



GRMN 10300 4, GRMN 10300 4 - Elementary German For Beginners-3 - Instructor(s) - Shiva Rahmani

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

Number Enrolled: **4**

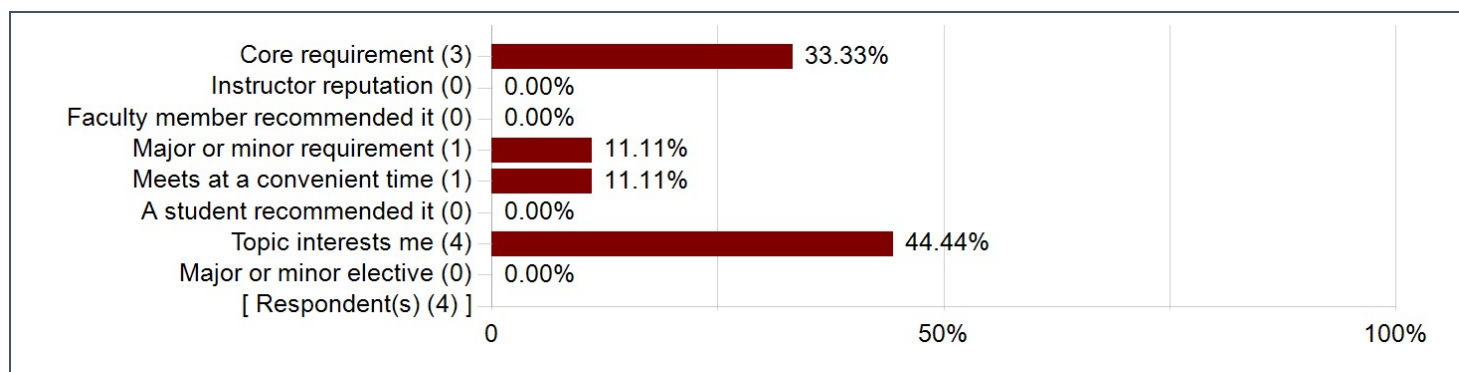
Number of Responses: **4**

Report Comments

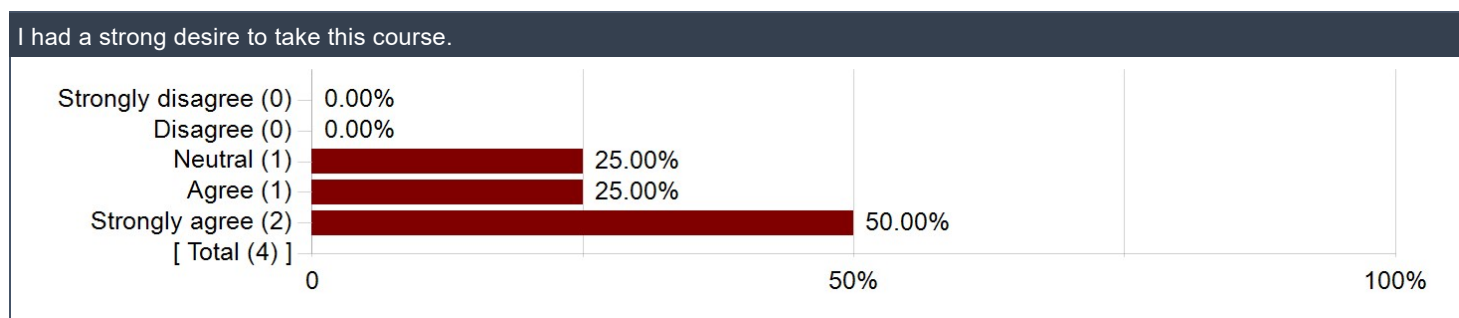
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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

