CMSC 14100 2 - Introduction to Computer Science I - Instructor(s): Anne Rogers, Jesus Almaraz-Argueta

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

Number Enrolled: **62**
Number of Responses: **33**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
This is like any intro computer science course, with maybe a higher emphasis on code quality, which is fine.
Basics of programming in Python: dictionaries, tuples, recursion, classes, and objects.
I learned the basics of python: recursion, basic functions, classes, methods, etc.
python basics
Recursion and Classes – everything else was mostly review
Linux commands, Python
Working with data structures, algorithms, and thinking more abstractly.
Python basics, lists, recursion
Learned basics of Python.
–basic CS concepts –recursion
I learned the foundations of python from lists, dictionaries, tuples, functions, and recursion
Python setup, data structures, code quality and syntax
Basics of python – loops, dictionaries, classes (and other data structures), recursion, etc. Also worked with the computer terminal and git.
Logically progression for coding.
Learned the basics of coding including loops, data structures, and functions in python.
It's an introductory course in python covering basic topics up through recursion
How to code!
beginner to intermediate level Python
python and how to use github and visual studio code
Understanding of how a program interacts with the computer
I learned programming skills such as operations, functions, command statements, recursion, variable types, etc. But most importantly, I learned how to think like a programmer. This entailed how to approach problems logically, breaking them down into simpler parts, etc. This is the most vital skilled I learned.
functions, different data structures, recursion
Data structures – Trees, Stacks, Dictionaries. Recursion. Exceptions.
python
CS
How to code in a structured way

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

Comments
Discussions are really helpful; do your best to solve the questions in discussions. It's like a mandatory dedicated study period for you, so use it well.
The lectures were clear and helpful for grasping complex topics such as classes, recursion, and trees. The discussion section helped prepare for the exams and flesh out the nuances of each topic. Overall, all the components were productive, well–designed, and helpful.
I think homeworks contributed the most... the practice midterms and finals were very helpful to the actual tests.
Lectures were helpful, Rogers is effective at teaching, albeit she goes a bit fast sometimes. Homework was likely the most beneficial aspect of my learning, it really helped be grasp concepts. Discussions were absolutely useless and a waste of 80 mins, I hope they're removed from the course.
the lectures were fairly helpful, though I wish they provided us the demo code instead of having to scramble to copy it down, because while they say it's in the textbook, it's not exactly the same
Lectures were helpful to intuitively understanding concepts, as were discussions. Course was very well organized
The discussions and assignments were very helpful for both learning and earning a quality grade. While the lectures helped me learn a lot, the rigor of the lectures was subpar to the preformance expected on midterms and finals.
Discussion sections helped to solidify confusing aspects of lectures.
you can learn the entire course from the textbook if you'd liike, i stopped going to lectures past week 1 lmao
the discussion sections and readings were really helpful to learning
Discussion sections gave good practice for coding on paper
Lectures were pretty much repeats of the textbook, but the textbook was helpful for reinforcing knowledge. Homeworks were the most helpful because they gave you an opportunity to practice the concepts learned, and they were also well structured because the homework problems were organized in order of increasing difficulty. Discussion sessions were also helpful because they gave you a chance to work through practice problems related to the lectures with other people. Both homeworks and discussion session materials were good practice for the exams.
the assignments were good practice
Lectures were helpful with providing key concepts but discussions were especially helpful as they provided workable examples and a space for us to work with our peers and talk about the best ways to code for certain problems. Assignments were also helpful for implementing the skills we learned in class in more hands–on, difficult ways.
Lectures covered basic topics, homeworks provided time to work through examples, discussion was dedicated to small group work
Lectures were moderately helpful, HW was excellent
Discussions and lectures were somewhat helpful, but you’re pretty much left on your own to learn the content, especially if you have limited prior CS experience
lectures and discussions were pretty helpful
The lectures and the textbook which was written by the CS department were extremely helpful. Discussion section and the Ed question board also helped me a lot.
discussion section helped a lot
Discussion sections helped with practice for the exams. The assignments covered most of what was taught in the lectures.
office hours were great
CS

