



SPAN 20200 1, SPAN 20200 1 - Language, History, and Culture II - Instructor(s): Ely Segura Gomez

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

Number Enrolled: **14**

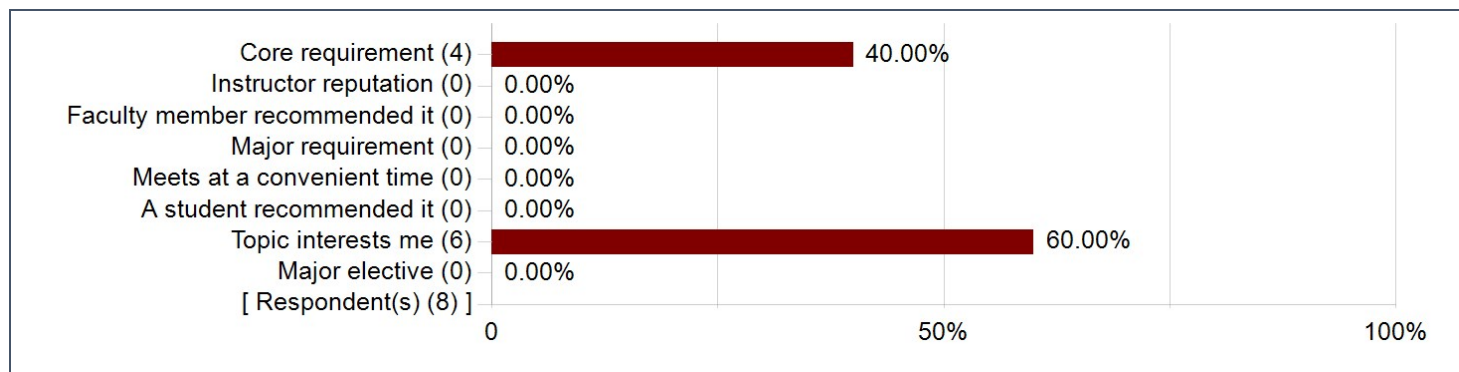
Number of Responses: **8**

Report Comments

