CMSC 14100 1 - Introduction to Computer Science I - Instructor(s): Anne Rogers, Jesus Almaraz-Argueta

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **66**
Number of Responses: **31**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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

Comments
Basic python; variables, loops, recursion, trees, classes, data types, etc
Basic programming fundamentals, best practices, and functions.
I learned many basic skills necessary to a beginner programmer. How navigate through files, arithmetic operations, function construction, working with various data structures and files.
Basics of Python, including data types, functions, recursion
Basic function comprehension and construction, surface–level use of Linux and Git, how to think more "programatically" when tackling CS problems
coding
Fundamentals for computer science. Learned about classes, loops, conditionals, functions, methods, recursion, and basic files in Python.
I think the most important things I learned would be recursion and classes. Being able to work up to that and use them is great.
Basics of python and the process of thinking like a programmer
How python works.
Basic programming and computational thinking
Basics of pythons like variables, data structures, functions, conditionals, loops, and fundamental programming concepts like recursion and classes and objects.
How to think computationally. The value of abstraction.
The basics of Python coding: lists, files, types, objects, trees, recursion, etc.
I learned the basics of programming in python: the various classes of objects, their properties, how to write functions, principles of recursion, and working with trees.
We learned all about the basics of Python: organizing our code, misc. stuff like Github and bash commands, variables, types, expressions, functions, data structures, recursion, file access.
python
I learned basics of python coding, how to think in a CS way, logic problems, etc.
This class really cements your knowledge of basic data structures and python syntax
I learned how to problem solve in the context of python
This course taught me the basics of computational thinking and programming in Python, covering everything from loops to recursion. I also improved my ability to think algorithmically on the homeworks, which involved problems that required an intelligent design and use of functions.
Basics of python and a solid understanding of how to think like a computer scientist

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

Comments
Mainly lectures and homework. The discussions (mandatory) were helpful but mainly helped towards prep for exams since they are all on paper
Lectures did not contribute. Discussions and assignments did.
Lectures from Professor Rogers were excellent. Discussions and assignments were helpful as well.
The lectures, discussions, and problem sets were all useful to grasping and practicing the material.
Lectures were informative and directly correlated to homework assignments. Discussions were most helpful as exam prep, since we had to hand–write code and discussion problems were the same structure (more or less) as exam problems.
homework is useful.
Lectures were useful for getting real–time examples of the topics. The most useful aspect of this course was the discussion sections which gave you a chance to think through problems with others, write your code on paper, and get immediate feedback from peers and TAs.
Lectures were great, professor rogers is a great lecturer and I always felt like I could ask a question and not feel made fun of for asking it. One of the best professors I have had overall I would say. Discussions were also helpful.
Discussion and HW assignments were most helpful. Textbook was very clear and easily accessible. Lectures were helpful but much simpler than assignments
Lectures and discussions taught me how to think about the problems.
Learned most by actually doing the HW. Discussion and lecture were certainly good, though.
Every aspect of the course felt intentional, we were shown things or given problems based directly on the readings and lecture materials. These concepts were strengthened on homework assignments composed of problems solved by applying those concepts.
I really enjoyed the lectures for this course. Prof. Rogers is a really amazing lecturer and course administrator — I always learned a lot from her lectures and instructions on assignments etc. were incredibly clear.
Professor Rogers is one of the best lecturers and professors that I've had at UChicago. She cares about her students learning the material, and She is remarkably clear and responsive to student questions (if on the strict side). Likewise David was an excellent discussion leader, and I appreciated the opportunity to practice the concepts from lecture.
Lectures were quite helpful and thorough. Discussion sections were also helpful for making the work collaborative and providing quick feedback on solutions. Homework often felt very fair in its difficulty and was my preferred way of learning the material.
Lectures were great, and the fact that they followed the textbook closely was super helpful.
discussion is actually the most important thing
Homeworks were great but at times too challenging if you were truly a beginner. Discussions were very helpful
I found the textbook extremely useful, lectures were alright, discussions were alright
Lectures were not very useful. Discussions were moderately useful. Assignments are the most useful.
Lectures perfectly covered reading material but were nonetheless helpful in clarifying topics. Discussion sections much more directly helped with the type of thinking that was expected on homeworks and exams (both of which were similar in nature).
I found that the most useful part of the course were the discussion sections as they allowed for a lot of quick feedback. Additionally, the use of Ed to facilitate class discussion on homework’s was useful

