



ARAB 10102 1, ARAB 10102 1 - Elementary Arabic II - Instructor(s): Aidan Kaplan

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

Number Enrolled: **15**

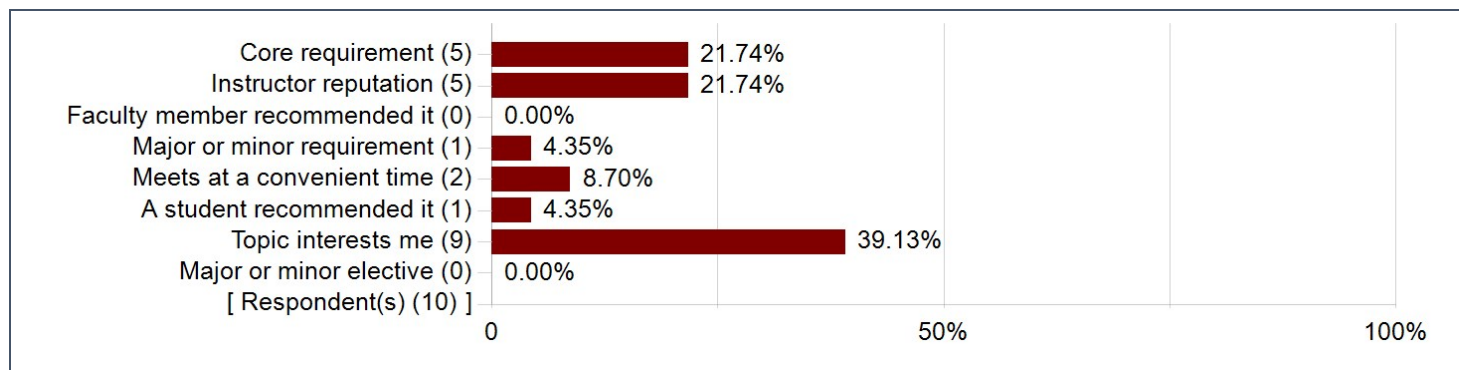
Number of Responses: **10**

Report Comments

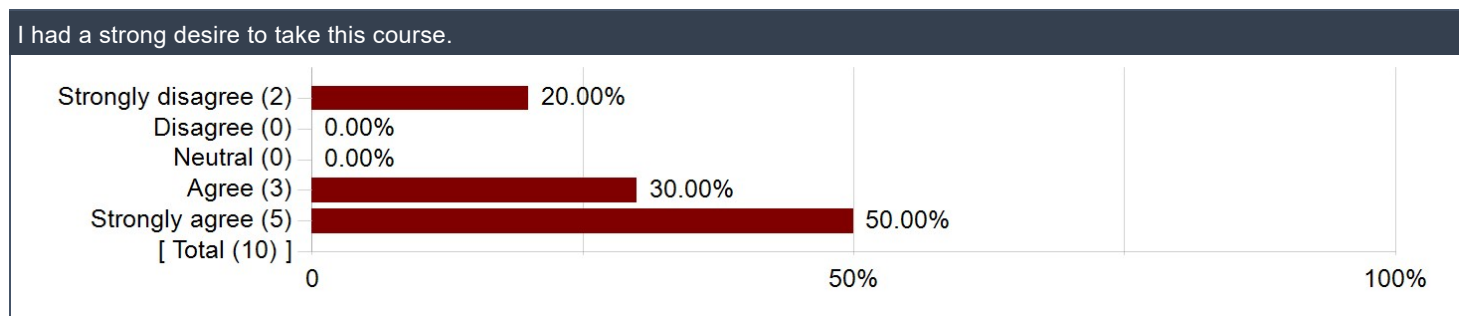
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

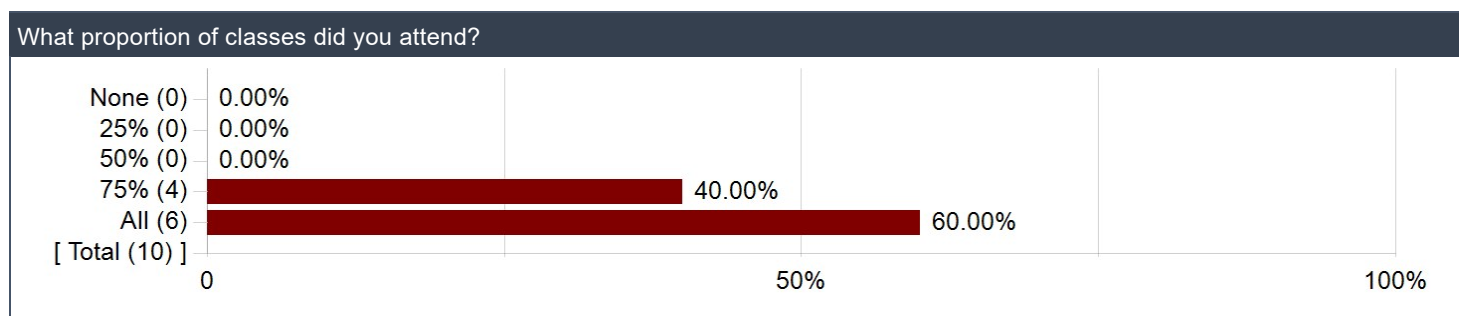
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



