Machine Learning (Spring 2024)

Instructor: **Toutiaee, Mohammadhossein**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **6140 03**
Course ID: **39711**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **19**
Responses Incl Declines: **16**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Mohammadhossein Toutiaee (33 comments)

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

1	Professor is very knowledgable and willing to answer questions and organizes course material well.
2	Class discussions were interesting and the teacher was active in answering classmates' questions.
3	I like how he is open to answering student questions. He is willing to repeat concepts so students can understand them.
4	N/A
5	The professor had depth of knowledge about the subject and was able to share industry insights. The course was laid out and organized from the beginning so we knew what to expect and could plan. The course exposes students to lots of topics in machine learning that could be useful for a first job in industry. The explanations given by the professor were usually clear and understandable. Displaying code and real world examples at the end of class was a good way to learn about this topic further.
6	The Professor always answer the questions when the questions are raised
7	Project focused.
8	- Prof always had nice slides to cover each topic. Slides are descriptive, visually appealing, and informative. - Good amount of breadth / depth covered for each topic. - Lectures move at a good pace. Don't feel overwhelmed with information. - He's good at explaining high level concepts in a way that's understandable. - Work load is reasonable. Assignments are helpful to learning.
9	The course is well organized and focuses on the key points. The lecture is clear and helpful. The discussion part help us to make up study groups and gives us a better sense of community.
10	our prof is open to questions, cares about students' feedback and adapting teaching style to students needs course by course, iteratively
11	Expertise

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

1	N/A
2	Add a little more to the coding part.
3	More of the deeper intuition can be explained. It is good to use the libraries to do homework but deeply understanding the concepts is beneficial.
4	N/A
5	The class assignments were not challenging enough. One homework took an hour to complete when we had two weeks to get it done. If the level required in homework is kept the same, please include optional extensions so that students who wish to be challenged can expand upon the material and try more challenging exercises once done.
6	I hope he can include more industry examples, since he is in industry , and probably have a lots of use cases can share to students
7	Add more challenges to the projects like build something from the ground. But with some suggestions or guidence.
8	Try to learn more other than just introduction
9	pizza :D
10	More code practice and using real-world examples.
11	i like the in-class hands-on coding part, instead of giving students a large chunk of time to do the whole coding, i prefer subproblem/small amount of time -> wrap up -> next subproblem, one after another
12	More engaging, hands-on class activities

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

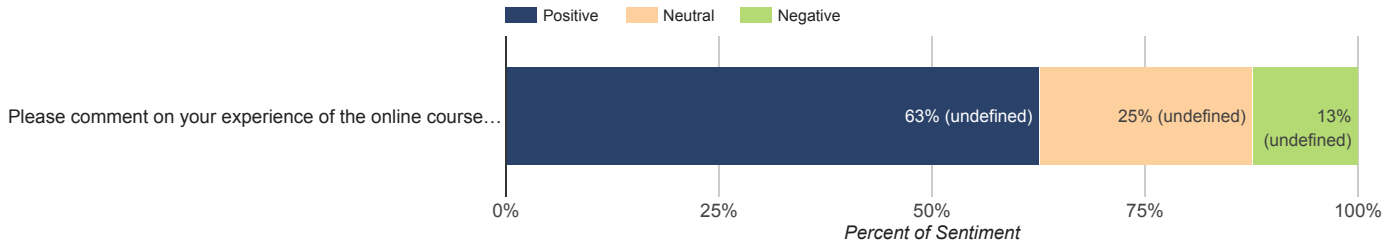
1	N/A
2	Tell students more about the application of the model with the coding part
3	Just explaining more in-depth detail about concepts would be helpful. Overall, I like him as a professor and definitely know more about ML compared to when I started.
4	N/A
5	In fact, the professor's lectures are very clear, but I always feel that there is more knowledge background implied behind the teaching content. However, this vast knowledge background is not conveyed to students during class time. There is always a feeling of, "professor knows that even if he explain it, students won't understand, so he won't waste time explaining it to the class."
6	We can see the efforts this instructor made to facilitate inclusive learning during the semester. From the start, there were group discussion activities that encouraged students to participate and helped include all students as the semester went on. Additionally, coding exercises towards the end of class let students get hands-on experience and feedback and also let students show their work and get live feedback from the professor, a good push in the direction of inclusive learning. As indicated previously, it would be good to offer the possibility for optional further learning/exercises by more advanced students who did not feel challenged by the homework. There may also be some way to include more participation in the class so that less confident students can participate more as well (and to break the one-sidedness of teaching in some lectures). Some ideas might be to have a rapid-fire Jeopardy session of a few minutes at the end (or the middle) of a lecture to test us on some concepts learned during that class. This might encourage students to answer some questions and keep them engaged. It could also be fun, like a little game, so that students get out of their shells. This worked well in an Align class the reviewer took previously. Another idea might be to randomly call on students during class to answer some questions, although some might find this uncomfortable. The goal of these suggestions is to be more inclusive of those who might struggle but not feel comfortable speaking up. Challenging such students might improve the overall cohesion of the class and help solidify learning for all.

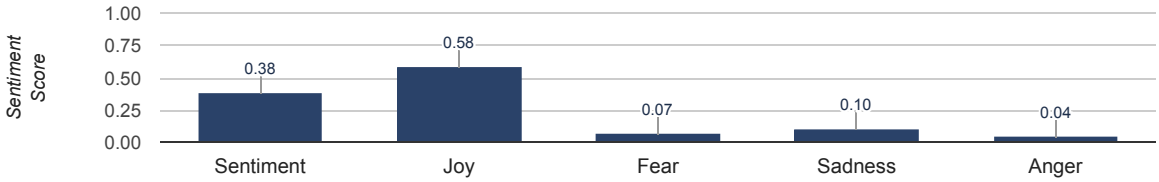
Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

7	I hope he can include more industry examples, since he is in industry , and probably have a lots of use cases can share to students
8	It was an inclusive learning environment. People are comfortable interrupting lecture to ask questions. Professor made it a comfortable learning environment.
9	our prof is easygoing and open to in-class questions, which is great, but i feel giving students (beginners in the subject) too much freedom at the learning stage might not always be good
10	n/a

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (8 comments)

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





1	Great experience. ★★★★★
2	N/A ★★★☆☆
3	Not a online course ★☆☆☆☆
4	Online experience was seamless. Assignments were posted early on so we could see what to expect and plan. I asked two questions via e-mail to the professor. He answered promptly to my satisfaction and even offered the answer to others via the discussion portion of Canvas so that other students could consult it if needed (without singling me out as the person who asked). ★★★★☆
5	It's not the online course, but Professor provided some materials online for us to use ★★★☆☆
6	Pretty Fine ★★★★★
7	overall like it, especially it offers an additional chatbox to ask questions anytime without interrupting my prof's lecture/thought flow ★★★★☆
8	Good experience. ★★★★★

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	Some more extracurricular learning.
2	Attending the office hours would have been helpful.
3	N/A
4	Attempted to work through more of the optional math lectures that were shown from other courses at Northeastern and do practice problems on my own. They were very informative and helped understand some of the underlying math.
5	So far so good
6	Probably spend more time on projects
7	Try finding online open source courses to take along with this one
8	Explore more topics and projects related should help me better understand my courses.
9	do a mini project by myself, as personal interests
10	More reading.