



## **Final reflection course**

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DAW2: Web Development

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## **Carlos Jimenez Zepeda**

This course has been a challenging yet rewarding experience that has pushed me to grow in many aspects of web development. However, I believe it could benefit from some adjustments to improve the learning experience and make the workload more balanced. Here's my honest opinion on the course structure, topics covered, workload, skills acquired, and overall experience.

### **First Partial: A Great Foundation**

The first partial was, in my opinion, the highlight of the course. The focus on understanding HTML and CSS deeply was incredibly valuable. The workload for the portfolio during this period felt balanced and achievable, allowing us to practice and improve our skills without feeling overwhelmed. The project delivery was challenging but manageable, and I genuinely enjoyed working on it. It felt like a well-rounded learning experience that allowed us to focus on the quality of our work and apply creativity to our projects.

### **Second Partial: A Steep Climb**

The second partial, however, was significantly more demanding. The pace of the class became very fast, as we had to cover a wide variety of topics in a short period. While JavaScript was introduced, it was covered very briefly, and we delved more deeply into Node.js and Express. Unfortunately, the sheer number of activities required for the portfolio during this period was overwhelming. This created a disconnect between what was being covered in class and what was needed to complete the assignments.

Often, I found myself having to research and learn topics on my own, only for them to be covered in class weeks later. This approach made it difficult to stay aligned with the expected pace, as I had to rework several tasks to match the standards introduced later. While I understand the need to include these topics in the curriculum, the heavy workload made it challenging to focus on producing high-quality work, as we could during the first partial.

### **Final Partial: React and Overload**

The final partial added React to the mix, which is an essential technology in modern web development. However, learning React within a month, especially delving into hooks, felt rushed and left little room for thorough understanding. While I was able to grasp the concepts thanks to the groundwork from the earlier partials and my independent study, it required a significant amount of additional effort. I believe React deserves more time to be properly understood, particularly given its relevance in the industry.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

Based on my experience, I would recommend splitting the course into two parts. The first course could focus on backend development, including a more thorough exploration of Node.js and Express, along with foundational database concepts. The second course could

then focus exclusively on frontend development with React, allowing students to delve into the MERN stack at a professional level. This would provide more time to understand and apply concepts while creating projects of exceptional quality.

Additionally, I would suggest that the professor consider creating tutorial videos or recorded coding examples. This would be incredibly helpful for students who want to work ahead or need clarification on specific concepts. Having a resource to revisit would save time and ensure alignment with the class standards, especially for students who may need to modify their initial work after understanding the professor's approach better.

### **Positive Aspects**

Despite the challenges, there were several highlights. The theoretical presentations were excellent, providing valuable context and historical background for the technologies we used. The quizzes were also helpful, as they encouraged us to explore documentation—a skill that was critical when tackling topics independently.

### **Final Thoughts**

Overall, I deeply appreciate the effort the professor put into this course. The balance between technical depth and accessibility was handled as well as possible given the time constraints. I understand that the current structure may be a necessity due to curriculum limitations, and I recognize the professor's dedication to making the best use of the time available.

Personally, I found the professor to be outstanding—knowledgeable, clear, and fluent in English, which added an extra layer of professionalism to the class. I would highly recommend considering the tutorial videos as a complement to the class, as they could provide long-term value to students and enhance the learning experience even further.

This course has been a significant milestone in my web development journey, and I am grateful for the knowledge and skills I have acquired. With a few adjustments, this class could become an even better foundation for aspiring developers. Thank you for the opportunity to grow and learn!

## **Martín García Torres**

This course was a great challenge for everyone. I want to emphasize that it was not just about learning from the classes or the teacher; it required a lot of time outside of class to understand how some things work or to incorporate elements that we couldn't cover during class.

### **First Partial:**

The first midterm was very interesting as it was where we were taught the fundamentals of what we would be doing throughout the course, in addition to providing us with the necessary tools to later deliver a very good project. On the other hand, it was the midterm with the most portfolio work and where we saw the most tools and methods for doing things, so in terms of learning, it was very comprehensive.

### **Second Partial:**

The second midterm was different compared to the first, as instead of continuing along the same line of HTML, we jumped to EJS to understand how to design a web page. Despite being a significant change, it wasn't too difficult since the structure of HTML remained the same. Additionally, we could now connect to databases and use Express, along with many tools that are more complicated to use or implement in basic HTML.

### **Final:**

For the final, it was a challenge not only to learn from scratch how to use React and its rules for building a web page, but also because instead of working on portfolios, the focus shifted directly to the project. This midterm is the shortest of all, but fortunately, since there were fewer portfolio submissions and we didn't have to learn as much web content—only how to use React and connect it to the backend—I feel that we were more focused.

### **Conclusion:**

I found the course to be very good and comprehensive overall, but there are certainly things I would like to change or improve. For example, the amount of content that needs to be covered is too much for the duration of the classes or the semester. On the other hand, I believe it has been one of the subjects I have enjoyed the most and where I have learned the most about how to use it. Additionally, I had a great time programming and wrestling with some compilation errors.

## **Andrés González Gómez**

This course was a challenging but rewarding experience that helped me grow in web development. Working with my team was one of the best parts, as we communicated well and supported each other. My main role was in designing the webpage, where I focused on choosing colors, organizing the layout, and making the site responsive and compatible with different devices and browsers.

### **First Partial: A Great Start**

The first partial gave me a strong foundation in HTML and CSS. It was exciting to explore creative ideas while learning the basics. The assignments felt balanced, which allowed me to focus on making my designs look good and function well. This phase helped me understand how to build clear and user-friendly layouts.

### **Second Partial: A Tough Adjustment**

The second partial was more difficult because we switched to EJS. This change caused several problems with the design, as many elements had to be replaced to work with the backend. Adjusting these components took extra time and effort, but it taught me how to adapt my work to new requirements and solve problems efficiently.

### **Final Partial: Learning React**

The final partial introduced React, which was a big challenge but also very rewarding. Learning React's structure and hooks required a lot of effort, but it was satisfying to see everything we had learned come together in the final project. This phase allowed me to combine my design and technical skills in a more advanced way.

### **Conclusion:**

Overall, this course was a valuable learning experience. The challenges, especially in the second partial, helped me improve my problem-solving skills. I'm proud of my role in the design and adaptability of the projects and grateful for everything I learned. This course has prepared me to take on more complex web development projects in the future.