



Ghena, Branden (COMPSCI 61C LEC 001 MACHINE STRUCTURES) - Summer 2019

Project Title: **[ENGINEERING]** Summer 2019 Evaluations

Courses Audience: **193**
Responses Received: **90**
Response Ratio: **46.63%**

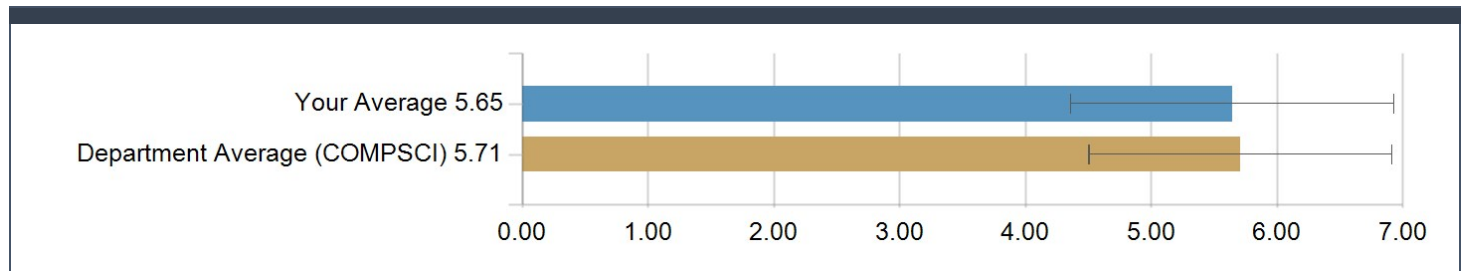
Creation Date: **Monday, August 26, 2019**



Course Ratings

Focusing now on the course content, how worthwhile was this course in comparison to others you have taken in this department?

StandardDev

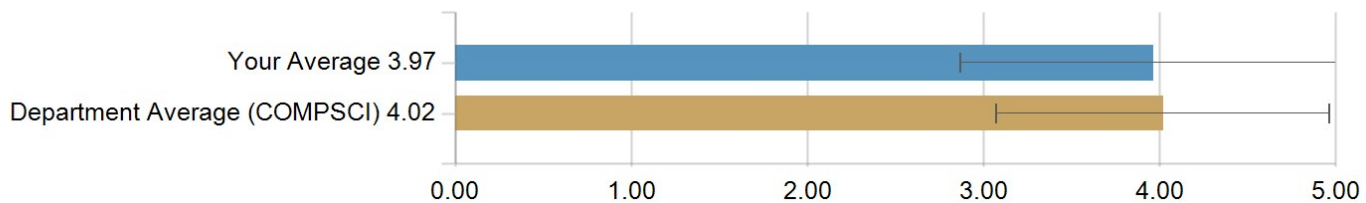


Focusing now on the course content, how worthwhile was this course in comparison to others you have taken in this department?

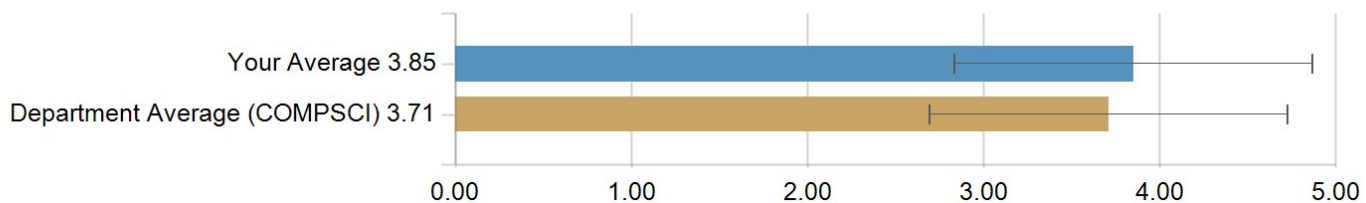
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Least Worthwhile	0	0.00%
2	3	3.53%
3	5	5.88%
4	6	7.06%
5	12	14.12%
6	38	44.71%
7-Most Worthwhile	21	24.71%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		5.65
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.29

Course Details

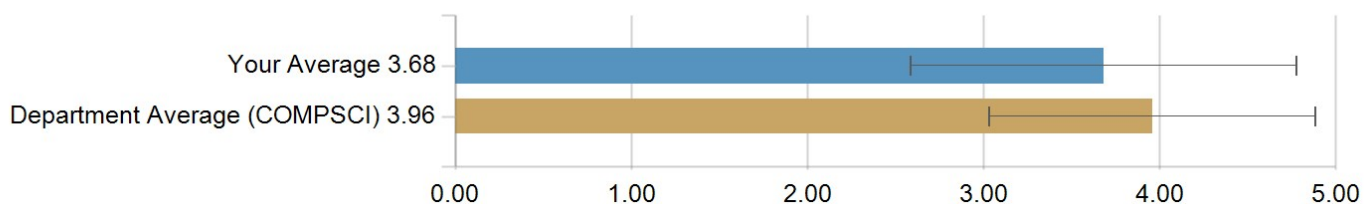
1. Required course material is sufficiently covered in lecture



