



SOSC 24900 3, HMRT 10100 3 - Human Rights in World Civilizations I - Instructor(s): Savitri Kunze

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **12**

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
I learned that creating a definition for "human rights" is a difficult task whether you're doing so from a personal or political perspective. We also discussed atrocities like the Tiananmen Square Massacre, the Holocaust, and the Cambodian Genocide among other topics. Rather than just saying that these things were bad, we read literature and watched films related to these events (and other human rights topics) and analyzed them/put them in conversation through class discussions.
How to think critically about human rights, and specifically the relationship between the universality of human rights and the differences between different cultures.
In this class we had to do listening responses to discussions in the class. The skills I gained from this were how to actively listen and deconstruct someone else's point of view to formulate my own. Not only that but the readings and discussions allowed me to think abstractly, logically, hypothetically, and or futuristically.
The definition of human rights and genocide, the importance of cultural nuance, and determining human rights abuses.
We read Lemkin, DuBois, Locke, Arendt, Abu-Lughod, and more. We covered the UDHR, American slavery, philosophical foundations of human rights, multiculturalism, women's rights in the Middle East, China, the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, the Haitian Revolution, and more.
Definition of genocide, multiculturalism, importance of retelling events and the truth, and finally defining human rights
Framework for understanding and considering human rights, history of the concept of human rights, instances of human rights abuses and responses to those abuses
History of human rights theory. History of genocide and problems with the definition.
This course focused on genocide and other violent atrocities. What I learned most was something called cultural genocide, and how that is a tool used in the process of violent actions, but also in cases where the end goal is erasure or assimilation.

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

Comments
We covered a different topic each week and had a different set of readings for each class. Each class we started with a large group discussion to discuss the readings, and eventually split into small groups to discuss whatever question the professor would propose. This usually helped me to understand the readings better and improved my ability to analyze and discuss related literature.
Discussions encouraged me to think about different interpretations and outside info about the readings, which in turn helped build a foundation of knowledge and examples to help think about human rights. Assignments also helped by forcing me to consolidate my thoughts into writings.
Hot topics: truthfully, hot topics opened my eyes about how I do not know current events. so, personally I enjoyed incorporating class information and tying into the present world.
Listening Responses: I like how listening responses enforce a more active classroom culture and allow student to analyze other's point of view. Unlike reading passages and formulating a stance from evidence, listening responses is an open book to really dive into your imagination and indulge into bigger questions and opinions.
discussions: I like how our discussions were open ended. However, I do wish that sometimes there was some sort of structure to our open-ended conversations. Examples: 1. proposing a hypothetical question then talk into groups, then report to class. 2. before class tell students to emphasize a passage or paragraph that stood out or related to our topic of the week, then come to class and talk about it. 3.propose a debatable topic and lets students talk about our opinions and interpretations. 4. put us in groups and ask up to come up with a solution or alternative to the problem/case we are analyzing and then students can dissect the plausibility.
final project: I really really like our final project museum, but I just wish we had more time to indulge into the exhibit and discussion. For example, the class before the final we could all introduce our projects, therefore when we come to the final we can really walk around and dive into discussion and interpretations.
Evaluations: i do think they are important but they are toooo much work. it stresses me out
The discussion highly contributed to my learning. I appreciated our small group discussion where we spoke in groups of three or four. I learned a lot from listening to my peers and bouncing my ideas off of them. The assignments were helped me piece together my interpretation of assigned readings, which aided to learning.
We had bi-weekly "Hot Topics," two listening responses, one essay, and one final project. I liked the essay and the final project the most because they were interactive, and we got to engage with other people's work.
Didn't have any of these, but readings helped facilitate thoughts and helped me form my own opinion about a topic based on whether or not i agreed or disagreed with an author.
group discussions allowed students to better understand the readings and class concepts
The readings contributed substantially to my learning as did the background on the readings and course content that Dr. Kunze provided. Discussions also contributed to my learning particularly because Dr. Kunze offered engaging questions prior to class meetings and during class. The final project also made me consider course content from a different angle which increased my learning.
Class discussions were always great
The discussion helped a lot as everyone would offer what they learned from the text.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
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.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%
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
If you're looking to explore darker moments in history (and present) and discuss them in both historical and modern context, then I invite you to consider this course. I found it to be a safe space to discuss these topics and propose questions whether it be to the class or individually with the professor. The professor also provides a space for students to share "Hot Topics," which are human rights–related articles, etc. – past or present – that they find interesting.
I really like and appreciate the environment of this class, and how it allows me to think deeply and feel comfortable enough to share those thoughts.
N/A

