NEHC 20602 2, SOSC 22100 2, RLST 20402 2, HIST 25615 2, MDVL 20602 2 - Islamic Thought and Literature II - Instructor(s): Adam Flowers

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

Number Enrolled: **22**
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.

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Basic knowledge of key historical and intellectual developments within the Islamic world 900–1700
How historical developments in the islamicate world shaped the culture in varying regions
I think an understanding of the Abbasid dynasty was the most important thing I'm taking away from the course.
Progression of Islamic Thought, Literature, and Culture during the middle period (10th to 17th centuries)

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

Comments
In–class lectures were the most helpful
Adam is a great lecturer and presents things in a digestable way. I also appreciated the class discussions analyzing a primary text presented in the readings.
Lectures were consistently good! The assignments felt very poorly motivated.
Class time were mostly lectures with some discussion of primary sources and were very engaging. Professor Flowers was very knowledgable and friendly.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	2.89	3.00	22.22%	22.22%	22.22%	11.11%	22.22%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.89	5.00	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	5.00	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.44	4.00	22.22%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.33	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.22	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.56	4.00	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	44.44%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The Prof would sometimes make mean jokes to the students like asking if anyone was sufi in the class and if they are he has a open spot in the class so they can "do their dance"for the class which was offensive. He also told a student she sounds like a mean girl herself for not liking the mean girls movie which was a little off putting.
Adam is an awesome professor and he makes this class something to look forward to. He made clear in the beginning of the quarter that he just wanted us all to pass which put a lot less stress on the students (at least me) so that the focus is on leaving each class with the main ideas we discussed rather than making sure we know every detail of what we learned.
This course was a lot less focused than Islamic Thought I, I think due to the breadth of time period covered.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	50.00%	50.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	30.00%	70.00%

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

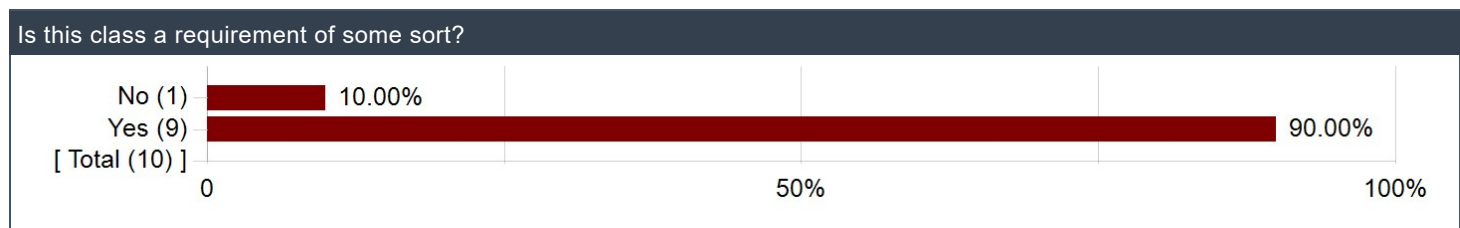| Comments |
| --- |
| Lectures effectively highlighted the most important information to retain. |
| He is very interested in students |
| His lectures. |
| His lectures were excellent' |
| He was engaging and understanding |
| Professor flowers was very engaging and did a great job contextualizing and making course content understandable. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

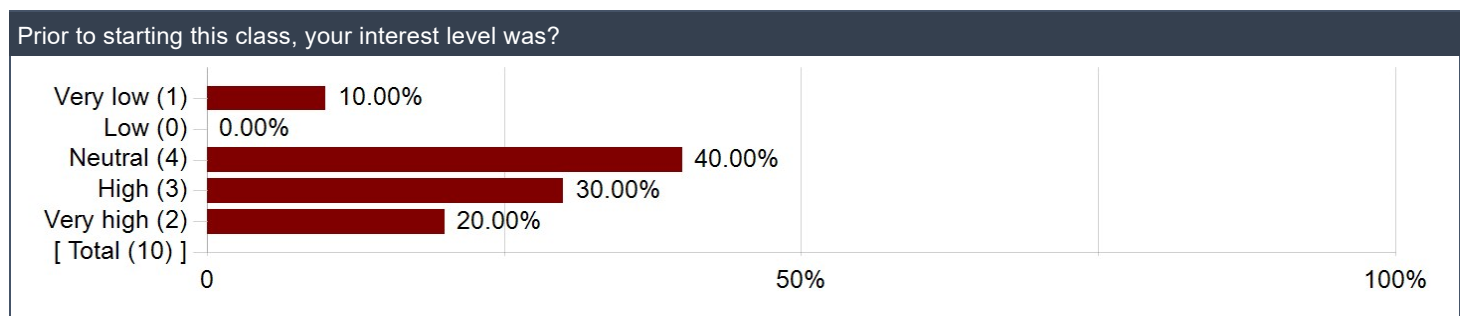| Comments |
| --- |
| Our discussions weren't always productive: often it seemed like the professor was looking for a particular answer, and it would have been more effective to just lecture if there was specific information he wanted to get across. I wish discussion had offered more of an opportunity to dig into the primary readings. I understand that this course necessarily requires a difficult balance between historical context and philosophical/literary texts, but often it felt like the primary texts took a real backseat. Relatedly, I think the syllabus could do with some modification—often we were assigned unreasonably large amounts of reading, and then very little of it was actually discussed in class, so there was little motivation to do it. It would be helpful to cut down the assigned reading, or at least mark on the syllabus what would be discussed in class and what we should focus our attention on. |
| Nothing he was great. |
| More motivated homework and readings that better aligned with what would be covered in class. Also, I think higher expectations on the students. |
| N/A |

