Computer/Human Interaction (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Lages, Wallace**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5340 02**

Course ID: **20830**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **30**

Responses Incl Declines: **26**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Wallace Lages (41 comments)

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

1   Passionate about the course.

2   The semester review game at the end is really creative and helpful.

3   In-class activities

4   Great TA feedback!

5   He gave us feedback very quickly and clearly.

6   Detailed required assignments, lots of in class activities

7   Prof. Lages was quite friendly and almost always energetic, despite the low energy and/or attendance the class usually had. He also provided excellent feedback when we discussed our project's process with him, but unfortunately that only happened once during the course. The in-class activities were useful, as they allowed us to actually put into practice some of the concepts we've been reading/discussing

8   quizes and in-class acticities ensures involment in classes

9   good speech

10 Prof. Lages very much knows what he's talking about, and his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the material was consistently evident. Any time we discussed things with him in small groups or one-on-one, he provided sharp, insightful feedback and suggestions that really helped us with direction and execution on group projects.

11 The in-class activity helped me understand the theory better

12 In-class activities were fun, engaging, and helped cement ideas in the course

13 He is pretty strict

14 The class is interesting and have class acyivities to help to learn about the knowledge.

15 Great activities, experiential learning, good community creation

16 The in-class time was valuable to overall learning and the instructor had enthusiasm for teaching the subject.

Q: What could the instructor do to make this course better?
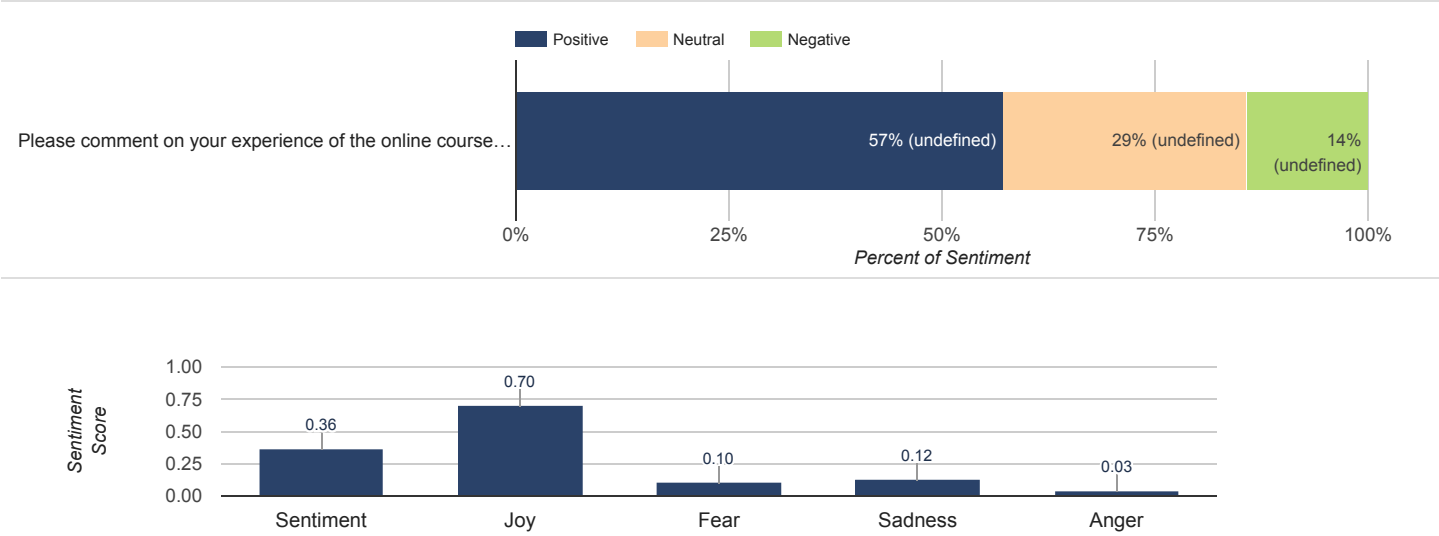
1   Well Structured course
    Late days
    More weightage for inclass activity

2   Lesser quizzes

3   Be more specific about deliverables and fix them at the beginning of the course. The quizzes and other evaluations seem to change mid-semester at the instructor's whim. Also seems to deduct points for not using exact terms as per textbook whereas the textbook itself is pretty open ended in its examples and verbage.

4   Maybe make the slide more simple and clearly.

5   office hours and make the grading less strict. Currently the grading is very difficult to get an A

6   Be better prepared for the slides, and add more examples. Replace the textbook with latest one. Current textbook is outdated.