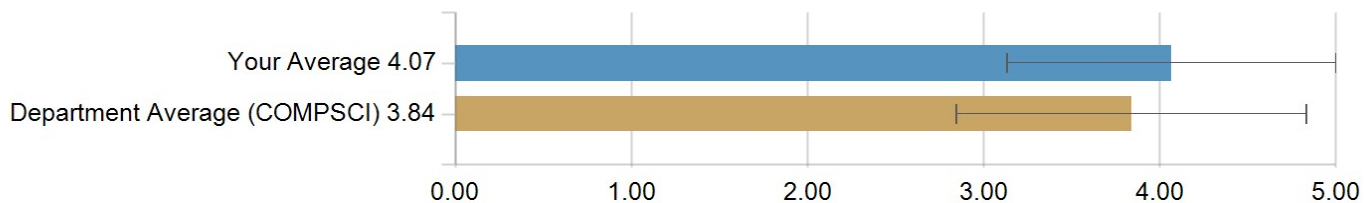
2. Pace of the course is too fast



3. The required text/notes are beneficial



4. Workload is heavier than for courses of comparable credit



1. Required course material is sufficiently covered in lecture		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	1	1.14%
Disagree	12	13.64%
Neutral	12	13.64%
Agree	27	30.68%
5-Strongly Agree	36	40.91%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		88
Mean		3.97
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		1.10

2. Pace of the course is too fast		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	1	1.14%
Disagree	9	10.23%
Neutral	20	22.73%
Agree	30	34.09%
5-Strongly Agree	28	31.82%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		88
Mean		3.85
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		1.02

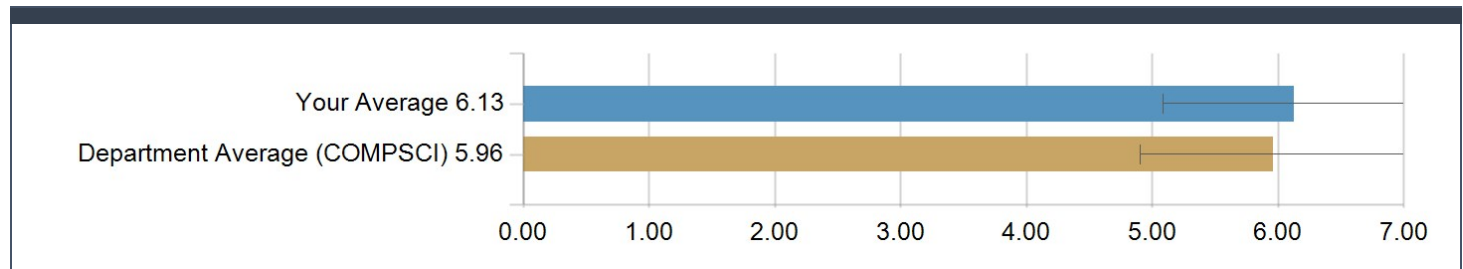
3. The required text/notes are beneficial		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	4	5.06%
Disagree	8	10.13%
Neutral	16	20.25%
Agree	32	40.51%
5-Strongly Agree	19	24.05%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		79
Mean		3.68
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		1.10

4. Workload is heavier than for courses of comparable credit		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	1	1.15%
Disagree	4	4.60%
Neutral	17	19.54%
Agree	31	35.63%
5-Strongly Agree	34	39.08%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		87
Mean		4.07
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		0.94

Instructor Ratings

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and course, how would you rate the overall teaching effectiveness of this instructor?

StandardDev

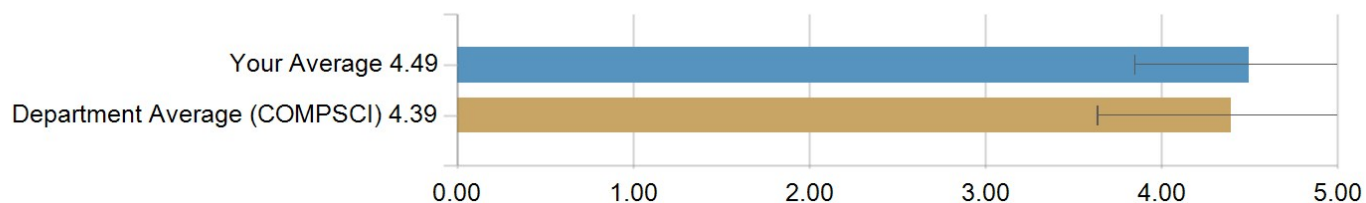


Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and course, how would you rate the overall teaching effectiveness of this instructor?

