



HEBR 20501 1, HEBR 20501 1, JWSC 25300 1 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew I - Instructor(s): Ehud Har Even

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

Number Enrolled: **7**

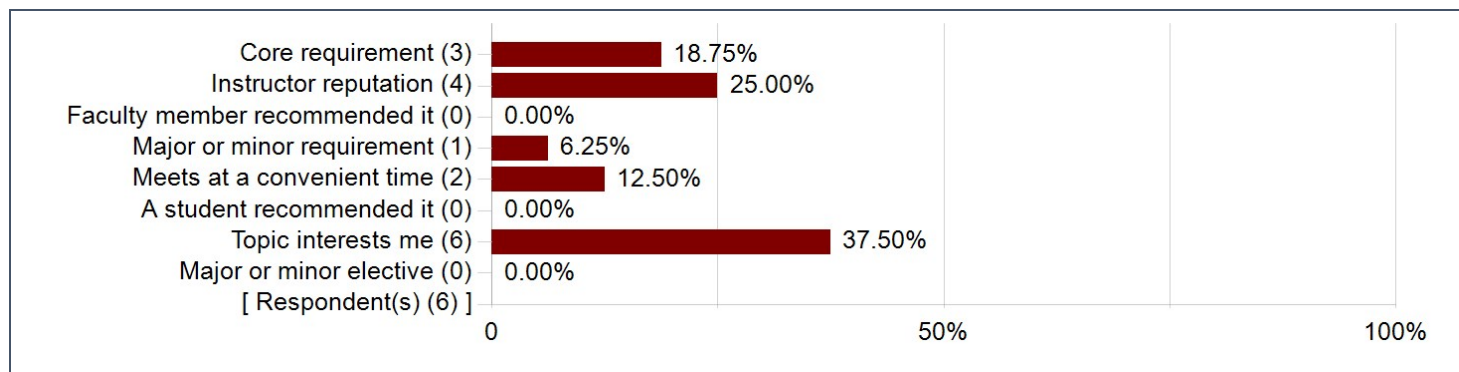
Number of Responses: **6**

Report Comments

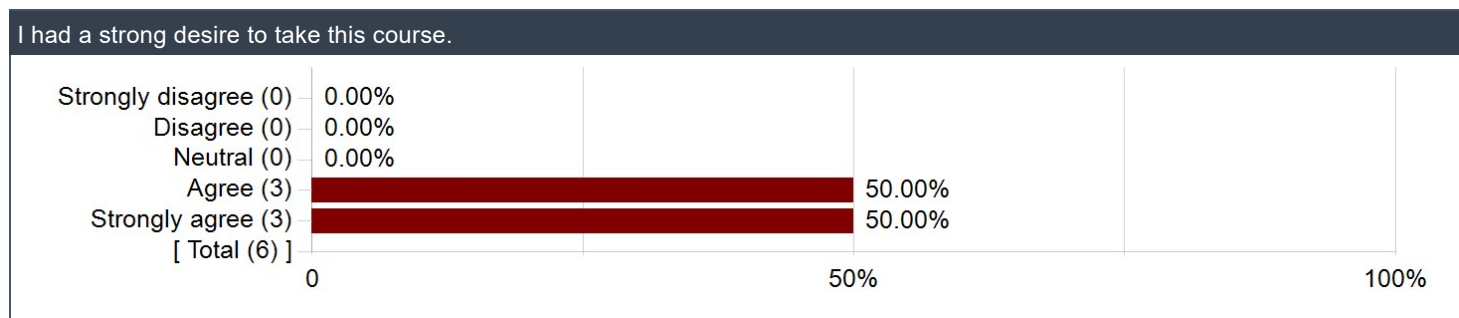
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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

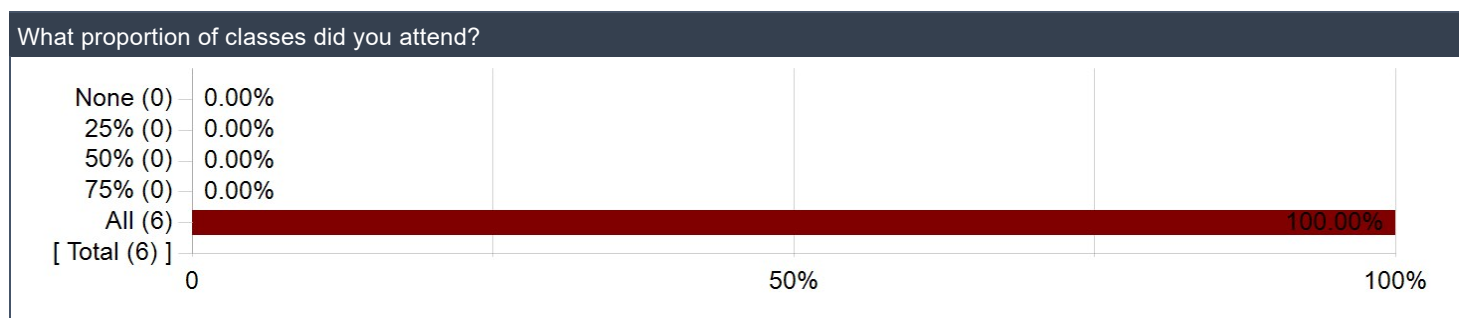
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



