

Intensive Foundations of CS (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Bagley, Keith**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5001 02**

Course ID: **17351**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **91**

Responses Incl Declines: **32**

Declines: **1**

Instructor Related Questions: Keith Bagley (47 comments)

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

- 1 Prof. Keith is super nice, responsive, and care about students. He explains concepts clearly, and willing to answer students' questions with patience.
- 2 He was always available to answer questions, gave us lots of study material to tackle the content and information.
- 3 The instructor has such a deep understanding of what he teaches that some of the code seem like magic to me
- 4 Engaging and energetic lecturer
- 5 Humorous teaching style, clear explanation for the question and wonderful communication.
- 6 I liked how organized this class was. The course materials provided on Canvas (including the PowerPoint slides) were very helpful. I think the strengths of the instructor are his sympathy towards align students and enthusiasm for seeing us succeed. I really appreciated his efforts to receive more feedback from the students on what improvements could be made. His lectures reflected his personality/attitude towards the align students: fun, sympathetic, and encouraging. I really liked some of his CS ethics questions. It made me think about what kind of person/software engineer I want to be and how important that can be. Overall, I have great respect for him and he's one of the best professors, hands down.
- 7 Professor Keith delivers the course straight forward, make the course understandable and clear.
- 8 challenging, good.
- 9 strengths for the class were the structure of the class and how the content was taught through homeworks and labs which were built to teach us good foundation
- 10 The structure of the course was designed really tightly. I liked the flow each week. I liked the multiple different assignment types (PLA's, quizzes, videos, programming assignments).
- 11 The instructor is great. Before this course, i thought coding is the hardest thing in the world. Now I am fully confident to write my own codes.
- 12 Taught using homework that required a good understanding of the material. Course encouraged use of TA's and the homework naturally encouraged us to engage TA's on areas we needed help mastering.
- 13 The instructor is extremely knowledgeable about his coursework which I think creates a dynamic that is harder to instruct to those with no previous knowledge.
- 14 The instructor was clear and patient in teaching the class and answering the students' questions.
- 15 A lot of resources were provided!
- 16 Professor came to class prepared
- 17 I love professor K's humor during class.
- 18 I have nothing but words of appreciation for Instructor Keith Bagley. His human capacity to teach and the pedagogical tools he has surpasses any teacher I have seen in my years as a student and professional. I was also able to witness how he was able to transfer those skills to some of his TA's team members making together a challenging but enjoyable task of learning to program.

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

- 1 I think this course covers less material than I expected, especially for align students who only have one year to catch on.
I have also been taking some free online courses at MIT OCW. This course is comparable to 6.0001, which teaches the same material over half of the semester. I understand that students may have different experience, but this course could cover more considering align CS students will be taking the same courses with CS general students.
And for the final project, I think using the turtle module is not the best idea. It has a lot of restrictions for a limited amount of functions and almost never used in the industry. I hope the final project could use other more popular libraries, given we are devoting a lot of time on it.
- 2 Have breakout sessions in class to tackle a problem.
- 3 I did not like the automatic grader, which often does not work even though my code works
- 4 Provided sample solutions for problem sets. There were several times I wondered if there were better approaches than the ones that I used, but I didn't get to see problem set code that wasn't my own to compare.
- 5 The homework should be explained clearer to let students know what they should do. There are many questions toward what questions ask about and requests for clarity for certain problems on pizza for every homework.
- 6 I'm not sure how this can be improved as it's a complicated matter (there are many students/TA's need to juggle their schedule because they are students too/etc.) But receiving feedback on homework earlier would be really helpful.
- 7 N/A
- 8 more examples of common applications of material
- 9 for the test cases on canvas, we should be able to see a few of the tests or the test should give us better examples to debug, many of the tests were very ambiguous
- 10 PLA's were good but would benefit from having MORE problems (~10 each wk, instead of just 5). Especially since you get to see the solutions after submission.

Also, it would be nice to actively build in more ways for students to "view each other's code" in the course, for example, after all students have submitted a HW assignment. If labs were simply used for students to share their solutions with each other (after the deadlines have all locked), I would get a lot out of that since I think seeing how others think would greatly improve the rate at which I learn programming concepts as a newbie. There were plenty of more experienced coders in my class, and I feel like this was the one big missed opportunity since we were all cautious to not talk about our code at all for academic integrity purposes. So even if there were more in-class coding activities, where people partnered up, that would help accomplish this.
- 11 I think the overall experience from this course is great.
- 12 It would help if there were examples of exactly what is expected on homework assignments and if we went over the homework assignments. The comments through gradescope are hard to access and did not help my improvement.
- 13 To make the most of the course, select the TAs wisely, ensure the recitation class is beneficial, and tailor the assignments to the students' level of knowledge.

