

I appreciate the opportunity to evaluate my experience in Debrecen's course on Hungarian history and culture.

I must say that, in spite of the fact that the course was taught on-line, my experience was an entirely positive one. Both of the instructors were friendly, knowledgeable, and willing to take time to accommodate students' questions and problems. I, for example, had difficulties with the technology used. The instructors and the folks in the office went out of their way to help me. As a result, I missed none of the classes.

As far as the material covered goes, I found it both informative and presented in an interesting manner. For example, Dr. Racz used clips of music and films quite effectively. It was also abundantly clear that Dr. Barta not only knew Hungarian history "like the back of his hand," but that he was interested in what he was talking about and that he sought to relay his enthusiasm to the students.

Dr. Racz effectively related his love of Hungarian literature, especially poetry. I would, however, have liked for him to have said something about Peter Nadas, who is perhaps even more famous outside of Hungary than Imre Kertesz, although the latter has won the Nobel Prize. But, of course, in a class of this nature, instructors have to make sometimes difficult decisions concerning what to include and what to exclude. I found Dr. Racz's lecture on the films of Istvan Szabo especially enlightening. Indeed, having only seen Mephisto, I purchased copies of a couple of Szabo's other films so that I could watch them at my leisure.

In short, the class increased both my knowledge of and enthusiasm for Hungarian history and culture. I learned a great deal and am much better prepared to get the most out of my Fulbright experience in Hungary.

Thanks for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Russel Lemmons