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.30	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	10.00%	30.00%	53.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.33%	36.67%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.33%	33.33%	63.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.10	4.00	3.45%	6.90%	6.90%	41.38%	41.38%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	3.33%	43.33%	43.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.46	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	46.43%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	30.00%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I came in with a background in python – if you are too, don't miss lectures even though it may be tempting. It'll help a lot regarding what the CS department expects on exams and how to do the homework.
The motto for this course is that mistakes are essential to a programer's development. It's an excellent course, but very often you are expected to fail early on for the sake of learning, which harms your grade a decent bit. The grading scale was supposed to account for this, but it didn't.
Amazing and very clearly organized course
Really love Prof. Rogers. I appreciate how she took active steps to include all people with varying levels of experience.
While I think this course is definitely feasible for people with no Python experience, make sure not to fall behind; it is fast enough where it would be quite hard to catch back up.
Professor Rogers is a great teacher. She knows how to deliver the material in a way that is understandable, and, although she has a reputation for strictness, she is quite fair and personable. I jumped at the opportunity to have her teach me based on her reputation, and I am very grateful to have learned so much due to her. If you have the option to pick your section based on professors and want a no–nonsense approach to computer science, it seems hard to imagine a better option than Professor Rogers.
this is not a intro class. it can be very time consuming at the end
too hard/ fast for actual beginners. Only take it as a beginner if you are fine not getting an A or A –
Make sure to do every reading and memorize all syntax mentioned. The first 7 topics are fine but the last one (trees and recursion) is really hard so make sure to not get left behind

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	6.90%	93.10%

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

Comments
Excellent Lectures
The lectures were well–structured and reflected the textbook material well.
Because the lectures are short and relatively formulaic, its hard to pinpoint a specific aspect of her teaching, but she covers the topics thoroughly and does a good job of making sure that nobody is left confused.
Professor Rogers is very approachable. You were encouraged to ask questions during her lectures and it was always a point of hers to get constant feedback from the class to know if everyone understood what was being discussed and showcased in class.
Encouraging an environment to make mistakes and ask questions.
Anne Rodgers was very willing to answer questions in lecture
Loved the textbook she wrote.
The lecturing was standard. Professor Rogers' answers to questions were always detailed and insightful.
Her organization! Prof Rogers is a really amazingly put–together professor.
I mentioned this earlier, but Professor Rogers is a wonderful lecturer who made difficult topics appear as natural extensions of what we had studied before.
Professor Rogers' teaching style was very methodical and thorough, so it was easy to follow along with the lectures and understand the material from day to day. She was also very responsive to questions and worked to clear up any confusion from students.
Anne was a great lecturer and presented new topics in an approachable way.
discussion, lecture are definitely a must if you have 0 background
Answering questions, asking us questions to think through, coding on board and sharing screen
Her introduction of topics were most useful
Professor Rogers did a good job of clearly presenting course material and taking time to answer questions in lecture.
Clear and precise language

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Professor Rogers and the 141 Professors are not very accommodating to adverse student circumstances to the point that it greatly debilitates student learning for the quarter. She could be more accommodating to extensions/ mistakes on homework. However, the policy to resubmit two assignments a quarter was helpful, though not a good substitute for extensions as assignments start to pile up.
It would be great if the instructors could post the class materials after class, since lectures were very fast–paced and it was hard to keep up with taking notes while absorbing the information.
If anything, being more explicit when there are topics she won't get to and we will need to consult the book on.
Not much to improve. Maybe more time for asking questions as the window for questions was extremely short before the lecture continued.
Nothing, it was great.
The first examples of concepts in lecture were highly simplified which was helpful, but it may be helpful to demonstrate more complexity within lecture as well
Nothing
Record lectures so that they can be reviewed when needed.
I thought that the course could have moved at a bit of a faster pace. I think that the professor may have overestimated how much we would struggle with recursion. In future, I think that the course might be even more successful if the instructors were to spend less time on that particular subject (i.e. go through the content at a faster pace).
My only comment is that would have potentially been nice to either have access to the code from the lecture or some set of lecture notes—especially for code–heavy subjects like objects, I occasionally felt like I only had time to copy the code, and I had to wait to understand it until after class. Offering the code in some place could reduce that time pressure (the book helped with this, but, it did not always cover the same topics—for instance, it did not have information on f–strings—making another repository useful).
n/a
make the lecture notes/ code public. very hard to follow in class and lost in track 60% of the time
Not sure
Spend some more time on recursion/give more resources for practice. That topic was far harder for me to grasp than any of the others covered in the class and I still don't feel like I've wrapped my head around more advanced applications of that concept and will have to self study it over break.
Slow down and go through less examples, but more thoroughly.
Considering that lectures were much less interactive than discussion sections, there was little else that Professor Rogers could have improved on considering that she did a good job of explaining ideas.
N/A

