

## Database Management Sys (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Durant, Kathleen**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5200 02**

Course ID: **11838**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **78**

Responses Incl Declines: **28**

Declines: **0**

### Instructor Related Questions: Kathleen Durant (30 comments)

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

- 1 She did a good job of providing us with resources for learning. She recorded lectures while also providing other pre-recorded videos.
- 2 The course was well structured and each lecture and assignment were designed to understand the material better.
- 3 -
- 4 She structured the homeworks so that we learn most of the content through the homework.
- 5 Penalizing students for illogical stuff
- 6 abundant course material
- 7 Professor is really good at simplifying concepts for beginners but also not shying away from complexity. Given the strength of the class, she is able to devote her attention equally.
- 8 Skills, teaching style
- 9 Kathy has a passion for databases and did ensure we had an in-depth understanding of relational databases. Unfortunately, there wasn't much time for anything else once we completed our study of RDBMSs.
- 10 Instructor Kathleen Durant was an Amazing Professor and I cannot thank her enough
- 11 Knowledgeable, willing to put time in to help students, accommodates asynchronous learning by recording lectures.

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

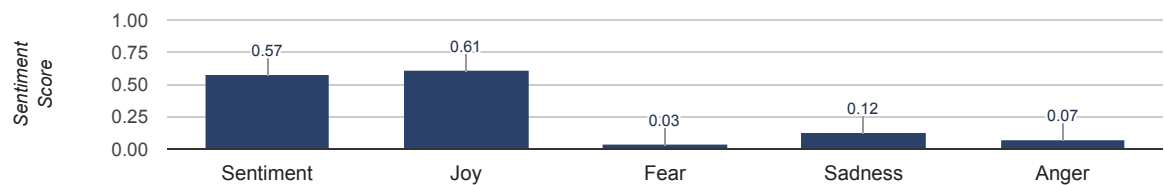
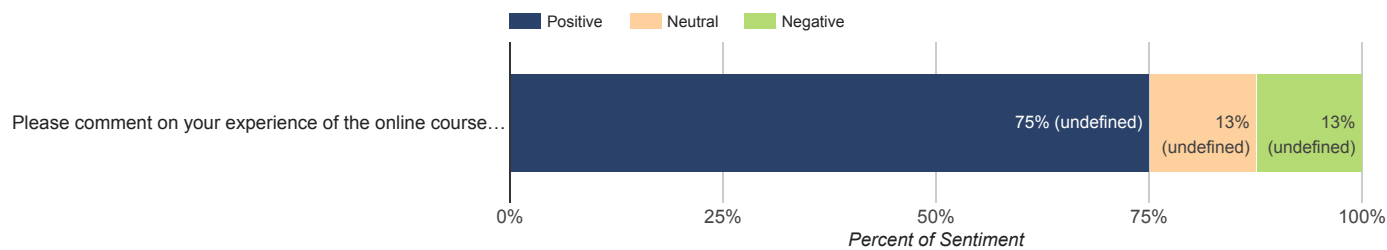
- 1 My main complaint is a lack of professionalism. After exam 2, she made a piazza post suggesting those that failed the exam (< 70%) to consider dropping the course. I was one of those students and yet because of my exam 1 score and homework scores I was still at a B in the course. This added unnecessary stress and embarrassment to the situation. Her responses on piazza to student questions often have a condescending tone or are just flat rude. There is no excuse for this. She was also a no-show during one of her office hours without explanation.
- 2 Have more classes on NoSQL, I would have loved it if we dwelled deeper into GraphQL.
- 3 -
- 4 Not be unenthusiastic about the lecture and generally make the lecture more focused on modern content instead of outdated content.
- 5 Stop penalizing students unnecessarily, they will focus only on grades and stop learning if you do that
- 6 reduce the workload slightly
- 7 Professor could use some marking tools on her ipad to add annotations to the videos and also post annotated slides. Abhi Shelat did this during Algo and it was super helpful.
- 8 Maybe the course could be a little more challenging, mostly everything taught in the class could be self learnt
- 9 Nothing
- 10
  - Course structure is flawed and outdated. Spending 2/3rds of the course on relational databases and only a week or so on NoSQL is a disservice to students. The curriculum needs to be updated to focus more on where industry is going, not where it has been. Not to say that RDBMSs are not important, but I expected to learn a lot more about NoSQL/MongoDB and was quite disappointed.
  - The professor refuses to change the format of exams despite consistent feedback from students over several semesters that there is not enough time to take the exams in the course of one class period. These exams largely test how well someone takes tests and how quickly they can complete the test, not how well someone understands the material. I only really care about the score for my GPA because I know I'm more than comfortable with the material to go into industry and apply what I've learned, regardless of what one of the TAs has decided my final grade for a test should be.
  - Instead of blaming TAs for grading poorly and not paying attention (which is true, but ultimately is the responsibility of the professor) and blaming students for performing poorly in the course, examine the structure of the course and ask if it is still serving students adequately in 2023 and beyond. In my personal opinion, the content of this course comes far short of justifying the course's price tag. I regret taking this course, mostly because the material I learned about RDBMSs could have been learned from a \$30 Coursera course without the arbitrary grading standards applied by TAs. I would have rather learned this material by myself and taken another class. If there was more of a focus on NoSQL/ more updated tools, I don't think I would feel this way.
- 11 I think nothing but to hire me as one of her TAs
- 12 When it comes to theories, don't just read it off, put it in words that people who just saw it could also understand. Like you're not gonna explain an algorithm by just reading off the rules 1234, no one can understand that.

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

- 1 n/a
- 2 -
- 3 Just don't be unenthusiastic about teaching the lecture, that probably accounted for most of my discouragement.
- 4 She does prove to have exceptional teaching capabilities but her stingy attitude makes it hard to learn.
- 5 NA
- 6 - Design tests around mastery of the material instead of penalizing students who aren't super quick test takers.
- 7 She clearly wants her students to learn well, I just think that we could touch on more of the practical parts rather than theoretical parts.

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 Prof. Durant is well organized and all the material that is required could be found in Canvas and she makes sure to reply to every piazza post posted, which gives good clarity on the matter. ★★★★★
- 2 -★★★★☆
- 3 The amount of questions on Piazza was overwhelming, but the responses were overall timely. Sometimes the answers were helpful, sometimes the answers were not. ★★★★★
- 4 The online lectures were very well organized, the professor is very knowledgeable and makes sure to not just address the class but also the recording. The TAs are very helpful both online and in office hours. ★★★★★
- 5 Good★★★★★
- 6 Good★★★★★
- 7 Professor would sometimes ignore follow ups to questions in Piazza. Answers were not always clear. ★☆☆☆☆
- 8 The course materials were neatly organized on canvas and I really appreciate that she also puts lecture recordings on canvas, that added flexibility really made my life easier. ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (8 comments)

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

- 1 I could've done the recommended readings before lectures more often
- 2 -
- 3 Try to read more of the course content beforehand.
- 4 I have already finished DBMS during my undergrad
- 5 I could have attended classes more often. However I didn't really see the need to since the course has phenomenal async support.
- 6 nothing
- 7 Studied more for exam 1
- 8 Practice what I learned more