

Instructor: **To, Alexandra**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5340 01**
Course ID: **32897**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **99**
Responses Incl Declines: **31**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Alexandra To (30 comments)

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

- 1 - Content
- 2 kept class engaging through activities and discussions
- 3 Very knowledgeable about the field and also cared about students' understanding and well being.
- 4 Clear structured, considerate for hw dues.
- 5 Professor was well prepared and answered aptly to the questions asked.
The professor also engaged students into discussion which was helpful in the learning experience.
- 6 Professor To is extremely knowledgeable on the course material and incorporates her interests and areas of research into her lectures. Her lectures offer a critical perspective into HCI practices which I found enlightening.
- 7 She was very well-spoken and explained concepts in a way that was very understandable and digestible.
- 8 Prof. To is an amazing teacher who has done a lot of very interesting intersectional research. She did a great job at also finding a lot of very cool guest lecturers throughout the semester. The project is a lot of work but it's different from anything else I've done in a CS/CS-adjacent class and to me it makes sense given the content.
- 9 Good teacher with vast knowledge in HCI
- 10 I appreciate the professor's respect for students and their experiences as well as her flexibility. Listening to her phrase her responses to students was inspiring, because I could tell she's worked to learn to phrase things very carefully, cautiously, and kindly.
- 11 The instructor was very passionate about the course and subject material, and the course provided a lot of interesting information that I felt was important to know for my career.

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

- 1 NA
- 2 More time for more iterations of the final project
- 3 the discussion board
- 4 I felt the course was pretty much perfectly designed.
- 5 The pace of work for the group project was extremely high towards the end (GP3 and GP4). In particular with GP3, paper prototypes testing paper prototypes creating lofi wireframes was way too much, especially coming back from spring break and losing that weekend. Paper prototypes are an interesting exercise but with the skill level of students in this course and limited time, I think it'd be better to leave it as an in-class exercise of some kind. The paper prototyping tests were also somewhat ineffective because users weren't used to the interface of the paper prototype.
- 6 Maybe more time to complete assignments for the final project, like more time to iterate on prototypes. More class time dedicated to hands-on prototype-making or other hands-on design activities, instead of just lectures.
- 7 Sometimes when I needed to refer back to the slides I had trouble exactly what I was looking for. The slide decks are very large and can sometimes stretch a lot of different topics.
- 8 N/A
- 9 I think it would be helpful to keep the weekly plans in one place (i.e. there's not much need for Canvas modules if we can find the same information in the syllabus. I think just using one or the other to keep track of class plans/schedules would be helpful for the students and would make things easier for the professor.

For GP1, Part 2 - Target Users, the expectations could have been more clear. My group got a point taken off here with the comment "There could be more research on the target user group", but research was never mentioned in the assignment.
- 10 It would have been nice to have more interactivity between the instructor and us. Especially in-class, I felt like there was little room for involvement other than the occasional in-class assignments. I would have liked to see more interactive and thought-out in-class assignments, and have the instructor interact more frequently (more time for in-class discussions).
- 11 please get piazza. It was difficult to connect to the TAs throughout the semester.