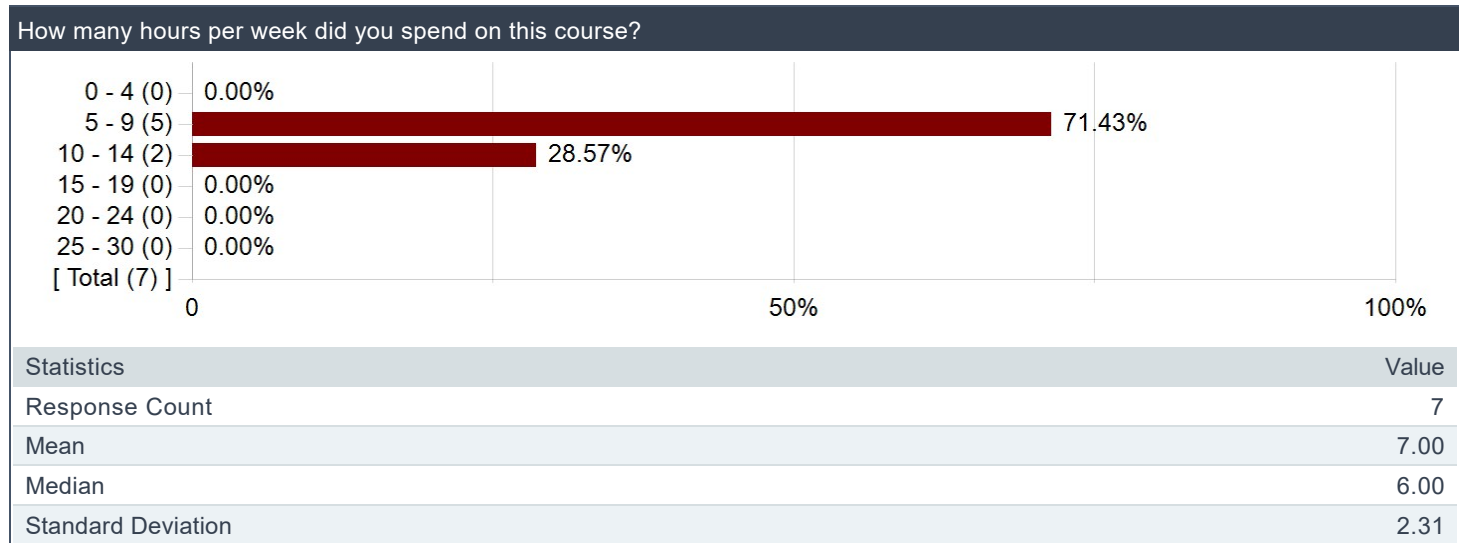
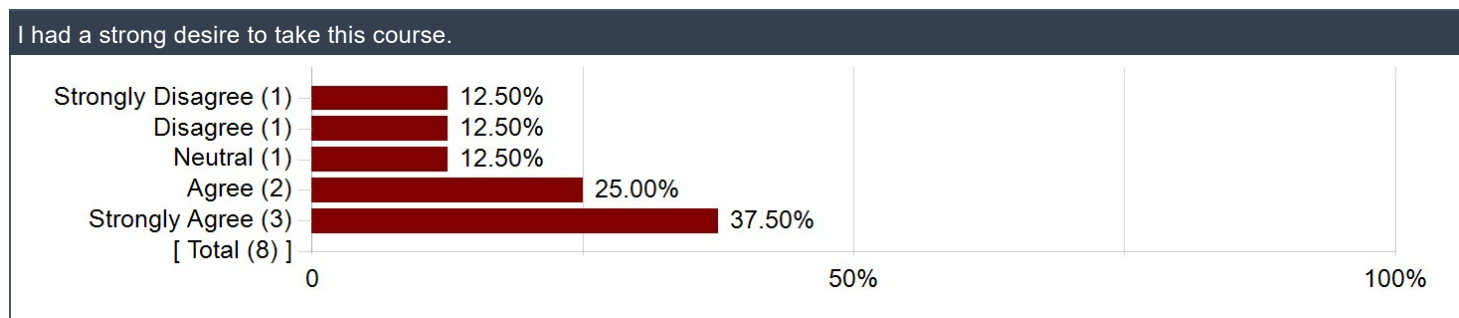
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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

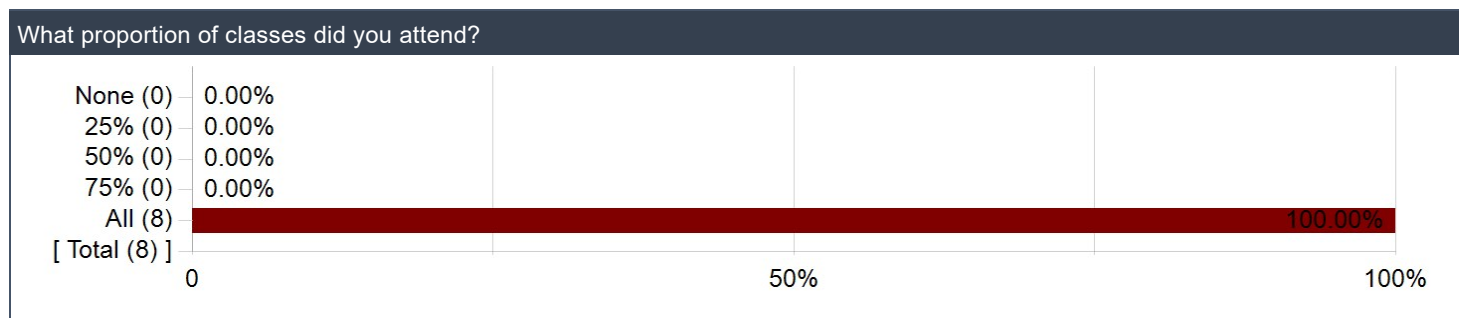
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



