

### 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, April 17, 2020**



### What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

Comments
One of his main strengths is his familiarity with the topic. He was always able to provide insights to students when they are unsure about certain part of the course material.
Daniele is incredibly knowledgeable and very friendly. He is always ready to help and is very enthusiastic about the course material. The activities he organized outside of class, like the visit to the special collection, helped me appreciate Galileo's history a lot more.
Daniele was very enthusiastic and very available to help us! He led fantastic discussions. At times maybe expectations for the presentations that we led could have been clearer.
Daniele's the man. One of the best classes
Daniele is a great professor. He tried really hard to make this subject interesting to students.
Great dude. Lots of enthusiasm and awesomeness. Definitely would take another class with him.
Strengths: Daniele is one of the more invested and passionate instructors I've had here. You could tell he was excited just to be teaching the course. He was eager to help students outside of class, and I think he struck a good balance between presenting lectures and having students present. Weaknesses: Class discussion could sometimes be a bit slow, and Daniele could have done a better job facilitating it. It might have helped for him to elaborate on the presenter's questions if they didn't seem to be provoking good discussion.
Daniele is very passionate and knowledgeable about the subject matter. He is incredibly patient with his students and opened himself up to us and offered assistance with our presentations and papers.
Daniele was extremely helpful outside of class especially when determining the topic for the final research paper. His clear lectures offered insights into the historical context of Italy that our readings lacked and class discussion was better informed because of it.
The instructor excelled at finding succinct introductions to the student presentation every class.
He was very considerate of all different opinions and wanted to foster critical thought and discussion. He assigned manageable amounts of readings that were helpful and interesting. He worked hard to make the course dynamic and hands on, giving us many mediums through which to experience Galileo. Very fair and nice instructor.
His strengths were his eloquence and passion for the subject. His weaknesses were that he graded our assignments very leniently, which sometimes made the class feel more easy than it was.
Very good at engaging all students. No weaknesses.
Daniele was a really nice, understanding teacher who wanted all of his students to do well. He made himself available at a moment's notice and was probably the nicest teacher/man I have ever encountered at this university. The only weakness is that he doesn't teach a class every quarter.
Daniele has a unique teaching style in that he allows his students to direct the course of the class. I really appreciated the opportunity to lead a class discussion through the class presentations, and I also found it edifying that I was allowed to write a term paper on a topic of my choice. In this way, Daniele excels at creating a class that caters to students from many different fields of expertise, and he furthered this aim by organizing a field trip to the Astronomy Club, the play The Life of Galileo, and the Special Collections, as well as bringing in an expert on Isaac Newton to speak to the class. Overall, Daniele is a really kind and encouraging instructor who offered the class a unique learning environment this quarter.
Daniele Macuglia has an amazing knowledge of the subject material. It would have impressed me if he had been a Galileo scholar, but it was even more impressive considering the majority of his graduate work concerns a different area. He treated everyone in the class with respect and seemed to genuinely value the opinion of each of his students. I don't really have anything to list in regards to weaknesses. This was my first class with Daniele, but I enjoyed it immensely and will take any others offered in the future. Great instructor.
Daniele is an understanding and dedicated teacher. He always makes an effort to engage the students and make sure everyone was on the same page. Fortunately, we had a relatively talkative class, so this was not very much of an issue.

### What were the teaching assistant's or writing intern's strengths? Weaknesses?

Comments
We don't have one.
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
There was no TA.
N/A
N/A
N/A

### What, if anything, would you change about this course and why?

Comments
Nothing
I wouldn't change anything
I liked it - not much to change!
Nothing
The meeting time. It was late enough in the day that I had to miss multiple faculty talks and departmental events that interested me.
I would make the structure of topics less linear through Galileo's life to make it more dynamic; I would also try to find a way to make the discussions more centered on the readings while also keeping the presentations that each student gets to do.
I would make less class time dedicated to presentations, and more to class discussions.
Good structure, not too rigorous. Would not change that at all.
Nothing
Incorporate more readings about early modern Italy and Church history. It also would have been cool to read documents authored by Newton or Copernicus or other scientists of the era.
Maybe more assignments spread out over the quarter rather than a single paper at the end.