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

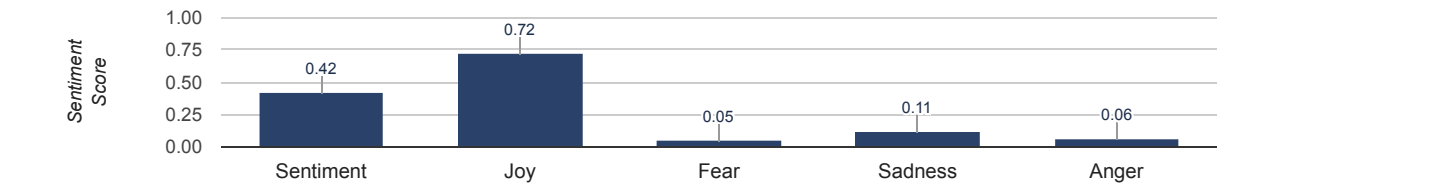
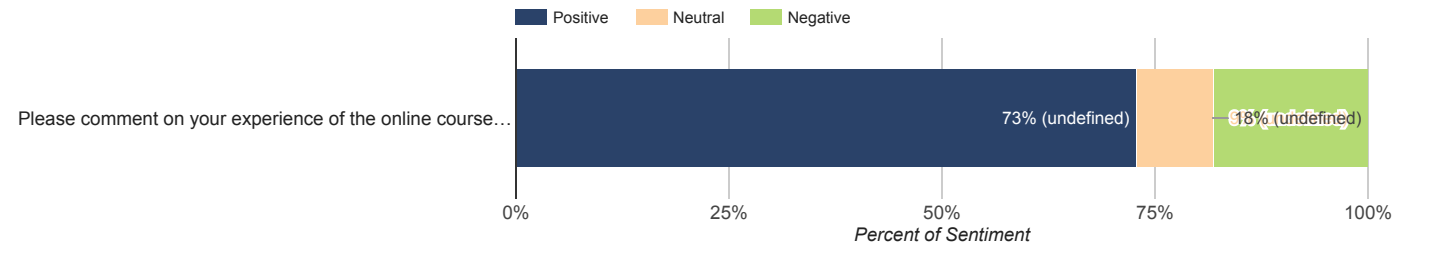
- 14 I think taking into consideration that a lot of the students are beginners. Some of the homeworks were really complicated and as a beginner it was a little intimidating. However, I was able to successfully complete them.
- 15 Make the homework's a little more informative when debugging, better instructions preferreably a list because when given a paragraph it gets confusing.
- 16 I do hope that materials covered during class time could go faster in pace and deeper for each topic.
- 17 I think this program should ask a minimal background in programming.

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

- 1 I was very sick for the semester and the professor was very accommodating to all the issues that I had
- 2 I hope the instructor has a good time teaching this course
- 3 He is extremely intelligent and when approaching a subject with zero knowledge the beginning really needs to be explained how things work better.
- 4 N/A
- 5 I felt that some homework/exam instructions and questions were not neurodivergent-friendly. I'm sure he would have responded kindly if I brought them to his attention. However, I didn't because of my personal issues. What I meant by "not neurodivergent friendly" is instructions being lengthy with some of the key points not being highlighted/underlined/bolded. I'd have an easier time understanding them if the instructions were in the bullet points (short and keywords oriented). Some of the questions had assumptions that neurodivergent people may not make. One example is final review question #2. In the question, it said "(the value for 'X' is intentionally wrong)". Later I found out that this was supposed to be some sort of hint - "Ignore the wrong value for 'X'. Treat it as if it's correct." This is not apparent to some neurodivergent people. On the side note, I really liked how the final exam was. The testing file provided cleared up any ambiguity, which I find happens a lot on exams in general. By looking at the testing file, I was able to backtrack and understand the questions/instructions clearly.
- 6 N/A
- 7 Strengths: very knowledgeable
Areas for improvement: Designing the course assignments in a way that is beginner friendly.
- 8 very receptive, kind, smart, fair
- 9 The examples in class were helpful for the homework.
- 10 Doing great for inclusive learning.
- 11 The instructor is well prepared for every class. And he knows how to make things easy to understand.
- 12 I do not think Dr. Keith could do it better. He is already an excellent professor, the most brilliant I have seen in years

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (11 comments)

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



- 1 I wish the professor recorded all the lectures★★★★☆
- 2 I only read the PowerPoints of the lectures each time and did not use the textbook much. Coding assignments were very fun and energy-consuming★★★★☆
- 3 Course information was online in various places and created a sense of chaos. Was not instructed on how to access this information and I did not even know piazza existed until more than half the course was over.★★★★☆
- 4 The online course materials are very informative and engaging. However, some modules do not follow a logical sequence of topics.★★★★★
- 5 Perfect★★★★★
- 6 This is a great introductory course for beginners, I liked the style of professor Keith's teaching.★★★★★
- 7 I still have no idea where to get the zoom link★★★☆☆

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

- | | |
|----|---|
| 8 | My experience was pretty good Professor Keith has a lot a patience. ★★★★★ |
| 9 | I do think online materials are helpful, but it does not feel like regular classroom. ★★★★★☆ |
| 10 | I'm not a huge fan of trying to "establish community" via online platforms. The whole reason I chose the in-person NEU experience is because I had to teach during covid and vowed to get as far away from "remote learning" as possible. That said, the canvas page was organized really well - but it was always my preference to have online as a supplemental resource, and do most of my learning in person during classes. ★★★★★☆ |
| 11 | The module videos were an excellent source to complement with Dr Keith classes. ★★★★★ |

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (14 comments)

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

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Read the self-introduction of classmates and work with them on assignments |
| 2 | Experimented with coding on my own time |
| 3 | Prepared in advance for the course materials and remembered the deadline. |
| 4 | I should have put more effort on weekly homework... |
| 5 | Make more friends |
| 6 | study up on more python syntax |
| 7 | So far so good. |
| 8 | I think since I had a medical issue I did not do well in the class, it was not the professors fault. I think the only thing is making sure I dont get sick |
| 9 | If I had prior programming experience this course would have been better for myself. I did not and clearly this caused tremendous struggle. The course is not directed at those with zero experience. |
| 10 | Before starting this program, I should have enrolled in some programming courses. |
| 11 | Do the extra modules provided. |
| 12 | Quit my job. |
| 13 | Ask question more often. |
| 14 | I do think that this program should ask a background in programming. Otherwise can be really challenging starting from zero |