

## Computer Systems (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Desnoyers, Peter**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5600 03**

Course ID: **17579**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **45**

Responses Incl Declines: **18**

Declines: **0**

### Instructor Related Questions: Peter Desnoyers (22 comments)

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

- 1 One of the greatest professor in NEU
- 2 Very responsive on piazza, very willing to help and clearly is passionate about the subject material.
- 3 Labs and assignments were really good, They helped a lot to learn the concepts
- 4 Deep expertise
- 5 He is a very intelligent computer scientist and clearly knows what he is talking about.
- 6 The instructor has tremendous amount of experience in the field both professionally and academically. That percolated in the course where he shared his experiences every now and then.
- 7 VERY knowledgeable, knows a lot and can explain it decently.
- 8 Great course content and really interesting assignments

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

- 1 Nothing, everything is good.
- 2
  1. Have the testing requirements for labs be more clear. There were several times where new ways of testing the software were posted on piazza 2-3 days before the labs were due, so having clearer testing requirements that are available from the beginning would be helpful.
  2. More structured lectures. The lectures were pretty hard to follow since sometimes there would be tangents and it's hard to make out what is actual class content and what is just extra stuff. I feel like maybe having prepared slides would help keep the lectures a bit more on track.
  3. Clearer directions for homework assignments. Some homework assignments were pretty unclear and the hardest part was to figure out what the directions were actually asking us to do.

Overall the course suffered from disorganization, but to give credit where it's due the professor gave extensions when necessary to make sure the deadlines were fair.
- 3 The course could have been more structured, especially, an extra lab could have been beneficial. Also, more focus on labs and programming assignments instead of 3 exams would be something that I would like to have.
- 4 3 exams is too much. 2 exams would be good enough. 4 labs would have been good instead of 3 and 1 or 2 more homeworks also would have been good.
- 5 Provide some fundamental reading material before the class starts
- 6 It should be more structured, with a clear syllabus that the professor follows just as much as the students. Additionally, there should be more clarity on what lesson plans are following so students who are confused know what to look for in the textbook rather than just floundering.
- 7 I think the course could benefit from more depth/faster velocity on the labs, maybe some smaller labs sprinkled here and there, since there were 3 labs throughout the entire course. I loved the labs, just thought I didn't spend very much time working on them many topics not delved into.
- 8 Have more TAs who would be available to assist with the questions that students ask.
- 9 Better Organization... Maybe include resources in places other than piazza.
- 10 Evaluating and providing feedback on assignments in time. Some of our homeworks are still not graded or returned and the finals are already over. I ended up repeating a mistake from the homework since I didn't receive feedback in time. Also, the grading scale has still not been provided none of us know what to expect for our grades.

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

- 1 Everything is good.
- 2 Highly knowledgeable and patient in delivering the lecture's content
- 3 

Strengths:

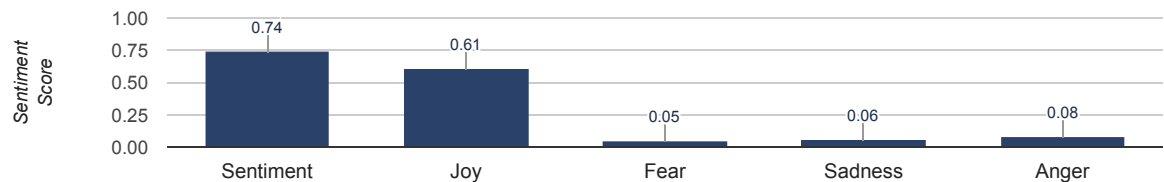
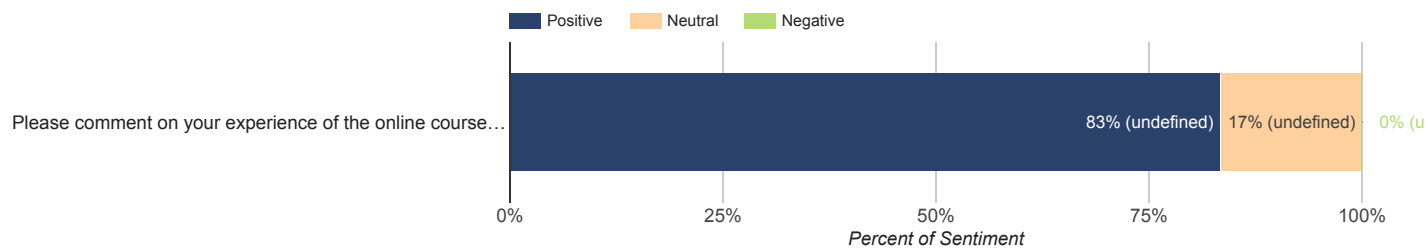
Instructor has very good knowledge on the subject. He gave a lot of history lessons about how things were back in the day, those were interesting to know.

Improvements:

Would be good to take a concrete example while explaining a concept instead of pseudo code. Material similar to homeworks can be used in class as example to explain things instead of giving some random pseudo code as example
- 4 The instructor made sure to open the class to questions after every major topic and always made sure to answer them.

### 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 Good ★★★★★
- 2 The piazza for this course was pretty nice. Answers were prompt and highly useful. ★★★★★
- 3 N/A ★★★★★☆
- 4 Piazza organized nicely, super fast responses from Professor when asked outside of class time ★★★★★
- 5 In the piazza professor answered all questions in detail. Questions posted by students were enough to clear the doubts. Descriptive posts were good to check labs. ★★★★★
- 6 Very good online presence by the instructor on Piazza ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (7 comments)

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

- 1 Nothing, everything is good
- 2 Rewatched lecture recordings.
- 3 Read about low level systems
- 4 Revised C before the class. But you can pick it up as the assignments ramp up.
- 5 Gone to less classes and just listened to lectures afterward
- 6 Should have revised C more thoroughly.
- 7 Paid attention more in Lecture