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

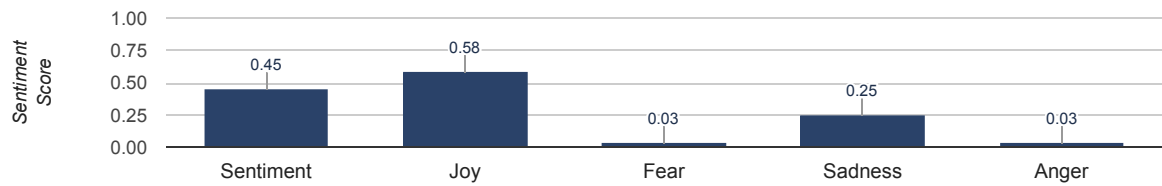
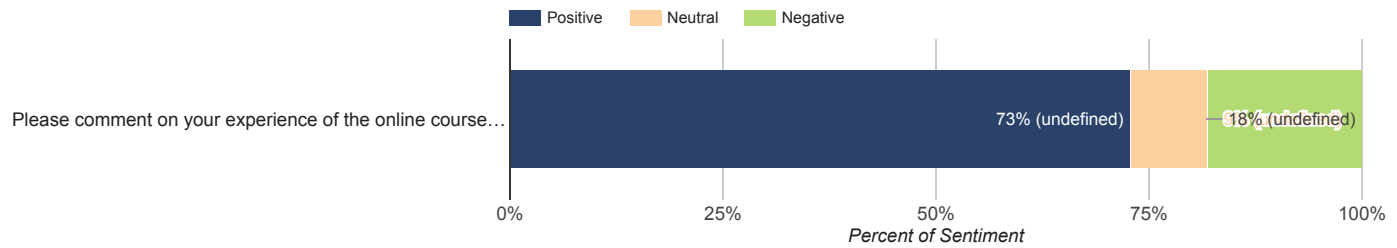
- 1 Very punctual and understanding professor
- 2 Professor To was a good lecturer and had a strong outline and structure to the course which made it a pretty smooth sailing course to take
- 3 i think its all good
- 4 Well prepared
Facilitated interaction
Gave fair amount of assignments
Was helpful with the late policy
- 5 Prof. To puts a lot of effort into creating an inclusive environment and helped me understand how much of computer-design to this point has been grounded in prejudice. The field has a long way to go but I'm grateful to know that these problems are present as it's not something I'd really put much thought into previously.
- 6 Good
- 7 The professor would check the Zoom chat for questions or responses to her class participation activities often, so Zoom students were always included.

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

8 The instructor was very kind and passionate about the course. She seemed very nice and open-minded.

Questions to Assess Students’ Online Experience (11 comments)

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



- 1 It was excellent ★★★★★
- 2 had in-class activities and discussions both in person in small groups and online through breakout rooms to maintain sense of classroom and engagement with material ★★★★★
- 3 Everything was organized super well on canvas and I never was confused or had questions about anything since everything was very clear. ★★★★★
- 4 I attend class in person, online resources/canvas relevant to class is updated timely. ★★★★★
- 5 I attended this class in person. But the materials available online were really good and helpful. The way some slides had the class discussions in it was cool. ★★★★★
- 6 The Canvas page itself didn't have a whole lot of structure beyond having things posted in the appropriate place, but it seldom affected my ability to learn. I wish that the slides for the lecture were posted before the lecture and in a more readily available place but these are just small suggestions and didn't really detract from my experience. ★☆☆☆☆
- 7 Attended the class in-person for most weeks. ★★☆☆☆
- 8 I appreciated Professor To allowed us to attend class virtually if/when we preferred. I enjoyed being in-person more, but travelling into Boston is expensive and can be exhausting/time-consuming. It's nice to have the option to take class from home if needed. ★★★★★
- 9 I enjoyed taking this class. Prof Alexandra has designed an interactive course with many in-class activities that help understand the coursework better. ★★★★★
- 10 I don't think online discussions really serve any purpose. In this class, no matter what I wrote I always received full marks so there was no incentive to actually meaningfully contribute to these. ★★☆☆☆
- 11 I think the online discussions felt forced, I think these activities could be replace with small activities to teach certain concepts. Maybe like take an interface and try a redesign. ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (8 comments)

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

- 1 - More practical assignments
- 2 start the design prototyping of the final project earlier
- 3 feel like topics are a bit too broad, sometimes it's easy to stop paying attention to lectures and work on other stuff.
- 4 I could have devoted a little bit more time.
- 5 I think that I should have been more on top of homeworks/assignments that required me to interact/gather feedback from other people.
- 6 Overall good course
- 7 I would've liked to visit the office hours before assignment submissions to check my work is what the instructors are looking for. Sometimes, the rubrics were a bit unclear. It helped whenever they gave specific expectations as in approximate word counts or examples of what they were looking for for part of an assignment.
- 8 Read through the optional papers given to go more in-depth into the course.