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	3.33%	30.00%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	3.45%	3.45%	27.59%	65.52%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.27	4.00	3.33%	3.33%	3.33%	43.33%	46.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.03	4.00	0.00%	3.33%	23.33%	40.00%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.29	4.00	3.23%	0.00%	6.45%	45.16%	45.16%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.13	4.00	3.33%	6.67%	6.67%	40.00%	43.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.00	4.00	3.45%	6.90%	17.24%	31.03%	41.38%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.03	4.00	6.67%	3.33%	10.00%	40.00%	40.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Anne Rogers is great
The course was fantastic, however the "testing" portion of the course simply did not meet my expectations. This CS class was based upon learning how to think abstractly and manipulate data–structures to reach a certain goal, the way learning most obviously occured was within the homework assignments. Testing our code and getting errors led to higher thinking and understanding the issues with our code, however responding to these errors is what I learned most in CS. The way CS was tested via the midterm/final was based on getting the correct code on the first try, with no feedback whatsoever. This did not reflect the way students learn via the course, and someone not experienced in CS already would struggle in this aspect.
Might want to brush up on python basics before class – I had never coded before and this class was a little fast paced for me.
I think the mandatory discussion should either be reworked or reevaluated; I did not find it particularly useful especially the first few weeks
Learn some CS beforehand, or else you'll really struggle
Great course, definitely fast–paced but really interesting, especially for an introductory course. I liked that the course was not graded on a curve, however, it would be nice if whichever test you scored better on counted for 65% and the other 35% rather than having the final always count for the larger portion.
Professor Anne Rogers has zero leniency, with even slight late assignments with very valid reasons being unaccepted. I am very dissatisfied with her method of assignments.
Unnecessarily strict constraints in the class that don't really encourage learning so much as judgement/assessment

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	6.67%	93.33%
Anyone interested in the topic	26.67%	73.33%

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

Comments
The lectures and homework assignments were great! They were well–organized, clear, and relevant. I also respect Prof. Rogers being strict about some of the course requirements. It kept me accountable. The sample problems were also helpful! Overall, Prof. Rogers did a great job of setting us up for success. Can't ask for anything more
I think following the textbook was great because even if you didn't quite understand during lecture or if you missed class, you could easily look at the textbook to understand better.
Rogers is straightforward and knowledgable. She creates a good environment.
The way Anne Rogers explained/represented what everything looked like in memory
Answered a lot of questions and was quite patient, a lot of examples and demonstration of code in class.
Answering questions and building the class upon these questions
Good introductions to the topics at hand, overall, allowed room to ask a lot of good questions and made the class engaging
Lectures
Lectures were clearly explained and had lots of examples. ED was good because you could ask questions and get really quick feedback and also see questions other people had asked.
office hours for exam preparation were helpful
The lectures were good. examples are good as well but I wished the lectures had more structure.
Provided helpful examples and made sure to go over concepts multiple times in various situations to understand the different contexts in which certain code could be used.
Dr. Rogers is a great professor, and it was good overall
Textbook, actually
Explanations of concepts on the blackboard
had examples of the topics we’re going over and explaining them
The combination of live code writing and also the explanation of the logic behind certain concepts helped.
The use of 2 screens showing the input and the output of the code.
Nothing

