

## Database Management Sys (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Durant, Kathleen**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5200 01**

Course ID: **10683**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **104**

Responses Incl Declines: **51**

Declines: **0**

### Instructor Related Questions: Kathleen Durant (48 comments)

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

- 1 1. well designed course.  
2. The professor is very knowledgeable and makes the learning easy.
- 2 The instructor was well prepared for the lectures and knowledgeable on the topics.
- 3 Availability and readiness to help and make understand various concepts
- 4 Prof. Durant's vast knowledge of the course subject is evident in the way she answers the students' queries, even if the student themselves sometimes might be confused about what they might be asking at the time.
- 5 She explained the core concepts for each module and the students were able to get a basic idea of the course
- 6 The instructor had a lot of knowledge for the course and was able to answer doubts clearly. The strength of the course was that it provided multiple extra credit opportunities and also focused on practical concepts by having an final project and also a mini project as part of the curriculum.
- 7 Really enthusiastic instructor and cleared all the doubts.
- 8 It is a great beginner course for learning DBMS basics.
- 9 Its was challenging
- 10 Extremely well prepared and engaged with the topic
- 11 I felt the course was undergrad level and not up to the mark for a grad student.
- 12 Project preparation is the strength of the course.
- 13 The professor is understanding of student problems.
- 14 Professor is very responsible to us.
- 15 1. Very punctual  
2. Knows her content  
3. Approachable
- 16 Prof Durant is well versed with the concepts in DBMS and tried her level best to teach all of it so well!
- 17 Engaging Course Content: The course content was exceptionally well-structured and engaging. The materials provided a comprehensive overview of the subject matter, balancing theoretical concepts with real-world applications.  
  
Effective Communication: The instructor demonstrated strong communication skills, making complex topics accessible. Clear explanations, well-organized lectures, and timely announcements contributed to a positive learning environment.  
  
Supportive Feedback: The instructor provided constructive and timely feedback on assignments and assessments. This feedback not only helped in understanding areas for improvement but also encouraged continuous learning and improvement.  
  
Accessible Resources: A variety of accessible resources, including supplementary readings, external references, and multimedia content, were made available. This allowed for a more comprehensive exploration of the subject beyond the core materials.  
  
Encouragement of Critical Thinking: The course encouraged critical thinking and independent analysis. Assignments and discussions prompted students to apply concepts to real-world scenarios, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject matter.  
  
Approachable and Supportive: The instructor was approachable and demonstrated genuine concern for the success of students. Open communication channels, including office hours and responsive email correspondence, created a supportive learning environment.
- 18 They were kind and understanding.
- 19 The instructor was always keen on helping students and was fair with regard to her grading. She genuinely wished for her students to do well and learn the subject and was willing to take extra study sessions right before exams.
- 20 n/a

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

- 1 The assignments and projects did not have thorough feedback from the rubric as I would lose a lot of points without having accurate feedback on why.
- 2 Include more NoSQL databases above MongoDB
- 3 One way this course could have been made better is by making sure that the online students feel as included as the students in class.
- 4 I feel the course should give more priorities to assignments than tests. The assignments could be given more weightage and be more challenging, rather than having 3 tests with so much weightage. because students spend more time with assignments they focus more on studying the material to answer all the questions. and if the tests overlap with other course's coursework and deadline, the student might not be able to prepare for the test properly
- 5 The instructor can maybe restructure the weightage given to the three exams which is 51%. But, extra credit opportunities helped a lot in the end.
- 6 Spending a little more time on subqueries and handling the fast-paced nature of the lectures.
- 7 Make grading more lenient

