Midterm Check-In - Fall 2020 - Instructor Results for UGRD 1209 MATH 2151A LEC 001 DISCRETE STRUCTURES FOR ENG - Nakade (Apurva Nakade)

Project Title: **Midterm Check-In — Fall 2020**

Course Audience: **198**
Responses Received: **62**
Response Ratio: **31%**

Report Comments

Dear Apurva,

This is your Fall 2020 Midterm Check-In feedback results.
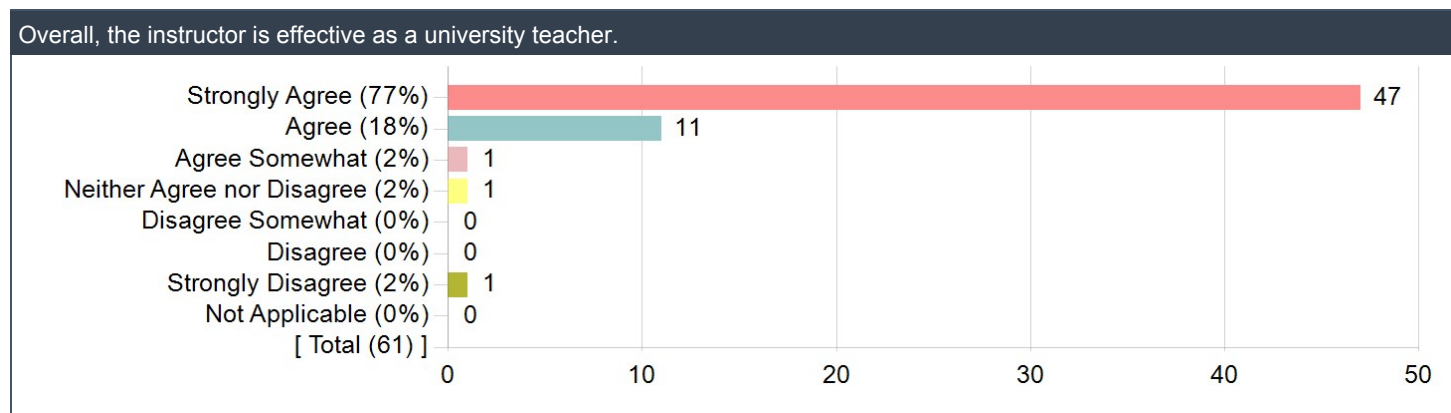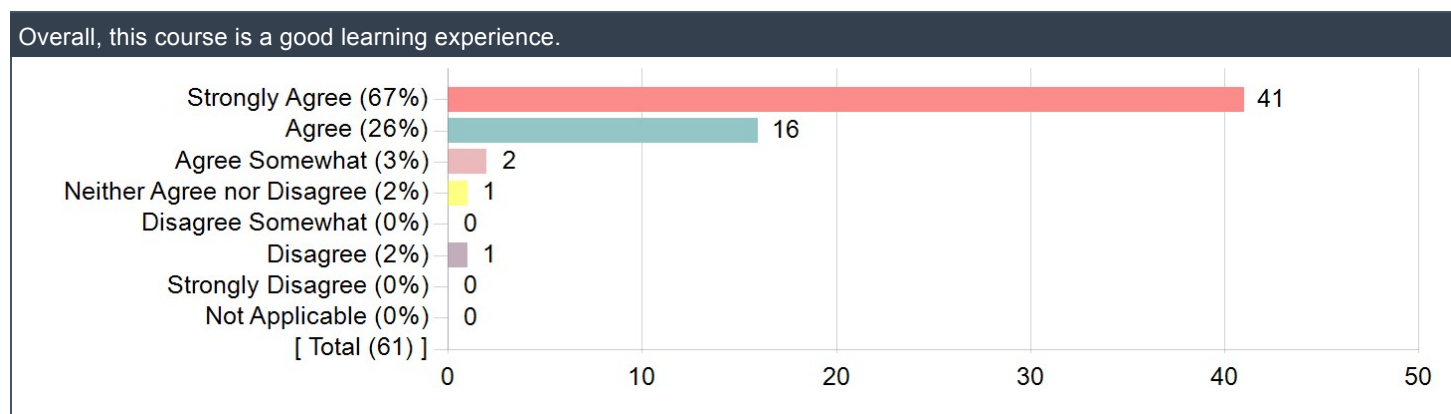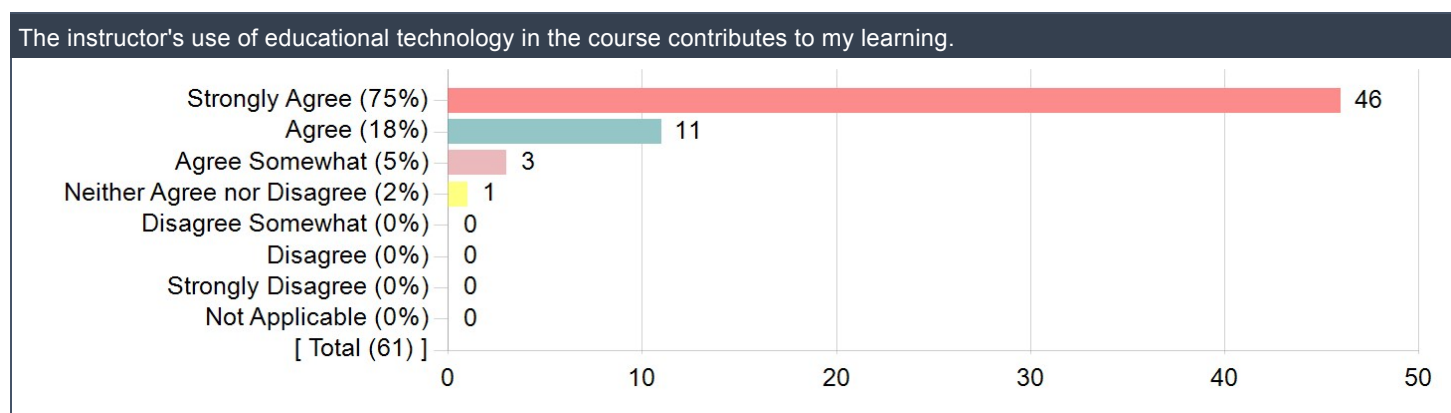
If you have any questions about the *Your Feedback* SQCT online system or the Midterm Check-In results, please contact feedback@uwo.ca.
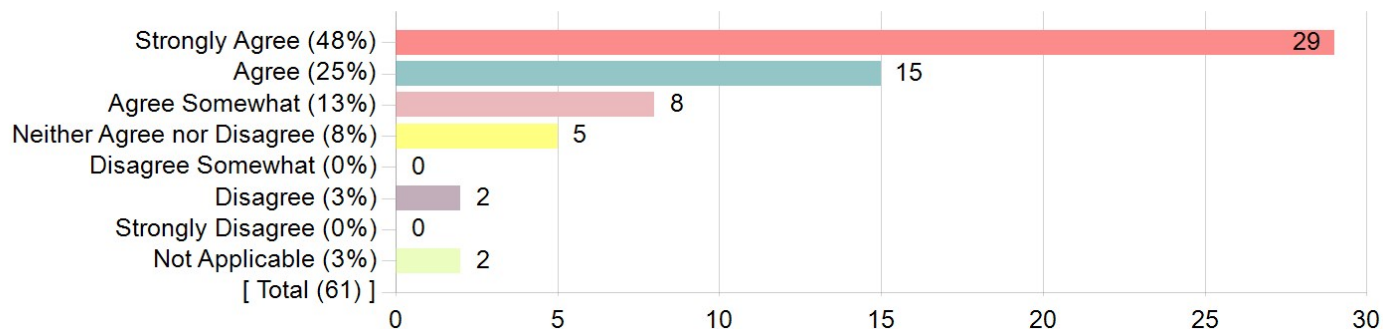
Sincerely,

Feedback Team
feedback@uwo.ca

Creation Date: **Monday, November 2, 2020**

Overall, the instructor is effective as a university teacher.

