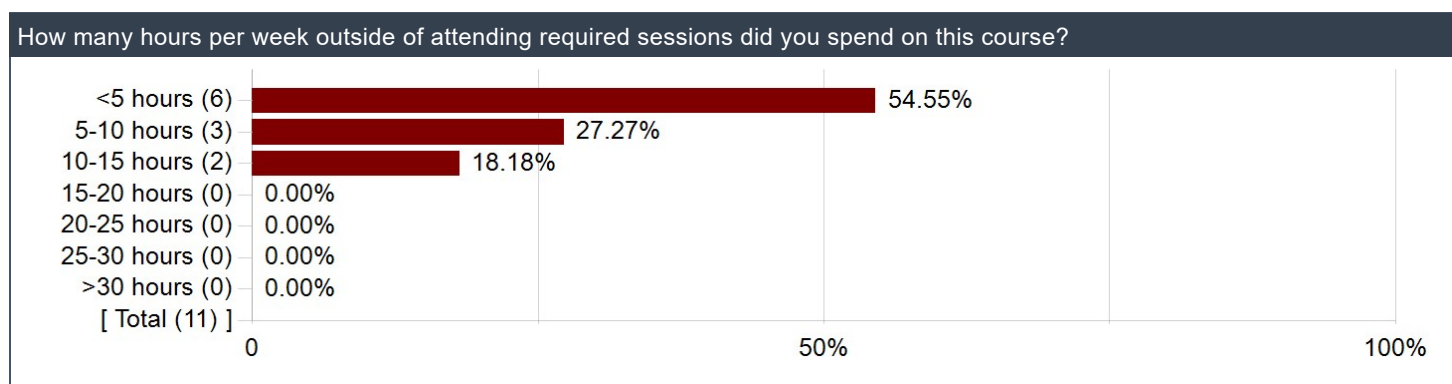
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



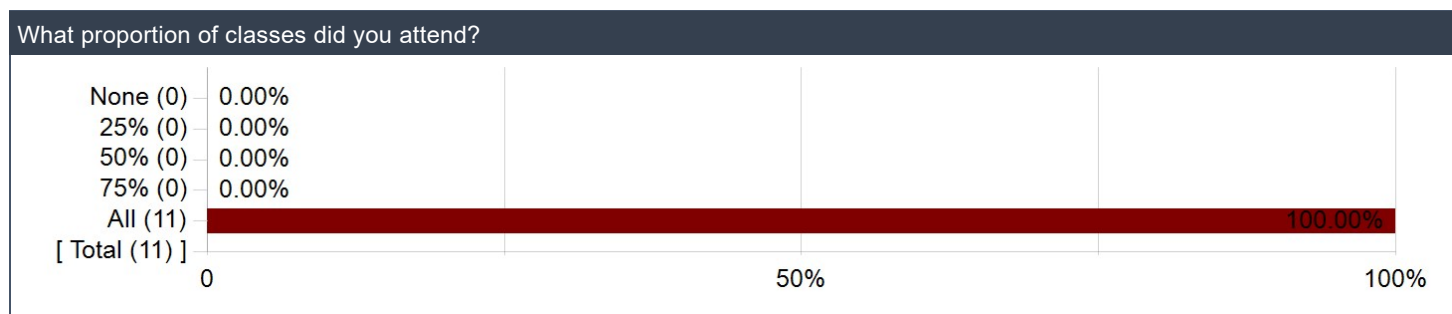
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Relatively relaxed class with an interesting topic — probably one of the easiest CIV classes, and I'd definitely recommend to anyone interested in the topic. The only annoying thing (as is the case with every ethnic civ class) is there will be people who identify very strongly with Jewish cultures, and draw a lot from their cultural background and religious knowledge instead of content covered in the class. They tend to be a bit annoying but the points they bring up are interesting nonetheless.
This is a straight forward course. Only 4 essays. And two small quizzes in class.
I grew up with a Jewish education, and this class still exposed me to a lot of new ideas, while not being too challenging.
Reasonable
Easier than Human Being and Citizen, but I had read most of the texts before starting the class.
Very easy if you do more than just skim the readings.
Given my jewish background, there was still some amount of difficulty, though my inherent understanding of some of the concepts made it much easier to learn new information.