

Network Structures Cloud Computing (Spring 2024)

Instructor: Parikh, Tejas
Subject: CSYE
Catalog & Section: 6225 03
Course ID: 32385
Objectives:

Enrollment: 199
Responses Incl Declines: 60
Declines: 0

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
Online course materials were organized to help me navigate through the course week by week.	60	30%	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0
Online interactions with my instructor created a sense of connection in the virtual classroom.	60	30%	3.7	4.4	4.2	4.0	5.0	5.0
Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates.	60	30%	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0
I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course.	60	30%	4.1	4.5	4.6	4.0	5.0	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:N/A;

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The syllabus was accurate and helpful in delineating expectations and course outcomes.	60	30%	4.3	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes.	60	30%	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree;

Learning Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
In-class sessions were helpful for learning.	60	30%	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.0	5.0	5.0
Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning.	60	30%	4.3	4.5	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
This course was intellectually challenging.	60	30%	4.5	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
I learned a lot in this course.	60	30%	4.5	4.5	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree;

Instructor Related Questions: Tejas Parikh

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	60	30%	4.4	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	60	30%	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	60	30%	4.2	4.5	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	59	29%	3.8	4.4	4.3	4.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	60	30%	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	60	30%	3.8	4.4	4.4	4.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment.	60	30%	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	60	30%	4.2	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree;								

Instructor Effectiveness: Tejas Parikh

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?	59	29%	4.2	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Note: 5:Almost Always Effective; 4:Usually Effective; 3:Sometimes Effective; 2:Rarely Effective; 1:Never Effective;								

Instructor Related Questions: Tejas Parikh (87 comments)

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

1	One of the best learning experiences I had at Northeastern so far. Recommend it 10/10
2	The professor has a lot of knowledge in this domain but is not a good teacher.
3	n
4	This course is full of learning, especially for a student with zero or less exposure to the working industry. The course, delivered by this specific professor, is full of thorough and practical knowledge of the tech industry and how a professional should work. Even though I find the straightforward and to-the-point replies of the professor indicative of his expertise, as a student, sometimes it's tough to decide what we should understand, given that grades are at stake for assignments.
5	gaining Abundant knowledge to become senior dev
6	Professor was very straightforward and clear with his instructions and requirements.
7	Content was as per industry standard
8	Great explanations correlating to real world examples
9	Learning a lot, state of the art technique, strong knowledge base
10	Good coursework and lectures
11	way of teaching
12	Course is good, course content is good. he always imposes his opinion on students. The professor who has good intentions towards teaching cloud can offer this course. That will be great for students
13	The course is perfect as it is. Could record lectures which can help students.
14	He knows what goes on the industry and teaches you EXACTLY that. He also prepares you for the tough situations you might face at work, like meeting a deadline, sudden change in requirements, etc.
15	The strengths are that it kind of mimics the actual work environment that most students take for granted, for example following deadlines and asking relevant questions
16	Good syllabus, latest tech stack, challenging course. Vast amount of experience
17	This class is challenging.
18	Learning new concepts and new tech which was filled with fascination and excitement
19	The concepts covered in the course are valuable for career advancement. However, I believe that a different instructor would be better suited to offer the course. While I still recommend students to take the course, I suggest seeking it from a professor who fosters a more positive and motivating environment. The current instructor's approach lacks encouragement and positivity. For instance, when a student asked a question in class, the response was rather discouraging, stating, "This is how you fail moving forward with this concept; to move in the right direction, if you can work, you will find it." While the intention might have been to provide guidance, a more positive and motivational response would be more effective.
20	Great Teaching
21	Well structured assginments, instructor is very clear on the topics he teaches!
22	Assignments of this course are relevant,thats the strength of the course
23	highly experienced and has great knowledge

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

- 24 The curriculum was simply amazing. It is extremely complex to create the assignments in the way they are - it takes a lot of planning, documentation and research. This is something the instructor has been splendid at.
- Professor also gives real life examples, industry level practices. Doing things the right way. This is not something you find online or can just learn by yourself. This makes an instructor stand out from everyone else.
- 25 Well structured course and well organized exams, and sharing real world experience and examples.
- 26 good assignments
- 27 Learnt a lot
- 28 Industry-relevant application of DevOps and Software Engineering practices
- 29 Instructor had the strength to fail students, ruin their money time and mental peace
- 30 His understanding on the industry best practices and he is a knowledgeable person
- 31 It is tough to do the course, but at the end you will gain a lot of knowledge that can help you with building your future.
- 32 Strength of course:
1. Good course material and challenging assignments
2. Course was structured well
- Strength of instructor:
1. Highly involved and disciplined in his own ways
2. Changing course structure and technologies every semester is a good idea
- Overall, it's one of the most amazing courses of CSYE. The assignments help a student to get an idea of how things work in corporates, and what all areas are there when we build a product. And, I would say the professor is empathetic, I like his humour, keeps the lecture light and fun! Keep it up.
- 33 Strictness and seriousness about the assignments and learning

