



HIST 17522 1, HIPS 17522 1, ENST 27522 1, CEGU 27522 1 - Energy in World Civilizations II - Instructor(s) - Julia Mead

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

Number Enrolled: **23**

Number of Responses: **15**

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, July 11, 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 about the history behind various energy sources such as oil, natural gas, solar, hydro, nuclear etc. It was fascinating to learn about the different economies and political dynamics that evolved out of these energy sources. As someone going on to work in energy, I really appreciate this historical grounding and context.
I learned about how the materiality of energy can impact the social reality of the societies that it is used in. I also gained skills to analyze energy systems across time/different locations.
The more contemporary sociocultural implications of energy systems, like nuclear energy, solar power, and oil/fracking.
The history of energy and how it impacts society from the 20th century and onwards.
I learned about how the fossil fuel economy operated during the 20th century, learning about aspects such as labor/leisure, social reproduction, car culture, and more.
How to think about energy in many different contexts and scopes.
I've honestly learned so much about energy politics and its influence on society – so much more than I would've ever expected to learn or to know, which I think is so fascinating and really a testament to how excellent this class was!
Learned a lot about energy history from early 1900s to now(ish)
i learned about how a lot of seemingly unrelated topics can contribute to energy history and that the form of energy that a community uses (radiation, gas, electricity) can effect the political systems that develop around them
I learned the skill of historical analysis, and how to really detach from any pre-existing lenses that may be distorting an objective review of the past.
I learned about both the positive and negative aspects of renewable energy, which is a very relevant topic to life today.

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

Comments
The readings were fascinating and a great help. The discussions were also very interesting.
The lectures were all really interesting and engaging. I especially liked hearing about topics like gender! I had never really made those connections before.
Weekly class discussions helped to gather the key takeaways from our readings, including the primary texts. Prof Mead's associated slides also helped to visualize what we were discussing.
Class discussion was really good because we had so many different people from different majors and experiences. This class was not an echo chamber — it was a gathering of people with the same goals but different ideas of ways to get there. This really enhanced class discussions of readings because everyone had something unique to say about it.
The lectures were super helpful in tying in the readings together. Julia always asked such thought-provoking, yet approachable questions which made it a welcoming environment to participate. I also loved the readings, they really opened doors to new ways of thinking about 20th century history for me.
The discussions we had were very insightful into the implications of our readings, and Julia's specific domain knowledge and enthusiasm for the content made me want to come to each class.
I really liked how Julia mixed lectures with discussions, because I think that it was really cool to learn some topical stuff about the readings' subjects, as it really added to our discussions.
Lectures and in-class discussions were most helpful in gaining an understanding of the concepts and readings.
The lectures by far are the greatest contribution to my learning. There were great opportunities for debates, group discussions and more.
Lectures were good because they both contextualized the readings and added new background context. I liked the variety of discussion formats (i.e. small group discussion, full group discussion, a debate on dams (which was fun)).

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	53.85%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
I felt respected in this class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Julia was really knowledgeable. She was also really accessible outside of class for questions or office hours, which I really appreciated! It was clear how much effort she put into teaching this class and I'm really grateful for that.
I LOVED THIS CLASS!!! Julia is awesome and one of the best professors I ever had at this school. I genuinely appreciate how she was so helpful during essays as well, to the point that she would find relevant additional readings to help make essays even stronger. She truly was there to work with you and wanted you to learn.
Julia is amazing and she creates a comfortable environment where everyone is promoted to ask questions. She is super down-to-earth and respects everyone's ideas.

