



HST 272 Lecture 01 - Jordan Taylor S20

Project Title: **Course Feedback Questionnaire Spring 2020**

Courses Audience: **40**

Responses Received: **24**

Response Ratio: **60%**

Creation Date: **Thursday, May 28, 2020**

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Reflection

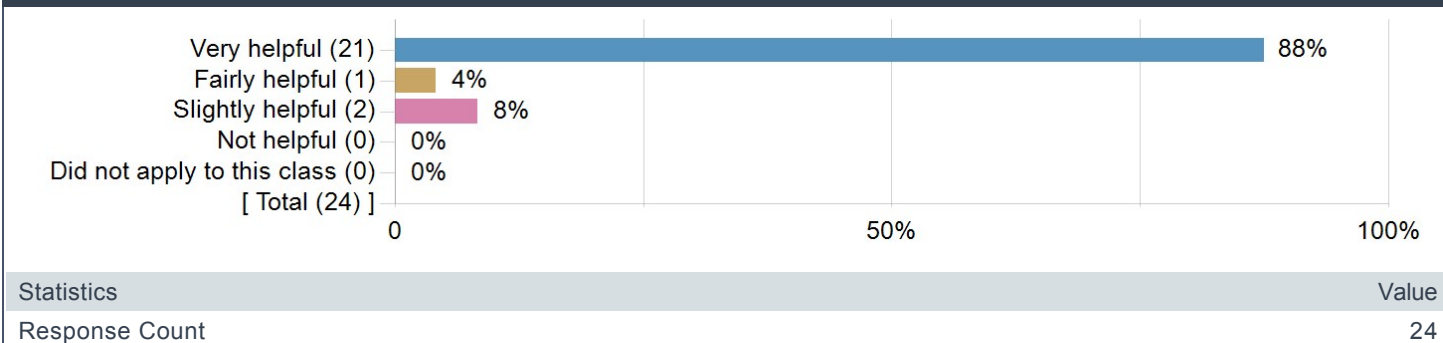
Q 1: What would you say are the top two or three things (ideas, skills, perspectives, etc.) you personally gained from this course?

Comments
I gained a new perspective on historical events, and I became better at thinking thematically across time.
I gained an understanding of scandal and how it has changed overtime.
1. The ability to not take American history (especially media) for granted 2. How to analyze American history for aspects that show how we have arrived where we are today 3. How to look at American history in a very different light
N/A
the role media has played in scandals, the importance of boundaries in societies and how the erosion of those boundaries leads to new developments in society that anger many
I was able to establish a more nuanced understanding of scandal in history and learned to question how history is told. I also expanded on my ability to tell a story about history and inform new audiences.
This course made me think about why certain things are considered scandalous. I really enjoyed all of the readings.
Anyone who listens to podcasts (i.e. every single Smith student) would have gained the same knowledge that was taught in this class, but it was nice to hear it from Prof. Taylor because he is a wonderful lecturer.
Appreciation of history as a subject and help from a supportive professor.
analysis skills and better historical understanding
Professor Taylor always emphasized the relevance of the past to the present and encouraged us to critically examine ideas we take for granted. His examinations of past and present American scandals reveal much about American culture over time and how our press operates.
An understanding of American cultural values across history, an understanding of story telling techniques and the ways in which those shape our perception of history, an appreciation for the changing media landscape of the United States and the ways in which that interacts with values to create scandal
–how to write a history paper (it's been a long while) –how to think about history thematically
1. Cultural ideas (what is and isn't scandalous) have changed immensely through history 2. Scandals often reflect challenges that societies are facing and questions they're grappling with
I learned a lot about early American history in general, and specifically the different moral codes and ethics used and valued in different time periods, how those morals were used to create scandal, whether it be political, racial, sexual, gender-related, or corruption, and how scandal was wielded as a tool for different purposes throughout American history.
I learned about scandals in different centuries of America. The shift through time in sex scandals, race and gender scandal.
I learned about the significance of scandal in American culture as well as abroad. I also learned about the way in which scandals have evolved throughout history, largely due to media technology. I learned about the ways in which power and boundary blurring create scandal
I learned how to produce a Podcast LOL so that was pretty new to me. Collaborating on a project like that really helped me with my group skills, and advocating for myself and my ideas while working with other people. I appreciated the non-traditional assignment.
I learned about American scandals in history, and how media influences such scandals.
America has had some CRAZY stuff happen in her history. How to critically think on all parts of a scandal and apply historical knowledge to understand how the scandal came about.
How scandals have evolved; how media has evolved; podcasting skills
1. A better understanding of change over time in American history relating to scandals 2. How to create a podcast and format history into an enjoyable/easy to understand plotline
what has stayed constant/changed, how boundary blurring is central to the idea of scandal
–Understanding of what scandals are, why they happen, and their reflection of American society at the time –Better ability to analyze and discuss historical events –Fun and weird scandal stories to tell my family and friends

