DATA 11800 1, STAT 11800 1 - Introduction to Data Science I - Instructor(s) - Evelyn Campbell

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **75**
Number of Responses: **29**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
The class focuses heavily on python coding, specifically on data analysis and visualization. It glances over relevant statistics and hypothesis testing but not nearly enough focus on it.
Data Analysis
simulation techniques in python (using pandas and numpy)
Data analysis, python skillset
Basic Python skills, navigating statistics concepts through Python.
Python. Data visualization.
Python basics
Lots of numpy, dataframe stuff. Closer to the end you get into probability and distributions though
how to visualize and manipulate data using python
Learned the basics of data science concepts through both coding and statistical analysis of data.
The worst professor you could ever have. Very incompetent
Python, Statistics.
Introduction to python data types, operations, data structures. Numpy functions, Pandas and Dataframes, functions, iteration, conditionals. Data collection, probability, probability distributions, random variables. Random choice, sampling, simulation, large sample behavior, Inference, point estimates, empirical distributions, center and spread, expectation. Bootstrap and Confidence Interval, Hypothesis testing. A/B testing. Two sample inferences.
Basic numpy and pandas functions/methods, data visualization, and probability
how to use juypter notebook and code with python, how to make graphs and tables and use them to tell a story, more complex function in python, and some stat theroems
data science
Python; Python functions; DataFrames; Methods; Hypothesis Testing; Permutation Tests; Binomial Distributions
Python, Jupyter notebook
I learned about the basics of python, especially arrays, for loops, and plotting graphs. I also learned a bit of basic statistics.
Foundations of Python Basic Statistical Methods (null/alt hypotheses, t–tests, sampling, etc.)
Basic stats: I came in with a knowledge of Python, so the stats work was the only new thing to me.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Lectures were the most useless waste of time I have experienced in any scholastic setting. The teacher would read word for word off of slides adding zero additional information. Further, when asked questions, she often would have no idea how to answer them. The labs were easy and very helpful for solidifying my knowledge. The homework was more difficult and quite a bit longer but also helpful for solidifying knowledge.
Labs and assignments
The textbook was the best and most useful resource this course offered.
Homework really contributed to my learning because it was most in depth compared to other assignments.
The labs are very helpful in terms of applying what we learn in lecture to new material. Lectures are helpful depending on the subject.
I wish it was more engaging/interactive than simply going through notebooks in class. Wouldn't look forward to lectures
Lectures were semi helpful, I didn't look in the textbook much.
Lectures were slideshows, im glad they were posted since its good for studying, but honestly there's no extra reason to go to class if they just read of the slideshow
homework and lecture
Lectures were pretty useful, and labs and homework assignments helped me understand the material the most.
The lectures were useless to be honest you can self study the entire course. The prof. doesn't answer questions as much as you might think, she would just tell you to google it as she is not required to know every code or function. And the labs and slides are pretty self explanatory and you can always google or chatGPT your way through difficult stuff to explain it to you.
Lectures were useful for understanding the content. We would just go over slides or python notebooks.
going to class is not necessary because all lectures can be done at home and can walk through them yourself
lectures were run by professor cambell and were genuinly terrible.
Lectures introduced coding topics, allowed me to engage with various ideas; and were great references when working on labs or homework assignments.
The lectures were zero help whatsoever. Labs and assignments were helpful when discussed with TAs.
The lectures (which were the only aspect of class) were extremely unhelpful, as the teacher made no attempt to add anything beyond what was printed on the lecture page every day. Going to classes did not seem productive/a good use of my time. The assignments were marginally helpful to attempt to apply what we learned.
The labs taught us new methods to use in our homework and the lectures added clarification for what types of situations we will want to use the methods from the labs in. Overall, every aspect of the class leans on each other.
