

Computer/Human Interaction (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Yildirim, Caglar**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5340 01**

Course ID: **15055**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **78**

Responses Incl Declines: **72**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Caglar Yildirim (104 comments)

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

- 1 I think Professor has been teaching this course since really long and hence you can sense the knowledge he has, he also has a knack of teaching without feeling bored in class.
- 2 Professor Yildirim is a very dedicated educator and works to the best of his ability to facilitate students and impart knowledge.
- 3 Prof Yildirim is very passionate about HCI and always makes the class fun! I appreciate all the efforts he put in encouraging us to work with and learn from our classmates.
- 4 The professor is knowledgeable and has a skill to teach with fun.
- 5 The way of teaching is fabulous. Creates more interest in the subject!
- 6 The instructor was amazing.
- 7 Professor Caglar's comprehensive approach to teaching HCI concepts has provided a solid foundation for understanding the intricate relationship between humans and technology.
- 8 The instructor was very experienced in his field and would be very enthusiastic to teach the class. He would be very well prepared for the lecture. We had hands-on session in the class where the instructor would actually work on prototypes with us, which was very helpful.
- 9 Very patient and very organized.
- 10 Highly Knowledgeable
fun
accomadative
Well preprepared
- 11 The course seems to be meticulously planned and executed, kudos to the professor.
- 12 the professor was expert of the topic and taught really well
- 13 The course can teach a lot of UI If you are interested.
But the course can help you a lot if you need to do some web or mobile apps.
- 14 Professor is strict but lenient at the same time. Very fair and reasonably generous/understanding of students' tendencies.
- 15 The course was well planned
- 16 This course was pretty well structured with quite relevant and interesting assignment.
- 17 Preparedness, enthusiasm, dedication
- 18 Not theoretically and focused completely on practical knowledge and working on projects.
- 19 Instructor had a fairly good routine and knew what needs to be done during the class hours
- 20 His well-preparedness for every class, his feedback on the projects/ assignments is highly appreciated. He is very knowledgeable about what he teaches.
- 21 The instructor is very nice and good at dealing with group work issues.
- 22 NA
- 23 The instructor is so nice and gentle. Not to mention he also has good teaching ability.
- 24 The instructor came prepared for class and made the discussed topics digestible for us to understand easily during class time. The break down between lecture and in-class activities helped to reinforce some of what we were learning. Additionally, the professor was responsive on piazza.
- 25 Good class ica and good homework.
- 26 The schedule was set quite well. Assignments/Modules were released in time. The Professor is quite understanding and kept the class quite active even though the class strength was high. Glad I took a course under him in my last semester!
- 27 Great instructor! Probably the best I had in this university so far. Glad to have him as my prof!
- 28 This isn't on the professor but the TAs should give better feedback on the homework. Any feedback we received for our project came from the professor and it was so helpful. He really knows the field really well and is always willing to help students. He provides a lot of opportunities for students to do well in the class.
- 29 Well prepared
- 30 The instructor prepares every course very well and the contents are useful and attracting. This course made me better understand that we need to design a thing to be more user-friendly, and not always use engineers' thoughts.
- 31 Instructor was very witty, and taught the class with a lot of enthusiasm and skill. Instructor was always available to answer questions, and really helped students.
- 32 Excellent teaching skills. The syllabus, type of coursework, interactive classes, wide breadth of knowledge, humor everything made the course very interesting.
- 33 Great instructor
- 34 Fun instructor
Interactive classes
- 35 The professor was humorous and generally engaging.
- 36 A lot of HCI content and applying it to a semester-long project was a good idea- felt very natural. Definitely a good introduction into the world of modern UI design, I feel. As someone with only a casual interest in the subject, I enjoyed learn about the many aspects of it. The instructor used class time efficiently and the lectures were engaging.
- 37 Good content.

