



SANS 10100 1, SANS 10100 1 - First-Year Sanskrit I - Instructor(s): Andrew Ollett

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

Number Enrolled: **16**

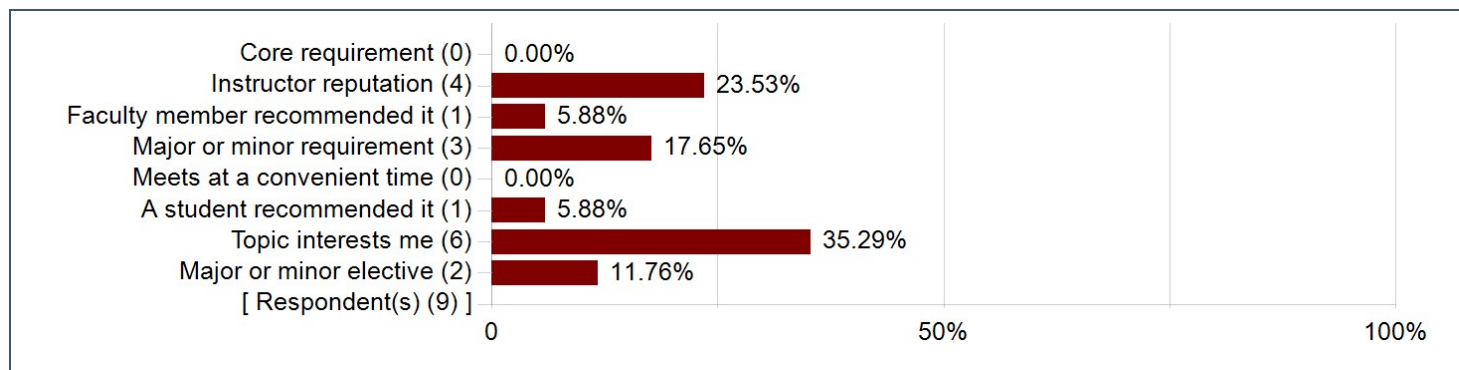
Number of Responses: **9**

Report Comments

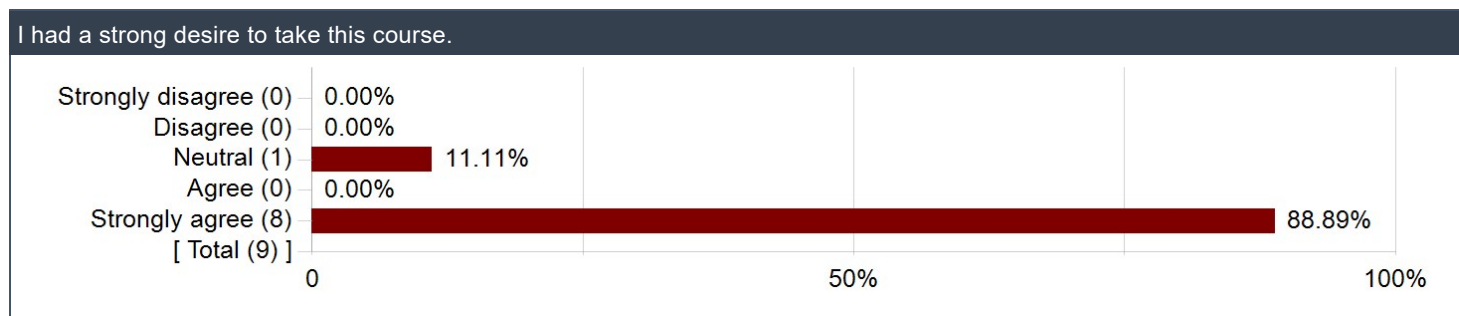
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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