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
Julia did her very best to keep the class engaged, and I really appreciate the amount of effort she put into her lectures every day.
I think that the lectures contributed the most, since they synthesized information from a lot of different sources in order to explain these large topics.
Her inclusivity in prompting think–pair–share helped to kickstart discussions when morale was low; we also had classes geared to reviewing paper topics so we knew what was expected of us and to engage more with peers.
Julia was great at adapting to the vibe of the class. If we seemed less interested in a certain topic, she would understand and pivot to something else rather than force the class to dwell on things that there might not have been as rigorous discussion on. She changed up the things we would do in class time, and I really liked the debate that we did on whether building a hydropower dam would be good or not. She always showed up to class eager to learn from the students, not just teach us, and guided discussions really well. She was organized with her grading, presentation of class material, and themes for each class, which I really appreciated and made writing essays much easier because we could easily connect a reading to a certain topic. Her slides were also helpful.
Lectures were very helpful, and Julia did a great job at making them engaging and thought–provoking. Additionally, the one on one help I received during office hours was very helpful. In order to help make my essays more substantive, Julia gave me additional readings that would be relevant within my essay's scope, which I really appreciate. For me, the most valuable was the essays. The feedback we received on essays was also incredibly useful and shows that she truly cared about our writing improving. Considering that there was no TA in this class, that makes such detailed feedback even more impressive.
On the whole, the fact that Julia was open to many different kinds of discussion (formal debate, small group work, class–wide discussion) helped to keep the class interesting.
Discussions – very helpful in terms of contextualizing the readings and processing the material, and also very helpful for generating responses to the essay prompts.
Instructor was very good at encouraging discussion, drawing out interesting and important features of people's comments and asking follow up questions.
her discussions in the beginning of class offer students to talk about any aspect of the reading that surprised them or a question they had allows everyone to have a chance to speak and for other students to be refreshed on the reading.
When we collect key words from the readings at the beginning of class.
The instructor did a good job of engaging the class through a variety of discussion methods, like getting the main points of the lectures to be summarized on the board at the beginning of class using the ! and ? method of demarcating different ideas of the readings.

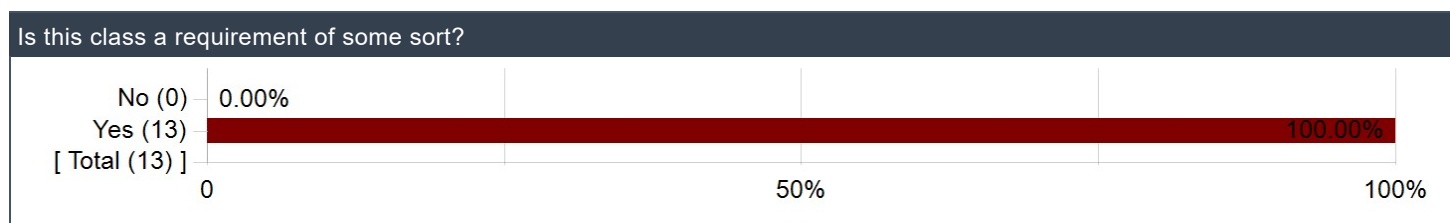
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I personally think a field trip to a power plant would be super cool and informative given what we are learning, but I know that's a big ask.
Nothing, really. Some of the methods for discussions worked a little bit better than others, but also I think Julia was trying different things and figuring out what worked. Whenever something didn't work, she would usually adjust it and try something else later on.
Nothing. I think she did a great job!
Honestly the pop quizzes had me read many readings frantically because I felt like I had to be able to actively recall the readings rather than just focus on learning the material itself. I think the pop quizzes could be more effective if they just had students pick from different prompts and write a reflection to whatever aspect of the reading was most salient to them. But then again pop quizzes were fine as long as you did the reading, so this isn't that big of a deal.
Push the dates on the assignments to 11:59.
Nothing
The instructor I think could add more close reading to the schedule for lectures, where we might dive deep into a few specific paragraphs of the readings to really understand specific points in a granular way. But the efficacy of this also really depends on the readings.