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Response	Count
Strongly Agree (77%)	47
Agree (18%)	11
Agree Somewhat (2%)	1
Neither Agree nor Disagree (2%)	1
Disagree Somewhat (0%)	0
Disagree (0%)	0
Strongly Disagree (2%)	1
Not Applicable (0%)	0
[Total (61)]	

Overall, this course is a good learning experience.

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Response	Count
Strongly Agree (67%)	41
Agree (26%)	16
Agree Somewhat (3%)	2
Neither Agree nor Disagree (2%)	1
Disagree Somewhat (0%)	0
Disagree (2%)	1
Strongly Disagree (0%)	0
Not Applicable (0%)	0
[Total (61)]	

The instructor's use of educational technology in the course contributes to my learning.

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Response	Count
Strongly Agree (75%)	46
Agree (18%)	11
Agree Somewhat (5%)	3
Neither Agree nor Disagree (2%)	1
Disagree Somewhat (0%)	0
Disagree (0%)	0
Strongly Disagree (0%)	0
Not Applicable (0%)	0
[Total (61)]	

In this course, I am learning how to read text, research, and other material critically.

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Strongly Agree (48%)	29
Agree (25%)	15
Agree Somewhat (13%)	8
Neither Agree nor Disagree (8%)	5
Disagree Somewhat (0%)	0
Disagree (3%)	2
Strongly Disagree (0%)	0
Not Applicable (3%)	2
[Total (61)]	

Comments about the course

Comments
The instructor for this course has done a very good job, easy communication between students and instructors is essential especially this year, and he has done the best job out of all my courses. I appreciate the work he has put into the course to ensure that we get the most out of it
the course content is easy to understand with ebook. and the explanation from the professor is clear
So far this course has been my favorite as I have enjoyed the concepts and the way they are taught.
Professor Apurva is one of the rare professors that is excellent in explaining mathematics using examples and helping build the conceptual image in my mind. I am taking this course again because I dropped it simply because I wasn't understanding the basic concept that the professor explained by using proof. And after taking this course this year, I checked my last year's notes and it turns out we were being taught the concept by deriving it from a proof. Looking back, it still confuses me when I go back to read my own notebook.

Professor's method of using an iPad and explain videos is parallel to watching Khan Academy. His explanations are clear and also states what is common for some things we learn about in the real world and what is not.

He also gives boundaries about what a concept is and what it isn't on top of explaining the concept. And the PA activities do an excellent job of visualising the imagined concept that Professor Apurva sparked.

We also utilize Piazza to communicate with friends and ask questions. It is also especially useful for seeing what most students are struggling with and try to attempt those problems yourselves and also get an opportunity to answer if you do know the solution. |
| cool course |
| The content is very confusing and not explained well. We are expected to just go with the theories without any proper introduction to them. The MatLab component is super confusing and the lecture slides and online lectures are not worded well. |
| Awesome job, keep up the great work! You are currently teaching my favourite class. |
| Prof. Nakade is a very diligent man who always has his students' best interests at heart. My mentor told me this was a course to look out for because it is difficult but he has made the course so easy to understand. He answers all studens' questions on time and makes sure we understand every concept. |
| You are the best prof we have this year! Thanks so much for all the effort you put into the course. |
| I enjoy your online lectures because they are straight to the point. I am able to apply knowledge from this class into programming and math. |
| Of all six of my courses this semester, without a doubt Math 2151 has been the best course from a content perspective and a course–delivery perspective. Dr. Nakade's short, to–the–point, detailed videos complement the textbook incredibly well. It is the only course, thus far, in which I feel I am getting the "very high quality student experience" (as promised by Alan Shepard) that I would be receiving in–person, had the pandemic not drastically altered this academic year. Additionally, Dr. Nakade is the only one of my professors who has made himself easily available for answering questions and fostering discussion amongst students. |
| I had previously taken and dropped this course.
I can't say for certain if it is the slight familiarity to the course material, the move to an online based course, the change in instructor, or a combination of all three but my experience has MASSIVELY improved and I look forward each week to engaging with the material. |
| I really do appreciate you as a prof. You make this class fun and I am actually learning the concepts and not just memorizing them. |

