



# PERS 20101 1, PERS 20101 1 - Intermediate Persian I - Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **11**

Number of Responses: **7**

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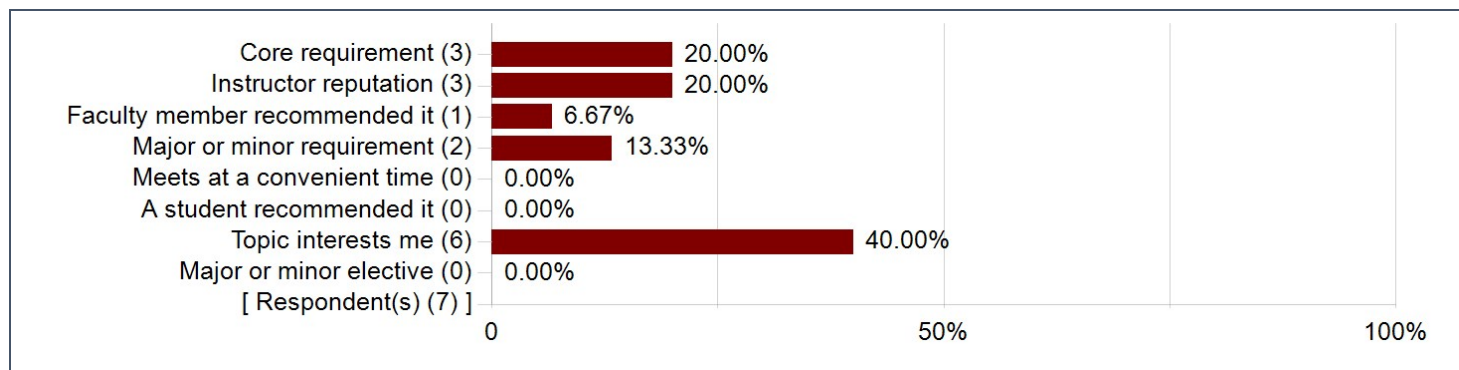
## Report Comments

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

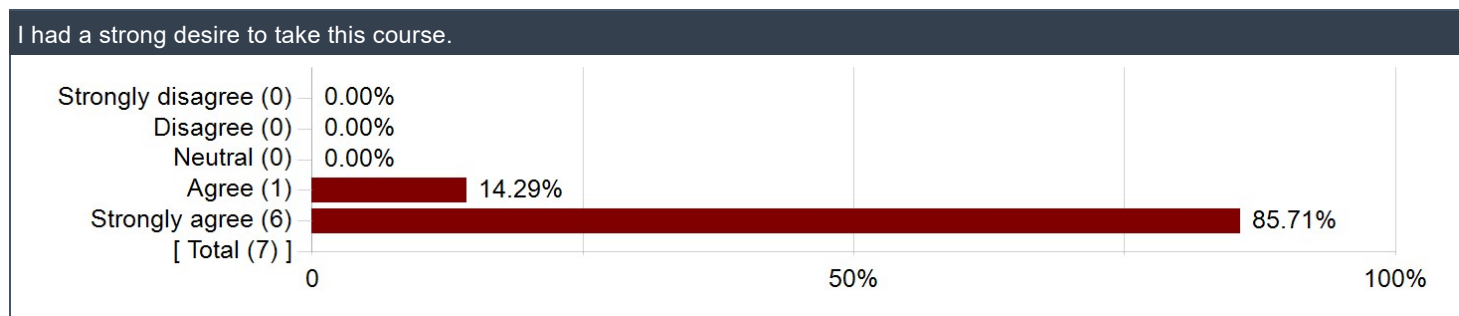
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Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

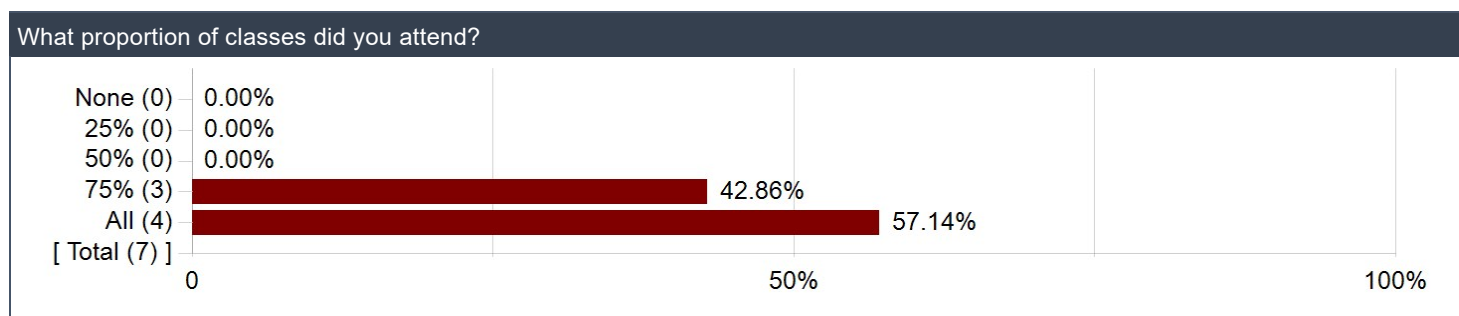
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



