

Intensive Foundations of CS (Spring 2024)

Instructor: **Ali, Mona**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5001 09**
Course ID: **40374**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **25**
Responses Incl Declines: **17**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Mona Ali (17 comments)

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

- 1 gave a not bad introduction for cs learning
- 2 instruct always provided accurate and informative feedback on coding practice and homework
- 3 professional and nice
- 4 The professor taught very seriously, and it was evident that she put a lot of thought into it. The classroom atmosphere was excellent.
- 5 Professor Ali comes across as very warm and approachable in person. She makes encouraging comments to support women and occasionally gives out unique snacks and cookies to the class. She smiles frequently and interacting with her feels very friendly.

The combination of autograding and TA grading for assignments, along with resubmission opportunities, makes the grading quite fair overall. The grading for presentations and the final project is also reasonable and lenient. Mona does her best to help students who are putting in effort to pass the course.

Mona has a very positive attitude towards students and is continuously making adjustments and improvements based on student feedback.
- 6 She is very hard-working and kind. She always tries to give students enough help.

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

- 1 focusing on too much details but better to give a big picture for students of what they have learned
- 2 1. Deepen the understanding of the course knowledge through richer classic cases or specific cases of practical exercises and analysis.
2. Enhanced content planning for each lesson, with a clear and explicit focus on the key content and the level of understanding required to make learning more focused.
- 3 Despite Dr. Ali's enthusiasm for the course, which is truly inspiring, I sincerely hope Dr. Ali to deliver knowledge more effectively in the classroom.
- 4 I suggest making the instructions for various commands as short and easy to understand as possible. Actually I could see the professor's improvement in this aspect in the last courses.
- 5 Sometimes Professor Ali's decision making can come across as disorganized, rigid, and over-complicating simple issues, especially online, which adds unnecessary hassle for everyone.

For example, she often notifies about things late at night or on weekends only on Piazza (mixed in with many question posts where it's easy to miss), and then requires students to complete tasks or attend events on short notice.

Another example is requiring 24-48 hours advance notice for absences, because she doesn't check email frequently and won't reply to absence requests within a day. But realistically, it's often difficult to decide that far in advance for sick days.
- 6 In order to integrate students more into a whole community, I would like to suggest that in the final project stage, instructors may try to allow students to know each other's work and learn from each other, instead of keeping the whole process secret.

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

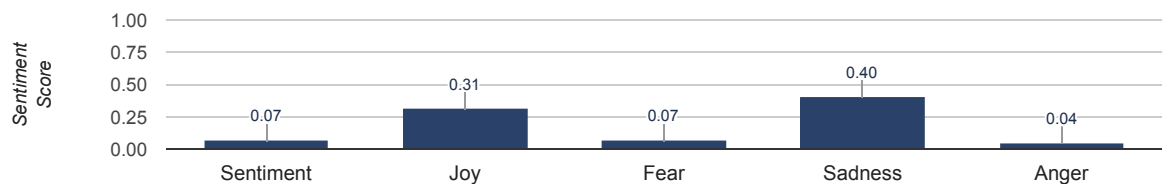
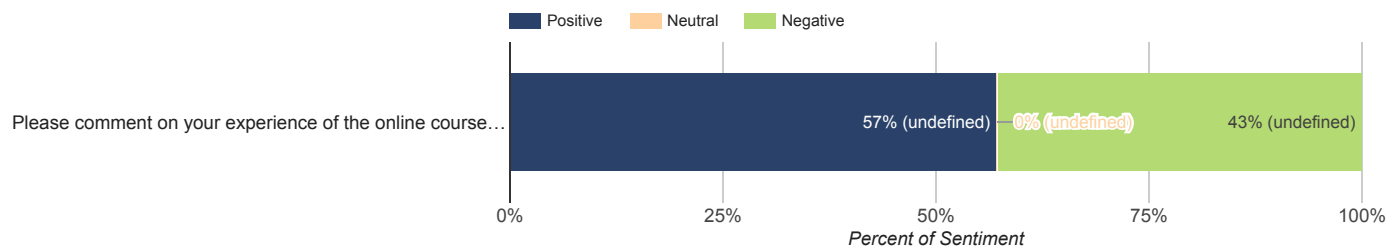
- 1 improvements could be made: critical thinking, more new useful knowledge
- 2 The teaching style can be more progressive, making the content of each lesson more logical and clearly structured; giving more summaries, and providing more specific study planning advice and guidance.
- 3 I am unable to think of it.
- 4 One of Professor Ali's strengths in facilitating an inclusive learning environment is the encouragement she provides to women students. Her warm, friendly and approachable demeanor, especially in person, helps create an inviting atmosphere.

The improvements made to assignment grading and accommodations like resubmissions, likely based on feedback from past students, help level the playing field. The reasonable grading on presentations and projects also makes the class accessible to anyone putting in effort.
An area for potential improvement is communication and decision making, especially online. Relying heavily on one platform, sending important notices at odd hours, and requiring students to respond on short timelines can disadvantage certain students.

Overall, Professor Ali's intent and attitude toward inclusion seem very positive. With some adjustments to course logistics and policies to consider student circumstances, the inclusive learning environment could be even stronger.
- 5 Before the final project, the instructor detailed all the homework instructions, which is not good for forming systematic thinking. Also, in the final project, I believe the instructor can show us some cases, instead of just pointing out some students' errors without showing what good practice looks like.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (7 comments)

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



- 1 The online materials are not so structured. ★☆☆☆☆
- 2 very well structured. lecturer is professional. ★★★★★
- 3 The overall is not bad, and it would be more helpful if I could provide the corresponding courseware materials and key notes. ★★★★★
- 4 The online course environment we use in this course is mainly canvas and piazza, while professor and TAs have been very available on all on these platforms, the platform themselves have some drawbacks, especially piazza, for its inability of student to post question if we haven't read all the notes while some of them are not so un-trivial. ★☆☆☆☆
- 5 Dr. Ali demonstrates a strong commitment to engaging with students on the Piazza platform, fostering a sense of connection. However, some of the new requirements are occasionally presented on short notice, which has caused some challenges in completing tasks. ★★★★★
- 6 Most of the time, I didn't grasp the key points of online courses, so sometimes I felt confused in class. ★☆☆☆☆
- 7 ok but will be better if has more cases to show ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (3 comments)

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

- 1 Manage scheduling and progress better; Keep taking notes.
- 2 Overall i think I've made great progress in terms of getting to know how to design, write and execute my codes but if there's any improvement i could make i would just say more time devotion since i believe in the field of cs the longer time you devote the better outcome we'll get.
- 3 I hoped to learn as much as possible about the content and knowledge of the classroom, but time was indeed limited, and sometimes I felt overwhelmed. However, if I had to do it again, I hoped to grasp the key points of each class and spend more time doing more exercises as much as possible.