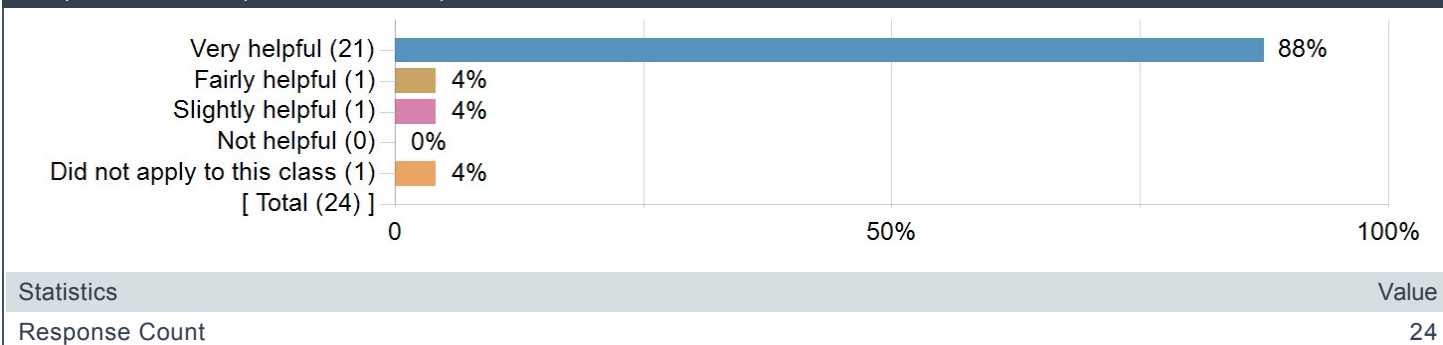
Teaching Methods

Q 2.1: Please indicate how helpful my teaching methods were in furthering your own learning in this course

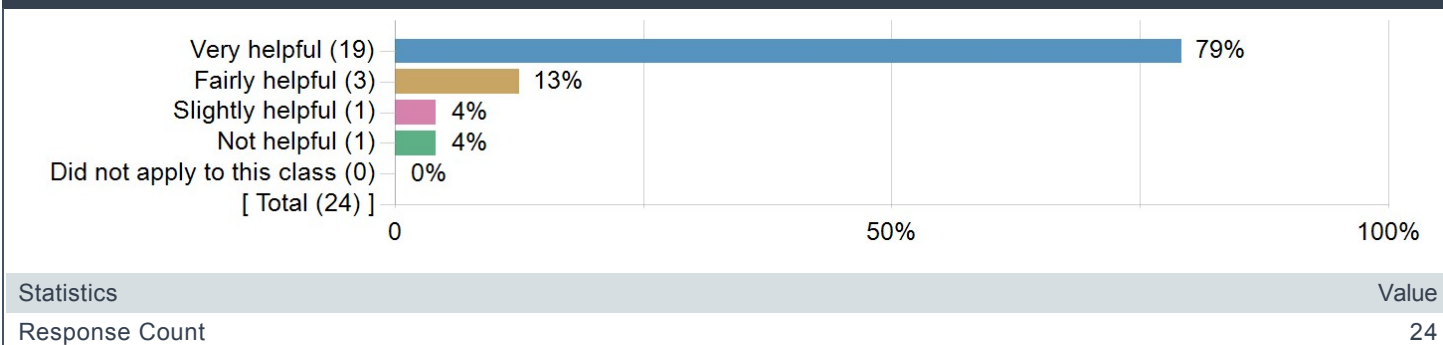
1. Presentation of material in class



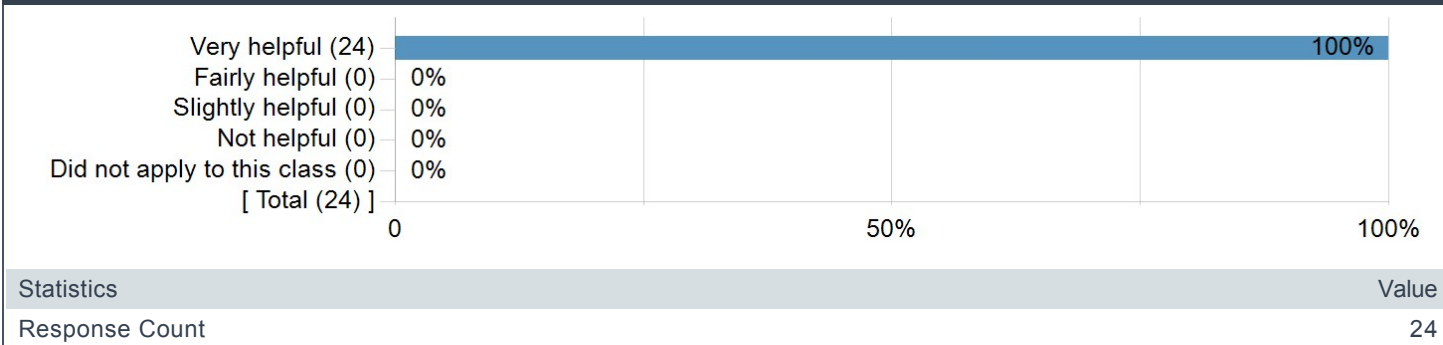
2. Explanation of complex or new concepts