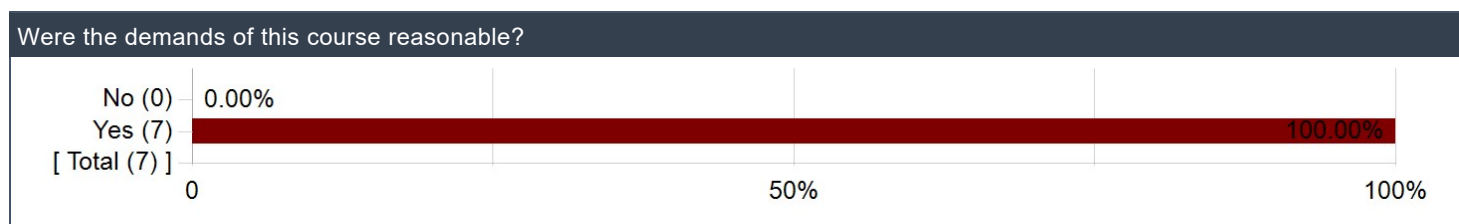
### I had a strong desire to take this course.



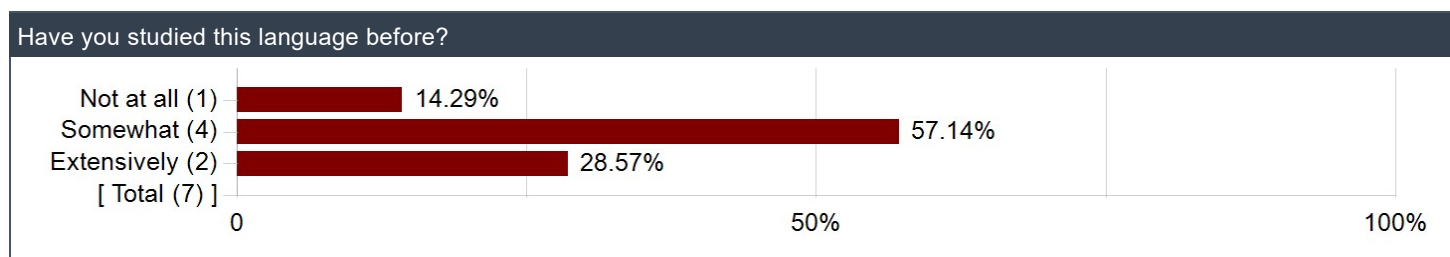
### What proportion of classes did you attend?



### Were the demands of this course reasonable?



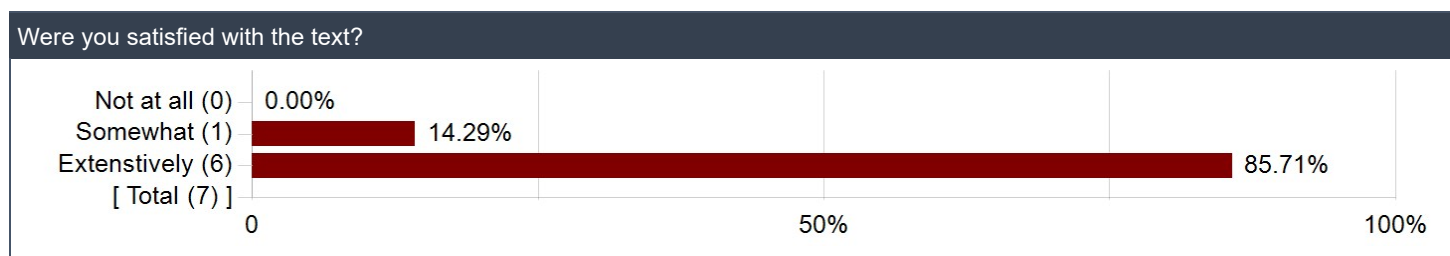
## Have you studied this language before?