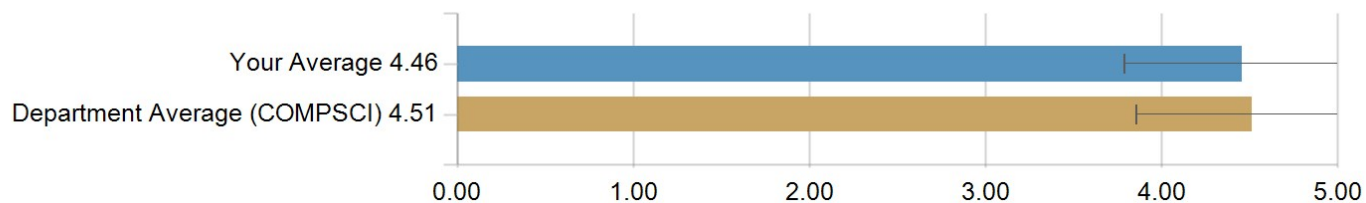
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Least Effective	0	0.00%
2	1	1.25%
3	2	2.50%
4	3	3.75%
5	7	8.75%
6	34	42.50%
7-Most Effective	33	41.25%

Classroom Presentation

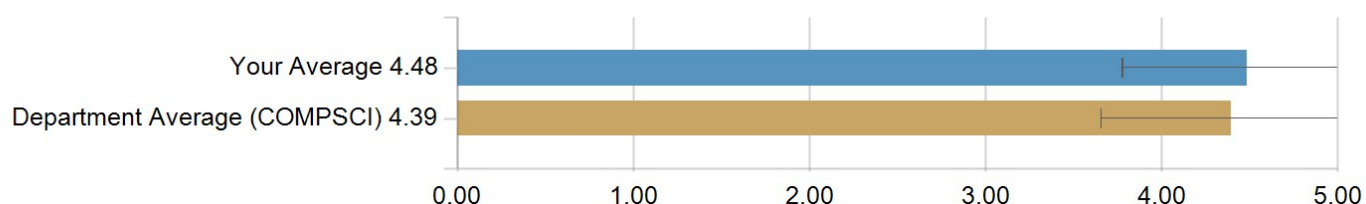
1. Gives lectures that are well organized



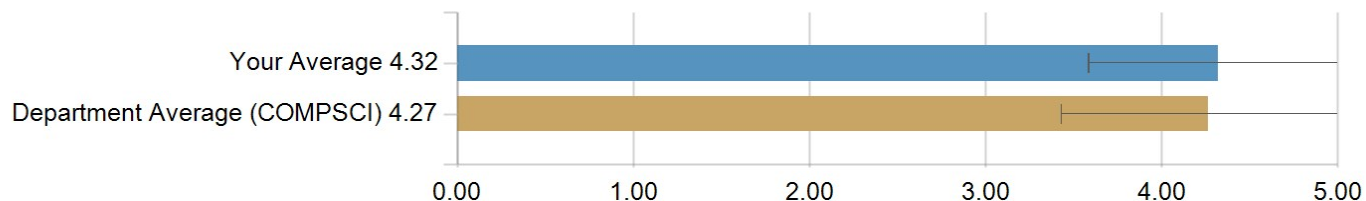
2. Is enthusiastic about the subject matter



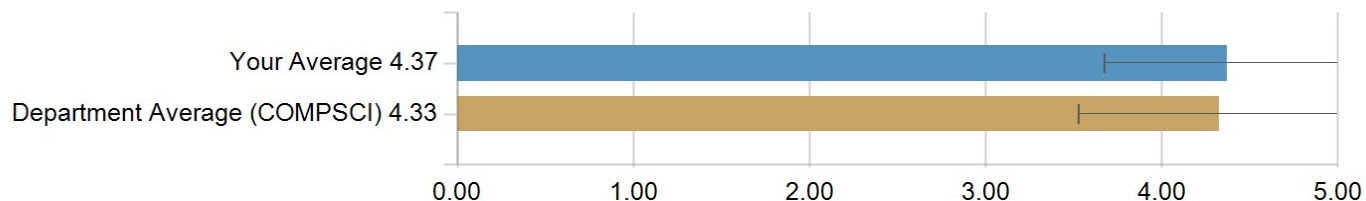
3. Identifies what he/she considers important