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

- 1 I feel it was already the best.
- 2 More demo sessions and clear assignment guidelines. Also, recorded sessions.
- 3 The Students are learning, give them a little bit more time. The assignment starts at Thursday 10 PM and ends at wednesday 6 PM. Please increase the time to thursday 6 PM
- 4 n
- 5 -> If the assignment grading scale were out of 25 instead of 10, it would be more effective in assessing students. Often, the assignment requirements are not sufficiently clear from the outset. According to the professor, discussions are intended to clarify doubts about these requirements. However, this presupposes that students have grasped the concepts immediately, which is not always the case. Additionally, certain aspects are left for us to discern independently, only to be assessed on them later. Therefore, if the grading scale were expanded beyond 10, it would better align with the percentage weightage of the assignment, thus providing a more moderate approach to grade deductions.
- > The professor's strict adherence to absolute grading standards for assignments and exams creates a significant obstacle. While I appreciate the importance placed on rigorous learning and thorough coursework practice, there is concern about how this approach affects the overall grades of the students.
- 6 all good, current content is good
- 7 If Professor could reply a little bit faster on the doubts asked by students on discussion panel, it would be very helpful. But yeah I can understand that he works as a full time SRE so can't really complain.
- 8 If you plan to post grading guidelines do it with ample time before the deadline else just scrap the method. Unnecessary last-minute monitoring of the page is not healthy.
- 9 Just give another day extra to complete assignments, and start the lecture by explaining basic definitions
- 10 more demonstrations would be better, could upload short tutorial videos
- 11 Grading guidelines were not always available which help
- 12 microphone usage is required sometimes
- 13 On my final exam, he included around 60% of fill in the blanks, and he expects us to have a correct spelling for the answer. That is not a course objective. I personally felt he wants to showcase this course as a Toughest program in MGEN. but thats not true, this course is comparatively easier, The way of teaching should be better
- 14 Instructor makes sure to give the industry experience to students via assignments. He could be a little empathetic.
- 15 Professor can be a tad bit empathetic.
- 16 Can't think of much right now
- 17 A lab can be introduced, as of now lecture is all theory
- 18 Make it easy. Or give more clear assignment instructions, references, or tutorials.
- 19 Keeping the TA hours at least online
- 20 I hope the teaching approach and motivation levels can be improved. Additionally, I wish that other professors would also offer the same course.
- 21 Increase weightage of assignments rather than exams
- 22 suggest more relevant examples for a particular concept
- 23 Possibly Increase the Assignment Percentage, we mostly dedicate a lot of time to assignments, and in the end, 50% will be allocated for the MCQ-based, written theory exam
- 24 Make it considerate and create a learning environment, the current environment is in such a way that students are actually fearing low grades or even failing but course environment could be more friendly and considerate
- 25 more fairness in grading and flexibility, grading actually depends on who grades you in this course.....rules are flexible when it's convenient for professor or TA but no leeway or flexibility at all for students
- 26 Instead of written exam, practical lab exam to evaluate core practical knowledge
- 27 stated above
- 28 Professor should be more empathetic as he is aware of the situation of international students and not giving them an opportunity to go into the the next step of their life is not a good approach. I understand professor wants us to learn but he should let people pass through.

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

- 29 Give TA explicit instructions regarding assignments. Usually, TA's will give different answers and approaches to do one thing. But you wont score marks if it does not match with the rubrics in the demo.
- 30 Please consider being more flexible with grading. Putting too much pressure or failing students, especially international students, doesn't yield positive results due to the additional stress they already face.
- 31 I feel that this course is quite helpful but not to the full extent. Given a week to learn new things and implement them through assignments is good but to what extent ?
Reading online docs (Cloud Providers, IAC) consumes a lot of time to understand and on top of it code reviews are required to be in person. For a newbie to this industry, with assignment deadlines haunting the student. I strongly feel that a student is never gonna completely understand or get the full potential of this course.

