

Instructor: **Shesh, Amit**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5008 30**
Course ID: **39604**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **102**
Responses Incl Declines: **47**
Declines: **1**

Instructor Related Questions: Amit Shesh (80 comments)

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

- 1
- The instructor was a great lecturer and did an amazing job of explaining topics with the use of analogies.
- 2
- Some contents can be straight out boring if not nicely taught, but professor used nice examples to make everything much easier to understand and engaging.

For the algorithm part, it is very nice to have the pseudocode with almost step-by-step direction. This is very great in helping implement the algorithms in the homework.

The homework really made you think the most basic components and processes for implementing both data structures and algorithms. If you forget them, code will complain forever until you fix it.
- 3
- It was clear that Professor Shesh has an enthusiasm for the course and for teaching in general. His lectures were entertaining and engaging.
- 4
- Fantastic lecturer that really demonstrates why there is a distinct title for "Teaching" Professors versus other instructors. Professor Shesh's style of teaching is engaging, charismatic, and you can sense that he has a passion for the field of computer science.
- 5
- Energetic and enthusiastic lecturer who had great answers to every question. He was excellent at explaining and very patient when we needed something explained again. 3.5 hour lectures are awful, but Prof Shesh's energy helped me get through them. One of the best lecturers I've had.
- 6
- He loves to teach and is very animated. He is also always willing to answer every single that gets asked in lecture.
- 7
- Prof. Shesh really digged into the algorithm and understand everything. He can convey and explain the idea from both high-level and into details, which I find particularly helpful in not only understand how to solve the question but also why.
- 8
- Professor Shesh really cares about teaching and is very knowledgeable about C languages and the CS fundamentals. He's also very passionate about the subject and very smart. He's quick to respond on Piazza and debugs really fast during office hours or between-lecture/after-lecture question times.
- 9
- I think Amit emphasize the focus on how much we learn from this course instead of just for getting a decent GPA, which inspire me a lot to learn more about systems, data structures and algorithms.
- 10
- Great lecturer and structure to the class. very engaging.
- 11
- Very enthusiastic, very knowledgeable
- 12
- Professor Shesh make difficult concepts really easy to understand.
- 13
- Enthusiastic and knowledgeable
- 14
- You learn a lot in this one class. This is a good thing, but challenging. The professor did a great job of teaching the material effectively and passionately.
- 15
- sorry, I never met instructor.
- 16
- Professor Shesh was great communicator of complicated material. His lectures were engaging, and I liked that homework was closely connected to lecture material (i.e. implementing data structures that we'd just learned about).
- 17
- Prof Shesh is very passionate about his students and their understanding of complex topics. I believe he pushed us all to work hard to succeed in his course, but he is an excellent lecturer and made the concepts understandable.
- 18
- Personally, I think professor Shesh explained materials pretty well until the last few weeks. I got lost in the lectures of last few weeks.
- 19
- Explains concepts clearly and efficiently.
- 20
- Very enthusiastic and helpful
- 21
- The professor is very passionate about teaching and brings enthusiasm to teaching.
- 22
- I really enjoyed the material of this course. I feel like I got a very brief introduction to many topics.
- 23
- Organized ppt and notes. Always explain concepts clearly and provide good examples. Show up in labs to provide extra help for hard problems.
- 24
- Shesh is an amazing presenter who's passion for the topic comes across clearly.
- 25
- provide great walk through on explaining an algo.
- 26
- /
- 27
- I like the class's teaching pace. I could learn a lot during each lecture, and also not hard to follow.
- 28
- enthusiastic.
- 29
- Excellent educator

- Understanding educator

- Well informed/extremely smart educator
- 30
- professional teaching skill and passion on class, always can make students focus
- 31
- Prof. Shesh is likely my all time favorite teacher. He is so professional, but yet so funny and friendly. His lectures are so entertaining that I don't want it to end. He is very professional and hardworking, he would answer questions in great detail whenever I ask him. He doesn't even take breaks when we take breaks and stays after class until everyone's question get answered. And also the in depth response for piazza questions. This course covered a lot of useful and interesting topics within a short period of time. And it helped me understanding concepts from the low level and being able to implement data structures on my own.
- 32
- Handwriting code for the process.
- 33
- this class teaches a lot of the higher level fundamentals. prof shesh is excellent at explaining complex ideas that are digestible. he shows up to class prepared and patiently answers everyone's question in class/online.