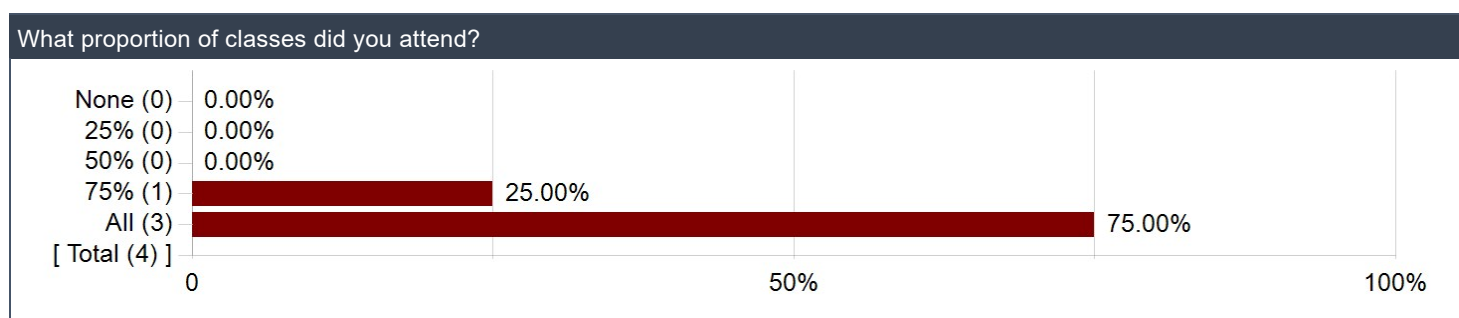
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



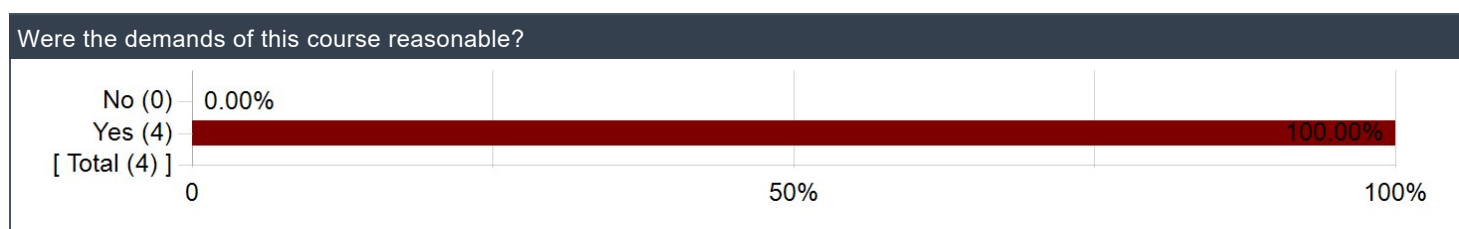
I had a strong desire to take this course.



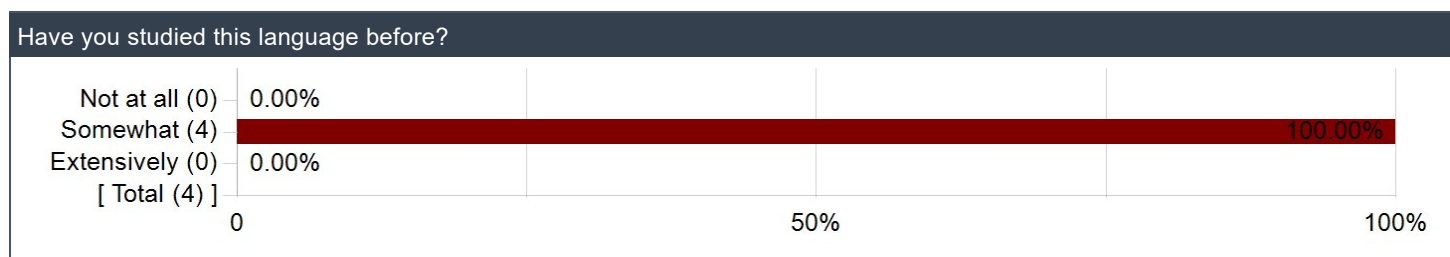
What proportion of classes did you attend?



Were the demands of this course reasonable?