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	32.14%	64.29%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.52	5.00	0.00%	3.57%	3.57%	28.57%	60.71%	3.57%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.43%	35.71%	17.86%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.43	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	42.86%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	39.29%	60.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	32.14%	46.43%	14.29%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	32.14%	64.29%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	3.57%	14.29%	39.29%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.37	5.00	0.00%	3.57%	7.14%	35.71%	50.00%	3.57%

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
My TA was Zhe, and he did a good job of facilitating the discussion sections. He was also very open to answering any questions.
David Xue. I think David's instruction was clear and he did a good job of answering questions without being overly complex, and at times he spoke to specifically what the admin were looking for that might not be the most intuitive.
David Xue
Zhe Heng Eng. He was great, very knowledgable, very helpful. I learned a lot from him and felt encouraged to keep doing good work.
Zhe Heng Eng — great facilitator in discussion section! Thank you!
David was a great TA and always helpful in discussion.
Zhe. I liked that he asked questions and made discussion interactive!
Loved all the TA’s in the class. Very open and helpful.
Zhe
I think that my TA's name was David? Although it is possible that I am mis–remembering. I though that David did an excellent job at leading our discussions. He did a very good job of responding to the questions we asked, and anticipating the ones that we did not. He was also just overall a very charismatic and nice guy — discussions were always pleasant.
David was a great TA, and I appreciate his openness in helping section work through problems.
Discussions were run by the TAs, and mine was run by Kaitlyn Li. She was great. She would answer any questions that we had, but was pretty hands off, which allowed the groups working in class freedom to work things out amongst themselves before she would go through the solutions. I don't think she needs to change anything about her style of instruction in these types of discussion sections.
Zhe Heng Eng
Zhe Heng Eng For discussions, he was very supportive and really helped with any questions students may have had.
David Xue
Zhe Heng Eng
Zhe Heng Eng was a wonderful discussion TA and went slowly, making sure than everyone understood the idea behind each problem we covered. I do not have any suggestions for how he could improve.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.84	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	84.21%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	73.68%	10.53%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.68	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	21.05%	73.68%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	15.79%	78.95%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.84	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	84.21%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.76	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	10.53%	73.68%	10.53%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.05%	78.95%	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	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
There was a discussion once a week in the evening, where we worked together in groups on practice problems.
Discussion section: moderately useful

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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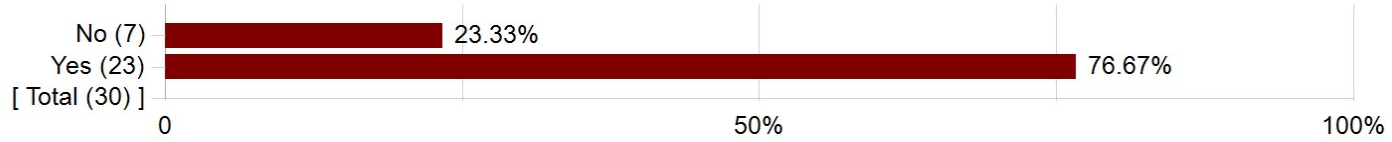

