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## **Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating**

Fall 2023

### **Centeno, Ana Paula - ANAPAUULA**

Intro Computer Sci - 01:198:111:01, 02, 03, 04, 06,  
07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21,  
22, 23

Survey Form: \*Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 272

## 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.	3	1	9	27	68	109	4.44	4.15	4.09	3.99
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno responded effectively to student comments and questions.	3	2	8	24	71	109	4.46	4.04	4.01	3.94
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno generated interest in the course material.	3	1	7	26	71	109	4.49	4.16	3.97	3.86
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	2	1	5	21	79	109	4.61	4.27	4.17	4.08
The instructor Ana Paula Centeno assigned grades fairly.	3	1	10	28	62	109	4.39	4.25	4.10	4.01
The instructional methods of Ana Paula Centeno encouraged student learning.	3	2	8	28	67	109	4.43	4.13	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:	3	1	9	27	88	130	4.53	4.05	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.	2	3	11	35	56	108	4.31	4.04	3.99	3.95
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	3	2	18	32	52	108	4.20	4.12	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:	4	3	18	36	66	130	4.24	3.98	3.77	3.64

## What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
the professor's teaching style
The lectures
What I like the most about this course is that it introduces students to important concepts in the Computer Science realm such as Boolean Numbers and applications in Object-Oriented Programming.
I liked that it thought me some coding in java as I didn't have any background knowledge.
recitations
I liked the lectures and assignments.
nothing
The office hour given by the professor for help in understanding the topics.
The creative coding projects and learning the concepts in general.
Coding

Comments
I like the structure of it
I like how the instructor finds ways to make the topics more engaging by relating it to real-world experiences
The CUBits videos.
Learning Java because it's so important
how grades are divided
The learning of the code
Being able to go from no understanding on coding to starting to understand the thinking behind organizing and creating a program.
I like the subject
I will like it if I get credit for it.
Problem solving
I liked learning about the basic java concepts such as creating classes, methods, and objects that can allow us to represent concepts in the real world. Other core concepts such as creating arrays, data types, and learning Big O Notation have also proved to be useful for the next course CS112 where we will learn all about creating efficient algorithms and data types.
I like the fact that there were a lot of resources to be able to do well.
I liked how the assignments were spaced out.
The way she teaches in class
I like the pacing of the course.
The quality of teaching.
I liked learning about arrays because I had less of an understanding with them than with other topics we covered.
the instructor
I enjoyed the examples given to students to facilitate the learning of difficult concepts.
The programing
The course has lots of ways to get help and pass.
Teaches how to use VS Code, learn java and the basics of coding.
I liked the various examples problems shown for concepts we were learning in lecture.
I like how the course is well organized and structured in a way that is easy to follow, especially for beginners looking to start learning computer science. I also appreciate the availability of easy-to-access help from peers and instructors through Piazza.
Learning something new/how to code for the first time.
Ease of access to learning content regardless of cs skill
My recitation was very good and aided a lot in the development of my skills

Comments
The way each week was a new topic and then the recitations was a review of the topic in case we did not get it during the lectures.
I like learning the basics of computer science and how we can apply it to different areas and subjects.
I liked the assignments! I realized I like problem solving while taking this class.
I loved Professor Centeno's teaching style. She is absolutely wonderful! I liked that she made sure those who may doubt themselves understand they aren't alone and everyone was bluffing (which I can testify I know a good number of people were.) I'm happy I took Intro to CS with her.
Attendance felt worthwhile even if it was optional. Every lesson had a lot of significance throughout the whole process of learning the basics of programming.
The assignments are engaging and interesting to delve into. It makes the process less tedious.
That the assignments are worth the most. In something like CS, the practical application is more important than being able to take exams.
There was much less emphasis placed upon tests and midterms and more on completing assignments
It became challenging later on in the year which allowed me to think deeper about the class.
all
it was my first time taking the course and learning about coding is definitely interesting.
The professor was the strongest aspect of the course. I have taken other intro to CS courses and this was the best one because the professor was so effective.
Its an interesting course
Nothing.

