

Intensive Foundations of CS (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Sherman, Marcus**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5001 05**

Course ID: **17392**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **13**

Responses Incl Declines: **10**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Marcus Sherman (24 comments)

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

- 1 I liked that lectures were not just a repeat of the online modules, they were an opportunity to dive deeper into the material and to see different approaches to solving problems.
- 2 Marcus is extremely knowledgeable in the course topics and was great to learn from.
- 3 Marcus is so knowledgeable about all aspects of Python and it was really helpful how he introduced each concept with a real-world context. He taught us many techniques and concepts that we would need in industry.
- 4 His in-depth knowledge of python and other coding questions
- 5 Marcus is a great teacher, he has extensive knowledge of Python and programming in general. Despite this, he will explain even the most basic concepts without making students feel talked-down to. He also engages the class with questions and shows how to apply class lessons to things that may apply in a future occupations.
- 6 Marcus was one of the best if not the best instructor I've ever had and I've had plenty of good and awful ones. Marcus comes ready for class almost as if he develops python, or something. Tie this guy down because this level of quality is in high demand. I'm dead serious, he is great even when he just had a car accident, he cares about teaching and the students. It shows. Plus, his approaches to teaching never leave wanting.
- 7 Python is a programming language that computer science students must learn, and the instructor's teaching logic is particularly beneficial, especially for students studying this language.
- 8 Marcus is clearly a pro in python and it was so fun to learn from someone with such a mastery of the subject. Was really able to break things down and answer questions in multiple ways until I could figure it out. Extremely accessible during office hours and super helpful.

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

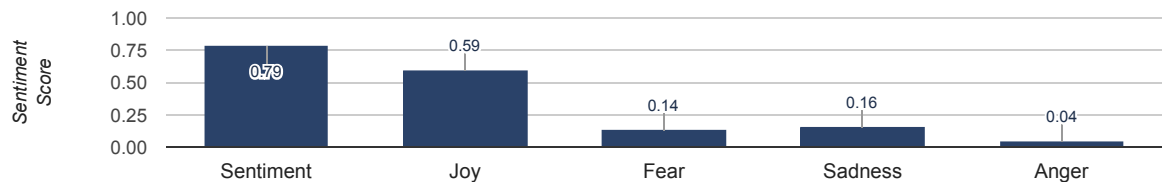
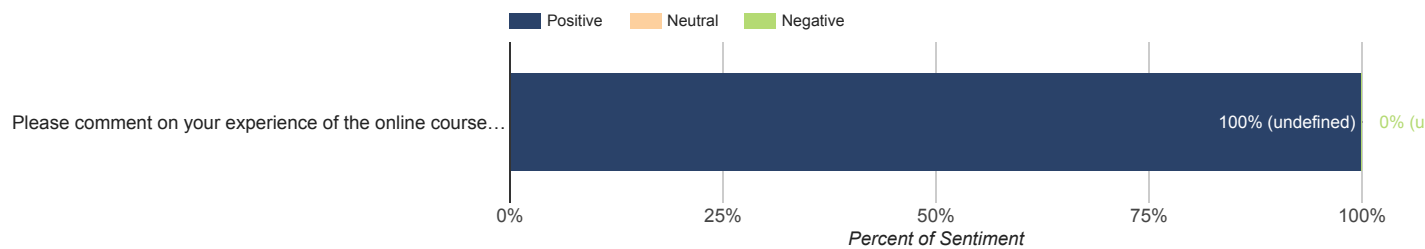
- 1 The structure of the course was mostly constructed by others and the instructor brought his own knowledge and experience to that structure. I do think the course would be more cohesive had the instructor been able to have the structure reflect his knowledge and teaching style. There was an occasional disjointed feeling as the material and directions in the online coursework would not align perfectly with our lectures.
- 2 N/A
- 3 Sometimes the feedback and grades took a bit long to come back. The feedback was always informative, so it would be nice to get it back quicker.
- 4 i wish the quizzes match the material a little more, however I understand this is because he was filling in
- 5 Using the other professors materials for projects seemed to create a slight disconnect (though I do understand it's because he was a somewhat impromptu instructor for the course). In general the project descriptions were difficult to understand but I think if Marcus made the projects himself that wouldn't have been an issue. It would have been good to have a portion of time at the end of class to briefly discuss the upcoming project after getting context for the material from the lecture.
- 6 Nothing from a teaching point of view. Online, I would like the calendar to be populated with all of the assignments even if they are locked. Otherwise they show up as deadlines only when they are open to view, and it can lead to calendar issues.
- 7 The instructor presents numerous scenarios illustrating the usage of specific grammar, yet for beginners, it's challenging to absorb all this information at once. A more gradual approach, especially for coding beginners, teaching at a simpler level to encourage flexible application before advancing to more complex uses, would be more beneficial.
- 8 I thought the pacing was particularly rigorous, especially for the 1/2 half and really struggled keeping my head above water. I felt like there were a few times we had a project due constantly and I really just did what I could with them and stopped when they were due and didn't necessarily learn from them as I was too stressed over the due date.