The Instructor . . .

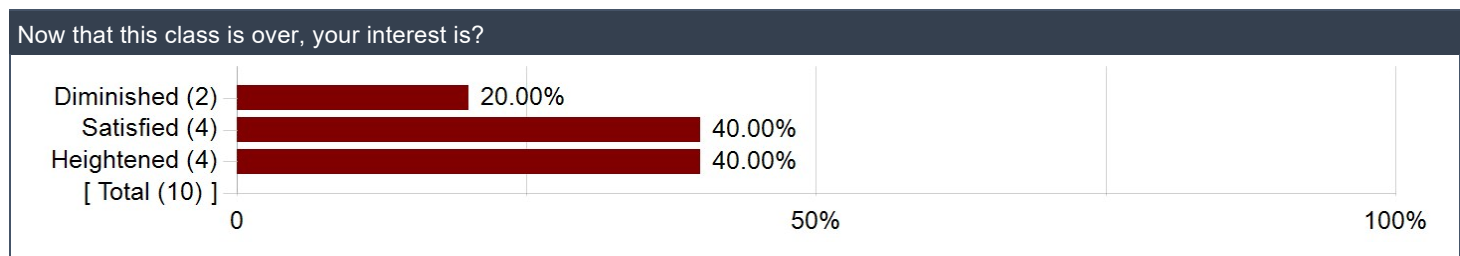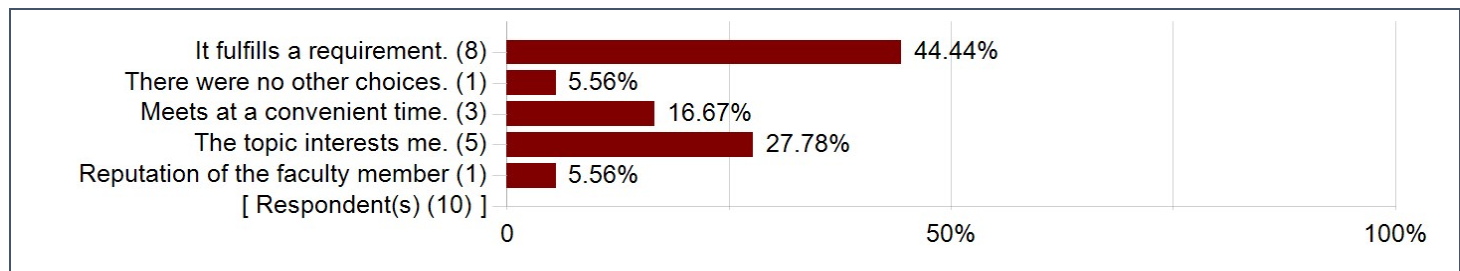|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.38	4.00	11.11%	22.22%	0.00%	33.33%	22.22%	11.11%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.25	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	11.11%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.38	4.00	22.22%	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	11.11%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.63	4.50	11.11%	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	3.00	3.00	22.22%	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	11.11%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.88	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.57	4.00	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	37.50%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.63	4.00	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	11.11%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.13	4.50	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	11.11%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.63	4.50	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	44.44%	11.11%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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No (1) — 10.00%
Yes (9) — 90.00%
[Total (10)]

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (1) — 10.00%
Low (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (4) — 40.00%
High (3) — 30.00%
Very high (2) — 20.00%
[Total (10)]

0   50%   100%

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (2) — 20.00%
Satisfied (4) — 40.00%
Heightened (4) — 40.00%
[Total (10)]