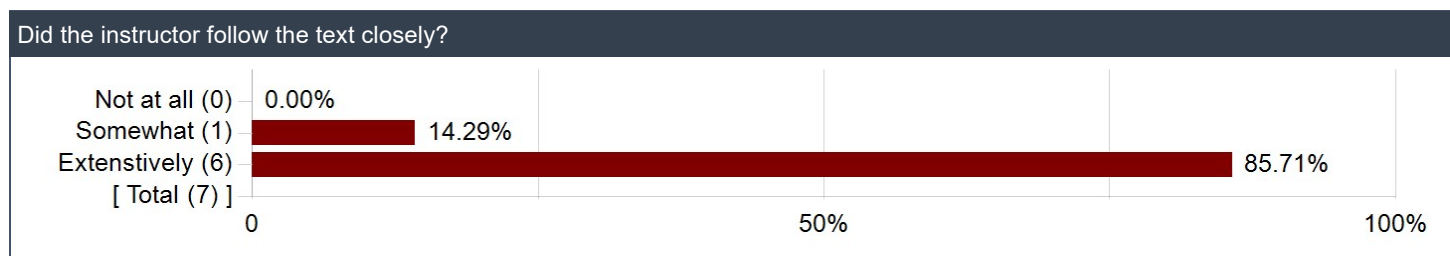
## Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	5.00	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%
Spelling	4.71	6.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	57.14%
Reading	5.43	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	71.43%
Writing	5.43	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	71.43%
Grammar	4.86	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%	57.14%
Vocabulary	4.86	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%	57.14%

## Were you satisfied with the text?



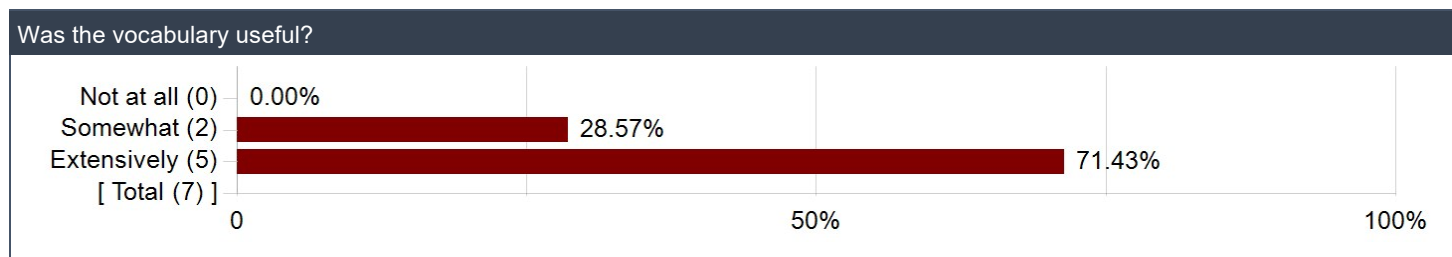
## Did the instructor follow the text closely?



## Explain:

Comments
The text is co-written by the Professor, and she follows it closely. It is an excellent textbook.
Yes
Even with previous language experience, I felt my confidence with the language was heightened.
The professor has developed this text. It was easier to use than the previous year. However, I still felt that the format of each chapter could be confusing at times. I would have liked a comprehensive vocabulary and/or grammar section at the beginning and the end. The first section could be a review of the grammar and key vocabulary from the previous book, and the last section could be a summary of key terms/concepts/grammar we should be able to complete at the end of the quarter

