



# ARAB 10103 1, ARAB 10103 1 - Elementary Arabic III - Instructor(s) - Aidan Kaplan

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

Number Enrolled: **14**

Number of Responses: **7**

---

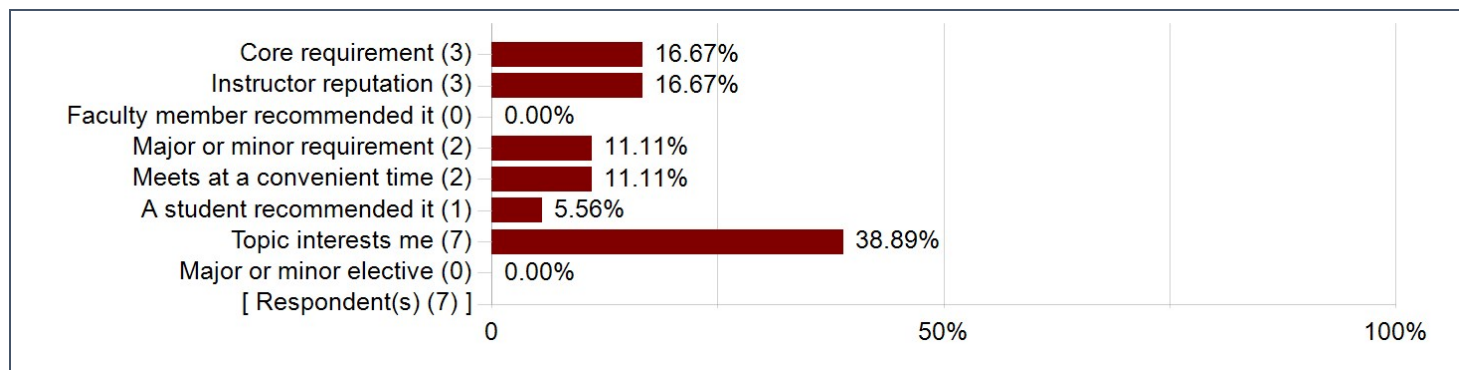
## Report Comments

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

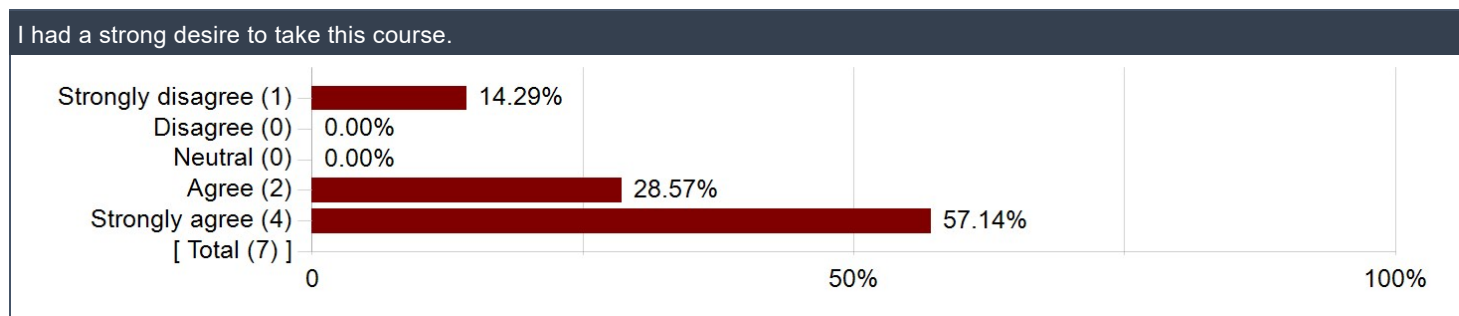
---

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