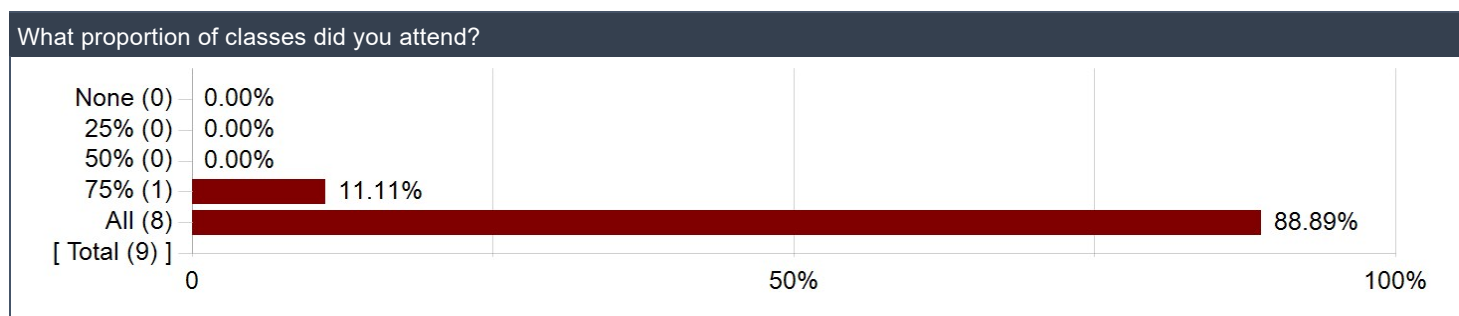
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



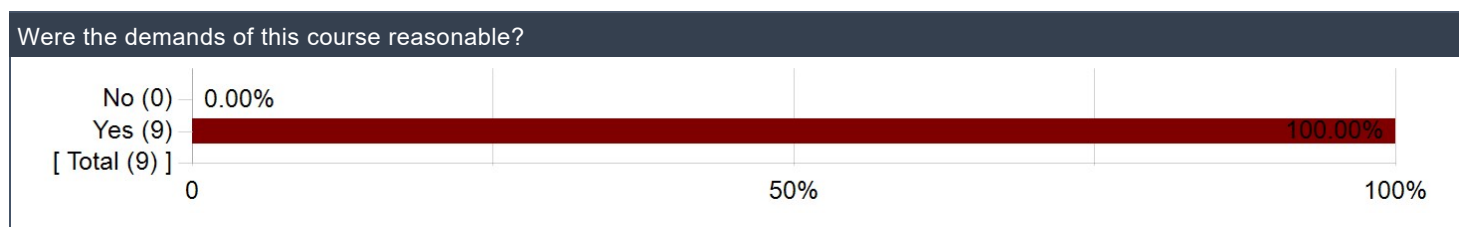
I had a strong desire to take this course.



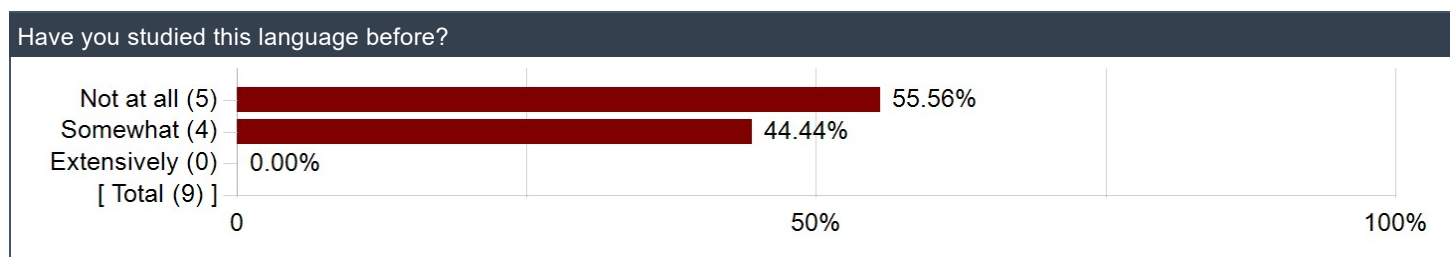
What proportion of classes did you attend?



Were the demands of this course reasonable?



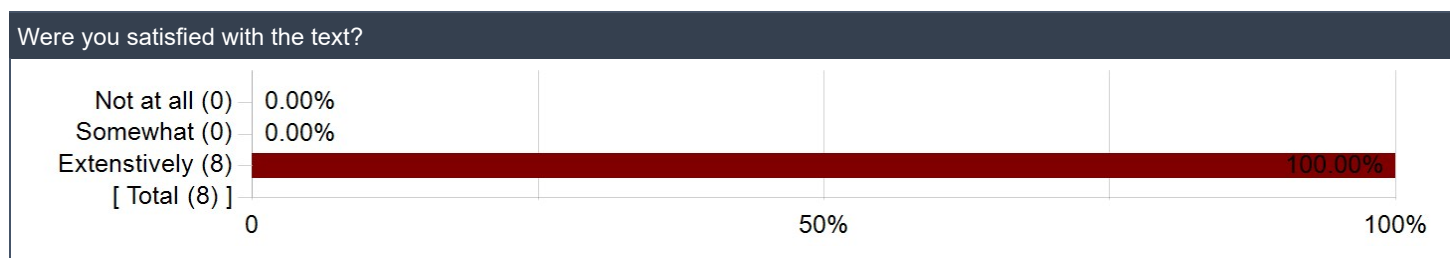
Have you studied this language before?



