



SALC 20100 1, ANTH 24101 1, HIST 10800 1, SOSC 23000 1, MDVL 20100 1, SALC 30100 1 - Introduction to the Civilizations of South Asia I - Instructor(s): Muzaffar Alam

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

Number Enrolled: **39**

Number of Responses: **17**

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**

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 India starting from when Islam came to the subcontinent.
south asian history specific to mughal time period
South Asian history from around 1200–1600 (but occasionally references to the present).
South Asian Civilization History, most correlated to historical time periods and moments of importance. Knowledge of the tazkira and sufi saints to improve knowledge on power dynamics with religious backing. Got a lot of professional information about how our culture is shaped the way today — very thankful for it.
We learned about pre-colonial India during the time of the Mughals and the Delhi Sultanate.
I learned about the delhi sultanate and the different religious and political structures in south asia
I learned about various religions and cultures in South Asia.
History of medieval India
india from the delhi sultanate to mughal era
Islam in India
How Islam came to India? Custodianship of Delhi over a century Sufism
Delhi sultanate + Mughal empire

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

Comments
the best part was the guest lecturer
Lectures felt almost like a stream of consciousness from Professor Alam. He really knows his stuff, but it was hard to follow.
Lectures and readings were the bulk of the learning.
Lectures were extremely interesting, Alam is a wonderful lecturer. Readings were a bit dense but not as necessary as initially thought so long as you have a frame of reference for the time period you are in.
There was no discussion. Lecture was ok.
student presentations contributed to my learning the most
Lectures were engaging. Professor Alam is very passionate about the class and that comes across in his lectures.
Lectures were interesting and student presentations were helpful.
readings were what I mostly learned from, in class there were presentations but it was easy to not pay attention; not as much discussion as I would have liked but partly because the classroom layout was not conducive to it
Peer presentations were fine.
Lectures were quite interesting provided you did the readings. Otherwise you'd just get bored because you won't get anything. Prof Alam is probably the best in the world in this field and it was truly great having him as a teacher.
The presentations made you really learn the material

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.87	4.00	0.00%	6.67%	20.00%	53.33%	20.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%	20.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.73	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	6.67%	53.33%	20.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	26.67%	13.33%	33.33%	26.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.33	4.00	6.67%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	13.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.87	4.00	0.00%	13.33%	20.00%	33.33%	33.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.44	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	43.75%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.94	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	6.25%	56.25%	25.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Great course! Very interesting and the prof and TAs clearly care a lot.
Great structure and professors! TA's helped guide the structure of the class.
This course was very poorly organized. There was no discussion and the readings felt very random. The professor would talk about random subjects often and the student presentations were the only source of learning.
Professors Alams lectures can sometimes be hard to follow although it is very clear he is very knowledgeable on the topic
Overall, the class was good.
The TAs were great
Honored to have been in Professor Alam's final class at UChicago.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	30.77%	69.23%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.14%	92.86%

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

Comments
Prof is really nice but lectures can get really boring and dragging esp if people don't have prior knowledge on the topics
The student presentations helps to add some organization to the course, which I appreciated. They really supplemented the lectures.
His lectures were great even if they often got off topic.
Lectures. His knowledge of pulling information without need of resource to relate to the course material was shocking and invigorating.
Lectures
The readings and the way he answered questions
The lectures and student presentations contributed most to my learning.
He was clearly knowledgeable about the topic and passionate.
Professor Alam is so cool, he's super knowledgeable and discusses topics of interest
He got into great depth about each topic
His long winded rants
You can tell that Prof Alam is an exceptional scholar in his field and extremely knowledgeable. It was a privilege to have been able to listen to his lectures!

