

## Intensive Foundations of CS (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Akhmetov, Ildar**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5001 08**

Course ID: **21214**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **26**

Responses Incl Declines: **23**

Declines: **0**

### Instructor Related Questions: Ildar Akhmetov (39 comments)

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

- 1 professor Ildar is super nice, helpful and patient. He's always there whenever we need help. He's very responsive on our questions. He always come well prepared for the classes.
- 2 na
- 3 He is an intelligent, resourceful, and passionate professor. His guidance in-class and out-of-class, recommendation, and insights in industry are helpful for me.
- 4 Professor is always helpful and humorous.
- 5 I wholeheartedly wish to say that I find Professor Akhmetov a highly respectable, informed instructor and a genuinely pleasant person who has not only a resourceful academic knowledge base but also a great sense of humour. It was a great great pleasure for me to have the chance to be his student and I am indeed one of the lucky ones to have him in the coming CS5008 as well.  
  
What impressed me the most in my journey of CS5001 with professor Akhmetov was his humility, patience and generosity towards students, and this is especially important for us Aligners who have not a tech background. I personally have lived in 5 countries across 3 continents, quite a few times I had the honour to be in the lecture room of some world-known "academic giants" whose articles were cited thousands of times and still counting, but so rarely had I met someone like professor Akhmetov who genuinely wishes and does pay attention to his students.  
  
I am truthfully grateful for what I have learned and received from this journey, most of it was totally beyond my expectations. Many thanks to NEU faculties and of course especially to my Instructor Ildar Akhmetov.
- 6 N/A
- 7 So perfect
- 8 The instructor is responsible for students and humorous in class as well.
- 9 Ildar is a very supportive and patient teacher. I have learned much in his class over the past three months as a beginner. He genuinely cares about the student's learning progress, and whenever I have difficulties, I seek help from him either in the classroom or outside of it. I was fortunate to have crossed paths with him during my early days of learning coding.
- 10 I like this class! I think Ildar is the strength of this course.
- 11 Patient and nice
- 12 Explain clearly on the knowledge. Good at livening up the class by telling some interesting jokes.
- 13 Ildar is very supportive and responsive, always willing to offer assistance. He also often provides us with insights in the industry.
- 14 mandatory course for Align
- 15 Ildar is really nice, professional and ready to help

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

- 1 I think professor Ildar is already perfect!
- 2 na
- 3 Ildar is doing a GREAT job!
- 4 Everything went perfectly in my opinion and I have nothing to complain about.
- 5 course content is well organized
- 6 1) I hope we can spend more time dealing with the mistakes we made on every week's coding homework, every hand-written quiz in class, and every small quiz on Menti rather than just finishing a homework/test and getting a score and several comments. I hope we could be given some time to learn from our former mistakes rather than rushing into the next homework immediately after finishing the last one.  
  
2) If the score of every programming problem is 4, I hope the minimum score that could be deducted starts from 0.1 or even 0.01 rather than 1. As most of us are new beginners, when we found that the homework we invested a lot of time in was deducted 2 or 3 out of 4, we would feel super frustrated. And as we were not given too much time and enough feedback to learn from our mistakes, I could not find the meaning of deducting scores so strictly. Maybe it's better to make some more detailed comments on our mistakes first, i.e. how to correct mistakes, how to do better next time, what part of knowledge should we go back to learn if we make this mistake ...., and then give a reasonable deducted score.  
  
3) I hope the scores TAs deducted could be more reasonable. If the deducted score is not so reasonable, students could have the right to appeal and the TAs have the responsibility to give reasonable explanations for the deducted score. If the deducted score is not fair, TAs can regrade the score. I hope the instructor could play a more fair role between the students and TAs as deducting scores is for learning from mistakes rather than just for deducting them.  
  
4) I hope the instructor could spend more time in class to lecture because I found that some of the recorded videos are not so structured or organized, and are not so useful for finishing the assignments. And I found that the group discussion is not so efficient for learning new knowledge compared to lecturing.  
  
5) I hope we can get more support on our final project. It would be better if we could introduce more basic features of Streamlit in class. And when the final project starts, I hope we could add some extra office hour sessions if possible as the efficiency of communicating face to face is much higher than on Piazza.  
  
6) I hope we can write fewer reflections if possible, I find them not so useful. I hope I could spend the writing-reflection time on sleep.  
  
7) I hope every homework could be given a late submission policy and I accept that I will be deducted a reasonable score if I late-submit it rather than keep a no-late-submission policy because sometimes we do have an emergency.
- 7 N/A
- 8 I think it is good enough.