Lectures were not particularly helpful, although the lecture notes were a great resource.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.36	4.00	12.00%	8.00%	24.00%	44.00%	12.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.64	4.00	8.00%	12.00%	12.00%	44.00%	24.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.24	4.00	12.00%	16.00%	20.00%	40.00%	12.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	2.56	2.00	40.00%	12.00%	12.00%	24.00%	12.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	2.80	3.00	20.00%	24.00%	20.00%	28.00%	8.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.08	3.00	20.00%	12.00%	24.00%	28.00%	16.00%
I felt respected in this class.	3.35	3.00	7.69%	15.38%	34.62%	19.23%	23.08%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.00	3.00	16.00%	16.00%	36.00%	16.00%	16.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I recommend working through the lectures on your own time at your own pace at a more convenient time. Class was genuinely awful, there is a reason the attendance after the first few classes dropped to less than half.
The pacing was very quick and I think someone without prior experience with python would have a very difficult time succeeding in this course. However, my issue wasn't the content itself but more the way in which it was taught. I believe the professor had some shortcomings, so while the core material of the class is valuable, the quality of this class is extremely dependent on the instructor.
Mostly self–learning.
We used Ed discussion for questions. Sometimes we wouldn't get timely responses until many days after.
Campbell is not a great lecturer as she mostly just reads the notes
prof had confusing grading standards and often get points off very small errors that often didn't change code at all. Also final weeks and what's on final is more heavily pure statistics than it is coding
the professor didnt know what she was doing and was unfairly harsh and incompetent at every turn.
Professor Evelyn Campbell makes the course difficult to look forward to with her lack of enthusiasm and seeming unwillingness to be there.
N/A
Professor doesnt know anything, only reason I had success in this class was because I'm a computer science major so none of the content was new to me. Professor actually lessened people's learning and was truly awful. Was an unreasonable grader and due to her background often couldn't answer relatively straightforward questions.
The grading is rather harsh on syntax (if you misspell a print statement, even if the code is right you'll get points off), but overall the assignments are fine to understand and you get a lot of time to work on it.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	20.83%	79.17%
Anyone interested in the topic	20.83%	79.17%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Almost nothing she did was helpful. The TA's were far more suited to answer questions despite the teacher having a PhD. I think she just did not want to be there which had drastic negative effects on students as it was quite obvious she had better things to do. I attended her office hours and every question I asked was responded to with "Im not sure", "I dont know", or "I would have to check". She is nice, however, just not helpful.
Granting us access to the lecture jupyter notebooks on Canvas. The final Q&A session was also helpful.
Office hours
Professor Campbell is friendly and provides good help outside of class.
How she structured lecture slides
Can really think of anything that stood out about her honestly, just get a Google text to speech to read the slides to you
It didnt seem like she knew a whole lot about the subject she was teaching and read off the slides.
Lecture slides
Lectures helped with understanding the concepts.
Professor could never answer any questions and I would recommend taking it with someone else.
Nothing
Going over lecture slides/python notebooks.
not much, pretty easy to do course just by following the class lecture notebook on your own device, professor explains everything you need to know right there
hw was useful
The instructor's lectures were most helpful.
Nothing she is awful
The teacher in no way contributed to my or any of my friends' learning.
N/A

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
She would need to restructure the whole course. I was fine teaching myself everything and succeeded in the class I just was not sure what was expected of me.
There were a notable number of instances where technical questions were posed that the instructor had a difficult time answering cogently and correctly. I also think that a vast majority of lecture time was no more than a verbatim reading of the slides/notebooks and I would prefer a genuine and informed lecture. Many of her responses either required extra time in order for her to reference documentation or the slides or a reliance on platitudes to get at "the essence" of the question. Further, there was, in my opinion, a lack of instruction regarding exact coding techniques during lectures and found myself needing to excessively reference documentation or the course textbook in order to obtain exact coding techniques & syntax.
The instructor could have been clearer in what is expected of us during the projects. Some of us were very surprised by the low grades even though our understanding of the course was not bad.
Probably more enthusiasm when teaching.
Answer questions better? Sound relatively confident when answering questions. Not have to look at the slides whenever someone asks you something. Know a bit more technical knowledge on the subject you teach, its an intro course, shouldn't be too hard
Not just read off the slides.
