

### **Advice for Future Students from Students Who Took the Course in Fall 2019**

My biggest piece of advice for people taking this course is get to know the other people in the class. I did not really talk to anyone in the class until the final project. After I found my group, we got pretty close over the experience of creating our final project and the experience of this class in general. Shared experiences are key in building relationships and I think that some of the most fun I had in this class was getting to know people during our visits to the Islamic Center and during the final project. The class is a lot more enjoyable if you know the people around you and can have fun during lessons. The other huge thing to know is go to Professor Aydin's office hours. I know it can be scary to go to a professor and ask for help, but Professor Aydin is extremely kind and takes time to make sure you understand exactly what is going on in the class and in homework questions. I wish had gone to office hours more than I did, and I went quite a bit.

My advice to future students is to go to the review sessions. Even if you've already finished all the problems and bonus questions for the homework, still go, as it'll help clarify the math and might introduce you to another method of solving the problems. Also, do the review packets. They help! Take your time on the assignments and really try to understand the workings of the problems before class, so that the lecture will be a review instead of teaching something new. If you're anything like me, it's probably hard to understand a mathematical operation if it's written out in a book. Luckily, Prof. Aydin has made some videos demonstrating with examples the operations, and the in-class lectures will serve as more demonstrations. My last piece of advice would be to enjoy the class and the final presentation. Pick a topic you have interest in. That way, you'll be more willing to do it and will also do a better job on it.

In terms of recommendations for people who will take this course in the future, I would say definitely watch the video lessons because they are much easier to follow than the textbook itself. Pay attention in class and do the problems along with the professor whenever they are done in class because doing that will inevitably help a lot on the homework. Going to the tutoring sessions is also very useful if you're stuck on any homework problems. It's easy to sort of gloss over the exact names and dates of the history portion because we cover a lot, but making some flashcards or taking notes on the different figures, books, discoveries, dates, etc. will be very helpful for the short answer part of the exams, and any reading quizzes.

I would tell students who have decided to take this course to stay on top of their work. The expectations of this class are not hard to manage if one stays on top of the assignments. And this is not difficult to do since all the work for the semester is posted online for one to always look at and use to schedule accordingly. I would also recommend to students who have taken this course to really lean into the meaning behind what taking this course means. In taking this class one learns information that they probably wouldn't come into contact with in their regular course of studies. And, what's more, this information can be used to help give credit to a body of people and a culture that has been overlooked for far too long.

I would recommend this course to my friends. I would tell them that, even though it is a lot of work, it is a class that you take a lot away from. You are able to learn about the acclaimed works of Greek scholars, and then learn the actual Islamic scholars whose contributions those works were taken from. I think future students should stay ahead with the readings if they can. They should also go to office hours if they are struggling with the homeworks because Professor Aydin is very willing and able to provide help whenever he can. I think future students should come into the class with an open mind and enjoy the content that they are learning because it really has a good outcome when presenting their projects to the people at the NICC.

As for suggestions for this course in the future, as it is with all the requirements it needs to meet, I find it is very solid. I found myself lost at the math sometimes, but there were plenty of outside help opportunities presented, so I was able to find my footing in most ways. I would recommend this course to my friends! It is an extremely interesting, and as I said, necessary course.

I'd for sure recommend this course to other students. My one bit of advice for future students is to read any Berggren section twice. It can be confusing trying to read how he does problems strictly through text, so getting familiar with it will definitely help you in the long run. Along with that, don't wait until the last moment to do your homework. The help sessions are going to be your best friend.

I have several suggestions for students who take this class in the future. First I would say to do the readings on the mathematical topics slowly, and truly try to understand them. If you breeze through the reading questions by only looking for the answers you will skip over important mathematical components and fall behind. If you do not understand the mathematical concepts after reading it carefully, that is fine. That happened to me several times as I am sure it happened to many other kids. Luckily, the problems will be discussed in class but in reading them carefully beforehand class can be

a clarification of how to do the math instead of the first time you are learning it, which will ultimately make class easier to understand. Another piece of advice I would give to students who are struggling with the math aspects of the class is to make use of the class tutor. The tutor can break down the mathematical components either into different ways that we have seen in class, or offer alternate wording and phrasing for non-math kids to understand. The tutor helped me very much with my problem sets.