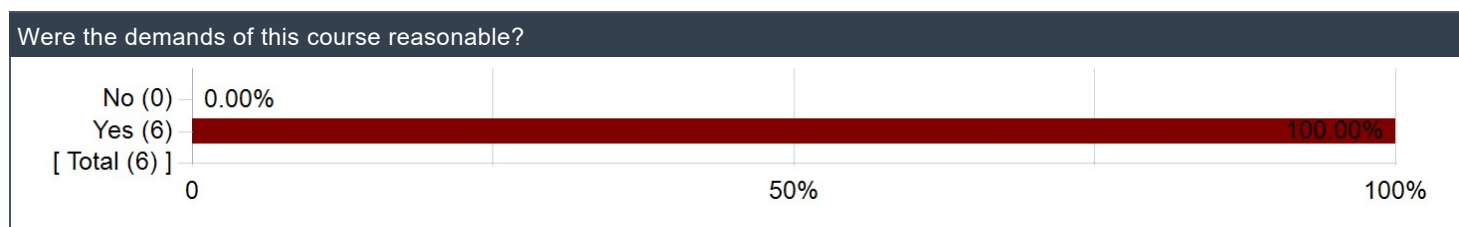
I had a strong desire to take this course.



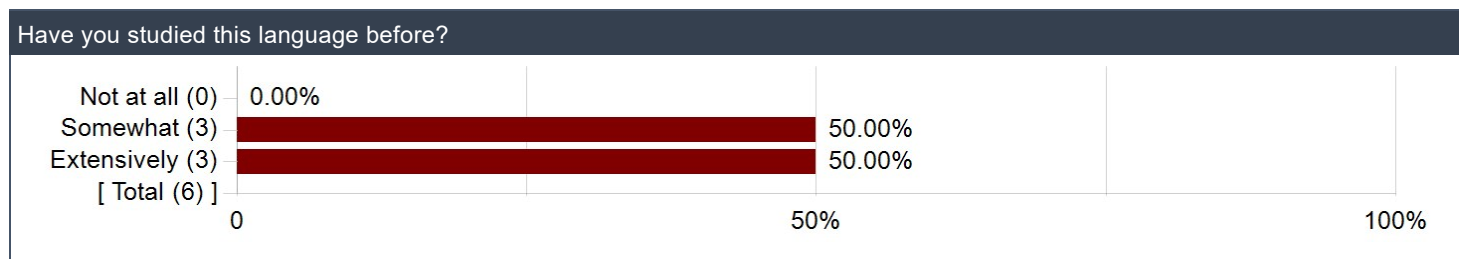
What proportion of classes did you attend?



Were the demands of this course reasonable?



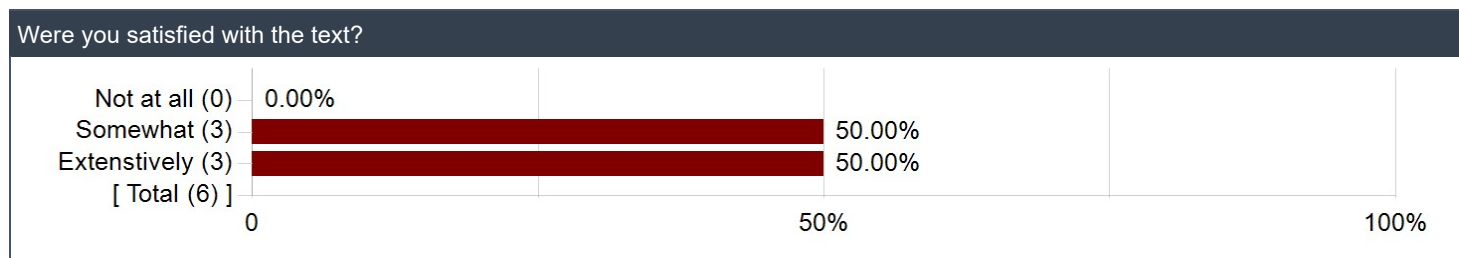
Have you studied this language before?