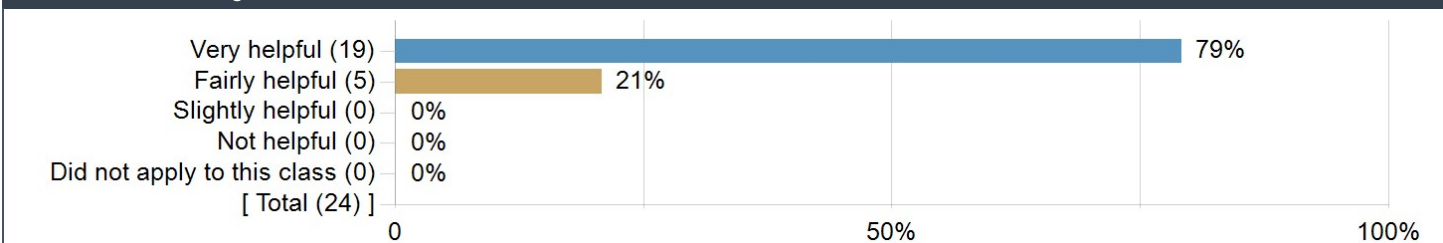
3. Facilitation of activities and discussions



4. Responsiveness to questions



5. Feedback on assignments and work



Statistics	Value
Response Count	24

Q 2.2: Please elaborate on any of your responses above and/or tell me anything else that you want me to know about my teaching methods.

Comments

I personally did not enjoy the set up of the course. I felt that the cap should have been way fewer students if it was going to include so much group work and discussion.

N/A

I really appreciated how much time and effort you clearly put into your lectures and making them accessible to students. Your class is very easy to participate in which helped my understanding of the material

Professor Taylor's classes were engaging and interesting. Discussions were fun while also allowing students to think critically about their understanding of history. Professor Taylor really knew what he was talking about and worked his hardest to make sure we all understood, too.

Excellent puns!

Sometimes lectures felt a little bit over scripted, but that also might just be my reaction to online learning and transitioning to video formats

The presentation of materials was excellent both in the first half and the second half of the class! Professor Taylor's lectures were really informative, engaging, and entertaining. I actually really looked forward to coming to class the first half of the semester and watching his recorded lectures the second half—I even showed my dad a few of his videos.

n/a

I LOVE professor taylor hes a great prof and he is great at explaining and clarifying info
your lectures tie in very well to the readings, and all discussions were very effective.

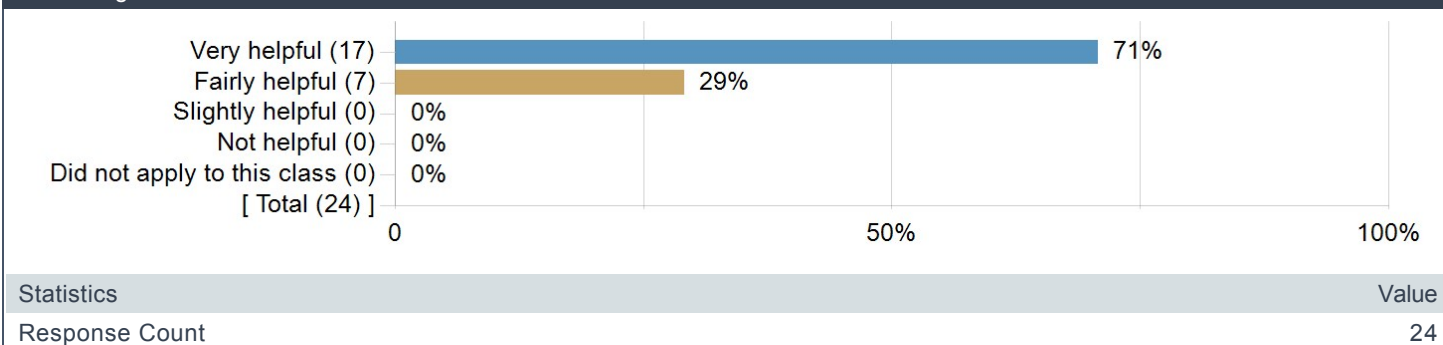
What strengths did your instructor have? Additionally, in what way might your instructor improve in the future?