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Perhaps there could be a more open or organized discussion, because it was very easy to get lost during the lectures.
make it more interactive so people are actually motivated to do the readings!
More structure. PLEASE.
Maybe some more hands on application? Secondary sources would be beneficial in shaping our view of times rather than trying to adapt to primary sources.
Could have organized presentations and topics and lectured us on the history of India. We also could receive feedback. It is finals week and we have still not received a single grade pertaining to our work in this class.
lecture in a more chronological order
I think lectures could be long at times and prevent students from finishing their presentations on time. Decreasing lecture length and increasing time available for presentations would probably be good.
Facilitate discussions more.
More student on student discussion time

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.57	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	21.43%	42.86%	21.43%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.43	4.00	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.08	4.00	23.08%	0.00%	23.08%	53.85%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.77	4.00	0.00%	23.08%	7.69%	38.46%	30.77%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.54	4.00	7.69%	15.38%	7.69%	53.85%	15.38%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.77	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	46.15%	23.08%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.91	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	46.15%	15.38%	15.38%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.77	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	53.85%	15.38%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.08	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	53.85%	30.77%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.38	4.00	0.00%	23.08%	15.38%	61.54%	0.00%	0.00%

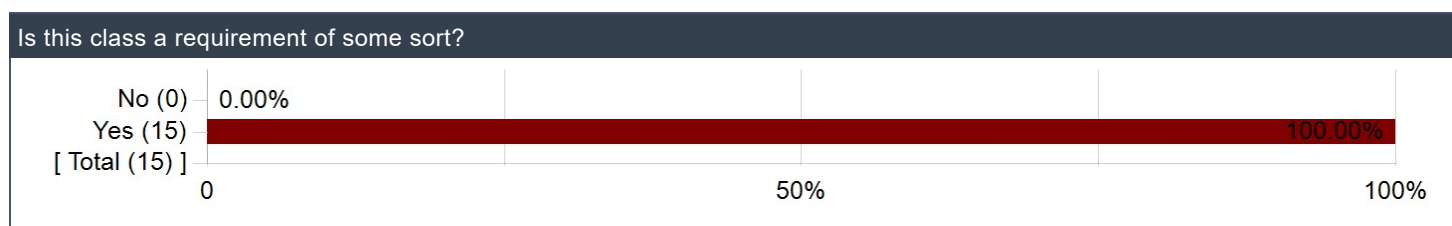
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Arjun Bhattacharya and Ihsan UI-Ihthisam; They were helpful keeping the lectures more organized and understanding the details and reminding the professor of important topics.
Arjun and Ihsan
Arjun and Ihsan
Arjun, Ihsan
Arjun Bhattacharya and Ihsan UI-Ihthisam – Arjun was a great TA, helped guide class directions in the right path. Ihsan helped to start class with additional resources and make sure we got off on the right foot. Ihsan helped to start, Arjun helped to progress. If there was some way we could conclude the class in a more finalized way rather than extra resources, that would have been great, but for the time we had it was perfect.
Arjun Bhattacharya Ihsan UI-Ihthisam Chappangan
Ihsan and Arjun both helped organize the class and Ihsan was very helpful and quick to respond to email
Arjun – he was very kind and approachable. Was always willing to answer questions and provide feedback on graded work.
Arjun Bhattacharya
Arjun and Ihsan were super helpful and knowledgeable. They organized the course well and made it interesting
Solid, caring TAs
Ihsan, Arjun Great TAs. No negative feedback. Arjun took extra effort to make sure that class everyday followed a set agenda. He was always available for questions.
Arjun +Ihsan
Arjun Bhattacharya and Ihsan UI-Ihthisam

