

Instructor: **Wong, Lok Sang**  
Subject: **CS**  
Catalog & Section: **5180 01**  
Course ID: **39613**  
Objectives:

Enrollment: **73**  
Responses Incl Declines: **31**  
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Lok Sang Wong (46 comments)

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

- 1

I think Professor Wong is really good at explaining difficult concepts and breaking them into manageable pieces before building back to the main ideas. I think the examples used in a lot of the lectures were really illustrative and helpful. And the assignments given were challenging, but fair, and really helped me learn the core concepts of Reinforcement Learning.  
  
Also the professor was very helpful in office hours during the final project- giving helpful feedback and answering questions, including guiding me on how to re-focus my project when my initial direction wasn't panning out.
- 2

Prof helped us understand abstract concepts quite easily and was always approachable for solving doubts
- 3

The professor is very invested in making the course better, and is ready to make on the fly changes to the schedules and assignments. He has very clear fundamentals, making him ever ready for all the diverse queries we have related to RL.
- 4

The lectures were really well structured and effective
- 5

very knowledgeable! well prepared! available for help!
- 6

The class was very interactive.  
Student questions were properly addressed.  
This course provides a good understanding of Reinforcement learning.
- 7

Lawson is a great professor who clearly explains concepts and topics and is always willing to discuss ideas in class and answer questions thoroughly. He is also a great guy in general, he was very understanding when personal issues came up during the semester and was supportive throughout.
- 8

This instructor expanded class size so I can enroll.
- 9

Professor Wong was excellent. He taught the concepts excellently. Even though concepts were difficult to understand, he made it very easy to learn. And on occasion while even with his teaching it was still difficult to understand sufficient resources where provided to fill in that confusion. All the resources provided were utilized from the class recordings, class slides, text book, and TA office hours (which there were many time slots for). He was very receptive to feedback, asking students to provide some at the end of class (though I did not typically fill this out due to how excellent the class was. I felt no feedback was necessary, though it was great he provided the option and was always asking for it). I truly have not had a professor so passionate about the class and willing to answer all questions students had. I have had many great professors, though he was by far one of my favorite professors not only of this semester, but of my time at Northeastern.
- 10

Good understanding of the course
- 11

Prof. Wong is passionate about RL and it's techniques
- 12

The instructor is fantastic!
- 13

Prof. Wong is an extremely engaging presenter. He introduces ideas beautifully, motivating them both practically and theoretically. Also the course content itself is very cool. It relates computer science and mathematical derivations of control theory to the human aspect of learning.
- 14

funny and enthusiastic about this course, one of the few professors who actually teach very well and starts from the basics.
- 15

The professor was very knowledgeable in the field of RL and knew the current research work as well. He was able to explain the fundamentals very clearly.
- 16

Knowledge and passion about the course
- 17

This was one of the most professionally run graduate courses during my time at NEU. It is clear Professor Wong is excited in the topic as well as more than prepared to teach it as well. I thoroughly enjoyed this course.
- 18

He is super articulate, caring and humble. He is passionate and makes me want to learn more!

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

- 1

Maybe an online option could be nice, but he does record lectures for students so that is a good second because I realize that being in class is more beneficial and setting up a interactive online option takes a lot of effort.
- 2

I'm not really sure, I enjoyed the course. Maybe some more theory or proofs could be cool, but that's hard when you don't know everyone's background
- 3

na
- 4

Provide the solution of homework which help students to learn from their mistakes
- 5

Give us more starter code, reduce number and difficulties of homeworks, and ask us to read textbook, open lab course for us to teach us how to program and drawing diagrams using Python.
- 6

Get the grades back on the homework quicker. This was the only actual issue with the course, though the professor was familiar with the problem and was active at trying to make it better. Aside from that maybe ending the homework's earlier or making them easier at the end to allow more time for the project would be nice. I wanted to work on it earlier however was swamped with work from this class and other classes.
- 7

teach a bit slower. Give more time for assignments. Change the material to be more student friendly and easier to grasp. Explain concepts in a more relatable way without a lot of jargon
- 8

N/A
- 9

The assignments are tough and long.
- 10

Reduce Assignment workload. Can provide better templates for plotting functions.
- 11

a wider application based assignment system which could help solve better and more problems (rather than just the Four rooms domain)
- 12

The assignment gradings were released very late. We were doing assignment 5 when the results for assignment 0 were released. This is something which would have helped students know if they have understood the concepts clearly or not.
- 13