More practice problems for some of the coding and especially the statistical concepts would have helped a lot.
Nothing
N/A
It would be nice if Campbell cared more about teaching the class: She is often late to office hour appointments and sounds impatient when answering students' questions. Moreover, the teaching staff was not very responsive on Ed discussion posts either. Additionally, many of the assignment instructions are very vague/confusing and the teaching staff often could not bother to clarify/explain. To make it worse, the grading staff usually does not spend too much time reading students' work carefully and will take points off for very trivial and meaningless reasons.
release homework and lab answers after they are submitted instead of just saying what we got wrong and not showing how to correct it
dont just read off the lectures
Prof. Evelyn Campbell simply reads off the slides with a slightly limited understanding of their content.
N/A
Become a different instructor, there is no saving her
Care a bit more about the content you're teaching, express more than the minimum amount of attention you could possibly give during office hours, provide more insight during lectures than simply reading off the pre–prepared jupyter notebook.
Professor Campbell was extremely disappointing as a data science teacher, to say the least. As mentioned previously, during the 50–minute lectures that would occur three times a week, she would simply read off of the lecture file word for word, and add no more commentary. In fact, it seemed as if she knew very little about data science in general. For the majority of questions that were asked to her, she simply tried to give a weaseled response which either came out as unthoughtful or simply outright wrong. In many cases, it left most of the students more confused. During her office hours, which she offered as supplemental support to the class (which was especially necessary for our midterm project), I was given very little feedback, and my direct questions were left completely unanswered. I made an extreme effort in this class, but I felt as if this effort was not reciprocated, which was extremely disappointing as a student interested in data science.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.48	3.00	4.35%	13.04%	34.78%	26.09%	21.74%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.09	3.00	21.74%	17.39%	17.39%	17.39%	26.09%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	2.70	2.00	25.00%	29.17%	8.33%	16.67%	16.67%	4.17%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.04	3.00	20.83%	16.67%	16.67%	29.17%	16.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.33	4.00	8.33%	20.83%	16.67%	37.50%	16.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	2.83	3.00	20.83%	25.00%	16.67%	25.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	2.70	2.00	16.67%	33.33%	20.83%	12.50%	12.50%	4.17%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.50	4.00	4.17%	16.67%	25.00%	33.33%	20.83%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.29	4.00	12.50%	20.83%	12.50%	33.33%	20.83%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	2.54	2.00	25.00%	29.17%	20.83%	16.67%	8.33%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Nico Posner. I only attended two TA office hours, but both were very helpful and instructive. Nico was effective and efficient in both answering questions and explaining concepts & code. He clearly knows what he's doing.
Nico and Abby
Nico Posner
Nico Posner
Nico, was very into the class and was very helpful with any questions in person or on EdDiscussion.
Nico Posner
Nico. he was very helpful.