## Was the vocabulary useful?

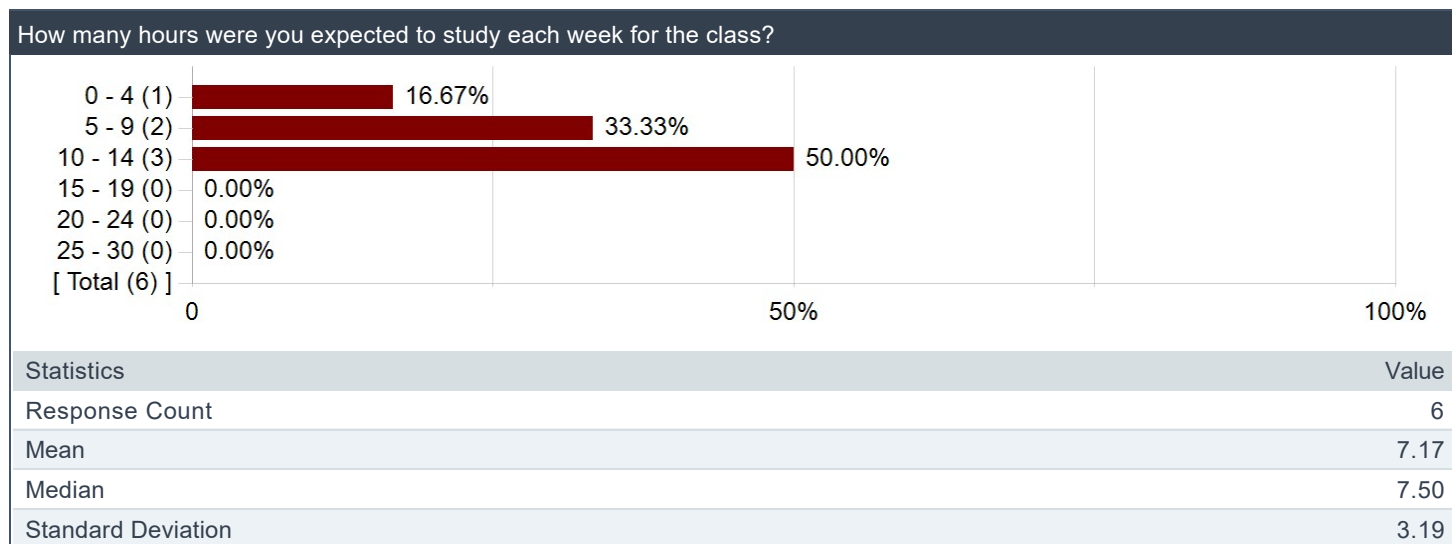


## Why?

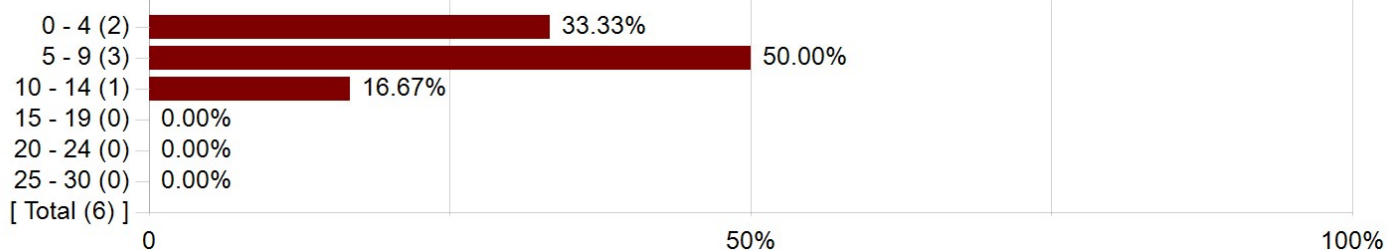
Comments
It focused on practicality
It will help me converse about different topics.
We would review vocabulary once in class, and then some vocabulary would be used in the texts we read. Otherwise, it was not as helpful because we didn't really see the vocabulary used in context. One exercise we could do for class would be to utilize more key words in class, or in our writing/diaries

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

Comments
Each class period is divided into a number of dynamic activities, including group work, reading aloud, comprehension questions, mini-lectures, and role-playing dialogues. Dynamic and brisk are the terms that come to mind. I really like how the class keeps us on our toes in the way that immersion in Iran would.
Mix format
Lecture, drills
We went through the lessons as a class and also had outside content. It was productive because we all had a chance to practice, while being able to listen to native speakers.
We followed a clear structure with class, where we would watch a video at the beginning and then go through exercises. This format was productive in that I would not have understood how to do many of the grammar exercises (like filling out the tables) on my own. Some, like the fill in the blank or conjunction exercises were easy enough, but when working with broken plurals in Arabic I would have liked more insight.