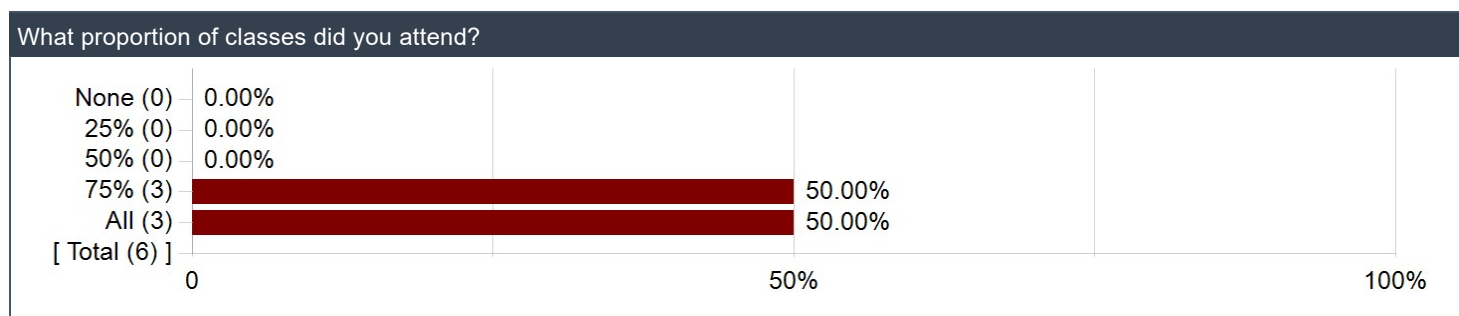
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



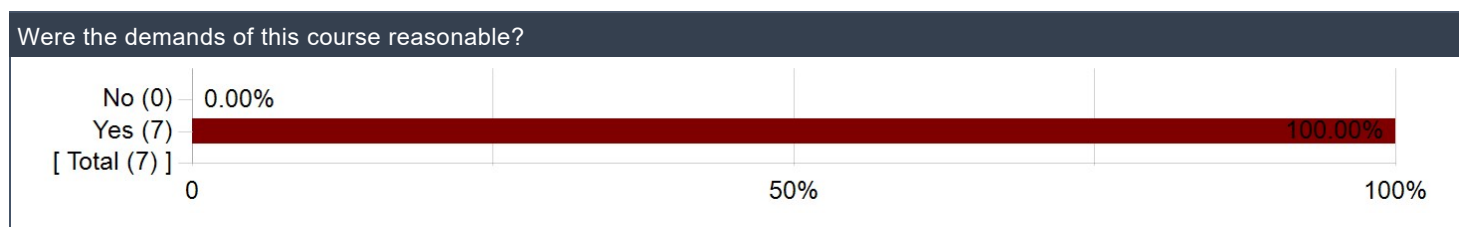
### I had a strong desire to take this course.



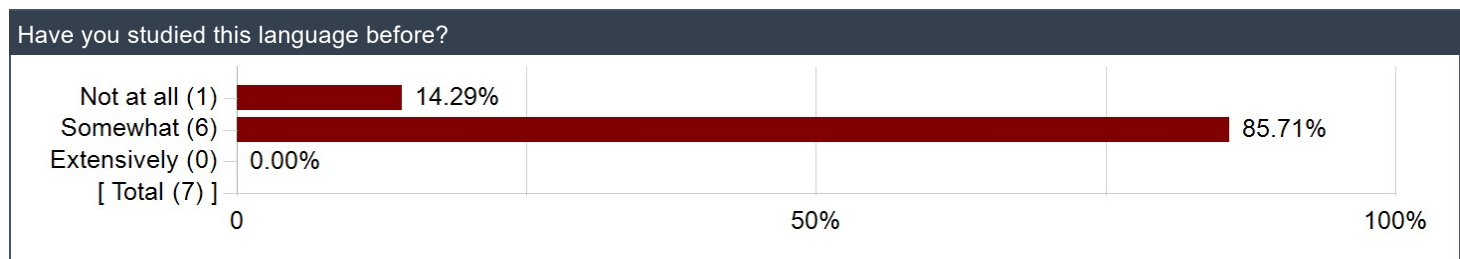
### What proportion of classes did you attend?



### Were the demands of this course reasonable?



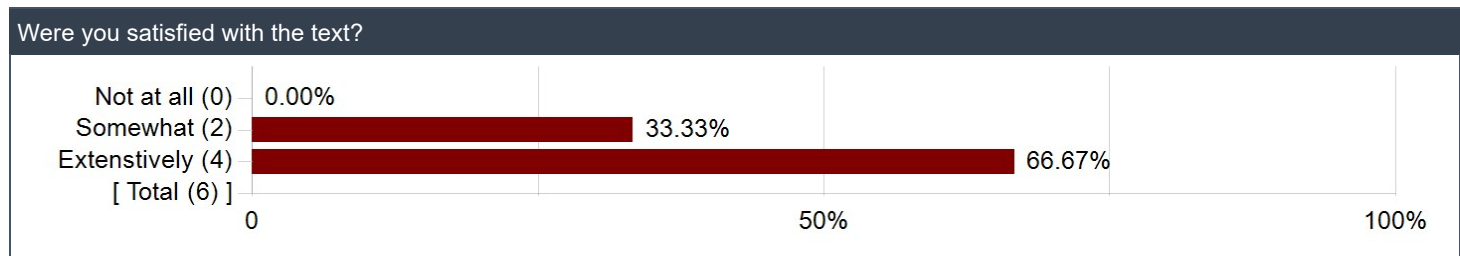
## Have you studied this language before?