Nico Posner. The TA office hours session that he hosted prior to the final was extremely helpful, and contributed to my studying for the final.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

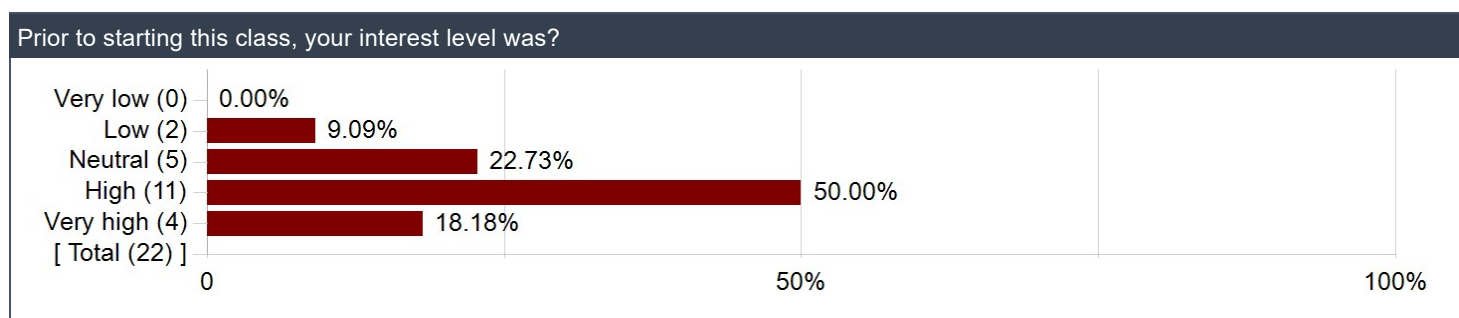|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.10	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	10.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.90	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	30.00%	30.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.10	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.30	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.90	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	40.00%	30.00%	0.00%

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Field Trips	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Library Sessions	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Writing Seminars	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
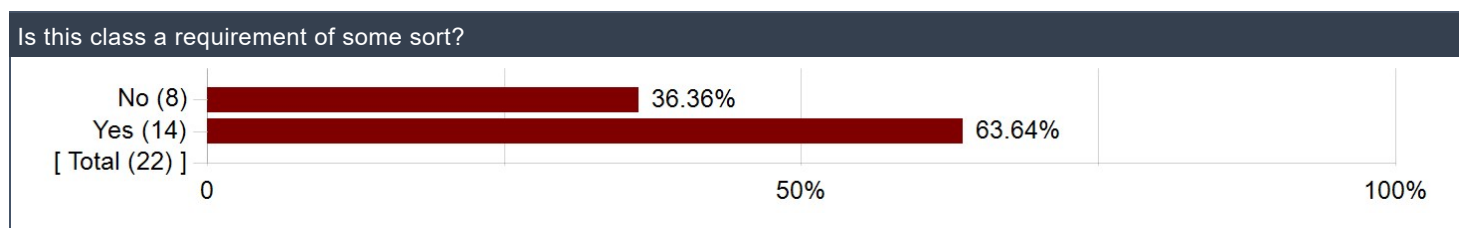
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

- No (8) — 36.36%
- Yes (14) — 63.64%
- [Total (22)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

- Very low (0) — 0.00%
- Low (2) — 9.09%
- Neutral (5) — 22.73%
- High (11) — 50.00%
- Very high (4) — 18.18%
- [Total (22)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (6) — 27.27%
- Satisfied (10) — 45.45%
- Heightened (6) — 27.27%
- [Total (22)]
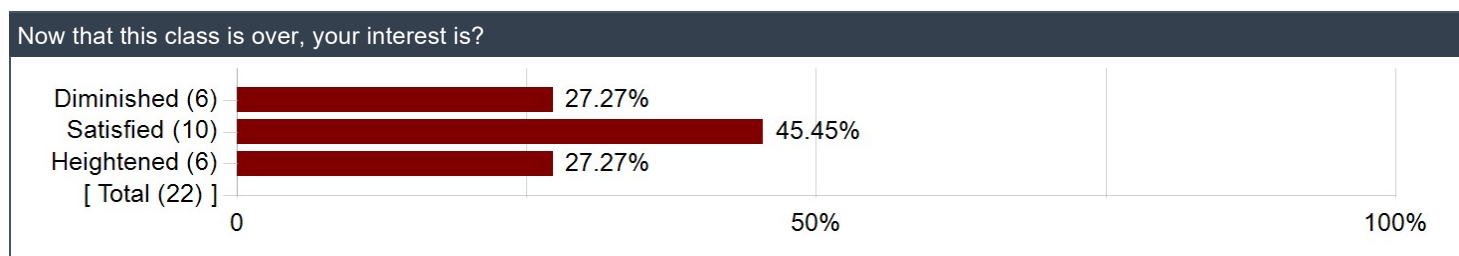
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
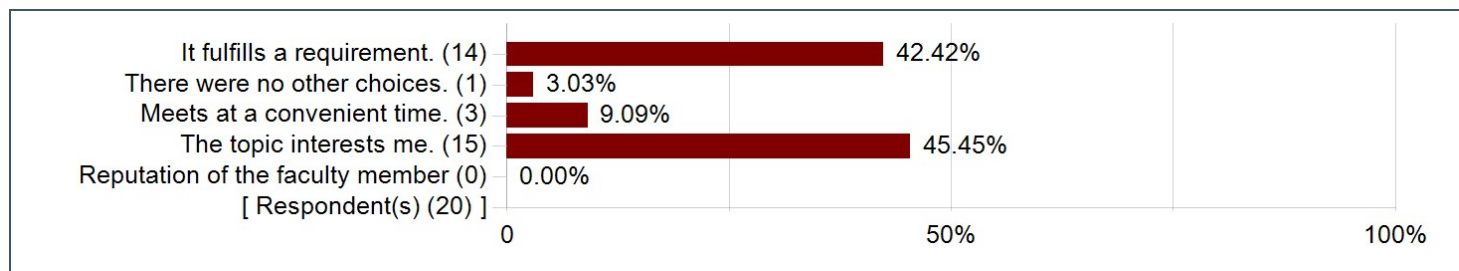
- It fulfills a requirement. (14) — 42.42%
- There were no other choices. (1) — 3.03%
- Meets at a convenient time. (3) — 9.09%
- The topic interests me. (15) — 45.45%
- Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
- [Respondent(s) (20)]

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

<5 hours (6) — 27.27%
5-10 hours (10) — 45.45%
10-15 hours (4) — 18.18%
15-20 hours (1) — 4.55%