Comments
Prof. Taylor is a very engaging lecturer. I noticed that on some of the days with the most readings, we didn't get around to discussing them all – maybe some could be made optional? That way they can still be resources on exams, but the time dedicated to homework is more closely dedicated to class preparation.
He was incredibly kind and always available to help.
Professor Taylor was incredibly fun to have teaching this course; it made the material more interesting as he was clearly excited to teach it. I honestly don't have notes on the class – I enjoyed it immensely.
Creativity, ex. the google forms/animal reenactment thingy
The lectures were very entertaining and I felt like I was learning a lot but also having fun. Sometimes it was hard to take notes since you covered the material so quickly and the slides only had general points or pictures on them. Once we moved to online classes, It was much easier to follow since I could pause the video or look at the notes you had provided in addition to the video.
He was really great at making lessons relatable and keeping students engaged. He was entertaining while maintaining a healthy learning environment.
Clarity. I've never had a professor who was so clear and easy to follow when he lectured.
Student connections were a definite strength. Trying to get people other than those who usually dominate the discussion could be an improvement.
good lecturer, answered questions
Professor Taylor is a very engaging presenter with a great sense of humor, which made even scandals from the earliest years of America interesting. Due to the size of the class there was not much one on one time with him but he clearly put in an effort to get to know students. I would love to take a smaller class with him.
Great at engaging the class!
Professor Taylor is really good at explaining complex things in a way that gets to the most important aspects without leaving out the complexity and context around it. He explains things really well and always made our discussions really engaging and interactive. Our class was definitely as fun as it was educational, which really made the material much more memorable and easily applicable to other classes and general life. Professor Taylor is a really talented professor, one that Smith should strongly consider for a permanent position! He is naturally eloquent, intellectually stimulating, inspiring, empathetic, and engaging. Every student I've talked to says he is one of their favorite professors because he is both challenging and considerate of our limitations. Please consider making him a permanent member of the faculty! I would love to take more classes with him and future students should have the opportunity to take one of his engaging, fascinating courses!
I found the lectures very clear, interesting, and engaging, and when we had class in-person I appreciated that we also had discussions and activities mixed in. Sometimes it was hard for me to tell in a lecture what was important and what was a side note or tangent.
His lectures are very engaging. Maybe more visuals?
He was a great lecturer and kept things engaging
You are a very good lecturer—you know how to keep it interesting but also provide as much info as possible. The jokes are also a nice addition (historians don't always have the gift of humor, so I'm glad you take advantage of the fact that you've got one!)
VERY GOOD LECTURER!! Seriously the lectures were so much fun!
your strengths include facilitating a 40 people discussion and presenting the material in a very thorough way.
very clearly cared about course material and students
I don't have the easiest time paying attention to lectures, but Professor Taylor's class was very engaging. He was good at asking interesting questions and facilitating discussion. He could be more clear about his expectations for the podcast project, but this was mostly cleared up with the FAQ.

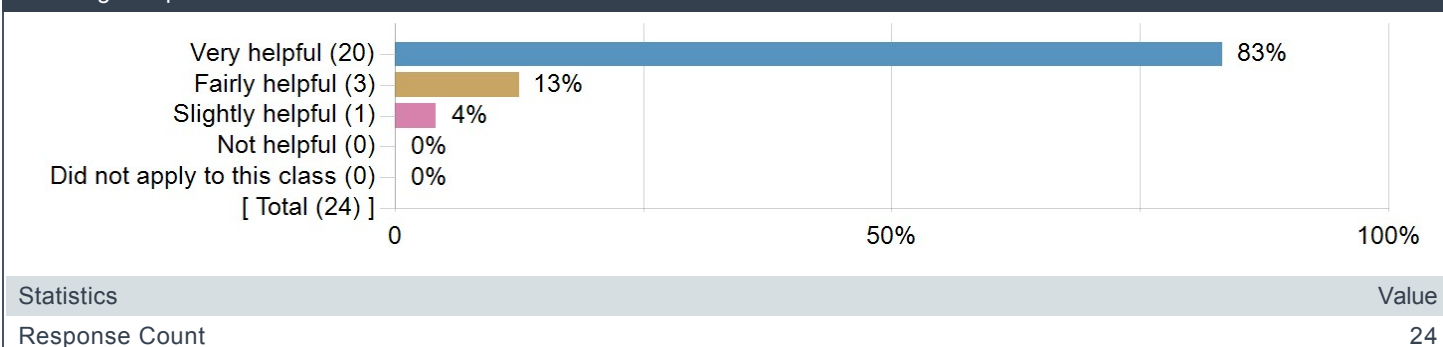
Course Structure and Format

Q 3.1: Please indicate how helpful the following structural aspects of the course were in furthering your learning:

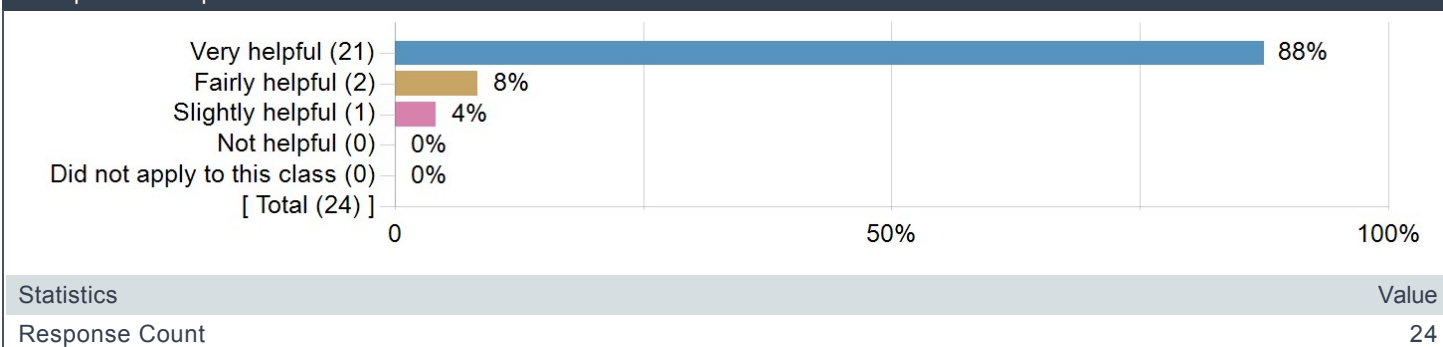
1. Readings and other resources



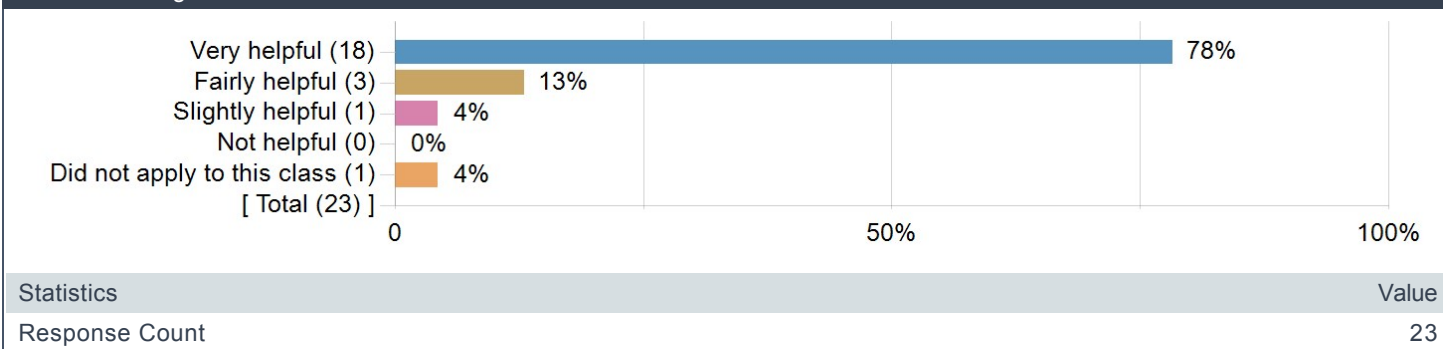
2. Pacing of topics



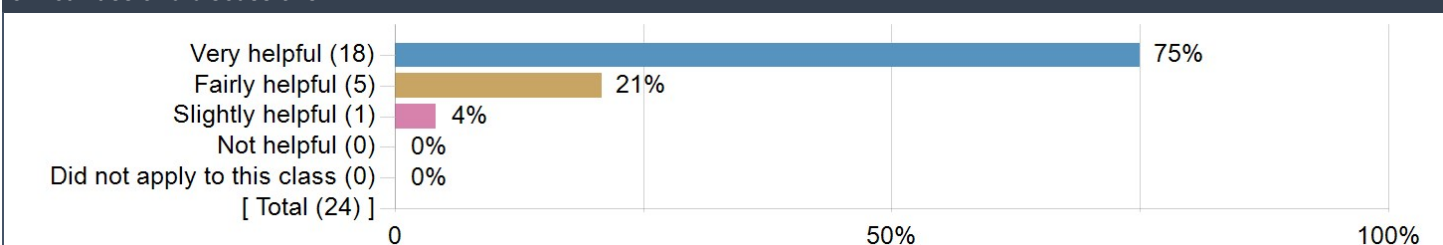
3. Sequence of topics



4. Graded assignments

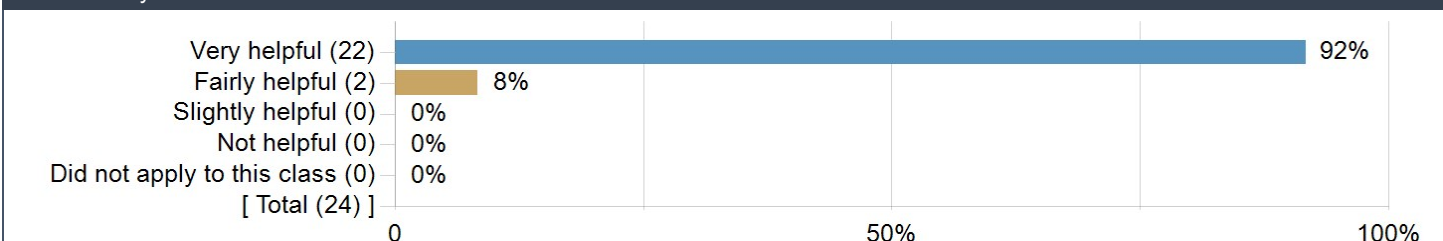


5. Activities and discussions



Statistics	Value
Response Count	24

6. Availability outside of class



Statistics	Value
Response Count	24

Q 3.2: Please elaborate on any of your responses above and/or tell me anything else that you want me to know about this course's structure and format.

Comments
I wish the class would have gone in sequential order. It went by theme, not time period.
N/A
I loved listening to the podcasts. They were a great way to understand the material and helped me decide how I wanted to format my own podcast
All of our readings were really interesting and I had no trouble keeping up with them (I even looked forward to doing them). Professor Taylor was incredibly accommodating (especially after we went to remote instruction) and made even the most complicated parts of the course easy to handle.
I really enjoyed the podcast project. I also really appreciated the flexibility of the online course structure.
I really appreciated your ability outside of class and that it felt easy to come and talk to you if there were issues! Your willingness to help and try to understand everyone's situations was very much appreciated.
N/a
Even through the transition to zoom, the modules were really clear and concise as well as informative. I had a fun time watching the videos and reading the articles
this course was structured really well and all graded assignments made sense and helped in my overall understanding.
Podcast project was difficult remotely (collaborating w other students not necessarily the actual technology of editing)

What topics or themes did you most benefit from learning about? What would you have liked to spend more time on?

Comments
I wish we could have spent more time on the present, more modern events.
I really enjoyed our unit on Gender, which was a bit different since it was online, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. We didn't really have this as a topic, but I would have liked to learn more about early American law in relation to scandal.
N/A
I really liked how you covered the sex, race, and gender scandals. If I had to pick one topic to spend more time on, it would have been the political scandals. WE touch on these a lot in the other topics, but I would've like to learn more about them considering the crazy time we're in right now.