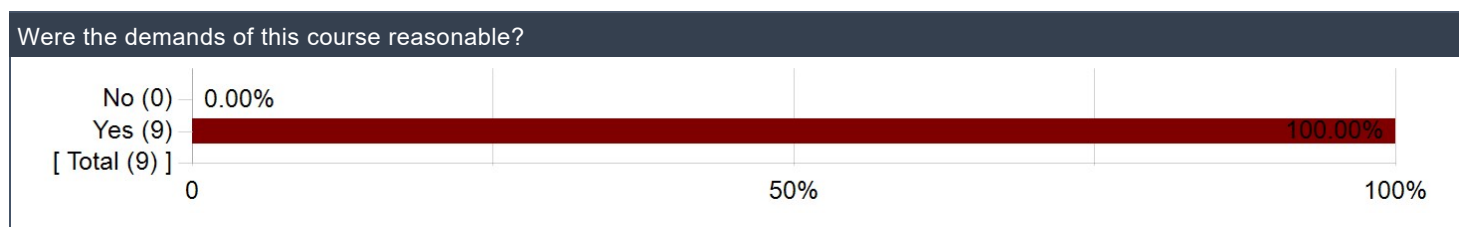
I had a strong desire to take this course.



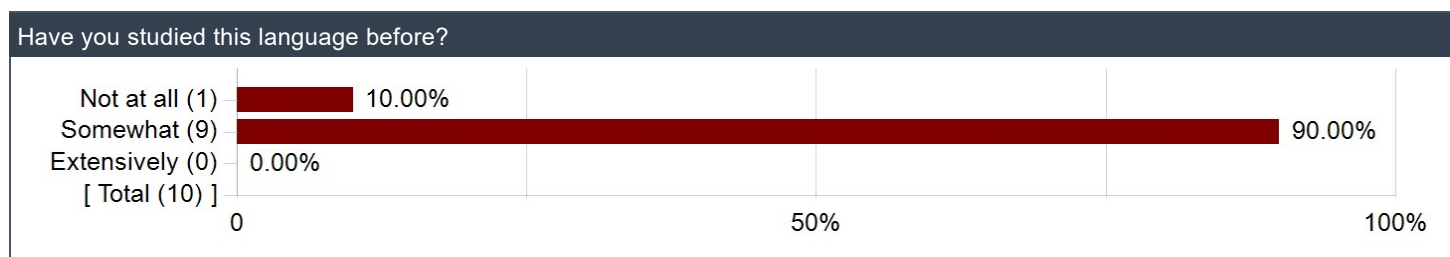
What proportion of classes did you attend?



Were the demands of this course reasonable?



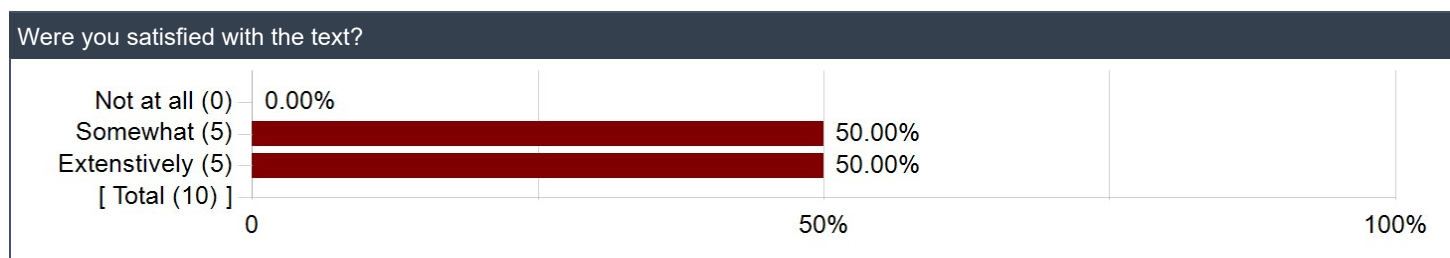
Have you studied this language before?