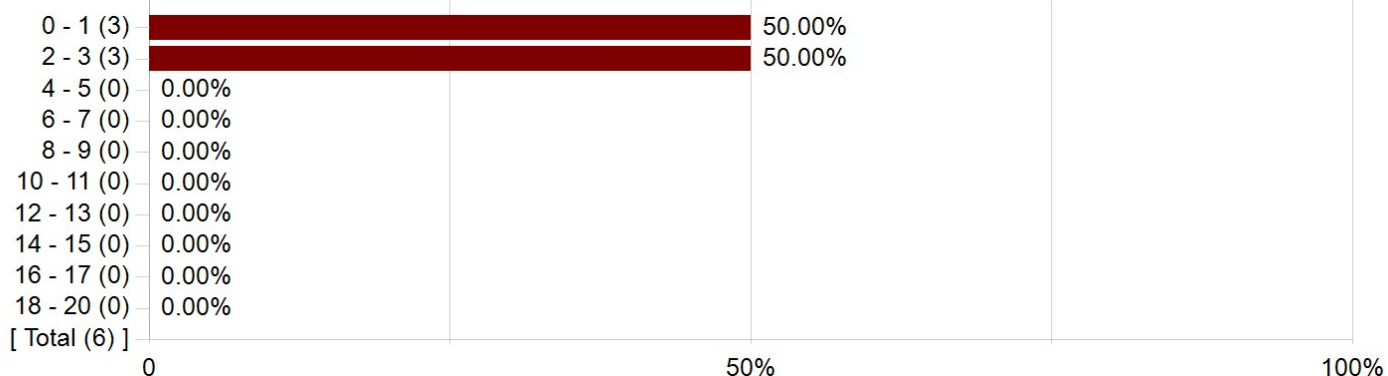


### How many hours did you spend?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	5.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	2.80

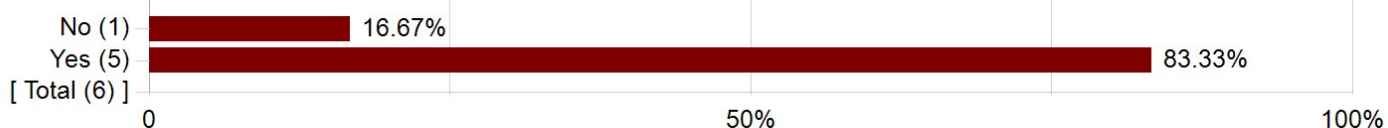
### How many written quizzes were given?



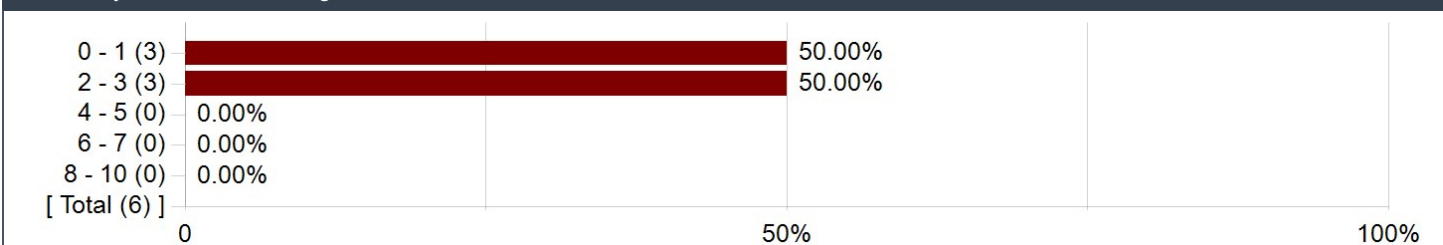
Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	1.50
Median	1.50
Standard Deviation	0.55

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

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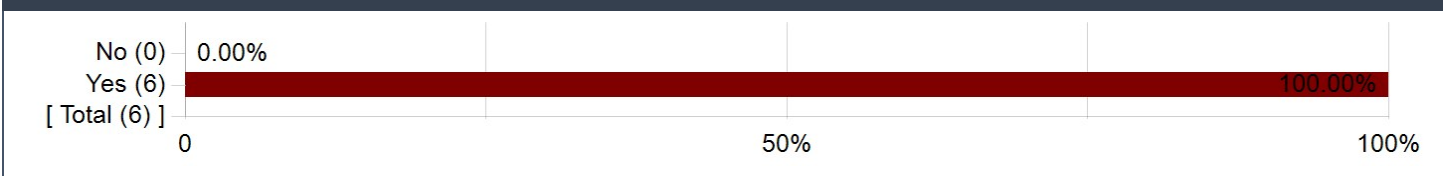
### How many oral exams were given?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	1.50
Median	1.50
Standard Deviation	0.55

