CMSC 14200 6 - Introduction to Computer Science II - Instructor(s): Jesus Almaraz-Argueta, Mohammed Suhail Rehman

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

Number Enrolled: **37**
Number of Responses: **16**

Report Comments

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

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

Comments
This course was very much a continuation of CMSC 14100, and in that sense, we ended up expanding upon the material in that course before moving onto the software development aspect of it. In the first half of this quarter, we continued more python related syntax, and learned a lot about a data structure called a graph, its use cases, algorithms for exploring and creating it, and how the algorithms work. We also learned a little bit about the pygame library. In the second half of the course, we spent all of our time on a software development project oriented around creating a working replica of an ancient Chinese game called "Go"
Type checking, class design and inheritance, binary search trees, graph traversals, functional programming, software development
more complex data structures, software development
This course gave me a deep understanding of complex algorithms and data structures.
Object oriented programming, git, how to work as a group on a software project, very little pandas and numpy
Finished up learning really useful python skills.
type checking, inheritance, trees, graphs and graph traversals, functional programming, how to create a computer game
How to think about data structures as well as how to carry them out
Programming skills
Recursive data structures, graphs, functional programming
A lot of work on tree data structures and other aspects of Python such as working with libraries like pygame. Learned a lot about DFS, BFS, and Dijkstra's algorithm as well graphs and trees. Learned a lot about the software design process and further experience working with git.
Graphs, functional programming, software development, numpy/pandas
Trees, graphs, search algorithms, software development.

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

Comments
I definitely got the most out of lectures, though they were also posted online. I found that the supplementary material in the discussions helped me learn more about the means through which we were setting up virtual work environments which contributed significantly to what I ended up learning.
Just like in 141 lectures provided clear and helpful explanations of each new topic that was introduced as well as a variety of examples. However unlike in 141 the discussion sections are optional sessions to get additional explanation from the TAs about certain concepts rather than just doing practice problems in groups.
lectures
I thought that the homework's, while not always good for design, did test algorithm and data structure information from class.
I didn't go to any lectures and still did fine, the assignments teach you everything important
Lectures were great, and providing notes online after the lectures was phenomenal – otherwise you feel pressured to type out all the code being displayed in class and don't have time to listen.
lecture notes and homeworks contributed greatly
The lectures and the assignments are very helpful
The lectures were extremely helpful in learning course content!
Lecture notes introduced concepts, homework assignments helped us practice using them in practical manners.
All lectures are helpful. Most of the content is posted as slides afterward which you can review. Weekly homework labs to apply knowledge you learned in class up until the midterm. After the midterm focus shifts to the project. Instead of homeworks you have milestones which guide you along the path of developing a project with a group.
The homework assignments were the most helpful in building my understanding. The other components did not help very much, but the professor and TAs did do their best.
I learned the most from assignments, but lectures were also helpful.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	33.33%	53.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.21	4.50	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	28.57%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Rehman was a great instructor, and the standards for grading were incredibly fair and clear.
I felt like I learned much less in this class than in 141, even though I will most likely earn As in both. Also, as the professors eventually recognized, the second homework assignment was inappropriate for the level of instruction we were provided. While they did offer the opportunity to make up for any lost grades from this homework assignment, this announcement came relatively late and their delay caused significant stress in the class. I hope that going forward the professors not only fix this assignment but also recognize and address their mistakes more quickly in order to avoid unnecessary stress.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	6.67%	93.33%

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

Comments
I'd say Professor Rehman did really well at illustrating concepts by using the black board. It really helped me visualize what was happening with the abstract concepts we were learning. I also appreciated how often he'd pose questions to the class, because it made sure that people stayed focused on what he was saying.
Professor Rehman is a fantastic lecturer! His lectures are extremely clear, helpful, and engaging all around – definitely recommend signing up for his section!
I really appreciated the in class examples we would go through.
Nothing
Lectures were really open to questions throughout.
the written examples on the board of avl tree insertions and graph traversals helped solidify the knowledge
The lectures are very helpful.
Most lectures follow the structure of either a blackboard explanation behind an algorithm or a guided walk through of code. Pretty similar to 141 lectures.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
To be honest, I'm not sure. Maybe have more of an opportunity to ask questions after class...? He was great though.
Sometimes the course instructions for particular hw questions our parts of the final project were vague – this made it hard to implement things.
Nothing – really great instructing!
Nothing in particular
I think lectures don't need to change. They teach you the skills and most of the homeworks require ingenuity and creativity on the part of the student.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	6.67%	66.67%	20.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	66.67%	6.67%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	20.00%	60.00%	13.33%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	66.67%	6.67%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	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 |
|---|
| Polly Ren |
| My TA was Polly Ren. Since all discussions sections are optional many people didn't come but I attended all discussion sections and received helpful insights when I had questions about homeworks. A lot of the discussion section content is directed towards the project. Polly was a great TA who knew her stuff. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