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
I think posting the in–class codes that we went over would be helpful.
She could slow down at times, sometimes it was hard to keep up.
Being more open and less intimidating
N/A
Post answers to the practice midterms and finals – it was really annoying having to run your code on your own to see if it worked, and sometimes it wasn't feasible to test the code at all, especially for the practice finals that asked about recursion via trees and then you would have to construct the tree class and all its attributes/methods just to test your answer.
Plan the lessons better and give them a more logical structure. At times, we would move on from a topic and then the instructor would remember something and then go back and forth between topics, it made things really confusing
Would cut students off when asking questions – I would just make sure you have a fully formed question or clarifying question before raising hand.
N/A
Slowing down during lectures
post the example codes that were used that were not in the python coursebook
making lectures more relevant to homework questions
Nothing. Professor Rogers was great.
I believe the instructor could do a little bit better in leniecy and less in cracking down, which would help me learn better.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.32	4.50	0.00%	7.14%	3.57%	39.29%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	10.71%	42.86%	35.71%	3.57%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.92	4.00	0.00%	6.90%	17.24%	37.93%	24.14%	13.79%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.15	4.00	3.57%	0.00%	10.71%	46.43%	35.71%	3.57%
Challenged you to learn.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.70%	29.63%	62.96%	3.70%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	51.85%	3.70%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.08	4.00	3.57%	0.00%	21.43%	28.57%	39.29%	7.14%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	4.00	3.57%	0.00%	3.57%	42.86%	46.43%	3.57%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.93	4.00	3.57%	3.57%	25.00%	28.57%	35.71%	3.57%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	3.57%	0.00%	17.86%	42.86%	28.57%	7.14%

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
Iris Hwang
forgot his name, but he was unhelpful
Iris Hwang. She was great at facilitating discussion.
Iris Hwang. Excellent TA
Iris Hwang
There were many course TAs but they were generally pretty good at providing quick and clear explanations for questions on ED.
Iris
I don't remember
Tess Eschebach – very nice and helpful in discussion. Made sure to give everyone equal time and was clear in her instruction during discussion.
Tess Eschebach – Did a good job leading discussion per the materials provided by course staff
All TAs were helpful in discussions
Tess
Tess
Iris Hwang
Iris Hwang

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.24	4.00	0.00%	9.52%	4.76%	38.10%	47.62%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	4.76%	38.10%	52.38%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	38.10%	47.62%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	33.33%	52.38%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	33.33%	52.38%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.12	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	14.29%	28.57%	33.33%	19.05%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.29	5.00	4.76%	0.00%	9.52%	33.33%	52.38%	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	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Field Trips	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Library Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Review Sessions	3.50	3.50	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion sections
Discussion section– Good gain
discussion section

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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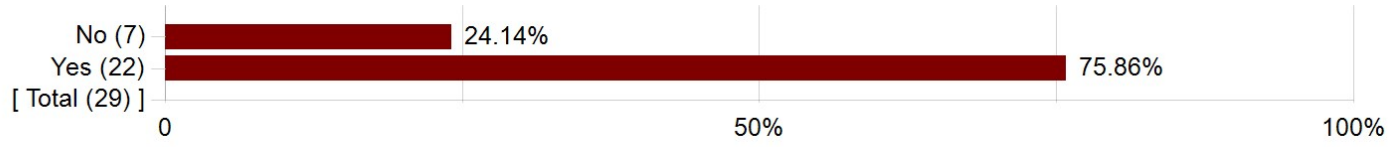
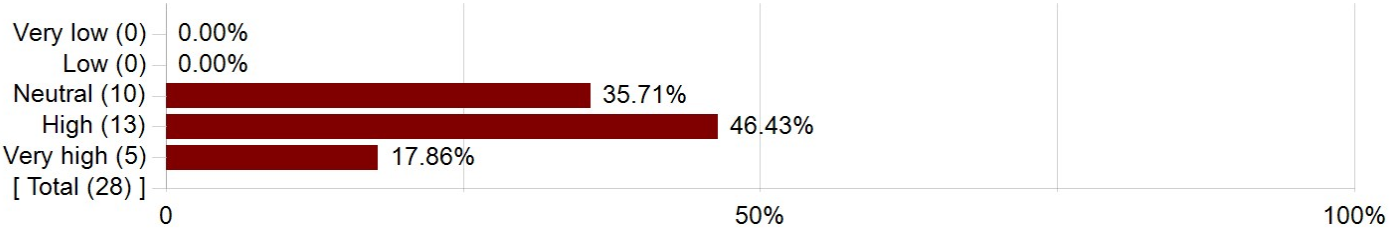
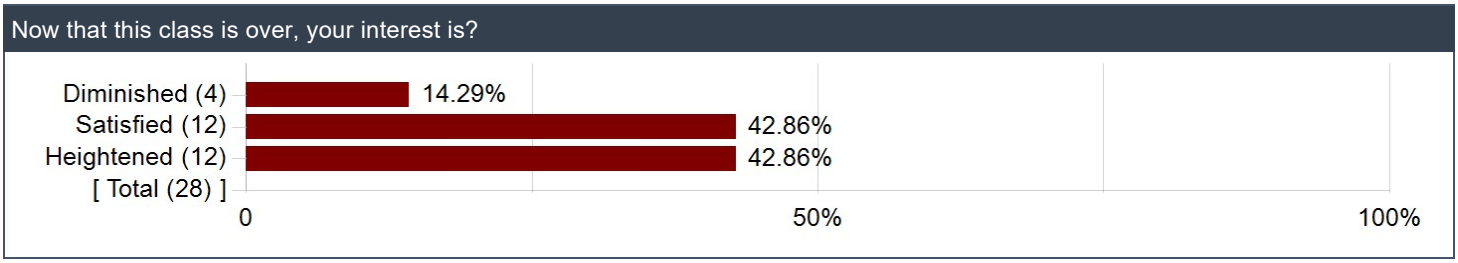


Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

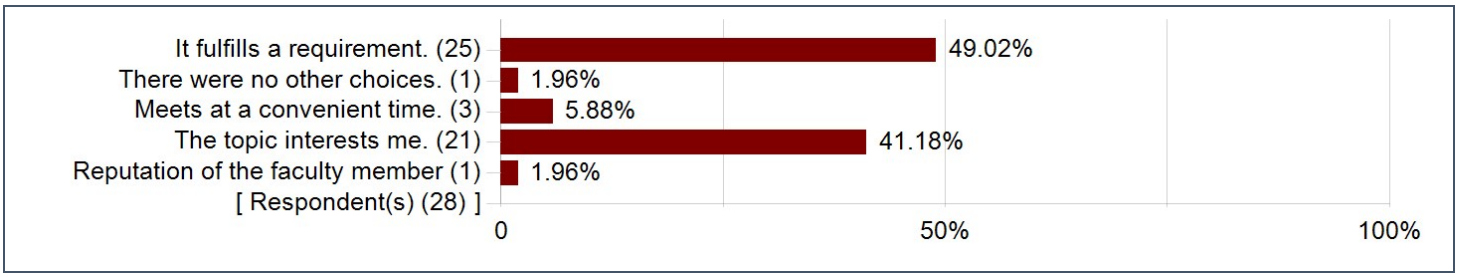
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



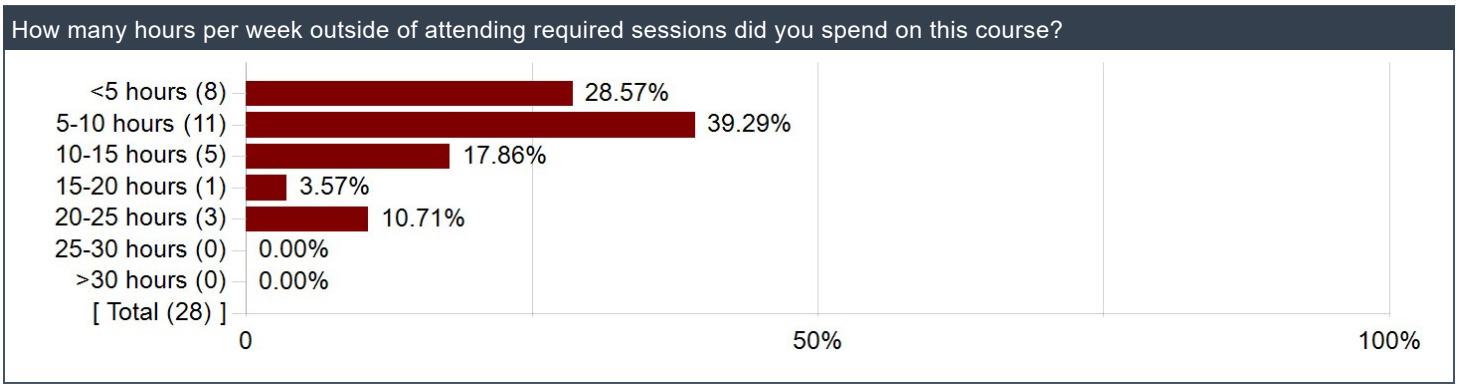
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