UGRD 1209 MATH 2151A LEC 001 DISCRETE STRUCTURES FOR ENG - Nakade - Apurva Nakade

Comments
The prof does not waste time not explaining the concepts to the point they become unexplainable, but rather keeps it simple. Sometimes when profs over complicate concepts, it comes off as trying to "show off" their knowledge and it ruins the learning for the student. So thank you for keeping them simple and actually fun to learn.
MATH 2151 is well–organized and due dates for assignments and tests are provided on a clear schedule. I really like the zyBooks learning experience since the PAs and CAs are a great way to practice without the pressure of single attempt questions. Prof. Nakade has been transparent about the Proctortrack data breach that we all saw coming, and I'm relieved we will be opting to use Zoom proctoring instead. The irony of teaching software engineering students that cybersecurity is secondary to an app's utility is appalling and does not bode well with most, if not all, SE students.
I loved the way this course was taught, the short videos were right to the point with definitions and then showed many examples of applying this concept in the video as well, the perfect videos for teaching!
This course is the best planned out course that I have for software engineering. The PAs and CAs keep me on track, and Nakade is very clear in explaining concepts in his videos. I genuinely enjoy this class. This is in contrast to Stats 2141 (I know this is for discreet but there isn't a midterm check in for that class so I'm just going to say it here and hope it makes its way to Katsu Goda somehow), where Goda gives you absolutely nothing to check if you're on track, leaves you completely on your own with terrible video lectures that you can't even watch because he says "um" every two seconds and is overall trash at explaining concepts, and then slaps you with a 30% midterm and 70% final. He's like a parent who abandons you in childhood but then comes back 20 years later when you have a job to ask for financial support. Anyway thank you Nakade for a well organized and fair class.
My favourite course of the semester so far! The 5–15 min lecture videos with the PA and CA interactive activities in between is a very effective method of delivering the course content. As well, Professor Nakade posts announcements often about upcoming events in the course and is very clear in his instructions! Professor Nakade is also very quick to respond to questions on Piazza, whether it be about course content or deadlines etc, which is super helpful!
AMAZING! My favourite course so far, the professor is super engaging and explains concepts in a really concise way. Lectures and syllabus is very well planned out and it's easy to keep track of what needs to be done. Thank you!!
The instructor is amazing! His explaining is very clear even tho his videos are very short. He gets to the point right away and only provides us with the important information. I never get bored watching his short lectures.
As this year is delivered online, this course tends to use a very organized and straightforward learning platform (zybooks). In addition, the prof for this course has setup a Piazza for the course where students are able to connect and help each other. In addition, the prof seems to be very active on Piazza as well. He has also made a very fair midterm assessment which properly examines the content we have learned in this class. This is a well organized and delivered class and the prof is very kind.
Zoom is definitely the way to go if you insist on using online proctoring. It's way easier to set up (especially for me since I have a desktop PC with two monitors, and have to physically unplug one of them so I don't get flagged for having multiple monitors) and better in terms of privacy since it can't access my files. It's also a lot less stressful to take the exam because I don't have to be worried that I will fail the exam because some robot somewhere thinks I looked away from the screen, or anything like that.
While I find Piazza to be useful for asking questions as a student, I don't think it should be the only place where important announcements about the course are posted. Owl has a good system in place for announcements and I would appreciate it if info about assignments and exams were posted there as well.
I like how this course is done on ZYbooks; it makes the learning experience more interesting and fun.
Prof. Nakade is by far the best instructor I have ever had in university. I wish I got to meet you in person! The way you explain things are super clear and helpful and you have every qualification for a university teacher. I also love the way you constructed this course as the CAs and PAs on Zybooks really help me to be on track and understand the course materials better.
Zybooks PAs and CAs are very helpful and having them due every few days helps keep students on track.
This course has the best lectures I've had so far at UWO: they're short, easy to follow, and the instructor teaches it very well.
While some of the material was at first a bit confusing, Professor Nakade does an excellent job at explaining and giving examples during his pre–filmed lectures that help a lot with my understanding. Additionally, he adds comments that helps reassure students that some material will take a long time to understand but is doable with practice. Personally I find this very helpful as this shows me that he recognizes when the course would be a little difficult and tries to minimize the confusion and disappointment students have when they don't get it the first time. Furthermore, the midterm evaluation was a very fair assessment and despite being proctored differently, it seems like something we would likely receive in an in–person evaluation and that is very much appreciated.
Good learning experience.
The course is taught very well, and I really appreciate the fact that you test us on practical questions and not extremely uncommon tricky questions. The material is also taught really well and the ZyBooks helps keep me accountable with the lessons due every day. The midterm was also fair and tests our knowledge on the concepts.
I am enjoying the course both in the way of its delivery but as well the way that it is structured. The instructor seems very open to constructive criticism and provides a very nice platfrom for students to interact with them and have questions answered in a way that the entire class can learn and grow from. Downside for me was the obligation to purchase the textbook in order to be able to do the homework assignments and receive grades.

