

Intensive Foundations of CS (Spring 2024)

Instructor: **Jamieson, Lindsay**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **500108**

Course ID: **40230**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **17**

Responses Incl Declines: **10**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Lindsay Jamieson (21 comments)

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

- 1 Lindsey definitely enjoys what she teaches and does a good job providing additional computer related information in an effort to shine a light on the unseen members of the coding community. Being remote I did not interact with her directly much but she presents as approachable and able to direct you to an answer without giving you the answer directly.
- 2 Lindsay expressed that she cares deeply about teaching and she understands the conditions under which adults can learn effectively. The class meetings were structured to support student engagement and the assignments reinforced the key concepts.
- 3 Undersanding, organization, in class activities, responsiveness
- 4 1) Projects and assignments supported each modules material
2) Instructor explained things clearly in class, provided in-class problems to discuss that were helpful for learning
- 5 The course covered a lot of material and the instructor was very knowledgeable about everything we reviewed.
- 6 Availability for questions and explanation of complex topics to beginners.
- 7 Lindsay does an excellent job of making computer science relatable to everyday life, and sharing just enough information to impart a strong understanding of foundational concepts without getting bogged down in minutia.
- 8 The instructor was excited about the material and prepared the material in lessons well. Videos of the lecture, as well as additional review videos, were included in the material for the course, which was very helpful when completing assignments. During the lectures, it was great to be given time to try out what we were learning in small groups.

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

- 1 Where this is my first course with Roux, I'm not sure. I get the feeling that the structure of the course is mostly pre-determined. I don't have a read on how much was within Lindsey's control and how much is the way the Align program wants the course to run.

This is not a recommendation for her but a recommendation for the Align program or Roux. The pace of this course is very rapid and it should not be offered on Mondays. I felt the number of classes that we missed because all academic holidays fall on Mondays was very hindering.
- 2 Some of the documentation on Canvas is outdated or inaccurate for the current iterations of the assignments. It might be helpful to revise those documents so that they match all expectations.
- 3 I think Lindsay had clear expectations which is very difficult to do as a teacher but there is always room to improve in terms of being very clear about what is expected on assignments. Especially projects with the rubrics. She was incredibly responsive with questions asked about this so I don't see it as a weakness rather a strength
- 4 Make part of the coding practice optional, having almost 10 for every module is a lot of work on top of the projects and synthesis assignments.
- 5 The in class group assignments/exercises should be explained better prior to starting them. It would be helpful if the online modules were available earlier in the week or all at once so I could go through them at my own pace.
- 6 The two things I wish I knew at the start of the course are related to the expectations on the syntheses:

First was that the suggested synthesis structure follows the online prerecorded lectures, rather than the in-class lectures. Knowing this at the start of the semester would have made my first synthesis significantly easier to write. (I might be an outlier, but the only time I turned to the prerecorded lectures was as a reference when creating the synthesis.)

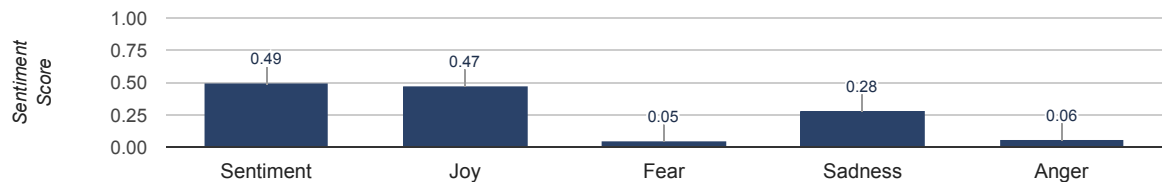
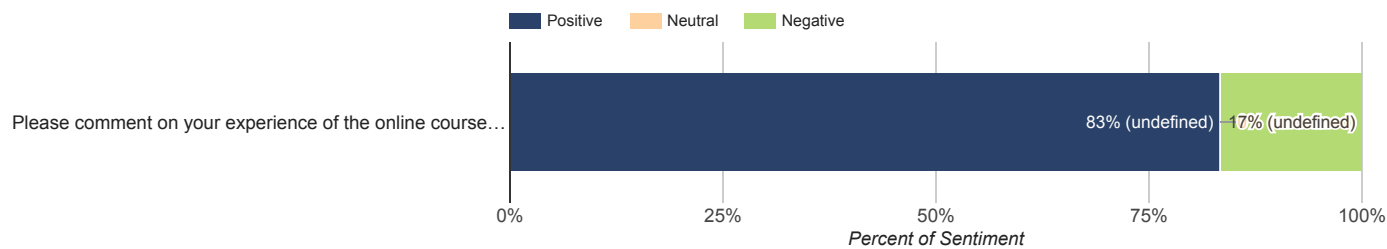
Second is the expectation regarding originality of examples, exercises and solutions. There are only so many ways to write some of the basic examples, and it only came up later in the semester that it was more important to use a correct example rather than an original one for the simplest structures.
- 7 - There were times during the recitation when I would get started on the project and then get lost. It would be helpful to have the instructor there for more of the class time to ask questions if we got stuck.