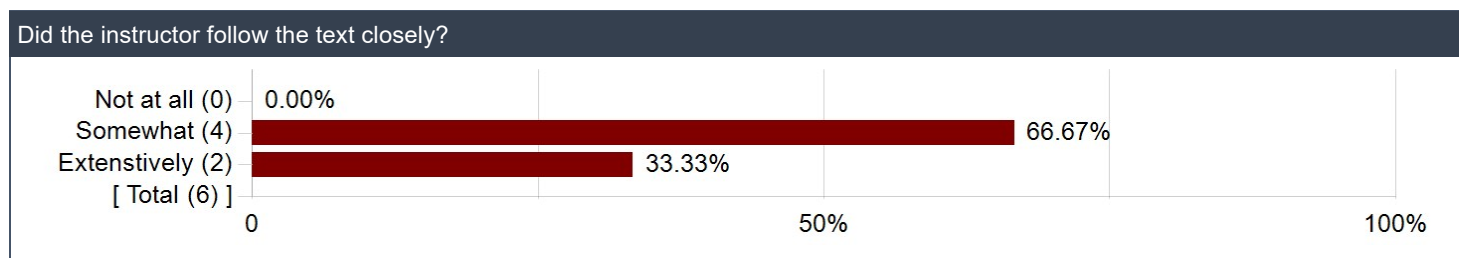
Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	50.00%	16.67%
Spelling	3.50	3.50	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%
Reading	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%
Writing	5.17	5.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	50.00%
Grammar	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%
Vocabulary	3.67	3.50	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	16.67%	16.67%	16.67%

Were you satisfied with the text?



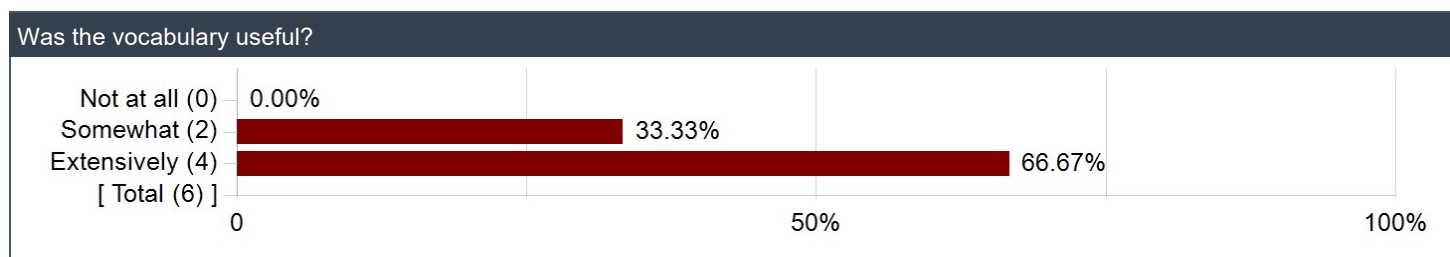
Did the instructor follow the text closely?



Explain:

Comments
There were assigned exercises in the Yellow and Red book every week, both of which were extremely helpful, and directly applied afterwards, both in quizzes and in class in order to strengthen what we had learned. We also went over what we had done during that week in order to clear up any mistakes or questions.
We used the textbook and workbook for drills and some text practice, but the curriculum was only partially based on them. I thought this was good— we had it and could use it (it also had some helpful charts and the like), but were also able to explore different topics in the language.
Not only did we follow the texts and grammars according to the textbook vigorously, we also went beyond the textbook and the texts (most of the time)—we learned new vocabs and cultural references from songs, proses, TV shows, news reports, and intense all-Hebrew discussions and lectures. Professor Ehud is very passionate and organized about what he was doing, which created a safe and academic environment into which we could immerse ourselves.
Class would have a variety of activities: free discussion, music, talking about Israeli TV, learning grammar, and sometime book/associated materials
The book was very helpful but it wasn't the only thing we did which helped with speaking and listening.
Ehud followed the text during class for readings and discussions, but he also used a lot of outside sources, like media, songs, and TV shows. I did not find the text extremely helpful because a lot of the activities felt repetitive or unnecessary, which is why he limited it.

Was the vocabulary useful?