I recommend that future students take notes on the video lectures. I found it extremely helpful to do the example problems along with the video and thus I felt I was able to do a lot of the homework problems without extra help. In addition, I would tell that that the math is not easy, and it is extra-difficult because you essentially have to re-learn many of the methods which you have previously used in your math courses. Thus, I would urge future students to take advantage of the help-sessions as much as possible. Lastly, I would encourage future students to approach this class with an open mind, and be ready to re-think the way you understood the history of science.

While I would recommend this course to a friend, I would caution them not to think that it is an easy way to fulfill the College's QR or Distribution requirements. This class is tough, both in the amount of work that is assigned and in the difficulty of the math material. My recommendation for future students is to look ahead at the assignment coming up and seek help early. In office hours, Professor Aydin is very helpful. He is willing to work through any problems or questions with a student and is patient with students who do not grasp a concept immediately. While the class moves quickly, Professor Aydin makes himself exceptionally available to students and seeking his help makes the class more manageable and enjoyable.

I would recommend this class to future students. It was enlightening to reexamine what you may think you already know and it definitely changed my perspective on the way we view mathematics and science and how entrenched they both are in our everyday lives. This class is awesome for people that aren't necessarily STEM majors, but are still interested in math and science and are looking to learn more about the history of both. As an Art History major myself, it was extremely interesting to learn about the ways that math is crucial to Islamic art and architecture and I genuinely believe that this class gives you a new idea of the importance of these aspects. It also gives you a new mindset, one that gives you a more fair and accurate understanding of the achievements of math and science globally. I came into this class having learned about the European Renaissance and other western successes, but had my mind blown when finding out that if it weren't for the Islamic scholars we learn about in class, we would not be where we are today. I would tell them that although the math portion can be tough (especially if you haven't done any math since you were in 10th grade!), you have so many support systems to help you. The tutoring sessions were awesome and I don't know what I would have done without Audrey. The sessions were also a great way to meet people in your class and form study groups - which are crucial to doing the homework! This class also helped me with my time management, as it's crucial to start your homework in this class right away. Overall, it's a challenging course but can be a very rewarding one as well.

To any friends who might take this course in the future, I recommend taking very detailed notes during classes. Draw every diagram, and buy a pack of colorful pens so that you can clearly differentiate between different steps when you refer to your notes for the homework assignments. You might write everything and think "it's okay, I will remember what this means later." You will not. Secondly, for the math homework, I found it very helpful to do all of my scrapwork in my class notebook and transfer the finished products neatly into a separate little notebook. Because Professor Aydin requires you to show your steps and explain your reasoning for each problem, having the homework easily accessible in a neat format will make it much easier to study for the exams in the future (and you should *definitely study for the exams*. Seriously. Please. They are no joke).

I would recommend this course to a friend, but I would have to preface the recommendation with a warning about the workload of the course. The difficulty of the class was unexpected to me, considering it's a 100 level class (if possible, I think it's a good idea to change that). The course isn't so much difficult content wise as it is workload wise. I don't even think I would have had a problem with it or struggled if I had known how much work it would be going in. Overall though I would say this class was a positive experience. It was stressful and a lot of work, but overall a positive, if only just for the usefulness of the historical context.

I would definitely recommend this course to other people, but I would let them know what they were getting themselves into beforehand. This is a great course. I learned a lot about a topic I did not know anything about prior to this semester, and I feel as though I challenged myself. My main suggestion would be for future students to make sure they keep up with the reading and the homeworks. The homework was very mathematical and can be very difficult even if you have done the reading. I think that one of the most valuable aspects of this course in regards to homework were the help sessions. I found the tutor to be extremely helpful at explaining concepts and helping me to finish and understand the homework. Overall, I very much enjoyed this course. I found it to be very difficult at times, but rewarding nonetheless. The course was an interesting combination of math and history. When I initially signed up for the course, I had assumed that it was going to be more historical, based solely on the name of the course. However, after being in the course in the first couple weeks, I realized that this would be a dominantly mathematical course. Another aspect of this course I really enjoyed was the digital story. Prior to this project I had no idea how to make a digital story. Now I confidently say that I know how to make a digital story and I am very pleased with that takeaway.