20-25 hours (1) — 4.55%
25-30 hours (0) — 0.00%
>30 hours (0) — 0.00%
[Total (22)]

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (1) — 4.55%
25% (9) — 40.91%
50% (2) — 9.09%
75% (5) — 22.73%
All (5) — 22.73%
[Total (22)]
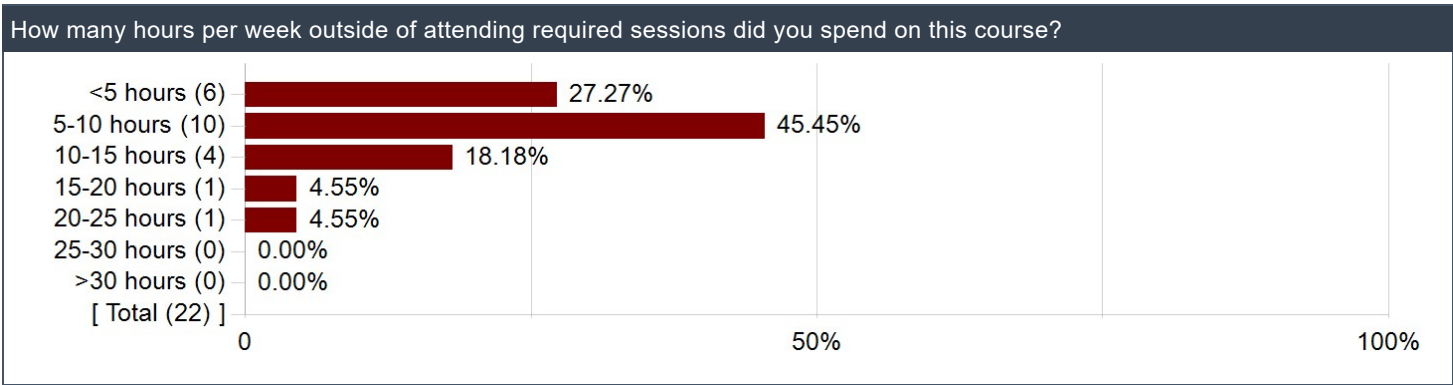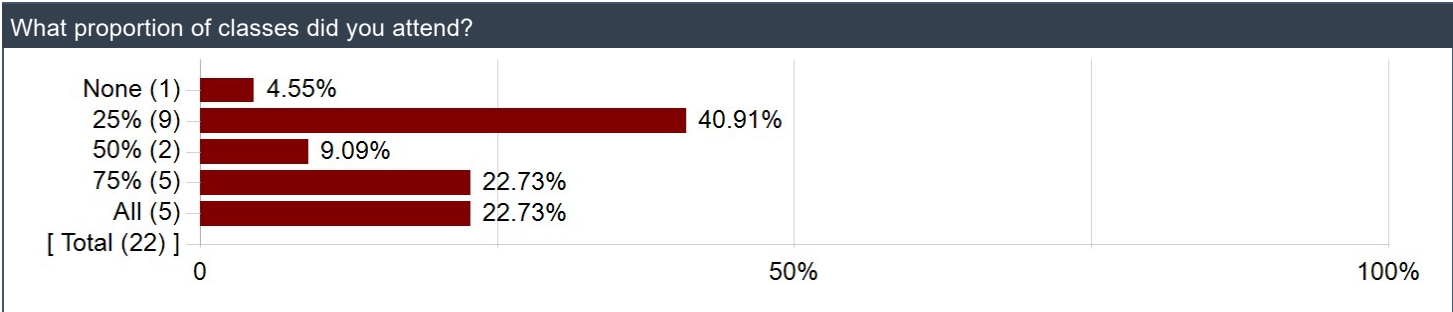
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
I had experience coding in java. The class is taught in python which I found to be an extremely easy transition. If I had zero coding experience it would be pretty difficult.
I was fortunate enough to have background experience with python from high school and Computer Science courses here at UChicago, as well as concurrent enrollment in a Stats course here which overlapped nicely with many of the statistical concepts covered in this class. However, I imagine that this course would be exceedingly difficult for someone without those advantages.
Coming into this class with zero previous Python experience, it was a lot to absorb at first. But over time you become accustomed to it all.
Grading is kind of random and I wish it were more generous (especially for the midterm), given that it's an introductory course. Overall, just gotta get through it
Campbell has def changed the course significantly since the last reviews. I knew nothing and I came out with a good understanding. I actually enjoyed the midterm and thought it was helpful in experiential learning
If your new to programming youll be fine, but I suggest a different professor, though this one isn't horrible, its just I'm sure there's better
Good introductory course if you are looking to explore the field.
The course is not hard at all, but you have to study really well because the final is harder than you think.
Haven taken CS intro sequence and basic stats, this was a relatively okay class, more about learning new methods/busy work rather than actual difficult content.