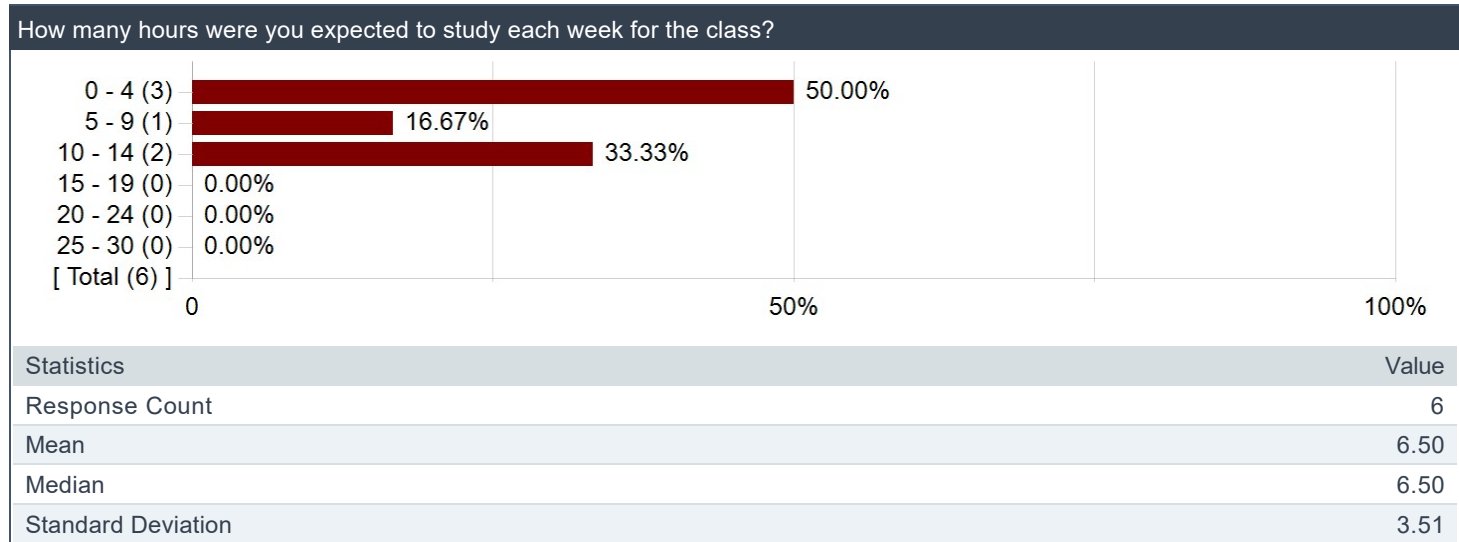


Why?

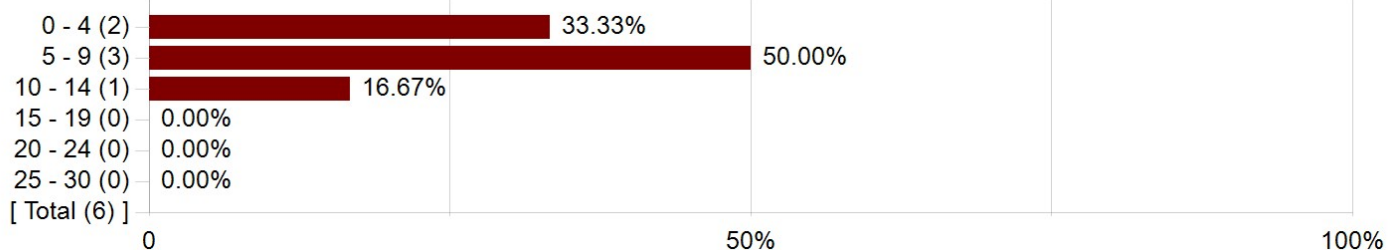
Comments
We used new words multiple times in order to have them ingrained in our speech and writing which I noticed a lot.
We didn't do so many vocab lists, except when there was relevant vocab to a discussion that, without some help, it would be very difficult to have that discussion. Ehud more emphasized using what we already knew to attempt communicating, after which he would often supply us with the word we were looking for. This helped instill me with some confidence in my communication skills even without knowing every single piece of vocab I might want to use.
The vocabularies we learned are not only from the textbooks, but more from the conversations and discussions we had in class and lectures (all in Hebrew), the songs that we listened to in class, the "סרונים" TV show that we watched and wrote essays about every week, the news reports that we composed and discussed with each other in lectures every week. Such a well-rounded way of absorbing and reproducing the vocabularies really helped me to gain a better understanding of the whole lexical system of Hebrew as a language.
We learn practical Hebrew
The vocabulary that Ehud taught us outside of the book (through our TV show Srugim) and the verbs were helpful, but I found a lot of the vocab from the book to be very random.

