

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to convey what a pleasure it was having Dr Subhan Zein as my lecturer for Advanced Indonesian (INDN3000) and Indonesian Contemporary Culture (INDN3002) at The University of Queensland, semesters one and two in 2019.

Third year Indonesian was a true mixed bag, with all students hailing from different educational backgrounds and disciplines. Yet Dr Zein always managed to combine language learning with other information relevant to our respective degrees. He would neatly incorporate aspects of culture, politics, economics, and linguistics, which helped to keep things interesting and engaging. Every class started with an update on the week's most important Indonesian socio-political news, where he would demonstrate true subject matter expertise. Sometimes class would end and I would be amazed at how many topics of Indonesian culture he seamlessly intertwined into the week's theme. He fosters an environment that encourages open debate and the sharing of new ideas, all while carefully guiding discussions to keep them pertinent to the topic at hand. Even though the course material was difficult, it was always enjoyable and quickly became my favourite class.

The level of academic support Dr Zein provided remains unrivalled. As students we were always given relevant extra activities that helped us to paint an up to date picture of the Indonesian political landscape. If we had particular interest, for example linguistics, he would link us to cross-disciplinary material to read/watch, incorporating both our interests and the current subject. If we missed a class due to personal reasons in the weeks prior to a major assignment, he would email us and ask us how we were progressing, and whether there was something we wanted to cover in greater detail in the following class. His approachability contributed to why the class was enjoyable as it was. His level of patience and genuine desire to broaden his student's minds meant that no question was ever too dumb, which promotes class involvement and question asking. After the first few weeks of seeing Dr Zein's approach and knowledge, I started writing down questions I had during the week knowing that the following Wednesday I'd be able to get the best answer.

At university a lot of assignments are returned with what feels like generic feedback. This was not the case with Dr Zein, as I regularly looked forward to his constructive criticisms and commentary. His feedback was always prompt and would always show great insight which made me want to try harder as I knew any effort I made would be reflected in the quality of his advice. It was this advice that directly provided me with the tools I needed to grow as a student.

Overall, Dr Zein has set a very high bar in terms of my expectations for future lecturers. I thoroughly enjoyed his classes and know future students will as well.

If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me at mhhlange@hotmail.com.

Kind regards,

Martin Lange