



# NEHC 20603 1, HIST 25616 1, RLST 20403 1, SOSOC 22200 1 - Islamic Thought and Literature III - Instructor(s) - Ada Holly Shissler

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

Number Enrolled: **22**

Number of Responses: **9**

## 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
The history of Middle East since the 19th century
Lots of history! from about 1830ish to 1980. Prof Shissler primarily focuses on "straight history", and while we do have some literature – we read a novel and watched a few films, the focus is on the history. It was a pretty standard history course in terms of format – lectures, readings, 2 exams (blue book, in class essays), and an optional take home essay (if you opt out of the paper then your exams count more – it was nice to have the option).
Prof Shissler knew her stuff! She has a wide and deep knowledge of the topic and it is fun to just hear her talk about history. She does a great job contextualizing history into larger trends – intellectual, social, etc. She also does a good job of including real people – how did actual people in these places feel about X or Y? It was not just a dry great-man history class; she does a great job.
Overall, this is a great survey on modern M.E. history; I recommend it; but be warned that there is a considerable amount of reading (to be fair this is true for most civ courses!)
I learned a lot about economic history during the Ottoman Empire. I learned about nationalism and how it's actually a fairly new concept, as well as the impact of colonialism on Middle Eastern countries.
I learned a lot about the interaction of the great powers with the middle east over the 19th and 20th centuries, especially the economic interactions, as well as the major streams of political thought in the middle east over this period.
I think the history of Ottoman tax policy and 20th century revolutions were the most important thing I got from this course.
Modern Middle Eastern history from the 18th/19th century onward

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

Comments
Dr. Shissler's lectures were extremely well-organized and engaging; I gained a great deal from them. I do wish there had been more engagement with the readings, however; to be honest, I think it was fairly easy for students to get away with not doing any of them.
Readings were very helpful for giving me a full picture of the different class topics, while the class was structured in a way that made sure we touched on every country in the middle east across the full time period under study. Lectures helped to guide me to the most important topics for review while also hammering home broad patterns.
Lectures were incredible—Prof. Shissler is one of the best lecturer's I've had.
Lectures were engaging and packed with content; office hours were helpful and a good chance to connect the topics covered in class

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	57.14%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
My work was evaluated fairly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
There was a lot of material to cover—I wish we had been able to have more time to actually delve into everything. I also liked the simplicity of two exams being the whole grade, but the questions on the exams were so cool I would've liked to write essays on them and have more time to engage with them in class and outside.

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.29%	85.71%

### Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Dr. Shissler's lectures were fantastic.
The structure of the class and choice of readings was very useful, as was Professor Shissler's lecture style, which was very engaging and accessible
Definitely the professor's lectures! She brought an incredible amount of knowledge to the class.

### What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think sometimes we would repeat content in lectures that we had already covered in a previous lecture (especially in the first few weeks), and so we fell a bit behind, and often our readings were ahead of where we were in lectures.
I think some more engagement with the readings would have been nice, as well as more information on the canvas site; the only syllabus we were given was a paper one, therefore easy to lose.
Like I mentioned, it'd be great to have a shift to a more essay-based class, even weekly short essays on the material, so that we can engage with questions that would be on a midterm or final more fully. I do like the exam set-up too, though, so this is a soft suggestion.
I'm not sure if the readings always supplemented the lectures best—I think more secondary sources, especially historiographic ones, would have been really interesting.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	71.43%	14.29%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

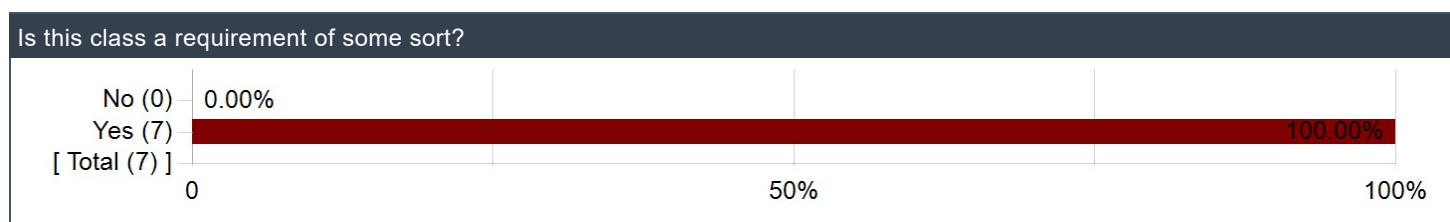
**Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.**

Comments
Cagdas Acar was very helpful in office hours!