I really felt enriched by our lesson on race scandals; it felt like I developed a great understanding of a rarely-discussed part of American history. I would have liked to spend more time on gossip but I understand that we're in unprecedented circumstances and still felt like I learned a lot in the media module of the course.
I really enjoyed all of the themes but I think it would have been nice to come back to modern scandals at the end, just to make it full circle.
I would have liked to write a little bit more for this class (maybe a short paper instead of the mini podcast) because I like getting writing feedback from different professors.
I really loved the readings we did for this course. They were pretty long but very engaging and interesting. The Norton article about Thomas(ine) Hall was one of my favorites because it was so interesting to read about people's conceptions of gender in the 17th century and to see how Norton used pronouns and names. I also really liked how the lectures often connected what we were discussing to Smith/Northampton. I'm definitely going to talk about Sylverster Graham if I ever go to brunch at Sylvester's now.
I really appreciated learning about racial scandals and scandals involving gender (both gender-crossing and fallen women/seduction narratives). I would've liked to spend a little more time on political scandals.
N/a
I benefited from the podcast project and the midterm and final take-homes, because they really help to synthesize your knowledge. It shows you that you DO have the knowledge and resources needed to succeed in this class
I really liked learning about early American scandals. It was beneficial to see where certain values and boundaries came from and how they have (or haven't) changed.
all of the topics illustrated change over time or a similarity to current times, and that helped me see history as being fluid rather than stiff. i would have liked to spend more time on media
I wish we had spent more time on corruption and talked about it next to how we think of corruption right now
I benefited most from anything about the 19th century, because that is a period of American history I knew very little about. I would have liked to learn more about recent scandals, especially since the Internet has become so influential in our communication and use of media.