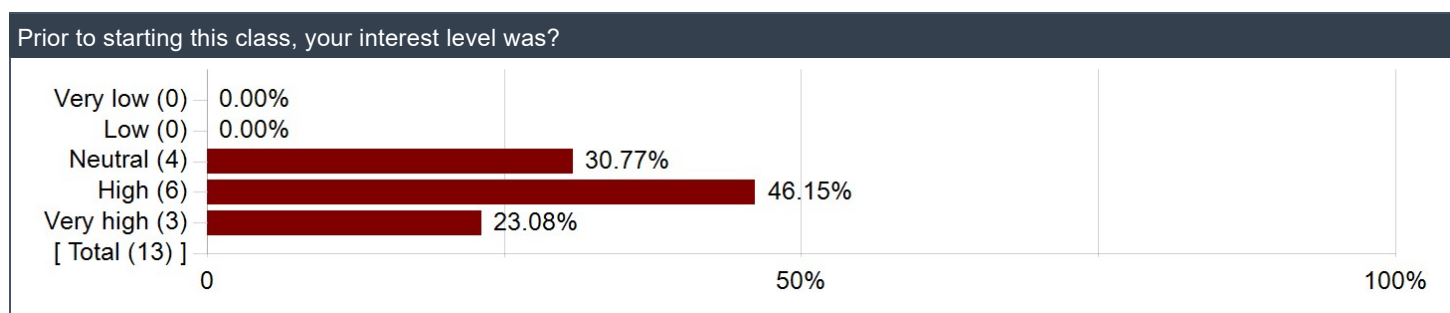
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	76.92%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%

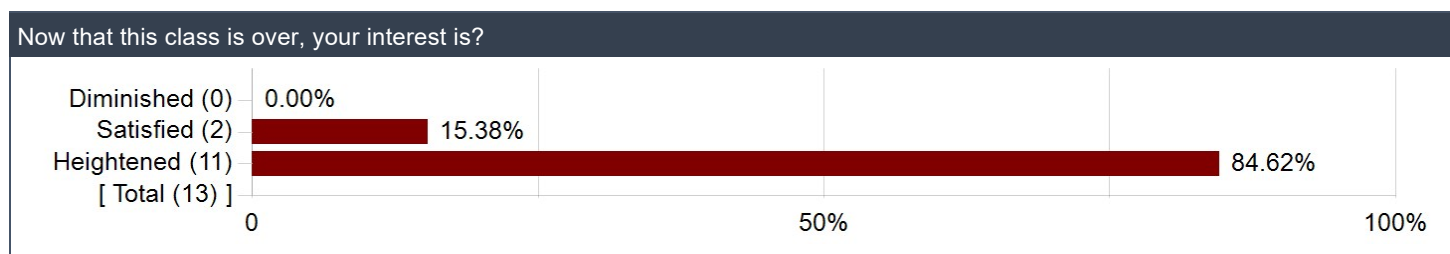
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



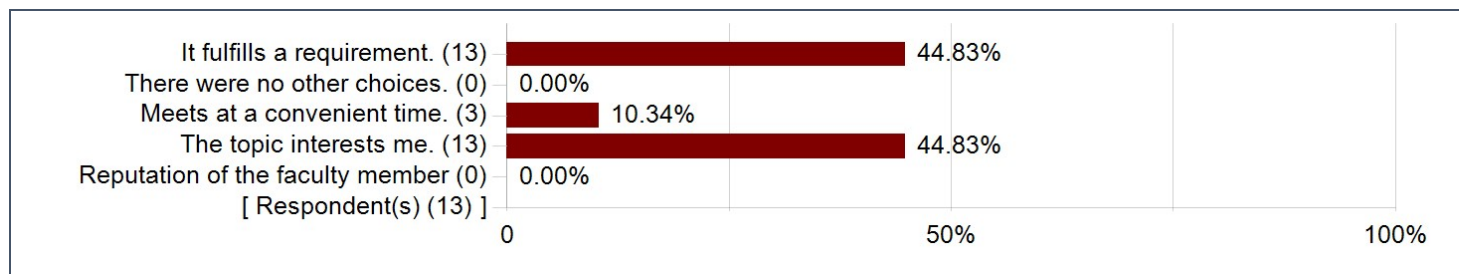
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



