



CMSC 14200 3 - Introduction to Computer Science II - Instructor(s) - Jesus Almaraz-Argueta, Matthew Wachs

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

Number Enrolled: **57**

Number of Responses: **21**

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, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
Good coding techniques.
Working with different types of data structures was probably the most important thing I learned in this course. However, the most useful turned out to be type annotations, which were annoying when we first learned them, but they have become so helpful when debugging. I've been using them even in my code for other classes that isn't graded on code quality. They have really truly streamlined the debugging process for me.
Various algorithms for trees and graphs
trees, graphs, functional programming, and software design
I learned data structures, working through complex problems, and time management.
Advanced data structures such as AVL trees, graphs, heaps; the basics of software development; and working with some new packages such as pygame, numpy, and pandas
More advanced Python data structures (trees, graphs, ABCs, etc.) and intro to software development
Coding in Python and software development
I learned a lot of more advanced python and also working to create a game with a team.
More advanced data structures and algorithms as well as how to code in a group.
team coding projets
Tree/graph search algorithms, type checking, functional programming, software design basics
Computer science
Basic software development
how to apply coding skills to create a game. this class is mainly a continuation of 141, so recursion and other types of data structures are covered

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

Comments
Mainly looked at lecture notes.
Class time can be helpful if you want the material explained to you, but not necessary as the posted notes and slides are quite comprehensive.
The lectures were okay. They were definitely more useful at the start of the quarter, but as it continued on, it seemed that both the students and professor began to deem them as almost optional as significantly fewer students showed up, and the professor seemed to put less effort into the lectures. The homework was tough but helped a lot with my understanding of the concepts.
Homework helped
lectures were good discussions wasn't necessarily related to the in class material but was great information the assignments were challenging but helped me understand the material better
Lectures were helpful in the beginning, but started to sort of become irrelevant and didn't contribute to my learning as much as cmsc 141 lectures. I went to discussions at the beginning but stopped going as well because they didn't seem helpful.
The lectures were really helpful for learning the underlying concepts, especially in the first half of the course. The homework helped drill the key takeaways home because they always required us to innovate rather than regurgitate the algorithm. The lecture notes were very well organized, so it was convenient to revisit older topics throughout the quarter. Overall, the course was well-designed and challenging.
Lectures were helpful for the first half of the course, as we learned new data structures and prepared for the midterm. I did not attend classes after the midterm, though, since by then we were working on the project. I did not feel like I needed to attend lecture to contribute to the project. I did not attend discussion. The homework assignments were very helpful, though, and I used them to prepare for the midterm and had examples to use for the project.
Lectures were very useful
The homework was where I did the majority of my learning.
lectures were incredibly boring; very unproductive
Lectures and Discussion Sections were useful.
discussions were helpful, and resubmissions helped a lot too
Lectures and the posted notes/slides were the most helpful for learning. The weekly assignments were good for practice with the concepts, although the second half of the course lecture material didn't really align with the final project.
Homework good
Assignments, lecture notes
i actually had a hard time relating the lectures to the hw assignments, so office hours were most helpful for me

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.24	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	47.62%	38.10%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.52%	38.10%	52.38%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	9.52%	0.00%	33.33%	57.14%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.57	4.00	4.76%	23.81%	19.05%	14.29%	38.10%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.76	4.00	4.76%	9.52%	19.05%	38.10%	28.57%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.33	5.00	4.76%	4.76%	4.76%	23.81%	61.90%
I felt respected in this class.	4.32	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	36.84%	47.37%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	14.29%	42.86%	38.10%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
One thing that I felt could be improved was the way office hours worked. Many times I would get a spot in the virtual queue, show up, have to wait because the people before me were still going, and either have to sit there for an hour to hour and a half or not get my time at all because office hours was ending. It didn't seem efficient at all and frustrated me a lot because I would be stressed about my homework but wouldn't get the time to go over it. The same happens with Ed Discussion sometimes. I ask a question hoping to receive some guidance, and every now and then answers won't come until a day after or just a long period of time after. I understand everyone has commitments it's just frustrating to be stressed and need help but not receive it.
Awesome class.
Harder than i thought it was
I think that this course was a good continuation to CMSC 141; the concepts were challenging but overall I learned a lot.
Do better with grade system