Motivation and Learning Efforts

Q 4.1: Why did you take this course?

Interested in the topic

%	Count
96%	23

Interested in taking a class with this instructor

%	Count
38%	9

Heard good things about this course

%	Count
13%	3

Wanted to challenge yourself to expand your horizons

%	Count
25%	6

Needed the course for your major, minor, concentration, professional school, etc.

%	Count
38%	9

Wanted to fulfill a Latin Honors requirement

%	Count
13%	3

Other (Needed the credit, for the research experience, time was convenient...)

%	Count
0%	0

Q 4.2 What general learning strategies or study methods did you find most useful in this course?

Doing class assignments (reading, etc.)

%	Count
91%	21

Engaging actively in class discussions and activities

%	Count
78%	18

Going to faculty office hours and/or optional help sessions

%	Count
35%	8

Studying with peers outside class

%	Count
30%	7

Asking for feedback on work-in-progress before the deadline

%	Count
9%	2

TAs/Tutors

%	Count
0%	0

Labs/Research

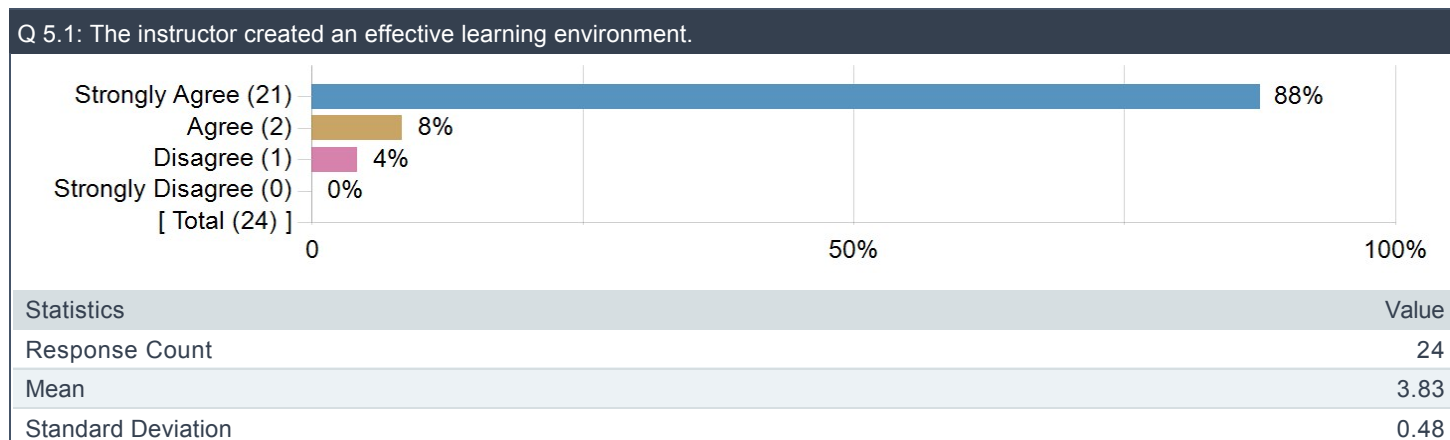
%	Count
0%	0

Other

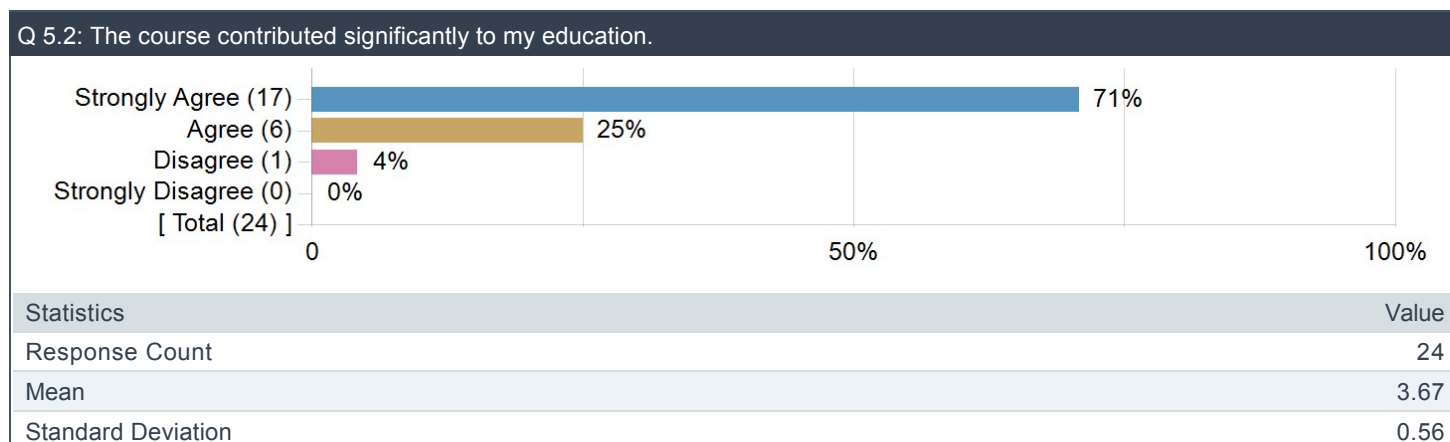
%	Count
0%	0

Effective Learning and Contribution to Education

Q 5.1: The instructor created an effective learning environment.



