

Discrete Structures (Spring 2023)

Instructor: **Amor-Tijani, Ghita**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5002 09**

Course ID: **36004**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **69**

Responses Incl Declines: **23**

Declines: **1**

Instructor Related Questions: Ghita Amor-Tijani (33 comments)

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

- 1 The homework is well-designed
- 2 Course covered a good deal of math fundamental to computer science.
- 3 Great concepts and the online reading is very helpful
- 4 Professor Amor-Tijani is a great professor and great at teaching. She also cares about students and devotes lots of time to office hours to help students to better understand the materials.
- 5 Assignments prepared me well for the exams, also were very thorough so I learned the material well
- 6 The TAs are super helpful for any class-related questions
The textbook is helpful
- 7 I really loved Professor Amor-Tijani's way of teaching this class. She approaches teaching with a great, approachable attitude, and makes difficult material seem less-so.
- 8 1. The professor is very good at connecting with the audience and explaining concepts. She was even better at explaining concepts than material I found online often. But do please give her a white board instead of a chalk board!!! The chalk board made it a lot harder to see what was written and caused me to lose understanding-especially with complex topics like solving recurrences. Also she is allergic! The seating/desk arrangement in that classroom were perfect but the boards were a real impediment. 2. Requiring material review before lecture. This was hugely helpful. I wouldn't have learned nearly as much in the class without being able to review it before hand. 3. The supplementary materials - textbook and practice problems - were super helpful, especially for the first few chapters on binary and logic and such. I did get lost when material wasn't covered in the textbook beforehand and would like to have more of the specific problems/processes covered in class available beforehand (e.g. textbook did not cover subtracting in binary or two's compliment I believe). 4. The TAs were super helpful. 5. All Office hours and additional practice problems and examples were super important. Also the wide availability/amount of office hours was so appreciated. 6. I could go on, Professor Ghita was great! Overall, the biggest strength was that she really cares about the material and the students. You can feel it as one of her students and it helps us connect and learn.
- 9 TAs are good
- 10 examples and practice are very useful
- 11 The format where we complete zybook readings before lecture and then have homework after each lecture was very effective for me to learn. Zybooks gave me a preview of the material before lectures, and the homeworks were appropriately challenging to reinforce lecture material.
- 12 1. The professor always tried to teach us as much as she could and not waste even one minute until we get off class.
2. Professor provided us a lot of help inside and outside class.
3. Even scheduled extra professor office hours to help students better prepared for exams.

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

- 1 Instructor should give more insights of the knowledge not how to put number into math formulas and offer more out-of-class office hour to students.
- 2 Probably do a better job of communicating the concepts in class.
- 3 1. Please prepare to teach. The instructor gets lost in class multiple times and needs help from student in explaining concepts and questions.
2. Please respond on piazza. The instructor rarely reply on piazza and students' questions are left unresolved for days.
3. Please release the weekly content on time. Readings and homeworks and handouts should be released on time, not after student requested it and left little time for us to do the reading/ leave us guessing what's going on.
- 4 One small improvement might be to increase the contents depth of the course.
- 5 Maybe the notes can be more organized
- 6 Go over some difficult problems in class instead of just talking about basic rules.
Provide detailed step by step solutions for example problems, homework and practice problems. Most solutions that were given are not well-explained so it was hard to follow .
- 7 I loved her approach to online professor office hours and would not recommend changing that. However, if there could be more in-person TA Office hours, that would be amazing. The single in-person officer hours which I was aware of and went to was amazing! Sometimes in-person really is just better.
- 8 1. The course textbook with exercises was super helpful for understanding the material. However, it did not line up with how the material was taught in class and that made a lot of my preparation for class useless. I would encourage continued use of the textbook but recommend supplementing it with the notation (e.g. in the Logic module) and examples of expected processes (e.g. for how to solve recurrence relations) BEFORE class periods so that people can review exactly what is expected and come to class prepared with that. This is especially important for folks who struggle with the material like myself and who learn way better from being able to review the material ahead of time. 2. More links to additional resources that are relevant. 3. Better responsiveness. 4. The syllabus did not mention certain details that caused confusion among all the students e.g. dropping the lowest homework grade and the details of cheat sheet for tests and things needed like the requirements of the calculator that most students had to go buy specifically for the test. Being able to prepare the cheat sheet farther in advance would have been helpful for the midterm.
- 9 The instructor could have better time management in class, in which she should spend more time taking the difficult concepts instead of just leaving them. Moreover, she seldom replies to piazza posts. The solutions for homework are not provided for final exam revisions even though we asked in the piazza for few times.
- 10 None
- 11 Since my background was very minimal in math, I had personal struggles with relearning the basics, and while the professor was very helpful to explain any questions, I think it would be helpful to write out all implied math steps. For example, it helps to write out when we multiply by 1, or if in counting we write out (5 choose 5) even though it doesn't change the results of the math, it would be easier for me to visualize and learn each part.
- 12 Nothing, she is perfect

