HIST 13001 5 - History of European Civilization I - Instructor(s): Ada Palmer

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

Number Enrolled: **17**
Number of Responses: **5**

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 historians piece together history using primary sources and the insufficient nature of basically all sources. Our interpretation of history is dynamic and subject to biases and outside motives.
About historical societies, Europe through 1100– 1500 ish. Timeline was highly broken and felt random at times, but learnt a decent amount about Europe through the texts.
How to think and talk about history. How the historical facts we take for granted are determined.

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

Comments
Lectures were absolutely amazing — Professor Palmer is the most knowledgable and enthusiastic professor I've had at UChicago so far. She conducts class in a Q&A format with students asking questions or pointing out interesting things they found in the readings. Even the most random questions got an interesting and detailed response. A review from a previous year said that it's as if she has mini–lectures prepared for any possible question, and I found that really fitting. She brings in knowledge and context from beyond the course texts, providing context from her own research (including a year she spent directly conducting research in Florence) and work as a decorated science–fiction author. There are so many little bits of information and random trivia that I learned beyond the main ideas of the course that I'm so glad I chose to take Professor Palmer's section. Euro civ wasn't originally my first choice, but if you're in the same boat, strongly consider ranking her class highly in course registration. Professor Palmer is also a big advocate for mental health, and is accordingly understanding when flexible deadlines are needed. She reminds you throughout the course to prioritize your health and suggests strategies to do so.
Professor palmer had a very eccentric lecturing style. She would talk without much break and go on long tangential discussions when answering questions. It made it hard to really focus at times. I didn't really like her lecturing style overall. Assignments were REALLY fun to write, but you have to send them over email (despite there being a class canvas!) and ask her to acknowledge it otherwise you have no idea whether she's missed your essays or not. She didn't grade a single essay to this point. We have received zero feedback for our writing till this point too. No idea where we stand in this class. When asked, she said if we haven't received feedback we are doing well? I didn't like this aspect of the course – literally felt like there was no engagement from her end when it comes to assignments. Only God knows what grade I'll end up with at this point.
Lectures were really interesting. Professor Palmer is an engaging lecturer whose passion for the material is contagious.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.25	3.50	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.50	4.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.50	4.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	5.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	2.50	2.00	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.25	3.50	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.00	5.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	5.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
We had multiple classes outside – like 6 times so be prepared for that if you don't enjoy outside classes. Assignments are fun though, but expect no feedback on them and zero engagement from the professor in that regard. Lectures are ok. Readings are hard and sometimes unreasonable.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	25.00%	75.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	25.00%	75.00%

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

Comments
Nothing.
Lectures

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing
Engage more with feedback, be more organized. Actually update the syllabus.
Lectures often went off on super engaging tangents which were awesome, but there were some readings we didn't really discuss in depth, so maybe slightly more structure in what is to be discussed in each class

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.75	4.50	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.75	4.50	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.00	5.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.75	4.50	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.50	4.00	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.75	4.50	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.00	3.00	25.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.75	4.50	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.00	5.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	5.00	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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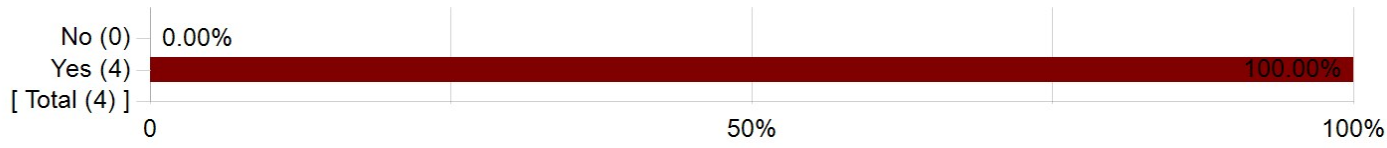
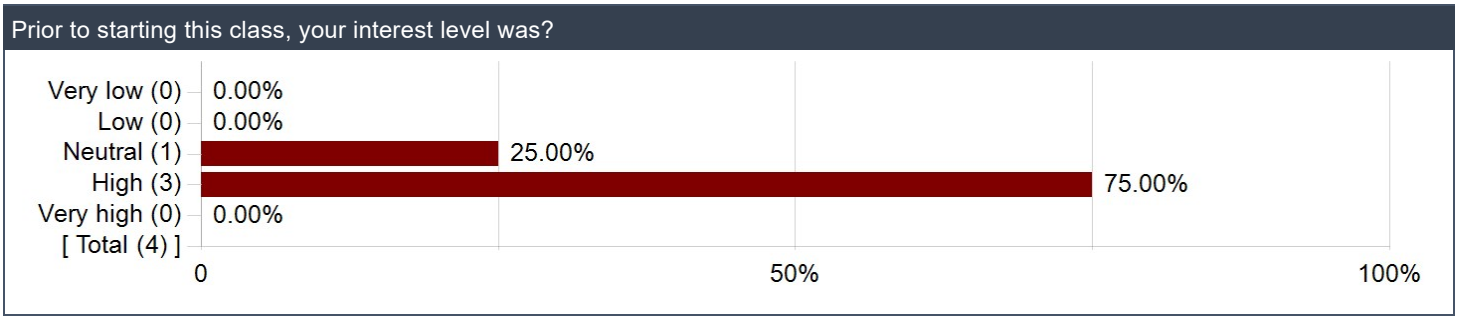
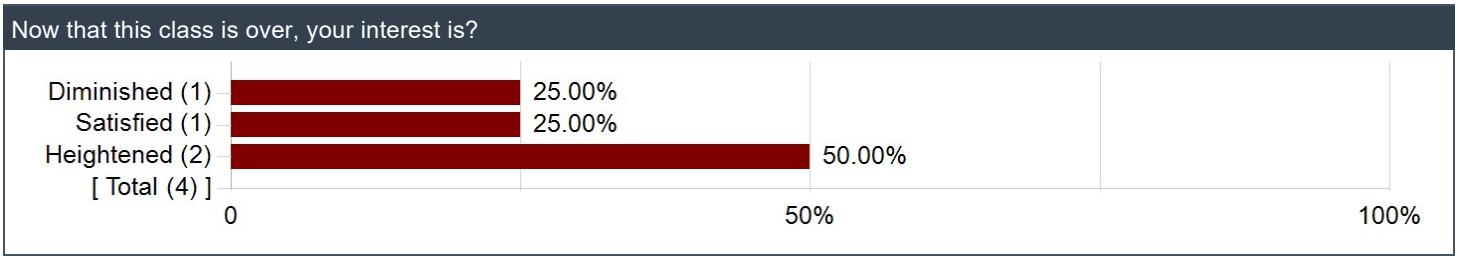


