

Instructor: **Saripalli, Kanaka**Subject: **CS**Catalog & Section: **6620 02**Course ID: **36682**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **42**Responses Incl Declines: **14**Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Kanaka Saripalli (9 comments)

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

- 1 He's very knowledgeable and is able to break complex ideas down and explain them through analogies that helped me learn. He's very open and responsive to student questions and feedback, and clearly cares a lot about student learning and growth. He also had a lot of good life advice. I learned a lot from him and am looking forward to taking another class with him!
- 2 The instructor seems not prepared for this course. The course materials are often outdated and ambiguous. Homework guideline is not clear and changed back and forth.
- 3 Teaching in class was really beneficial.

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

- 1 Many of the accompanying materials were overwhelming or disorganized. It was hard to glean the necessary information from skimming the readings, and there were so many readings each week that it wasn't possible to really read them all. Homework instructions were often unclear and the TAs didn't post clarifications until the week before the assignments were due. I think this class would be greatly improved by selecting a few readings that are really helpful and posting them clearly so the students aren't overwhelmed and know what readings to focus on. Clearer homework instructions would be very helpful, too. The professor did a good job of telling us in class that we didn't need to read everything or that we only needed to read these pages for one pdf and these other pages from another, but it would have been really helpful to have that in writing with the pdfs online. I'd recommend incorporating some of the clarifying messages the TAs wrote this semester into the actual instructions for the next semester. There was also a lot of stuff introduced through the homework that wasn't touched on in the lecture (e.g. learning Django), which made the homework harder.
- 2 More clear guidelines, more hands-on practice. Stop letting us write small essays.
- 3 The homework took a lot of time to complete. They weren't too well defined initially and often took lots of time to disambiguate the scope of homework.
- 4 The project requirements sometimes are not very easy to get started, and need additional efforts to figure out what exactly the requirements are.

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

- 1 There's so much material to cover that it's hard to get through it all. I really liked that the lectures focused on theory and that the assignments included some key theoretical questions, but focused on the practical. It would have been really helpful to go over some practical aspects in class, too, after an assignment was due. For example, after we submitted a project where we created VPC on AWS, it would have been nice to spend 15 minutes at the beginning of the next lecture discussing what we did and what would have been better, while keeping the majority of the lecture focused on the theory.
- 2 There is never a clear guidance on the Project/Assignment. TAs are constantly changing criteria. I've wasted more time on dealing with changing guidance than to actually study.

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (4 comments)

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

- 1 Spent even more time reading and watching tutorials, started on homework earlier.
- 2 too much assignment
- 3 Put more time into re-reading the content covered in class as well as ask more questions on Piazza.
- 4 Take pre-requisite classes like computer system