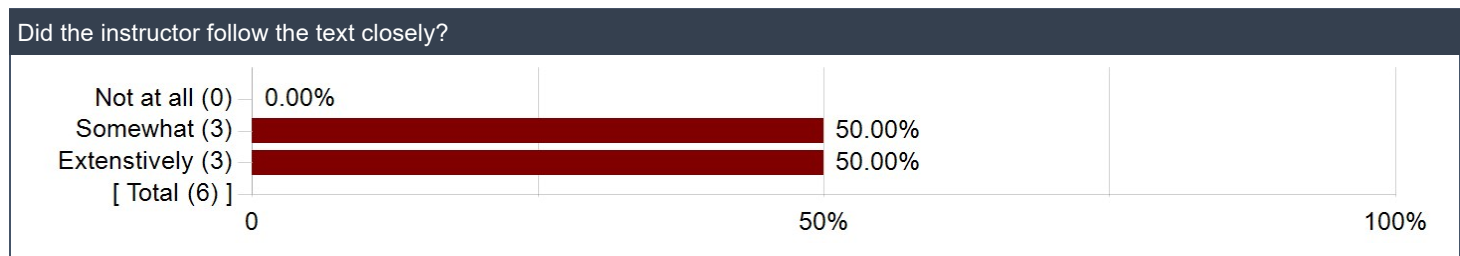
## Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Spelling	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Reading	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%
Writing	5.50	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%
Grammar	4.83	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	16.67%	33.33%
Vocabulary	5.17	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%

## Were you satisfied with the text?



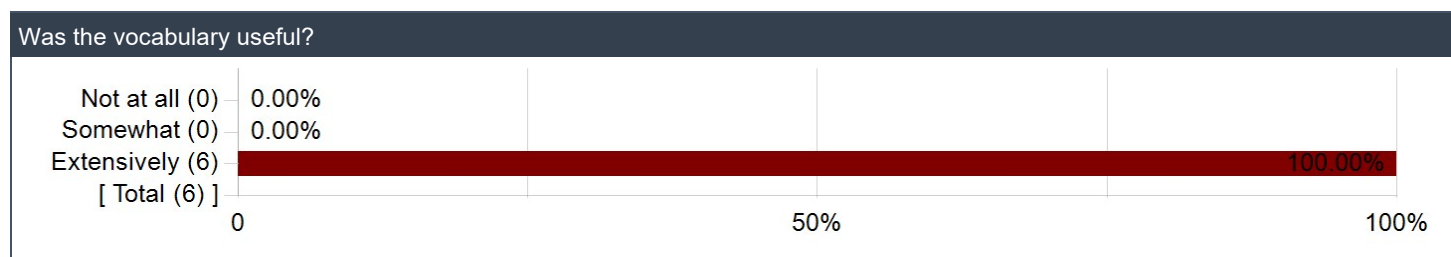
## Did the instructor follow the text closely?



## Explain:

Comments
AlKitaab is an excellent text and was used in a fitting manner by the professor