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

- 1 My main critique of this course was the amount of work we were expected to complete in the last few weeks of the semester, I say this because although I gained general understanding of topics such as binary trees and graphs, I am not sure how confident I am in my ability to actually implement those algorithms in code if I was asked to do so. Although I turned in working code, the hard assignments seemed to have taken the focus away from actually understanding the implementation of the topic, to instead racing against time to submit the assignments.
- 2 The lecture itself is good.

I think the lab is the one that needs a lot of improvement (will be discussed in that course evaluation).
- 3 Give a bit more time in between writing something on the board (such as pseudo code) and asking a question about it. Most of the time, we're still writing and haven't processed things yet.
- 4 Debug autograder and perhaps supply additional context to the autograder's failure messages. Proofread assignment specs.
- 5 I thought the graph part or excel part homework is a little bit unnecessary.
- 6 Give a better understanding of how much time we should spend on labs, or to restructure labs entirely. Talking through our solutions from the week before was undeniably helpful, but it meant the TAs weren't able to help us on the current lab, so I spent too much time outside of class working on them.
- 7 The labs are good but there is usually no help from the TAs to clarify what we learned as they have to spend the entire time grading. It would be much more beneficial if they didnt use that time to grade.
- 8 Most homeworks are very much centered around interview coding questions, which are great. However, sometime I wish there can be bigger projects than coding challenges like actually building something using C.
- 9 There is one thing. The instructor on purpose don't provide access to recording of lectures, which is understandable though, not student-friendly for reviewing the topics.
- 10 some instructions to the homework could be have been clearer especially at the start of the semester.
- 11 Be more understanding and kind
- 12 Professor may spend less time going over some concepts we have already learned in 5002 (like basic concepts of BFS and DFS, big O notation), and give more time on other aspects.
- 13 better lab instructions
- 14 Because grading is harsh, and so much rides on homework assignments, maybe provide a way to make up for lost points on difficult assignments. We had quizzes which helped a lot, but maybe an extra assignment to replace one bad score. Or something like this.
- 15 sorry, I never met instructor.
- 16 While homework assignments and labs were very helpful for learning the material, the workload was intense at times, especially with labs taking a comparable amount of time as homework assignments. It would have been helpful for labs to be ungraded to relieve some of that pressure.
- 17 I would have liked the lab time to be for lab only instead of grading. Being able to ask questions during the lab instead of during office hours would have been helpful, but getting feedback in person was also useful.
- 18 I hope the professor can explain each algorithms a little more, in the way of how this sort/search behaves visually/generally, then dive into details of the code/steps.
- 19
 1. Less scaffolding for assignments.
 2. Better autograder. The autograder on gradescope will not compile if you have a slightly different arrangement of files.
 3. Teach how to write make files.
 4. Break the meeting time to twice a week. It is brutal to sit through a three-hour lecture.
- 20 Not go over time every lecture
- 21 Split time teaching in class to 2 classes 3 hours of teaching is a lot of learning and to soak in.
- 22 I think providing a notes template could help students stay more organized while taking notes. I felt at times I was having trouble figuring out what to write down or why I was writing things down. I think a little bit more of an introduction to what we were learning would have been helpful. For example, explaining that we're going to be talking about breadth first search, and then going into the derivation. That way I can frame in my mind and notes what we're going to be going through.

One other thing that proved to be challenging was the level of familiarity the TA's had with the material. A lot of times I feel I would go to the TA's for help and they would end up giving me the wrong information or spending a lot of time trying to reteach themselves the material.

Finally, providing a sample answer for the assignments and for the lab would be very helpfull
- 23 I think the assignment load at times got a little overbearing, and the assignment due dates lined up right with when many students had lab for CS5004.
- 24 Course speech could slow down a little bit
- 25 /
- 26 Everything is great.
- 27 Overall this course was one of the best, if not the best Align course I've taken and that has all to do with Professor Dr Shesh. Not only is he charismatic and funny (which is needed to keep students awake in a awfully dimly lit room) but he is also an excellent educator.