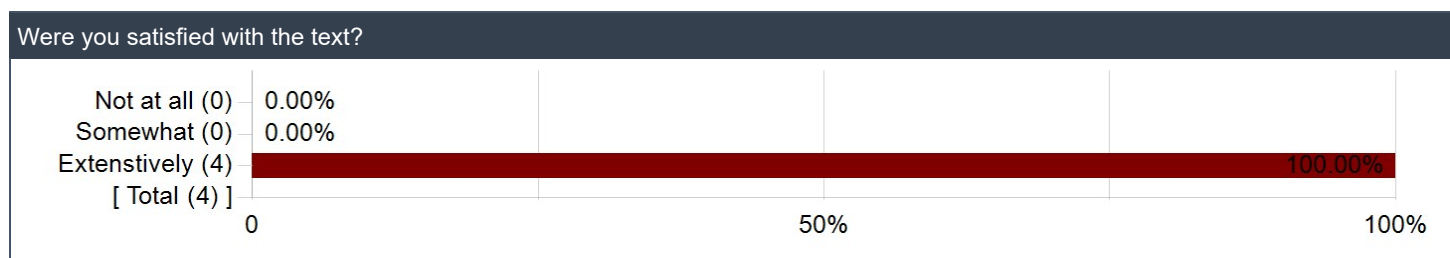
Have you studied this language before?



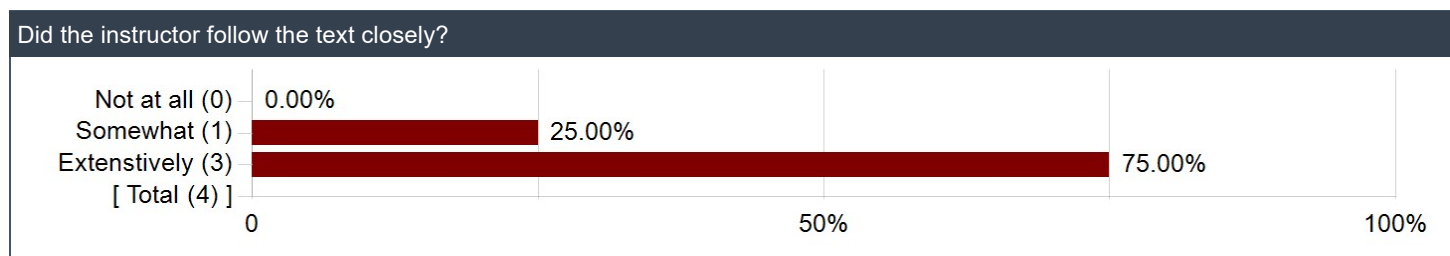
Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	6.00	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Spelling	3.50	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Reading	4.75	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Writing	4.75	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Grammar	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Vocabulary	4.75	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%

Were you satisfied with the text?



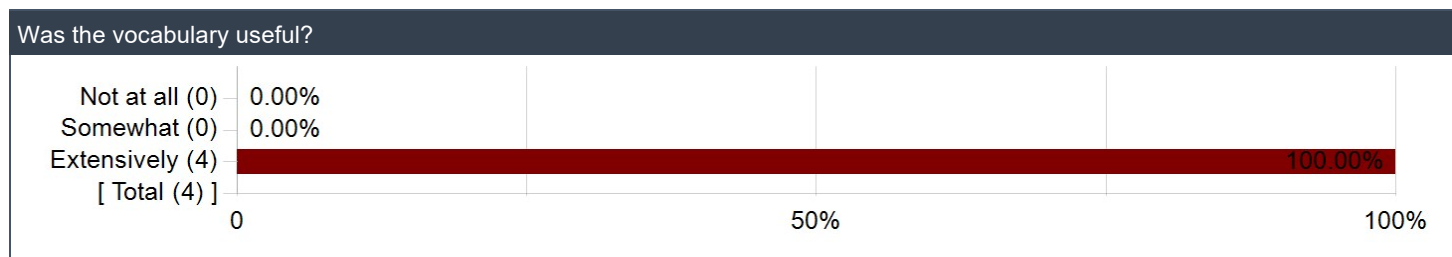
Did the instructor follow the text closely?



Explain:

Comments
We used an online textbook that the professor created. It was very well designed and we followed it to the letter.
Progression of vocabulary and grammar was primarily from derdie das, but occasionally extra content was provided/focused on.
We followed the text (der-die-das) quite closely in terms of the grammatical constructions it introduced and in terms of the thematic focus for each week, but our professor also supplemented our coverage of the topics directly discussed in the text by bringing in movies, news articles, and questions not directly raised there.
the instructor followed the der die das program very closely, while also teaching the material dynamically

Was the vocabulary useful?



