Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating

Fall 2023

Centeno, Ana Paula - ANAPAULA

Data Structures - 01:198:112:01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 266

University-wide Instructor Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	1	0	5	33	50	90	**4.47**	4.33	4.09	3.99
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno responded effectively to student comments and questions.	1	1	6	31	50	90	**4.44**	4.28	4.01	3.94
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno generated interest in the course material.	0	1	6	33	49	90	**4.46**	4.19	3.97	3.86
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	2	5	26	56	90	**4.53**	4.41	4.17	4.08
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno assigned grades fairly.	0	4	6	37	41	89	**4.31**	4.25	4.10	4.01
The instructional methods of Ana Paula Centeno encouraged student learning.	1	0	10	29	49	90	**4.40**	4.21	3.96	3.87

Teaching Effectiveness

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor Ana Paula Centeno as:	0	4	8	38	62	115	**4.41**	4.23	3.89	3.79

University-wide Course Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I learned a great deal in this course.	0	0	7	42	41	90	**4.38**	4.25	3.99	3.95
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	1	3	22	26	38	90	**4.08**	4.10	3.81	3.79

Course Quality

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the overall quality of the course as:	0	5	17	55	36	115	**4.08**	4.06	3.77	3.64

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
The lectures moved at a very steady pace and I felt it was easy for me to understand the concepts when I atteneded.
It provided an excellent foundation for all things CS related. The projects were challenging and extremely rewarding to complete.
the fact that we get exposure to all the concepts and coding as well
Applied
N/A
I liked the pace we went through for each concept.
I liked learning about trees
number of resources to help learning, especially the old exams
The assignments and recitations were incredible resources for learning and applying the material. I also liked Professor Centeno's personality and stories during the lectures.
the TA

Comments
everything
I like how organized this course is, it makes it easy to know what I need to learn.
code
Good structure.
the recitations are helpful
Teaching style
I liked the professor and that they release previous exams, they really helped me to study.
The professor
I like coding, it's fun
The learning materials and opportunity to earn points so no one grade would ruin someone's average.
I liked some of the projects in this course. While some of the projects were very difficult to me, I thought some of the projects were very fun/cool and informative.
Her lectures, the assingments were extremely difficult.
Assignments were pretty fun and challenging
Ability to receive extra credit through assignments.
I liked the grading and the point system, which made it easier for students to track their progress.
Considers things conceptually.
Prof.
succeeding in the assignments, huge ego boost, was kind of fun, but painful.
the courses content
The algorithms and data structures we learned were fun and interesting to learn.
I like how she draws the coding steps out one by one so students can see the whole process.
The projects/homework assignments were time-consuming and challenging, but I enjoyed doing them as a way of really understanding the data structure we were learning at the time. Instructors and TAs were very quick to answer questions in Piazza, and they made us aware of many resources if we were struggling. The extra credit opportunities for starting the assignments early also gave students more motivation to begin quicker while also providing a way for students to improve their grades.
The way everything is clear within the Data Structure website.
The recitations
The clear explanations and real-world examples used to illustrate complex concepts in the recitation class made learning enjoyable

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
Nothing.
I would provide learning module videos online for every single unit, instead of only half of them.
more opportunities for extra credit, and team based group projects. this class was so so so hard and a lot of times, people's grades are not reflective of their effort or knowledge. i think we should be given group work more often to meet more people, as well as have people to confer with and discuss with
N/A
Give more prep for exams instead of the general advice given.
I think I would make the assignments less involved and complicated, but there should be an emphasis on algorithm efficiency
Nothing.
This year, it feels like the course difficulty was dropped/tests were easier than they were supposed to be because they were lacking content. There is also a lot of extra credit. I feel like this encourages many students to not try as hard to learn the content, as they know they do not need a high level of depth and can save their grade with extra credit. I feel like it also sets bad habits for future courses, since students can develop the idea that they do not have to really learn the content to pass their CS courses if their 100s–level CS courses do not enforce this idea early. I believe that making tests more difficult and reducing extra credit, then slightly curving grades at the end of the semester if necessary would be a better way to encourage learning than easier tests and a lot of extra credit but no curving.
nothign
keep the same
Nothing.
give points back on regrading like how they are given back in cs111 if students have the logic
the same
I would try to include coding more. (like I know trees by heart right now but I still have issues with coding)
The assignments are way too difficult compared to what is offered in class. Either provide extra content (videos, simple practice, more recitation, etc.) outside of the videos that close after we cover the topic (not useful at all for studying for exams or doing homework) or make the assignments easier. If I fall behind with learning it is difficult to catch back up, which is why I assume so little people show up to lecture later in the year. Providing supplemental exercises outside of lecture would help with this.
NA
Make some of the assignment easier to complete, especially if most students are stuggling.
I would definitely try to make the class sizes smaller. With the amount of students in the classes, it is sometimes hard to get a closer connection to the teacher or for them to address any questions and concerns the students may have.
the assignments.
I would show how to code the data structures more often
make recitations longer