4. Has an interesting style of presentation



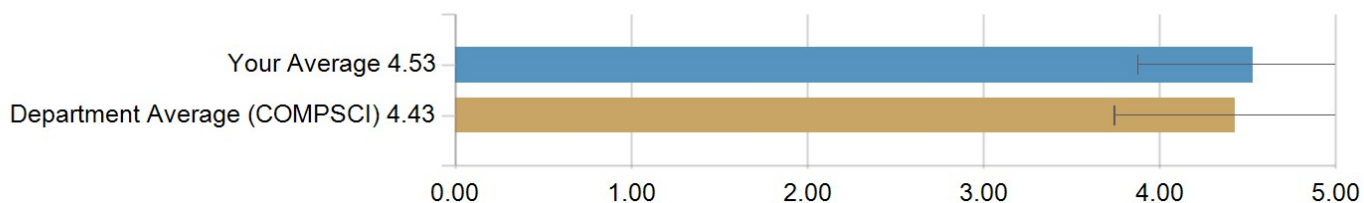
5. Uses visual aids and blackboards effectively



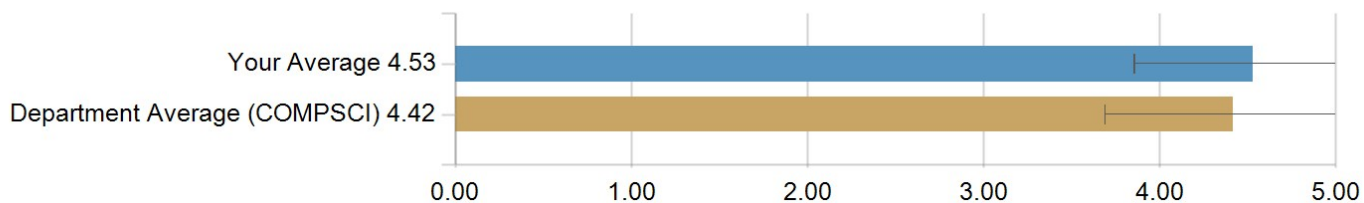
1. Gives lectures that are well organized			2. Is enthusiastic about the subject matter		
Options	Count	Percentage	Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%	1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	1	1.23%	Disagree	1	1.23%
Neutral	4	4.94%	Neutral	5	6.17%
Agree	30	37.04%	Agree	31	38.27%
5-Strongly Agree	46	56.79%	5-Strongly Agree	44	54.32%
Statistics		Value	Statistics		Value
Response Count		81	Response Count		81
Mean		4.49	Mean		4.46
Median		5.00	Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.65	Standard Deviation		0.67
3. Identifies what he/she considers important			4. Has an interesting style of presentation		
Options	Count	Percentage	Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%	1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	2.47%	Disagree	1	1.23%
Neutral	4	4.94%	Neutral	10	12.35%
Agree	28	34.57%	Agree	32	39.51%
5-Strongly Agree	47	58.02%	5-Strongly Agree	38	46.91%
Statistics		Value	Statistics		Value
Response Count		81	Response Count		81
Mean		4.48	Mean		4.32
Median		5.00	Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		0.71	Standard Deviation		0.74
5. Uses visual aids and blackboards effectively					
Options	Count	Percentage			
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%			
Disagree	1	1.23%			
Neutral	7	8.64%			
Agree	34	41.98%			
5-Strongly Agree	39	48.15%			
Statistics		Value			
Response Count		81			
Mean		4.37			
Median		4.00			
Standard Deviation		0.70			

