Instructor: **Ahmad, Uzair**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **6120 02**

Course ID: **37424**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **68**

Responses Incl Declines: **21**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Uzair Ahmad (17 comments)

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

1   good materials for learning

2   Obviously knew the material and was a very realistic teacher in regards to how laborious this material was.

3   Detailed explanation

4   Great organization and good at communicating concepts.

5   The course can be completed entirely asynchronous, which I appreciate. The assignments were amazing and structured very well. I believe they facilitate hands-on learning in an effective and meaningful manner. From the start, we were getting our hands dirty with basic NLP and the assignments were structured so that the topics built on top of each other in a meaningful way. I truly believe the assignments were the best part of this class.

6   I found the material very engaging as it covers recent innovations all the way up to the transformer architecture.

The codewalks were a unique aspect of this course that I found very helpful.

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

1   Be more organized on Canvas. I missed discussion assignments because they were often buried in a module or buried in the list of assignments.

2   Have smaller assignments to make the students understand concepts better.

3   More assignments

4   The professor failed to record lecture properly at numerous occasions.
The assignment deadlines were not updated correctly. They were still set to dates from previous semester. The professor was updating the deadlines on a weekly basis. Preventing us from planning properly.
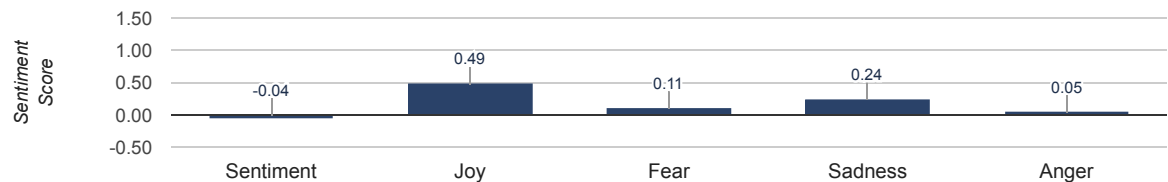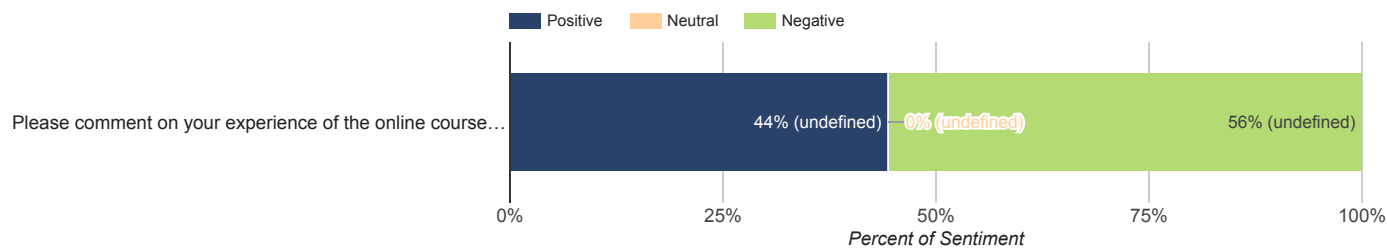
The professor failed to show up for a class. There was no follow-up regarding reason for skipping.

5   It is inexcusable to be completely unreachable for 7 days leading up to the exam. We literally had a TA post a message 5 hours the final, saying, "The details of the final exam are not yet known to the TAs either." Students in the class did not know what time the exam was until 2 hours beforehand. The professor needs to do a much better job of communicating logistics to the students.

6   Sometimes the quiz questions depart from the taught material or are asking questions from modules we have not yet covered. Can lead to tricky or frustrating quizzes.

7   There's a lot that could be done to improve. I will list a few of the main areas that I would've liked to see improved. The structure of the canvas modules seemed well put together until you see that the deadlines do not always match up with the module week. I believe a little bit of work to restructure it would make the course feel much more put together. The presentations weren't bad, but they didn't feel as useful as I would've liked. There were times when we got really deep into the math behind concepts that were much above the scope of the class. It wasn't harmful, but when you have to keep track of 6 Greek letters on a page-long equation, it gets confusing. These concepts should be taught to encourage both an understanding of the mathematical concepts behind NLP topics and to build intuition. Also, a quick final note, the grading rubric seems weird. He says that it follows the official Northeastern University guidelines, but in the syllabus, he states that you must get a 95% or higher to get an A. I didn't check myself, but all of my other classes only require a 93%, so just be ready for this.

8   I think a class explaining introducing Hugging Face and other Python libraries for NLP would have been helpful. Without my teammates for the course project, I would not have known what resources were out there for NLP because this is my first exposure to the subject (whereas my teammates were also taking a course in LLMs). The code examples for Tensorflow and Pytorch covered in class were very informative, but I think it would have been helpful if the fundamentals of these libraries were covered in more detail. Maybe there is another course that offers this information, but I haven't taken it yet as this is only my second semester.

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

1   Was realistic in the fact that the material was laborious and I felt the instructor cared more about learning than full implementations.

2   Good class

3   The course schedule was poorly organized in terms of deadlines.
The time given per assignment was not consistent with the guidelines mentioned in syllabus.
The professor did not show up for one of his office hours. I tried contacting him. He never replied.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (9 comments)

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

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Please comment on your experience of the online course…

| 44% (undefined) | 0% (undefined) | 56% (undefined) |

Percent of Sentiment: 0% — 25% — 50% — 75% — 100%

Sentiment Score:
- Sentiment: -0.04
- Joy: 0.49
- Fear: 0.11
- Sadness: 0.24
- Anger: 0.05

1 Good. ★★★★★

2 This is a tough course for me, but very interesting. I feel I learned a lot. ★★★★★

3 The Canvas modules we poorly formatted, rife with typos, unclear or inconsistent with due dates, and inefficiently laid out to ensure activities were not missed. ★☆☆☆☆

4 Good ★★★★★

5 The professor failed to record lecture properly at numerous occasions.
The assignment deadlines were not updated correctly. They were still set to dates from previous semester. The professor was updating the deadlines on a weekly basis. Preventing us from planning properly. ★☆☆☆☆

6 The course was very disorganized. The due dates of assignments would get moved constantly. ★☆☆☆☆

7 It was very helpful and comfortable ★★★★★

8 The class on natural language processing felt more like doing my own thing than an actual course. It wasn't terrible, but it felt disconnected, like the lectures didn't really match up with the assignments. I liked being able to manage my work and watch lectures on my own time, but it got confusing with how everything was set up on Canvas. It was tricky to keep track of when things were due because the schedule was all over the place. And about the coursework, it was mostly just reading research papers, which wasn't really my thing. It made the class feel less hands-on and more like I was just figuring it out on my own. Overall, not a bad experience, but definitely recommend seeking a different professor if you want more of an in-class learning experience. ★★☆☆☆

9 I was only able to attend one lecture because I had another class scheduled at the same time. ★☆☆☆☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (7 comments)

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

1 Not work full time while going to school full time. Not be neurodivergent. Not need to use accommodations on the first assignment which literally put me behind the entire semester.

2 Learn about the concepts before starting the semester to prepare myself better.

3 Put in more study hours

4 I should have asked more conceptual questions.

5 Could have done more research in depth on topics covered

6 So far it's not been too bad. The main struggles I've had were with the assignment deadlines. I wasn't prepared for the training times necessary for completing the assignments since there was a lot of trial and error. I would just say that I should've gotten to a point in the assignments where I was able to thoroughly test my code and models with a day or two to spare at least before the assignment deadline.

7 I would have liked to attend more classes and TA sessions to be able to ask more questions on the material.