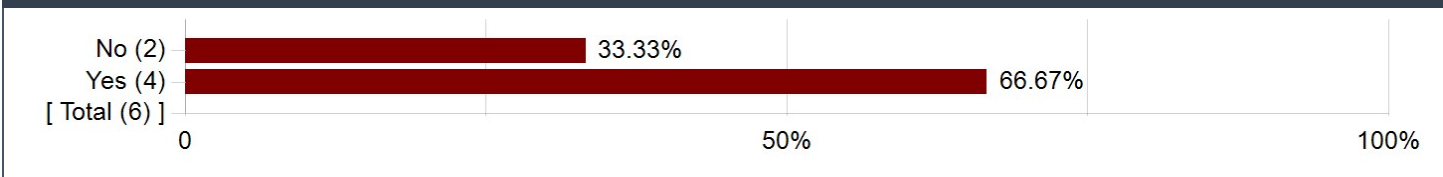
### Were the oral exams fair?

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### Were the oral exams challenging?

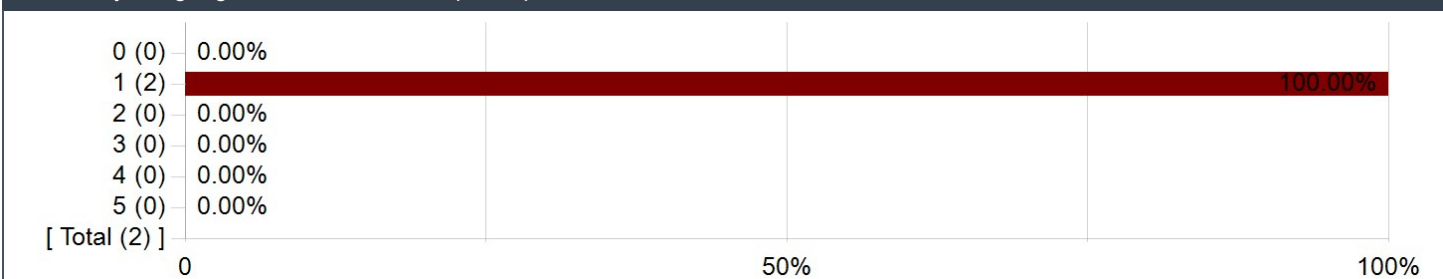
#### Were the oral exams challenging?



### Why? Please be specific.

Comments
The oral exams cover some topics from the textbook which are fairly specific, definitely recognizable as intermediate-level conversations. In this exams, Dr. Shabani-Jadidi prioritizes having us continue to speak as long as possible, rather than stopping us to correct minor mistakes. She helps if we can't remember this or that word. I found the oral exams a satisfying and confidence-building experience.
For people like me, speaking another language is very difficult. So, I am not a fair measure.
Personally, I have a lot of experience speaking Persian, but could be harder for others (even though expectations seemed fair)
It is always hard to tell how/in what way I am going to be evaluated. The professor says that she grades and asks questions based on how well she thinks we are do/what it would take to challenge us. As a result, I do feel a lot of anxiety leading up to these exams because I know that I can communicate well but am sometimes concerned I will be challenged more than my peers because of that, and then may not do as well.

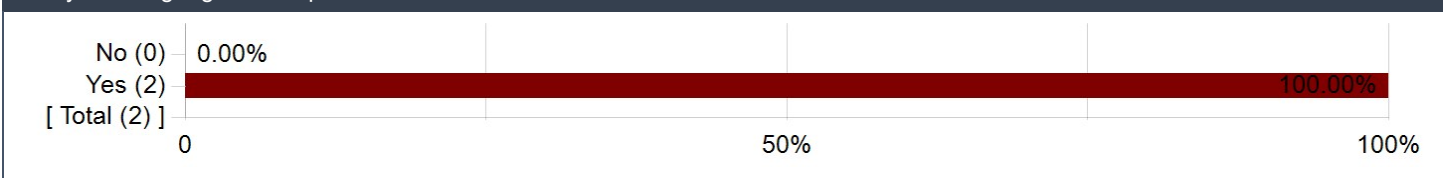
### How many Language Lab hours were required per week?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	2
Mean	1.00
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.00

