

Instructor: **Radivojac, Predrag**Subject: **CS**Catalog & Section: **6140 01**Course ID: **11127**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **55**Responses Incl Declines: **27**Declines: **1**

## Instructor Related Questions: Predrag Radivojac (29 comments)

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

- 1 Very good at communicating ideas
- 2 The course is well structured.
- 3 The breadth of topics covered and the rigor with which they were covered was great.
- 4 The instructor did a great job curating the homework. Got to really understand some concepts which I didn't expect from this course. Overall good course and taught well.
- 5 Passion
- 6 Office hours was a really great opportunity to ask questions. I always came away from office hour feeling much more confident about the course material. Peja was very helpful and really great at answering your questions and making sure you understand.
- 7 Well prepared for the class
- 8 Dr. Radivojac was great. He showed a lot of enthusiasm for these topics and taught them in an effective manner.
- 9 The course is challenging and the materials are very helpful. The instructor is very enthusiastic about the materials and his lectures are always stimulating
- 10 An expert in every bit. A resource and very passionate about his teaching.
- 11 The course is generally well-structured, and the instructor certainly knows the material.

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

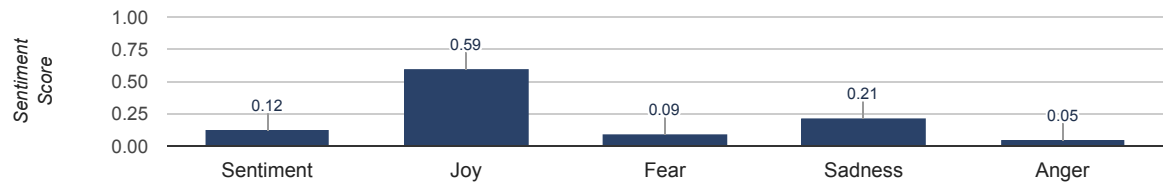
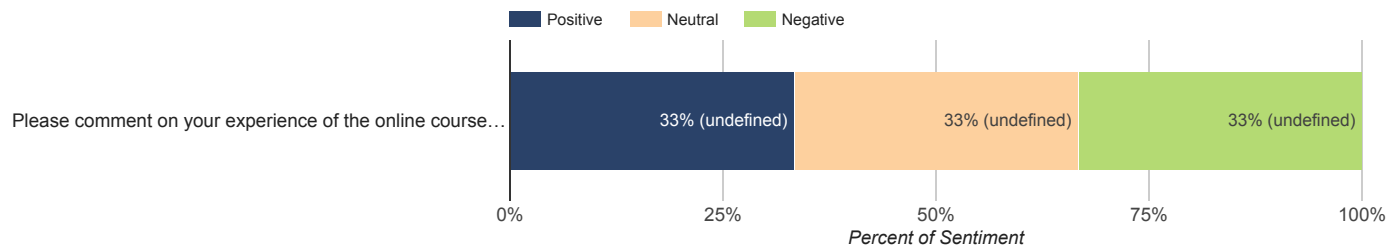
- 1 More coding problems
- 2 It would be more A.
- 3 I think more homeworks with a bit less work involved could have helped get students more feedback over the course of the semester. Additionally, grading was a bit inconsistent especially regarding the final project and proposal.
- 4 The course was unnecessarily hard. The mid-term and finals was a 60 question multi-question test which I don't think is a good method to evaluate knowledge in this course. Wish we had late days since the assignments were extremely challenging. The TA's were of absolutely no help. They just said "I don't know" for every question and did not get back either which was disappointing.
- 5 I was often lost during the course lecture. While I understand that this is a heavy theory class, I felt that there was too heavy of a focus on derivation of algorithms and not enough on the 'why we care' part. I think that an extra 10-15 minutes each class talking more broadly about the purpose and the application of the algorithm would have been very helpful in seeing how all of the topics connect, how to use the 'tool' we are learning about, and much better understand the meaning of the math we go through later.
- 6 More coding involved with the machine learning models
- 7 I wished that there was more mathematical topics covered in the later half of the semester.
- 8 The assignments are usually vague, and the grading criteria is non-existent. The TAs are also not very helpful
- 9 Understand student psychology better. You do not tell students about grading without beginning the course. The class felt focused on grades which added pressure and the need to pass. Focus on the learning and the grades be a reflection of that. Not the opposite. It was quite demotivating at times and an encouraging environment could have helped the already enthusiastic students as supposed to the idea of filtering your place.
- 10 Be clearer on what material is going to be covered on exams with sufficient time given for studying (the prof told us which textbook sections would be on the exam only 3 days before the exam, and some of the sections we hadn't gone over in class).
- 11 Shorter HW1, and more time for our projects (so maybe drop one HW)

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

- 1 Would have liked to have more programming assignments/lectures strictly regarding coding ML
- 2 The workload of the course could be less. The homework can be easier.
- 3 N/A
- 4 Better TA assistance  
Written exam instead of multiple choice questions  
Maybe incorporate some late days since the assignments are extremely challenging
- 5 The course leans heavily on the maths elements, I wished there was more practical applications
- 6 He did great,
- 7 The instructor was focused on teaching based on his mistakes. And that was the trajectory. Teaching from things he wished he would have known. And this is great. But those are his experiences, not ours and they are constraints to his context, not ours. The class could have been taught differently or diversely if it wasn't based on the "holes" he had fallen in. There needs to be a differentiation between experience and the essence of the experience.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (6 comments)

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



- 1 Online course was good, notes were readily available ★★★★★
- 2 It would be better if the course has recorded. But all class materials are available online. ★★★★★
- 3 The course webpage was good but I think it could have been helpful to just post the entire lecture note book at the beginning of class. ★★★★★
- 4 This was an in-person class. ★★★★★
- 5 The virtual office hours for TA did not foster a community. We could have been learning from each other in these sessions but they were secluded and did not create connections as they could have. It would have been really helpful. ★★★★★
- 6 There wasn't much of an environment. We had a course page where the slides and homeworks were posted. I tried starting a discussion on canvas but no one saw it or responded. ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (11 comments)

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

- 1 Not procrastinate as much
- 2 To spend more time on the course and attend every course.
- 3 N/A
- 4 Go through the course material before the lecture to better understand the lecture.
- 5 At the start of class, going into office hours would have helped significantly.
- 6 Fewer materials/things in the given time.
- 7 Start assignments earlier
- 8 I probably could have done much better on the homeworks if I gave myself enough time.
- 9 Reached out for support more, to my classmates.
- 10 Gone to office hours every week to have the material re-explained to me.
- 11 Practiced more with some of the math / probability before class, even though I did a month beforehand. Additionally, going to OH earlier in my homework process would have been more beneficial to me.