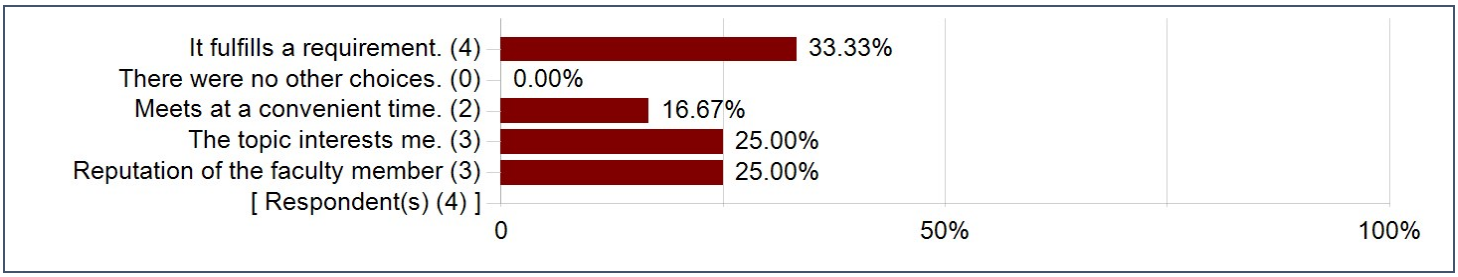
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



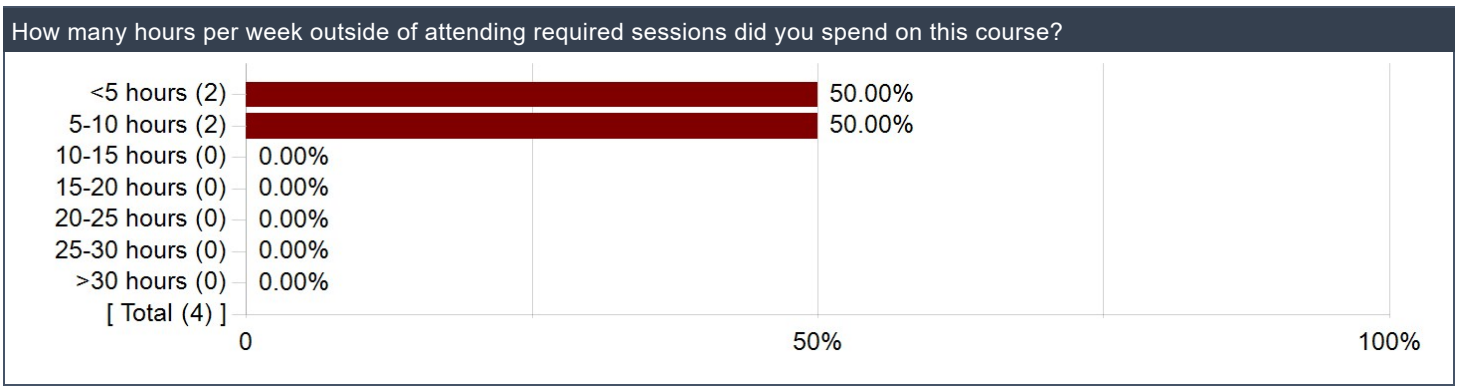
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



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?

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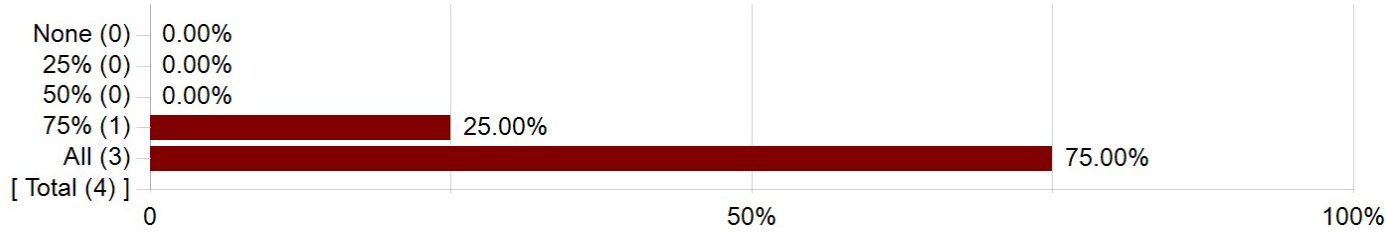

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Not difficult. Readings were sometimes lengthy but always interesting because I looked forward to class discussions so much.
Readings were long but essays were easy. Got easier as the quarter progressed. The final essay was really reasonable.