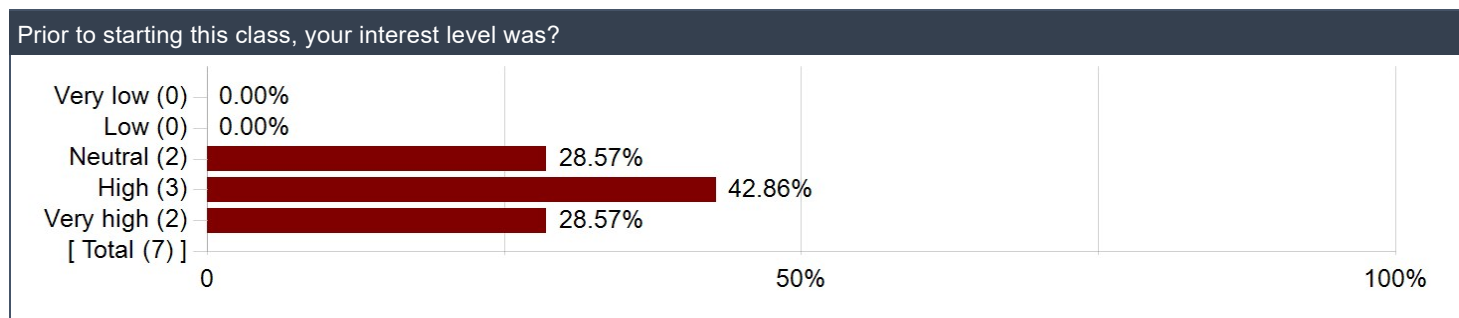
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%

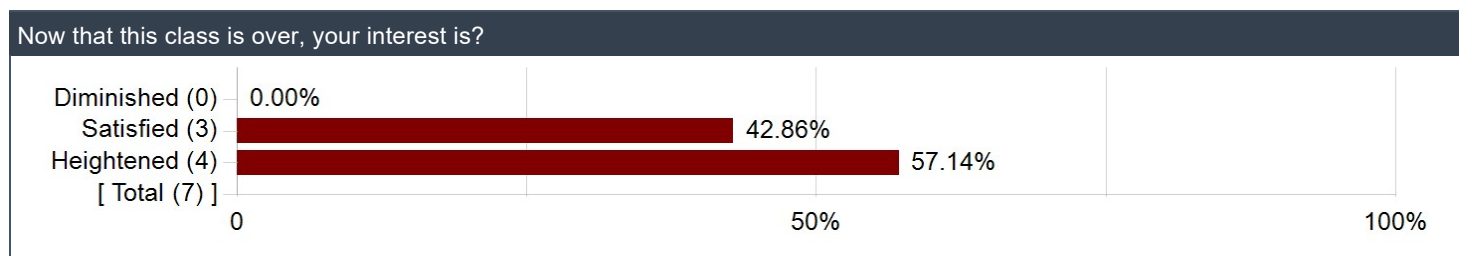
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



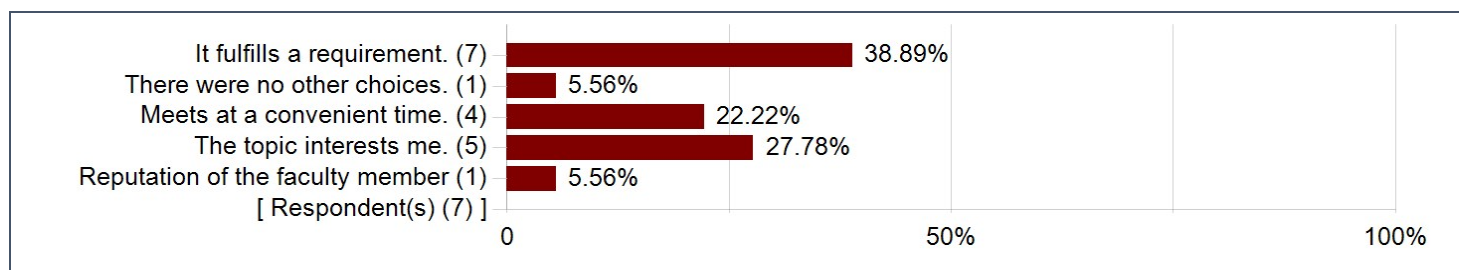
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



