Instructor: **Domino, Molly**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5001 07**

Course ID: **40229**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **10**

Responses Incl Declines: **8**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Molly Domino (15 comments)

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

1   Molly is an amazing professor. She is kind, patient when students pose questions or need subject material to be repeated, and presents the material in a way that doesn't go over students' heads. As in, it is easy to understand her teaching style and understand the material presented vs. say, a mathematician with two PhD's who assumes you already know as much as they do. I found this very helpful when learning a new language and new concepts.

2   Vote for Professor Domino, since she has a passion for teaching, being patient & nice throughout the whole semester. She provides ample time for answering questions; we can find her during the weekly recitation sessions and either online or during in-person office hours. In addition, she fully accommodates students with diverse backgrounds; for example, turning on Zoom's caption feature during classes helps students whose native language is not English to better understand the lecture content. In a word, this course has helped build my confidence in transitioning to computer science.

3   Molly's teaching in CS5001 showcases a deep understanding of the subject matter, complemented by her ability to simplify complex topics effectively. She definitely is a human computer. Her approachable demeanour fosters a relaxed learning environment, evident in her incorporation of student-selected music and thoughtful gestures like providing cookies on the last day of class. Molly's accessibility outside of class hours, through various channels like Discord, Zoom and email, demonstrates her commitment to supporting students.

4   Professor Domino cares about students. She's available to make appointments in the early morning which is amazing! She will do live coding in every class instead of simply reading the PPT.

5   Professor Domino was very committed to helping the students learn the material and went above and beyond to be present for the students at school and online for any help needed on the projects and other assignments.

6   I think Molly is a very compassionate professor and does a great job in teaching the material in a manner that is simple enough for students to understand. As a non-stem student going into computer science, she has challenged me in many areas and provided me with guidance when I needed it.

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

1   The only thing I might change would be to make the power point presentations for the lecture for the day, available prior to lecture, or at least, open them up right before class starts so if students want to take notes directly in the powerpoint, they have that option. Other than that, 10/10.

2   Maybe upload the slides before the lecture and reduce the workload for coding practices a bit if possible? Others are quite good!

3   The inconsistency in the availability and quality of PowerPoint slides further contributed to this sense of disorganisation, making it challenging for me to prepare adequately for class. Around after the 6th week, the PowerPoint slides were not available before class, and the quality of PowerPoint started fluctuating and the style, font was not the same every week. Most importantly and on many occasions they were finalised a couple of minutes before and even during class. Then Molly would upload them onto Canvas, under a dark section called Files where other slides from previous years are also stored which wasn't easy to retrieve. Also sometimes the slides would not be uploaded on the same day of the class at the end of the class, which was a significant constraint.

4   While I think this course is really difficult to navigate in general given the nature of the topics we're learning, I would have loved more emphasis on deadlines early on to help me adjust to the academic rigor of the class.

5   The assignments and coding practice were not always clear on what was expected, and I think the course would have been better with more clarity on the instruction. I feel that Prof Domino heard that feedback and improved instructions for assignments later in the course and it helped.

Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.
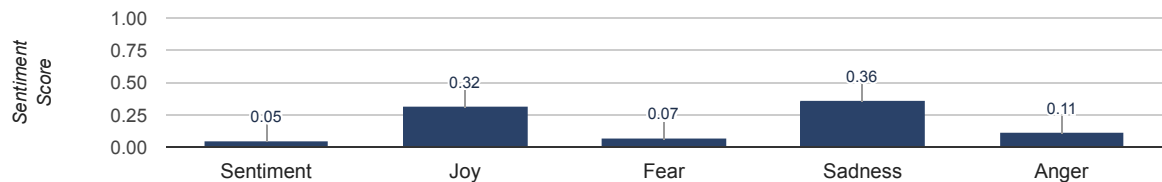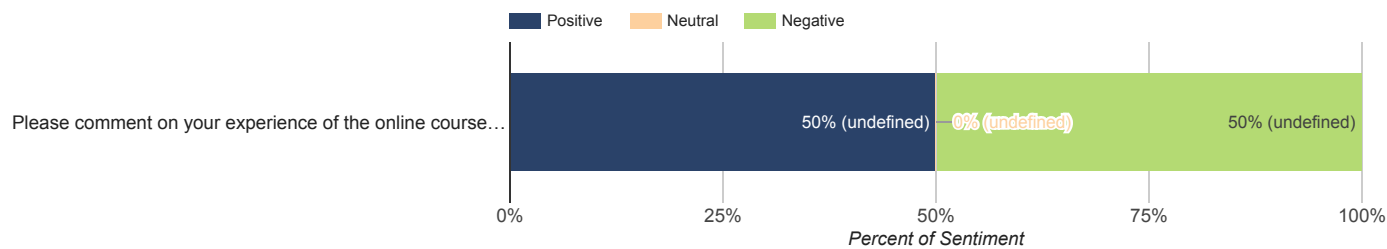
1   10/10. I wish I could take Molly for all of my Align courses.

2   It's great, I wish I could take another course from Professor Domino in the future.

3   Clearer communication of assignment expectations could have alleviated confusion and improved grading consistency. Unlike CS5002 class when I knew what to expect in class, even with reading beforehand and preparation, I never had a sense of what to expect for CS5001 in-person classes which in turn didn't make me feel 100% confident in the novel topics that I was learning.

   While Molly's teaching methods are effective for some, the uncertainty about class expectations definitely hindered my confidence. These factors affected my confidence in my ability to understand the concepts that were being taught in a language that I master, which in turn impacted my ability to focus on the material.

   Constructive suggestions for improvement include providing additional resources and practical tips, ensuring consistency in the availability and format of course materials, and clarifying assignment expectations. Despite these areas for growth, Molly's passion for teaching and dedication to student success are evident and commendable. Overall, Molly's expertise and accessibility enhance the learning experience, but improvements in course organisation and communication could further support student learning and engagement.

4   I think Professor Domino showed great enthusiasm for the subject material and was willing to go the extra distance to help all the students succeed.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (2 comments)

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

Please comment on your experience of the online course…   50% (undefined)   0% (undefined)   50% (undefined)

Percent of Sentiment

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Sentiment Score

Sentiment: 0.05 Joy: 0.32 Fear: 0.07 Sadness: 0.36 Anger: 0.11

1   It's really helpful, nothing to complain about. ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

2   However, the delivery of course content on Canvas appeared somewhat disorganised: I would have liked to see a lot more resources including a list of the practice websites like Leetcode and others. Additionally, the workload, including 10 weekly coding practices and labs, caused significant stress to me. Though the plan was to get us to practice, for many weeks it felt like being under an aerial bombardment.

While the Align online videos aimed to promote diversity, I found the varied presentations extremely distracting – on a sensory perspective (visual and auditory) - from the knowledge they were imparting: the diversity in pitches of voice, outfit colours, accessories, hair colours, wristwatches, reading glasses and facial expressions were too noisy for me, and massively detracted from the essential lessons. As a result at first, I would search on YouTube for the equivalent of the topics, waste time conducting Google searches and ultimately turn the volume off for the Align Online videos, add the captions and read the transcript whilst glancing at the presenter from the corner of the eye when they were showing on-screen demonstrations. The Align Online video experience even made me for the first-time doubt that I understood English well enough to the point that I had to use an online translator into my first language, which was a great waste of time. ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (3 comments)

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

1   I think I probably should have spent another hour per day focusing on extra/outside work to really drive home some of the more challenging sections from the semester.

2   Preview before this semester began.

3   N/A