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	5.00%	95.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	10.53%	89.47%

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

Comments
You can tell that Professor Wachs is a really smart man and does his best to make his lectures interesting to his students. I would say the fault for the lack of engagement in his lectures does not fall on him but on his students, who don't pay attention in class or see the value in attending. However, the lectures are very theoretical and don't always apply practically to the homework assigned.
The homework
the slides
The examples he put up in class.
Prof. Wachs was great! His lectures were clear, concise, and comprehensive. He was also very helpful outside of class. The course is partly self-driven too because we are required to self-learn some packages to reflect the real world expectations.
The examples were quite useful
Whenever he showed us the code.
Examples in Class
The lecture material was the most helpful, although at times Professor Wachs tended to ramble a bit.
Lectures

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Make the lectures a bit more engaging
be more engaging
The teaching style wasn't very effective for me personally. Cmsc 141 helped me learn better because the professor engaged with the class and put up examples of the code and not just pseudocode. A lot of times the professor talked about the concepts but didn't talk about the code and this really didn't help me learn. I was able to learn the concepts well but not how to implement them. And also even though the professor said he was open to questions, there wasn't much availability to actually ask them in class.
N/A
Show us code more often and yap a little less.
he was very monotone and created no excitement in the room. It was very hard to stay focused.
NA
I wish that the second half of the course (which was focused on software design) was more interactive. Oftentimes there weren't slides so it was hard to follow along/pay attention. It would have been cool if we looked at a "case study" of a software design product where the concepts we learned in class could actually be applied to a real-world scenario.
Not sure

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.06	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	22.22%	27.78%	44.44%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.53	3.00	5.56%	5.56%	38.89%	22.22%	22.22%	5.56%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.25	3.00	5.56%	22.22%	11.11%	5.56%	22.22%	33.33%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.67	4.00	5.56%	11.11%	16.67%	44.44%	22.22%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.11	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	5.56%	55.56%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	16.67%	44.44%	33.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.08	4.50	5.56%	0.00%	11.11%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.06	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	11.11%	50.00%	33.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.22	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	5.56%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.83	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	27.78%	38.89%	27.78%	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
Yuyuan was helpful with answering coding questions during discussion section.

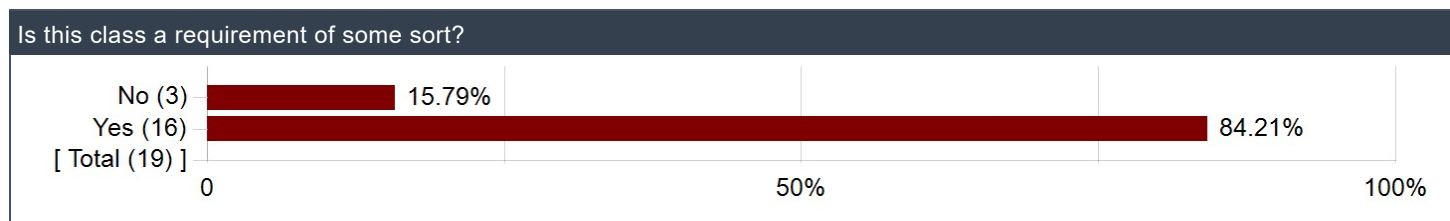
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%