### Is there any topic in this course that you wished you had had previous background in?

Comments
The background history of Galileo's time
No
I was taking it concurrently with HIPS Civ, which was good - it was almost necessary, background-wise.
nah maybe some physics but not really or in general HIPS
General Renaissance history would have been helpful, maybe some Italian geography too.
None
Platonic thought, other contemporary figures.
The Italian culture and period of Europe around Galileo's time
Writing long papers!
N/A
Early modern Italian history, Church history
Maybe more knowledge of science, but it doesn't take much (I'm just way behind the curve in that department).
No

### Which texts were most useful?

Comments
Both texts were useful, the biography serves as a useful guideline for the course, while the primary writings of Galileo are what we focused on
Two texts, Heilbron and Galileo's Selected Writings, and both were very useful
Both Heilbron and the Shea/Davie translation were useful.
Galileo
Galileo: Selected Writings for sure.
All of them.
Both were super useful.
"Selected Writings" by Shea
The Primary readings showed us the most.
Shea's compilation of Galileo's writings.
Shea and Davie
The biography of Galileo was very helpful, but slightly complicated. I still enjoyed it quite a bit.
All were good

### Which least?

Comments
Nil
Neither
N/A. I found Heilbron's biography to be less interesting than the primary source text, but it was still very useful.
None.
"Galileo" by Heilbron (a decently informative book, but terribly boring and poorly written. It read like something an above-average high school history teacher might write)
Heilbron was good but dense, would maybe have preferred to only read relevant parts of it and coupled it with a different kind of secondary source.
N/A
The Heilbron biography of Galileo was an unpleasant read.
One time we read a bit of a play about Galileo. I'm sure it was a nice play, it just felt sort of out of place to me.
N/A

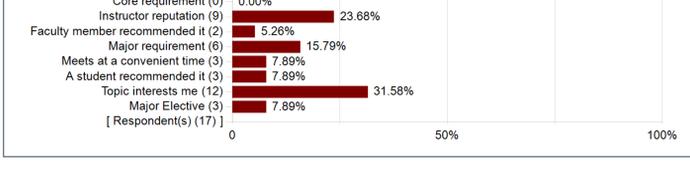
### How productive was class discussion?

Comments
Fairly productive
Since this was a tutorial, there was plenty of class discussion. It was quite productive.
very - everyone had a lot to say!
Not the most b/c it was a pretty quiet class, but he did a lot to facilitate better discussion
It could be productive or unproductive, depending on the day, and depending on the questions that the presenter asked.
Pretty productive. There were moments of silence sometimes, but Daniele (as well as the student presenters) posed interesting questions that tied topics of discussion in the presentation to relevant ideas and topics today.
Class discussions were very interesting, but sometimes could become repetitive.
Most of the time we had good debates, however, often these debates would shift away from the specific readings at hand to easily and become over generalized.
They were productive, and never too dominated by one person.
Very good
Class discussion was fairly productive as it was a tutorial class
Class discussion was very productive in that it encouraged students to address phenomena in science and society that they experience but had not thought about before. Oftentimes, however, students lapsed into making gross generalizations about religion and early modern history. (Usually these were the science majors.) These comments were simultaneously vapid and offensive, and they could have been deterred with additional readings about the historical context of the Galileo affair.
The class periods were structured in a way that saw Daniele deliver an introductory lecture on the subject matter for the day. After that, a student would cover or the assigned reading material in detail and then lead a discussion. Daniele was quick to help discussion leaders if they ran into problems or if students were reluctant to speak on a subject. Daniele cultivated a class environment where we all felt as though we could speak without being self-conscious. Class discussions were fun and productive.
Occasionally the discussion would drift a bit far from the text or the life of Galileo to speculative assertions about the nature of science. These times were less productive than others.