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

Comments
<p>The class itself was very interactive, as all language classes should be. At every class we had to go into pairs or groups to discuss what we were currently learning while Ehud went around to listen in and answer any questions about the exercise or any words we didn't know. All of that lead to me getting to know my classmates better and lead to me practicing my speaking even more, which is super important when it comes to learning a language.</p>
<p>Mostly discussion: going over homework drills, discussion of the tv show we watched, peer review of short writing, pair discussions, etc.</p>
<p>The class is really productive and effective in helping me understanding the language and its cultural/religious/political backgrounds more. Apart from regular texts and vocabs from the textbook, we have a drill book for תרגילים. All four skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing) are satisfied over the quarter—we read texts from the textbooks as well as other songs, artistic writings, and news reports; we listen to and watch Israeli TV show with or without subtitles (depending on different levels) and we also have to listen to other classmates and the professor speaking only Hebrew in class which creates an immersive environment for listening; we only speak (mostly) Hebrew in class and we learned how to paraphrase new ideas or complicated ideas in more ways even though we don't know the exact word for it before we learn those new words, we also learned how to give פשוטות definitions to words to help us explain certain ideas or concepts to others; lastly, the short essay assignment and news report we have to write every week really provide הזדמנויות for us to practice our writing, whose topics tie closely to the cultures and societies of Israel as well as what is happening around the globe. More importantly, all these drills and assignments go hand in hand with each other and together create a very well-rounded system for us to learn Hebrew and understand it better.</p>
<p>Class is flipped. Book drills/writing/reading/listening homework. Classtime then moves quickly. Yes it is productive we cover a lot of ground and learning at that pace helps you get acclimated without needing to be in Israel</p>
<p>Our class was flipped classroom, where we would do drills and write/watch/speak at home, then review in class. I found our weekly 30 minute recorded conversations to be super helpful, as well as our TV show written responses, but I struggle to learn fast and efficiently in flipped classroom.</p>

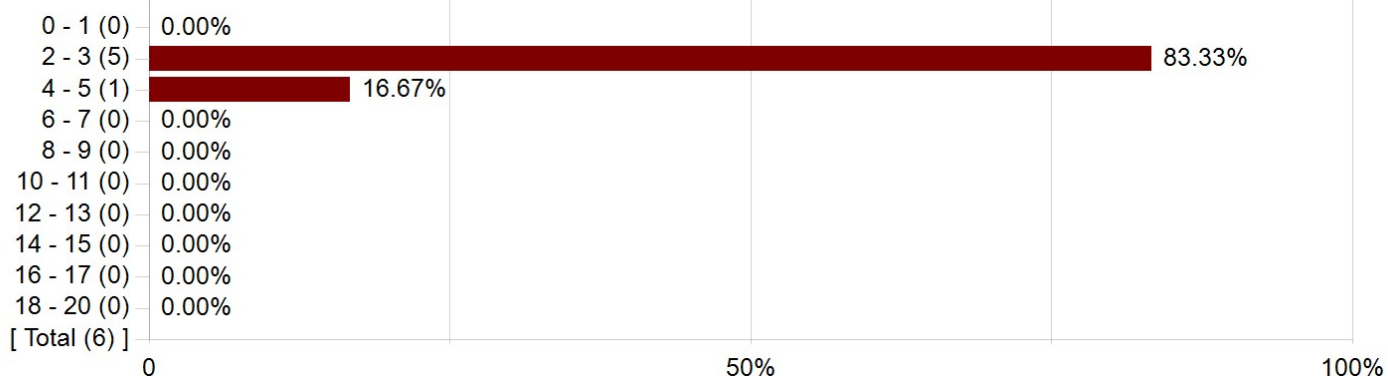


How many hours did you spend?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	6.67
Median	6.50
Standard Deviation	3.20

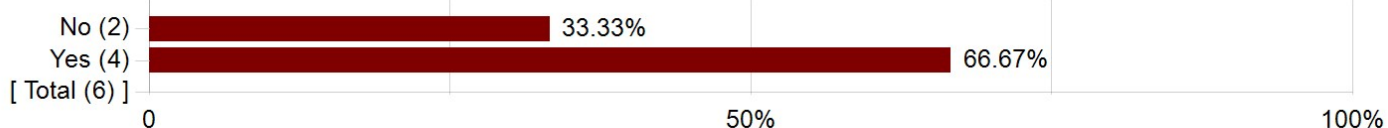
How many written quizzes were given?



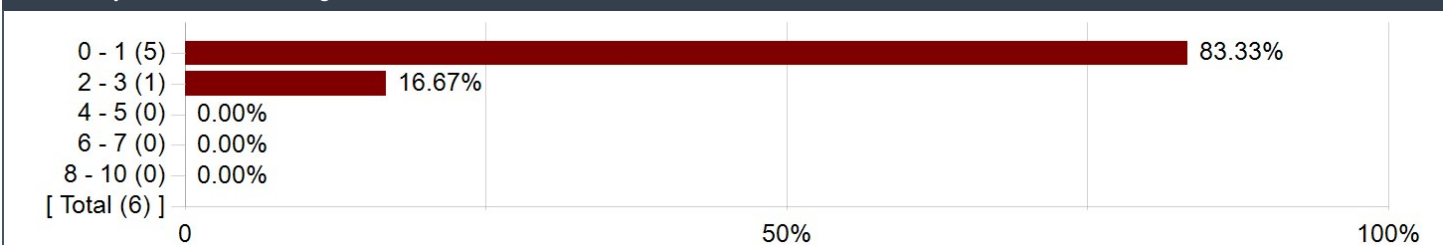
Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	2.67
Median	2.50
Standard Deviation	0.82