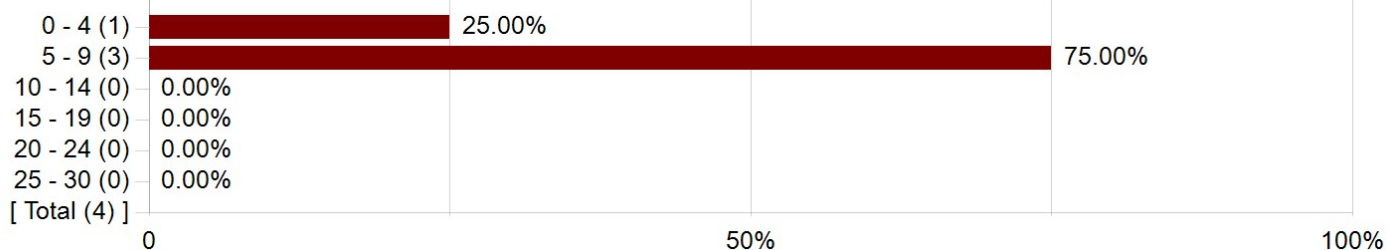
Why?

Comments
The textbook is designed to teach us the most commonly used words in German, so that vocab memorization is used to the utmost extent.
Vocab focuses on the most commonly used german words and has helped me express many different things in various contexts.
I felt like I gained a lot in expressive range just from week to week—by the end, I felt pretty confident in my ability to formulate whatever I wanted to say into simple terms I knew in German.
der die das teaches vocabulary that is foundational for regular, everyday german speaking; as well as preparing speakers for more abstract theoretical subject matter

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

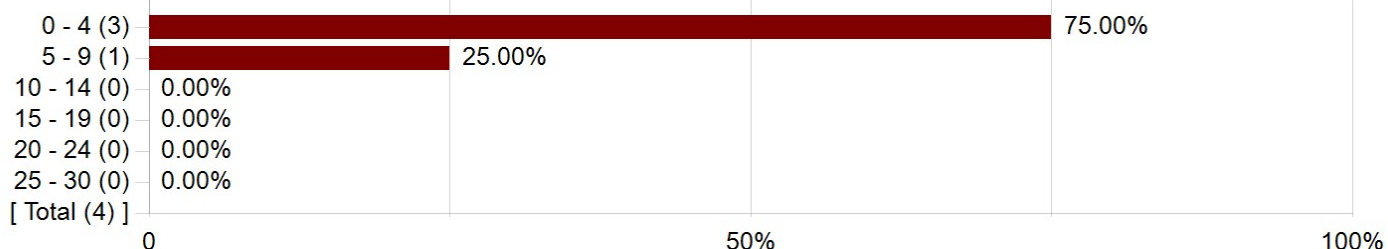
Comments
The format was very strictly put together; mostly speaking drills with partners or with the professor. These were highly productive and definitely the best usage of our time for learning the language quickly.
Class was primarily grammar–practice and speaking focused, with a flipped–classroom model. I thought this was very productive as it helped me just practice and nail–down concepts from the textbook homework
In class, we spent a lot of time practicing conversational speaking—we would start each class by talking casually in groups of two, which I think over time really helped me learn to form certain common grammatically correct sentence structures instinctively. Most of the activities each class were speaking activities that we did in groups of two, most of them focused around practicing new grammatical constructions or sets of vocabulary words, interspersed with short grammar lessons, reading exercises, etc. I think this format really took advantage of the unique opportunities that being together as a group afforded us—I definitely feel like my speaking skills improved immensely this quarter, and that I became much better at incorporating grammatical constructions I had recently learned into my speaking.
the class met three times a week for an hour each, and had a highly interactive style. I found this format to be highly productive, as it forced me to be on my feet and somewhat strengthened my language speaking skills

How many hours were you expected to study each week for the class?