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

1	reduce number of assignments
2	The workload (assignments and other submissions) can be reduced in number. Students are required to perform a large amount of work for a small percentage of the grade.
3	N/A
4	reduce deliverables.
5	Provide more reference materials for Axure. And bit more help in projects.
6	reduce the number of in person lectures. Or reduce the number of redundant documentation works for assignments.
7	None
8	Nothing. Maybe little less assignments
9	Facilitate more resources or help on Axure.
10	TAs were least helpfull
11	The course sometimes felt very similar to the undergraduate course of the same name. A grad-level course could be slightly heavier.
12	nothing
13	Making the due date more flexible maybe can late few hours. I think the due is not proposed, finishing HW and learning from that is more important.
14	maybe less workload, feel some stressed during this semester
15	Maybe introduce/demo various UX tools to expose a greater breadth of what we might find in the industry. I appreciated learning and spending a lot of time on Axure but would have been interested in doing short lab assignments or ICAs on Figma, etc.
16	Design can be different for different people, and not everyone has the same ideas and dedication. So i think it would be good to have individual projects so that everyone can show their perspective of design
17	Maybe the amount of deliverables required could be reduced, rather focusing more on learning.
18	There is too much busy work that does not contribute to the understanding of the course concepts
19	Nothing much, maybe take more real time examples which are more relevant to normal users.
20	N/A
21	Nothing specific
22	I think he could align more individual homework to make sure everyone in the group work have the ability to work on the project.
23	NA
24	Make the course more interesting
25	1. The written assignment specs for this class were much harder than necessary to follow. Often, we would leave class understanding the concepts that were discussed, to then open a deliverable assignment and have to do detective work to figure out what was being asked of us. 2. The quiz questions go against everything that is HCI. They are written to trick and confuse you purposely. For example, quiz 2 question 1 had a very vague question followed by 4 correct answers and we were asked to choose the "false" one. Additionally, there's an imbalance with the quizzes: they are closed-book, but require the retention of massive amounts of minuscule details regarding the topic. By all means, have a closed-book quiz, but don't ask for a bunch of details PER open-response question. Or, allocate more time for these to be completed? 3. The instructor's inability to respond to email is grating. Especially for a graduate level class. 4. On that note, the instructor taught this course at undergraduate and graduate levels this semester. It did not feel as though any attempt was made to differentiate between the two. To be honest, it often felt like we were being treated as grade-school students. Generally, graduate students have a bit more going on - be that full-time jobs, family responsibilities, etc. - and I think that this should be taken into consideration. 5. Lastly, by the end of the semester, the way the instructor would gatekeep ICAs and only open the link for them for 30 or seconds felt really wrong. I don't think any student had malicious intent to keep non-present group members apprised of what was going on - especially when those ICAs had to do with our final project. In general, this just felt incredibly wrong.
26	More individual assignment should be better.
27	A few in-class activities (ICAs) were time-consuming, and we couldn't complete them properly. They required well-detailed feedback and the time was insufficient. Maybe we can think of some way to resolve this - let's say ICAs such as Expert Feedback or Evaluation were kept as an assignment rather (due date till midnight) - just like how some online modules were set
28	Have more office hours in the weekend when a lot of teams are doing work.
29	I feel like try to pay more attention to people using ChatGPT for discussion posts. Because a lot of our grade is dependent on discussions, it was really obvious to me (someone who would read the articles and watch the videos for discussion) when people were simply using ChatGPT to complete discussions because their discussion posts would not be specific, barely sound human, and sound out of place to the discussion. It makes it hard for people to respond to these discussion posts because they can lack any specifics and can be discouraging to students who are putting in the effort.
30	1) More feedback from TA on Axure work similar to professor feedback on high fidelity. 2)Class difficulty and way professor treat us feels like much below level of graduate students. 3)Less assignments. We can learn without having multiple things to do every week of the semester
31	The group project is kind of frustrating, because it is hard to let everyone to participate in the design process, and for this course, participation is very crucial. It would be better to lower the team member number or have more individual assignments.
32	Nothing, all good
33	N/A
34	NA
35	Expect lesser functionalities in the final project. Does not feel like it is useful. It is quite laborious