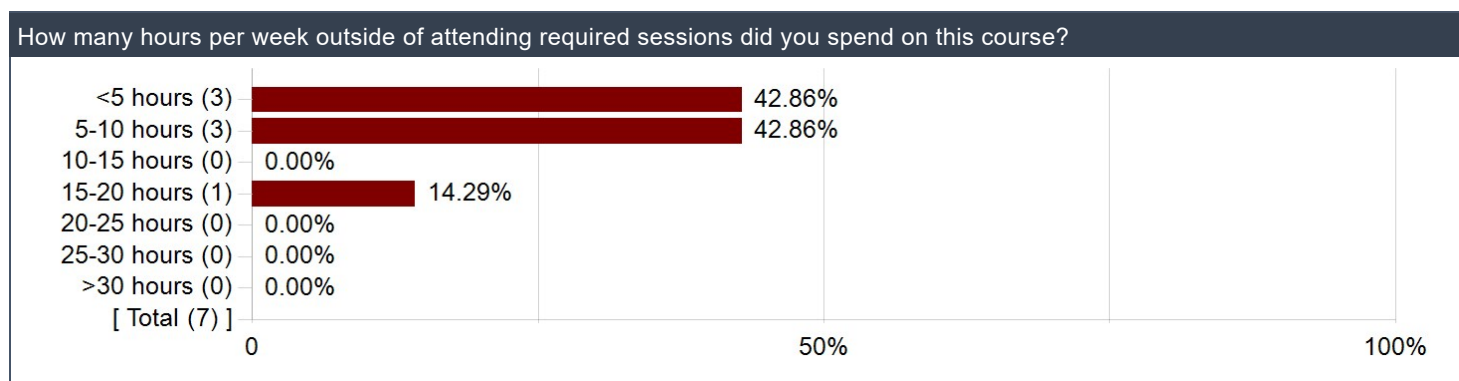
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



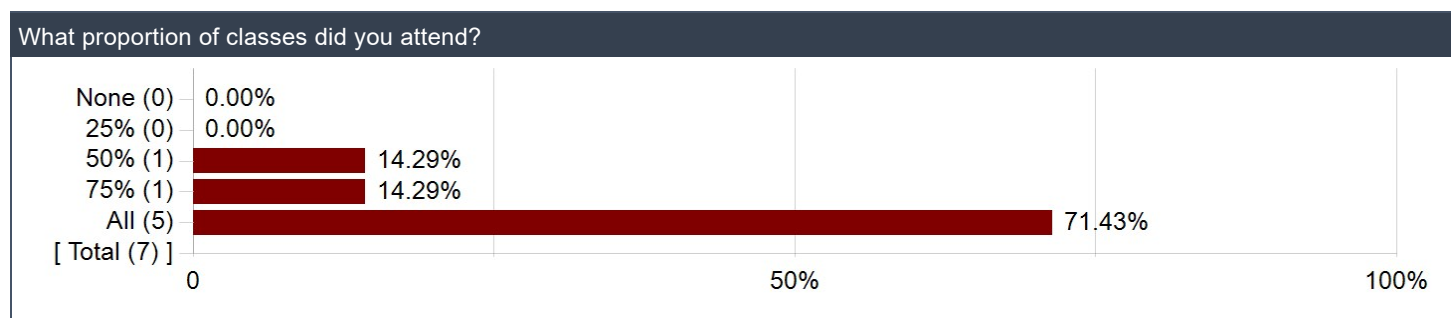
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
I have a moderate background, and found it slightly difficult, but definitely not too much. I think it's a pretty accessible course, and Dr. Shissler's lectures helped explain things very well.
Coming from the first quarter of islamic civ was a bit of a time jump but Professor Shissler gave excellent context. A lot of information but not impossible to learn especially if you have some vague notions of what was going on in the middle east in the 1800s and 1900s.
The court's difficulty level felt correctly targeted.