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

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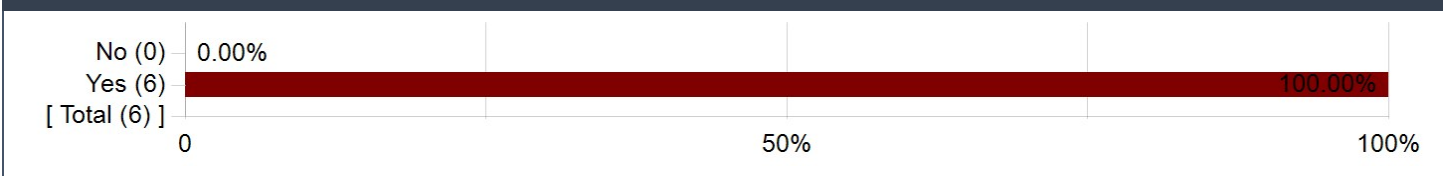
How many oral exams were given?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	1.17
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.41

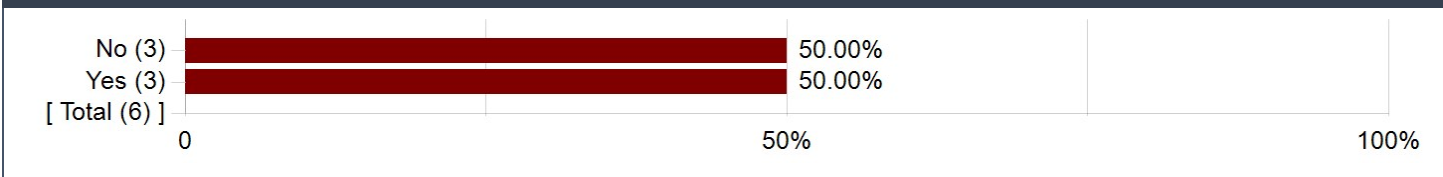
Were the oral exams fair?

Were the oral exams fair?



Were the oral exams challenging?

Were the oral exams challenging?



Why? Please be specific.

Comments
While writing this I haven't taken the oral exam yet, but the instructions and grading criteria were laid out very well, and Ehud answered all of our questions about it. Students who had taken his class previously said that it was a very fair test and because the expectation were clearly laid out beforehand, it would only be challenging if you had not paid attention throughout the quarter and did not prepare for it, so I am not worried.
It was a casual conversation over zoom, we were given potential conversation topics and rubrics prior to it.
I think the oral exam was especially more difficult for me, because I am the only one who is not from a Jewish or Israeli background and I learned Hebrew from scratch after I came to UChicago. However, after the first year of Introductory courses and this quarter's lectures (drills), I definitely saw my growth in my own way and pace—I am able to speak more coherently, use more advanced vocabs and syntactical structures, paraphrase ideas that I don't know how to say concisely or precisely, ask questions for repeating or paraphrasing the questions asked in the oral exam, and just feel more confident and conscious of what I say, speak, and convey.
Tested our practical hebrew skills/daily conversation. Travel plans, past/future, opinions, etc
It was like a normal conversation which is good because it simulates when we would actually use the language.
The final oral exam was challenging for me, but it did not deviate from our past conversations or content learned.

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

Comments
Nothing was required, but every Tuesday there was Hebrew circle which I was unable to attend, and every Thursday there was Cafe Ivrit, of which I attended all except one and will continue to attend for the rest of my time at UChicago even though I won't be taking Hebrew. Cafe Ivrit was an amazing time to meet new people, learn more about Israeli culture, discuss current events and overall practice my Hebrew. Everyone was encouraged to come to both since extra practice is always good and useful, and because we did we receive some extra credit from going. I would have gone without the extra credit because Ehud made it so enjoyable and welcoming, but it definitely incentivized more students to come which was very nice.
We were encouraged to attend different on-campus events to engage with Hebrew outside of class
There are a lot of extra-curricular activities for this class—the Hebrew circles (more academic, there are lectures, discussions, movies, documentaries), קפה עברית cafe ivrit which provides a more chill space for students and other Hebrew speakers to communicate and converse with each other about cultures, societies, or just the language, the language fair, etc.
One required Hebrew event. I loved it, went to a Boaz Keysar lecture in hebrew
Outside of class, Ehud gave us an option to go to the Cafe Ivrit for credit. There, you would talk solely in Hebrew with any speakers that came. I found this immersion to be one of the most useful parts of the class.