0   50%   100%

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

It fulfills a requirement. (8) — 44.44%
There were no other choices. (1) — 5.56%
Meets at a convenient time. (3) — 16.67%
The topic interests me. (5) — 27.78%
Reputation of the faculty member (1) — 5.56%
[Respondent(s) (10)]

0   50%   100%

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?
<5 hours (8) — 80.00%
5-10 hours (2) — 20.00%
10-15 hours (0) — 0.00%
15-20 hours (0) — 0.00%
20-25 hours (0) — 0.00%
25-30 hours (0) — 0.00%
>30 hours (0) — 0.00%
[Total (10)]

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?
None (0) — 0.00%
25% (0) — 0.00%
50% (0) — 0.00%
75% (2) — 20.00%
All (8) — 80.00%
[Total (10)]
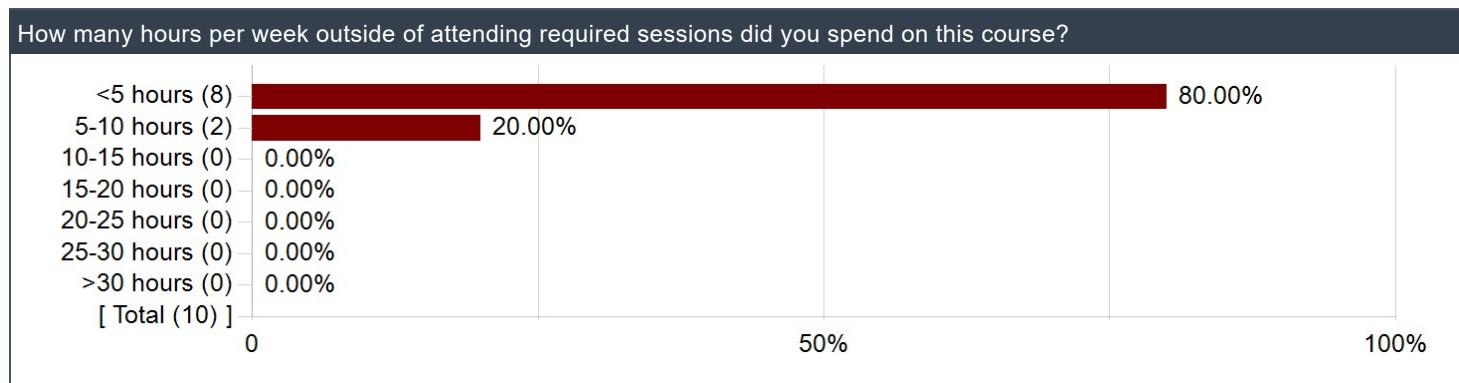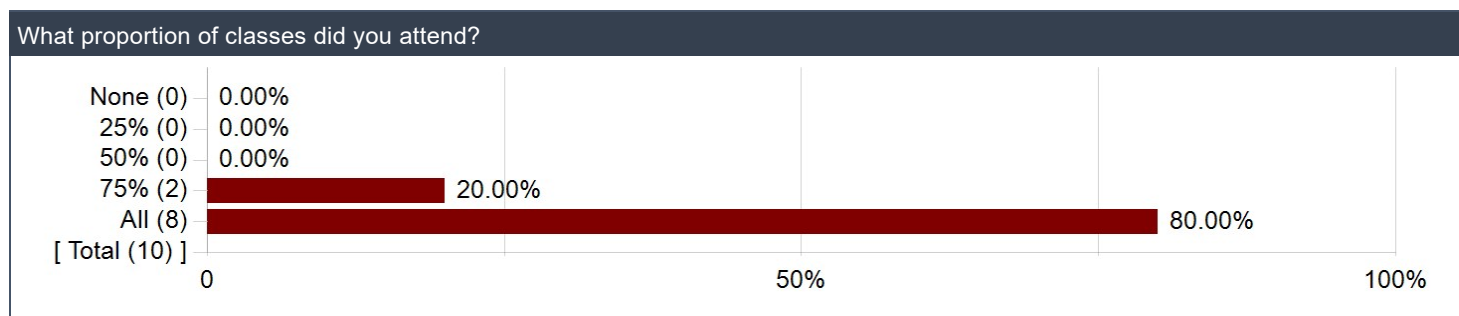
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Not difficult
easy and fun
This course is very accessible, especially with Adam. I took the first part of the sequence but it's not necessary in order to succeed in this course. I also don't have an Islamic background and that didn't affect my ability to understand the course's concepts at all.
This course was very easy, probably too easy–becayse of this, students put in on average very low effort, which made the course a worse experience.
Very doable
This course was not particularly challenging