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

- 1 Very much enjoyed the course and learned a lot.
- 2 Really appreciated how Marcus provided us not only with the course material, but very effective pragmatic information on how the materials are applied in the real world. Marcus is a great communicator and was very generous with his time to provide additional support and instruction when needed.
- 3 Marcus' strength is cutting out what is unnecessary, and focusing on concepts that will help us utilize Python in future interviews or jobs in the real-world. I learned a lot!
- 4 He needs to be hired again.
- 5 Marcus fostered a class environment that I looked forward to being a part of each week. It was an excellent first grad school class for many reasons.
- 6 Sure. He went out of his way to pronounce everyone's name right and got it down early. My name ain't easy to pronounce and that kind of thing makes a difference. He also clearly thinks about his didactic approach and doesn't just blurt out information. Seriously, I'm impressed in a way I haven't been in a long while.
- 7 The project instructions provided each week often lack clarity, making it challenging to comprehend and complete the tasks. Additionally, the grading rubric doesn't consistently align with these instructions, leading to confusion and potential grade deductions even when following the instructions precisely. To enhance this, it would be beneficial for the instructions to be written from a beginner's perspective, ensuring clarity and ease of understanding. Furthermore, aligning the grading rubric closely with the project requirements mentioned in the instructions would prevent confusion and discrepancies in grading.
- 8 Really good course and really worked me over but enjoyed it overall.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (7 comments)

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



- 1 The video modules were really well put together. ★★★★★
- 2 Marcus has been a FANTASTIC professor. He has been great to work with. Extremely knowledgeable and takes a very pragmatic and hands-on approach to teaching. Always makes himself available to provide students with additional support, and all around, wonderful human. Would absolutely take more classes with him. ★★★★★
- 3 I liked the align modules and thought that they were well-formatted. Sometimes, tuning in online for classes was a bit spotty, but overall okay as long as the text-to-speech was turned on. ★★★★★
- 4 This is one of the best professors I've ever met ★★★★★
- 5 Great course overall, really like Dr. Strange's lectures. Developed the skills both in class and with the videos and couldn't have done it without either. ★★★★★
- 6 The online course content and coding practice are notably simpler and basic compared to the significantly more challenging assignments and projects. There's a considerable disparity between the ease of the online materials and the complexity presented by the assignments, indicating a substantial gap in difficulty level. ★★★★★
- 7 I attended the class in person but really liked the align online videos ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (6 comments)

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

- 1 N/A
- 2 Start working on my final assignments earlier.
- 3 Let him teach his own material and his own course and watch your students be the smartest from NEU
- 4 Not worked full time
- 5 Probably sleep more.
- 6 To excel in this course, I plan to study fundamental grammar concepts before each class and dedicate more time to reading and practicing coding exercises.