Interaction With Students

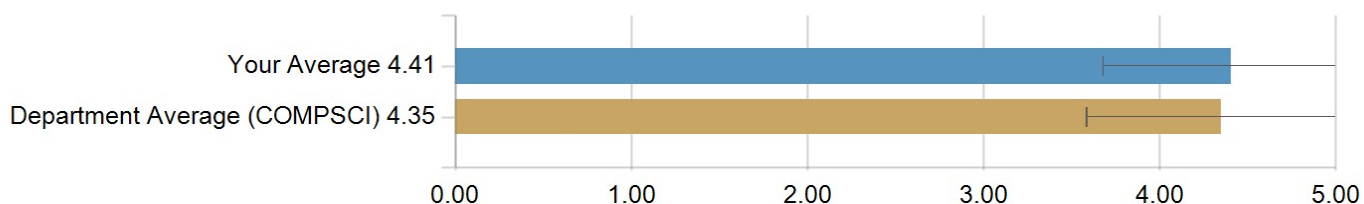
1. Encourages questions from students



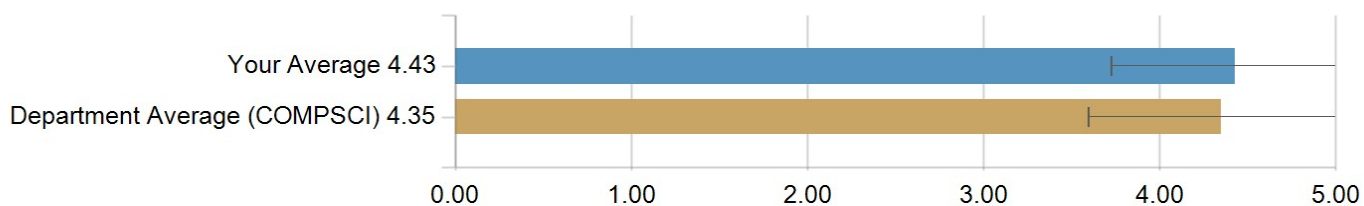
2. Is careful and precise in answering questions



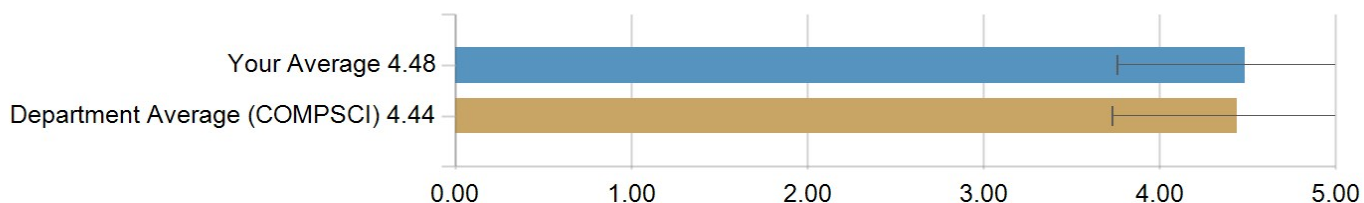
3. Relates to students as individuals



4. Is accessible to students outside of class

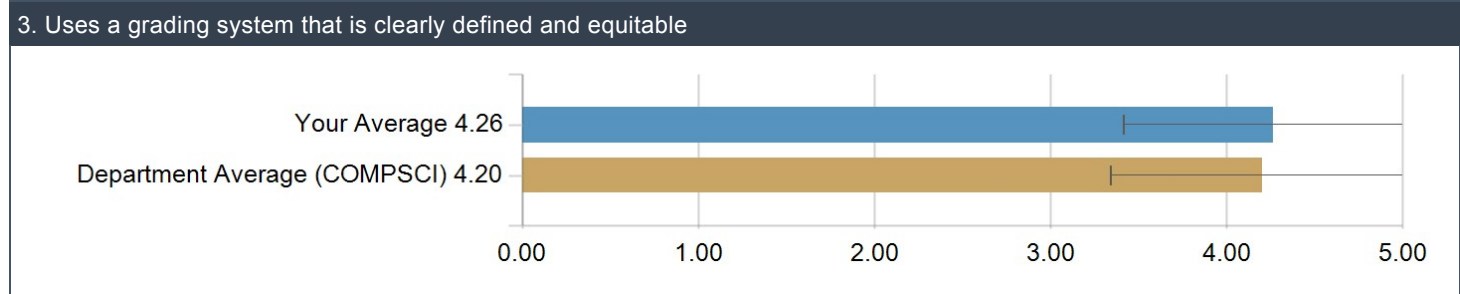
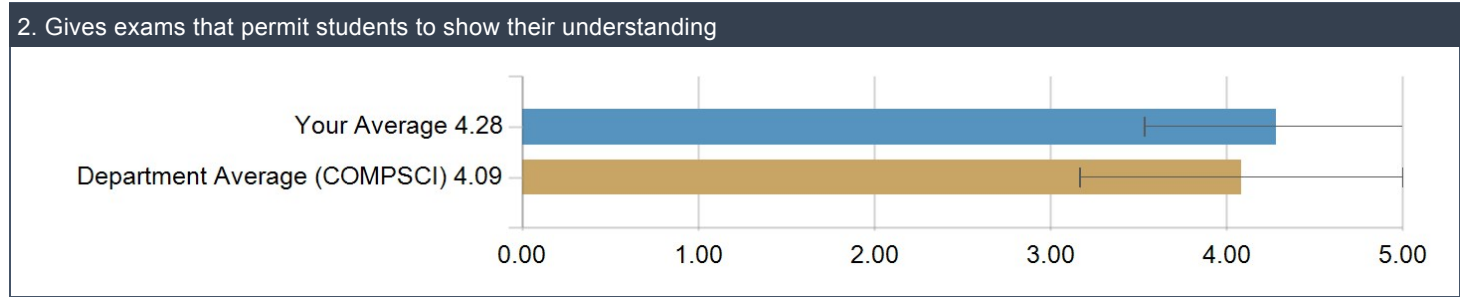
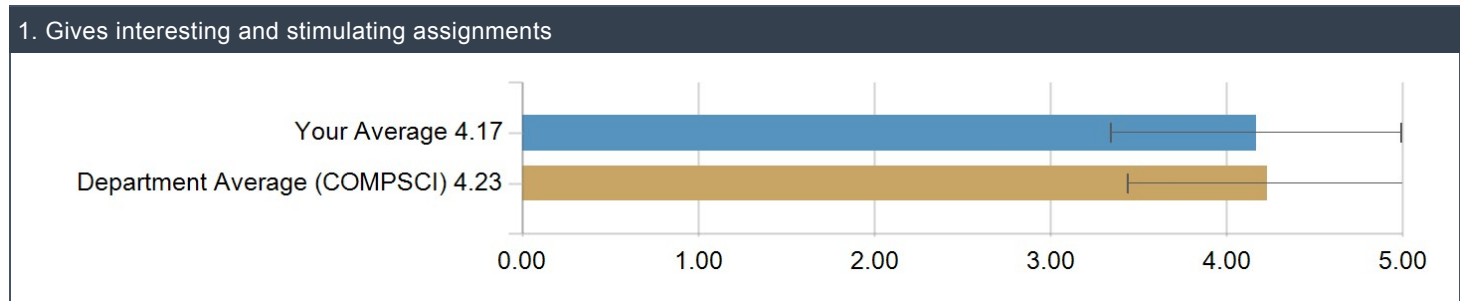