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

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
go over assignment solutions as a class or post instructor solutions to the assignments
<p>Less pseudocode on the test. And less open end-ed. Make it multiple choice because its annoying to explain things word for word and then get it wrong. And for pseudocode.... highlight important things and don't put a blob of a prompt. And make the question count less, it is very difficult to effectively and efficiently do like 10 pages in an hour and 20 mins.</p> <p>Also homework should be DOABLE. Most of the homework was doable with enough time and patience. Some was harder than others, but if you used the code provided and the code in class you can do it. However, the homework for DNA was simply outrageous. We did not learn or do many of those things and we did not learn the code in class in lecture, nor were we provided a video on how to do any of it. Most of the code seemed alien to me. Spending 6 hours to not even get the homework correct is wrong. And the submission cap of 10 really doesn't help. If you want us to be able to do the homework at least give us resources on how to do it, or lecture it in class. The content in the class was way different than that of that particular homework assignment.</p>
If I were to teach this course, I would give more opportunities for students to receive extra credit because since Introduction to Computer Science offers very few opportunities for extra credit, many students would have to work very hard for an introductory Computer Science course.

Comments
I think I would give some extra advice on outside class sources students could use to improve more
would probably have more interaction
The course should have been taught like it was mentioned, "as something that is new to everybody" but it was not. It was disappointing that the course was not as mentioned. Many students struggled due to the fact that the course did require previous knowledge of computer science which is completely unfair. The assignments and exams were very challenging and the assignments were difficult where the notes didn't even help with them. The class should have been taught as a completely new course to everybody no matter what level of computer science each student knows. This course is very unfair towards treating each student fairly.
I would spend more time reviewing the previous week's topic for at least 10 minutes before moving on to the new topic.
N/A
Nothing needs to be different
I would make this course more organized with the classroom time. It's sometimes just codes that aren't uploaded later on or hard to follow if we are too busy copying. We should be provided the code prior to class
I'd do nothing differently
Go more in-depth.
Maybe go a bit slower or have a pre req because I know the students who come in with 0 experience really struggle
increases canvas pre and post recitation chances to take quizzes
More hands on in the class
more emphasis on how to use files in code, I feel that it was barely touched upon yet it is such a crucial part of the assignments
n/a
I would make sure that 600 points was enough to be given a C. I would make sure that to earn all of those 600 points, you need to complete assignments, which will be graded only on completion and effort instead of accuracy. I would ensure there is a curve for the course. I would lighten the course load to be tailored towards people who are beginning at coding. I would start topics like arrays and functions at a much later point during the course. I would also increase the amount of extra credit opportunities.
No exams, just have 3 major assignments that count as exams because programming on paper is not the same as on a computer.
If I taught this course, I would encourage cooperative learning in the lecture hall so that students could work together to solve the problems being taught, similar to how most recitation classes do it.
I would take time in class to explain the assignments that were due.
I would definitely have been moving faster at the beginning because there are a lot of complex concepts shoved at the end of the course compared to what the class was learning a month prior.
I don't think I would teach as good as Ms. Centeno do but I would try to teach like her.
I might make the assignment levels a little more standardized. The last few feel like they scaled up very fast.

## Comments

I would install Commuter-only, online recitations or go universally online with recitation via a combination of Zoom & Slack, as is utilized by the Rutgers-affiliated Bootcamps. The format of LA-led recitations as review of material presented in lecture is highly inconvenient travel-wise for commuters for so little a time frame. Myself, as a commuter living off-campus with a Livingston parking permit (last ones available) and recitations during rush hour on Busch, it often took me 2 hours to arrive at the location for approximately 45 minutes--give or take a few minutes for everyone to get settled before starting and/or the LA to issue any concluding announcements--of class before an additional 1.5 hour return journey (less traffic after recitation as rush hour dies down).

I believe this, along with my own neglectful attitude midsemester, negatively impacted my performance in the course.

nothing.

Nothing.

As someone who is actually taking this class for the first time (who the class is supposed to be designed for), and someone who actually made efforts to pay attention in class, I would have more quizzes and more opportunities to bring my grades up. The exams weighed too much, and the whole 15% recitation thing was not necessary. were not forced to go to lectures, but we have to go to 55-minute classes held by students a year older than us? Half the time, recitations covered things we hadn't covered in class yet, and the TA would have to poorly half-way explain a new topic to us. Also, if pre- and post-recitation don't count unless you actually attend the recitation, it makes no sense to lock them right before recitation. I didn't get points for recitations I had to go to just because I forgot to fill out the pre-recitation quiz; they were locked. It doesn't make sense if I didn't go; I wasn't getting the points anyway. Why is there a time restriction on them?

Focus on how what happens in different algorithms translates into code.

I would to getting more sample exercise to students for driving them getting more understand about the concept

Spend more time on specific, must know topics such as for loops.