## Was the vocabulary useful?

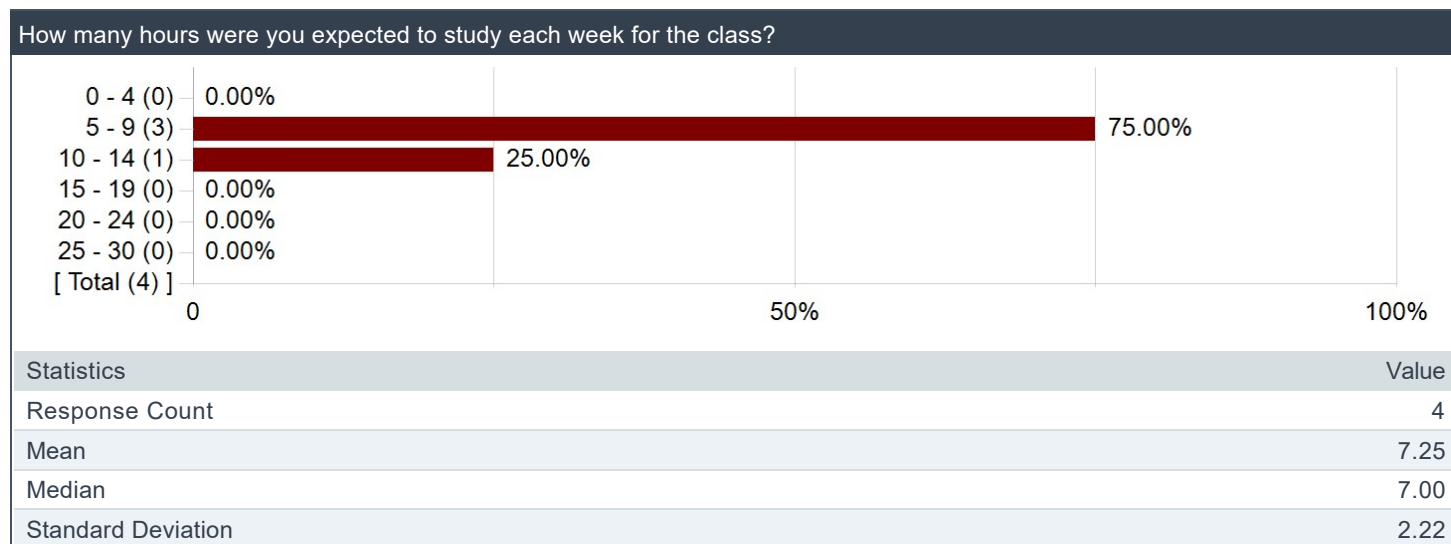


## Why?

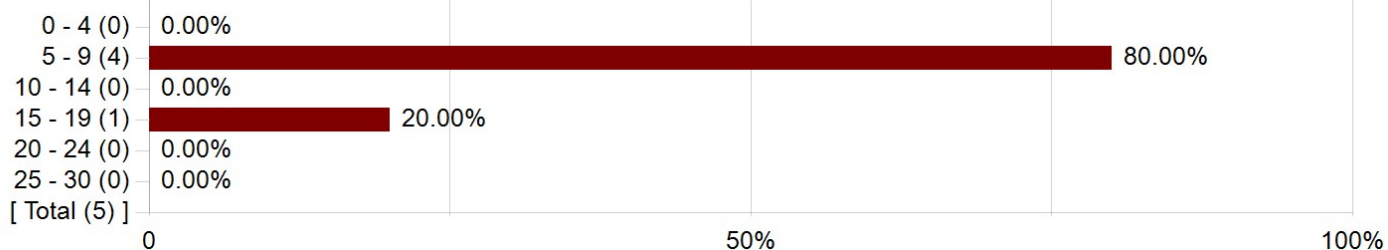
Comments
It is all vocabulary that could be used in real life

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

Comments
We always started with talking drills, then went over lessons together that depending on the day drilled reading, writing, vocabulary, or grammar.
Each class we cover about 3 activities, either from the textbook (Al-Kitaab) or supplemental ones Ustaaz Aidan selected from other sources. They were very well organized and I think the combination is very productive!