As a third–year stats and econ major the class content is easy but the teaching staff made it more frustrating than it needs to be.
never coded before but was easy to pick up on, everything builds off the foundational stuff you learn first couple of weeks but does get complicated at end
easy but made difficult by a terrible instructor
Not difficult; introduction class
The course content itself was not incredibly difficult but the lack of clarity on grading and the very vague rubrics made the course challenging and confusing.
Professor Evelyn Campbell did not want to be teaching Data 118, and she made that extremely clear during lectures and office hours. Our lectures with Evelyn included 50 minutes of her reading off a pre–prepaired notebook of code which she would essentially recite without including any additional insight into any aspect of the content. I am not disputing that Evelyn knows how to code using python, as I am sure she has much experience using it for her PhD, but she has absolutely zero interest in teaching Data Science to undergrads. She is the least enthusiastic and least helpful teacher I have had the displeasure of taking a class under in my time as an undergrad at UChicago. Even the students who were highly interested in the topic of Data Science came out of Evelyn's class dissatisfied with the course. If you are genuinely interested in Data Science and would like to pursue it as a major, minor, or even just take 118 to get some experience in python, DO NOT TAKE EVELYN CAMPBELL. I knew 10+ people in this data 118 section, and not ONE of them had a single good thing to say about this teacher.
It was quite difficult, and this was compounded by the fact that the teacher didn't help with my learning experience.
Very easy with basic python background (watch one of those one hour youtube videos and you'll be up to speed). Midterm was a project, and class attendance was optional (all labs and lectures posted online)
Solid background in python, I found the class very easy