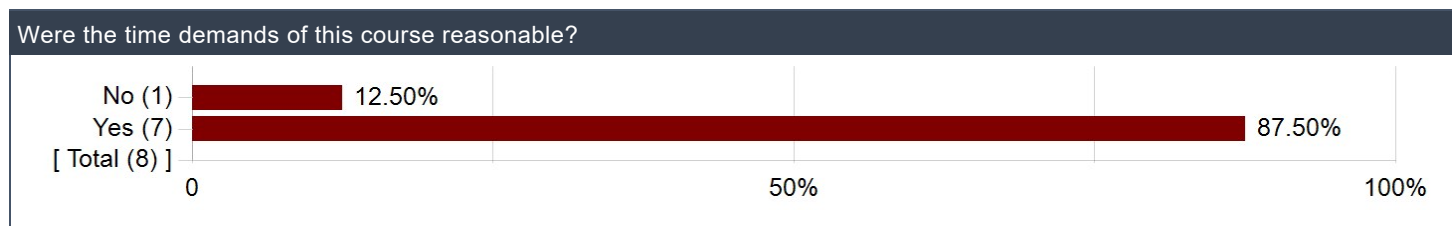
I had a strong desire to take this course.



What proportion of classes did you attend?



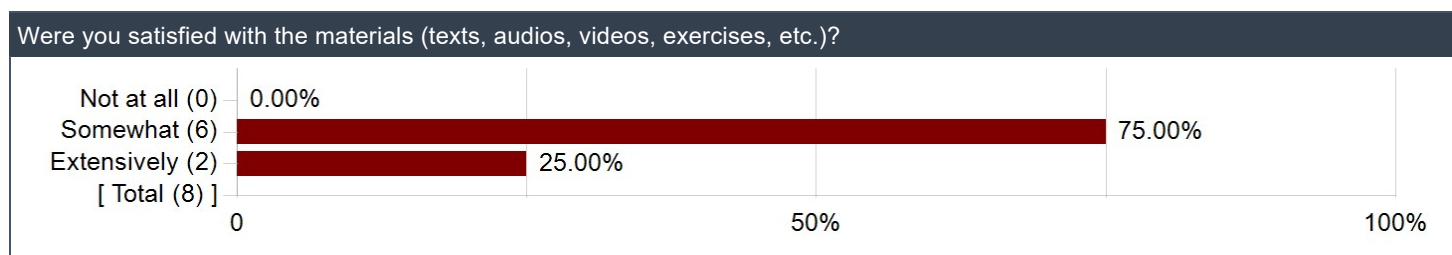
Were the time demands of this course reasonable?



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	3.50	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	12.50%	25.00%
Reading	2.88	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	37.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Writing	3.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Grammar	3.50	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Vocabulary	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Listening	3.75	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%

Were you satisfied with the materials (texts, audios, videos, exercises, etc.)?



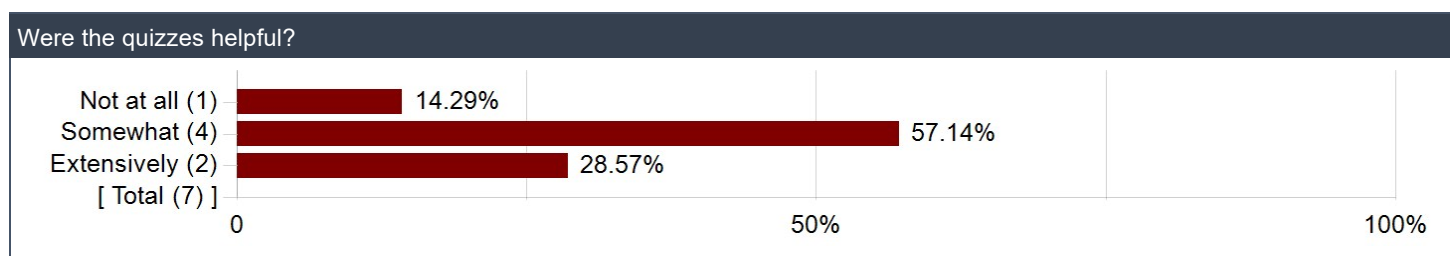
Please explain:

Comments
textbook exercises sometimes are very specific in the answers they're looking for, resulting in more time spent guessing the right way to put in the answer than actually thinkinhg about what the answers should be
the textbook reading components were mostly common knowledge, so those were not particularly unique. however, all of the lecturas were really interesting and engaging, especially the final one about immigration. while that one was the most challenging, i wish we read more essays in this course. we did not really listen to audios except sample music and do listening quizzes, so there is essentially nothing to say about that. same deal with videos. the exercises were really good examples for how to use the grammar patterns that we learned in the textbook, and i felt that they were appropriately written and covered all of the "cases".
For improving my conversational fluency and grammatical knowledge, the texts were certainly satisfactory! My only wish would have been to do more literature analysis, though I imagine this will be the focus in higher Spanish classes so it was not a big deal!
I really did not think students were prepared for the listening assessments in this course. As someone who has taken Spanish since the 102 class at UChicago (simply to continue learning the language), it was extremely frustrating to be tested on vocabulary and grammar structures completely new to me. I had no way to prepare for these assessments, and don't know how students are expected to perform well on them without having taken AP level classes in high school that brought them close to fluency
I enjoyed reading the stories for the group discussion assignments.
Some audios were muffled a little bit, and as someone who takes a while to understand, it did not help my comprehension for the audio to be hard to understand. Some texts also contained a lot of vocabulary that we had not learned yet, so it was a bit hard to read through things as well.

What did you learn about culture through language?

Comments
textbook chapters each emphasized an aspect of culture, talkabroads were helpful
we learned a good bit about dialects and how they changed some of the vocab words in class. our professor did a good job at giving examples of the same word from mexico then saying its equivalent in another spanish-speaking country. otherwise, the most i learned about culture was through the talkabroads, where i learned a ton about my partner's country as a whole and her city through a speaking format. we contrasted how our cities are organized, ie. urban planning differences, how school is structured, etc. and for me, that was the largest part of my cultural understanding.
I learned about a ton of Latinamerican events and holidays, political and environmental struggles, and food and music. I learned a lot about my Mexican heritage and culture as well through my TalkAbroad meetings with Mexican natives.
We discussed various topics from the textbook which, to be honest, were somewhat superficial (as we only had so much time before we moved on), but it was nonetheless very helpful to learn how to talk about these things (the internet, free time, immigration, the environment, etc.) in Spanish.
A lot! I really enjoyed our discussions about music, food, celebrations, and the politics of immigration
I learned about immigration in Spanish-speaking countries.
Two entire chapters were devoted to culture, so a lot was learned about culture in addition to just learning the language.

Were the quizzes helpful?



How helpful were the various types of homework?

	Mean	Median	Not At All	Somewhat	Very	N/A
Reading	2.29	2.00	0.00%	71.43%	28.57%	0.00%
Listening	1.83	2.00	28.57%	42.86%	14.29%	14.29%
Writing	2.57	3.00	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%	0.00%
Speaking	2.86	3.00	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

If Discussion Board/Blog Tools were used in your course, how useful did you find them?

Comments
N/A; not used
N/A
N/A

How useful did you find the required out of class aural/oral activities (e.g. cultural activities, conversational practice, activities of your choice, films, etc.)?

Comments
not very useful, interesting but not really related to the class and sometimes difficult to fit into my schedule or to find an event to go to if the enrollment was limited
i found the talkabroads really useful for developing my confidence for speaking and learning about a spanish speaking country; i feel way more comfortable speaking! i only attended one cafecito event so i'm not the most knowledgeable about this, but from what i can tell, the diversity in programming makes it seem really easy to engage with culture.
The TalkAbroad meetings and Cafecito events were extremely helpful. I built a lot of confidence in my speaking skills and loved spending time with people with shared linguistic and cultural passions.
I felt the TalkAbroads were an absolutely excellent tool to practice my Spanish as well as the Cafecito requirement
I loved Cafecito! It was such a cute break in my day and I loved learning about the Day of the Dead
I enjoyed the Talkabroad and the cultural activity
They were an important aspect to me getting more comfortable to holding conversations.