5. Is friendly and helpful to students during office hours



1. Encourages questions from students			2. Is careful and precise in answering questions		
Options	Count	Percentage	Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%	1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	1	1.27%	Disagree	1	1.27%
Neutral	4	5.06%	Neutral	5	6.33%
Agree	26	32.91%	Agree	24	30.38%
5-Strongly Agree	48	60.76%	5-Strongly Agree	49	62.03%
Statistics		Value	Statistics		Value
Response Count		79	Response Count		79
Mean		4.53	Mean		4.53
Median		5.00	Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.66	Standard Deviation		0.68
3. Relates to students as individuals			4. Is accessible to students outside of class		
Options	Count	Percentage	Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%	1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	2.53%	Disagree	0	0.00%
Neutral	5	6.33%	Neutral	9	12.50%
Agree	31	39.24%	Agree	23	31.94%
5-Strongly Agree	41	51.90%	5-Strongly Agree	40	55.56%
Statistics		Value	Statistics		Value
Response Count		79	Response Count		72
Mean		4.41	Mean		4.43
Median		5.00	Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.73	Standard Deviation		0.71
5. Is friendly and helpful to students during office hours					
Options	Count	Percentage			
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%			
Disagree	1	1.52%			
Neutral	6	9.09%			
Agree	19	28.79%			
5-Strongly Agree	40	60.61%			
Statistics		Value			
Response Count		66			
Mean		4.48			
Median		5.00			
Standard Deviation		0.73			

Assignments and Exams



1. Gives interesting and stimulating assignments		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	1	1.28%
Disagree	1	1.28%
Neutral	12	15.38%
Agree	34	43.59%
5-Strongly Agree	30	38.46%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		78
Mean		4.17
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		0.83

3. Uses a grading system that is clearly defined and equitable		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	2	2.63%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Neutral	8	10.53%
Agree	32	42.11%
5-Strongly Agree	34	44.74%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		76
Mean		4.26
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		0.85

2. Gives exams that permit students to show their understanding		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	1	1.28%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Neutral	8	10.26%
Agree	36	46.15%
5-Strongly Agree	33	42.31%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		78
Mean		4.28
Median		4.00
Standard Deviation		0.75

Open Ended Questions

Course

Please provide comments or suggestions about the organization of the course and the text/notes