Also, what's the point of pen paper exam. I know it makes sense to assess student understanding in AI world. This course creates a busy schedule entire week and student is not understanding technical concepts that will leave him in a situation where he mugs up rather than understanding just to score good marks in mid terms. I think the way mid term is designed should be changed for this course. Not a hater of it, I got good marks but I have seen a lot of freshers suffering in this course. So I'm speaking out their mind.
- 32 1. If the instructor is so involved, I expect the TAs to be involved as well. The TAs are often unaware of things when asked during TA hours, or they haven't read the assignment.
2. TAs should be able to answer questions in a helpful manner, ofcourse not telling to share the exact answer to students.
3. The grading needs to be streamlined, and every TA should exactly know what the grading guidelines mean, and the expectations. Every TA has different expectation for the same task, and then it's a process to connect to professor, get it re-reviewed and etc. Lead TA and professor should introduce a process where every TA knows what is the expectation.
4. The course can focus more on assignments side, rather than have theory based things in mid term and end term. 50% weightage is way to more. Theory is important, but the weightage can be decreased.

NOTE:
5. The mid terms/end terms can be a long hackathon with cloud/DevOps related tasks, a template can be provided by professor to start with and save time. Something more interesting rather than writing answers from slides.
- 33 Assignments which are already perfect

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

- 1 Loved the Professor's teaching style. It explains you very well the 'why' aspect of doing a particular assignment or using a particular cloud concept/tool. It gives you a good background information along with an optional short demo on the topic. Now your job is to figure out how to do it, how to customize it according to the assignment requirements. This compels you to do your own research and read documentation thoroughly while doing the task. Eliminates spoon feeding, and student learns to explore on their own without hand holding.
- 2 He is a great software engineer but not a great teacher. As a teacher, he acts like my work boss. The assignment should be an exercise for the lecture, not a work task.
- 3 Would have been better if there were recordings, without that it's quite difficult to go through just the PPTs
- 4 The instructor should prioritize motivating students to pursue roles in DevOps and SRE, rather than solely focusing on highlighting the challenges faced by students in scoring marks in this course. It's important to avoid building up the course as overly difficult in the very first lecture, as it can create fear and discourage students who are eager to learn new concepts. Emphasizing the potential opportunities and rewards in these fields would be beneficial in inspiring students to become more actively engaged. Additionally, incorporating practical examples and success stories could further encourage students to excel in these areas.
- 5 Great Teaching
- 6 He teaches very good. He taught us about industry related things. Very happy that I took this course. Although it took ***lot of time, but at the end I am happy.
- 7 na
- 8 Next steps after this course.
- 9 very knowledgable with rich experience and gives the business perspective that's helps in understanding the industry
- 10 Strengths:
- Knows what he is doing
- Answers all questions, if doesn't know tries to answer as much as he can
- Assignments are well structured and Prof explains them well beforehand as well as in Canvas discussion (except occasional snarky remarks which is fine lol)
- Assignments were not that tough as much as I expected. Maybe my work ex helped. I was new to the cloud, but I feel some skills developed during work ex helped.

Improvement:
- Changing content every semester just seems like to keep the "hype" of the course going.
- While I agree cloud platform shouldn't matter and the underlying concept is far more important BUT teaching a mess of GCP instead of the usual industry standard AWS seems to feel like a waste and is only been done to keep the "hype". Yes industry can do more for GCP in the future for all we know or the company we might join will be using GCP but I feel my point still stands. The same goes for the Terraform/Pulumi discussion.
- While I understand the reason for a pen-paper-based exam, some of us have not held a pen or written a page in years! This might be a bit unnecessary, but I wanted to point it out.
- Teach us proper billing management too. Last class should have all the notes to destroy all resources/billing. Might be a little handholding but seems important.

Assignment demo:
- Cheating on the assignment demo is easy. Code can be downloaded and replaced by local code easily without the TA noticing. I DO NOT blame the TAs, they have to look at at least 5-6 people, and doing 1 at a time is impossible. They cannot spend more than 20 hrs on this.
- Have seen people do backdated commits. Teach TAs how to check the "Activity" tab which can catch backdated commits.
- 11 Nothing much to do
- 12 should have mentioned clear requirements, assignments should have more weightage
- 13 Good coursework and lectures
- 14 He should provide clearer requirements for assignments. Sometimes, an assignment can be done in several ways using several different resources. The way we need to choose is not mentioned in the assignment. But during the demo, rubrics contain a single way to do the assignment which might be different from your approach. This costs students some marks simply because our approach doesn't match the rubrics. No one way is right, multiple ways can adhere to the assignment instructions.
- 15 microphone usage is required sometimes
- 16 lectures were totally unrelated to assignment. Also grading was done with an motive to fail more number of students. No flexibility in the course. Fells like i have drew nothing out of this course
- 17 Nothing of sort!
- 18 His skills are exceptional. He is best! Hands Down :)
- 19 The strengths include that he is working in the industry and that gives him the power to expect what the workplace will expect from us and that is important as the students can't deny that.
- 20 Great teaching skills and knowledge sharing
- 21 The midterm/end term can be transformed into a good major assignment or a project. 25% each for theoretical stuff makes less sense to me.