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
The professor usually started the class discussions and would let students take over, but still engaged with us. During small group discussions, she would visit each group to see what we were discussing and offer further information or another perspective to keep the conversations going. I appreciated that she acted as more of a facilitator rather than a lecturer because it was a nice change of pace from my other classes.
The way she guided discussions by asking questions that were helpful for starting or transitioning conversations but not imposing
Savi is a great professor! She facilitated both large group discussions and well-timed smaller group discussions such that class never felt long or boring. She helped conversation flow smoothly with discussion questions provided ahead of time, but also knew when to let the conversation take a related tangent if more people were interested in the topic and it connected to the material. I especially enjoyed how assignments (listening responses, curatorial projects, and hot topics) allowed us to engage in the course in a variety of ways, keeping the material engaging at all times. She also genuinely cares about students, making the class both intellectually challenging but reasonable and a space you want to be in.
the reading questions for the assignment were essential and are greatly appreciated. the flexibility of the assignments cannot be appreciated enough. It was helpful for discussions such as the missing picture and Israel to talk about background information. Also, I think it was extremely important/helpful that we analyzed different types of medium.
Historical context and reading questions that were attached to the assigned readings highly contributed to my understanding. I appreciate the effort Savi took in providing a solid background of events before talking about them in class. The reading questions guided my reading and helped me focus on what was most relevant to the course.
Savi is great at leading discussions. She helps the class dig deep into the topic at hand and consider multiple aspects that might have otherwise fallen to the sidelines. She comes to class well-prepared and is clearly well-versed in the material. She is a fair grader and leaves helpful feedback on assignments.
Having an open mindset with everyone and curating a space where people were able to express their thoughts freely, further enhancing a discussion about a topic we read or watched.
encouraged all students to share their thoughts in class and through canvas responses, created a safe environment for class discussions and understood the student's needs
Dr. Kunze's impressive balance between provoking discussion with engaging questions, providing valuable information about historical events and context as well as present politics and events, and also allowing students to engage with one another and drive the class forward.
Savi was very good at meeting the class where they were: asking questions that furthered current discussions and would offer nuance.
She would offer background on the readings and go over added context which I thought was really helpful.

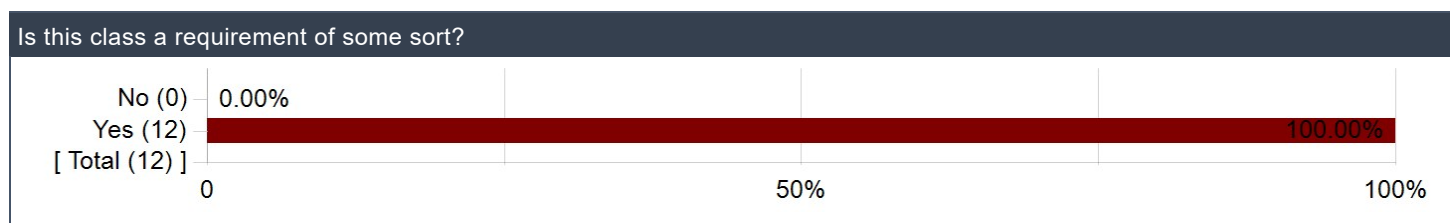
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
More small group discussions would have helped me specifically, because I'm more active in discussions in smaller groups
structure discussions. I'm not saying come to class with a whole agenda, but after open-ended convo has died down, have an activity or question handy.
More lectures before class discussions. While the supplemental readings do a great job providing background information, I would also like to be instructed in-person about the historical context of a reading.
Nothing. Maybe a few more different types of medias. My brain gets tired of reading or having just seminars. It would be fun to watch more documentaries, commentaries, podcasts etc. during classtime.
More specifics on the "specifics" she wanted on assignments.
Nothing really, I think class time as whole has been good so far.