Comments
Ridiculous amount of work and a lot of lecture topics don't have associated notes anywhere
I mean it's just ridiculous. This should be an 8 unit class compared to most other 4 unit classes.
At least for summer, the course goes extremely fast and doesn't cover everything well enough to do homeworks and projects without self teaching
"4 Units" but feels like 2 classes. (not just because it is summer session, but in general.)
This class is amazing.
The lecture notes are just ok for this class. They are sometimes very hard to understand because they aren't meant for reading. I wish there was a reader or notes for this class like in cs70 or cs188
The class is very daunting for a summer course. I'd appreciate if the lectures were longer as often the last 15 mins all instructors blew through around 30+ slides every time and it makes is very difficult to comprehend the information.
I think it would be better if instructor could provide some illustration or graph on difficult concept.
i wish we had more time to do assignments. I really like the homework. I find it clears up a lot of general questions
It being summer, I expected the crazy workload, but not to this extent, If I had taken any other classes alongside, I would not have been able to keep up
Overall great but the second half of the semester feels a little heavy and easy to get lost
This class covers a very wide range in computer science, and it's a pity that interruption is not required.
The suggested textbook is not used in the class so the reading listed on the website seems misleading. I started out the course reading the C book and the number representation section from P&H, but the reading took a very long time. I didn't read the textbook after the first week and did better in the class by focusing more on the slides, hws, labs, and projects instead of using time and energy doing the readings. I think the lecture contained most of the information that we could have learned from the reading that would be tested in assignments and projects. I would have liked for the lecture to spend even more time emphasizing some concepts that were only briefly covered. I often went back through lecture slides when doing assignments. I think I could have done this less often if certain concepts were emphasized more during lecture. I believe this could replace answering questions from the same small group of students that asked questions every lecture and be more useful to a greater number of students in lecture as a result.
Lectures were helpful but sometimes organized in such a way that made important information difficult to find.
n/a

Please provide additional comments or suggestions about the course

Comments
Seems like somewhat important content
Good introduction to computer architectures.
This class doesn't suit my interests in computer science.
However, there is A LOT of learning that goes on in the class. The topics are worthwhile for people interested in topics ranging from hardware to application to theory. (however, less useful as you go across that range.)
It's amazing.
I personally really enjoy this course but experiences severe burnout at the how fast pace it is from summer
The course is great overall.
there are some lectures that I think we could do without like the one on warehouse computing. or perhaps soemthing to make it more interesting.
Nah pretty useful materials
Most interesting class ive ever had.
terribly organized and run, but good material
...
This course was very interesting and well taught. The Instructors were great and very approachable and the TAs and Tutors were knowledgeable and helpful.
Some labs need to be heavily reworked, especially lab0 and the earlier labs before datapath.
The content is worthwhile but the course as a whole is tedious.
n/a

Instructor

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor in classroom presentation and provide suggestions, if any, for improvement.

Comments
Best CC61C lecturer! Go Branden! ps. Congrats for your satellite!
Does read off slides, but occasionally walks through parts of the slides more so than just reading the slides.
Same comment to the other instructors, I'd prefer that the pace of the lectures were more organized. Sometime I feel the most important parts of the lecture were towards the end but you only allocated 15 minutes for 30 slides which make it confusing otherwise great work!
The strengths of the instructor is clear speak about the lecture. No weakness.
My favorite lecturer by far! Clear he has a lot of knowledge but does a great job of connecting those important dots! Clear. Concise. and good depth of subject, unlike the other lecturers.
Ignores student's effort in lecture.
Branden is a great lecturer and instructor. He talks and advice in a way that is not demeaning but encouraging and motivational.
great
great!
.
Branden is definitely enthusiastic about what he taught. I learned a lot from Branden in lecture, and would have liked him to spend more time lecturing and less time taking questions.
Clear explanations. Good pacing. I like how Branden brings in topics from his research.
Generally helpful, especially on Piazza.
n/a

What is your opinion of the instructor's effectiveness in interacting with students? Any suggestions for improvement?

Comments
For how smart this instructor is, he is also a very funny and engaging lecturer and makes the material more entertaining to sit through
I love how methodically Branden answers questions!
Pretty busy (hence not very accessible), but that is expected for professors for this course.
I passed by and saw you talking to another student. I thought that was really caring in telling her what to do and how to go forward. Appreciate the care you have with us!
Instructor's effectiveness in interacting with students is great.
great
Branden was like a mixture of Morgan and Nick, which made him a very caring and efficient instructor. Branden's willingness to take questions was very helpful during office hours. I wish he took less questions in lecture so I could have learned even more from his lectures.
Generally articulate on Piazza.
n/a

Please give your opinions on the nature and quality of the exams and assignments/projects

