Discrete Structures (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Hoshino, Richard**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5002 36**

Course ID: **20428**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **35**

Responses Incl Declines: **34**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Richard Hoshino (53 comments)

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

1   For Aligner, CS5002 might be the course that most related to algorithm, which lays an abstract foundation for further learning. Richard is always well prepared, highly passionate and 100% devoted to the course and students. Like what he said, he truely helps us on board to the transition to the CS journey. I highly appreciate his dedication rigorous academic attitude, and would always like to enroll and recommend Richard's course.

2   Richard is a highly smart and responsible instructor. He works extremely hard to ensure that everyone can understand the important concepts in the discrete math. He is always passionate about his work. Richard holds 2 Q&A sessions every week. Although the assignments are challenging sometimes, Richard is helpful and generous in sharing the hints on working out the problems.

3   Instructor is very passionate about this course.
He is a very organized person, and very responsible.
He takes care of everyone in the classroom.

4   everything is great with Richard

5   The professor was very friendly, the class atmosphere was great, really enjoy this class.

6   The knowledge taught in this course helps us cultivate computational thinking.

7   N/A

8   The professor is really good at the topic and knows a lot. I really respect him.

9   na

10   Energetic and well organized every class. Every thing he delivered is very useful.

11   enthusiasm

12   mandatory course for Align program

13   I like prof's teaching way from a hard question to an easy simple thinking way to solve it.

14   Richard is an intelligent, resourceful, and passionate (about his career and life) professor. I felt very motivated about learning math thanks to him. His method and philosophy of scheduling are excellent and I do learn a lot from him.

15   very passionate! and very supportive!

16   Richard is good at explaining difficult math concepts using simple languages, which was really helpful and easy to understand.

17   The instructor is the best. He positively helped everyone and was very good at communication.

18   great

19   Richard always brings positive energy to his classes. His ability to magically simplify a big problem into a small, easy-to-understand problem is remarkable. While the course title may sound a bit intimidating to beginners from other backgrounds, I found Richard to deliver it intuitively. The instructor's hospitable environment also set the course up for success.

20   super smart, almost answer any question about math

21   I think 5002 is great fundamental class for computer sciences align

22   Really show the passion for math and teaching! I enjoyed learning math with Richard.

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

1   I have used internet to help me better understand the mathematical concepts, as well as double checking my answer(no the solution) that are straighforward, because for serious students, I think it's acceptable to double check the answer, because if the answer is wrong, something must be wrong in the solution, that would help us to re-think which part of the solution is incorrect timely, and it is also a way of thinking. It is the solution matters, as long as we work that out by ourselves. But if we can only be allowed to know the answer in the model solution, sometimes the way of thinking is not continuous and less effective. However, this is just how I see the learning process, I do understand Richard's rigor and seriousness in internet using and it would be totally fine if the policy is fixed.

2   My team struggled with brainstorming an appropriate topic for the final project, especially balancing the appropriateness of difficulty level and the course contents (reading discrete math thesis can be really difficult!). It would be great if Richard could share more ideas on the topics for the final project based on what we have learnt in the course.

3   I like the format of quizzes. We are asked to complete the quiz before the lesson, so we have to prepare for the upcoming class. The questions are related to the lesson content, which will be discussed during the class. The quiz is well-designed, and interestingly, some of the questions are actually the same!

4   Hire better (and more) TAs.
The TAs are just grading my homework without answering my questions for them in my homework --lack of feedback.
Use AI TAs for better homework feedback?

5   everything perfect!

6   I think the professor has already done a great job!

7   N/A

8   The homework assignments prove to be excessively intricate and challenging, particularly for individuals lacking a STEM background. In the context of a bridge course, it is essential that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills. While the class incorporates enjoyable games to grasp the essence of a topic, the abrupt shift to proving complex concepts during the homework assignments creates a notable disparity. There exists a substantial gap between the content covered in class and the instructions provided for the homework. Many classmates who perform well in class heavily rely on their pre-existing knowledge. Regrettably, the considerable amount of time invested in solving these intricate puzzles does not translate into a commensurate level of learning, leading to a discouraging experience.