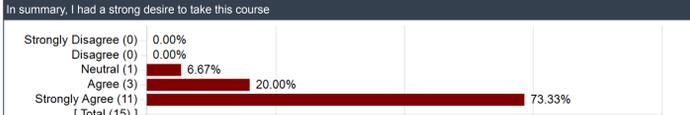
### How has this course contributed to your education?

Comments
Providing me to study a very important period in the history of science through a person's life
I have a better appreciation of the history of Galileo, as well as an improved understanding of the role of humanistic thought in scientific pursuits.
I know a lot more about Galileo than I ever thought I'd know, which is cool!
given me a good background in the history of science as a study
Had a chance to learn something new. All in all, very insightful.
It has expanded my understanding of Galileo beyond just a character of science. In this course I've discovered that his influence expands into the realms of art and literature as well.
It helped me frame an age-old debate as to the merits of science, art, and religion. Superbly interesting for those interested in neoplatonism and its part in the evolution of science.
Has made me decide to minor in HIPS and has increased my interest in studying great figures like Galileo to understand them at a deeper than surface level, because it seems that history doesn't always accurately remember individuals.
As a science major, it has contributed greatly to how I think, because all my other classes are memorization based, while this one opens my mind much more. I'm truly enjoyed being in class and learning the material, and it exposed me to a more curious and collaborative side of uChicago.
I know a lot about Galileo
It has enabled me to pursue my academic interests through a variety of mediums and it has increased my curiosity about the intersection of science and the humanities.
This course provided me with background on one of the world's most famous scientists. Ostensibly that's what it was supposed to do, but I think it also did something much more important. I felt like this class helped me understand that history is cherry-picked. Until this class I just thought of Galileo as a one dimensional figure: perfect and infallible. Daniele shed light on Galileo's humanity. I think that was part of the motivation behind the decision to have the class focus on the intersection of science and art.
It has given me a better appreciation for the history and philosophy of science, understanding that it is not a perfect process by any means, it needs criticism and engagement as anything else does.

### Why did you take this course?



### In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course



### How many hours per week did you spend on this course?

Low Answer	Average Answer	High Answer
0.00	4.50	10.00

### What proportion of classes did you attend?



### Were the time demands of this course reasonable?



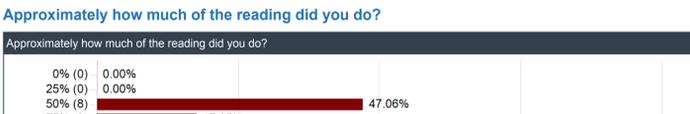
### The Instructor

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.76%	88.24%
Presented clear lectures.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	17.65%	82.35%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	29.41%	70.59%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	4.59	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	29.41%	64.71%
Responded well to student questions.	4.94	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	94.12%
Was available outside of class.	4.94	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	94.12%
Was helpful during office hours.	4.93	5.00	17.65%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	76.47%
Motivated independent thinking.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.76%	88.24%
Made me want to take another course from him or her.	4.76	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.53%	76.47%

### The Readings

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	5.88%	88.24%
Were reasonable in number.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.76%	88.24%
Were appropriately difficult.	4.76	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.53%	76.47%

### Approximately how much of the reading did you do?



### The Assignments

	Mean	Median	N/A	Not at all	Some	A lot	A great deal
How helpful were the lectures and discussions in preparing for exams and completing assignments?	4.33	5.00	6.25%	0.00%	6.25%	31.25%	50.00%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	4.53	5.00	6.25%	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	62.50%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	4.87	5.00	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	81.25%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	5.00	5.00	18.75%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	81.25%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	4.69	5.00	18.75%	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%

### Overall

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	4.94	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	93.75%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
This course provided me with useful skills.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I put my best effort into this course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	18.75%	81.25%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%

### The Teaching Assistant(s)

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	5.00	5.00	75.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Were helpful with assignments.	5.00	5.00	81.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%

### The Discussion Sessions, Problem Sessions, Writing Tutorials

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were well coordinated with this course and contributed to it.	5.00	5.00	62.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%
Provided well-designed materials.	5.00	5.00	62.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%