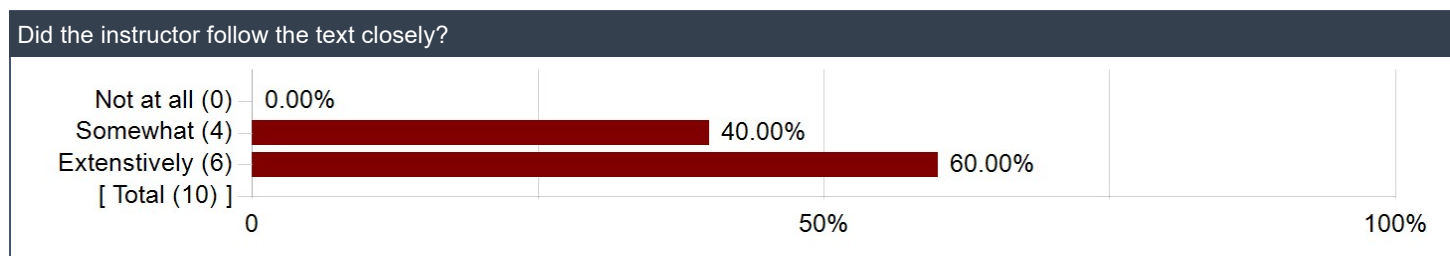
Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	5.20	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	40.00%
Spelling	3.80	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	10.00%	50.00%	10.00%	10.00%
Reading	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	60.00%	10.00%
Writing	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%	20.00%
Grammar	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%	20.00%
Vocabulary	5.40	5.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%

Were you satisfied with the text?



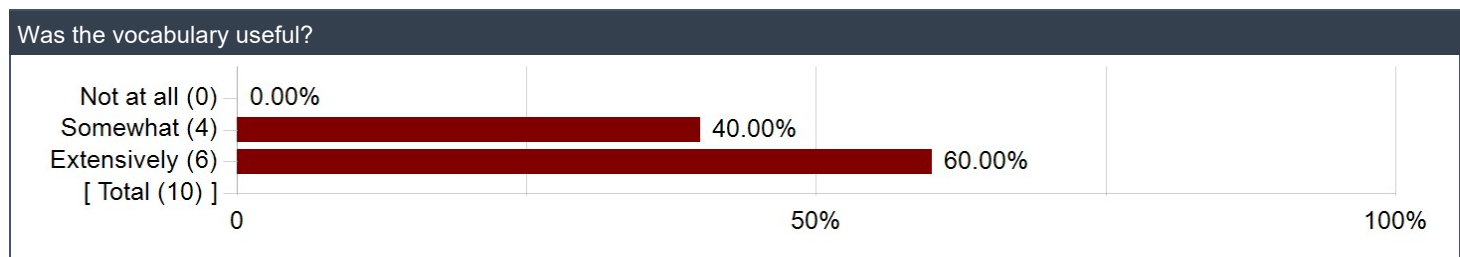
Did the instructor follow the text closely?



Explain:

Comments
Al Kitaab does a good job of teaching the different grammatical structures and tenses despite sometimes teaching odd vocabulary.
Al kitaab vocab lists sometimes include some pretty random words (like business administration), but it's pretty good overall. Aidan mostly followed the book but gave us some additional useful words, which was helpful.
Ustaadh Aidan followed the contents closely, but not necessarily all of the activities proposed by Al-Kitaab (though I do believe we covered the most important ones). He also supplemented the book with a lot of other activities; for instance, for the food chapter he brought in a menu from a restaurant in Cairo and asked the class to analyze it as an assignment – I had a lot of fun with that!

Was the vocabulary useful?