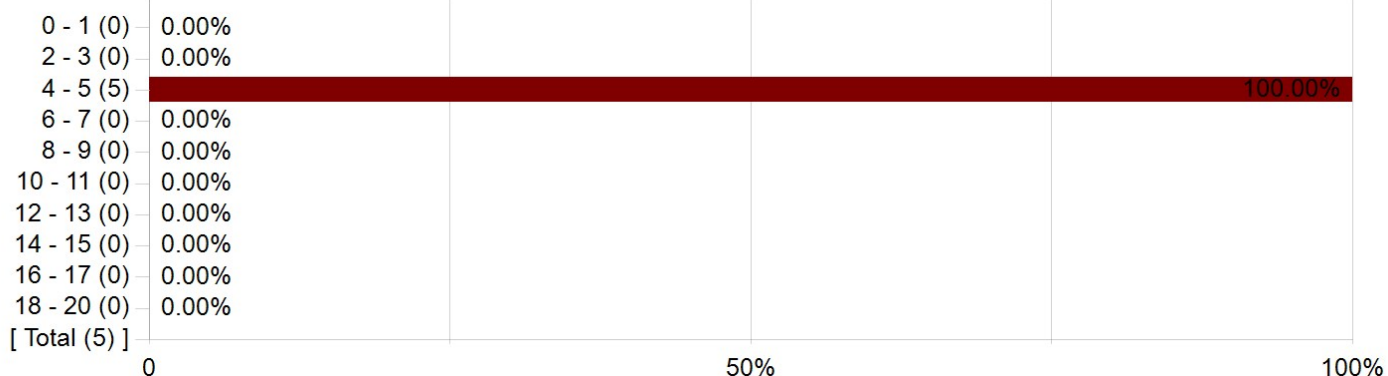


#### How many hours did you spend?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	7.60
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	4.22

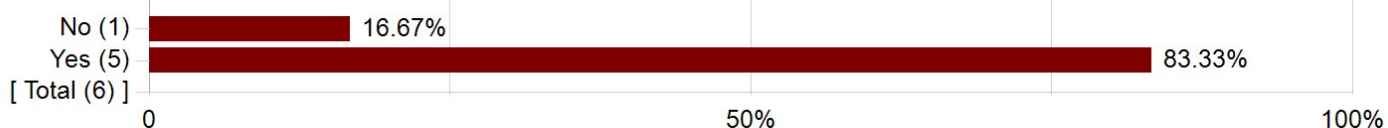
#### How many written quizzes were given?



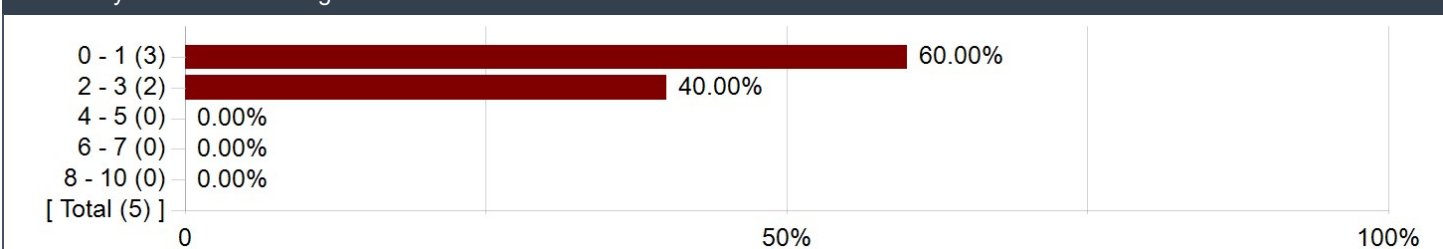
Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	4.40
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.55

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

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



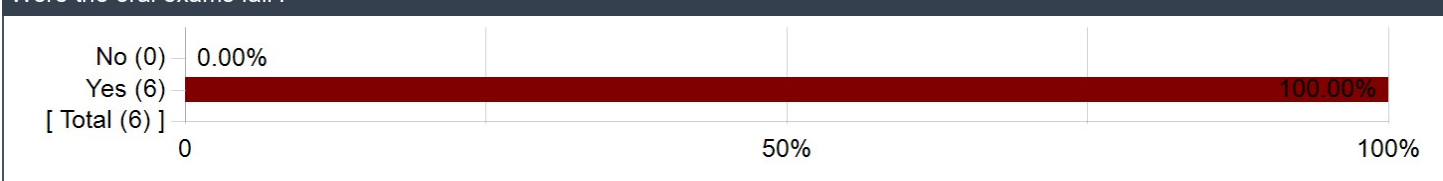
### How many oral exams were given?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	1.80
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.10

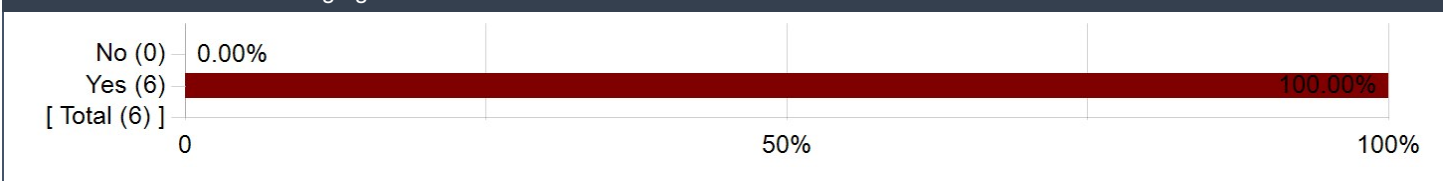
### Were the oral exams fair?