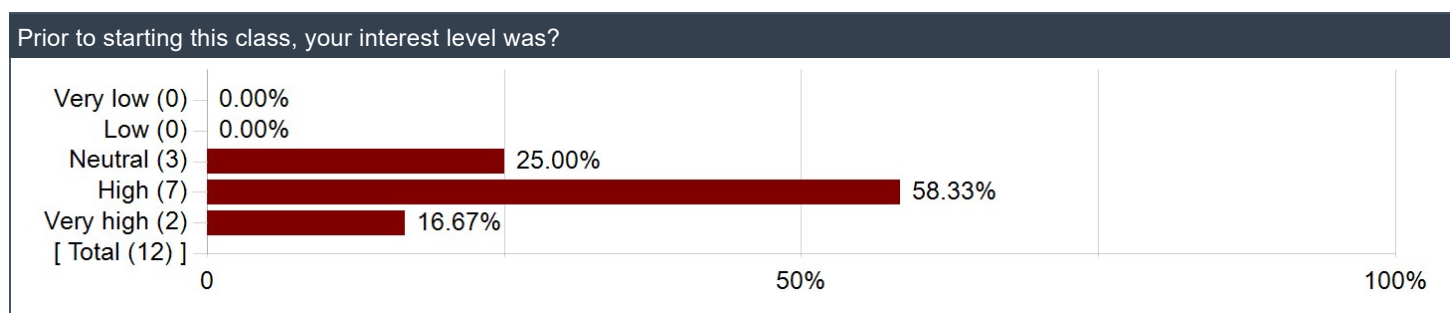
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%

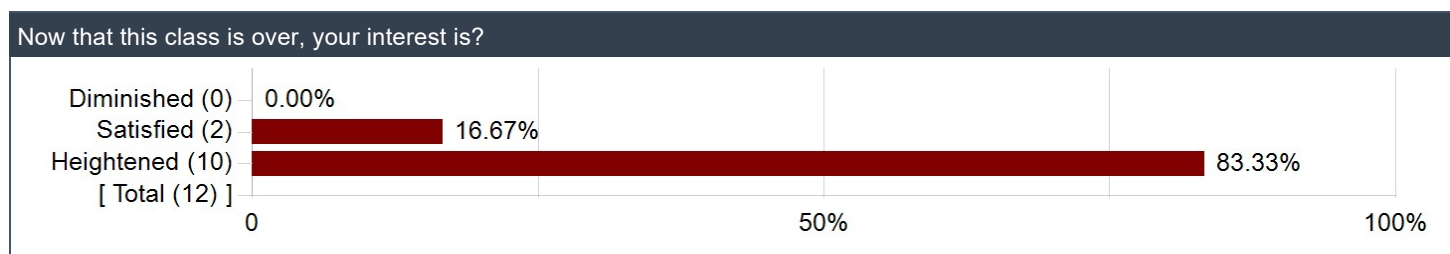
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



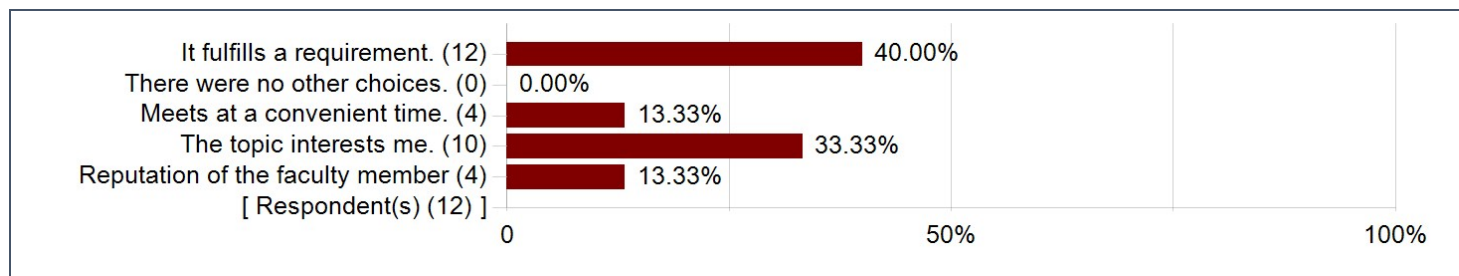
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