If there is anything I'd change in this course it would be of two. One, have the classroom be in a more brightly and lit location (a lot of times I'd still have to fight myself to stay awake solely because of the dark environment), and two, reduce the lab content / cut it in half, especially id say the last 3/4 labs, Every week was a struggle to finish what felt like two HW assignments (lab and the actual HW) and at some point my effort shifted to just getting it done vs actually learning the concepts.

I cant insert a photo of myself (yes I still got the joke from the last class (unfortunately over Zoom)) but I will mention that this is Haidar and it was an honor to have you as a professor and to take 5008 with you Dr. Shesh! Thank you for everything!
- 28 I really think this course is perfect. I wish there are more time spent on talking about processes in lecture, and more time on the last couple algorithms. But given the time constraint, I don't know how it would be possible.
- 29 link some practice with real leetcode questions.
- 30 balancing c programming and data structure & algorithm in one class is tough, especially when there's a full class on algorithm.

it would be highly beneficial to our learning if the prof could get more TAs for this class. TAs mostly only have the capacity to grade the previous lab during lab time, lending students to have to go to OH for questions on the lab assigned for the week.

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

- 1 good at explaining

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

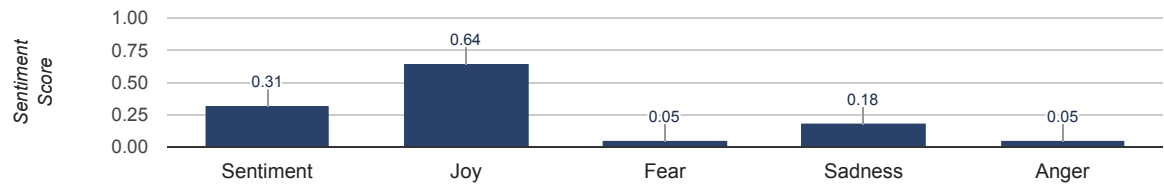
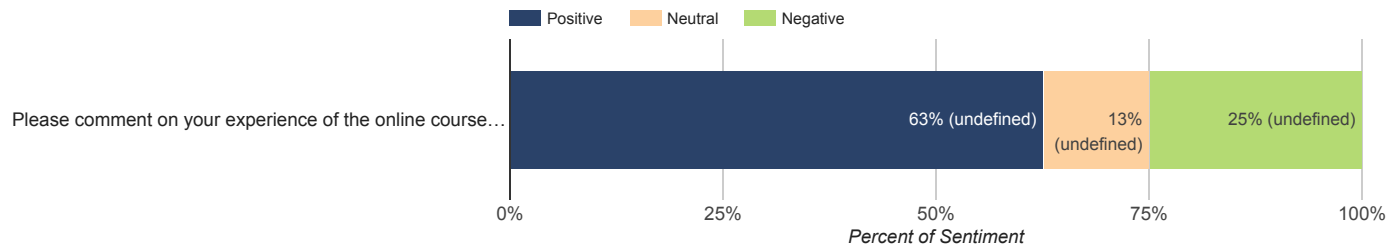
- 2Very good, passionate professor. His enthusiasm was needed for our intensive courses. Difficult course and some topics I believe should have been extended to two weeks instead of one. Overall, would take again absolutely.
- 3N/A
- 4Outside of the lecture time, it gives me the impression that professor is monitoring the piazza posts and Microsoft Team 24/7.

I hardly see any replies by the professor is more than a couple of hours. You will usually get your answer in text within 1-2 hour regardless of weekdays or weekends.

This is very helpful.
- 5sorry, I never met instructor.
- 6Professor Shesh is a great lecturer and communicator. Sometimes I got lost with all the letter-variables (i.e. i, j, k, etc.). It would have been helpful to write keys for the variables on the board to help eliminate that confusion.
- 7Like the above, having grading during the labs made it hard to talk to the TAs about the current concepts, but getting their feedback on previous topics was useful. Overall, I think Prof Shesh was an excellent instructor and I would certainly take another course taught by him.
- 8Your energy you bring to teaching makes me pay attentions and retain information better.
- 9Professor Shesh is clearly passionate and an incredible instructor. He is always willing to work with you to make sure you're prepared and putting your best foot forward.
- 10The labs often took me at least as long if not longer than the homework assignments, starting around halfway through the semester. Since we spent so much of the lab period grading the previous exam, there was no sense of the TAs walking us through any part of the lab. So the lab assignments ended up being just extra homeworks, but felt harder, because I think we were supposed to do some of them with the TAs and that never happened.
- 11Professor Shesh is very knowledgeable and passionate. He's also very kind and ready to explain things in terms of the course itself, and also personal career development, which is very helpful for Align students.
- 12I have nothing extra to add. I enjoyed Shesh's class very much and wish he were teaching CS5800. I would take another class with him in a heartbeat
- 13/
- 14Professor Shesh is a patient and good problem explainer which encourages me ask questions when I face problems.
- 15mentioned earlier.
- 16I thought it was pretty great.
- 17logic is good and clear code for understanding.