Grading management can be better, TAs need to be more involved and aware of the requirements.

Assignments should focus more on logging from earlier stage and documentation as well. That should be a part of grading as well.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (21 comments)

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

- 1 no online class
- 2 Resource provided were good but no class recordings so if we missed a class or topic there is no way to make up.
- 3 N/A
- 4 There were no demo sessions in this course, and the classes were not recorded for review.
- 5 it was good, i got to learn alot
- 6 n
- 7 Would love to listen more industry related real world example during the course, professor's example already expand my horizon and motivate me to explore areas that I never know before.
- 8 It has been two semesters and I haven't seen any professor like Prof. Tejas Parikh who is diligent in the Discussions portal on Canvas and giving feedback, guidance, and replies(not necessarily that we find it suitable and worthy at all times for the assignments) to students. I am impressed with his way of answering the queries of students and also delivering lectures, creating assignments, and guiding students while he's a working professional too!
- 9 Not a easy course, but got to learn a lot.
- 10 The professor responded to every question.
- 11 good course
- 12 no online sections
- 13 good
- 14 Haven't learnt anything from this course.
- 15 The course was on ground. Would have helped if the TA hours were held online.
- 16 He teaches only theory and no practical teaching is done in class and the theory concepts are not enough to later work on the assignments. My suggestion for anyone who wants to take this course is take the lecture ppts from seniors or just audit the class and take the assignment problems from seniors and do it by yourself with out the mental health getting ruined because that is all we are doing now . we spend all our time doing the assignments he gave but the overall weightage for those assignments is much smaller in comparison with the mid-terms and final. Mid-terms is hand written theory questions which are subjective in nature but the marks that you get is not partial . He is expecting an objective answer for a subjective questions and is correcting the papers based on that.
- 17 Online Canvas discussions were super helpful. Although, it would be super helpful if the TAs could host virtual hours.
- 18 The online aspect only covered doubt discussions with professor and they were enough to resolve most of the doubts
- 19 Good course
- 20 Professor has been pretty interactive with students on canvas discussions. I appreciate his involvement among students outside classroom as well.
- 21 Its not online

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (25 comments)

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

- 1 Not taking this course.
- 2 It takes 30-40 hrs for me to complete a single assignment
- 3 n
- 4 Particularly for me, if the professor had given what tech stack would be used for the course work, it would have been much better to keep up good grades. Even though the professor says that only the concepts are important and it should not depend on the tech-stack, yet there are grades at stake for students along with his tough grading guidelines!
- 5 Need to start working from day 1 of the assignment instead of waiting to complete until last minute.
- 6 Less silly mistakes. Small mistakes add up as prof mentioned from day 1.
- 7 Great
- 8 Could reduce the amount of homework or separate to more submissions like start giving homework on the second week and give bit more demonstrations.
- 9 It was important to keep up with deadlines and not miss coursework
- 10 spend more time
- 11 I am making the most of this course for now
- 12 Worked even harder as it needed a lot
- 13 Make myself more prepared for this class.
- 14 Maybe do some pre-class reading
- 15 By having a very strong ability to ignore "the not encouraging words" from the professor. I have taken others courses in CSYE, the attitude of those professors was very encouraging to perform well in the course unlike this course offered by this professor.
- 16 i could have read as well as started off my assignments before time
- 17 Putting more efforts to learn the basic concepts prior to taking the course would have made things easier
- 18 The prerequisite for the course is Web Development.Please include that in canvas , students should either take Enterprise Software Desing or Web Development to be able to tackle initial assignments or else it gets really hectic

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

- 19 One of the best course in CSYE
- 20 divide time evenly for longer assignments
- 21 I did work hard, but I should have mugged up the slides to make it easier for me to pass the course.
- 22 Time management and attention to detail (lectures/assignments) is the most important.

API development knowledge in the programming language of choice and Cloud computing fundamentals as prerequisite.
- 23 Shouldn't take this course. Instead have spent time on applying for application and sharpening my current skills
- 24 I could have read more documents related to the topics covered, a more in-depth study.
- 25 Having basic knowledge of the technology before hand might help cope up in the course