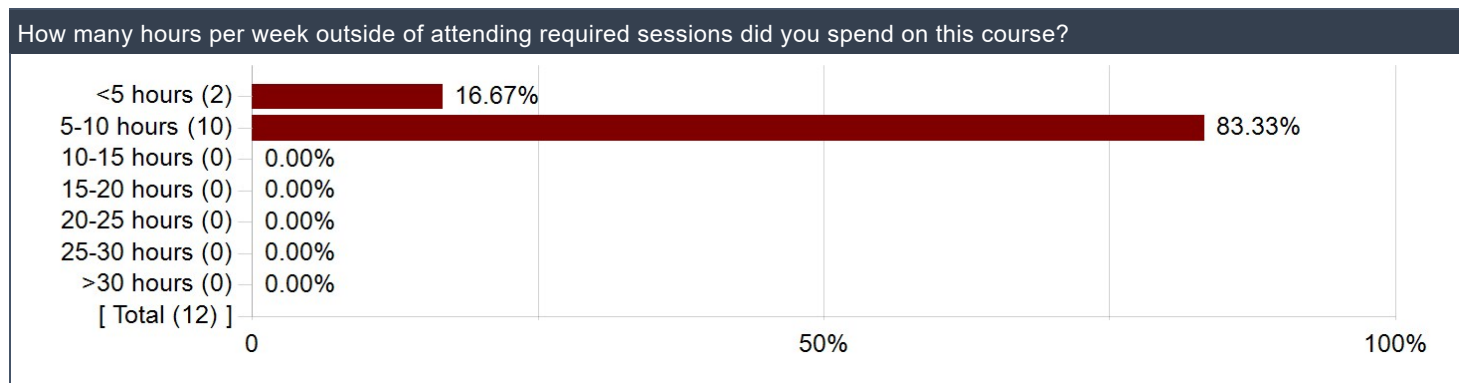
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



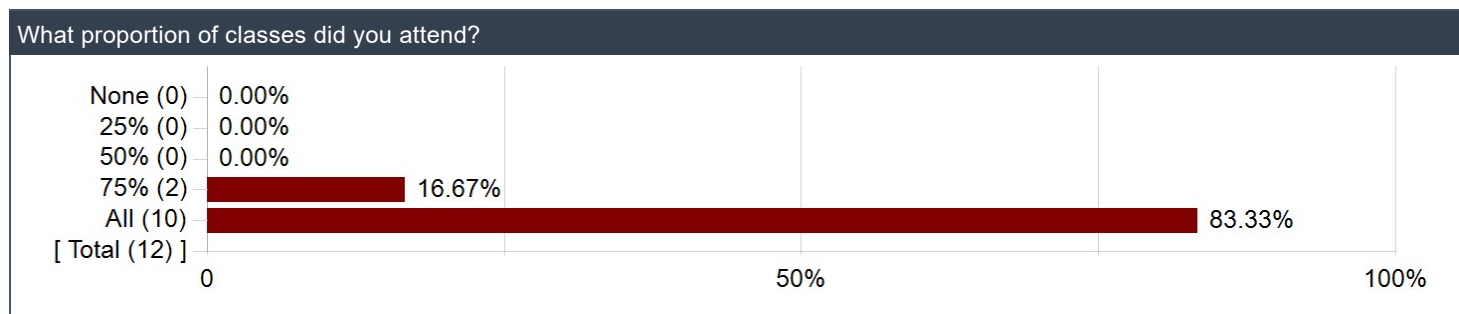
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
My academic background in relation to this class is high school–level history courses. Background knowledge is good to have, but definitely is not a requirement. The professor was very consistent in providing resources that discussed the context of the assigned readings. The readings themselves were also an excellent means of exploring perspectives about the topics we discussed.
It was manageable, despite a high–ish reading load. I had no experience at all in the field at the start of the course but rarely felt like that was a problem.
medium
I never had a formal class on human rights, but I have taken courses that touch on ideas about human rights. All in all, no background or experience in human rights is needed to do well in the class.
I had no prior experience with the material and still felt comfortable contributing in class.
Not too difficult. I suggest skimming the readings at most as it can get cumbersome and tiring. I also suggest participating in active or passive listening. take a few notes here or there as they are needed for listening responses but the topics are genuinely intriguing so i enjoyed listening to class discussion. This wasn't difficult at all as long as you have a brain, as someone who's major is STEM.
great class for anyone, do not need previous experience with topics regarding human rights, will start from the basics and guide you to more advanced topics
Difficulty of regular core course: anyone can take it and do well with no prior experience
Was not that hard, as it is a civ class. You really just need to read and be prepared to listen and offer comments.