Q 5.2: The course contributed significantly to my education.



Comparison Q 5.1: The instructor created an effective learning environment.

Mean	Resp	Dept Average	Dept Response	College Average	College Response
3.83	24	3.70	157	3.66	6115

Comparison Q 5.2: The course contributed significantly to my education.

Mean	Resp	Dept Average	Dept Response	College Average	College Response
3.67	24	3.67	158	3.55	6131

Q 6: Is there anything else that you would like to say about this course?

Comments
I'm sad I can't take it again!
Just thank you!
I loved this course and Professor Taylor was really interesting and helpful. I looked forward to this class each week and even enjoyed watching his videos after we went remote Professor Taylor made the best of a really difficult situation and was so accommodating. I would love to take another class with him in the future.
N/a
I really enjoyed it and i appreciate how empathetic Prof taylor was in the transition to online learning
Thank you for adapting this course to online in such a way that we still gained a lot of knowledge in the second half of the course. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to take this class.

Comments for Sharing with Other Students and Me

Q 7: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future? What strategies would you recommend to future students to make the most out of this class?

Comments
I really enjoyed this course. I have always loved learning about relatively unknown stories from history, which was a large portion of this class. Plus, learning about scandal and how its definition has changed throughout history is incredibly interesting. If you are interested in history at all (even if you don't usually like American history – I thought I didn't) I would recommend this course. Professor Taylor is very engaging and clearly enjoying what he is teaching, while also respectful of some of the harder topics we cover. I hopefully will have space in my schedule to take more of his classes!
I'd tell them to go to office hours because the professor is always available to help and truly wants to help his students
Professor Taylor is very knowledgeable about this material and presents it to students in a way that is both understandable and enjoyable. He also clearly cares about all of his students and goes above and beyond to accommodate their needs! Take this class if you can!
Definitely take this class. I recommend keeping up with the readings because they help develop a deeper understanding of the class discussions and are interesting in their own right. Participating in class discussions is really helpful too; it is fun to be an active part of this class. Professor Taylor is clearly passionate about his work and he makes it easy to want to engage in the class.
This is really interesting course with many engaging topics and readings. Beyond it being entertaining, this course also makes you think about how and why society deems certain things scandalous.
This is the kind of class that is so easy that it is more of a joke than a class, but it is very enjoyable and worth taking.
take it!
The readings are kinda long but you really gotta do them to engage with the class. If you're looking for a super easy class this isn't it, but you'll definitely learn a lot and enjoy it cause Jordan is awesome!
I would highly recommend this class to any smith student, regardless of major! It's really interesting and fun for people who love history and for people who are just looking to fulfill latin honors. Strategy-wise I would recommend that students take good notes on the main ideas of the readings, their thoughts, and what Professor Taylor contextualizes in lectures.
I really enjoyed taking this course—it was a very fun and engaging way of learning more about American history. Making connections across different topics and paying attention to narrative structures were really helpful for me.
Good course with engaging materials
I would highly recommend this course. I would say don't be afraid to fully immerse yourself in the course. Make sure to keep up with readings, as we use them in class to have fun discussions. Make sure to have open lines of communication w prof Taylor because he really is willing to listen to what you have to say and make any accommodations you need. He is great at taking feedback
Definitely take the class. I really enjoyed the non-traditional assignments (podcast proj, podcasts to listen to in combination with articles to read)... I think this would be a great way for non-historians to dip their toes into a history class without the fear of being bored by the traditional format of history classes.
Take this course! It was so much fun, and the instructor is awesome!
100% recommend for anyone interested in a fun American history class about topics you've heard of before and some surprising ones!
discussions are very helpful in class, so participate in them. This course is really helpful in understanding early American history as well as modern america.
Do the readings and engage in class
I recommend this course to anyone who is interested in history. Scandals are not only interesting parts of history, but they reveal fears, interests, and many other aspects of American society at the time. Though I am not a history major, and I had very little knowledge of American history going into this class, I still got a lot out of it and was able to participate. To make the most of this class, I would recommend doing the readings, going to office hours, and participating in discussions in class.