Western University Canada

Comments
The instructional videos for lectures are amazing and I can actually understand the material just form watching the videos! Thank you!

What aspects of this course best help you learn?

Comments
The assignment and learning format of zybooks after the lectures
I like the way that put video, course content, and practice together. it is convenient and helpful.
I find zybooks a very useful tool as its interactive questions help solidify my understanding for topics discussed.
The videos and interactive with it is very helpful to learn,
His teaching method, from using his iPad to take notes and teach us which is Khan Academy quality.
zybooks is suprisingly helpful
External resources
Zybooks + your iPad lecture notes are awesome.
Zybooks is a incredibly useful resource as it provides explanations and practice examples. Complemented with the prof lecture videos, provides a great learning experience
The interactive PAs and CAs helped me to understand all concepts well.
Your videos are concise and deliver the material exceptionally. zyBooks activities keep me on track in the course and actively reinforce and contextualize the material covered for each section. I really like using Piazza as it's far better in my opinion than the default OWL forum used in many other courses.
Short and sweet lectures, ZYbooks PA and CA activities.
The Piazza page, in tandem with the online textbook, really help to address any questions I have regarding course material.
I really find the online course textbook that has the recorded video session for each section before all the textbook readings. The participation activities have been eally great for showing the steps on how to do certain concepts, and also for initial practice to get the gist of the material before attempting the practice problems.
The online learning tools are incredibly intuitive and the instructor's videos are easily understandable.
The textbook helps you stay on track, and motivates you to learnt the content. With the follow–up questions, you are able to test your knowledge instead of hoping you "remember it for the exam" which I find crucial in learning.
The zyBooks PAs and CAs have been an excellent learning resource. I like that they give you feedback and let you reattempt questions so that you are learning from your mistakes instead of skipping past them onto the next question. They also keep me accountable and prevent procrastination or falling behind, which can happen with online learning. Prof. Nakade's lecture videos are clear and move at an acceptable pace for handwriting my course notes.
I thought the videos along with the textbook and PA and CA, were great for helping me learn, it wasn't too much of a time commitment but it made sure I kept up with the content, the video explained it well, and then the short text in the textbook about the section kept the content refreshed and easy to look back rather than trying to find the information you need. The PA and CA also required that I understood the concepts and could apply them for simple examples along with an explanation of the answer after you submitted, it was great and by far the best course I have teaching wise.
Zybooks is a great tool, as well as Nakade's Youtube videos.
Having the PA and CA with deadlines for them really helps to keep me on track with the course content. The additional exercises underneath then help me to further my understanding of the content at my own pace. As well, having the lecture videos split up into sections with the interactive activities in between really helps me to stay focussed throughout the whole lecture, (as opposed to posting one big lecture that is around an hour long, a method of delivery I find hard to focus on).
The zybooks participation questions really help keep me on track and solidify knowledge.
I appreciate how short and to the point the lecture videos are. I also appreciate the integration of the digital textbook. I makes it so much easier to complete practice problems and stay on track.
The best thing about this course is that zybooks has assessments that help me learn along the way. The questions are just the right level of difficulty and they help ensure that I understand the concepts
I think the course being very organized and the profs being readily available to help students is what helps an individual succeed in this course.
The participation/challenge activities built into the textbook are nice, and I feel that switching to Zoom for the midterm made taking the exam less stressful.