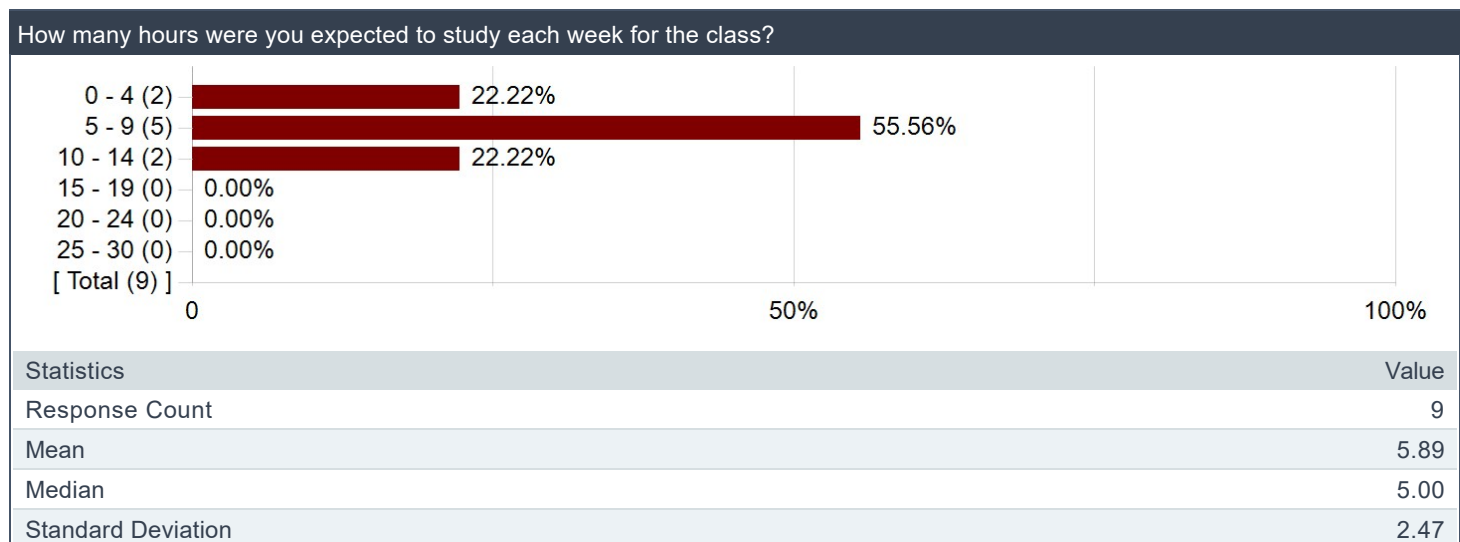


Why?

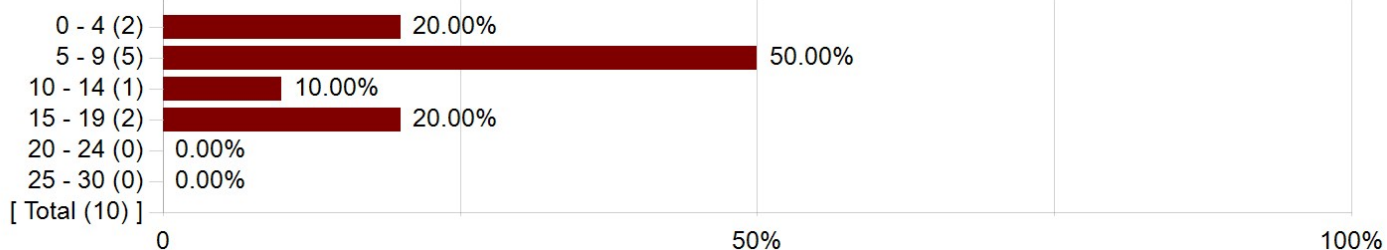
Comments
Most of the vocabulary is very important for foundations in speaking Arabic, while some of the words are a bit out of left field.
We learned useful vocabulary about family, weather, hobbies, and school.
I mean, I get that Al-Kitaab is not the best in terms of prioritizing vocabularies by frequency (like why would you learn how to say 'United Nations' and 'translator' (unit 2?) before 'because' (unit 6?)), but in the long run, these are all fairly commonly used vocabularies if your goal is to become fluent. Plus I did find most of the vocabularies very helpful aside from a few outliers so ...

Describe the format of the class (lecture, drills, etc.). Was this format productive? Please be specific.

Comments
yes
Everything is interactive, you are rarely listening to the professor just speak. You are always using the language you are learning which helps you get better at it.
Class time was very well organized. There's a lot of emphasis on speaking, which is very helpful.
Lectures M, W, F, for 80 mins for ~ 3 activities on either listening, reading, or grammar (writing not so much). We also have ~ 20 mins per session for interactive learning (i.e. speaking with a partner). Overall it was productive.
Mostly in-class speaking, reading and listening drills.

