

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
Very chill, amusing, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic
Daniele is a stellar instructor who infuses his passion for teaching into the learning environment. His strengths include adept listening skills, which are integral to the students expressing their ideas and making them comfortable with such expression. Another strength is his overall genial disposition and excitement for learning and spreading his knowledge of the history of science. He draws on personal experience and his PhD research to give a professional and charitable view of the topic he is becoming an expert in. Daniele has no conspicuous weaknesses. The only one I would mention, as minor as it is, is his seemingly-sudden interjections while students present topics; the interjection is usually a qualifier of the evidence being presented or a clarification point. However, such interjections all add to our learning (despite it interrupting the continuum of the presentation's flow).
Daniele was a really enthusiastic, motivated instructor. He held our attention throughout a 3 hour seminar period (not a simple task!) and did an incredible job passing on his love of the subject. He was considerate of our time outside of class, and more generally of us as people. The day after Trump was elected president, instead of carrying on with his planned schedule for the day, he had us bring our laptops to class and spend 30 minutes quietly researching and reflecting on a chosen Renaissance painting - then he had us each present to the class on what we thought made this work of art beautiful to us. It was a really touching moment that was much-needed on that particular day. Daniele was also very receptive to student input, and always encouraged discussion, questions, and classic UChicago inquiry.
He was really interested in creating a great environment for us to learn efficiently and in a different way, for us to engage in the topic and in our classmates' points of view
Daniele is so wonderful, such a sweet person and really willing to help us in any way he could. His lectures were always interesting because they were on topics that genuinely interested him and related to his field of research. He gave assignments back in a timely manner and was attentive to class discussion. This was a 3 hour/once a week class, so he always made sure to structure class in a way that kept us interested, mainly by diversifying the content of each week's class (a mix of lecture, videos, student presentations, discussion, reading from Decameron).
Daniele cares a lot about the material and about the success of his students, which was evident from 1st week to 10th.
Daniele is good at integrating interactive materials like videos, presentations, and museum exhibits into the class! It made the three hour classes go by so quickly.

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

Comments
N/A
No teaching assistants were present in the class.
N/A

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

Comments
I think you should only have us do 1 presentation and on something other than the textbook readings. In exchange, you could have people do 3 shorter responses...
I would add more mandatory debates about particular topics that motivate the students to read, and a participation grade that would ensure that students come to the lecture prepared with the material.
Nothing! Daniele (and this class) were both perfect.
Nothing
The only thing I would change is to narrow the focus of the class, because it was on such an expansive topic, it was hard to get any substantial takeaways; I think this class would be better as a specific focus on a topic within the Renaissance so we could look at an in-depth study of a theme/person/place in the Renaissance instead of broadly looking at the era.
N/A

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

Comments
no
No. This course is meant to give a comprehensive view of the Renaissance anyway, so come with a fresh mind!
Not really
Basic HIPS knowledge of the Renaissance, like DaVinci, Galileo and other major figures.
Possibly more knowledge of the history of the period coming in, but we covered it as the course went on.
I wish I knew a bit more about early modern Italian history, but going into this class with little to no background knowledge was not a disadvantage.

Which texts were most useful?

Comments
The textbook (Bartlett, A Short History of the Italian Renaissance)
Kenneth Bartlett Textbook "A Short History of the Italian Renaissance"
The textbook was a great choice
Bartlett (The textbook) and the primary documents Daniele gave us to write our assignments about.
Bartlett
We really only had the Bartlett textbook, which was fine.

Which least?

Comments
none
N/A

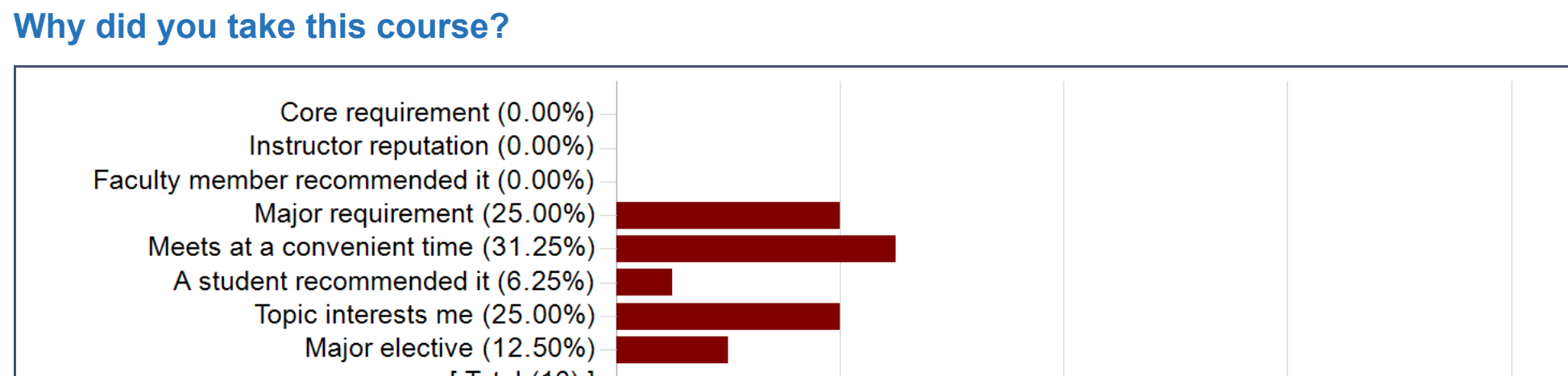
How productive was class discussion?