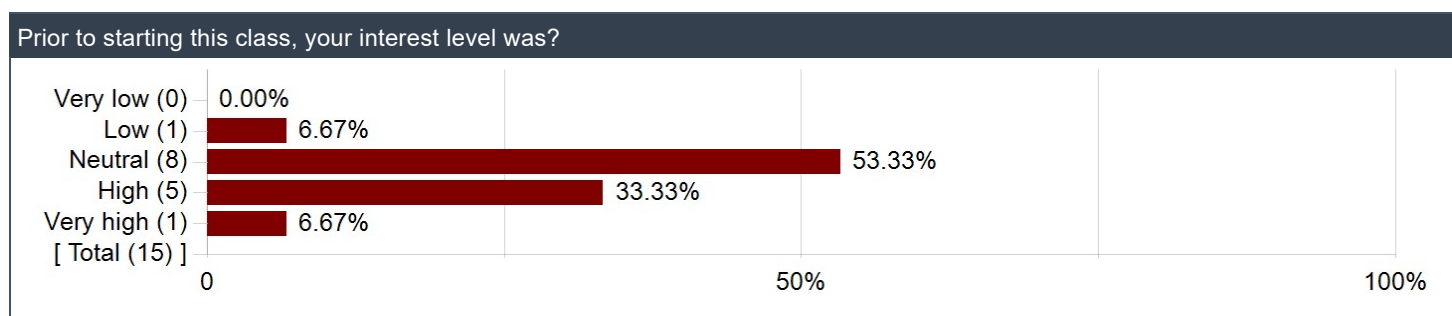
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	30.77%	53.85%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.15	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	30.77%	46.15%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.31	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	38.46%	46.15%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	38.46%	53.85%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	38.46%	53.85%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	38.46%	53.85%	0.00%

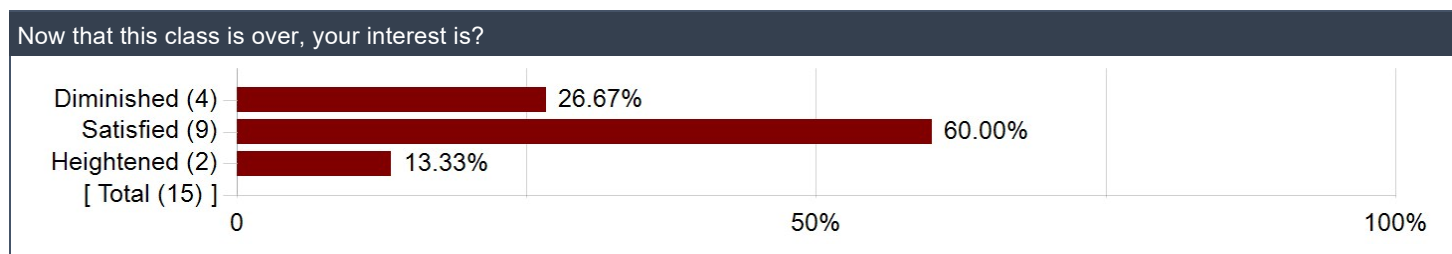
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



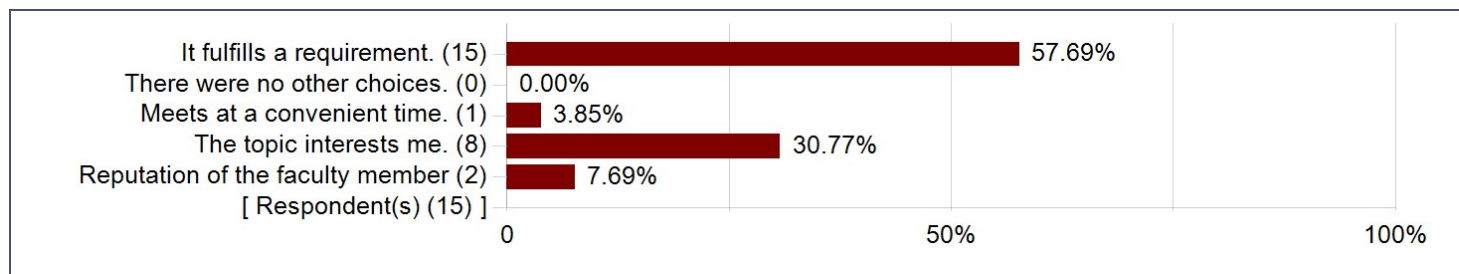
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