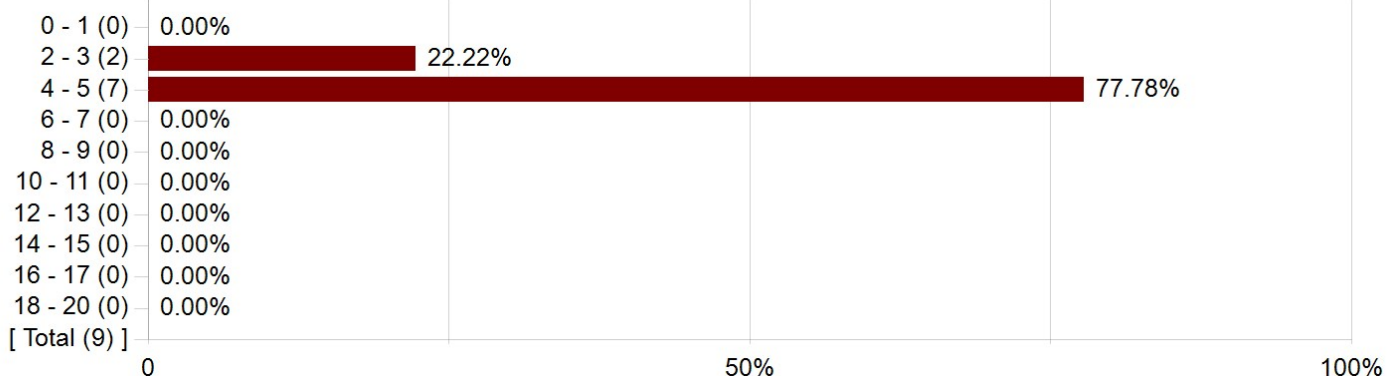


How many hours did you spend?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	7.20
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	4.64

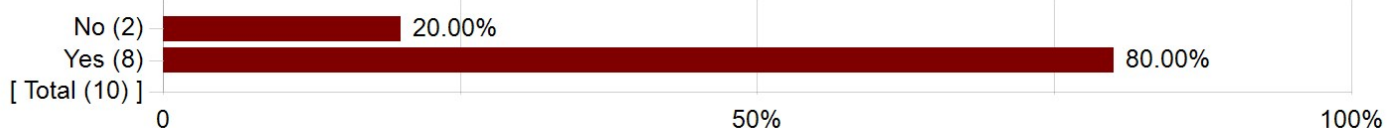
How many written quizzes were given?



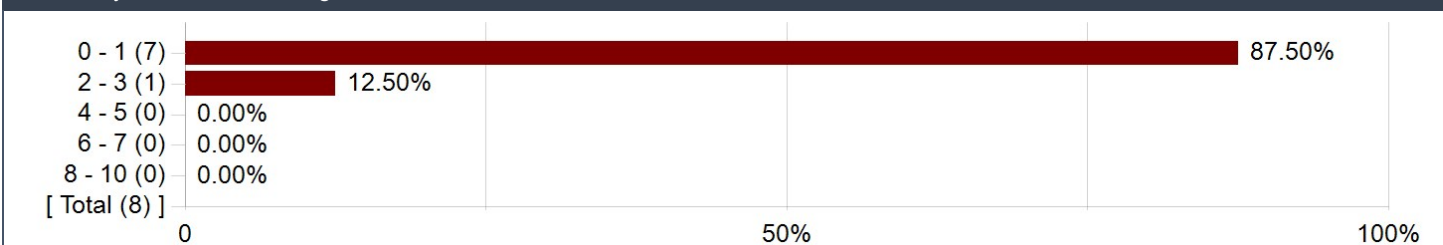
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	3.78
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.44

Were there daily assignments? (i.e., journals)?

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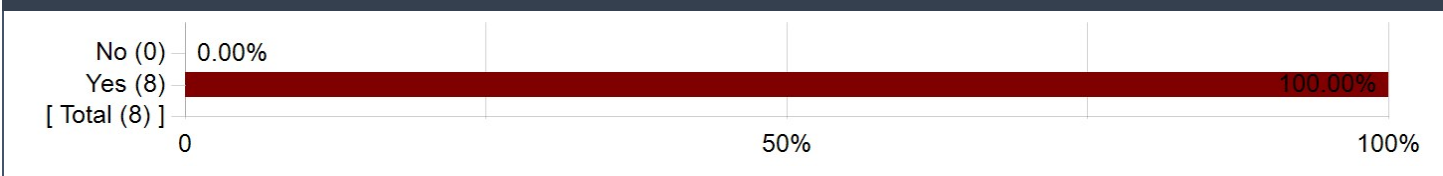
How many oral exams were given?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	1.25
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.71

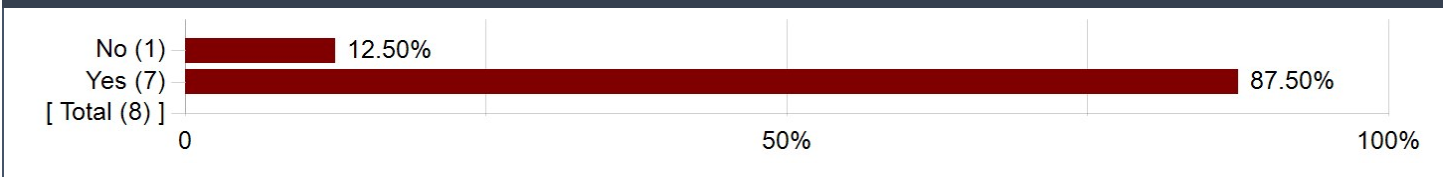
Were the oral exams fair?