Comments
Pretty good- we all participated
His small, discussion based tutorial of the Renaissance provided an in-depth survey of how the Renaissance should actually be portrayed from a historical and philosophical perspective. Discussion in class was very productive, but I would have liked to have extended discussions beyond the time allotted after student presentations to develop and challenge ideas. It seemed at times that students would present concepts, others would comment on them, and the rest would seem complacent with what has just been said. While this may have been due to the particular group of people in the class, themselves, I would encourage the instructor's moderation of the discussion to foster debate and challenging notions that have been presented. Saying "does anyone disagree?" or "how can this idea be viewed/interpreted in another way?" would help. Regardless, the discussions still gave deep insight into the topics at hand.
Very! In such a small class (9 students I believe?), we were all motivated and comfortable sharing our feelings on a given topic. The student presentations each week also helped foster discussion, and made the 3 hour class time fly by.
Very productive. Everyone contributed
Class discussion was always thoughtful and flowing, we had a great group!
Generally pretty interesting. They were mostly driven by student-created questions, but people seemed interested!

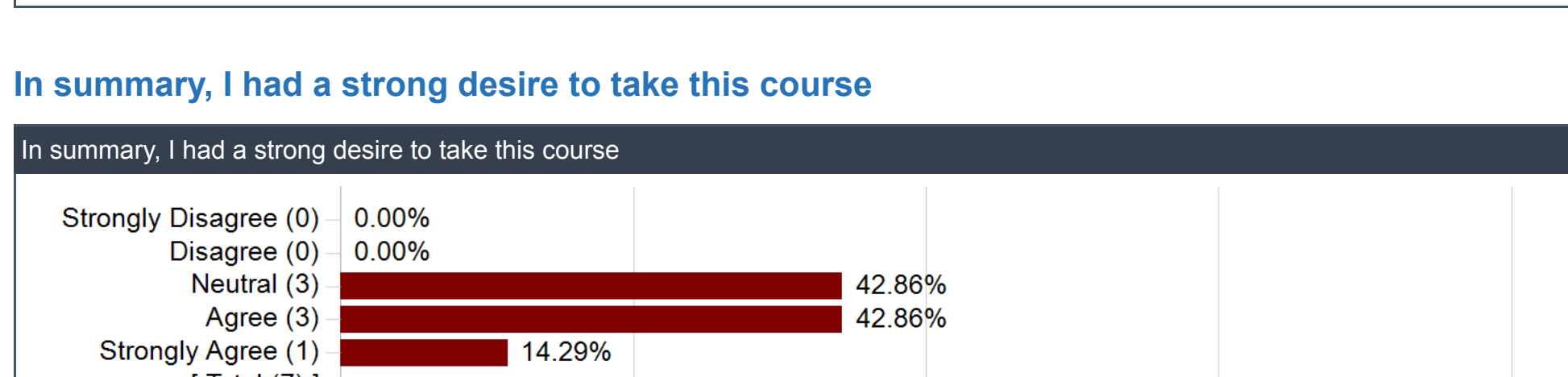
How has this course contributed to your education?

Comments
Overall, this course has added value to my understanding of the Renaissance as a period more than just pomp, glamor, and enlightenment. There were hard times and unsavory things too that must be considered when considering any time period. Learning about the periodization of history in the academic field was central to my understanding, too, since an era is sometimes fallaciously perceived as "standing alone" in one point in time. Learning how to contextualize historical eras is truly important to any historical analysis of a field that will be helpful in my future HIPS courses.
I feel that this course has made me discover a new field of knowledge I didn't have and also new skills when learning. I was not used to the seminar type of courses and I really enjoyed it. It has been a very positive experience
I've learned about how closely interconnected the disciplines of art and science/technology were during the renaissance. Also how certain icons of the Renaissance were more nuanced than I thought (like DaVinci). Ultimately it was a lot more art history based than I expected and in that sense I have a greater knowledge of Renaissance art styles and history. We had a final trip to the art institute which gave me a greater appreciation for renaissance art and I'm excited to go back to the AIC and apply this new lens of appreciation for their Renaissance galleries.

Why did you take this course?