Comments
I think ZyBooks is a great platform and the videos made by my instructor are very useful because they are concise and well organized..
The short and straight to the point lectures are very useful! Examples done in the lecture help my learning a lot!
The platform ZYBooks is very organized and makes homework more enjoyable
As I mentioned above, Zybooks really helps me to be on track.
I can take the class at the time I want. Recorded lectures help to understand lecture contents by viewing it again.
Zybooks is by far the best way to learn a subject for me.
I think using Zybooks is very helpful as it helps me understand content by testing me directly after I learn it.
I really enjoy having the textbook online and being able to learn at my own pace. I believe this makes for a better learning experience.
Zybooks problems, short simple videos for every section make them easy to watch.
Good lectures, consistent schedule, and an easy to follow textbook.
The participation and challenge activities on ZyBooks are what I find most helpful to my learning as it is forcing me to try and apply/practice my knowledge immediately. I didn't like using separate platforms to learn as I would have preferred it all on Owl but I think Zybooks was organized very well and thus is helpful to my learning. Piazza is also a good resource, and again, I don't really like using so many separate platforms but I think the TAs and Professor Nakade do a good job at organizing the material and moderating it so that everyone's questions are answered.
The online course lecture and zybook questions.
The way the lectures are delivered with you writing it down instead of reading off slides helps significantly as we see each and every step clearly as opposed to a lecturer just reading off the slides.
The videos lectures are concise which makes watching them less daunting compared to other courses.
The way that there are frequent homework assignments and a platform where students can bring up questions and have them answered by the instructor or other students
The recorded videos made by the instructor and the participation questions.

How could this course be improved?

Comments
If there was more of the interactive zybooks learning for the additional excercises
During the midterm I found that seeing if I got an answer right or wrong right away really messed with me. I started off strong but once I got one wrong I started overthinking and got more wrong in a row. This happened multiple times. Personally, I hope there is a setting for the next exam to hide if I got the answer right or wrong.
Not much
Possibly before using WebWork for the midterm, maybe have some homework questions or assignments on there beforehand so that students can sort out issues before the exam which can ensure a smoother process as well as clear up any formatting and user/interface problems. Compared to other classes, my classes in first year did not use webwork so I am not familiar with the formatting and other details
idk
Slow down the pace, explain new distributions, etc better
Nothing really, maybe some more office hours? Haven't really had a real need for them early on, but the course is getting scarier as we go.
I would love to see all solutions to the additional textbook exercises. I feel it can be posted up for an hour each week then removed after the given timeframe.
On some of the more difficult topics (e.g. nested quantifiers into english) it would be nice to have a few more recorded examples. I would also like all the additional practice problem answers to be released. When studying for the midterm, I spent more time trying to find answers online than actually doing the problems. While I appreciate you want us to confident in our answers, if I'm confident in an answer on the exam, I still have the possibility of getting it wrong.
More solutions to homework questions.
My only wish is that more of the textbook problems had answers. That being said, I find that the resulting discussion on Piazza about some of the problems without solutions sparks a lot of learning on the fine details of concepts in the course.
This course is now perfect – keep this instructor for next year and keep the online learning tools.

