

Topics (Spring 2024)

Instructor: **Cantrell, Gary**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5963 01**
Course ID: **39791**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **10**
Responses Incl Declines: **7**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Gary Cantrell (13 comments)

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

- 1 This is a hard one to evaluate since there weren't in-class sessions. We had weekly meetings with Gary to discuss our progress and any problems. Gary makes himself available for help and is always happy to bounce around ideas. He also helped make sure we stayed on track with our projects.
- 2 The course provides a valuable opportunity to work on interesting projects within a professional settings. You gain experience in the relevant technical areas, collaborating within a professional setting, and navigating your client's needs.
- 3 Dr. Cantrell's biggest strength is in providing this capstone pilot program. It's a difficult thing to evaluate within the context of a TRACE evaluation because many of the standard questions don't really apply. This capstone is an extremely rewarding experience and I am very glad I had the opportunity. The Portland campus is suffering from a distinct lack of co-op and internship opportunities so it was nice to have this option as a way to get some hands on experience working with a client.
- 4 They made themselves available for advisement weekly and even on short notice if need be.
- 5 This is a weird course to evaluate since we were independent and did not work directly with Dr. Cantrell that often. That said, Dr. Cantrell was able to provide the space for us to have this experience -- his work connecting with clients, providing guidance around client contact and documentation, and his requirements for final submissions were all very helpful.

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

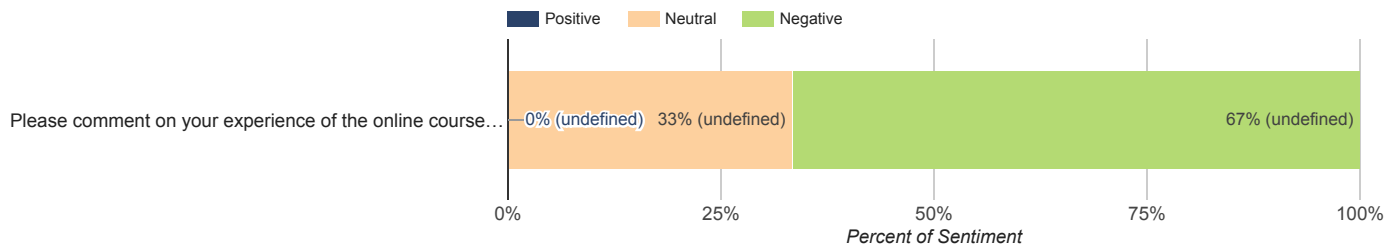
- 1 It's a lot of work. The requirements need to be scaled down or reworked. One big benefit would be a more diverse list of clients to work with. We only had a limited number of companies to choose from.
- 2 A bit more guidance overall, especially at the beginning of the project could have been helpful in avoiding some costly mistakes, though they were still learning experiences.
- 3 It's hard to say, but since this is a capstone, where we all might be working on different projects with different skills it could be useful for the professor to reach out to other professors on campus and act as somewhat informal advisors on guidance for our projects if they require a certain skillset.
- 4 Slightly more oversight would have helped me - some more guidance around resources to use at the beginning, some stricter requirements about group organization and process models, and some more check-ins would all have helped.

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

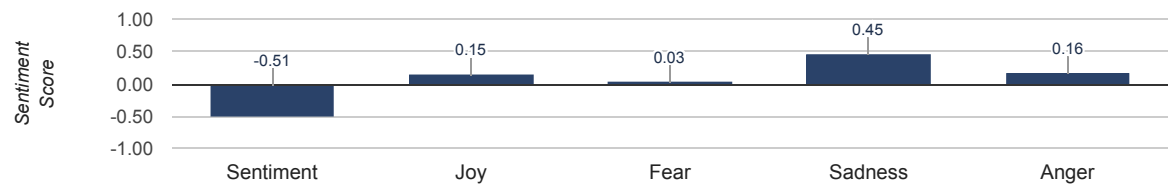
- 1 This should only be taken in your last two semesters to ensure you have the required skills to tackle a large project. Students need to be realistic about what they can and can't do. A lot of projects seemed too ambitious.
- 2 He did an excellent job of providing advice, keeping student's on track relative to their timeline, and facilitating conversations with the industry partners where necessary.
- 3 I greatly appreciate Dr. Cantrell piloting this capstone. It was arguably the most impactful experience that I have had during my time in this ALIGN MCSC program. I feel much better about my abilities after taking this class.
- 4 This class is built to be inclusive. The nature of an independent study is that you can choose your challenge at your own level. Dr. Cantrell did a great job of helping us choose our challenge and stay accountable as we completed it.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (3 comments)

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



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- 1 This wasn't an online course so this isn't really applicable. ★☆☆☆☆
- 2 NA ★★★★★
- 3 This course did not have an online component. ★☆☆☆☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (3 comments)

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

- 1 This course requires a lot of self-discipline. It's on you to find the time to do the learning and work. I could have been more organized and been more efficient in how I went about things.
- 2 Set a more rigid schedule for capstone work. Since this isn't a typical course where you have lectures, homework assignments, and quizzes a lot of the responsibility lies on us individually to make sure we get work completed. A lot of the time I felt like I would fall back one week in time committed and need to work double time the following week.
- 3 Better time management! I struggled to stay accountable to myself in the open-structure. Committing to set times to work would have helped. Also, a commitment to learning the new skills I needed in a more formal/guided manner, rather than diving in and learning as-I-go would likely have been valuable.