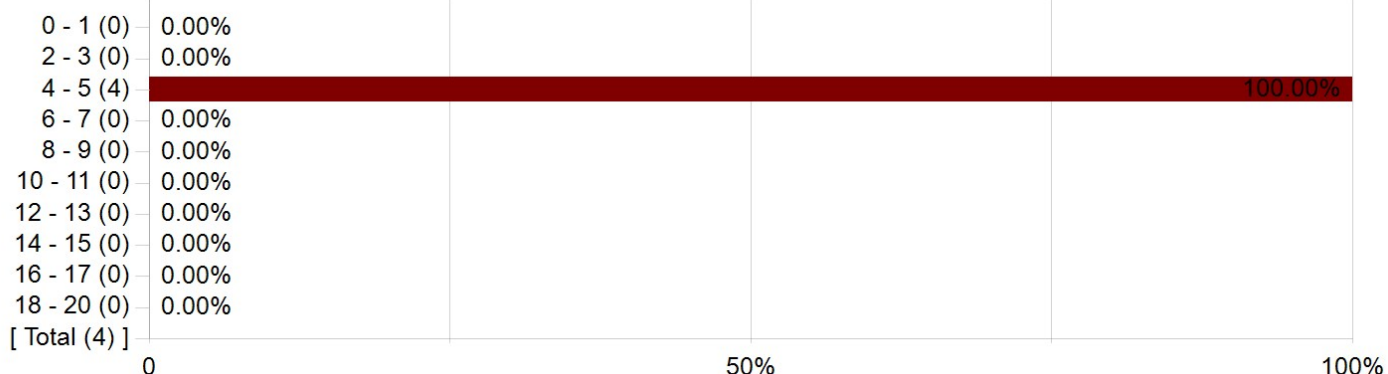
Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	5.25
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.26

How many hours did you spend?



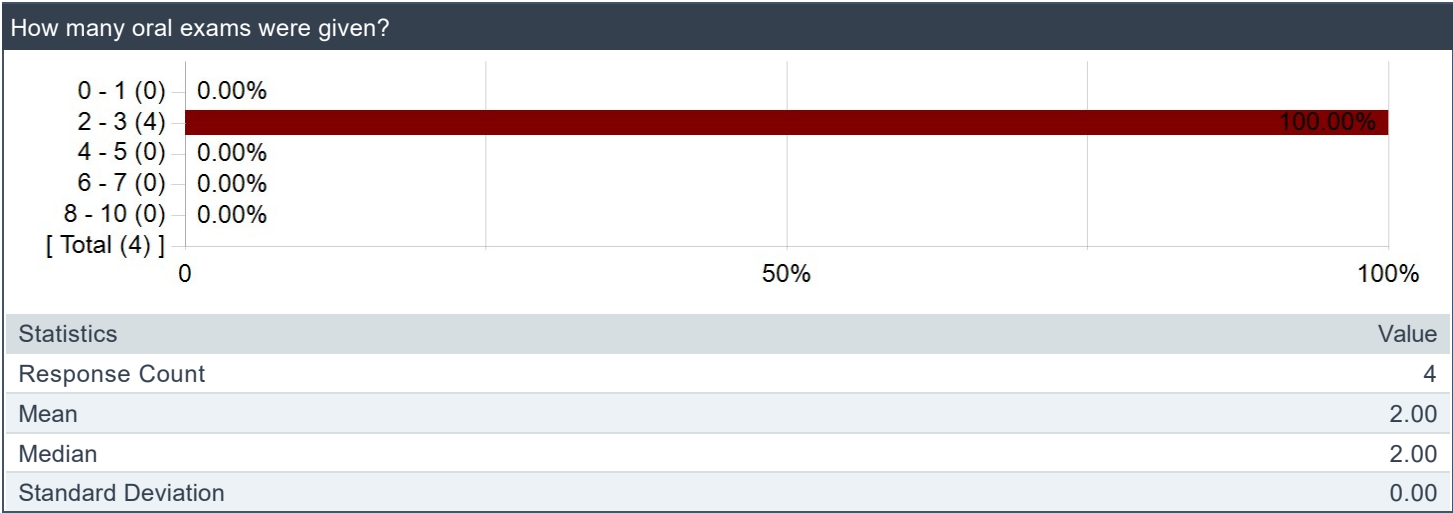
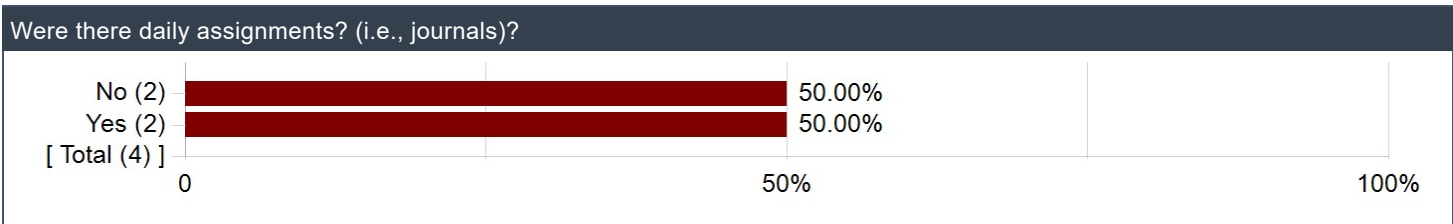
Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.25
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

How many written quizzes were given?

