

Instructor: **Mitra, Joydeep**Subject: **CS**Catalog & Section: **5500 01**Course ID: **30741**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **48**Responses Incl Declines: **13**Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Joydeep Mitra (20 comments)

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

- 1 Good material, assignment were like puzzles, liked them.
- 2 At least he tried to teach you a lot.
- 3 NONE. I had an extremely negative experience with this course, found it incredibly frustrating, and am very dissatisfied with this course. I would not recommend it under any circumstances, and I feel worse off than if I had not taken it at all.

Fundamentally, this course was taught as a web development course. Most of the topics and principles covered were web development principles rather than broader software engineering principles: React, asynchronous client/server communication, etc. Consequently, so I did not attain from this course any of the objectives for which I took it, and again, I feel worse off than if I had not taken it at all.
- 4 The instructor definitely knew his stuff! He was able to help us debug system issues (i.e. installing node). His notes were very comprehensible and helpful, in addition to the online resources he linked.
- 5 The professor combined software engineering concepts with coding assignments.
- 6 well read
- 7 While I appreciate the efforts of the instructor, this course did not meet my expectations or learning goals. The focus was heavily centered around web development technologies like React and client/server communication, rather than providing a broader foundation in software engineering principles that I was hoping to gain. As a result, I did not attain the key objectives that motivated me to take this course in the first place. Had I wanted to take Web Dev, I would have signed up for it. Honestly, I wish I could get a refund from Northeastern.

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

- 1 Make weightage more fairly distributable.
- 2 Make projects more manageable.
- 3 If this professor wants to teach the material presented in this course, they should teach a web development class, but they should not teach Software Engineering again.

This class should not be taught in JavaScript, it should not have a web development focus, and it should be standardized with the syllabi/curricula used by other professors of this course. Ideally, it would be taught in a language that is very broadly useful in a variety of areas of industry, such as C# or C .
- 4 The slides were kind of dry. I understand a lot of this material is so much easier to understand when you actually DO the stuff, which is why the activities were such an important part of the course. The lecture part was a little dry. Perhaps I missed this in the beginning of the course, but I would have liked to know why the instructor chose the stack/technologies for this course.
- 5 Make Zoom recordings available for review purposes.
- 6 more focus on devops
- 7 need to record class
- 8 To better align this course with its stated purpose of teaching software engineering principles, I would suggest the following adjustments:
 1. Reevaluate the programming language used. While JavaScript is widely used for web development, a systems programming language like C or C# may provide a more versatile foundation that translates across different domains of software engineering.
 2. Rebalance the curriculum to focus more on core software engineering concepts, design patterns, architectures, and best practices that have broader industry applicability beyond just web development.
 3. Standardize the syllabus and course materials with those used by other instructors teaching this software engineering course. This would ensure consistent coverage of key topics across all sections. It may also help this professor realign his curriculum to be different from that of Web Dev.The goal should be to provide a comprehensive education in fundamental software engineering principles that can prepare students for success across the full spectrum of the field. Realigning the course focus and technologies used would go a long way towards achieving that objective.

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

- 1 Strengths: good assignments.
improvement: weightage on projects and presentation could change the grade entirely.
- 2 The professor spent class time poorly, quickly moving through examples of complex topics and expecting students to follow along. This was very difficult for students who had no background in web development or JavaScript, so I honestly don't know who this class was for: if someone had taken a web development class before, they would have attained little new knowledge, but if they had not, they would be completely lost by the speed and unfamiliarity of the examples.

The professor also declined another student's (highly upvoted) request on piazza to record lectures, which would have at least made it possible to re-watch in class examples and follow along at a student's own pace. The professor claimed that recording lecture was difficult because of the variety of things they showed/wrote during lecture, but frankly this should be a solvable problem because they were willing to record lectures on days of inclement weather. Frankly, any recording, even a bad one, would have been immensely helpful.

