



# HIST 13002 4 - History of European Civilization II - Instructor(s): Oliver Cussen

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

Number Enrolled: **20**

Number of Responses: **16**

---

## 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
French Revolution, Enlightenment.
french revolution, impressionism, dialectical materialism, bourgeois
French Revolution, 1848 revolutions, enlightenment, Marx, WW1, Holocaust
European history and political/ideological trends from the Enlightenment up to around WWII
Gaining a much deeper appreciation of the trajectory of (modern) European History from Locke to WWII, gaining a deeper understanding of certain concepts and ideas
The French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the development of communism and fascism.
Major themes/events were the French Revolution, commercial society, the industrial revolution and reactions to it, colonialism, and the development of fascism.
The most important things that I learned in this course were how to critically read and evaluate historical documents, consider those documents in context, and identify greater historical trends and causalities that could be observed across them.
Developing one's own understanding of primary historical sources, not a lecture class but an engaging discussion.
We began with the Enlightenment, and moved to events including the French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Napoleon's success, World War I and II, and the Holocaust. Ideas focused on revolution, class politics, nationalism, communism, and fascism. Nearly everything we read were primary sources.

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

Comments
The discussions were always super interesting and Professor Cussen is extremely engaging.
discussions deepened my understanding
Lectures were amazing. He motivated everything well. Readings were very reasonable and interesting. Discussions were also really good. All in all great class!
Lectures were engaging and informative, and readings were also very enlightening.
There would be a lecture for the beginning of class and then the rest would be discussion of the assigned reading, both helped with understanding the material.
The discussions and readings were comprehensive and covered a wide range of topics, but the best thing must have been Cussen's lectures/presentations. Phenomenal
The lectures were very helpful, and were always interesting and engaging. The readings were always relevant to the next lecture.
The discussions were interesting and definitely helped my understanding of European history.
Assignments (assigned readings, midterm essay, and final exam) substantially contributed to my learning by informing me of the course material and forcing me to think critically about what that material. Lectures and discussions greatly contributed to my learning by providing me with further knowledge on the course material and challenging me to re-examine what I had previously considered about that material, respectively.
Cussen's lecture are simply really good. You should come having done the readings to make the most of them.
Lectures and Discussions were great. Professor Cussen knew a lot about the topics of the course and provided us with excellent readings.
This class only contained lectures so those contributed most. We had readings for every class, and Professor Cussen would begin every class with a beginning lecture including details about the events of the time period of the text we read and any other information he deemed important. We would then go into a class discussion, and Professor Cussen would provide input to the ideas brought up or provide additional lecture material when needed.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.67%	53.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	40.00%	46.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	13.33%	0.00%	46.67%	40.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.43	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	42.86%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.47	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.33%	46.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I am not a history person and I thought that Professor Cussen was super engaging and an amazing professor. I highly recommend taking this class if you have any interest in European history.
n/a
Nothing much to say. Probably the best core class I've taken at UChicago!
Take euro civ under cussen
The final exam felt very out of place for this course. With readings, an essay midterm, and very little instruction regarding the final, it just felt like a very different examination of material than we had worked through for the rest of the course. The rest of the course was great.
This class contained a paper midterm and an in-person final. This would normally be fine, but this was Professor Cussen's first time giving an in-person final, so he would/could not give us any information about the final. There was an incredible amount of content this course covered, and when we asked if we could be given any advice on the most important topics we were told everything is important and fair game. Most frustratingly, the week before the final we were told we would be allowed to bring in the syllabus to have a list of the 43 different texts and authors we read throughout the quarter to assist in the passage identification section of the final. However, 24 hours before the final we were sent an email saying we would no longer be allowed to have a list of the texts. Given we read close to 45 texts over the quarter, it was extremely frustrating to have to attempt to memorize the titles, authors, and dates of these texts only 24 hours before the final after being told we would be allowed to have a list in front of us. Additionally, having a section of the final asking us to identify the text a SINGLE sentence came from and being worth 25% of the final grade itself was frustrating and just doesn't test our actual knowledge and understanding of anything we learned in this course.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	6.67%	93.33%

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

Comments
Lecture/Leading discussions.
lectures explaining historical context
He was an engaging lecturer and discussions felt very well-organized.
Lectures and discussions were very helpful.
Structuring discussion, providing insight, really great at providing context
The lectures were always very helpful, interesting, and informative.
The instructor's great knowledge of the course material contributed most to my learning.
Cussen being a good professor
Professor Cussen was one of the best professors I've had. The discussions were very interesting and engaging, and he was very kind and available just in general.
The lectures Professor Cussen gave at the beginning of our classes were the most helpful as they provided necessary background information that helped contextualize the texts we had read for that class.