#### Were the oral exams fair?



### Were the oral exams challenging?

#### Were the oral exams challenging?



### Why? Please be specific.

#### Comments

They were the right amount of challenging.

The oral exam has two parts: conversation and role play. For the role play, I definitely relied on Arabic I learned outside of the course, so I thought it was a little challenging because of that. That being said, the topics being covered are all addressed in class, so as long as one practices a little before heading in, everything should be fine.

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

#### Comments

2 cultural activities

We were required to attend two events of our choosing outside of class time

Two extracurricular activities related to Arabic or Arab culture, three Natakallam Sessions

There were three required Natakallam sessions. I found those very helpful for practicing dialect. In addition, there were two required extracurricular activities (but we can choose which two among the various events). I ended up going to more than two (specifically, two translation lectures, a film screening and a concert), and as someone who have minimal exposure to Arabic culture, I found these events very enjoyable and informative – I recognized some of the vocabularies I learned in the process on the final.

Natakallam was an awesome opportunity to practice arabic with native speakers.

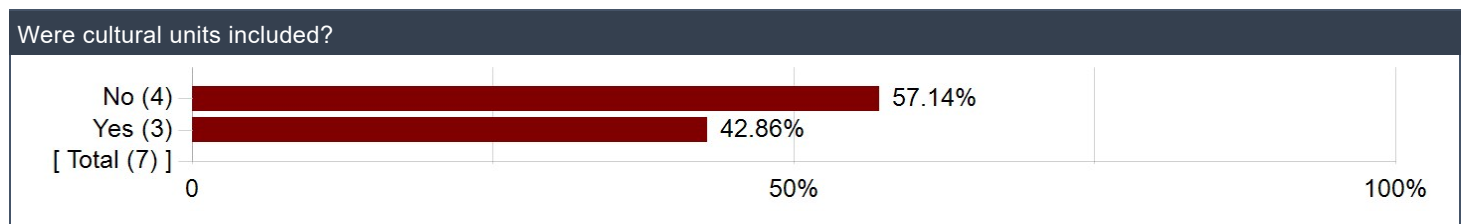
## Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%

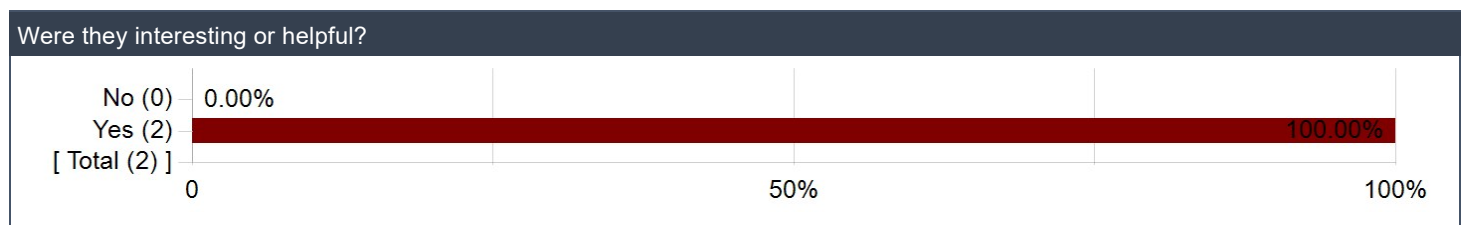
## Explain

Comments
Ustaaz Aidan always comes to the class very well-prepared and has a clear agenda of what he wants to cover with us for a specific day.

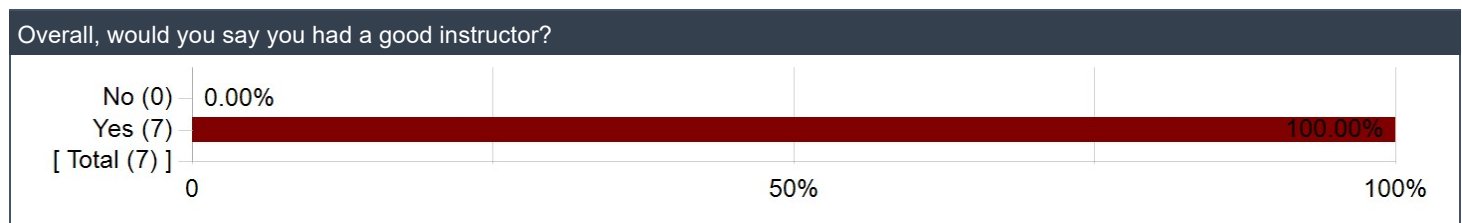
## Were cultural units included?