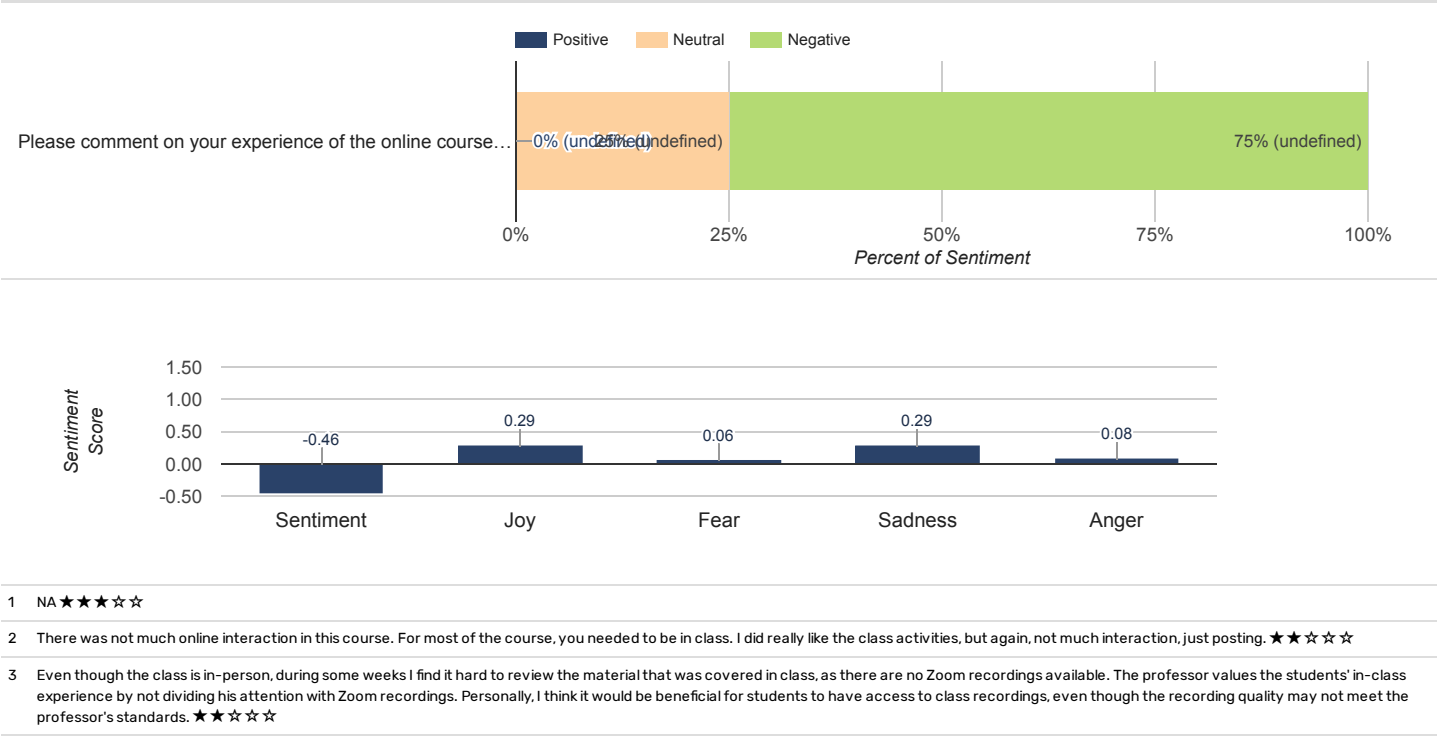
The professor also did not make solutions to these examples easily available, so there was very little students could do to go back and retrace material they did not completely understand the first time it was shown.
- 3 The instructor came off a bit stiff from the syllabus regarding ways to interact with him online. I fully understand the necessity of having a guideline on how to talk to professors, however, that part of the syllabus made it seem like the professor did not support and/or would not tolerate students reaching out to him.
- 4 clarifies everyone's doubt

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

- 5 To create a more inclusive learning environment, the instructor could consider the following areas for improvement:
- Pacing and Examples:
Many students, especially those without prior web development/JavaScript exposure, struggled to keep up with the rapid pace and complexity of in-class examples. Slowing down examples, providing more context, and checking for understanding could go a long way in ensuring no students get left behind. Truly, it felt like the professor sprinted through examples without fully explaining the concepts behind them or explaining the solutions.
- Distribution of grade weighting:
The final project and presentation carried a very high weight of the total course grade (50%). While a project of this magnitude is valuable, the 6 assignments throughout the semester required a significant investment of effort from students, however, their collective impact on the final grade seemed disproportionately low compared to the workload.

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.



Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (6 comments)

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

- 1 Time management
- 2 Don't choose it.
- 3 I think that the only thing that I could have done to make this course better for myself would be to start each homework earlier. I was able to finish everything within the time frame, but a few assignments required outside resources or review of the class materials before I was able to complete them.
- 4 The content in this course needs a student to spend many hours out of the class to catch what the professor is intending to teach.
- 5 Preview the class material more proactively by watching tutorial videos on YouTube, so that I can follow up easily in class.
- 6 If I could, I would have gone back in time to not take this course.