N/a

I would put a slightly bigger emphasis on recitation to have students engage with one another. I learned the concepts in lecture and solidified them in speaking to others in my recitation cohort, which I noticed that many others were not doing so often.

If I was teaching the course, I would make the assignments more clear on what is required of the student, especially for those who are new to computer science. For example, many of my peers struggled with the DNA assignment and had trouble figuring out how to complete it correctly.

Explain programs better

More time for the more rigorous assignments.

I wouldn't teach arrays the day before our first mid term. This is because everyone is focused on the first midterm and hardly pays attention to the arrays lecture. Also, arrays are a fundamental aspect of intro to computer sci and for further classes.

I would show up on time, be more prepared, not make too many silly mistakes when teaching, and be clearer about explaining certain concepts

I would have office hours on a different day than tues/thurs because I was seldom available those days, but otherwise, I would keep everything the same.

Nothing, this class was great. Perhaps the only thing would be making sure the HW assignments were tailored to be understood by people doing this for the first time. For a few of the assignments, the prompts were written by students. So far, they've been fine except for the Staircase Builder one. I remember afterward someone told me that the creators thought the assignment would have been easy. However, their easy is different than the easy of someone just starting computer science. I found it fine, but that was because I knew some Python beforehand and played around with these concepts prior. I can see clearly where someone trying to code for the first time would find difficulty in the stuff they thought was easy.

Comments
Nothing.
nothing significantly different
I think the speed at which material is taught is currently too slow, it should be sped up a bit.
Provide more thorough slides for students to go through
easier assignments
It is certainly hard to keep everyone engaged in a 200 person lecture so whatever has been done is surely impressive. But at times, I did lose focus and didn't pay attention so I would try to teach in a way to account for that. But the teaching style is already great.
give students more time to do homework
that's a good question, I actually see nothing wrong or anything that needs to be added because the way is structured is great!
I would have the course online. Also the recitation aspect is really poorly orchestrated. The TA's are hit or miss, some do not show understanding of the course material enough to provide instruction. My TA did not have enough training or experience with the course material. He also told the class to cheat on homework assignments by simply looking up the answers. This not only reflects poorly on the TA's professionalism but also undermines the integrity of the learning process and the educational standards upheld by the institution.
I dont know I just feel like it moves quite fast for an intro course
None.

## 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
She always explained slowly, clearly and thoroughly. She never made me feel excluded for not knowing something and always started from the very basic and provided numerous examples to make sure every student understood necessary concepts.
Engaged me in class, keeping me interested and understanding the lecture.
Professor Centeno in a way helped me to learn more about Computer Science because as a student who is interested in majoring in Computer Science, knowing the basics is fundamental for future classes, such as Data Structures and Computer Architecture.
she was very welcoming
The course encouraged me to always keep trying and work hard to make better progress.
By teaching concepts from the basic, conceptual level before explaining it in terms of coding. She also responded well to any questions students had.
I did not how to code in java but professor Centeno made it easy.
I have been motivated to further pursue my studies in Computer Science and continue my major in it.
She encouraged me to do my own learning outside of class



Comments
Very engaging
explain certain topics more in depth
Being understanding and open creating a safe environment to ask questions despite being in such a large class setting
helped me understand computer science
I think the class puts a larger emphasis on students getting good grades instead of students actually learning. I feel like more of the grade should be based on completion and effort rather than accuracy. A student should be failing the course because they refuse to put in the work and not because they do not understand the content. I feel like they could add a curve to the class to help students who may be struggling in the class. In addition, the concepts in CS111 were a little too advanced for someone like me who is a beginner at coding.
Explaining concepts very well
She had a nice attitude and always asked if anyone had questions whenever she moved forward with the class.
Her classes are fun and I learn a new thing about computer everyday
She has made me interested to continue pursuing computer science as a major.
She has always been an enthusiastic teacher who has been excited to be there, spend time answering individual questions, and be welcoming to both cs and non cs majors alike.
Encouraged me to dive deeper in the course material.
In coding basic is a really strong need that every programmer needs , Ana Paula gave us that strong base , Because of that Coding become much more logical and practical.
She encouraged my love for computer science and with every new lesson, a stronger love for the subject was born. She always encouraged us to be curious and told us that there were always multiple solutions to one question.
She talking about each concepts really clearly
She takes time out for individual students' questions and concerns, and tells stories during class and attempts to keep the class engaged.
She makes resources very well known and is a welcoming and nice instructor, it is obvious that she cares about all her students and wants them to succeed.
Although I took AP CSA in high school, Professor Centeno explained many of the concepts I was shaky on in a great way for me to understand with a lot more confidence. From this, I was able to work on the assignments with less difficulty and engage with other students to talk about what we were learning.
Centeno makes learning computer science lessons fun and engaging with hands-on coding demonstrations and examples rather than strictly following the textbook
She helped heavily with any questions.
I understand Java way more than I did before this class. She was an excellent professor. Definitely would want her for data structures.
Centeno helped me understand concepts of computer science in a digestible manner that helped me learn.
Professor Centeno always came to class with bright energy and words of encouragement; she never made me or any other students feel as though they were too "dumb" for CS or coding. She was also always available during office hours and was supportive and helpful whenever I had questions.