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

- 1 I think she did well for a hybrid class. It is difficult to be remote and have a group in class which is a challenge we're all getting used to in our walks of life.
- 2 Lindsay did an excellent job of facilitating inclusive learning. It felt to me like all students were encouraged to be a part of the conversation and to ask for support. I appreciated seeing so many inclusive examples of computer scientists in each lecture.
- 3 As I said above Lindsay was responsive and organized and had clear expectations and structure for the course. She was friendly and engaging
- 4 The instructor focused on having the students work in pairs or groups and that has its place but not all of the assignments required or necessitated as much time as we were given to complete.
- 5 Dr. Lindsay is very conscientious regarding the facilitation of inclusive learning.
- 6 The instructor made this course very inclusive, especially considering this is the first class in the CS align program. As someone without any computer science experience, this class made me feel challenged, but also empowered to be able to do something I didn't know I could do. Going into this course, I felt nervous and people around me told me that I would not be successful with learning something so different from what I do now. From the very first moments of class Lindsay made the classroom welcoming and I felt that my thoughts were valued, even without previous experience. In this course we also learned about the many women who have had successful careers as computer scientists, which was very inspiring and made me feel that I could complete this course, even when it was hard. I am thankful to have had a teacher that not only believed in me, but also showed me how having a background in teaching and being a woman can be valuable assets in this field.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (6 comments)

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



- 1

I think that Lindsay did a good job providing opportunities for us to be engaged virtually. A good portion of my disconnect came from the set-up of the course overall. The union between the video modules and the course were obvious but I got to a point where I wasn't able to watch the module before the lecture. This meant I personally didn't get as much from the lecture times at the time it was occurring. Having the recordings to go back to after I understood the material more was helpful.

The online interactions were not for lack of resources and were more due to the way I interact with other people online as well as my classmates use (or lack thereof) of the different avenues provided. ★★☆☆
- 2

I definitely preferred attending class in person, but being able to join online when necessary was super helpful. ★★★★★
- 3

There were certain times when online information was not updated as quickly as the other classes or was forgotten which I think is understandable given the dual canvas set up which I think puts a higher stress of organization on the professor. ★★★★★
- 4

I felt the online course modules were extremely helpful and served as the basis for most explanations of topics. ★★★★★
- 5

It was well structured and helpful for staying on top of the course requirements throughout the semester. ★★★★★
- 6

I was an in-person student for the whole semester, so my only online course interactions were the prerecorded lectures and homework submissions.

I understand the need for standardization, but found the prerecorded lectures to be the most time consuming and lowest return on my time investment resource in the class. ★☆☆☆☆

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

I'm not sure, getting ahead of the videos would have helped so I could have had actual questions come class time instead of being a week or more behind.
- 2

Consistently reviewing modules
- 3

Watch the online course videos prior to attending class.
- 4

Time management was a significant struggle on this course. The assignments aren't hard, which makes them seem faster to work through than they actually are.

I noticed late in the semester that the synthesis assignments follow the recorded lectures, not the in person lectures. Noticing this earlier would have made writing my syntheses much easier.
- 5

I could have used more time management skills to give myself time needed to complete the assignments.