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

36 Instructions were frequently vague, and violated the UX principles taught in this class:

- Quiz questions were asked using double negatives and deliberately confusing phrasing

- Assignment requirements were distributed across multiple sources (Canvas announcements, Canvas assignment postings, Google docs), requiring multiple sources of requirements to be checked for each to confirm that an assignment had in fact been completed. Assignments were made needlessly confusing by things like "Final Project 6: (Final) Project Report" being followed by "Final Project 7: Final Prototype", the latter of which "also" required an additional report to be submitted with it, which was not intuitive, clearly motivated, or clearly specified.

- Assignments had to be submitted multiple ways (i.e. link, file, and forum post repeating link) in order to get credit, again violating user-centered UX principles

- Assignments were not clearly enumerated: the professor would end class with announcements, not mention that a quiz was due on Canvas before the next class, and then leave; simultaneously, a pre-written timed email was sent out announcing the quiz. There was absolutely no reason not to announce a reminder of the quiz in the class as well (i.e. Attention Principle A3: Avoid Resource Competition: divide information across resources (announcement methods))

- Instructor used in-class assignments as a punishment for lack of attendance rather than a genuinely enriching activity, and would specifically open and close them for extremely short intervals and/or only for the first five minutes of class to penalize students who were not present, rather than making class intrinsically worth attending.

- Instructor was dismissive of creativity in a design-oriented class and did generally support novel approaches to the semester project that did not conform to their preconceived intentions

- Grading was highly arbitrary and subject to the particular TA that reviewed any given assignment, with very little standardization or predictability

Additionally, greater focus on design patterns and design decision making would have made the course much more beneficial. The time spent on cognitive psychology and user experience assessment were useful, but design patterns were almost brushed over as "these aren't interesting" on every day that they were brought up. This course provided a great deal of tools to assess how usable an interface is, but very limited tools on how to make decisions to design an interface that users "would" find usable.

OVERALL, this course was more about navigating particularities of what to submit where and how to satisfy seemingly arbitrary and frustrating requirements, rather than actually mastering UX and HCI principles.

37 Maybe set expectations a little bit sooner, at times I felt like there was a disconnect between how long the professor thought activities/assignments would take us vs. how long they actually did. This was especially evident for a few early in-class activities and some of the FPs (homework). Perhaps I was putting more effort into them (e.g. writing more than he expected) or it was due to unfamiliarity with the material.

38 The course load was a bit hectic after the initial weeks. We were investing more than 10 hrs each week on FP deliverables. I was in my last semester so was kind of hectic for me. So decreasing the course load a bit would be really nice. Also using Figma instead of Axure would have been great.

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

1 No Areas for improvement as i feel he is one of the best teachers in Khoury

2 Structure the assignments a bit better. Also, provide 2 days as extra days to be used throughout the semester in case a student cannot submit an assignment due to unforeseeable reasons.

3 N/A

4 I don't think much needs to be changed, all looks planned and very effective.

5 Professor's encouragement of collaborative discussions and group activities created opportunities for students to learn from each other. His humor during lectures kept the classes lively and it was never a dull lecture.

6 Already mentioned in the above 2 questions.

7 Very nice. If you reach out to him, he will definitely help you.

8 May try to get TAs who really are into this subject and accomdativ of student needs

9 Professor Yildirim is extremely well-versed in the field and very well prepared and suited to take this course.

10 detail oriented

11 don't be too strong on grades, and making students learn is the first important thing.

12 n/a

13 The instructor was really helpful and had an innovative way of teaching. The explanation of slides coupled with the in-class activities made this class interesting.

14 Strength - clear explanation and well structured course material.

15 N/A

16 His well-preparedness for every class, his feedback on the projects/ assignments is highly appreciated. He is very knowledgeable about what he teaches.

