Instructor: **Shesh, Amit**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5011 03**

Course ID: **16964**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **38**

Responses Incl Declines: **23**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Amit Shesh (17 comments)

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

1	Same as CS5010
2	TAs are very helpful.
3	The instructors of this course were mainly the TAs, and they were really helpful whenever we needed help with the labs. Prof. Shesh was also helpful in quickly resolving queries related to even the most minute of things, which is always nice to see in any learning environment.
4	1. He can communicate ideas clearly and effectively. 2. He is one of the best instructors at northeastern. 3. The prof tackles challenging problems in class using abstract thinking. He doesn't just solve specific problems but rather focuses on teaching his students "how to think" rather than just telling them the solution. I believe learning this quality makes for a BETTER DEVELOPER. 4. He engages in high-level conversations with his students during the class. The quality of the discussions we had in class were superb. It felt less like a traditional lecture and more like a brainstorming session between scientists. 5. The course materials, especially, the labs are great for reinforcing the concepts taught in class.
5	Labs
6	The grasp of the design concepts the professor has. The quality of assignments.

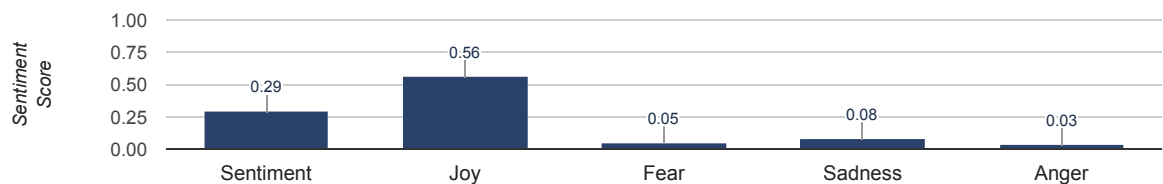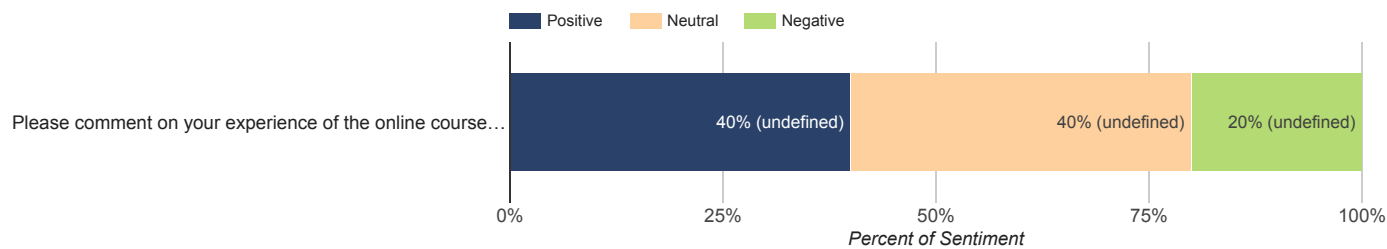### Q: What could the instructor do to make this course better?

1	Same as CS5010
2	/
3	I felt like some of the labs needed more information in the descriptions, so that it was easier to solve even if you do not attend the lab session.
4	The idea what "lab" / "recitation" is not clear from the syllabus - I hope this is made more clear. There were a few errors which were discovered after the lab was released - this could be avoided if the TAs or someone would validate if the lab descriptions are valid.
5	1. One of the complaints I have from this course is regarding the assignment auto-grader. It is far too aggressive to the point where it sometimes even flags the syntax used by the professor in class as wrong (e.g. underscore naming convention for private helper methods). I get the point of enforcing style constraints to improve code quality, I am not against that. However, I believe the current configuration needs to be dialled down a notch. Justification: Incorrect deductions by the Java style checker take time to fix in every assignment. It is time a student could better spend thinking about other code optimisations. In fact, in many assignments, the starter code given by the professor itself were flagged by the style checker. (e.g. Too long Javadoc description for a class) 2. Ensure that there is lab per design pattern taught in class. If the course calendar does not permit having labs for the last two or three design patterns, there can be ungraded labs for them. This would ensure students get a chance to reinforce the concepts taught in class, even if said concepts are taught at the end. 3. Make the grading rubric more flexible/less aggressive. Excessive penalisation demotivates students. The goal of grading should be to course-correct a student's approach/coding practices, not discourage them from trying out new ideas. The current grading scheme rewards sticking to known methods and discourages exploration.
6	-

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

1	Same as CS5010
2	/
3	The instructor (Prof. Shesh) is great at teaching, but his availability to students could be better.
4	Strengths: 1. Great instructor/teacher. 2. Inspires students to think by engaging in high-level discussion. Promotes abstract thinking. 3. Commendable communication skills.
5	Class Lectures nicely aligned with labs

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (5 comments)

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

Please comment on your experience of the online course…

40% (undefined)	40% (undefined)	20% (undefined)

Percent of Sentiment

Sentiment	Joy	Fear	Sadness	Anger
0.29	0.56	0.05	0.08	0.03

1   It was good. ★ ★ ★ ★

2   / ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

3   This course (lab) was not an online course. However, the Piazza forum helped with the labs. The main advantage of the lab is the fact that attendance was optional (except for the code-walks), which meant that we could work on them at our own pace. ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

4   Nothing ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

5   Great course. Great learning. Perfect for graduate CS students! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (5 comments)

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

1   Found it comparatively easy to do compared to the assignments.

2   Do more practice.

3   Although I have a perfect score in the labs, I could have prevented some last-minute hurrying if I had done the labs in their assigned times.

4   Nothing

5   Previous practical experience in OOP in Java.