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

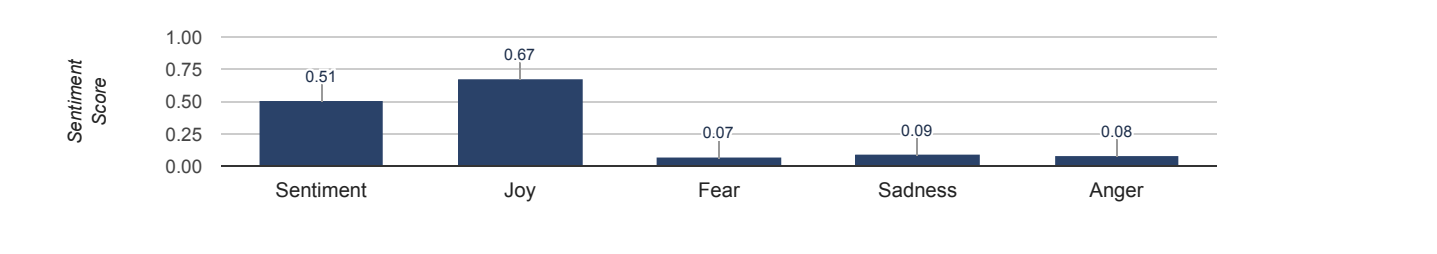
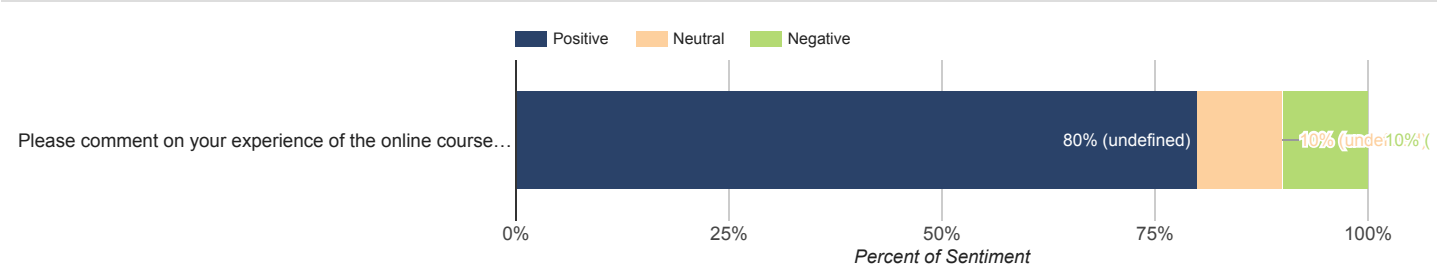
- 9 final project: earlier release and more scaffolding
- 10 The only downside for me was the chapter on recursion, where I felt the difficulty level suddenly increased, making the learning experience less cohesive.
- 11 Maybe can change the grading standard. I think the point deducted is not equal to the mistake. Percentile system may be better.
- 12 Maybe include more cases similar with homework to facilitate understanding class materials

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

- 1 He’s willing to go extra miles to prepare helpful materials to help us learn better. He has a great sense of humour and cultivate positive learning environment.
- 2 na
- 3 Ildar is doing a GREAT job!
- 4 Professor is great at creating a positive and stimulating educational environment. He used husband and wife jokes to explain driver and function file. He brought envelops to help us understand mutability of data structure. He led us to play games to understand stack and queue data structures. I really appreciate his insightful explanation and devotion to the inclusive learning experience.
- 5 Please forgive my outlandishness but I do not even quite understand “facilitating inclusive learning”? Might be something coined and popularized by the almighty North Americans? Surely I will come up with a better answer next term after – numerically speaking – 7 month-ish of tuning into the local culture. Generally I recall not any psychologically, physically or even intellectually disadvantaged peers and I feel quite confident to say that we are quite alright after the first term, because Ildar is great and many thanks to him!
- 6 NA
- 7 Provide support on how to access to different online learning resources.
- 8 N/A
- 9 Prepare course materials in advance and interact with students in class.
- 10 I'm grateful for taking this course. Ildar provided a efficient, motivating, and friendly learning environment. Although this course is channlenging for non-CS background students, make sure you take advantage of office hours and other resources. Instructors respond to the questions (online and offline) promptly. You are in good hands.
- 11 Ildar has done a fantastic job in facilitating inclusive learning, and I currently don't have any further suggestions for improvement.
- 12 It is great now.

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 It would be great to have more interactive questions along with the videos. ★★★★★
- 2 good ★★★★★
- 3 "Think Python" is more comprehensive, systematical, and much easier-to-understand than "Align Online" videos. The latter is more case analysis and the content seems sparse and not systematical as it is presented by different instructors/professors. ★★★★★ ☆
- 4 Overall, I had good experience with this online learning environment, I find all the videos to be informative, engaging and most of all not too lengthy to be felt somewhat intimidating. If there is one thing and one thing only that in my humble opinion could be slightly improve is that, sometimes when I "attend" professor Park's online sessions I have a general feeling as if I was sitting in the audience admiring not the Computer Science knowledges but Professor Park's lexical pyrotechnics, by no means I am referring to any sort of a pedantic sense, but would genuinely appreciate if future videos could be easier for us expats to comprehend – semantically I mean – regardless of whether our dear professor appeared to be a die-hard fine of Dickens or Twain or whatever. ★★★★★
- 5 i think the ONLINE video tutorial could be better ★★★★★
- 6 I found some online videos are not so useful for learning the knowledge and finishing assignments. I hope the instructors can update some videos or just lecture this part in face-to-face class. ★★★★★ ☆
- 7 Greet ★★★★★

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

- 8    Very responsible professor! Recommend!! ★★★★★
- 9    My courses do not have online classes. I prefer going to the campus and interacting with classmates and teachers face-to-face. ★★☆☆☆
- 10    It will be better to add some explanation when teaching the concept. ★★★★★

**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    It would be great if I spent more on coding practice.
- 2    1) Try to squeeze my time to self-study in advance. I could be way left behind if I simply don't understand or preview one module/lesson.  
2) Visit Ildar and TA's office hours more frequently and wisely and prepare questions.  
3) Practice, practice, and practice in advance.
- 3    Spend more time on the reading materials in each module. Go to office hours and talk more with professor.
- 4    Make the same choice again to be in Ildar's sections.
- 5    NA
- 6    Make a more detailed plan for learning day by day.
- 7    more practice
- 8    Spend more time on this course.
- 9    I could have established a consistent study routine to ensure regular engagement with the course material.
- 10    I should preview the class before the semester start.
- 11    Review more learning materials related with Python