Comments
Exams are better than most CS classes in that they actually relate to coursework instead of being an addition to it. Assignments are tedious and almost trial and error, given the gap between what we were taught/understand, and what the assignments are expecting of us, but after figuring out what we have to do, it sometimes felt like we had to do an annoying amount of it as in the Logisim project
Appreciate all the work you put in especially proj4 and piazza! You answered a lot of my questions clearly and made labs and assignment relatively smooth sailing
The quality of the exams and assignments/projects are great.
It being summer, I expected the crazy workload, but not to this extent, If I had taken any other classes alongside, I would not have been able to keep up
great
I thought the assignments were great, but I think completing all the assignments was a lot harder without cheating. Several students got stuck on questions and asked other students until they were told the exact answer. I remember being stuck on some of the multipart select all that apply questions for a long time. To get help the legitimate way, I had to spend a lot of time going across campus to the office hours, during the limited hours they were held, and wait in the queue for a while for a TA to help me. Sometimes the TA would try to explain for a while, and if I was still stuck, lead me directly to the answer. This whole process took much more time and energy than just asking a friend for the answer. Sometimes I was waiting in the queue listening to other students telling each other the answers. I didn't want to cheat because I felt like it would hurt my ability to do well on the test, but some of the most time consuming problems were the least relevant to the material that was covered on tests. The forth project was also probably the least useful assignment because some students basically told each other the answers of the few changes needed to make the code run fast enough for full credit. I spent a lot more time trying to do the project, and didn't feel like I learned more than I would have if the project was instead a lab assignment whose answer was to replace functions with struct accesses and write a omp parallel for in a function.
The exams were fair enough, but could be organized a bit better so that there is less page flipping. Homework assignments were kind of irritating since large blocks of questions are checked at once so it's difficult to figure out where the error is. Projects were okay, but the specs could be worded better at some parts.
n/a

Please provide additional comments or suggestions about the instructor

Comments
You should become a professor someday!
Branden's also a really great professor, would recommend.
Nope.
keep dooin you id take ur class
great
.
Generally helpful instructor.
n/a

INSTRUCTOR PROVIDED QUESTIONS:

If any open-ended questions appear in this section, they were created by you. If blank, you did not add any custom items to your evaluation. These are viewable only by you and not accessible by other report viewers in your department.

What could the instructor change to most improve their teaching?

Comments
Morgan, work on your presentation speed and uptalking.
I think that Nick needs to be either more engaging or deviate more from reading slides
I think it's to give more examples and more explanations to examples. Some of content has really great examples — a presentation of code, and arrows pointing to each line of code explaining what it does, and maybe more interactive notations.
N I C K
I think instructors could become better if they could have more patience and time on the students with different background. Also, the difficulty gratitude of assignments is a little bit chaos. I clearly understand that instructors would like to make student fully understand the content. However, students could not fully comprehend whole content about the lecture before they start the assignment. That's the reason why we need assignment to help student to grasp better. However, I think instructors omit a truth that questions of the assignment should not become too flexible at the beginning of the assignment. This may definitely works if student spend tons of time to do research first, but really time-consuming. Also, I feel like content of discussion session, lab session, guerrilla session, tutor session, homework and project are not collaborate well. First of all, there is not difficulty gratitude, which I mention before. Secondly, some of the content is repeated, which is fine for student to practice repeatedly. However, some contents may have gap with each other. To some extent, I don't think the gap for students who are trying to first dig into the knowledge is a good idea, especially for time-limited summer session.
Pace
I do nont know, actually.
I think your level of caring and willingness to help is already very high. I believe your teaching will be more beneficial to more students if you maintain this level in one-on-one teaching moments like office hours or answering questions outside of lecture and decrease this level during lecture so that you can more efficiently cover material.
The instructors are fine for the most part.
N/A

Are there any topics you wish the course would have covered in more depth?

Comments
A slower and detailed introduction to caches.
RISC-V and Caches needed to be covered more in depth before the exams. Both topics didn't have enough time spent on them before the time of the exam
Please no. The pace is hellish enough. However, if it's just about re-allocation of time, I'd like more time on performance.
I kind of wish we had more assignments in Logisim, and maybe got to build something that wasn't mostly handed to us beforehand (like the CPU was in lecture). I think that really helped me to begin thinking about how one would go about this design process, but I actually want to design something fully on my own now.
Nope
I don't see point/connection of teaching Spark in this course since this course suppose to be a computer architecture class. Maybe take more time spend on cache and pipelining.
Everything at the end of the course (particularly the last week; VIM, cache coherence, dependability, and I/O) we literally just skimmed through those but somehow we are expected to FULLY understand it in 1 week before final.. Seems unfair to me
How the programs runs, maybe. Namely, interruptions.
There were topics in every lecturer's slides that I thought weren't emphasized enough and showed up several times in later assignments. I think if you get a lot of office hour, piazza, or personal questions on the same subject, it might have been hard to understand in lecture. I think you could use this feedback to change your lecture slides and cover certain material more and other material less. Also, I think taking less questions in lecture would allow you to cover the hard material in more depth and help a greater number of people than the few people who always ask questions in lecture.
I think the course already covers enough with its breadth of topics.
Virtual Memory