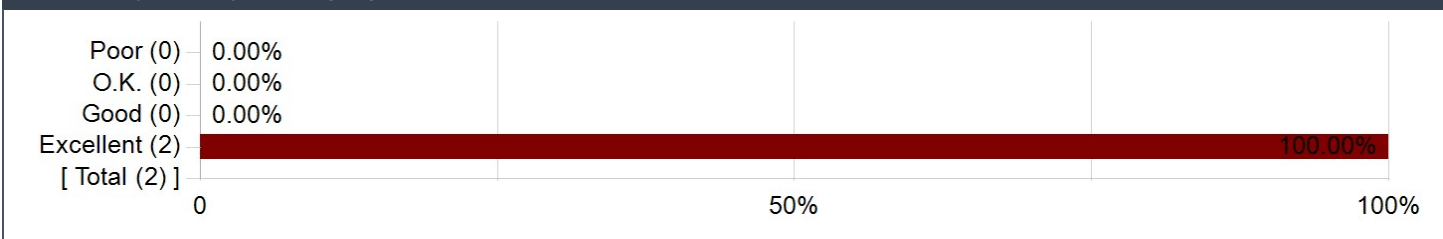
### Was your Language Lab experience useful?

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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
Natakallam – Great as always.
The outside activities weren't required, but I tried to attend a decent amount of films. Offside is one of the best films I've seen in any language, that may be the highlight of the quarter.
Persian Circle, lectures, etc...
Films, lectures
There were some extra credit assignments (Persian Circles and table discussions) which were interesting in the content they provided.
We have Persian Film and Persian conversation we are encouraged to attend. Both of these are fantastic ways to learn more about the culture, as well as to challenge our knowledge of the language in context. I hope that soon I will start to actually understand the Persian lectures!

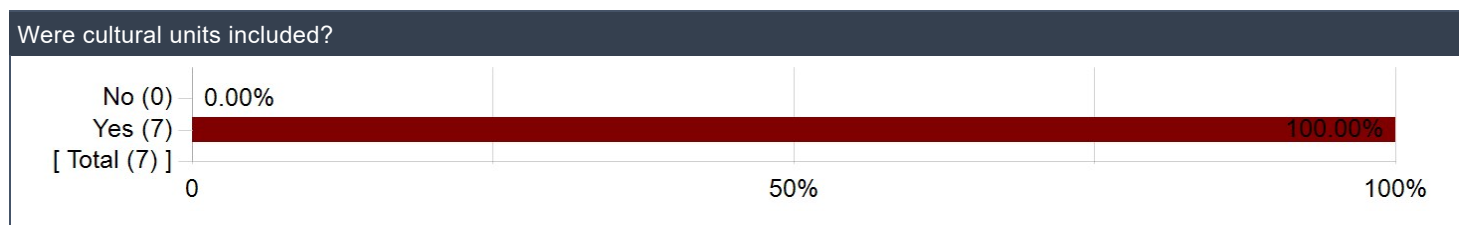
## Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%

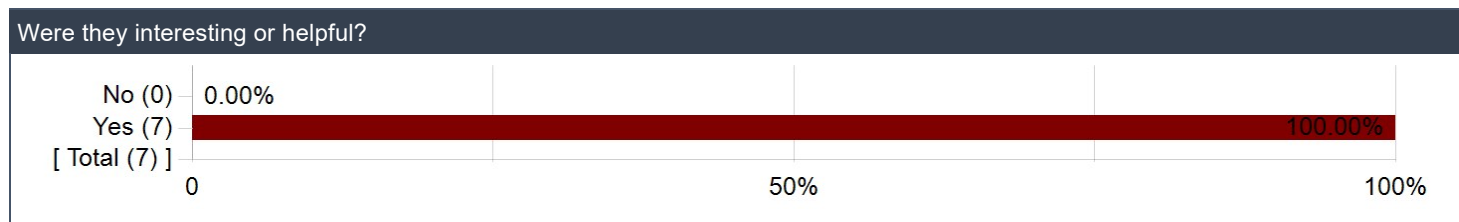
## Explain

Comments
All assignments are on Canvas before the quarter begins. The professor always provides feedback for homework and exams in a timely manner. She is prepared for every lesson and manages the pace and class time very well.
Instructor works with the text she created, so it follows a fairly predictable course.

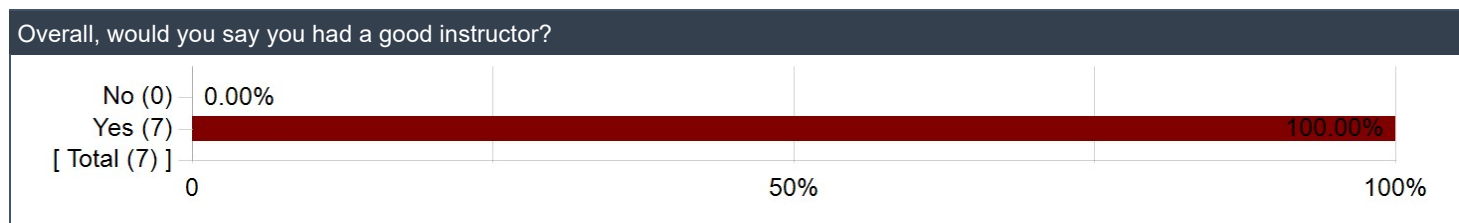
## Were cultural units included?



