

Instructor: **Nascimento, Mario**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5200 08**
Course ID: **40401**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **35**
Responses Incl Declines: **19**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Mario Nascimento (17 comments)

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

- 1 Knowledge.
- 2 Instructor is dedicated to the course, explains everything clearly and gives reasonable, beneficial workload
- 3 The professor is very knowledgeable, and the lectures are well-organized and interesting.
- 4 It covers many aspects of database and systems
- 5 Make student work hard on preparing midterm exams

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

- 1 Attention to details and database grammars.
- 2 Nothing in particular
- 3 Add more video modules - could be as simple as prior lectures cut up into single topic segments

Rather than just linking to textbook chapters - provide more guidance on what to pay attention to in particular in each segment.
- 4 Grading. I understand and respect the grading schemes and high exam expectations set for this course. However, from what I've observed, many in my class became quite upset, especially since the midterm exams were very challenging and weighted at 50% of the overall score. It's particularly upsetting considering there are two sections offered this term, and the other section, taught by another faculty member, was a lot more lenient and forgivable with unsuccessful exam scores. It's certainly not the professor's fault - both MSCS Align students and MSCS General students should have hold the same expectations in classes now. But Align students like me are really struggling to catch up with the class and meet the exam expectations, while General students seem to be excelling. Again, it's not anyone's fault, I'm sending it here just because I'm not sure if those not in the Align program were aware of this situation.
- 5
 1. The evaluation system is disappointing. One or two incorrect answer in one mid term exam will ruin the effort of the whole semester;
 2. The focus of this course is confusing. Evaluating students based on paper-exam seems to encourage students to "fast learning" about knowledge. However, in most real practice scenarios, people study skills from daily practice. Fast understanding is a valuable characteristic but shouldn't be the only one.
 2. Projects are not carefully designed. Project2 and 3 are oversimplified while they are good opportunity to implement knowledge to create practical works and obtain encouragement from those projects.
 4. TAs sometimes don't carefully read and evaluate students' work.
- 6 The instructor shouldn't determine 50% of the total score based on two mid-term exams consisting solely of multiple-choice questions. This approach is highly unfair, especially when these questions are tricky and impractical, failing to reflect the effort students put into the course. Instead, it rashly measures the course's performance based on luck. With most students feeling that the exam questions fail to accurately assess the content learned in class, some students end up with higher scores merely due to lucky guesses on multiple-choice questions. Conversely, others, purely due to bad luck, end up with historically low scores. This disparity is grossly unfair.
- 7 Provide clear rubrics for each assignment, especially when deducting points

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

- 1 Nothing in particular
- 2 Better use of Canvas systems such as modules, assignments, prepopulating the grades tab so students can have an accurate grasp of their grades and choose to add/drop or pass/fail as needed.
- 3 N/A
- 4

Pros

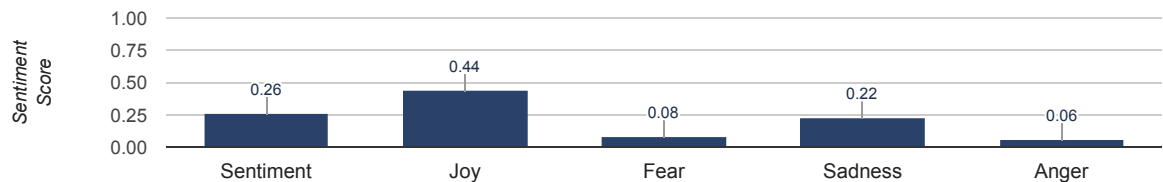
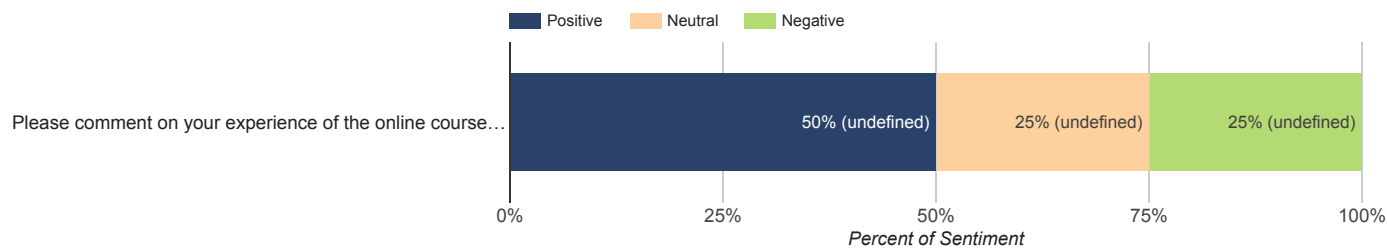
 1. The instructor is very familiar with his topics.
 2. The instructor shows his enthusiasm of this course

Cons

 1. Examples and relevant explanations are confusing sometimes;
 2. Ambiguous target of studying. Spending too much time on theoretical topics instead of practical usage of database.
- 5 The instructor shouldn't determine 50% of the total score based on two mid-term exams consisting solely of multiple-choice questions. This approach is highly unfair, especially when these questions are tricky and impractical, failing to reflect the effort students put into the course. Instead, it rashly measures the course's performance based on luck. With most students feeling that the exam questions fail to accurately assess the content learned in class, some students end up with higher scores merely due to lucky guesses on multiple-choice questions. Conversely, others, purely due to bad luck, end up with historically low scores. This disparity is grossly unfair.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (4 comments)

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



- 1 The textbook should be linked more clearly ★★★★★
- 2 Pretty good ★★★★★
- 3 Choice of books for course wasn't great as they were very dry and the examples given aren't always the clearest if you're just reading them and the lack of video modules was a major demerit.

As someone who prefers video lectures this course felt far more difficult than it needed to be.

Classes were very information dense and several things were touched upon that are relatively hard to google or find in typical introductory online youtube tutorials - having a video module that mentioned the same points would have been invaluable. ★★☆☆☆
- 4 The pre-class information is a whole chapter of a book, without pointing out the key sessions/ concepts. ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (5 comments)

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

- 1 Ask for more exam related info.
- 2 Nothing in particular
- 3 I paid a lot more attention to the coding part and the SQL part of the course, and paid little attention to the rest, when I should have been more diligent. This led to an unsuccessful midterm grade, which largely affected my final grade. Oh well...
- 4 I could have chosen not to take CS5200 with this instructor. I could have chosen to take CS5200 with a different instructor to achieve better grades.
- 5 Read the textbook thoroughly before midterm exams