7   The course as a whole was very poorly structured. This is probably the first class I can say that I have learned almost nothing in (including all of college, high school, etc., not just Northeastern). It felt like a language class at times: associating words and terms with concepts and ideas that were mostly intuitive. When phrasing it that way, all I learned were some fancy new words and phrases that were used to described things that I already knew. Course lectures were also generally rather ineffective. We were all required to complete fairly dense readings before each lecture, which meant that when we showed up to class, we would just listen to Prof. Lages sort-of cover stuff that we had just read and submitted a question about. The textbook itself is also rather antiquated, and extremely ineffective at conveying actually relevant information. We're here to learn about Human-Computer Interaction, but we don't need to learn about the most minute details of each of those 3 words, such as the structure of the human eye. The course content was extremely general, but the semester-long project (which was the main focus of the course) was rather specific. This meant that we were often tasked with applying concepts that just simply did not fit, such as interviewing "stakeholders" for a simple phone app.

8   personally, I prefer exams on canvas instead of handwritten.

9   help us on figma

10 A flipped classroom just doesn't work for me, I'm sorry. I can do out-of-class readings, but I benefit enormously from a lecture on the material in-class as well. And for this course, I never felt properly supported by those lecture segments; they sped through the material, by and large just naming concepts without very well explaining them. I would have benefited enormously from stronger lecture support.

11 Record the classroom sessions so that the lectures can be reviewed later

12 Speak slower

13 No

14 More organization and filtering of information, a lot of material hard to understand expectations sometimes

15 I think the lecturing structure could be better, but maybe the students held it back due to not answering when the instructor was looking for interactivity

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

1	The course was all over the place. The readings were rigorous and not helpful
2	Very approachable and responsive.
3	Each lesson with in class activity is rich in content and interesting.
4	do more technical thing
5	Prof. Lages is good at attempting to engage the class with questions and interactive bits, but far too often, either nobody knew the answer, or they just didn't volunteer—at which point he would just leave the class hanging, sometimes waiting for a reply for more than a minute. It really dragged the pace of the course to a halt, and every time it happened a small part of me died.
6	Good mechanism for TA sessions and design studios
7	In class activities to enforce learning
8	He asks us to do in class activities with different classmates
9	Give more time on quiz
10	The instructor wanted to interact with as many students as possible when learning during lectures. This was very good and helpful / forced us to be wrong and learn, or be right and gain further insight.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (7 comments)

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

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Please comment on your experience of the online course…

| 57% (undefined) | 29% (undefined) | 14% (undefined) |

Percent of Sentiment (0% – 100%)

Sentiment Score:
- Sentiment: 0.36
- Joy: 0.70
- Fear: 0.10
- Sadness: 0.12
- Anger: 0.03

1	We never learned how to use Figma, which is a key tool used for prototyping. ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
2	good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
3	good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4	The organization on Canvas was good, probably some of the best I've seen at NEU. Assignments were clearly laid out, and instructions were very detailed and thorough. It's clear that a lot of work went into curating that environment, and it helped me greatly. That being said, it's outrageous to me that, in this the year of our lord 2023, if I wasn't able to attend class in person, I had to email a TA so that she could email the professor to get a Teams link for me to join the class virtually. Why was it not set up with Zoom meetings on Canvas, like every other course I've taken post-pandemic? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
5	Liked the slides however, some slides required active note taking and if I missed taking notes on a slide, it'd be hard to recall. ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
6	Good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
7	It was well done to try and include students who had to join remotely even for in-class activities ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (10 comments)

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

1	i have a feeling that the course could be more structured and concentrated on learning and understanding more and have late days/ late submission with 2% deduction would have made me concentrate on the learning more than just submitting it and just getting done with the course.
2	Switching different teammates for every in-class activity is challenging and sometimes not realistic. We wish there will be more image/video illustrations of new technology products on the slides. Maybe some tutorials on Figma would also be super helpful.
3	Read textbook and slides more carefully
4	no

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

5   Paid more attention to assignments. I talked in part 1 about the online course being well-laid out; unfortunately, that only worked if I paid attention. That being said, Professor Lages was very helpful in expressing mid-semester concern to me directly that I wasn't getting things done, which provided a great kick in the pants to actually apply myself (at which point I really felt both my understanding and grade improving).

6   Could have done a figma tutorial but ended up just learning from each class deliverable

7   Get students acquainted with prototyping tools like figma.

8   Make the quiz longer time

9   Read book more carefully.

10 Start reviewing each topic after each day of class to refresh.