

Instructor: **Valcourt, Scott**Subject: **CS**Catalog & Section: **5008 04**Course ID: **16846**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **19**Responses Incl Declines: **12**Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Scott Valcourt (23 comments)

Q: What were the strengths of this course and/or this instructor?

- 1 the instructor certainly know about what is he teaching and enable to help students.
- 2 Scott is very prepared and makes himself available to students
- 3 Dr. Valcourt is so kind, jolly, and warm and an overall great professor. He knows his stuff and is always on top of it and supportive. man, i thought this stuff was really challenging and important, us writing about space and time...
- 4 Prof Valcourt is enthusiastic and knowledgeable. The course topic is dense, but he was always happy to share the info.
- 5 I can't say enough to convey my appreciation of Professor Valcourt and his expertise as a teacher. He conveys complicated concepts in a clear fashion. He makes all of the material interesting and engaging. He motivates us to work hard and master the material. The course is rapidly paced, but well structured and each section builds on the previous section and is beautifully designed.
- 6 I have brought this up before, but I would like to make a point to reiterate this sentiment whenever I get the chance. I appreciate that most of the instructors at the Roux, including Professor Valcourt, are very understanding and want their students to learn. I think that draconian homework, assignment deadlines, and workloads are not conducive to productive learning. For example, there was an assignment that I was slightly struggling with that I needed more time for. The Professor informed us that those assignments would not be due until the end of the semester. I was fully prepared to submit an incomplete assignment, since generally the penalty for being late is worse than being wrong. I took another week to work on the problem, completed it, and then turned it in. I ended up persevering and completing the assignment instead of just giving up and moving on. This is what I appreciate about the Roux and Professor Valcourt.
- 7 This course is a lot cramped into 1, however good the professor, eventually this course expects us to grasp a lot
- 8 Dr Valcourt's enthusiasm for what he does is unmatched. He is also very supportive and will make time for you almost whenever you need it.

Q: What could the instructor do to make this course better?

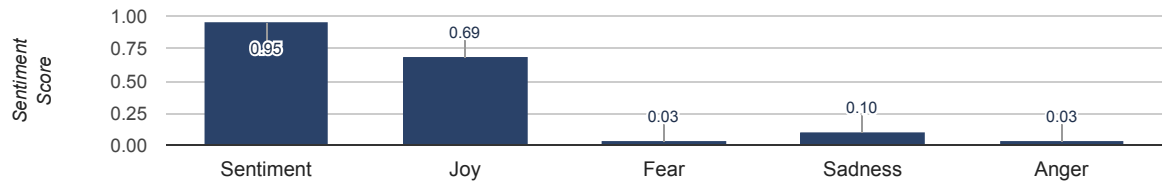
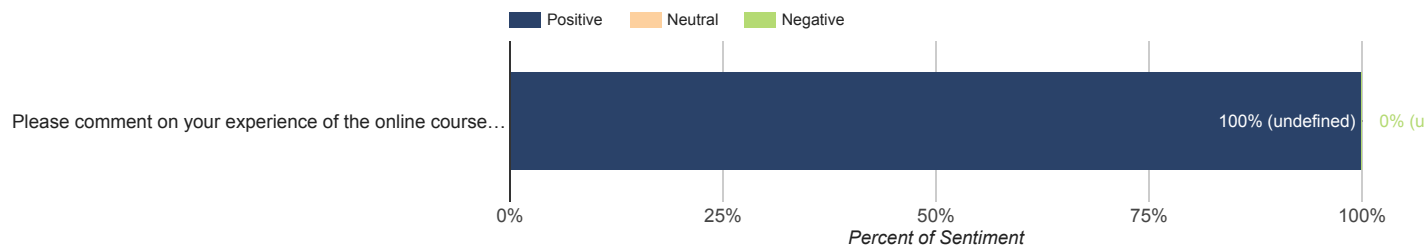
- 1 N/A
- 2 Going into this course the expectation is most students have no experience with the C programming language in which this course is taught. I found it very difficult to make this transition and would have liked a much stronger introductory lesson on how to use it. The course syllabus did not accurately reflect what was on Canvas. The assignments were challenging and I did not get a lot of value from attending the class other than reinforcing the theory behind the principles. I would have found it beneficial to use class time to work on problems together and walk through the foundations and concepts. I would have liked more in-class exercises than a long 3-hour lecture with little pause for Q&A. In short, I did not find this class very interactive and do not feel very proficient in C leaving this class. It taught me new data structures and algorithms at a high level but not how and when to apply them and how to translate them into code for different languages and applications. The paramount assignment of this course was the final assignment to find the shortest path using Dijkstra's algorithm. Most other students I talked to were unable to complete this assignment despite a lot of dedication and commitment to learning. I did not fully complete this assignment and was frustrated at the lack of feedback and instruction on how to do so successfully. Overall, I did not enjoy this class. It was extremely challenging and I did not feel that the professor's teaching style was conducive to my learning. I would have liked much more interactivity and code-along examples in class.
- 3 in recitation we walk through stuff more together
- 4 I would prefer assignments which were less time-consuming. More pointedly - I often felt the assignments took so long I didn't have time to do any additional inquiries into the topics/ rote coding/ exploration of topics because every hour I could commit to schoolwork was filled by simply completing the assignments. HW Lab Reading is a bit too much.
- 5 This is a difficult question to answer since this is such a well-designed course with rich content. One possibly idea would be to offer a follow-on course, building on the concepts and exercises of 5008 and adding topics that possibly couldn't be covered in the available time in a 1 semester course.
- 6 Please atleast decrease the networking side of things and only stick to data structures and algothims
- 7 Give more direction on the labs and homeworks. Get rid of HW8

Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

- 1 Scott know about coding, C and algorithm, he is really helpful to solve students' questions.
- 2 The professor's main strengths are his enthusiasm to the material, his knowledge, and his availability to help students. He responded to emails quickly, accommodated late assignments for unforeseen challenges, and was available on breaks in class and office hours to trouble shoot code.
- 3 i think he is extremely inclusive, and was grateful for that this summer when I was a student who needed inclusive learning
- 4 The breadth of this course is dense, as is programming in C. Prof. Valcourt did a great job of covering a lot of topics, but I would have preferred fewer topics with greater understanding. May be helpful to occasionally ask a student to explain a topic back to professor after explaining it - this can work as Align students, in particular, may be approaching the topic from a less jargon-heavy way and their explanation may be better suited to classmates. I like the Professor brining his experience into the classroom, but would suggest fewer anecdotes - spend that time asking for questions from students...etc.
- 5 In addition to being an excellent teacher, Professor Valcourt takes care to speak clearly, which is helpful to native and non-native English speakers. He makes the material entertaining and engaging. He cares about his students and gives us every opportunity to succeed. He is responsive and is always available to help and answer questions. He conveys a strong sense of professionalism that makes us want to succeed. He also takes a practical approach and makes every effort to familiarize us with important career insights as computer scientists and software engineers. He truly cares about his students and wants to prepare us in our future careers.
- 6 The instructor has a lot of knowledge regarding the subject and is enthusiastic about teaching the students, but its a lot for students to take in for 16 weeks
- 7 Professor Valcourt was very inclusive and I never felt like there was any bias or an issue.
- 8 Instructor vastly underestimates the time needed to complete assignments.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (4 comments)

Q: Please comment on your experience of the online course environment in the open-ended text box.



- 1 very nice ★★★★★
- 2 hes great at being online and making me feel like teched in, like his mic is on and the sound is on and hes recording, and hes making it inviting ★★★★★
- 3 Professor Valcourt does an excellent job in the online course environment. He understands the domain with a high level of expertise that seamlessly translates the physical classroom into the virtual classroom and vice versa. He is by far the most proficient master of this hybrid course delivery method that I have yet seen at the Roux. ★★★★★
- 4 Very good ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (7 comments)

Q: What I could have done to make this course better for myself.

- 1 maybe learn some C language before hand.
- 2 go to office hours more
- 3 more leetcode
- 4 Avoid all distractions and begin all the exercises immediately. Watch all the videos, review all the notes after class. Ask questions. I took a basic online command line course in the summer preparing for 5008, and would recommend this to other students.
- 5 I just didn't have enough time most weeks to achieve the level of effort that I would like from myself
- 6 Dr Scotts knowledge of the subject is very impressive, though The lectures are too information dense, it can be great if a class can be divided into two classes.
- 7 Not let myself fall behind