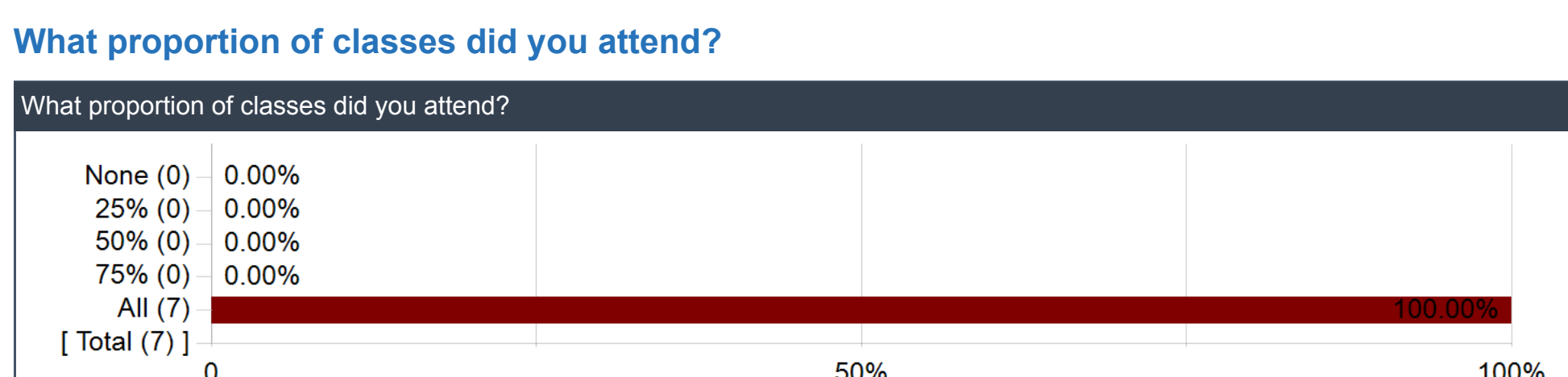
In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course



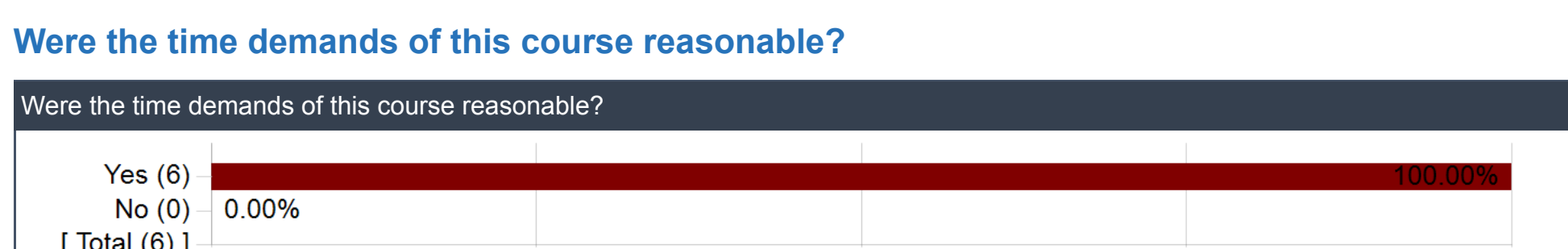
How many hours per week did you spend on this course?

Low Answer	Average Answer	High Answer
3.00	5.86	12.00

What proportion of classes did you attend?



Were the time demands of this course reasonable?



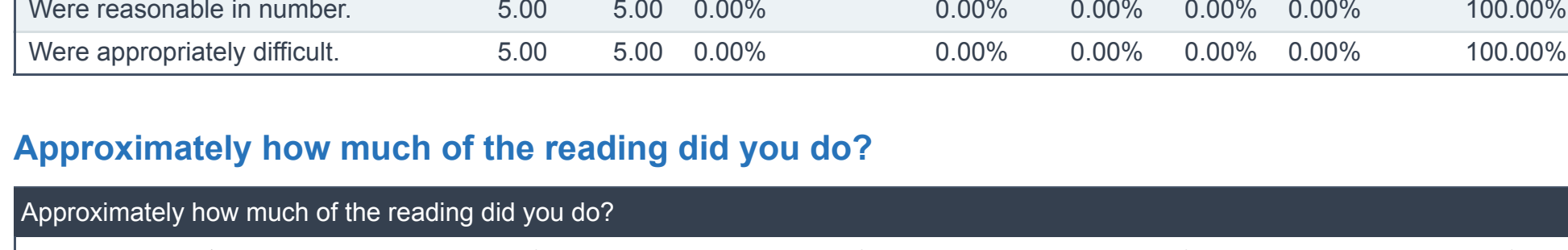
The Instructor

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
Presented clear lectures.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Responded well to student questions.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Was available outside of class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Was helpful during office hours.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Motivated independent thinking.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Made me want to take another course from him or her.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

The Readings

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Were reasonable in number.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Were appropriately difficult.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?



The Assignments

	Mean	Median	N/A	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	A great deal
How helpful were the lectures and discussions in preparing for exams and completing assignments?	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Overall

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
This course provided me with useful skills.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
I put my best effort into this course.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	28.57%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Were helpful with assignments.	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

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	71.43%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%
Provided well-designed materials.	5.00	5.00	71.43%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%