

I would absolutely recommend this course to friends; I learned so much important information and loved the community-engaged learning aspect. It was a very useful and significant course. Even if you struggle with math, there are plenty of resources, especially great office hours. Anyone interested in history, science, religion, math, or education would find things that interest them in this course, and the final project offers a chance to explore a topic of your choice in more depth. My suggestions for the course are spending more in-class time working through math problems with partners and going through specific math problems in the review sessions.

My advice for future students taking this course is to choose a final project you are genuinely interested in, go to office hours for help, and embrace the opportunity to learn history differently than it's usually taught. The experience of presenting at NICC was the highlight of this course for me, and I enjoyed researching and creating a poster I was excited about. I went to office hours for every homework assignment and benefited greatly from the one-on-one help and extra explanation. I would recommend doing as much as you can on the homework beforehand to get more specific assistance; however, keep in mind that the math taught in this class is likely new to everyone, so don't be afraid to ask for help starting the problem or understanding what it is asking. Professor Aydin is a great resource. I would also recommend taking good notes on the paper handouts accompanying the Saliba chapters; it will set you up well for the second exam. Additionally, do not underestimate the history component of the exams—it is a large section and the easiest way to get points if you review your notes and study guides well. Finally, this course provides a unique way to learn history that has been ignored and overlooked, understand the influence behind great scientific developments, and actively engage in spreading information to the public, so take advantage of the opportunity to learn!

I would only recommend this course to my friends if they were ready to take on the course material and were very interested in the topic. I think it is a very rigorous course to take as a QR requirement. I would also say get started thinking about the final project earlier rather than later, especially when it comes to the topic. I think having an idea of what I wanted to do for my final project earlier made the process a lot easier.

I plan to encourage people to take this course in the future. It changed my views on math and pushed me to question what I thought I knew about the subject. I want people to have the same experience. This course was challenging, too, and the workload could be heavy at times. This leads to my advice for future students: stay on top of the workload. I found that doing the readings each day made it easier for me. This becomes more important for books we read. Doing a little each day makes tackling the entire book much more manageable. This becomes more important for the math homework. While only a few problems are assigned, they usually take quite a bit of time and require a good understanding of the concepts. One regret I had from the course was not going to office hours. There were some times when I did not understand the problems and did not ask for help. My grade reflected my actions. More importantly than my grade, I just could not understand the concept in general. When having trouble, go to office hours you will not regret it.

My advice for future students of this course is to approach the material with a completely open mind and a willingness to explore new ideas. Read the material carefully. There is a lot of reading, but it is really important to do it because otherwise you will fall behind and be lost. The material is honestly really difficult and not very approachable, but with a careful and thoughtful read, it is possible to understand. I highly recommend engaging actively in class discussions. This is something I did not do because I was too afraid of being wrong. This mindset really harmed my learning, so embrace the Islamic method of practicing inquiry and ask questions! I recommend taking advantage of opportunities to collaborate with peers in the class. Studying in groups and doing the material with others is super beneficial. I was lucky to have a friend in the class I could go to for help which helped me a lot. The material is so much easier to understand when you're walking it through with someone else. Similarly, I highly recommend going to office hours. Professor Aydin is always available to meet

with students which is incredibly thoughtful and helpful of him. Many times the content did not click with me until I met with him on one and asked him questions. The course offers so much new knowledge and valuable insights, so make the most of it by really taking the time to understand the topics and find what you're interested in. Pick a final topic that you are passionate about because you will spend so much time preparing for the presentation at NICC.

The final presentation is so incredibly rewarding. I did not realize how much I would enjoy being able to communicate these ideas and bring awareness to them until the presentations. It was incredible to see how many people came and were interested in it. I had many discussions with audience members which left me happy because they were excited and grateful to learn something new. I have been recommending this course to all my friends because of the way it challenges many commonly held misconceptions. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about the intersection between history and math in a unique and cool way.