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Were the oral exams challenging?

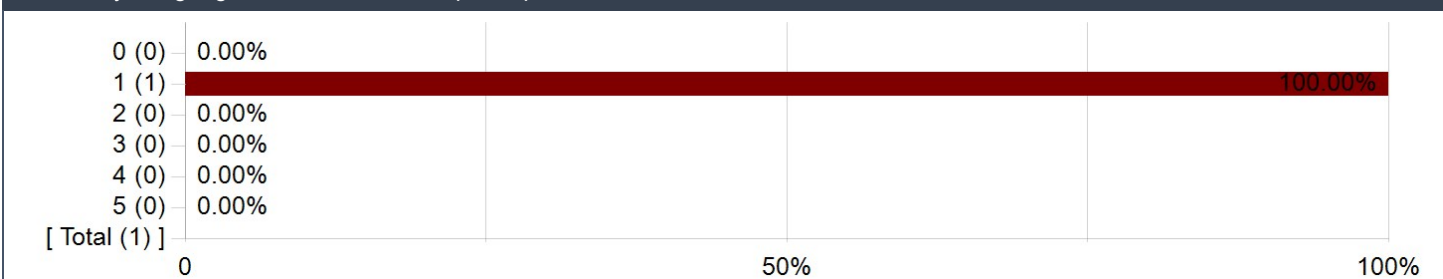
Were the oral exams challenging?



Why? Please be specific.

Comments
Ofentimes we had to write, memorize, and perform a skit in groups which was fun but you had to work hard to make sure you did a good job.
The oral exam was about 5 minutes of speaking to Aidan about topics we had covered this quarter. It was appropriately challenging given where we're at with learning Arabic. The expectations were fair, essentially to be understandable even if we make several mistakes.
The content of the oral exam is not too hard – we know it has to be centered around the topics learnt over the quarter, and if you spend time on the mini-projects, you should be able to discuss those topics fairly well. What was more nerve-racking is the format. In the classroom, if we don't know how to say something, we can just ask 'kayf naqul ... ?' In the oral exam, Ustaaz Aidan pretends to not speak English; I am not the best with circumlocution, so I did get stuck a few times. This probably does not apply to everyone though.

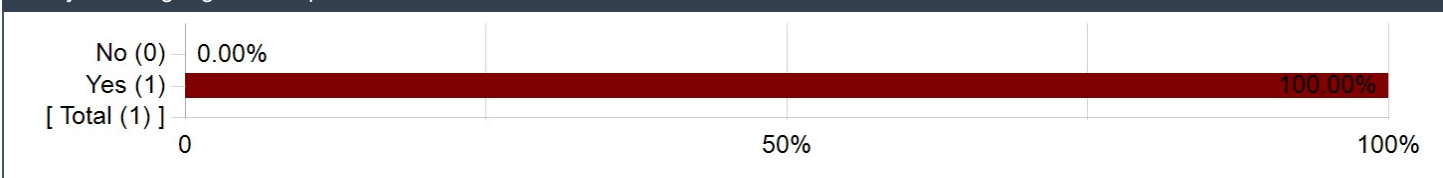
How many Language Lab hours were required per week?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	1
Mean	1.00
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	N/A

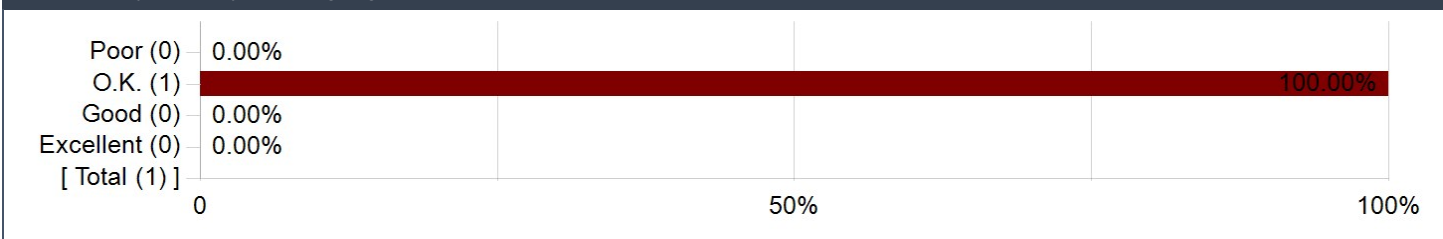
Was your Language Lab experience useful?