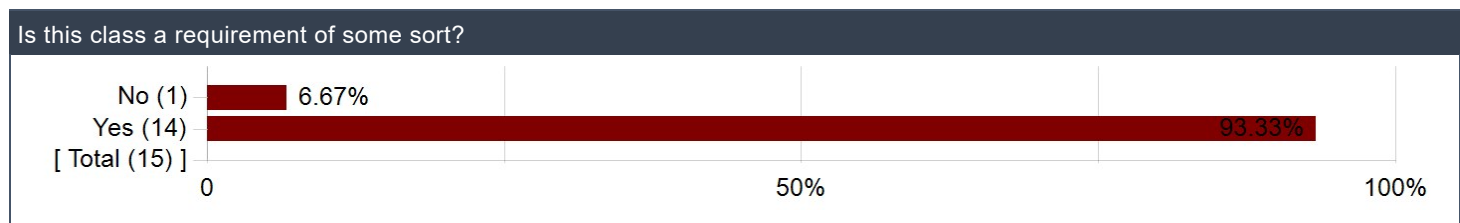
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing
a brief timeline of events
Nothing.
Slow down a little bit in presentations so the information isn't too overwhelming if you've never heard of some of these events/concepts before
The instructor could modify their specifications on what they expect from the midterm essay with regards to formatting, since I found that I was penalized for following the structure expected for the essay that was outlined in the writing packet that he provided; some of these penalized errors may have been due to some misunderstanding on my part with regards to some of that writing packet's unclear word choice, however I still wish that the instructor had been clearer on his expectations for that assignment. Moreover, the instructor could be clearer in their expectations on how he wants his students to speak in in-class discussions, as there were many moments when the instructor was obviously bored with or not listening to what a student had to say; the instructor of a course has a right to moderate and structure that course's discussions as they see fit, however I would have preferred if the instructor had given clearer verbal instructions on the type of comments that he expected from his students in discussions.
Providing more information about the final would be greatly appreciated. Despite having completed all the readings and attending all the classes, I felt incredibly unprepared for the final because we were provided no information or expectations for it.

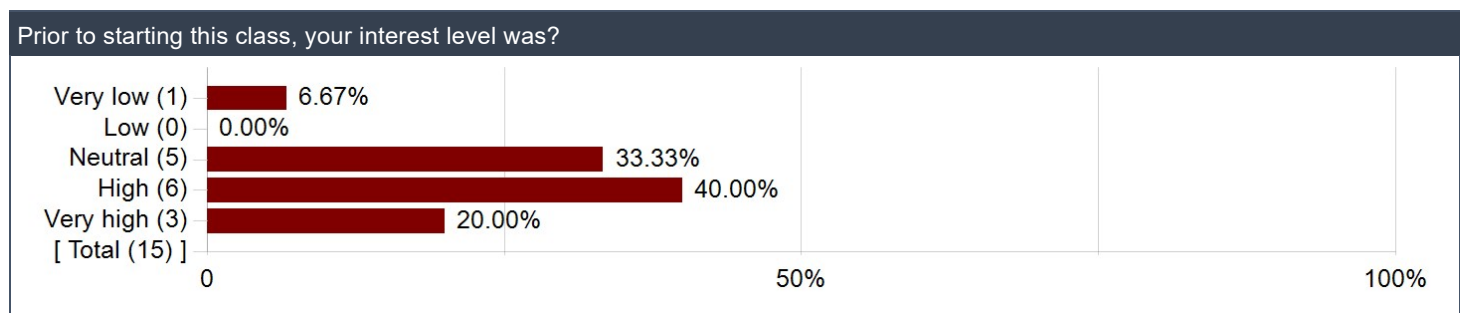
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	13.33%	80.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.67%	53.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%

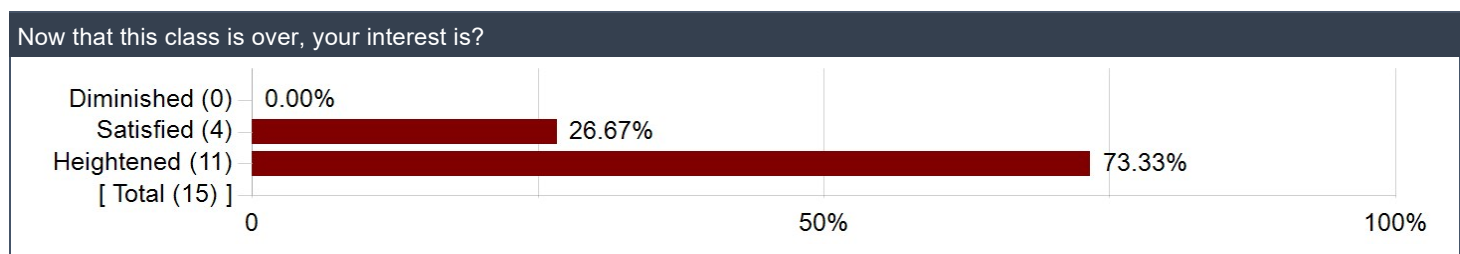
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