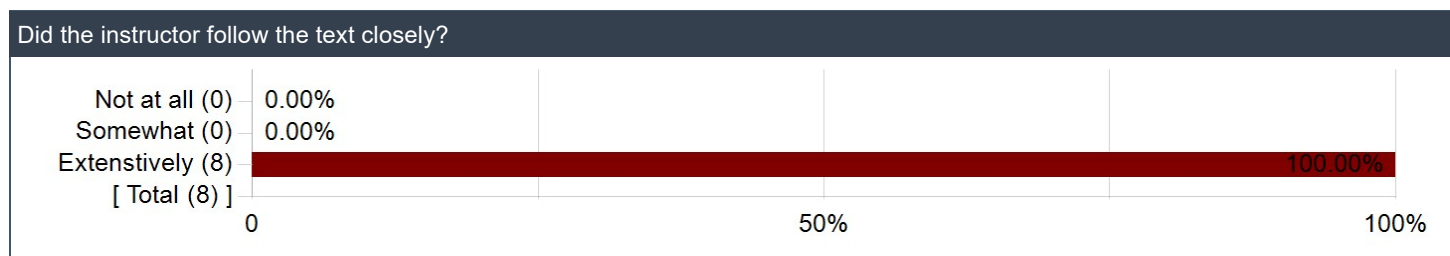
Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	2.78	3.00	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%
Spelling	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	44.44%	22.22%	11.11%
Reading	4.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	11.11%	33.33%
Writing	4.63	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%
Grammar	5.33	6.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	55.56%
Vocabulary	4.56	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	11.11%	22.22%

Were you satisfied with the text?



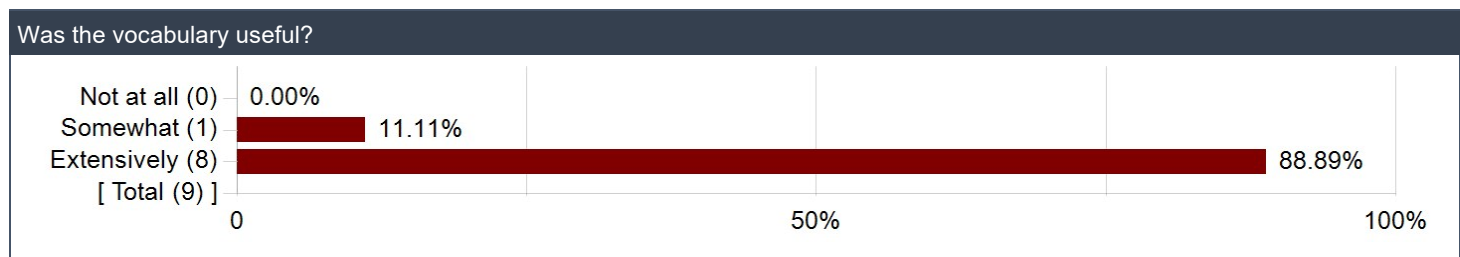
Did the instructor follow the text closely?



Explain:

Comments
The Professor has developed his own materials and methodology on a remarkable custom website built for this purpose. A thing of beauty, with abundant resources. Excellent recorded lectures.
Prof. Andrew's course website is one of the best language learning resources I have ever seen in any language. Incredibly useful considering that Sanskrit is rather under-resourced.
We used a website, rather than a text book

Was the vocabulary useful?