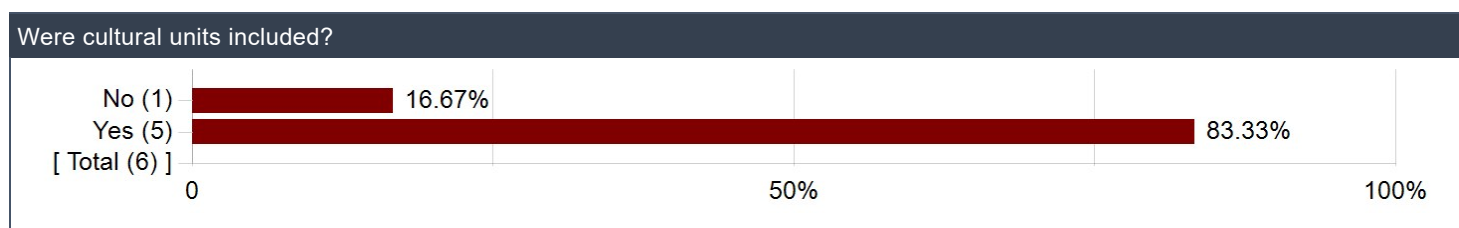
Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
4.33	5.00	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%

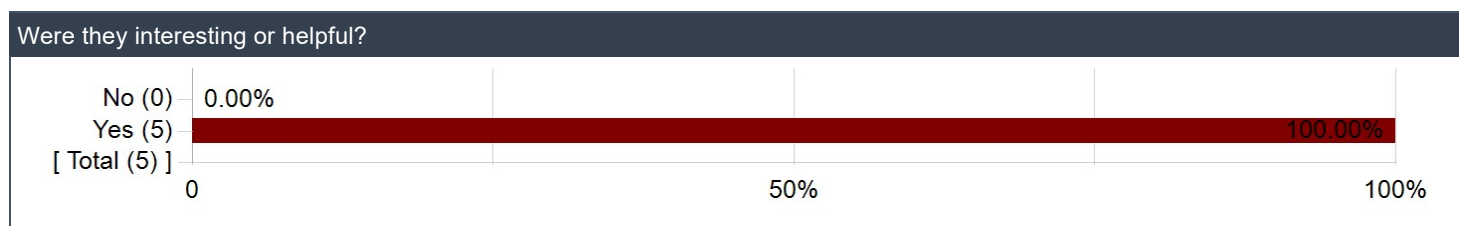
Explain

Comments
Every week, there was a module on Canvas that laid out what was due and what class would be like for each day, with each assignment linked on that module to make every very accessible. Class time was used very efficiently and always allowed time for us to ask questions.
Everything is on canvas, but there is also a lot of supplementary material on there, so sometimes it felt overwhelming, but I always knew that what I was looking for would be there
Professor Ehud is very passionate and organized about what he is doing for every lecture and class no matter what happens, which also ignites my passion for the language, not just the course for getting A in the class.
Ehud is very on top of everything. Instant feedback and flexibility. Week is laid out in full ahead of time
Our outside materials were organized, but I found our classes to be much more improvised. We also had a lot of written assignments, which proved to be a bit exhausting for everyone, including Ehud.

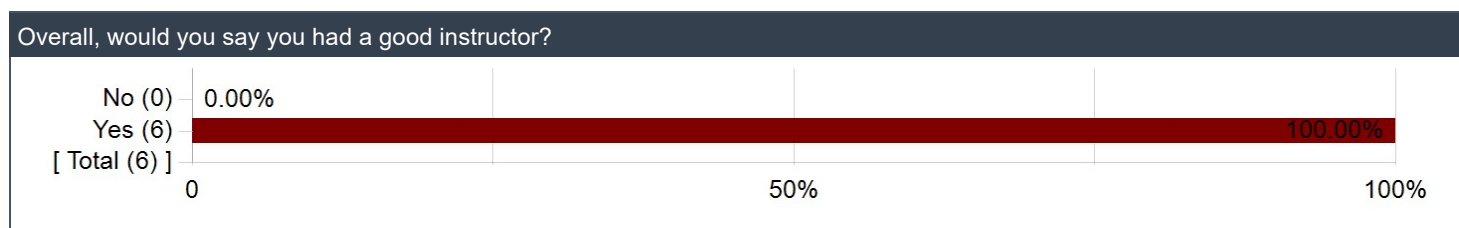
Were cultural units included?



Were they interesting or helpful?



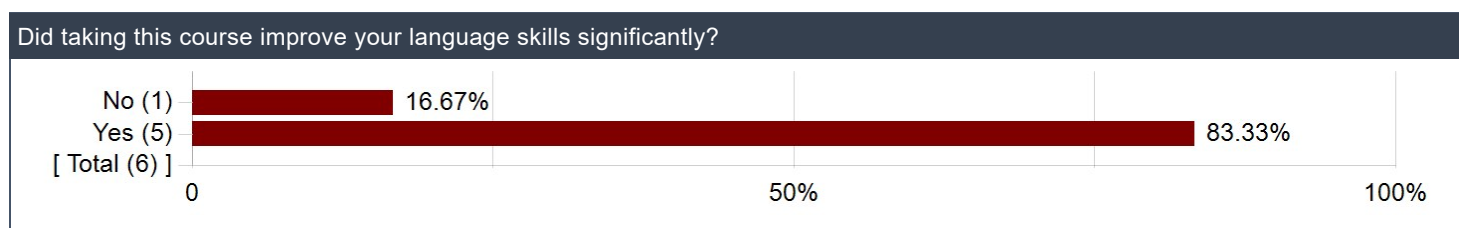
Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



Why?

