



NEHC 20601 2, SOSC 22000 2, HIST 25610 2, RLST 20401 2, MDVL 20601 2 - Islamic Thought and Literature I -
Instructor(s): Mohammad Hemyari

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

Number Enrolled: **21**

Number of Responses: **12**

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**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Class was great. Prof Hemyari was knowledgeable about everything he taught us + he was an amazing person to learn from.
Basics of early Islamic history (founding of Islam through the 'Abbasid caliphate), basics of the development of early Islamic oration, poetry, theology, and philosophy, exposure to a selection of primary texts, experience reading secondary historical literature.
I'm Sunni Muslim and was hardly if ever exposed to Islamic ideas and schools outside of my own. This class helped me broaden my scope and get in touch with the brilliance and beauty of other Islamic schools and approaches to life and I definitely enjoyed my experience.
How the political and social environment of early Islamic civilization impacted the literature and scholarship at the time.
Background and context of early Islamic history such that texts make sense
The Quran
Learned about key historical events in Islamic history. Was exposed to interesting literature and philosophy that was developed during the Abbasid caliphate.
I learned everything I know about early Islam, from history to religious texts to tradition.
I learned about pre-Islamic civilization, the Quran, the Rashidun Caliphate, the Umayyad Caliphate, the Abbasid Caliphate, Islamic theology, Islamic philosophy, spirituality, Sufism, and various Islamic leaders.

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

Comments
He was great. He had us teach an excerpt + that helped me gain a deeper understanding about what he was teaching us.
In-class lectures were the most helpful part of this course.
readings for sure. the lectures also helped point out what we need to get or focus on from the readings when they were too dense.
The lectures and the readings were helpful.
Lectures and the readings
Lectures and discussions were helpful in understanding the significance of the texts we read for class.
Lectures and readings were both excellent. Discussion was sometimes lackluster.
We mainly had lectures + discussion with student presentations once or twice a week. They were all pretty useful in my learning. Specifically, Reza's lectures and discussions were great in helping us learn and he both taught us and added onto ideas of the students in the class. Reza is a great and very kind man and teacher and that led to less stress in the so that we could focus more on learning. Allowing us opportunities to better our grades and also making the final take home greatly facilitated my learning as I was less stressed about my grading and could learn better.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.91	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	36.36%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.18	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	36.36%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.10	5.00	10.00%	0.00%	20.00%	10.00%	60.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.36	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	63.64%
I felt respected in this class.	4.55	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.18	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
There is really little help for exams and tests, the class average for the first exam was 75–80 percent range. The professor's grading is really hard to understand and takes points off for small things. Presentations have nothing to do with the class.
I'm Muslim and I thought I'd know everything in this class but I got humbled, in a good way I promise :)
It was a great course and exposed me to a lot of things that I didn't know
The readings were heavy and unfortunately we didn't have enough time in class to discuss as much as I'd like
Reza is an amazing human being! He's very kind, thoughtful, understanding, and willing to help!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	10.00%	90.00%

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

Comments
nothing helped
Having us present + choosing amazing readings. We read beautiful arabic poetry like "Ode in L" + learning the origins of Sunnah + Shiite factions. It's cool to ground your understand of modernity in the start of a religion.
Prof Hemyari's lectures provided important contextual information and made sure we understood what was happening in the readings and how to approach them.
Professor Hemyari is very patient and accommodating, and I truly felt that he cares about students learning and understanding the material well not just scoring high on some tests. This lifted so much stress off this class and made learning for the sake of learning and just challenging yourself enjoyable.
I appreciate the effort Reza put towards avoiding putting undue stress on us, like in decreasing the reading length and providing exam examples.
Good lecturer and a very thoughtful and kind person. He created an environment where I could feel comfortable asking questions
The readings are great combination. And the lecture makes things clearer
Having discussions over the texts were most valuable to me because then I got a better understanding of its significance from hearing what other students and the professor had to say about it.
The instructor's lectures were very strong, and helped clarify the context for the course.
Reza's lectures and how kind he was contributed most to my learning!

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
be less monotone and more excited for class. He seemed like he did not want to be there.
Our class discussions were often a bit scattered and didn't get very deep into the material.
Sometimes the lectures did not feel well-connected to the readings. We'd have plenty of reading for class and then barely cover it.
Might work better with longer class times or a slightly different structure. It often felt like we weren't quite getting where we intended to within class time
N/A
Having more time for discussion, but understandably the class was only 50 minues for us so professor usually only had enough time for lectures.
I think anything to encourage a more active class discussion environment would be useful.
Maybe make the class more lecture based with less student discussion for times when we were purely learning about Islamic expansion while allowing for more discussion when discussion the more theological and philosophical areas of Islamic Civilization.