UGRD 1209 MATH 2151A LEC 001 DISCRETE STRUCTURES FOR ENG - Nakade - Apurva Nakade

Comments
There really is no improvement I can find. The organization is perfect, the length of the lectures is perfect, the content inside the lectures themselves are clear and simple, the follow–up questions are perfect, and even the first midterm was extremely fair and was exactly what the prof said it would be like. Thank you.
Given that we all knew Proctortrack was not secure (their June 2020, affected 444,000 students and released names, addresses, phone numbers, and passwords!), this course could be improved in the future by not forcing us to download the Proctortrack app in the first place. The onboarding test was a frustrating and disappointing experience. I want to reiterate how uncomfortable I am with Western giving SE students the impression that app utility takes precedence over cybersecurity. This is not a good lesson to teach students who will be shaping the future of the tech industry.
This course is terrific the way it is currently being taught and cannot think of any way in which it could be improved upon.
I strongly disagree with the use of Proctortrack in assessing students. It jeopardizes our personal security and I cannot stand with that. This is probably the only gripe I have with this course, but it is a major one. Nakade, if you're reading this, please consider not using Proctortrack for the next assessments. Even though not much sensitive data was leaked in the recent breach, the fact that there even was one shows clearly that there is a major risk of very sensitive information being leaked.
As of right now, I do not have any suggestions as to how the course can be improved.
I think the tests on Webwork should not give immediate feedback on whether your answer is right or wrong. This can make writing the test much more stressful when you can see your mark dynamically.
I would please recommend that during the midterm it is better that we are not told whether our answer is right or wrong DURING the exam because eh feel it makes us panic and shifts our focus. It is better to have the answers or our grade appear later and now while writing the exam. Because if we get something wrong it is discouraging and affects our performance during the exam.
This course is already quite organized and straightforward. Possibly making more solutions available to zybook homework because it is a bit tedious to ask on Piazza all the time.
Continue using Zoom instead of Proctortrack for exams
Other than the fact that announcements aren't posted to Owl as well as Piazza, this is by far the course that has best adapted to being online compared to the other second year software eng. courses.
I think this course is already at its best potential and is very enjoyable for me.
The only thing I would say is that I wish more solutions of the Zybooks practice problems were shown. It is hard to tell whether I am understanding things correctly at times and asking on Piazza or my friends can be time consuming. However, everything else is absolutely great!
Exam format can be improved – linear exam format with instant feedback can be anxiety inducing, and result in inefficiency or careless errors.
For the first midterm examination, the course was originally going to use ProctorTrack but the service crashed so we used Zoom Proctoring instead. My peers and I have some concerns regarding the safety of ProctorTrack, so I would prefer to see Zoom Proctoring used again in the future midterm rather than going back to ProctorTrack if it's back up.
Please give us more practise questions with solutions before the exam
Course is great and I don't really have any comments. Only thing is I wish there was a solutions for the h.w problems as for those who actually do the h.w, it helps to check our answer to make sure that we are doing it right instead of having the false assumption that we did it the correct way b/c we couldn't check our answers. If you can enable the solutions for all the problems, I'm sure it would greatly benefit all students. I know you mentioned that then students would just look at the answers but those who do that are doomed to fail anyway, but most people will do the h.w and want to check their answer to make sure they did it correct. That's the only part where I believe it could be improved.
I would prefer to have all of the answers available in the textbook, if further clarification is needed piazza can still be used.
Perhaps not being able to see it we got the answer correct or wrong during the test as that could be a bit stressful.