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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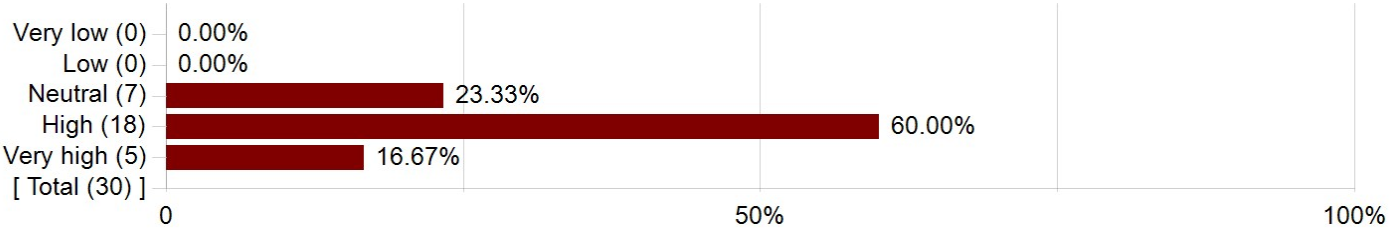
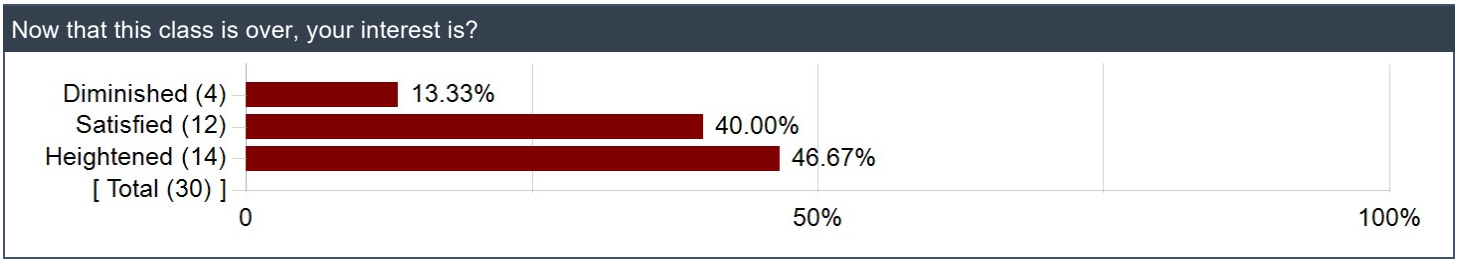
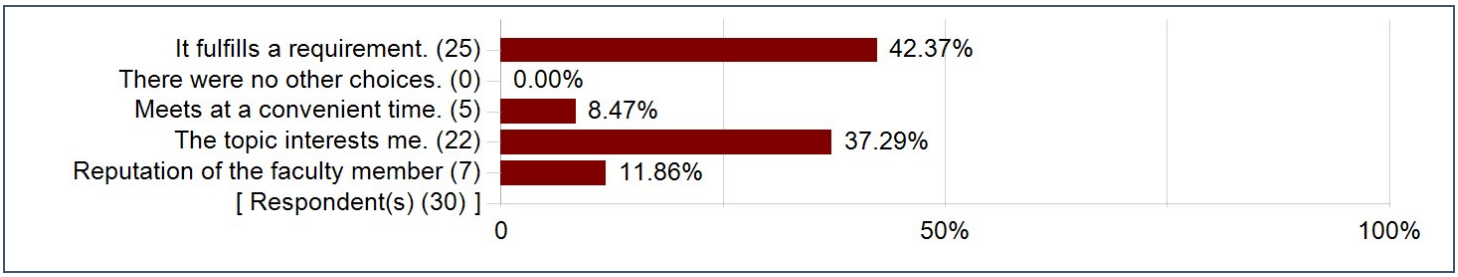


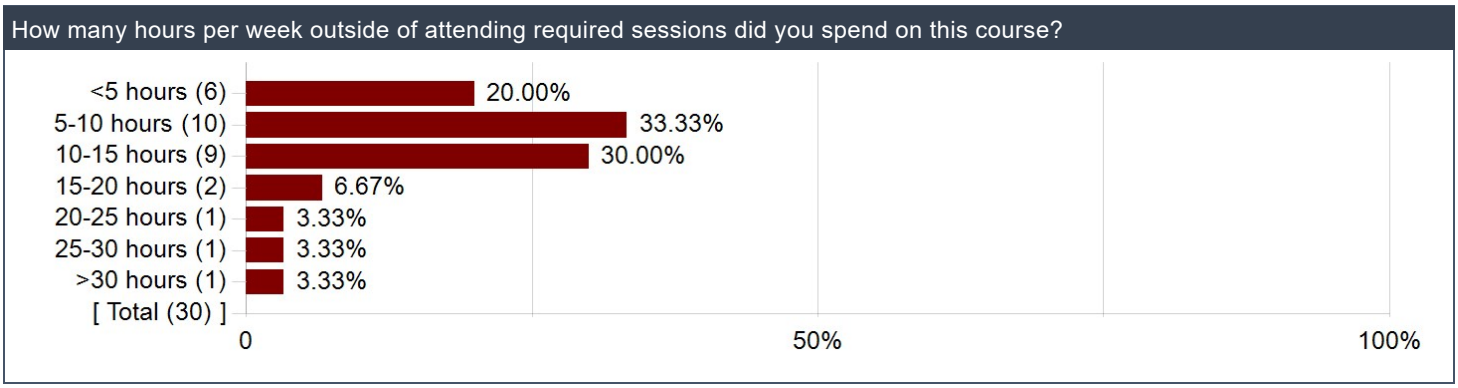
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