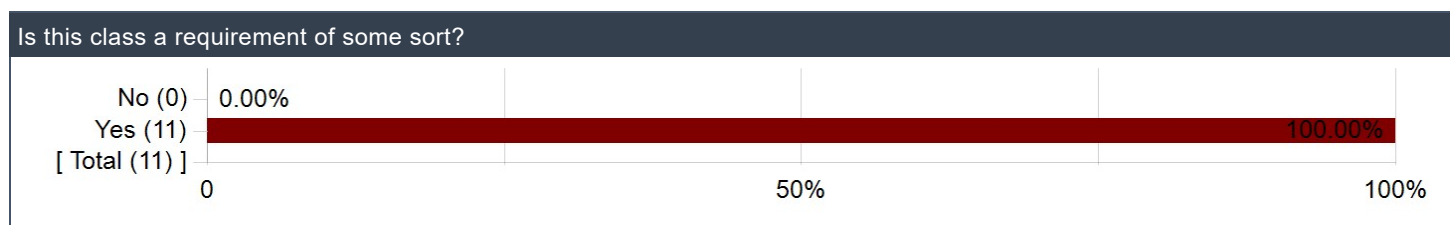
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.55	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.27	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.18	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.27	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	63.64%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.27	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.36	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.60	5.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.45	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%

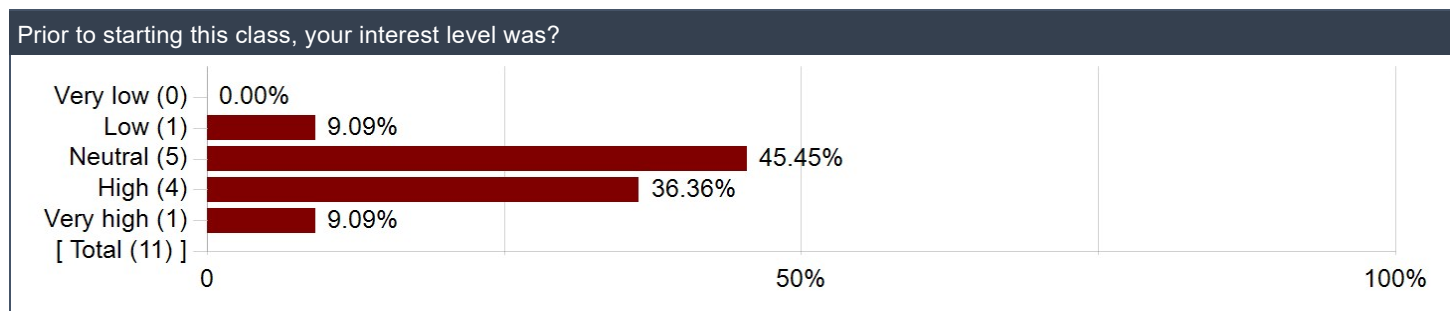
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Field Trips	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Library Sessions	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Writing Seminars	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

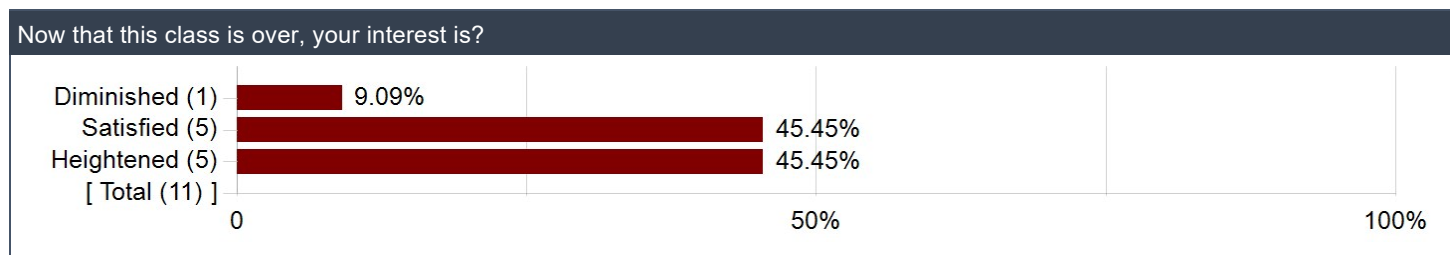
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