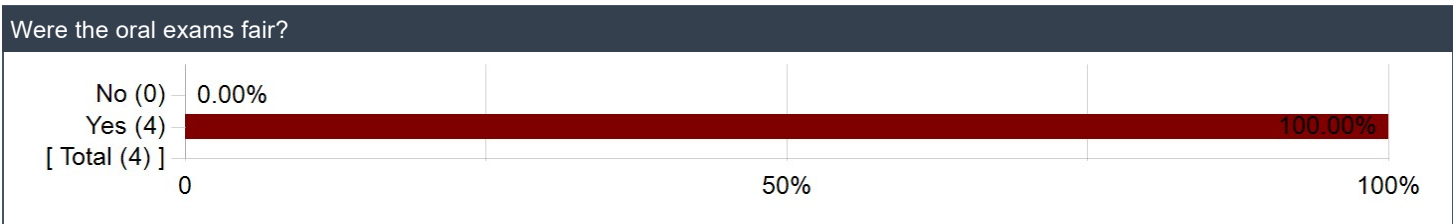


Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.00

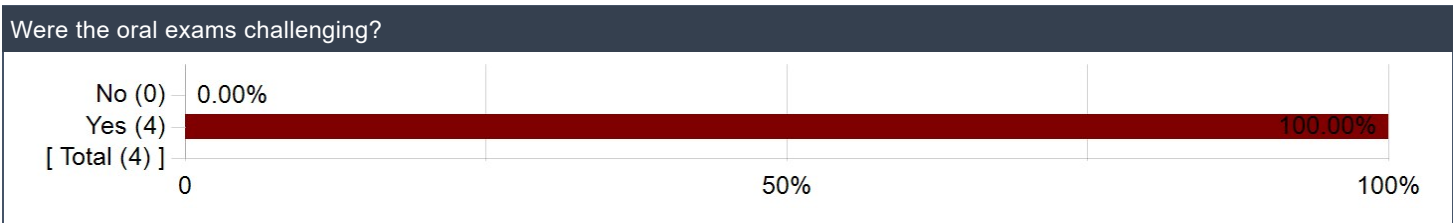
Were there daily assignments? (i.e., journals)?



Were the oral exams fair?



Were the oral exams challenging?



Why? Please be specific.

Comments
The first oral exam was less challenging (and shorter) than the second, but both were a healthy challenge for me. The second was an official Oral Proficiency Interview, where I was graded on my speaking abilities, whereas the first was a graded conversation with a classmate, with speaking prompts provided.
We had to express sentences in specific tenses/formulations or about specific topics (for the first exam)
The first oral exam (in which we had to converse as pairs in response to questions that we drew at random) was not too difficult, but the second one (which was the oral component of the ACTFL proficiency exam) was. This makes sense, because the ACTFL tests always include some questions that are pitched at a higher level than the level that they're testing for so that they can recognize people for knowing more than they're expected to.
i found these exams to be challenging, as i do struggle somewhat with quick or fluid conversational german, but ultimately fair

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

Comments
There was one film required— Good Bye Lenin! — and although I was unable to fully understand it without reading English subtitles, the experience of watching German–language media was very informative for understanding native German speakers and their particular vocal patterns and inflections. It has definitely helped my listening comprehension abilities.
There were "speaking hours" focusing on real life situations and role–play. This was very helpful and made me much more prepared and comfortable for the oral exams.
There were not any required activities—but we could earn extra credit by going to optional Kaffee Klatsch sessions. I went to one of them and had a great time—I felt like I was really picking up steam and speaking more and more confidently with fewer errors as time went on.
we watched a german film for class and also had a quarter–long project on a topic of interest. especially with regards to the latter, i found linking up my studies here with an artistic movement i had prior interest in to be helpful