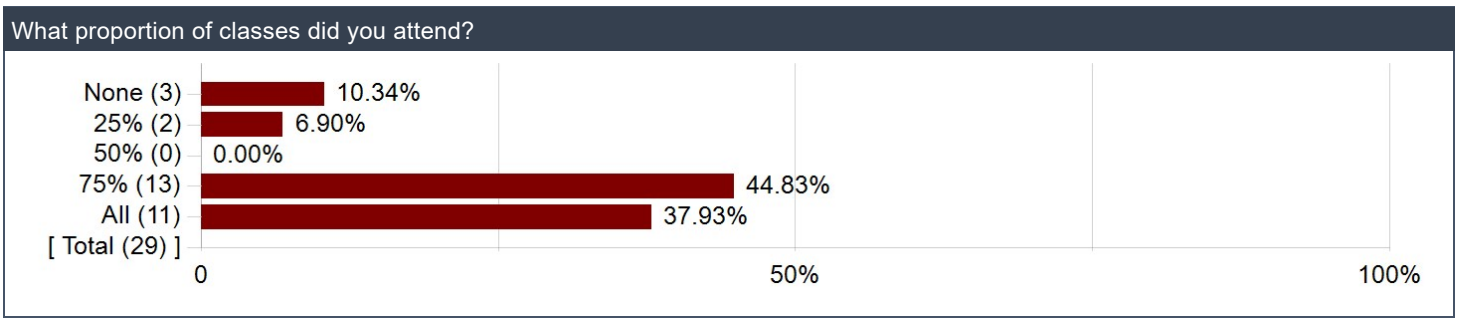
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
As a beginner in computer science, I struggled significantly to keep up with the course material.
Not difficult as a math major with no programing experience – some of my friends struggled with computational logic
As someone who had some experience with Python, the first half of the course was very manageable. After the mideterm, however, when recursion and trees were introduced, the difficulty increased significantly.
The class is accessible to anyone, regardless of CS experience, and in fact seemed to be more challenging for students already comfortable with a language other than Python. It was significantly easier having already spent time coding in other classes (data science/stats).
chatgpt is bad for homework. believe in your own ability and you shall find things doable.
If you have a background in programming prior to entering this course, you will cakewalk through it. For those with no background, you may struggle, but you will not be overwhelmed. This is a very beginner–friendly course.
Just go to lecture and discussion, you will make it.
Had introductory experience in R and Java. I was already familiar with many of the concepts covered, but the assignments were simultaneously challenging and doable. I think this class could be hard for someone with no prior coding experience
It was ok for me, but this would be a pretty difficult course for someone new to any kind of programming. if you get sick it can be easy to miss some of the lectures/material which is pretty important for the homework.
I had some coding experience with python, so I sort of knew the early material, but not how it worked. Learning how it worked was kind of difficult but it was useful to have some familiarity with the tools we were using.
Had zero experience. Was tough but fun.
I had basic programming experience in Python and felt that the first 60% of the course was easy understandable. I had less/no experience with recursion, classes and objects, and trees, so that was more difficult to learn. However, the concepts were explained very thoroughly in the provided textbook, lectures, and labs.
No background in CS. The concepts were very straightforwards and the instructors spent a lot of time in class explaining everything we covered at great depth. Homework was very manageable. I think that this course is a great intro CS course for those who have no background.
I had no prior coding experience, and I found the course quite manageable. However, content builds up , and, as the quarter is so short, I imagine it would be quite difficult to catch up if you fell behind.
I had some background with using Python for data analysis for 2 years, but little experience with the process of writing more complicated functions that weren't solely focused on data. Therefore, coming into the class, I had knowledge of the basics of the language of Python, but I certainly was faced with many new ideas starting about week 4. Things only began to feel difficult with recursion and trees near the end, and I could no longer just get by with my latent knowledge of coding and problem solving. That all being said, the class was very approachable and manageable for me. The homeworks likely never took more than 10 hours, even when I was really struggling with a function or two. The main thing that made the class "hard" was just how strict the grading scheme was. Getting an A demands that your "exam score" (weighted combination of midterm and final) is over a 90 on top of executing almost perfectly on all homeworks. I feel that it was easy to do well in the class, but a challenge to excel. Overall, if you have some background knowledge of the basics of the language, this class is a 4/10 difficulty if you want a B+ and a 6.5/10 (almost solely for the pressure on the midterm and final) if you want an A.
as someone who already knew python, i did well and didn't go to class. lol
If you're experienced in python, the first couple of weeks may seem slow, but assignments do challenge your code's rigor and organization.
need experience or determination that you actually going to do cs.
Pretty difficult for total beginners.
I learned basic python over the summer and the course was not very difficult up until we learned recursion and trees.
It is much more difficult that AP CS A. This class would be near impossible with no familiarity with coding.
This was my first CS class but I had a more lengthy experience with math classes beforehand. There was nothing unreasonable in the expectations of this course.
If I had come in with no experience I could see it being very difficult to learn quickly and catch up to the pace of the class, however I felt comfortable with almost all the topics covered throughout the course and ultimately I did not find it very difficult