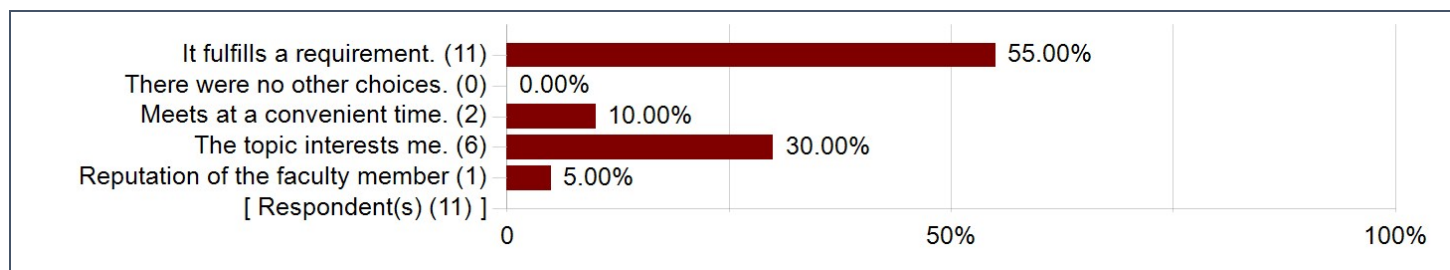
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



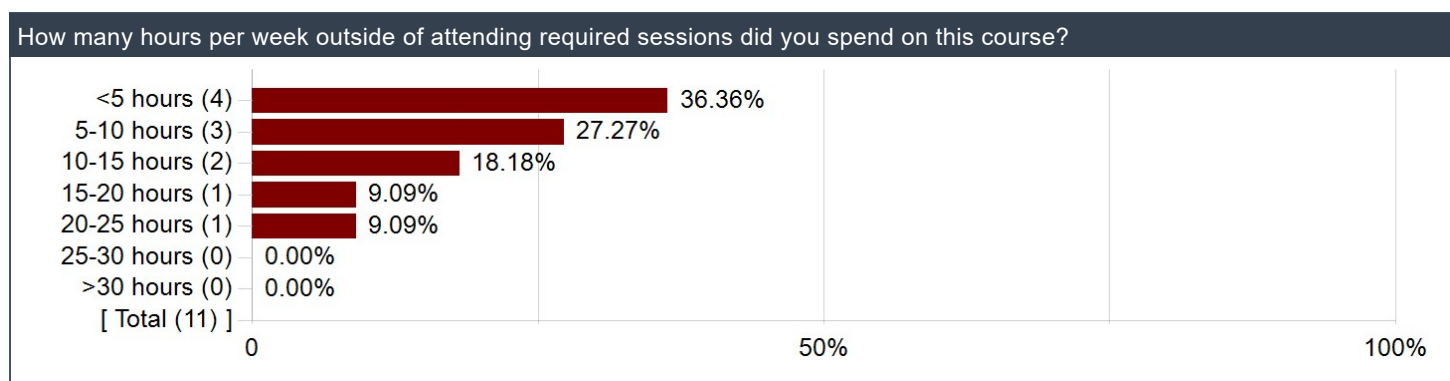
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



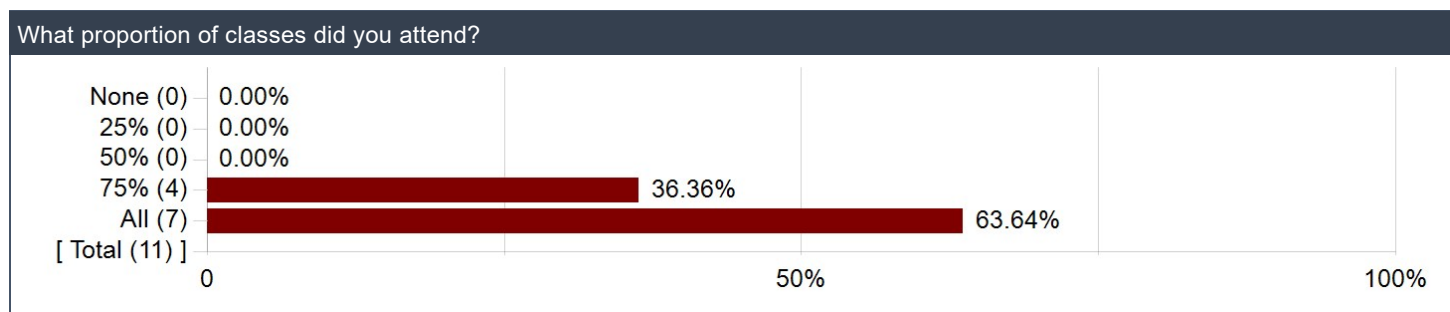
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Pretty difficult because of grading standards
Perfectly approachable.
Not at all difficult as a humanities major with no background in Islamic studies
a lot of readings but def easy, and also fun if you actually put in the work
Maybe a little difficult due to a lack of experience with Islamic history, but very manageable.
It is manageable
The difficult part of this course was that there were a lot of readings and that prevented me from reading the texts closely enough to understand the deeper significance of the texts. Still I think getting a gist of what the readings were about are helpful enough because the class discussion helps clarify some things.
I felt it was an appropriate amount of challenge
Not too difficult but I had prior experience