9   na

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

10 Workload is still very heavy.

11 don't feel stressed about student feedback. I understand you try to teach as best as possible. thank you

12 Richard is doing an EXCELLENT job and is the best professor in math that I have ever had in my life, like EVER!

13 less homework if possible, maybe 2/3 of what we have now.

14 He had two workshops every week. This is amazing.

15 great

16 make more connection between math and computer science

17 I think these class is great for develop our logical thinking

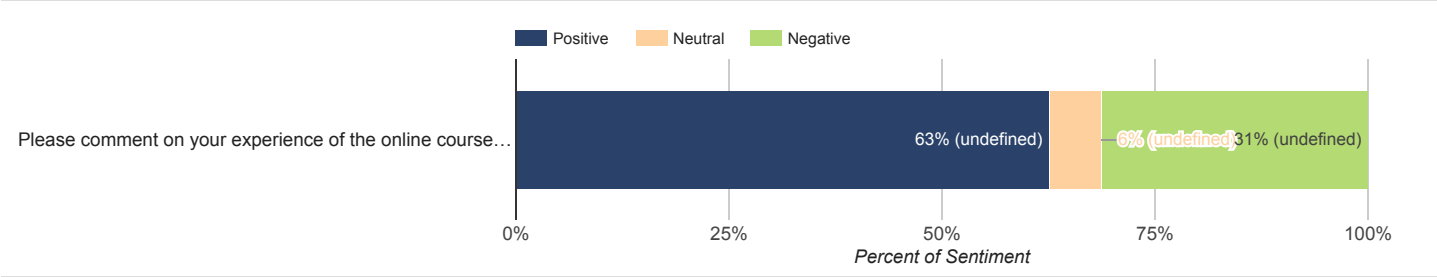## Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

1 Overall Richard is one of the best professor I have ever met in my acedemic journey. I think he's a role model in teaching, both in technical level and his seriouness towards the course and profession. For me, if the content could be more relevant to industry, it would be great for us to implement in practice. For example, I learned that combination is relevant to a passcode lock. I hope that I can learn(or get to know) the implementation in industry about each single topic. Sometimes I learn the mathematical theorem but I just don't know how to use it and how to relate it to CS.

2 Students who fail to submit their assignments can still receive 4 marks, while those who diligently study and put in considerable effort sometimes only achieve a score of 5.5 or below. This situation can be quite frustrating.

   For students without a math background, it becomes challenging to assign assignments without providing examples. Without clear explanations and detailed guidance, they may struggle to comprehend what constitutes a clear explanation and which aspects require further elaboration.

3 I don't like the group work component. Randomly chosen groups usually slow me down and create more pressure on me.
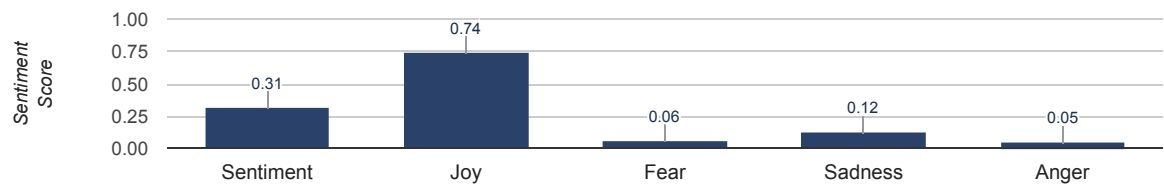
   I prefer all individual work and optional workshops, where we can ask questions and discuss anonymously.

4 Personally, I think we can change the group study once every two weeks, so that we can get to know each other better.

5 Richard is always well prepared for classes. Besides that, he's willing to devote extra time each week to help us on the problem sets each Tuesday and Friday. He has a great sense of humour and always cultivate positive learning environment. He's a great teacher!