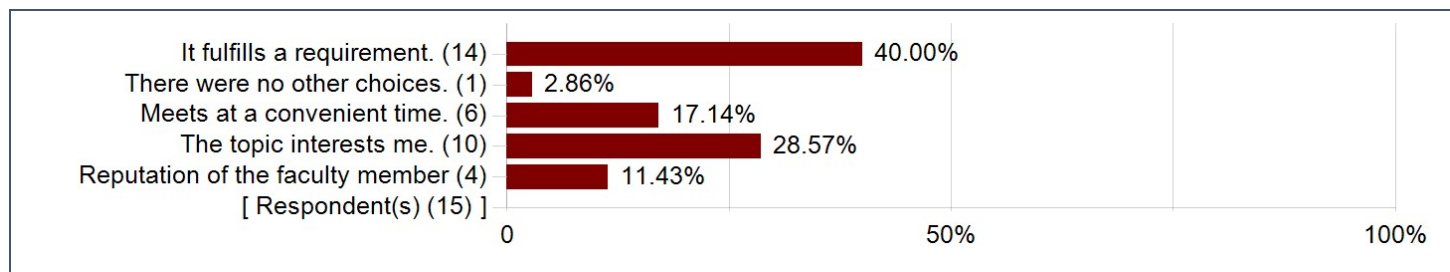
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



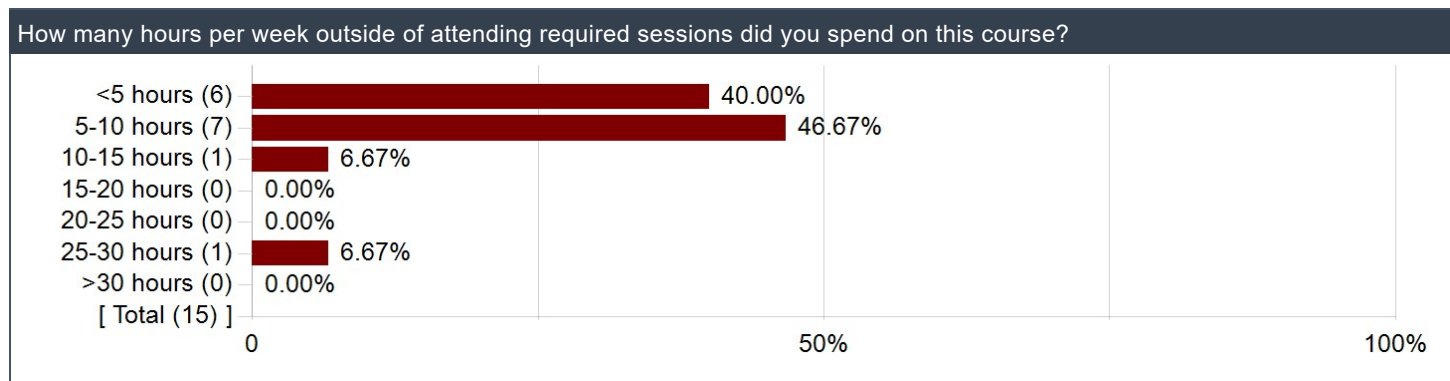
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



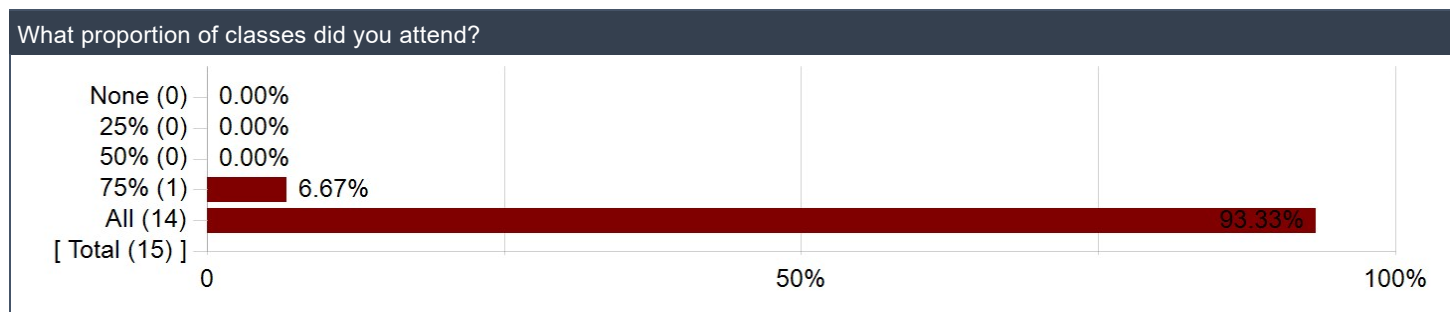
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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
If you do the readings the class is not hard.
fine
I am personally very interested in Euro CIV so this was very reasonable.
A solid amount of assigned reading, but more manageable than some other humanities/social sciences professors. Fairly average difficulty for a core sequence at UChicago.
Some hard texts but generally very doable if you have some background in European history
Coming from Civ I, but without much European history experience beside that, I found it very manageable.
The level of difficulty of this course was very high, relative to my background and experience.
Having now taken HUM, SOSC, and the first quarter of CIV, I think the workload and difficulty of readings was extremely manageable. I thought the amount of readings assigned each class was relatively reasonable, with only a few classes having what I would consider an over the top amount of reading. Overall, definitely doable.