17 NA

18 His way of dealing with teaming up in class is great. Let people vote for free rider does work.

19 Some classical example for show during lecture.

20 I wish we could have gotten his feedback/critique for the initial prototypes. Probably our app would have raised its level

21 Very approachable, very clear with requirements and extremely schedule oriented so we don't fall behind.

22 The course is interactive that I believe everyone can participate in and learn from real-world use.

23 Instructor was very witty, and taught the class with a lot of enthusiasm and skill. Instructor was always available to answer questions, and really helped students.

24 Please avoid misleading students with quiz questions that resemble those typically asked during UX/UI design interviews. Drawing from my own experience with actual UX/UI design interviews, I can assure you that such questions are not typically posed, whether in HR screenings, interviews with hiring managers, or even during design challenge rounds. I was quite taken aback by the mention of this in the quiz prompt. This approach is not factual and does not contribute positively to the students' development.

25 Everything was on par

26 Great instructor, fun lectures but laborious prototyping work. Projects should not be too focused on functionality

27 This class and instructor had the potential to be very engaging, but unfortunately the experience fell short due to the above. Hopefully these can be improved in future semesters.

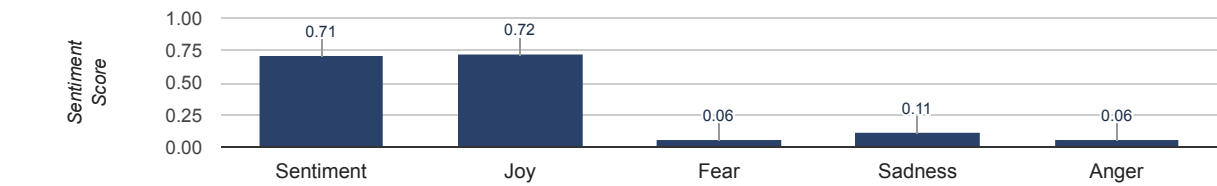
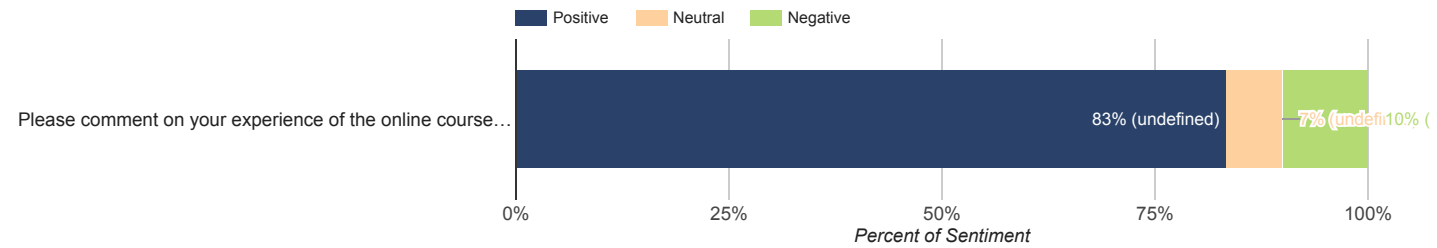
28 Professor Yildirim is definitely knowledgeable about HCI and presents lectures in an engaging way. A few of them were online modules and although that was somewhat coincidental I actually liked the change of pace. Still full of content. He is a bit direct at times, which can be good or bad so just keep that in mind. But he also did a good job relating to students in terms of references and mindset.

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

29 The professor was very good and informed about the course. And very helpful.

Questions to Assess Students’ Online Experience (30 comments)