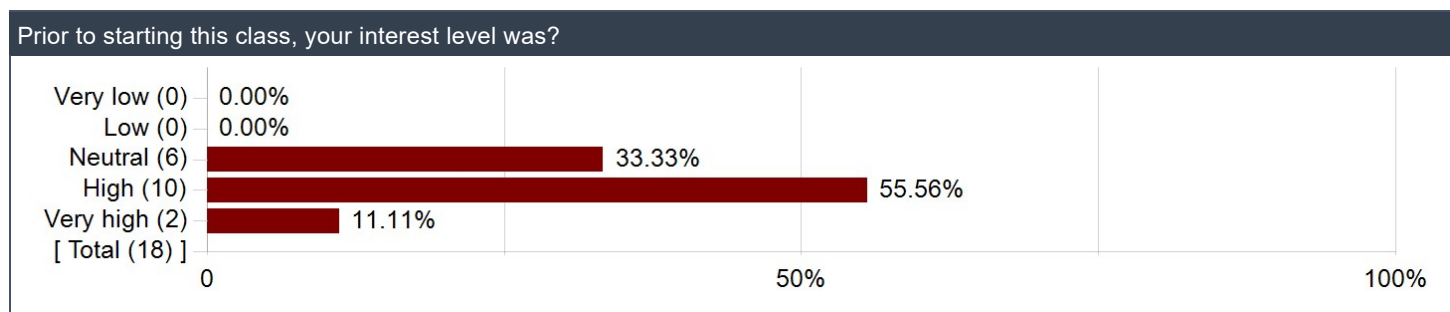
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion Sections were pretty helpful, but that was because they practically functioned as extra office hours which were honestly very useful.

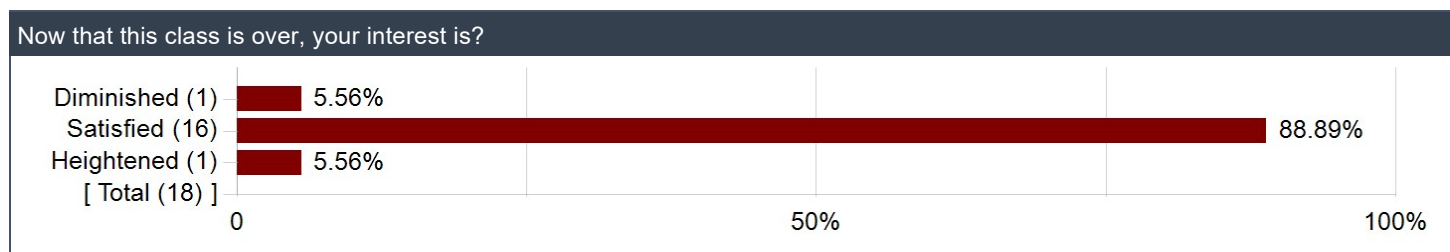
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



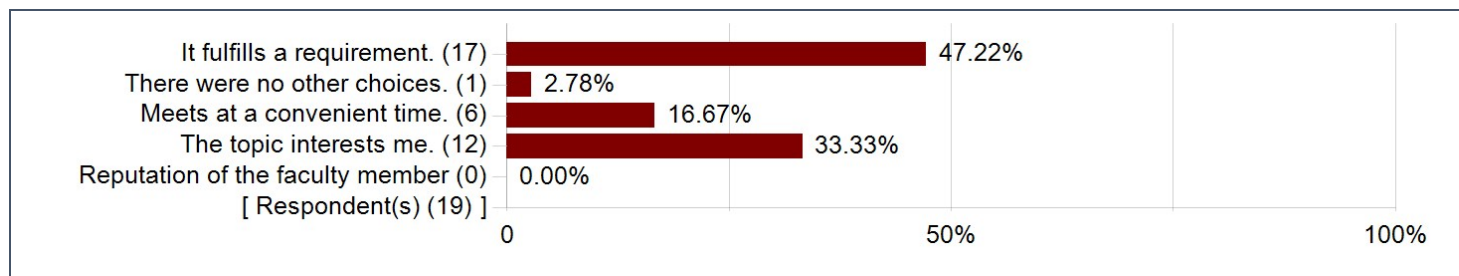
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