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How would you rate your Language Lab experience?

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If there were required outside activities (i.e. foreign films or SCOLA), describe your experience.

Comments
cultural activity
We had to do some for of cultural engagement in addition to NaTakallam (similar to Talk Abroad) which was very rewarding. I was exposed to native arabic speakers and the culture of the middle east.
Every person had to participate in one required activity outside of class that had to do with Arabic or Arab/Middle East Culture and write a reflection.
Natakallum – speaking to native Arabic speakers. I think this would've been more helpful if we had more experience with Arabic, or if the conversations were shorter so that we could've tried to speak only Arabic the whole time. Extracurricular activity – it was nice to have the flexibility to choose any event of interest, and this motivated me to an interesting event related to Arabic that I otherwise might not have made time for.
One cultural event
One extracurricular activity and 3 NaTakallam sessions. I actually attended multiple extracurricular activities out of interest, would especially recommend Arabic Conversation Table (also hosted by Ustaadh Aidan, but a bit too difficult for 102 students I think) and the Wednesday Arabic film series. The NaTakallam sessions are great for expanding vocabularies outside of classroom (for instance, I learned how to say 'documentary films' and 'financial services' – definitely not in the book so far!)

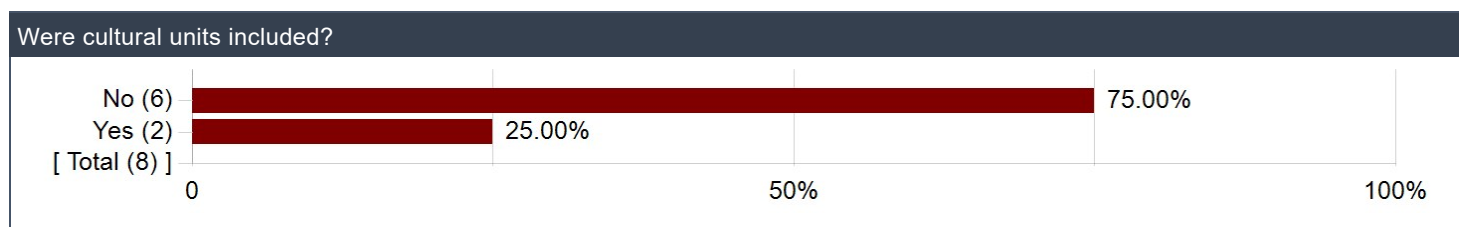
Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
4.60	5.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%

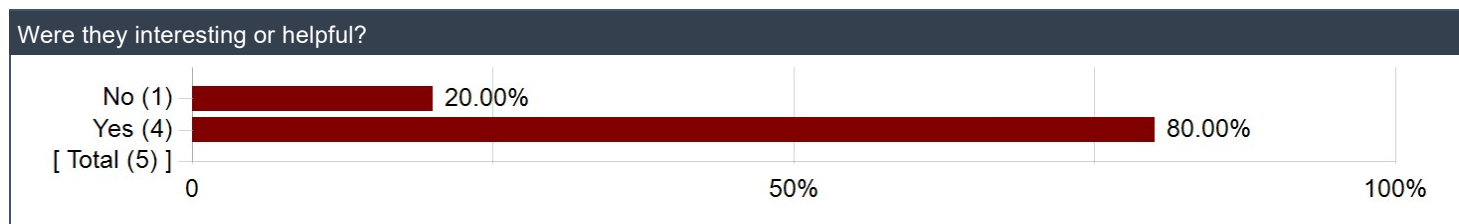
Explain

Comments
Always prepared for class, extremely knowledgeable for the language, kept the class moving
Ustaadh Aidan always came to the class very prepared, and we have clear agendas to cover every session.