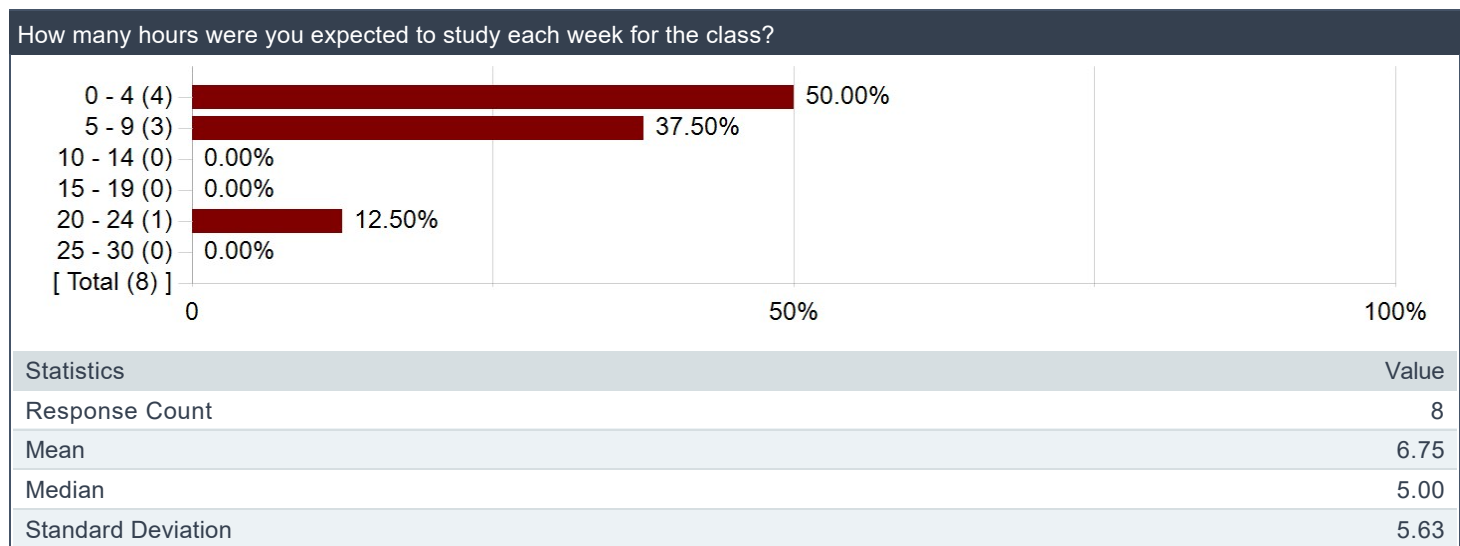


Why?

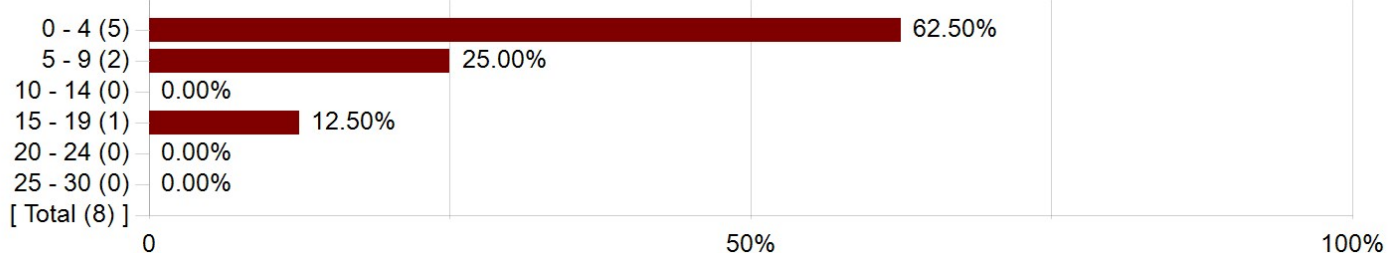
Comments
Building blocks to learn and practice the grammar. This is a scriptural language.
Learning new vocabulary aided in sentence and grammatical practice

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

Comments
3 times a week, recorded lectures, explanations and excercises in class, occasionl Quizes, homework every week, lots of memorization, a tiny bit of recitation
Lecture and class exercises. The lectures were highly informative, especially in explaining grammatical elements/structures. Missing even a single class could result in a significant gap in knowledge.