Comments
Probably give more time with assignments as assignments take up many hours to complete and balancing it with other classes at the same time was kind of difficult. Also many of the assignments did not have clear explanations and it took a substantial amount of time to debug because of it, it made things much more complicated so assignments should have better descriptions.
I would make the assignments a bit easier.
Use more examples of code in class.
more examples in lecture. Going over examples first instead of showing code first as that confused me most of the time.
more depth to coding implementation
n/a
None.
I would connect the lectures with the homework as well so students would not struggle with the homework as much.
I really learned well from the visualizations that professor Centeno created on the chalk board. I think mimicking the exact chalkboard examples in the slides or uploading pictures of the board would be beneficial for students to refer to in the future/after class.
Place the recitations for the course in a more organized fashion.
Revaluate/revise the grading process of exams
I'd focus on more hands–on coding projects instead of exams and conduct coding practice sessions in class to ensure everyone's understanding

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor Ana Paula Centeno encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?

These comments are unique to the instructor Ana Paula Centeno.

Comments
Very interactive with students in lecture, openly ready to explain concepts to students.
Professor Centeno clearly cares a great deal about teaching CS and always came to teach with an incredibly positive attitude. She is very knowledgeable and always encouraged us to push past our comfort levels in order to grow as CS students while providing all the resources to accomplish that.
lecture was extremely helpful
She was an amazing teacher
She was thorough and made sure that we understood the algorithms and concepts.
I like how enthusiastic she is during lectures
taught relevant material that I need for career in computer science
By far the most intelligent and personable CS professor I've had, really cares about all her students and creates an inclusive classroom environment.

Comments

Professor Centeno demonstrates a lot of compassion for students and encourages us to consider the implications of computer science beyond the material.

shes great

Professor Centeno explains the course concept very thourough and makes it clear what we need to know for the course. She also take active steps to make sure the lecture is an inclusive environment for everyone.

all good

Professor Centeno has a clear love for the subject which makes learning much more exciting.

She answers my questions and invites us to office hours where she helps us.

she always left us with problems by the end of class that generated interest and made us learn more

She is good

Very amazing professor, came to class prepared, engaged with the students, always had a positive attitude and created interest in the subject. Spoke on CS and careers diversely and brought up aspects of what the profession could hold. Handled questions with care and great responses to students.

She took the time to answer any and all student questions and review topics till everyone understood them.

She is encouraging and reassuring in her lectures. While this class is difficult, she does bring up how we can do this and get through it.

the different examples that she provided for the class were interesting enough to keep you thinking about them and encouraged you to practice on your own.

She is so smart and knowledgeable. Really carrying the CS department at Rutgers!

Prof. Centeno is honestly an incredible professor. Her love for the subject is evident through her teaching. She always encouraged students to ask questions and always made the lecture seem fun even through boring topics.

She always does great example problems in lectures that help simplify and help us visualize concepts better.

She has always had a positive attitude and make me feel like it was okay to ask questions/be wrong.

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She had fun stories, although sometimes very tangential.

Centeno always seems to cheer me up when I feel down about an assignment or exam grade. Attending her lecture after I failed an exam keeps me feeling motivated through her encouraging and kind words. Even when I feel too stupid to pursue CS, she makes me feel better about myself. Love her <3333333333333333333

Great Prof. my favorite so far

Explaining each concept in great detail with visuals.

She encourages students to ask questions.

Professor Centeno was extremely kind and encouraged us to go to her office hours with questions whenever we felt stuck. Her lectures were very clear, and she did a great job of visualizing data structures on the chalk board for us.

Comments
Professor Centeno is a great educator as she is shows genuine interest in student understanding and learning in class. She should teach more than just Intro to CS and Data Structures!
She has encouraged my intellectual growth through her talking and style in lectures and video and to think outside the box in order to fix problems.

Other comments or suggestions:

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
Professor Centeno is the BEST!
N/A
N/a
n/a
good
TAs are not great. They need to be trained more. Also, graders for exams are horrible. They also need a lot more training.
nothing
The assignments are way too difficult compared to what is offered in class. Either provide extra content (videos, simple practice, more recitation, etc.) outside of the videos that close after we cover the topic (not useful at all for studying for exams or doing homework) or make the assignments easier. If I fall behind with learning it is difficult to catch back up, which is why I assume so little people show up to lecture later in the year. Providing supplemental exercises outside of lecture would help with this.
Overall a very good and informative course, but there are some negatives I felt.
You did great!!!!
Assign pre-lecture videos and tailor mini-quizzes to them as a form of formative assessment.
Professor Centeno is the best professor at Rutgers! <3333333333333333333333333333333333333333333333333333333333
more examples in lecture. Going over examples first instead of showing code first as that confused me most of the time.
n/a
None.
The course was extremely well organized and coordinated. I learned a lot and was definitely challenged. The professors and TAs were great. Overall, an amazing experience with Data Structures.
Recitations need to improve drastically. Better LAs.
Nothing