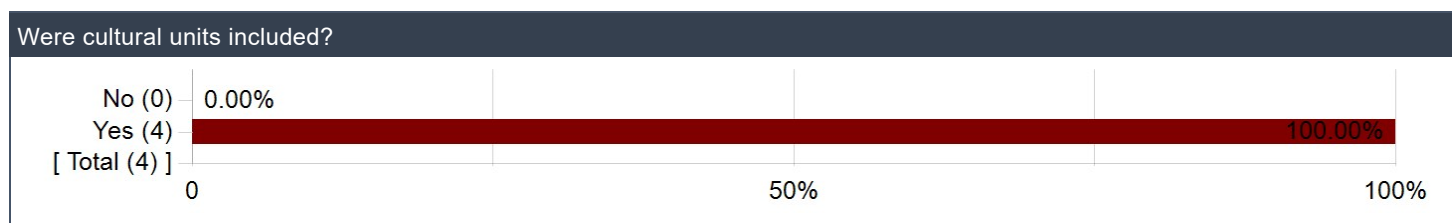
Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%

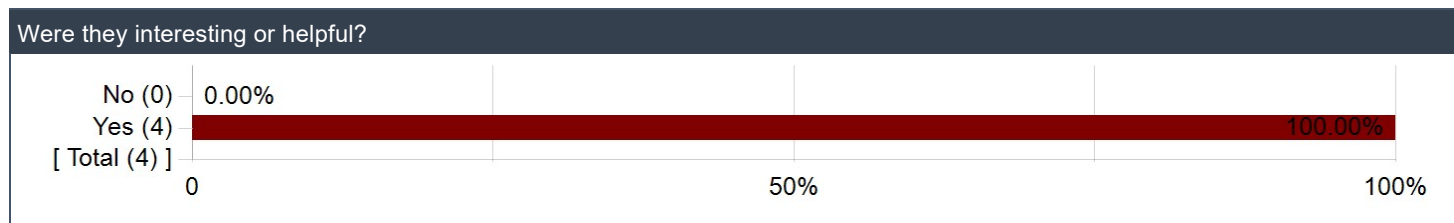
Explain

Comments
She was always up to date on our class materials, and the Canvas page was very well organized. I was never unable to easily find the assignments and materials required of me, and instructions were always very detailed.
Course assignments/calendar was posted at the beginning of the quarter and followed very closely. We did occasionally do things in class that were ahead of textbook content, which was sometimes slightly disorienting
My professor was incredibly organized and had carefully structured each day of class, splitting up time between different activities and keeping the pace relatively quick, which was nice. She said things at several moments that indicated that she had thought very deliberately about the order in which to place the activities so that we could get warmed up in practicing different skills and then have chances to apply them and to combine them in different contexts. She also included a lot of helpful instructions in the Canvas link for every homework assignment.
the entire quarter was structured beforehand, and at any point one could look the schedule and see how the quarter would play out—and it did basically exactly to plan. also, there was a wealth of resources attached for further learning

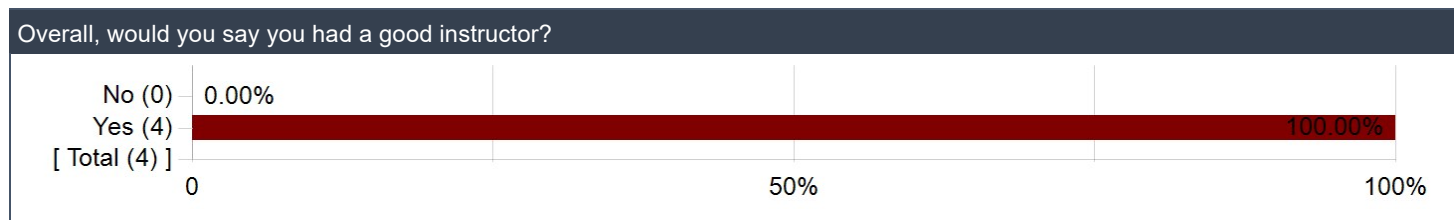
Were cultural units included?



Were they interesting or helpful?



Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



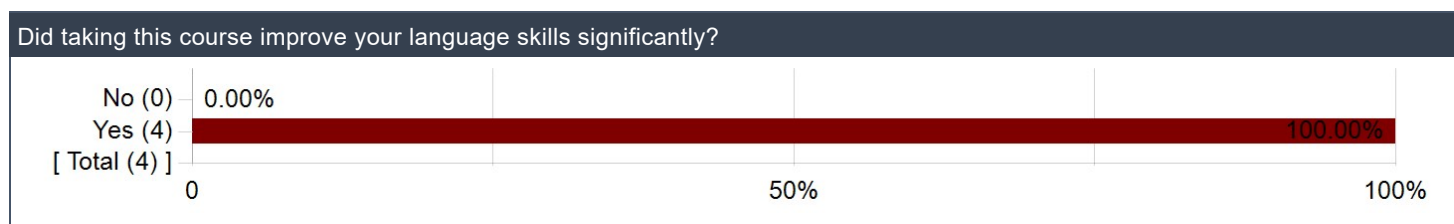
Why?

Comments
Professor Rahmani was very dedicated to our learning and always pushed us to go a little beyond what was minimally required for the course.
Prof. Rahmani was very enthusiastic and helpful, and I think she really pushed us to not only increase our fluency but our accuracy as well.
I had a really excellent professor—she was incredibly committed to teaching and very generous with her time—and she was super warm and friendly, which can be really important in creating a good atmosphere in a language-learning class. She drew everyone in and made sure that we felt free to take risks and make mistakes while we were practicing. I've had friends who have said that they never get far in language learning because they really hate trying to speak before they can say everything perfectly and they feel really embarrassed if they don't get everything right away—and that's not a situation that this professor would ever allow to happen in her class.
i'd say i had a good instructor, because she was both challenging and also rather helpful

Please provide your TA's name. Did the TA answer your questions fully and clearly?

Comments
Aria Petrella. She taught three classes over the course of the quarter, and was always available by email if we had any questions. She answered them in full.
Aria Petrella. Yes, she answered questions fully and the lectures taught by her were good, though I wish she spoke slightly louder/ more clearly in German.
Aria Petrella was our TA. She answered grammar questions clearly and gave me very clear feedback on my "Aufsätze," and she led really helpful review sessions.
Aria Petrella. Yes she did

Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



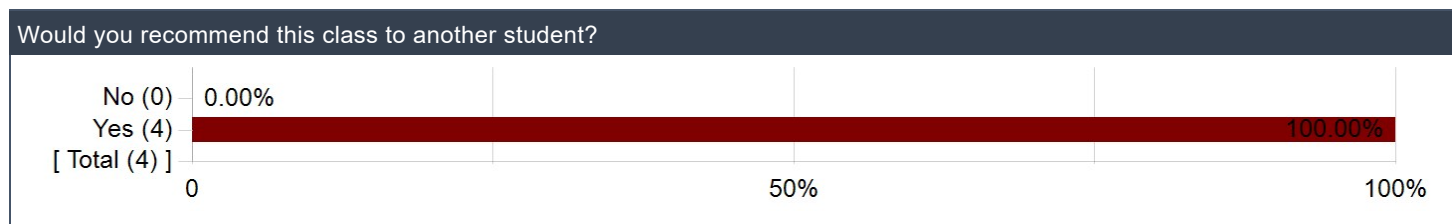
In what way?

Comments
I am better able to read, write, speak, and comprehend spoken German.
I think my grammatical knowledge, as well as my speaking and writing confidence are significantly better.
Yes—I can express myself with far greater precision and speak about a far wider variety of subjects than I could at the beginning of the quarter. This quarter, I learned to use subordinate clauses, the passive voice, relative clauses, and the future tense, and I grew much more adept at using the grammatical structures that I'd learned in the second quarter, particularly in speech.
Overall I feel like I have a somewhat decent grasp of basic German, though I am not the best speaker

How would you improve this course?

Comments
I would perhaps lessen the load on aspects that do not fully contribute to our German speaking abilities, and put all the emphasis on those skills.
I would make the Aktenmappe final presentation due in 8th week instead of 9th week.
I find staying on top of such frequent daily assignments to be particularly challenging for the way I think and work, and found it hard to keep up at times. Perhaps I would want late work to be a bit more lenient, or less penalized

Would you recommend this class to another student?



Why?

Comments
German is a fun language, the program here is fantastic, and all the teachers I have had have been wonderful.
I think this class is an excellent way to make a lot of progress in German in a single quarter, even if you are very busy with other things. It doesn't require much work per week, and you learn so much just by being in class and participating in the activities.
it gives a great introduction to the German language and a solid foundation for further learning