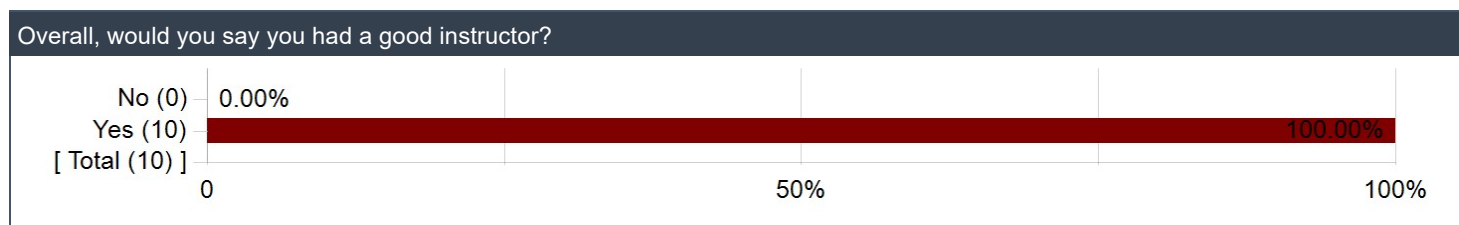
Were cultural units included?



Were they interesting or helpful?



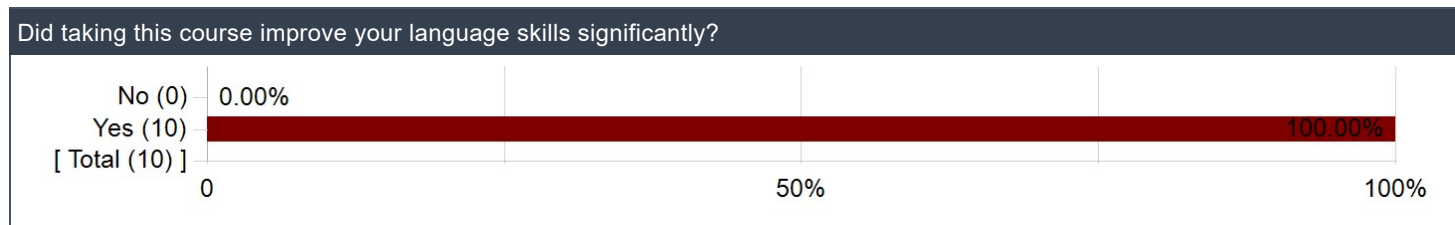
Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



Why?

Comments
very helpful but in a lot of extra effort (very willing to meet in office hours and help with my issues, high effort in class)
Aidan is great! He knows so much and is clearly passionate about teaching Arabic. The classes are organized, and he's very approachable for help.
One of the best instructors I have at the university so far! (And I am a fourth-year so that should say something.) Always cheerful and kind, and incredibly patient with questions, no matter how trivial they are – can't wait for 103 with him in spring!

Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



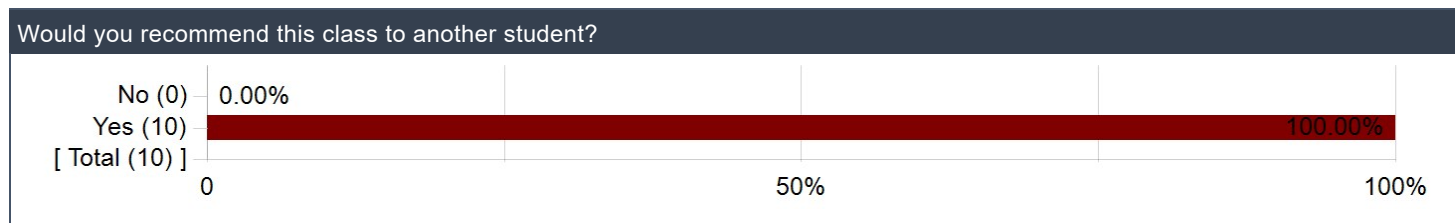
In what way?

Comments
I am not comfortable speaking Arabic at an introductory level.
Learned new vocabulary, improved at speaking and writing
I learned two years of Levantine dialect (high school) prior to this course, and I think this course greatly enhances my understanding of MSA and Egyptian dialects. In addition, I am now much more comfortable with writing Arabic.

How would you improve this course?

Comments
The lesson projects took a LOT of time – maybe communicate expectations about how long it should take (filming yourself talking vs putting together a whole skit, not necessarily having a graphic designed written section). I think the first project was an in-class skit with no script, which took my group a very very long time to put together and practice. The recorded videos were more helpful, and it would maybe be good to have fewer small assignments in the weeks that those are due. Mostly I found myself wishing I had a bit more time to just review vocab/concepts I knew I needed to study, but I didn't have time to get to this after all the assignments and with other classes.
A really minor point: for the interactive activities in class, since we usually center the activity around a certain question + response (like 'how was your weekend?'), it would be nice to preview the sentences as part of the assignment before the session, if possible. I feel like the conversations would be more productive if we can get the sentences flowing, and not figuring out how to say things on the spot.

Would you recommend this class to another student?



Why?

Comments
Aidan is a fantastic professor, Arabic is fun, and you'll learn a lot.