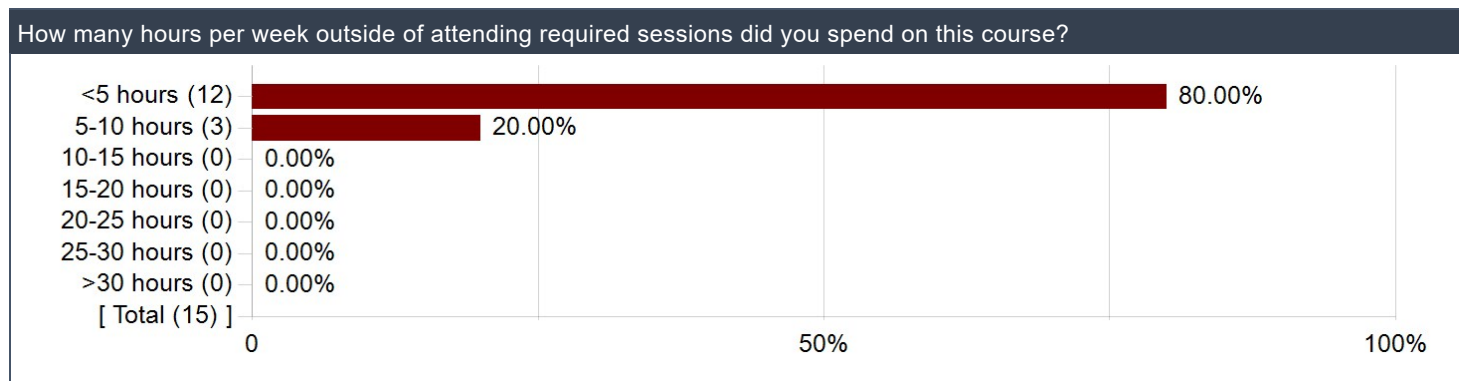
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



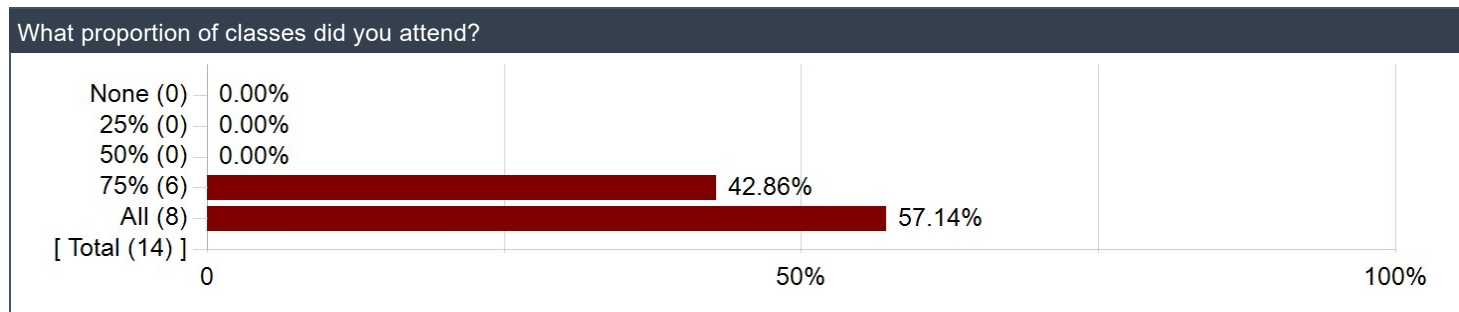
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
you need to have some bg knowledge to understand stuff
Coming from a non–South Asian background, having some knowledge of Hindi, Persian, or Arabic would help being successful in this class. There are times when it feels like the class collectively laughs at a joke but I don't understand because I don't speak Hindi :(
Very fair and good difficulty — never felt guilty not knowing something if the professor helped to clear it up. Great class, very managable!
Not difficult at all
Class is not too diffucult and the midterm was faily straight forward and you can pick your own topic for the final paper
The course was good.
It was fine for all levels of background
Grading scheme was easy. Just one final paper and a take home midterm. The paper is just research and writing like you do for hume
Not difficult at all – slightly monotonous