

Machine Learning (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Bhardwaj, Anurag**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **6140 04**

Course ID: **20311**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **35**

Responses Incl Declines: **16**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Anurag Bhardwaj (18 comments)

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

- 1 The course presented a lot of machine learning principles and practices. I do like the emphasis on the project and the self exploratory nature of the assignment.
- 2 The class lectures were engaging and made me motivated to learn more about the ML topics. Going to class was probably the best part of the semester.
- 3 The professor's lectures were good. He has a lot of knowledge that he communicated well and his lectures were engaging. He was also open to feedback and treated students with warmth and respect.
One of the TA's, Pratyaksh, wrote good homework assignments. The questions he asked helped me learn.
- 4 NO
- 5 The lecture was good and the instructor brought a lot of industry experience to the topic.
- 6 The instructor is very knowledgeable and he cares about student. He prepared great course and he provided student with a lot of help and understanding.
- 7 Dr. Anurag seems knowledgeable and pretty familiar with everything in the field of machine learning.

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

- 1 Often times assignments did not feel aligned at times and would require extensive outside research. Questions felt displaced and can be improved to be perhaps less abstract and more concrete when arriving at an answer.
- 2 Make the homework a bit more aligned with what we learned in class. Many times I found myself researching for somethings that I've never heard of or learned in class before which definitely extended the amount of time it took me to do the homework.
- 3 More clear examples of how to apply the theories would have been very helpful.

Communication and timing of the assignments could improve a lot. I think the homework assignments were written by the TA's, but in some cases, they were really poorly put together (HW 3 referenced graphs which were not included in the instructions, and then were incorrect in another iteration of the instructions). While not directly the professor's fault, this made learning difficult and classwork more stressful than necessary.

Feedback on the homework assignments was minimal and came very late. This meant that we did not have feedback to know if our understanding of concepts or approaches to problems were correct before taking an exam, or at all. Smaller, more frequent assignments with clear feedback would enable homework to function as a teaching tool rather than just a grading tool.

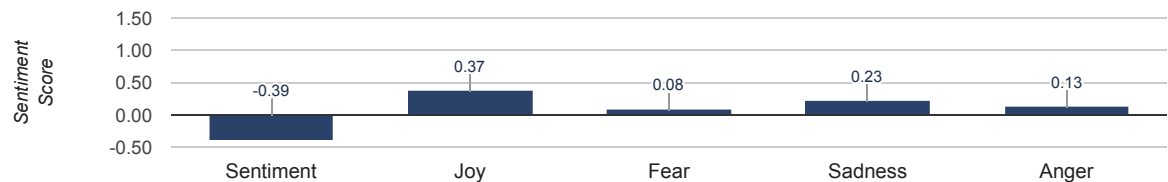
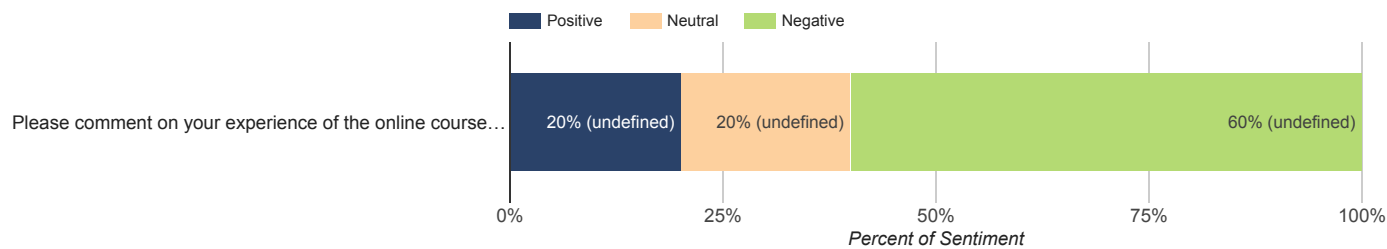
The final exam, the last homework, and the final project were all due on the same day. While grad students should be able to manage their time well, it would have been helpful to have staggered due dates, at least for the final homework.
- 4 The contents in class, in assignment and in exam are totally different, which makes it less efficient to learn this course.
I don't get enough textbook and other materials to learn this course. I spent lots of time to search for some foundation which is supposed to be given in class or textbook, such as basic definition of one term. It's meaningless.
- 5 Teaching !!!!
Using canvas!!!!
Making your own lecture notes!!!!
- 6 Course needs more structure, learning and supporting materials. It's not really fair to pay thousands of dollars for a course with 10 modules(PowerPoints) that are externally sourced from other institutions, 3-4 homework in the whole semester and a couple tests and project. Furthermore, materials were not static and change throughout the semester and canvas was not update etc. its clear the course needs some more time and investment in curating an effective set of materials and an organized structure.
- 7 However, I do not think he did a great job in preparing the course materials and organize the course. All homeworks were prepared by the Teaching assistant and the hws covered a lot of materials that are not covered in the class.

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

- 1 Course instruction was good. I felt like hws were a weak point and were confusing to point I was not sure if I was correct path or not at times. The feedback was also not enough to really make improvements.
- 2 nothing
- 3 n/a
- 4 Strength: very knowledgeable, has great knowledge about machine learning. Has great industry experience and insights. He is also very caring. He shows understanding to students.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (5 comments)

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



- 1 In person ★★★★★
- 2 Awful professor and nothing going well during this semester about his teaching. Literally the worst experience during this two years. Don't know why Bhardwaj, Anurag still in this campus at NEU. ★☆☆☆☆
- 3 There wasn't really any course structure at all, even the most basic modules were not updated prior to the lecture so we could review materials before class. ★☆☆☆☆
- 4 The online materials are well designed. ★★★★★
- 5 First of all this is not an online course, I as a student in San Jose campus attend the course in person every week. I have to say this is the worse class that I have ever taken at Northeastern University. All slides were borrowed from MIT open course ware and the Teaching assistants are not helpful at all. For the last two weeks, we have only two hours of office hour per week. And the teaching assistant himself seems still struggling about the course material. ★☆☆☆☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (4 comments)

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

- 1 Purchased the textbook
- 2 I could have spent more time before the class learning linear algebra and brushing up on stats and calculus to prepare for it better.
- 3 Start work earlier.
- 4 Nothing, I think the faculty and staff should have put more investment in curating the supporting materials and curriculum because it was very barebones.