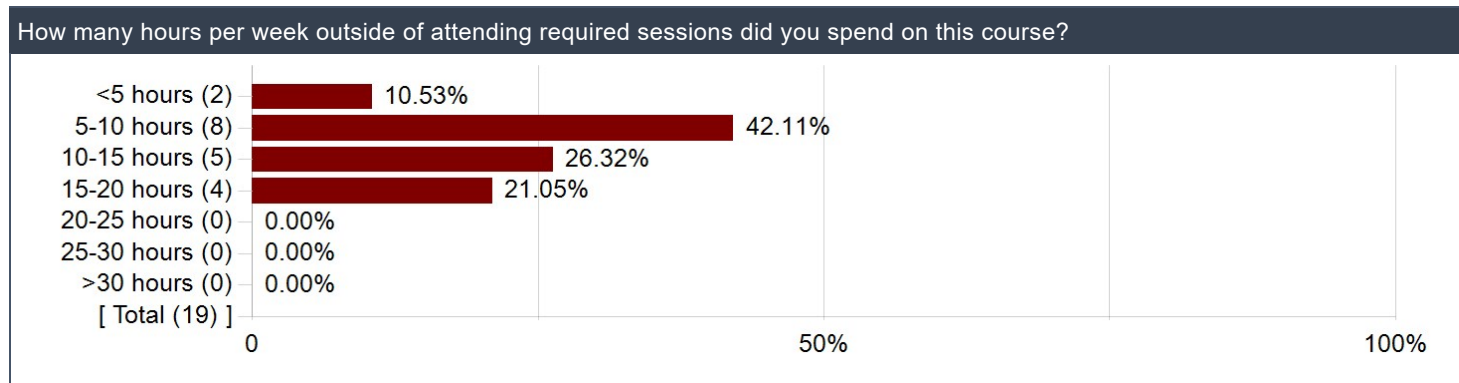
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



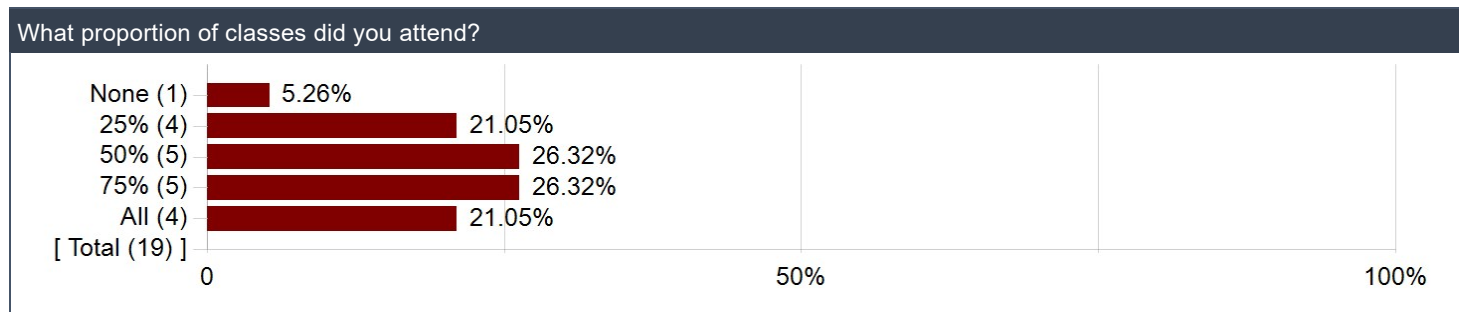
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
I tested out of 14100 and I've been programming in various languages for the past decade or so. Very easy class. Loved!
Fairly straightforward
fairly difficult as someone coming from 141
The class was difficult but doable.
My only CS background is taking 14100. I found some of the homework questions to be easy, and others to be very challenging. The midterm was fair and the project was challenging at times, but fun
Perfect level of difficulty following CS141
moderately difficult but very doable. Homeworks took a little longer than expected
somewhat more difficult than 141
I took this course after taking 141 in the fall, and I found it to be a manageable and a good continuation of the material. The homework assignments definitely took more time, but they were fine as long as I started them early (Ed and office hours also helped). I actually found the midterm to be easier than the exams in 141 because there were more "be a computer" type problems rather than writing new code. I also really liked the group project. It was my first time working through a CS assignment with a group, and I enjoyed being able to talk through a difficult problem with other people and also have our individual parts contribute to a larger project.
Easy
It was not particularly difficult but I have some background in python.