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

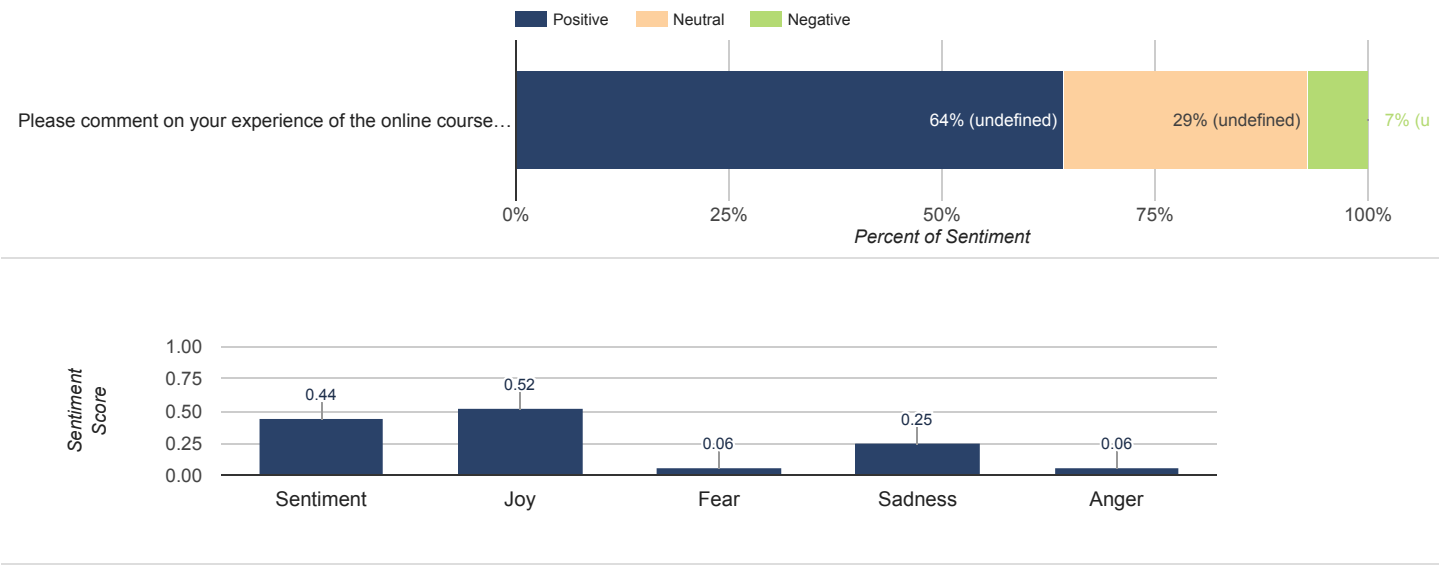
- 8 This course touches on most of the basic topics but doesn't go in-depth. Since it's a master's level course, I expected more advanced concepts to be covered (e.g.: indexing etc.).
- 9 reduce the number of assignments as the a lot of weightage is on the exam and project.  
Or reduce the exam weightage. Because it seems unfair to give time to assignments every week and weightage is so less.
- 10 I know this is a perennial issue with grad classes, but having assignments and exams graded more quickly to incorporate insights into the next assignment(s)
- 11 Give better example projects for 3people groups
- 12 Provide more practice problems to us.
- 13 I recommend enhancing the quality of Teaching Assistants (TAs) by providing clear communication regarding permissible discussion topics and limitations. Establish a standardized rubric to ensure fair and consistent distribution of marks across the entire class.  
  
Additionally, the assessment criteria for class participation seem impractical, especially in a class with 260 students. It becomes challenging to generate unique questions to attain the allocated 2% marks. Consider revisiting the criteria to better align with the class size and encourage meaningful interaction.
- 14 Incorporation of Real-World Examples: Integrating more real-world examples and case studies into the course content would enhance practical relevance. This approach could further illustrate the application of theoretical concepts in professional contexts.
- 15 The course syllabus should include more graduate level content - this course felt too similar to an undergraduate course.
- 16 perhaps reduce the minimum requirement to get an A.
- 17 N/A
- 18 n/a

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

- 1 The homework, rubric and requirements may be improved as the grading requirements were somewhat ambiguous.
- 2 Nothing, teaching was completely perfect to me regarding the course syllabus
- 3 /
- 4 Prof. Durant's knowledge and course material is pretty good, and covers a vast majority of what is required to be taught in this course I feel. The grading standards in this course are also very lenient in terms of how free the students are allowed to answer in the assignments compared to the grading rubric, so that is always refreshing to see for me personally. However, inclusivity of online students could be made better.
- 5 She never gets tired to respond to the students questions during the class
- 6 None really, they are great at what they do.
- 7 Encouraging Participation from All Students: Actively encouraging participation from all students, the instructor created a space where everyone felt included. This involved soliciting input from quieter students, acknowledging diverse perspectives, and fostering a collaborative learning atmosphere.  
  
