Recitation for CS 5001 (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Sherman, Marcus**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5003 09**
Course ID: **17357**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **13**
Responses Incl Declines: **8**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Marcus Sherman (15 comments)

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

1	The instructor has a very commanding knowledge of Python and as students we benefited greatly rom that. I felt that the course was well executed and the instructor and TA's were always more than willing to provide the necessary support and guidance.
2	TA's had a good understanding of what is required. Marcus helped the dynamic significantly when he was present by encouraging students to interact with eachother to dissect the project instructions in small groups.
3	Both the instructor and the TA were very helpful and present to answer any questions.
4	Python is a programming language that computer science students must learn, and the instructor's teaching logic is particularly beneficial, especially for students who can continuely follow him in class.
5	I already left a thorough review for 5001 on Marcus. But, I'll add that particularly for recitation, when it comes to coding, he knows how to teach us to think about it. Often asking questions back, that helps us figure out how to answer it. What is this object trying to do? What does a function always have? Let me show you why docstrings can be a lifesaver, etc, etc.

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

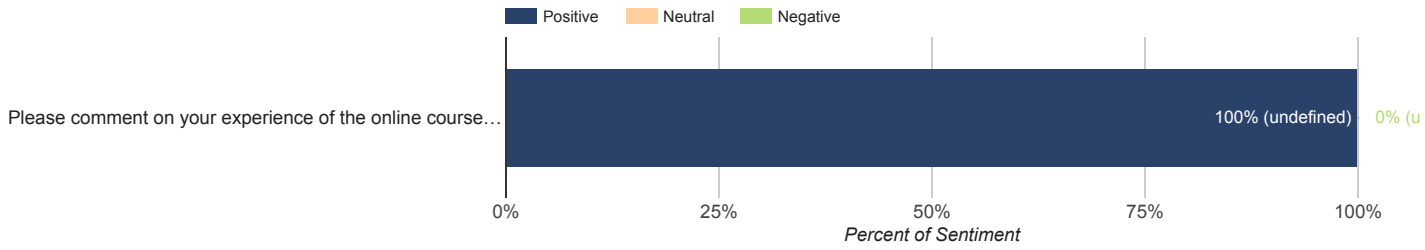
1	N/A
2	Have a more clear yet loose outline for what will be happening besides "project1", even dividing it into something like: introducing project, conceptual discussion and then reflecting with questions or ideas.
3	I wouldn't mind seeing a TA or Instructor version of the lab project to see if I could have improved my version.
4	The instructor presents numerous scenarios illustrating the usage of specific grammar, yet for beginners, it's challenging to absorb all this information at once. A more gradual approach, especially for coding beginners, teaching at a simpler level to encourage flexible application before advancing to more complex uses, would be more beneficial.
5	I don't see what he could do. The only thing that I could suggest at all is that the last synthesis is not the longest one, that we front load the previous synthesis.

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

1	All around great job.
2	Sometimes I felt apprehensive to ask the TA's questions after getting the response "You're still working on that part?!?" It would also often descend into unrelated discussions because there was little to no structure for how the class period would go. Otherwise, when Marcus was in attendance the recitation was much more productive.
3	I really appreciated how we switched out flow charts with pseudocodes. Planning out my codes became a lot more intuitive!
4	The instructor presents numerous scenarios illustrating the usage of specific grammar, yet for beginners, it's challenging to absorb all this information at once. A more gradual approach, especially for coding beginners, teaching at a simpler level to encourage flexible application before advancing to more complex uses, would be more beneficial.
5	I don't know what else to say that I haven't praised Marcus about already. One particular strength of his is seeing the forest through the trees. What are good skills to have, and which ones are integral? Lastly, one specific bioinformatics themed class activity left the rest of us coding after hours because it was engaging, there's 2 biologists in the class. That says it all. Marcus for President.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (3 comments)

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



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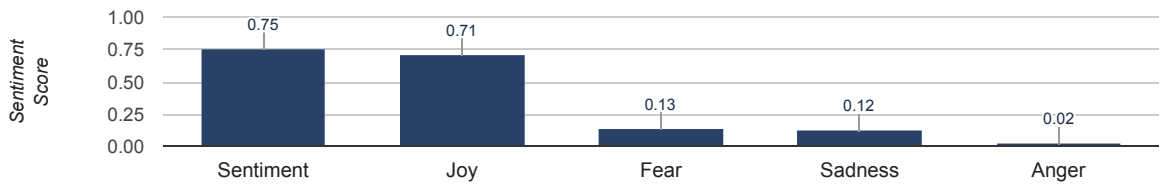

1	Really enjoyed the subject matter of this class and the way in which the information was provided. ★★★★★
2	Virtual class was a bit spotty, so I mostly came into class in person. All that said, the instructors were good about providing information for any missed content. ★★★★★
3	The online course content and coding practice are notably simpler and basic compared to the significantly more challenging assignments and projects. There's a considerable disparity between the ease of the online materials and the complexity presented by the assignments, indicating a substantial gap in difficulty level. ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (5 comments)

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

1	N/A
2	I could have made sure to read the project descriptions carefully prior to coming to class, after I started doing that my productivity in recitation increased.
3	Look at other examples of the completed project after I complete mine in order to see how I could have completed the assignment better.
4	To excel in this course, I plan to study fundamental grammar concepts before each class and dedicate more time to reading and practicing coding exercises.
5	Not have gotten sick and attended the few lessons I missed. The social aspect of this class can also be an unseen lifeline. Plus we are all more laid back and enjoy being computer scientists, which Marcus also helps us do. The imposter syndrome gets tackled in recitation.