I would recommend this class to most of my friends who want to receive liberal arts education, because from taking this class I learned a new perspective to understand history, science, and how different cultures interact. This class is not just a simple math or history class that wants to learn about practical skills or memorizing facts. I acquired a new view to learn the development of science and math which can be applied to learning about the development of music and literature (because I'm a Music and English major). To the future students, my advice is that although Professor Aydin is very demanding, if you have the habit of finishing work on the day it is assigned, the workload of this class is actually not that much. And if you seek help from Professor Aydin when you have problems doing the math, you don't need to worry about not finishing homework and getting a bad grade. However, if you leave all the work to the last day to finish, you are basically done. Cramming for this class is not possible. You have to learn how to organize and schedule your work.

I suggest that you start math homework earlier and do not rush through each problem as that can create more mistakes. Seek help whenever you can. Reread each question.

I would recommend this course to my friends with the caveat that there is a ton of homework and it's not great to take for someone with a lot of work. I would tell new students to talk to the professor about all the homework – it's really helpful for making sense of the textbook.

My main suggestions for a future student are to start all of your work with plenty of time to spare, and also to see Professor Aydin if you need any help, because he is very welcoming and explains things very well. I would also encourage future students to really lean into the events at NICC and talk to people there, and engage with the community center to the extent that you are invited into it.

I would say keeping on top of work is crucial. That includes asking for help even when it seems like I could figure things out on my own, I think that I did not ask for enough help even when I really needed to in terms of fully understanding and grasping the math. Having friends to take the class with really benefited my experience, too, having support systems in classes where you feel out of your comfort zone is always helpful. Overall, I am very glad I took this class because it broadened my horizons in terms of mathematical capabilities and historical understandings of the world beyond the Western world.

I would recommend this course to my friends if they are interested in history, particularly Islamic history. However, if they are planning on joining the course just to get the QR requirement out of the way, I would advise them to choose another course. Math 128 is an intensive and fulfilling course for those who are truly interested in learning a new

aspect of history and presenting this research to the public. Going into the course with the mindset of getting a course requirement out of the way will detract from the experience and they might find the work less enjoyable and more tedious, because there is a *lot* of reading and a lot of math. It's easy to do well in the course if you're willing to put the effort in, and Prof. Aydin is a fair grader, but if you're more interested in getting the course out of the way, you might not have a good experience. But I would highly recommend this course to anyone who is interested in Islamic history and culture, you really do get a lot of exposure to the culture through trips to the Islamic center and readings about the religious aspect of the course. If you're an Arabic or MLL student, I also think that this is a good course to take for its cultural, historical, and mathematical aspects. The mathematical portion will be even more interesting because you can clearly see the Arabic influence. My other piece of advice to students taking this course is to not feel overwhelmed by the work at first. In the first week, the amount of reading assigned felt overwhelming to me, but once I got into it it wasn't too bad, and the more you read the more you realize how each reading builds off of each other. Try to approach the reading with genuine interest rather than with the mindset of getting the reading questions out of the way. It will help a lot with understanding, remembering, and applying the historical part of the course. Class discussions of the reading also helped a lot for my understanding of the historical aspect of the course.

I would recommend this class to a friend on the condition that they are prepared to do a lot of hard and confusing math. Compared to another intro-level math class for non-majors that I've taken, Surprises at Infinity, Math in the Islamic World was much harder. I would suggest that if they do take this class they go to office hours frequently and to not freak out if they don't understand the math.

I would advise incoming students to make the course what they want, take from it what they find most resonates with themselves, and run with that motivating force. I think the participant who locks on to an aspect of the course that they find most interesting and then explores the rest of the material through that lens will have the best time in this course. There is so much to learn that it can be overwhelming but it can also be made immensely rewarding by the students if they want it enough, if they learn from their failures and continue to follow the lines of inquiry that stimulate them the most.

I would recommend this class to my friends and I would be honest about the time commitment of the course. This is a class that you cannot put off and will be one you are forced to engage with the whole semester- which is really rewarding at the end. The biggest advice I would give future students is to go to office hours or forming study groups. I am very thankful I had a study group because we were able to tackle mathematical problems together. I would also recommend getting involved in class discussions about how to prove mathematical equations. I wish I would have gone to the white board more in class to help me understand how to solve the equations without looking at my notes