



Peer Evaluation of Teaching, Spring Semester 2021

Evaluator: Masoud Milani

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Masoud Milani", is written over a horizontal line.

I did not have the opportunity to observe Dr. Janki Bhimani in the classroom because this semester she is only teaching fully online courses with no face-to-face components. She provided me with access to four of lecture videos for her data structures course – one video covered sorting techniques and three videos together made up a module on recursion and backtracking. The following is my review of those lecture videos and summary of an online student survey that was conducted by the school administration.

The lecture on sorting techniques first described selection sort, bubble sort and insertion sort using UNO Cards and then developed step by step algorithm and pseudo code for each method.

The recursion and backtracking module included a short introductory video describing the module's objectives and students' to-do list their reading assignment, a lecture video on recursion that described recursive solutions for factorial and binary search problems and a lecture video on backtracking that developed solution for n-queens problem.

All lectures contained a good mix of examples, algorithms and pseudo codes, as well as discussions of time and space complexities. They were clear, easy to understand and well-organized in terms of presentation, time-management, and the use of the online whiteboard.

12 students participated in the online student survey. In the survey, 5 (41.67%) students ranked Professor Bhimani as an exceptional teacher, 4 (33.33%) students ranked her as an excellent teacher and 3 (25%) students ranked her as a good teacher (on a scale of: Exceptional, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor). 2 students ranked her in the top 1%, 6 students ranked her in the top 5%, 1 student ranked her in the top 10%, 2 students ranked her in the top 20% and 1 student ranked her in the top 50% of all professors they have had at FIU. Student written comments were overwhelmingly positive and included statements such as: "extremely knowledgeable," "excellent at explaining the theory behind the algorithm in a way students will remember," "the professor clearly understands the material she is teaching," "she wants you to learn and understand the concepts" and "great explanation of concepts." Students generally did not list any deficiencies. 3 students wanted a more detailed introduction to C++ programming language and one student requested additional TA support.

In summary, my observations, as well as students' opinions, confirm that Dr. Bhimani is an outstanding teacher who has clearly mastered the art of teaching.