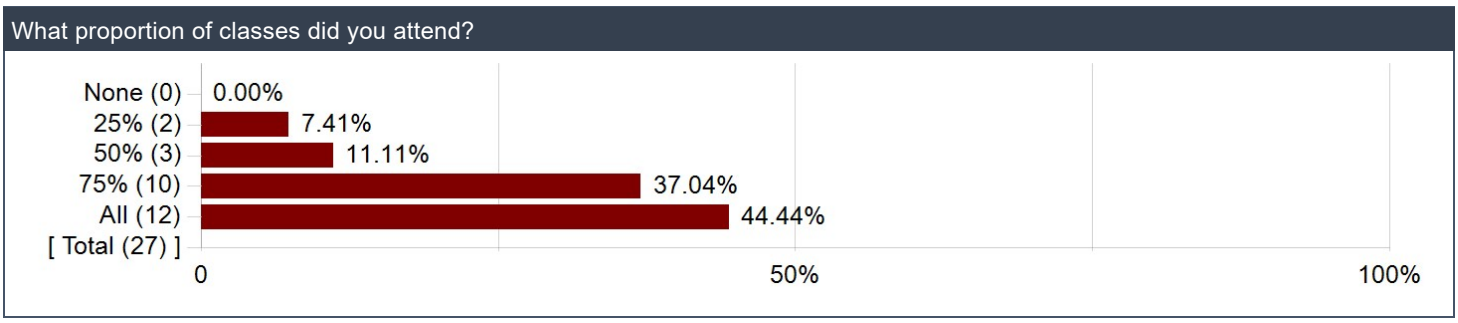
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
If you have any intro level experience with any programming language, then this is a very easy class. I don't understand why some people call it terribly hard.
I had only taken Application Development, a booth class, that teaches HTML, so no background in Python; I think it was reasonable difficulty haven taken a different type of coding class before. I think that the grading system is strict on style... and you only get two resubmissions but at most one needs improvement grade
It can be quite difficult, especially if you have no prior coding experience. I recommend learning some basics beforehand.
fairly easy, especially if you have even just a little background in cs
Not very difficult, most of it is understanding linux and recursion is always a difficult concept
For someone with no experience in CS, be very cautious about approaching this class with the mindset of getting a high grade. If learning is what matters most, this course is extremely helpful in brewing curiosity and providing a nice, challenging learning experience.
Was a little tricky as a novice but is not completely unmanageable
Going into this course with previous CS experience is definitely a huge benefit (I had taken CS50, which is mainly taught in C) over the summer, so I knew or had worked with pretty much all the basic computer science topics covered. I could see this course being a big learning curve if you hadn't taken any form of CS before.
if you're new to coding, you might need to spend extra time familiarizing yourself with the material outside of lectures and discussions
Manageable–level hard, but I had no experience whatsoever prior
Not very hard, a pretty standard introductory course
With no prior coding experience, this course was incredibly challenging. I put in a high amount of time and effort, but still felt as though it was impossible to get over the hurdle of not already having a background in CS
No experience, felt reasonable
The only the last two weeks were difficult, but I had a decent amount of Python experience before taking the class
i took apcsa so first few weeks were fine, but the difficulty increased significantly after the midterm
Very basic programming experience, was still a challenging course.
materials got harder towards the end of the quarter
I had done a python basics class before I took the course which helped tremendously. It was relatively easy in the beginning.
not easy with no background
Unnecessarily hard because of pacing and course constraints just in general (as someone with a background in CS)