## Were they interesting or helpful?



## Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?

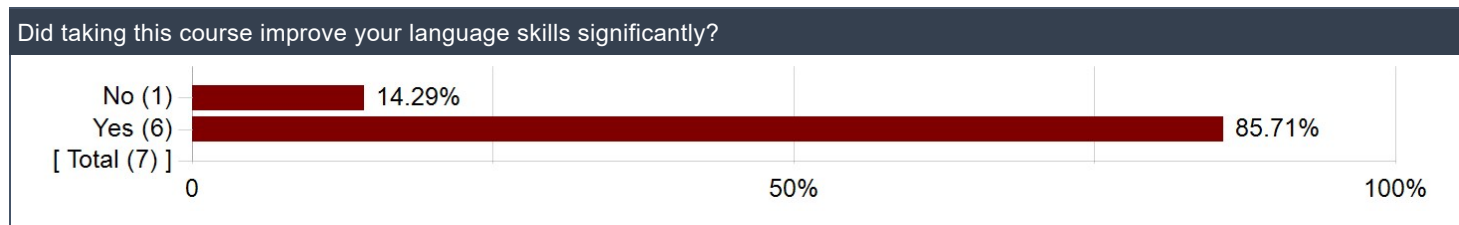


## Why?

Comments
The professor is probably the best language instructor I have ever had. She is very passionate, organized, and accommodating.
Professor Shabani-Jadidi is incredibly organized, responsive, encouraging, and puts the right amount of pressure to keep us motivated. I hope that she stays at U Chicago as long as possible! I truly can't think of any way in which she could improve as a faculty member or as an instructor
You can tell she cares about her students
She is very helpful, understanding, and fun to learn from.
Professor is incredibly interested in the interests, growth and well-being of her students. One of the best professors I have had at UChicago.



## Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



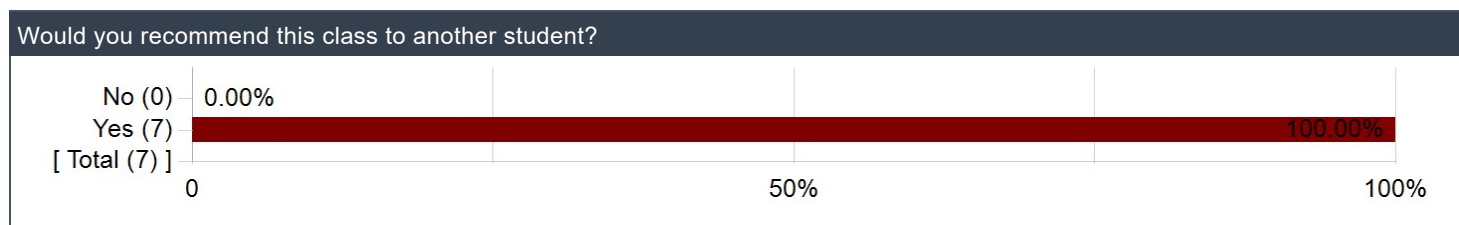
## In what way?

Comments
Last academic year I remember that in the Natakallam sessions, I couldn't really get by without English. This time, I generally could. My priority is speaking, and the course has been great in that regard.
I feel more confident speaking and writing has improved
I was already quite fluent in Persian
I feel much more confident giving presentations and writing essays in Persian. I think at the beginning, many of these assignments felt like way too much, too soon. Now that I am more advanced in the language, these assignments feel much more manageable and an actual measure of my ability, rather than feeling like an overly difficult challenge.

## How would you improve this course?

Comments
n/a
I would do a doodle poll to gauge what time works for everyone to meet for the movie screenings and conversation table
I would restructure a lot of the textbook to function as a more clear outline of grammar and vocabulary, and have a separate book for reading sections. I would also ensure that the vocabulary introduced is relevant to the course, and is actually being deployed in class

## Would you recommend this class to another student?



## Why?

Comments
Everyone seemed to gain confidence in working with the Persian language
Persian is a wonderful language, and this professor is fantastic.