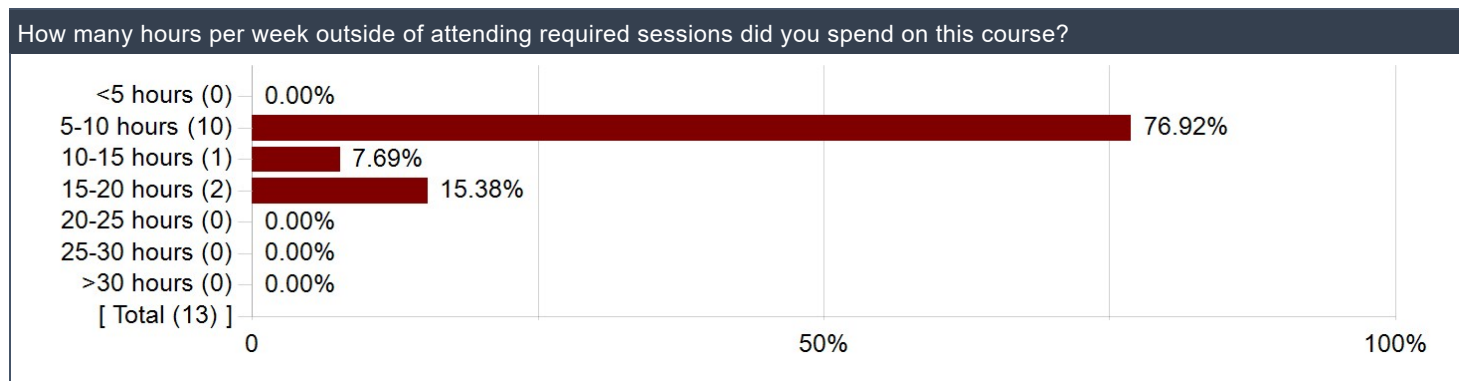
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



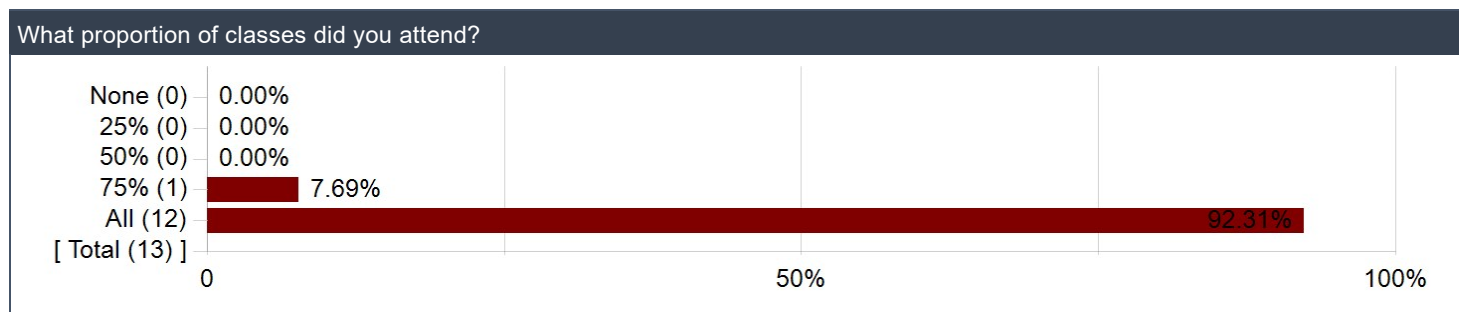
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Not difficult at all. Just do readings, participate in class, and you'll do fine.
Not super hard. I'm a humanities major
Given that I already have a background in environmental studies and that this is one of my last core requirements, I felt like it was a definitely manageable course. While the first quarter of Energy Civ felt like he expected almost too much of his, the expectations were far more reasonable this quarter, which honestly made the class much more enjoyable and I feel like I got more out of it.
very reasonable, but there are easier civ classes for sure
Honestly, this class was so much more interesting than I expected 'Energy Civ' to be – to the point that I wish I could pursue a History major...this class is honestly excellent and requires no prior knowledge.
I took the first quarter of energy civ before this, and this class was on a similar difficulty level. I have little to no background in history courses, so some of the readings were more difficult for me, but nothing incredibly hard
not difficult unless you do no readings at all. it is easy to participate in this class and the discussions tell you everything you need to know to be successful when writing short essays
The difficulty level was not too high — moderate.