

Principles of Programming Lang (Spring 2024)

Instructor: **Barzilay, Eliyahu**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5400 02**

Course ID: **39615**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **77**

Responses Incl Declines: **17**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Eliyahu Barzilay (25 comments)

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

- 1 he's a fun guy to listen to
- 2 probably the best/favorite/most interesting lecturer I ever had across two universities and 5 campuses, it's interesting having a prof with an industry job - lots of insights into the content and the field as a whole. very detailed and organized content published, and very very responsive to student feedback - in PLQs this was especially important. prof would go off on tangents which may not be necessarily related to the material but I thought they were valuable knowledge to have - where else are any of us ever going to learn about Haskell/arc/racket/lisp/etc? all in all, I would definitely 100% recommend taking Eli for this class
- 3 The instructor is very knowledgeable and has a passion for programming languages.
- 4 Well-organized website, accessible office hours
- 5 Very passionate
- 6 Eli is clearly passionate about the topic of programming languages. He has a wealth of knowledge relating to the subject and delivers that knowledge well.
- 7 Eli really knows his stuff.
- 8 Great structure
- 9 Well-organized class materials on the website.
- 10 Incredibly knowledgeable, very very passionate about the subject, funny, really seemed to care about fairly evaluating student performance. Homework assignments are difficult but very well done and force you to learn a lot about programming languages.
- 11 Good enthusiasm, knows the material very well.

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

- 1 maybe not go on too many tangents? also maybe a more clearer grading structure but the PLQs were cool
- 2 I have no idea... more office hours maybe (evening/weekend) but I think my schedule just didn't work with the office hours schedule... got unlucky. also it often felt like I didn't have enough time to think about answers to often simple questions he would ask the class, before moving on - maybe that's just my brain fried at the end of a long day :p
- 3 The instructor should really try to avoid relative grading. It doesn't help keep track of performance. The instructor has tried to justify curved grading by stating that it is not relative totally but to be honest, it is relative and based on percentiles. I felt that this created a non-collaborative culture between students and also, this doesn't give me the best idea of my grade at any point in time. Grades are only known at the end of the course; before that, it is just a vague understanding of your grade. Instead, if there were absolute grade boundaries which standardized courses, then it would have been way easier to keep track of progress.
- 4 Instructor could do a better job encouraging people to ask questions. Sometimes I feel lost but I am too scared to ask a question, then I fall further behind.
- 5 I continuously felt discouraged to participate in class due to the risk of being berated for a wrong answer. Part of learning is making mistakes, and I felt that I couldn't make mistakes without being ridiculed or made to feel small in front of the whole class. I definitely learned a lot, but I feel that my learning could have been greater, and less painful, without Eli constantly making students feel not worthy of participation. This is additionally difficult, as part of the course grade is made up of points collected, in part, through active participation.
- 6 Hard to keep track of the topic when we go off topic a lot of the time
- 7 Make the class more engaging.
- 8 Lectures / lecture notes can be a bit tangenty at times, and I really don't understand why this class isn't broken up into two 1.5 hour sessions as opposed to one 3 hour session (which may or may not be the fault of the lecturer). I would personally prefer the online notes to be a bit more concise.
- 9 Instructor has a tendency to go on tangents and waste large blocks of classtime. Instructor struggles to write non-random quiz questions. Instructors quizzes are more random than a normal class. With similar preparation every week, a students quiz grades could fluctuate from Fs to 100s. This is not a normal quiz structure and speaks to the instructor's poor quiz questions.

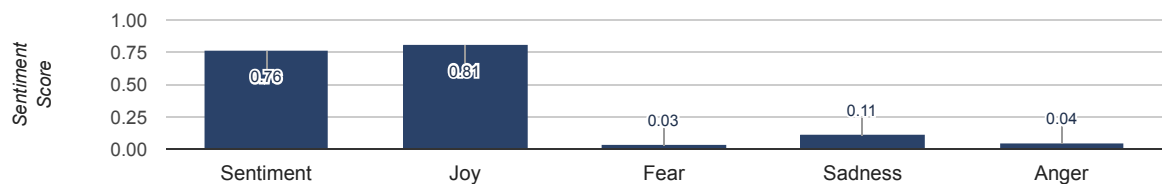
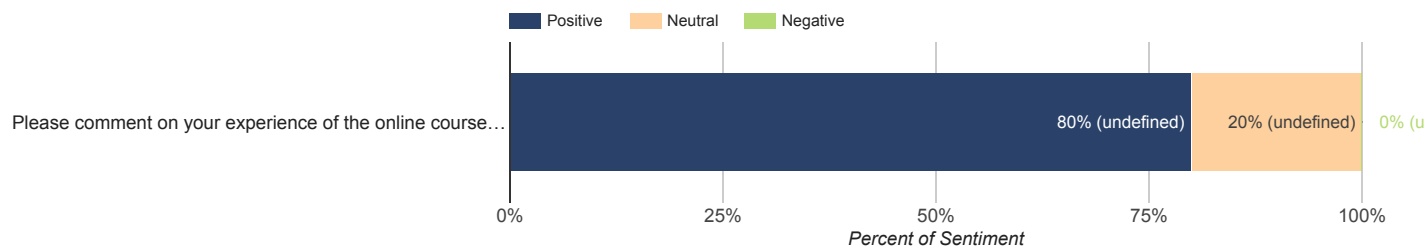
Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

- 1 he has a lot of technical knowledge in CS overall
- 2 wasn't an issue
- 3 Eli is often rude and disrespectful, even if that's not how he intends to come across. He often says things like "this should be obvious" or "seriously?? you don't know that?" to students. It makes it a pretty intimidating environment to ask questions in. He generally just needs to chill out a bit.

He also is absolutely horrible at using class time effectively. He'll often spend the first 40-60 minutes of class talking about stuff that is not relevant to the material, and as a result, we don't cover all of the lecture material we're supposed to and have to do so on our own.
- 4 Excellent teaching style
- 5 Instructor needs to rework their quizzes, grades within a single student have much higher randomness than a standard class.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (5 comments)

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



- 1 the course website is awesome - years of continuous improvement ★★★★★
- 2 The Piazza was very helpful in getting questions answered in a timely fashion. ★★★★★
- 3 Excellent ★★★★★
- 4 The instructor had well organized website for all the course materials and syllabus notes. ★★★★★
- 5 Good Website ★★★★★

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 make this course your priority - it's hard and getting behind is hard to come back from. this course absolutely kicked my ***. also be mindful of your schedule- I had 6 hours of sw eng job, an EE lab, and this class on Tuesdays and it was the worst schedule mistake I ever made
- 2 I could have read the textbook.
- 3 take notes during class so I could use the notes on the next PLQ
- 4 Attend more
- 5 The 3 hour class is LONG. I think I could've paced myself a little better throughout the lecture by taking short breaks and stuff to make sure I stayed focused.
- 6 Studied the material more deeply
- 7 Focus more on the lecture during the class time.
- 8 Nothing