Comments
Ehud made the classroom an extremely open and welcoming environment, which is really important for language classes since everyone is going to be making mistakes. Ehud really made sure for us to learn languages the right way, by doing a lot of talking and listening, since sticking your nose in a textbook for hours on end will not teach you the language. But Ehud always made sure to directly apply the workbook exercises in class so that we actually got to practice what we had learned. Watching Srugim was in my opinion, the most useful thing for myself, since we got to hear people talk and over time, I noticed myself not needing subtitles and even being able to not watch the screen and understand a lot of what was going on. Everything we did in class was connected to each other and to interactive/practical exercises, all of which Ehud facilitated very well. He was always great at answering my questions, and took a personal interest in me when I was behind on assignments and helped plan a path for me to finish everything on time and to prevent this from happening again in the future. I wish I could take the class next quarter with him, but it's during another class of mine and after this class I will have finished my requirements, but I will be going to Cafe Ivrit as much as possible to continue my learning and practice with Ehud.
Ehud is very encouraging and wants us to succeed. He also makes sure to have a balance of the types of learning we do, making sure we are doing both input (reading, listening, watching a hebrew tv show) and output (writing assignments, speaking in class and with each other outside of class)
I would say if professor Ehud is not teaching this course anymore, I will be more hesitant to continue my studying of Hebrew, because apart from the academic supports, he also provided me with a lot of supports in my emotional well-being in and out of the class, he taught us about the cultures, societies, politics, lives, philosophies behind Hebrew as a language, which is more than just the language itself but the meta-representation of the language.
Ehud is a great language instructor, we all improved our Hebrew and that is good evidence
He was very prepared and very helpful. He also really seems to care about how much we learn.
I think that Ehud is a very passionate instructor that truly wants everyone to succeed. This quarter, we had a students from a lot of different levels of Hebrew, which made it harder to structure the class. Ehud did a great job of integrating grammar and vocab with real life examples.

Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



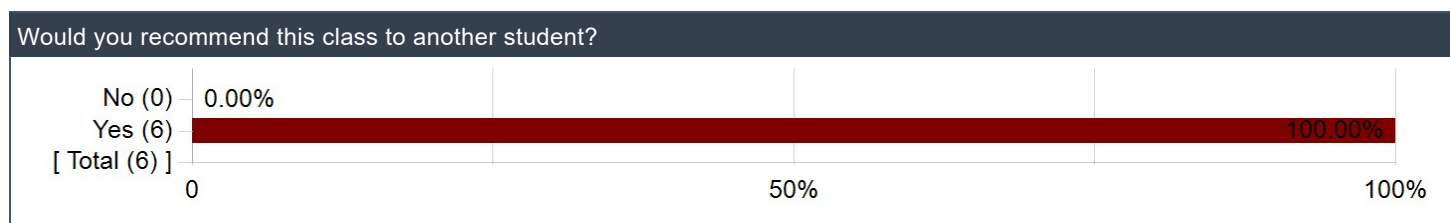
In what way?

Comments
I feel much more confident in my verbal communication skills than I was before.
All four skills of mine in Hebrew have improved greatly over the quarter thanks to the arrangements of the course (which I have mentioned in the previous sections) as well as the passion that Professor Ehud has for this class.
My understanding has grown tremendously, both listening and reading. Writing is also much better. I am still working on speaking but that is a matter of time
Mostly speaking and grammar, but also reading.
I found that my skills were improved, but not significantly. My listening comprehension and writing improved, but my speaking stayed pretty much the same.

How would you improve this course?

Comments
I am glad to be part of the class. I don't think there needs to be significant changes or improvements for the class, since it is very well arranged and taught as the way it is now.
Add tandem/pen pal in Hebrew to have more speaking opportunities. Vary work load/project load at the end: too much final work, and sometimes too much homework. More speaking drills in class
I would prefer for the drills to be reduced and to have more open speaking and immersion in class.

Would you recommend this class to another student?



Why?

Comments
In this class, you are not learning a language but feeling and living a language.
To learn Hebrew!
It's a great way to learn the language.
If you are excited about taking Hebrew, Ehud does a very good job of structuring the class. It's a good class to learn in a comfortable setting and try new things.