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



- 1 I liked the way professor teaches with humor and examples he gives are very good in order to learn. ★★★★★
- 2 It's very good. Prof Yildirim encouraged us o participate online discussion so that we get feedbacks from peers. ★★★★★
- 3 Professor designed and taught the course very well, The assignments and project makes you learn everything. ★★★★★
- 4 Amazing ★★★★★
- 5 The course was very insightful. As a student very much interested in human-computer interaction, the course was the perfect choice to gain deeper understanding in HCI. ★★★★★
- 6 This was an in-person class. It was very interactive and we actually got to use the theory we learnt in the lectures in our projects. ★★★★★
- 7 This course is mainly in-person. ★★☆☆☆
- 8 Very informative and streamlined sessions. ★★★★★
- 9 excellent ★★★★★
- 10 This class just has a little online version when the professor can't come to class. ★☆☆☆☆
- 11 N/A ★★☆☆☆
- 12 Professor was very responsive and materials organized well and updated. ★★★★★
- 13 Good experience. ★★★★★
- 14 This course could have benefitted from better organization regarding online materials. Assignment directions were unorganized and hard to understand. Requirements should be clear and concise, not spread into large paragraphs throughout multiple page documents. Response posts add nothing. ★☆☆☆☆
- 15 Online materials weekly reading was quite insightful and helped me understand course better. ★★★★★
- 16 Really good experience. One of the best professors for HCI with incredible coursework ★★★★★
- 17 very good ★★★★★
- 18 It was a great learning experience taking HCI course under him. I thoroughly enjoyed learning this course under him. ★★★★★
- 19 it was excellent ★★★★★
- 20 The experience was good that we also good material to study and finish small tasks to learn. ★★★★★
- 21 Overall, the online experience was good. The organization of materials in the modules tab was confusing at first & took some time getting used to. ★★★★★
- 22 Good experience ★★★★★
- 23 The modules were set well on Canvas. Thank you, Professor and TAs! ★★★★★
- 24 Since this is an in-person course, not every question is applicable. ★★☆☆☆
- 25 Extremely well structured in terms of materials and discussion in the online settings. Prompt response by the instructor at all times on questions. ★★★★★
- 26 good ★★★★★
- 27 Very helpful for understanding the depth of HCI ★★★★★
- 28 Good ★★★★★

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

- 29

It was good, Piazza was a great resource for asking questions (quick responses) and the professor effectively used Canvas. Lecture slides, assignments, and other resources were posted there throughout the semester. ★★★★★
- 30

Good enough! ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (30 comments)

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

- 1

I could have planned a bit and reached out to professor more on my doubts.
- 2

Read the optional reading materials
- 3

I think the deliverables are too many, professor compensated it by dropping the lowest scores, which is good.
- 4

Spent more time
- 5

Build more prototypes to get to know Axure.
- 6

Nothing.
- 7

Learn more about Axure RP before the class.
- 8

Accomdativ TA
- 9

I could've spent more time researching about the concepts of HCI, outside the bounds of the course, enabled by what I had learned within the course scope.
- 10

I did my best
- 11

more come to class and finish everything before the due.
- 12

Taken some notes during lectures, although slides were provided. I feel if I'd taken some notes it would've easier for me to revisit once the classes were done.
- 13

Maybe seeking out additional material such as the Google UX certification course videos to gain a broader scope and be a more self-sufficient learner.
- 14

I could have taken this course during my previous semesters where I had more time to devote.
- 15

Nothing much, it was best.
- 16

more colabs
- 17

Being more wise in choosing my project team mates.
- 18

Maybe prepare a better work environment for the final project. I don't know why I cannot install the tool we use on my PC but on my Laptop.
- 19

Nothing. It's good
- 20

I like the course design. The workload is too high in the final week.
- 21

Read more reading.
- 22

Worked earlier on projects probably.
- 23

Been more transparent when I felt a member of my group was slacking a little bit.
- 24

The course was not challenging. Biggest challenge is managing time and staying ahead of assignments as there is much assignments not hard but take time
- 25

Review the course content/slides routinely
- 26

The course was perfectly structured. I learnt a lot through perfect does of content, instruction, and clarification.
- 27

NA
- 28

Start on the project earlier
- 29

General advice for this course- there are a lot of assignments and it will really help if you stay on top of them, not waiting to submit them all at the last minute (because often multiple are due the same day).
- 30

I think having a background a bit in HCI would have been good. Later in the course, we saw much time being invested apart from the lectures.