6 N/A

7 Throughout the homework assignments, there is a significant inclusion of drawings and lined elements. However, for individuals lacking access to an iPad or advanced technology, this introduces an additional workload. Hope the HW can be better designed.

8 na

9 well prepared class material and in-class quiz discussion

10 Richard is doing an EXCELLENT job and is the best professor in math that I have ever had in my life, like EVER!

11 I can't tell how good he is. But he is the best instructor I've known.

12 great

13 It is very interesting to listen his course.

14 Every time I took Richard's class, he consistently displayed a deep enthusiasm for math that truly touch me. Richard also demonstrated a genuine consideration for various situations we might encounter, which was truly appreciated. I highly recommend that my roommate enroll in Richard's AI class. Unfortunately, I won't be able to register for Richard's class next semester, but if I have the opportunity in the following semester, I will definitely choose his class without hesitation.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (16 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…   63% (undefined)   6% (undefined) 31% (undefined)

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Percent of Sentiment

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

Bar chart of Sentiment Score: Sentiment 0.31, Joy 0.74, Fear 0.06, Sadness 0.12, Anger 0.05.

1. Online course experience here refers to Richard's problem set workshop held twice a week. I attend the workshop with questions in mind, and get informative clues the learn a way of thinking when that one hour is over. I think this arrangement of homework – workshop is well-designed. Richard's teaching has always been engaging and passionate, no matter online or in person. ★★★★★

2. Great online workshops. Well organized course materials, notes, recorded videos. Everything in order. ★★★★★

3. Very very nice class! ★★★★★

4. The online learning environment is not positive, I feel like the online teachers are not well prepared for the classes. ★☆☆☆☆

5. so greet ★★★★★

6. Every time, I have to search the same topics on Youtube to really understand. ★★★★★

7. good ★★★★★

8. The material is OK but not effectively deliver the knowledge. Especially for demonstration part. ★☆☆☆☆

9. The online course videos are confusing, especially Ben's. I suggest a remaking of them all. ★☆☆☆☆

10. The content on "Align Online" seems quite sparse and feel more like case analysis as it is presented by various professors. Not comprehensive or systematic. Barely able to understand some presenters' handwriting and I need to write down every notes by myself again. Additionally, most of the content is quite basic and I need to do more research and summarize takeaways to understand some concepts or rules of algorithm, for example, before doing quizzes and going to Richard's lectures. ★★☆☆☆

11. Richard created a very supportive online learning environment but the original online materials on Canvas (not by Richard) was not very helpful! The textbook is nice! ★★★★★

12. I don't like the online modules that I had to watch almost every week at all. I think they were not carefully and specifically designed for align students. The knowledge provided in the videos were insufficient, and I'd rather study using some resources on Youtube. ★☆☆☆☆

13. This course helped me a lot/ ★★★★★

14. good ★★★★★

15. Online materials I mean the videos from Canvas. Online interactions I mean the extra sessions from Richard. ★★★☆☆

16. very good ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (13 comments)

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

1. I would say making plans earlier every week. Since Richard's arrangement of homework – workshop is well-designed, it's better to start doing homework earlier and take the workshop, so that the learning could be digested most effectively.

2. If 5001 do not exist at all, I can spend all my time on this class.
5001 and 5002 are both very intensive. Can we separate them into two semesters?
I want a bridge for math elective (math prep is not enough).

3. very very nice class, nothing need to change

4. It would be great to watch more videos about math.

5. N/A

6. na

7. Acquiring knowledge from internet.

8. might be to decrease the portion of the group's problem set workload, or just switch all individuals for the problem set, there are free riders out there for each week's group problem set. It makes me upset.

9. I could have understood the patterns, rules, and concept deeper, and think and react faster.

10. To complete every assignment myself.

11. great

12. Start a bit earlier with the basics of discrete math.

13. too much assignments