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.



- 1Very good★★★★★
- 2not in online session★☆☆☆☆
- 3so many contents covered by the class, but professor only teaches the simplest part, and the homework is harder. ★☆☆☆☆
- 4It was very helpful that class recordings were made available. It made it much easier to revisit topics from class later to process and reinforce the information. ★★★★★
- 5The supplemental materials provided expanded upon topics covered in lecture and greatly helped my understanding of more complex topics. ★★★★★
- 6I'm not a big fan of online course. Physical lectures are good. Online office hours worked fine.
I wished the labs can be more helpful for both labwork and homework, instead of spending all the time on grading. ★★★★★
- 7Professor Shesh was very responsive on piazza and answered many of the students questions himself. ★★★★★
- 8pretty decent but he does not acknowledge questions on teams lecture calls so it is not interactive ★☆☆☆☆

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

- 9 I really appreciated the option to join the lectures online. ★★★★★
- 10 This wasn't an online course. But the canvas materials were fine! ★★★★★☆
- 11 The online resources provided were extremely helpful. ★★★★★★
- 12 /★★★★☆
- 13 Materials are well organized. ★★★★★★
- 14 I really disliked this course. The assignments and labs were way too challenging to worry about what was going on in lecture. It ended up being an intensive course in C rather than an introduction to computer systems, algorithms, and data structures. The assignments that we were given were modified leet code "hards" that had little relevance to what we had learned in class. Implementing is different from learning, and I wish the class focused more on actually learning the concepts rather than making you waste a ton of time learning about how to fix one little thing in C. The Professor was enthusiastic and is a good lecturer, definitely knows his stuff, but overall I am very displeased with the course. Wouldn't even drop one of the homework grades when a majority of students are struggling. Not understanding whatsoever of the amount of stress placed on us. The align program claims it is accepting of people with non computer science experience, but this course favors those who have that background knowledge. ★☆☆☆☆
- 15 This is not an online course, but the materials online are very well organized ★★★★★★
- 16 I think online course will be less efficient for Q&A session, BUT it's good to replay in every second. ★★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (22 comments)

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

- 1 More instructions on lab.
- 2 Get ahead before falling behind
- 3 I could have utilized more outside resources to understand the implementation of topics in C.
- 4 take youtube classes about the difficult part.
- 5 This was a challenging course for me, but I'm proud of the work I put in. I think watching the model videos before class instead of after may have aided my understanding a little, but Prof Shesh did an excellent job and I don't think I would have done much differently.
- 6 Perhaps start hw earlier and attend more office hours.
- 7 I fell behind in going over the weekly materials prior to lecture. Staying on top of that would have been better.
- 8 Watch videos a little more before certain classes
- 9 Watch more youtube videos alongside this class to learn the topics better.
- 10 Spending more time on the option practice problems and watching the videos pre class would have been helpful.
- 11 Recognized how much time I should be spending on labs should be less than on homeworks.
- 12 go to office hour more
- 13 Finish the reading materials before lecture would be helpful. Knowing what to code is different from understanding it conceptually, which is what the reading materials are about.
- 14 I would say I need to preview topics which are related to operating system.
- 15 I don't think there is anything I could have done. I have been an active participant in class and my grade reflects that I have understood the material well.
- 16 Sometime professor class speech went too fast, so rewatch the class recording can enhance my memory about course knowledge.
- 17 /
- 18 Start what need to be done earlier, so I could have more time to ask questions.
- 19 too much to learn, almost impossible. spend a lot of additional time.
- 20 To make this course better for myself I should have tried more to review material before class and re-review material again right after class!
- 21 This course is really great and I learned a lot. I could find additional resources, the the lecture is good enough on its own most of the times.
- 22 Good enough.