Other comments:

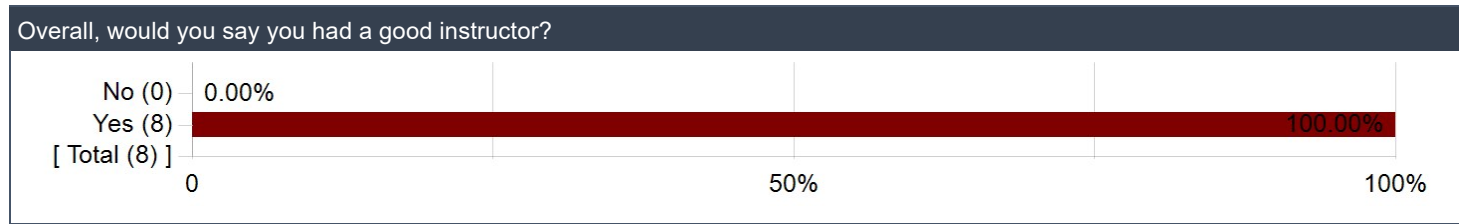
Comments
N/A
Listening was primarily emphasized with the listening quizzes. While I personally did relatively well on them, I did not feel they helped much as there was no real way to study and how good you are at understanding Spanish before the class is likely how well you will do on those, as opposed to other assessments where there is opportunity to improve.

The Instructor

Select one option for each statement (1 lowest - 5 highest):

	Mean	Median	1- Lowest	2	3	4	5- Highest
Rate your instructor's organizational skills	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
Rate your instructor's ability to convey the subtleties of the language	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Rate your instructor's ability to encourage class conversation and participation in this language	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Rate your instructor's availability outside of class and willingness to help	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
Rate feedback on assignments and exams	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%

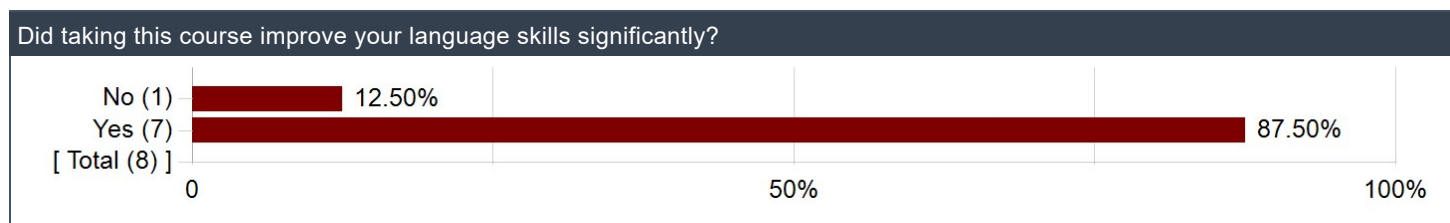
Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



Please explain:

Comments
Ely was great — she answered questions and encouraged speaking, she corrected mistakes productively and nicely , was available outside of class to answer questions, and was overall very engaging and helpful
ely was could answer questions essentially effortlessly about everything and anything (vocab, grammar, etc you name it she knows how to explain it in a way you can really understand). in terms of grading, she was very fair. she was very cognizant about our spanish speaking backgrounds and helped to tailor the class to force us beyond what we were comfortable with and develop what we did not really touch much on in high school; she just wanted to see that we learned something from the class and she was able to accomplish that and so much more. beyond the classroom setting, she is a really nice person and was super fun to just converse with her, especially before class started.
Ely was a fantastic instructor. She's funny, engaging, and very understanding — she was able to get the more reserved students to feel comfortable participating. I admired her passion for her home country the Dominican Republic and learned a lot.
Ely was always very understanding and helpful whenever I had an issue!
Ely is a wonderful instructor. She truly cares about the success of her students, both academic and personal. I always felt like she was rooting for me, appreciated her check-ins, and the whole class loved always knowing we could ask for extra help if needed. She balanced this support with also being an excellent, very clear, and organized teacher who went through a ton of material with clarity and efficiency
I liked most aspects of the class but I felt sometimes we weren't told in advance of some assessments and the tests and quizzes were very frequent.
She was kind and patient with the class, even when people were stuck on words or had difficulties. Her purpose was to help us gain confidence in the language, and so she really just wanted us to talk.
Ely is the best! She is very empathetic towards her students and very organized. She makes sure her students are well aware of deadlines, exam dates, etc.

Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



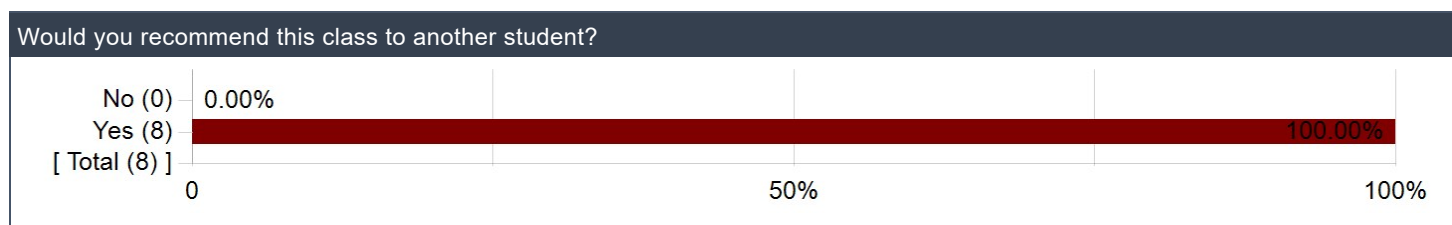
How would you improve this course?

Comments
emphasis on more practical usage rather than grammar exams would promote better language acquisition, especially given the short timeframe to understand and be able to apply multiple grammatical concepts
more audio activities. we barely did any of those at all; only audios we formally ran into were on quizzes.
I would love if the writing questions on exams were a little more open-ended because some seemed to be fishing for a certain opinion or answer.
As mentioned, I would perhaps redesign the listening quizzes in some way to allow for more opportunity to prepare/improve. No doubt is it an essential aspect of learning a language, but I always felt lost with them.
The assignments in this course are too overloaded. On many occasions, I found myself rushing and cramming to get projects done, when if I had had less on my plate, I would have been able to take more time on them—absorbing their material and practicing. Overburdening students in a language course does not help improve their language skills. Reducing some of the assessments would have helped me a lot with the extra time I wanted to spend on my work and not cut corners or rush through assignments (ESPECIALLY 9TH WEEK—the work load was crazy).
N/A
A lot is learned out of class, and I think it would be beneficial to learn more in class itself.

In what way?

Comments
re-taught concepts from high school (vocab and grammar), a bit confused as to why this course is required if this placement is above the competency requirement
i think my biggest improvement was in speaking. we did not speak much in high school, and this class forced me to get over my nervousness and just speak even if i made mistakes. from there, i just got more confident really.
I was able to review and learn grammar points that my high school either covered loosely or not at all. I can confidently say I have a good grasp of complex tenses like the subjunctive and future perfect, and I loved finally understanding all the uses of "se." Overall, I think I also gained so much more confidence in my speaking skills. They really emphasized not being embarrassed or afraid of making mistakes when speaking, which is what held me back so much in the past. Now, I am ready to take on more native speaker conversations and speak to family members that I couldn't before.
I felt that I now have a much better proficiency at speaking Spanish, which is great because beforehand I was mainly good at reading/writing.
I definitely learned a lot of grammar structures, grew more comfortable speaking, and many, many new vocab words that have expanded my breadth in conversation.
I gained better speaking, writing, and listening skills.
Speaking and conversational skills.

Would you recommend this class to another student?



Why?

Comments
if they need to take a language course for the core, this is a good one. time demands are reasonable, instructor was great
really good for intermediate spanish speakers who want to reinforce relatively more advanced grammar patterns and get better at speaking
I seriously improved my ability to speak in just 9 weeks!
It's an enjoyable class for sure—and though it is a grind, you'll do well enough if you can keep up with lots of busy work
It is a good way to complete the core.
She is a great instructor.