Accessibility of Course Materials: Ensuring the accessibility of course materials, the instructor made efforts to provide resources in multiple formats. This inclusivity extended to accommodating different learning preferences and addressing potential barriers to accessing content.
- 8 fairly distribute the grades among the assignment, project and exams
- 9 The homework and practice problems that are prepared are really where you strengthen the learning.
- 10 n/a

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (14 comments)

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



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

- 1

The professor took knowledgeable lectures and also made them available to attend via the zoom meetings. ★★☆☆☆
- 2

The course online material was well organized and scheduled.  
However, Piazza forum was bit cluttered with redundant questions and hard to manage, mainly because of the participation requirements. ★★★★★
- 3

It was perfect to keep the lecture available online also in the case we would miss any lecture. ★★★★★
- 4

The best thing about this course, apart from the course material, was the fact that in-person attendance was not mandatory, so students could attend virtually. However, my only gripe with the Zoom sessions was the fact that Prof. Durant often times taught some portions of the class off the camera in the middle of the class, so attending the course online wasn't as effective as attending in person, which is a shame for the students attending online who could potentially be missing important information. ★☆☆☆☆
- 5

The online environment was quite helpful with clarifying doubts★★★★★
- 6

It was really convenient. ★★★★★
- 7

The course was in person★★★★☆☆
- 8

Great Course. Consists of homeworks, projects, and exams. ★★★★★
- 9

The online course environment was effectively managed and was helpful. ★★★★★
- 10

/★★★★☆☆
- 11

The online zoom meetings were very effective. ★★★★★
- 12

My experience in the online course environment has been both positive and enriching. The flexibility of accessing course materials at any time has allowed me to manage my schedule effectively. The use of multimedia resources, discussion forums, and interactive modules has enhanced my understanding of the subject matter. ★★★★★
- 13

Online course environment for the course is mainly for the classroom materials and the course discussions that happen over piazza which was always a buzzing place in the semester with learnings being shared across peers★★★★★
- 14

n/a★★★★☆☆

**Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (18 comments)**

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

- 1

I could have asked more questions on class forum to avoid smaller mistakes.
- 2

I would have slightly included more of NoSQL concepts and practical labs.
- 3

To make the course better for myself, I could have attended all the sessions in person instead of attending some online, which would have led me to not miss a lot of information which the professor taught off-camera.
- 4

Should have scheduled my time a bit better to prepare for tests.
- 5

I could have read course material before class to prepare for the upcoming class and also to contribute more to class participation and discussions.
- 6

Paid more attention to a few topics like subqueries.
- 7

Read/Review textbook before class.
- 8

Practiced more problems
- 9

Do the reading for the lecture before the lecture.
- 10

Had previous experience in transactions.
- 11

I would have the project topics limited, and provided them to students.  
I would have also increased then project video length for 3 person groups.
- 12

Keep practice.
- 13

Managed my time better.
- 14

Proactive Time Management: I could have implemented more effective time management strategies to ensure a balanced allocation of time for lectures, assignments, and personal study. Creating a detailed schedule and adhering to deadlines would have prevented last-minute rushes.  
  
Active Participation: Actively engaging in online discussions, forums, and virtual group activities would have allowed me to benefit more from collaborative learning. Sharing perspectives with peers and seeking their insights could have enriched my understanding of the course material.
- 15

I should try to understand more fundamental concepts.
- 16

I believe I could have practised drawing UML diagrams before exam 1 in which I took up more time than I had, though I did score decently.
- 17

studied
- 18

Attended more classes.