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

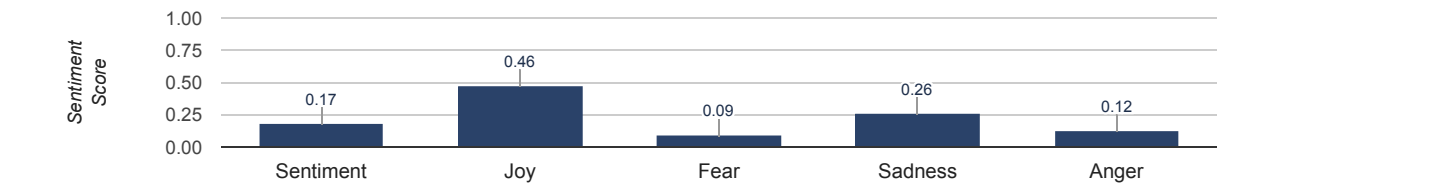
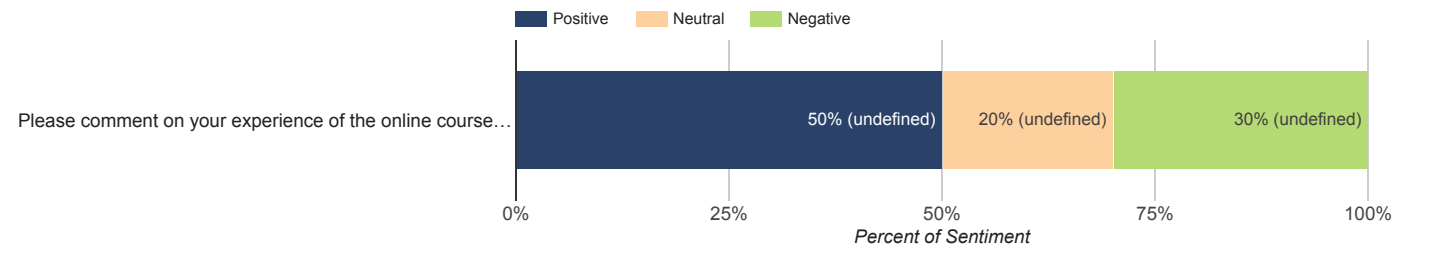
- 1 It seems like Dr. Amor jumps around between ideas and teaches parts of concepts before the class ends.

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

- 2 If you’re going to teach a course please put some effort in doing it.
- 3 She is always smiling and creating a very friendly learning environment both in person and online.
She is great!
- 4 Great explainer and made herself available for questions inside and outside of class
- 5 Please continue to provide TA assistance every day as this is a great resource for students to learn better in this class
- 6 I really liked the interactive-ness of the class. The professor cultivated a sense of inclusion of all perspectives and levels of understanding which was super helpful for inclusion. She didn’t feel bad about making mistakes in front of the class which helped others feel more comfortable with it too and willing to work out problems together. The professor was also very fair in conversation and approachable about anything. She wasn’t super responsive online though so I worry about if students had to reach out for accommodations.
- 7 Reply to student’s messages more frequently. Post the solutions to Canvas before the exam for revision.
- 8 None
- 9 She holds office hours every week as a Teams meeting that is open to everyone, and that has been the most helpful to join and listen even when I don’t have questions myself that week.

Questions to Assess Students’ Online Experience (10 comments)

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



- 1 Not really online based, but did need Canvas and Gradescope to complete to assignments ★★★★★
- 2 online readings are very helpful ★★★★★
- 3 zybook has some useful info ★★★★★
- 4 Well done ★★★★★
- 5 course materials are in organized order that students can easily follow. ★★★★★
- 6 The Professors response rate online wasn't always great and the TAs were usually good but sometimes would leave questions unanswered until past the deadlines. ★☆☆☆☆
- 7 not bad ★★★★★
- 8 practice and course note is useful ★★★★★
- 9 Our course was in-person, so this is not applicable. ★☆☆☆☆
- 10 N/A, on campus classes ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (9 comments)

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

- 1 N/A
- 2 nothing to complain
- 3 Do more practice problems
- 4 do more practice
- 5 Done more math review (e.g. algebra and logs) before it. Also, I never got the email other incoming students got with math review materials until after it was no longer accessible.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 | Read textbook before the class |
| 7 | search on internet to understand certain definition |
| 8 | I feel Ive utilized most all of the resources that the professor provided, such as practice problems, lecture notes, and zybook readings. |
| 9 | Pre-study |