NA

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

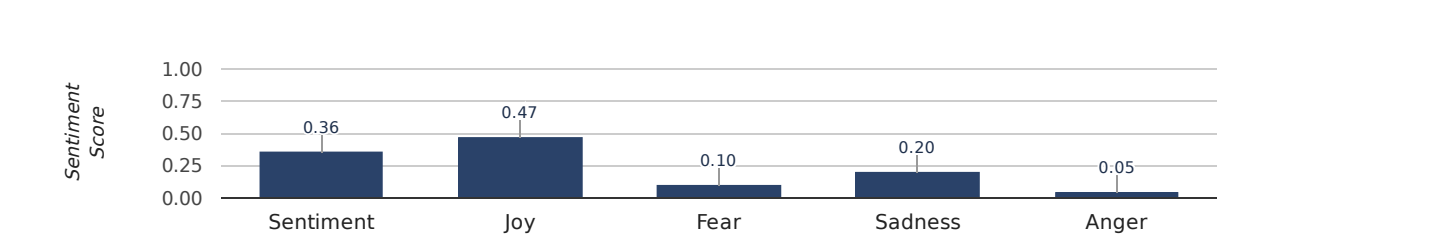
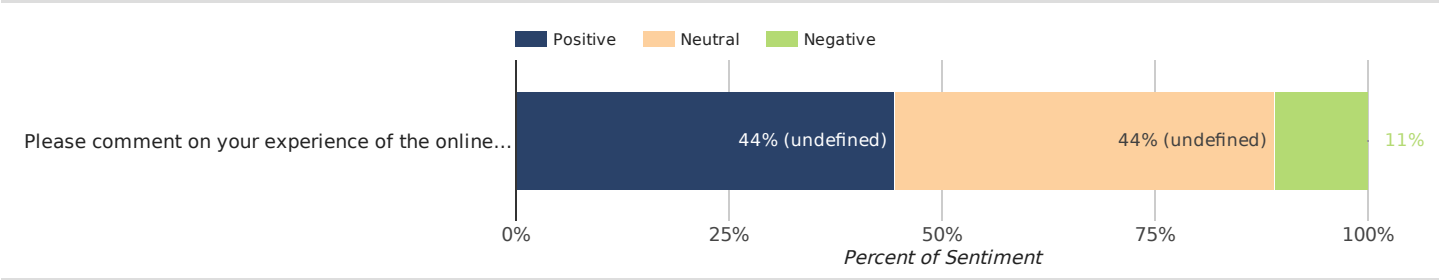
- 14 The pace/frequency of the assignments was challenging at several points of the semester.
- 15 Less math and more evaluation of what techniques work on what problems and why or why not would have been much nicer.
- 16 I don't like everything in piazza, but I get

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

- 1 Coherent explanation of topics and it's relevant underlying principles
- 2 Lawson had a lot of energy and did a great job considering everyone's questions and comments, even if a lot of students asked trailing or confusing questions.
- 3 na
- 4 Professor explained the course material in detail and kept it interesting also.  
Professor asked for feedback after every class, which made the learning effective.
- 5 Slides and textbook are given to us.
- 6 The instructor is very receptive to in-class questions and answers them thoroughly.
- 7 Funny and charisma plus motivates questions and is always respectful. Love him
- 8 The structure of the course was very well planned with just enough time for all assignments and project which made the course tough and hectic but enjoyable at the same time.
- 9 The course is itself little bit on higher side of difficulty. I am not sure what can be done to help average students, but it would be great if something can be done.
- 10 Due to medical issues, I was not able to attend the initial series of lectures, but the well recorded lectures, online forums, and online material made this incredibly easy to accommodate. I did not miss a step thanks to Professor Wong's efforts!
- 11 Very open and honest if he is not sure about an answer to a question
- 12 Lawson is the absolute goat!

Questions to Assess Students’ Online Experience (9 comments)

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



- 1 The professor made a point to take into account all online interactions on Piazza into his curriculum. He replies to Piazza requests within a few days at most. ★★★★★
- 2 The piazza was useful ★★★★★
- 3 posted material is very helpful. ★★★★★
- 4 The professor regularly responded to queries by students and cleared the doubts ★★★★★
- 5 NA ★★★★★
- 6 There was a lot of useful discussion in the online forums, which helped by the professor's encouragement I feel. ★★★★★
- 7 Very well done. Everything was widely available and there was a lot of support. The only issue was that the homeworks took a long time to get responses. Though this was an issue the professor was aware of and tried to fix. ★★★★★
- 8 It was fine ★★★★★
- 9 This was the most interesting course I took at Northeastern. Lawson is a challenging professor, but every assignment seems super purposeful and is always extremely insightful. 10/10 ★★★★★

## Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (15 comments)

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

- 1 taking better notes in class may have saved some time figuring things out on the homeworks
- 2 Spent more time understanding the theory
- 3 I think some of the homeworks were kinda painful, especially implementing some of the environments. Often implementing the actual algorithm was pretty easy, but building the infrastructure around it (the environment, plotting code, etc.) was tedious. That being said, I did learn a lot from the lecture material and implementing the algorithms themselves.
- 4 spent more time with the textbook
- 5 Devote more time to assignments as some assignments were very challenging
- 6 Work on assignments as soon as they come out
- 7 Learn how to generate scenarios for training and how to save a model.
- 8 Nothing, I very much enjoyed this class.
- 9 more office hours
- 10 Could have spent more time understanding the underlying pseudocode.
- 11 Learned python beforehand
- 12 I could have worked harder.
- 13 Time management is something which I could have done better to tackle the workload of all the courses.
- 14 I could have done some self learning about RL before starting course.
- 15 I should have read the text book more!