Comments
Professor Centeno presented the content in a way that made sure everyone had enough time to digest and understand it. She also gave ample place to ask questions, which definitely helped clarify points and improve my understanding of the material. She made sure we all had the chance to understand what we were doing and what was to come after it.
Very positive attitude every course and throughout every lesson, even if it was a bore some days. She really would thoroughly go through what was the focus of the class each day.
Taking this course has taught me how to think algorithmically and tackle real world problems through the use of programming.
This course has given me a brief overview of computer science and allowed me to see if I will enjoy this field.
She created a classroom environment that felt conducive to learning and allowed all students to succeed.
Taking the lectures slow allows everyone to learn the content even if you had previous experience
She taught well and made the material understandable
Professor Centeno held a firm mastery of the course material. She engaged effectively with the large amount of students and truly cares about her students learning. Her real world understanding and effective teaching style were a refreshing reprieve from most of the CS department. She went out of her way to ensure the students learned effectively.
She gives all the resources needed to do well in this class
None.

## Other comments or suggestions:

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
The later assignments are really hard
Professor Centeno was an amazing instructor and I would very likely take her again for Data Structures in the Spring Semester.
I am definitely learning a lot about the course as a whole while being exposed to many assignments and topics in class.
N/A
No
Nope
N/A
n/a
The course should be graded more on effort, not accuracy. Students should be more worried about whether or not they are able to learn Comp Sci. instead of worrying about whether or not they will pass the class.
none
I do not see the purpose of pseudocode at the beginning and it makes the class more confusing if there was no prior knowledge of code.

## Comments

The class is great and I don't think something needs to be changed in it

I wish the course was more centrally organized with Canvas. The addition of a separate website, while fitting with the overall theme, made it easier for me to not see my assignments/due dates, and thus to leave them out of mind. I very much enjoyed Professor Centeno's methodical, albeit slow-paced approach to the course material; my Learning Assistant was always prepared, patient and insightful in her responses to probing questions; as well as the inclusive and collaborative nature of the educational community that the CS major fosters. I likely will not pass the course on this attempt, but I hope to challenge myself with it again in the Spring with renewed fervor.

none

Nothing just spend some more time on getter and setter method .

N/A

I think there could also be more resources posted for people who are actually coding for the first time. I would try and watch the learning objective videos for clarity, but they were mostly just examples. In the beginning, I spent a lot of time being confused about what data types were and just basic stuff in general. When I tried looking for help on my own, so many different things would come up; it was all so new to me and so confusing. The only thing I really liked about the course was that it was taught by Professor Centeno. Her teaching style is great, and I felt welcomed in her class. As someone who has never coded before, I think CS111 has room for improvement. i think we also could've spent more time reviewing how to use multiple methods in code and assignments, like air particles and the data types one, I did not feel prepared for at all.

This course helps me getting entrence to cs and feeling. love with it.

The assignments and even questions on the exams are disorganized, and can have multiple meanings as many are not completely clear.

N/a

Not enough in depth learning of comp sci topics and we receive yet poorly written and overly hard assignments for a beginner class

no

Thank you for a productive and insightful semester, and happy holidays!

n/a

Perhaps make the course more rigorous, it is too easy to pass without even knowing a lot of the content currently.

N/A

While I find the course material to be comprehensive, it could potentially overwhelm absolute beginners due to its depth. Surprisingly, the professor exceeded my expectations; however, the overall course structure has notable shortcomings. The recitations prove to be subpar, and the Teaching Assistants (TAs) struggle to meet the necessary standards. I suggest reconsidering the grading of recitations, as it may not be an accurate reflection of students' understanding. Additionally, the class size appears to be excessive, hindering the learning experience.

Assigned homework to be honest on coding would be nice

None.