## Were they interesting or helpful?



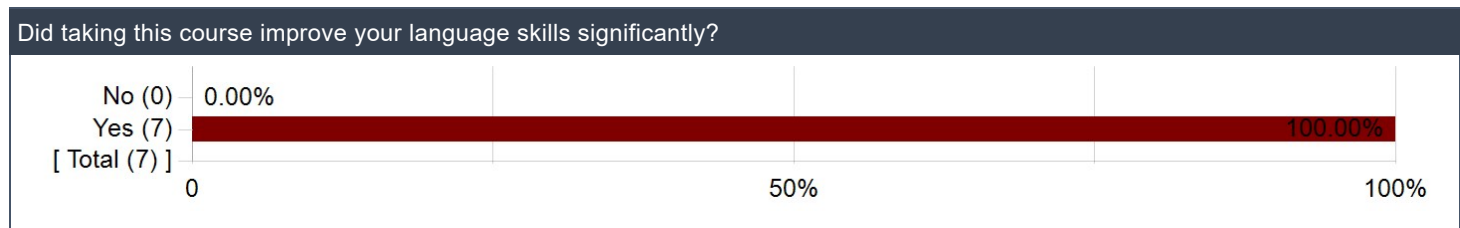
## Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



## Why?

Comments
Aidan is the best! Very passionate, helpful, and understanding.
Ustaadh Aidan was amazing, he explained nuances of the language clearly, assigned projects and assignments that tangibly improved my language skills, and made class time an enjoyable experience.
Ustaaz Aidan is hands down one of the best professors I had at UChicago! Always cheerful and very very generous with his time – my Arabic would not be remotely close to where it is right now without all his help in class and during OH. Also very methodological in his pedagogy – per his suggestions, I gained a lot of good language-learning habits, and those by themselves are already invaluable.
While there were moments when the amount of work was annoying, I learned so much and am very grateful for Aiden. Take this class if you really want to learn Arabic and you will.

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



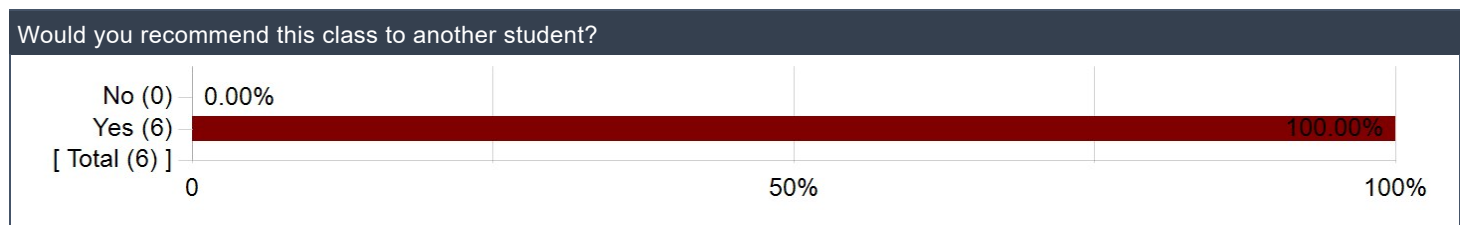
## In what way?

Comments
I spoke no Arabic before and now I do
More comfortable speaking and faster reading
For this quarter, there is an emphasis on writing. We wrote 6 compositions and peer-edited them in class every Monday. During this process, aside from reviewing vocabularies and grammar from Al-Kitaab, I grew a lot more comfortable with writing complete sentences, which also helped with speaking.

## How would you improve this course?

Comments
Honestly, given the time constraints, not much. One thing I have in mind is that since this quarter put an emphasis on writing, I have the impression that we reduced our speaking exercises and time. But 1) that is not backed by data and may be just me imagining things and 2) again, given the time constraints, I do not see any good ways to change this. Maybe something similar to the Sahlawayhi recordings (as extra credit)?

## Would you recommend this class to another student?



## Why?

Comments
Fantastic class, excellent professor. If you are remotely interested in continuing the language, take this with Ustaaz Aidan. I cannot recommend enough.