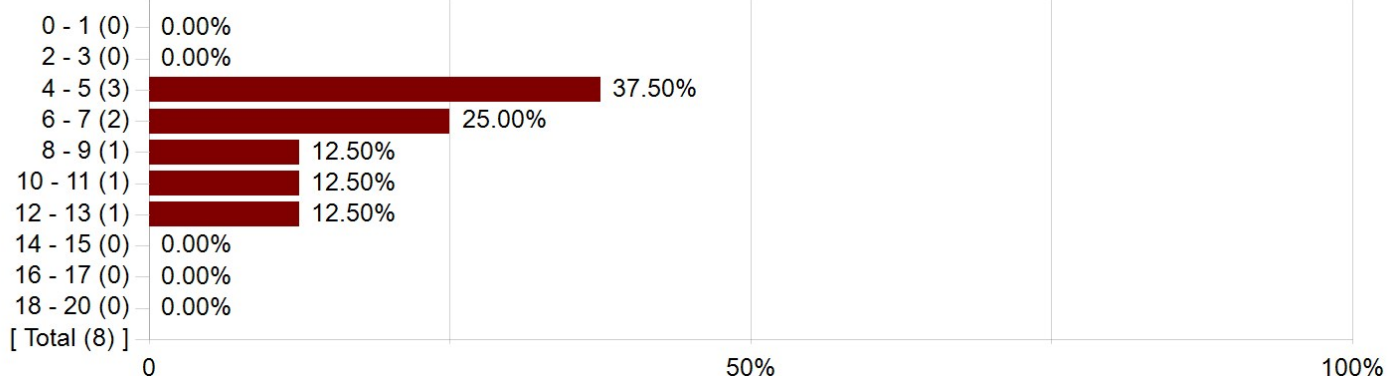


How many hours did you spend?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	5.38
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	4.60

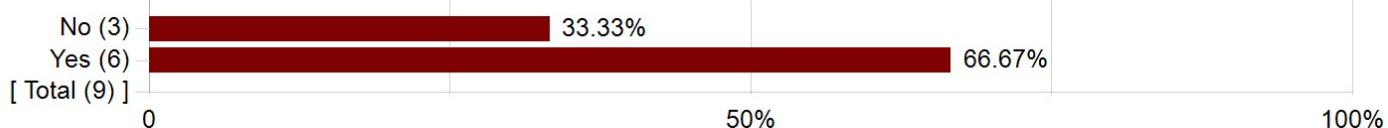
How many written quizzes were given?



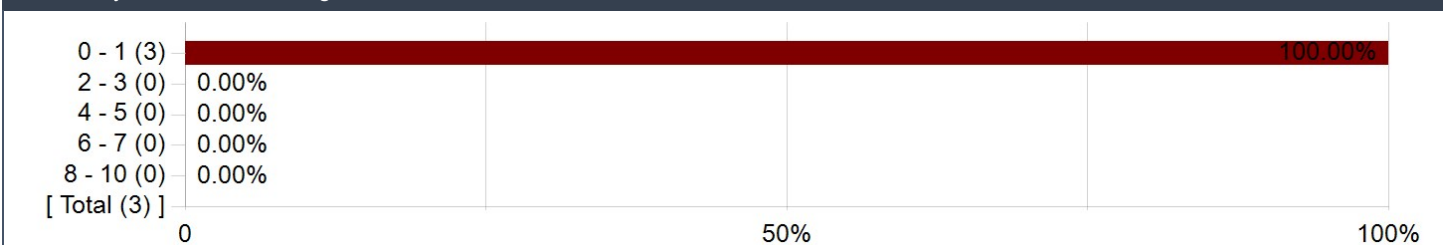
Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	7.13
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	2.85

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

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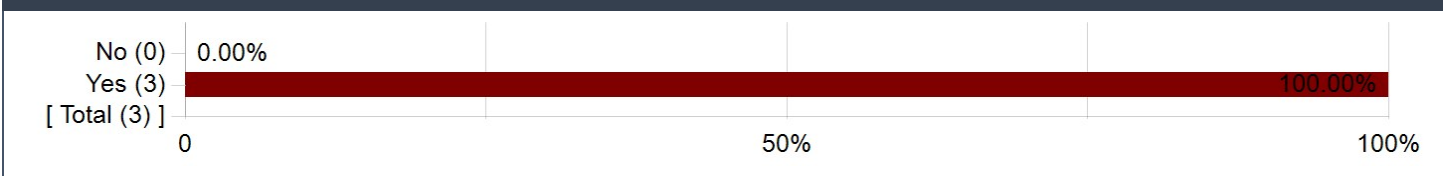
How many oral exams were given?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	3
Mean	1.00
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.00

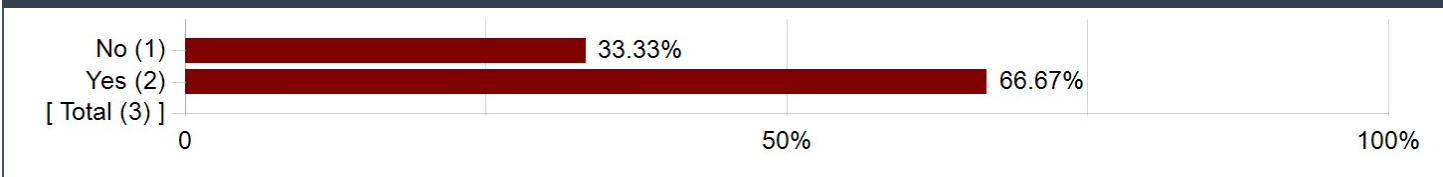
Were the oral exams fair?

Were the oral exams fair?



Were the oral exams challenging?

Were the oral exams challenging?



Why? Please be specific.

Comments

We were invited to learn verses by heart and recite them. I wish we did this more often. It's helpful and inspiring.

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

Comments

NO

no

No, but the Professor often sent information about things happening on campus that may be of interest (conferences, talks, etc).

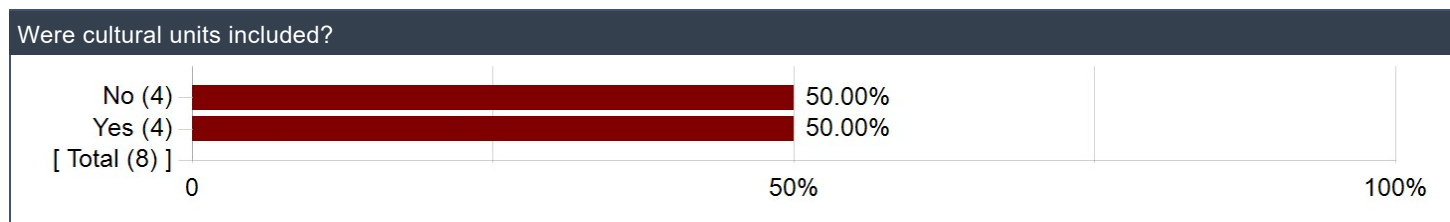
Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%

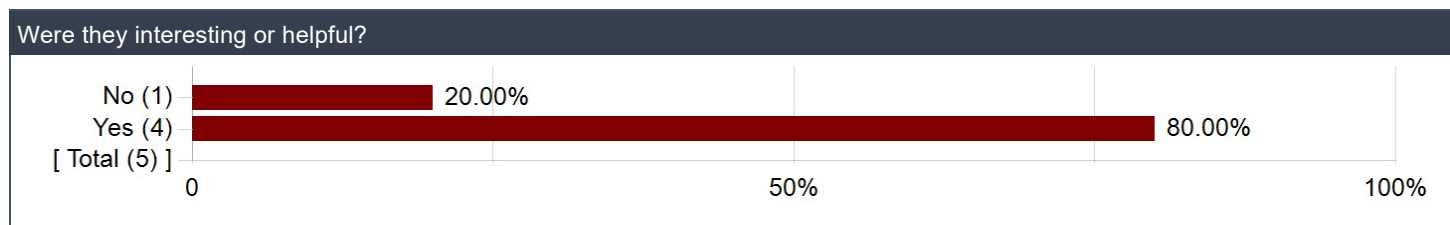
Explain

Comments
As mentioned, the professor has developed is how methodology and materials on an impressive external website which is very organized. He himself is very exacting, analytical and structured, while also being very emotionally attuned to the group and adjusting his pace and approach often. This is a rare combination of skills.
Andrew is a well-organized instructor.
Overall, the course was well organized. What could have been improved: A comprehensive page for all the grammatical charts would have been helpful, and answer keys for exercises could have been made available earlier on in the quarter.

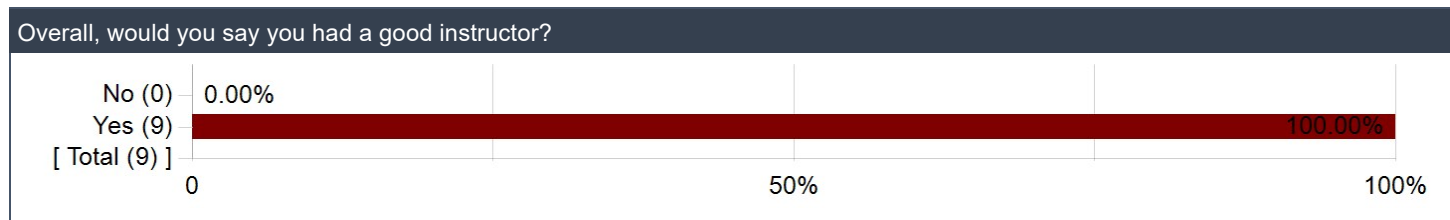
Were cultural units included?



Were they interesting or helpful?



Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?

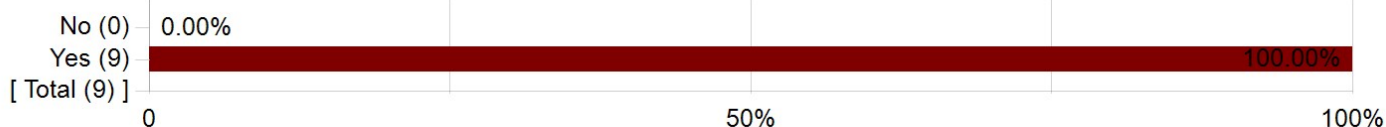


Why?

Comments
Professor Ollett is nothing short of a language genius and a Sanskrit luminary. Training with him is an immense privilege, one of a lifetime. It's also very intimidating, despite his best efforts to be approachable, available and humorous (and he is genuinely very funny). He is extraordinarily responsive over email. Despite his high level of expertise and expectation, he is also very patient, and never (ever!) shames people for falling short or not "getting it." He self-regulation is remarkable. He really wants to us all to succeed, lets us retake quizzes, and does not visibility pour more heart into the students who obviously have more skill or ease with the material. He is managing a group with a range of levels, which is never easy, but somehow those of us at the bottom of the hill do not feel left behind. Although the group is not so collaborative itself, he does not foster a competitive or Darwinian atmosphere, which is such a blessing. Truly, he is a special teacher with deep understanding and reverence for his topics, which he shares in abundance. He is teaching us the "deep grammar" in ways that will pay off later. It's hard, but worth it.
He was always available for office hours.

Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?

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In what way?

Comments

Building a strong foundation.

I have an understanding of Sanskrit in the past and present tense, as well as sentence structure and compounds.

How would you improve this course?

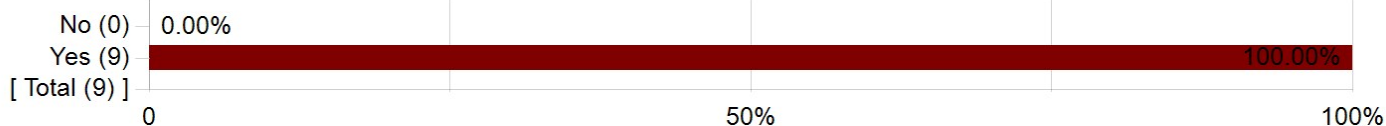
Comments

I have several suggestions, despite how wonderful this course already is. Given the size of the group this course really needs a TA. I know Professor Ollett is very available, but a TA would be very supportive. Also, as much as I deeply appreciate Professor Ollett's continuous adjustments to how the group is handling its learning, more predictability and regular routines are needed in the Quarter system. I recommend a quiz every week always on the same day, even if we are not covering new things (Friday?) and one homework assignment always due on the same day each week (Monday?). Quizzes every week, no matter where we are in the course, helps with keeping up with memorization and makes the final exam less scary. Also, we need more than 48 notice for homework, due to overall course load and domestic commitments. Having that mapped out in advance would help. For those with advanced skills he can perhaps provide additional optional ad hoc assignments as he has in fact done, but for the rest of us civilians, a more predictable baseline of homework load would help. Also, on Quizzes, a variation of retrieval methods would be nice, versus the singular method we have been using for "form bingo". Being able to recognize forms and note their case, gender, number the other way around (something we do in fact more often for reading) would be perhaps confidence building.

I would have liked a bit more guidance on pronunciation/speaking.

Would you recommend this class to another student?

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Why?

Comments

An amazing opportunity to learn Sanskrit with the best of the best! Also, the format is generous, with classes ending a little early and the ability to join on-line when needed.

I would recommend this course for those who either have a strong interest in Sanskrit, or a foundation in the Devanagari script. Sanskrit is difficult, even as a dead language, and not suitable for leisurely study.