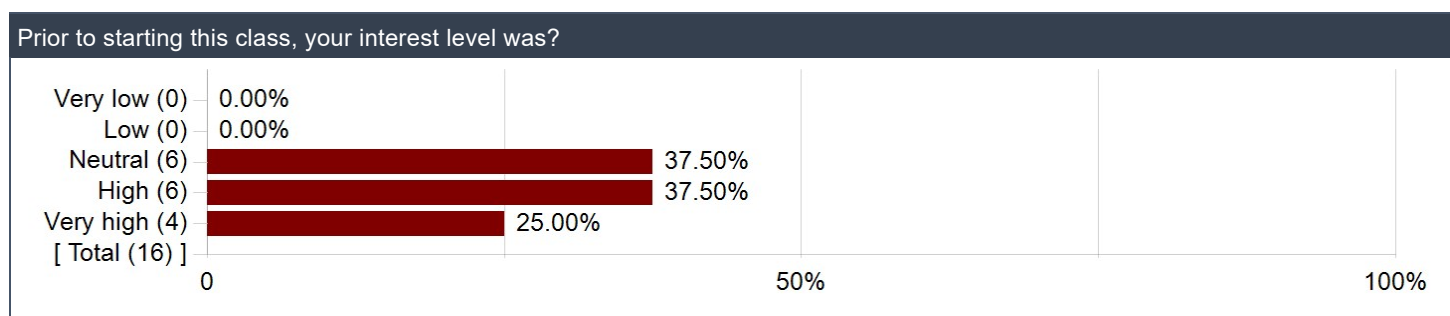|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%

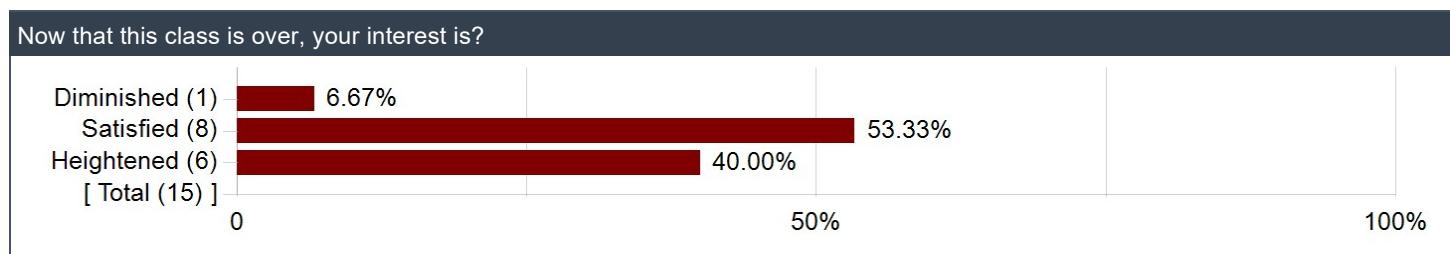# Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion Section

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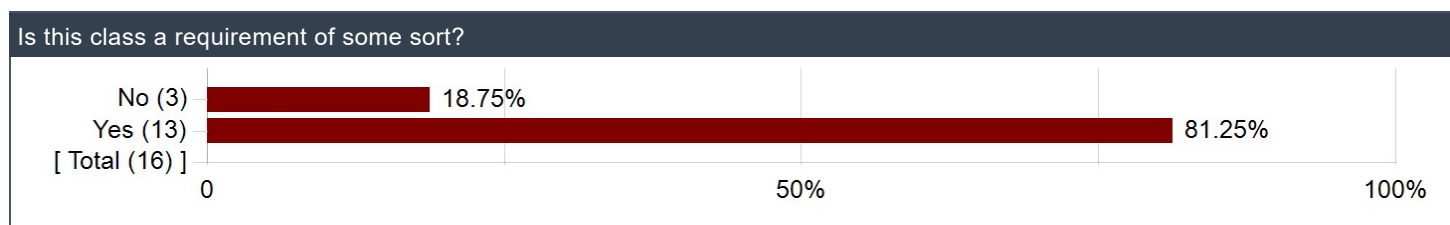
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (3) — 18.75%
Yes (13) — 81.25%
[Total (16)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0) — 0.00%
Low (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (6) — 37.50%
High (6) — 37.50%
Very high (4) — 25.00%
[Total (16)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (1) — 6.67%
Satisfied (8) — 53.33%
Heightened (6) — 40.00%
[Total (15)]

Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
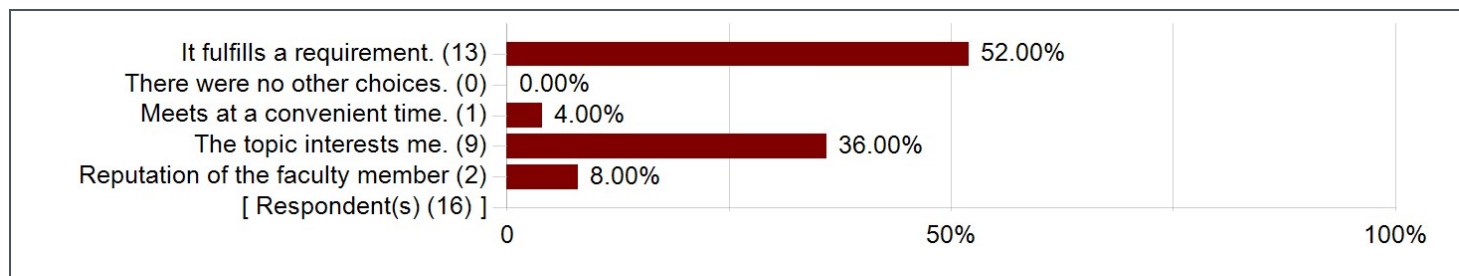
It fulfills a requirement. (13)	52.00%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (1)	4.00%
The topic interests me. (9)	36.00%
Reputation of the faculty member (2)	8.00%
[Respondent(s) (16)]	

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 (3)	18.75%
5-10 hours (9)	56.25%
10-15 hours (1)	6.25%
15-20 hours (3)	18.75%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (16)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (3)	18.75%
25% (2)	12.50%
50% (1)	6.25%
75% (5)	31.25%
All (5)	31.25%
[Total (16)]	
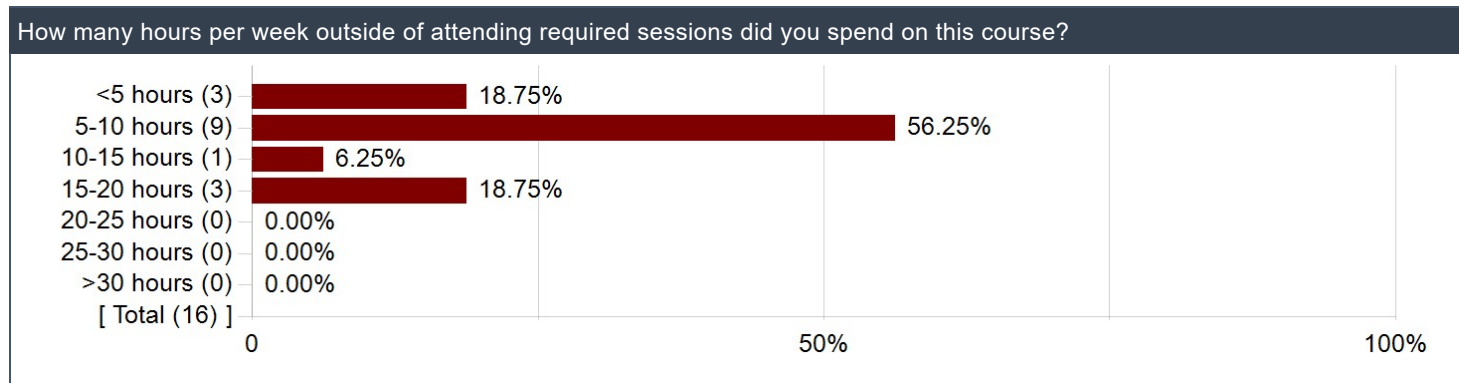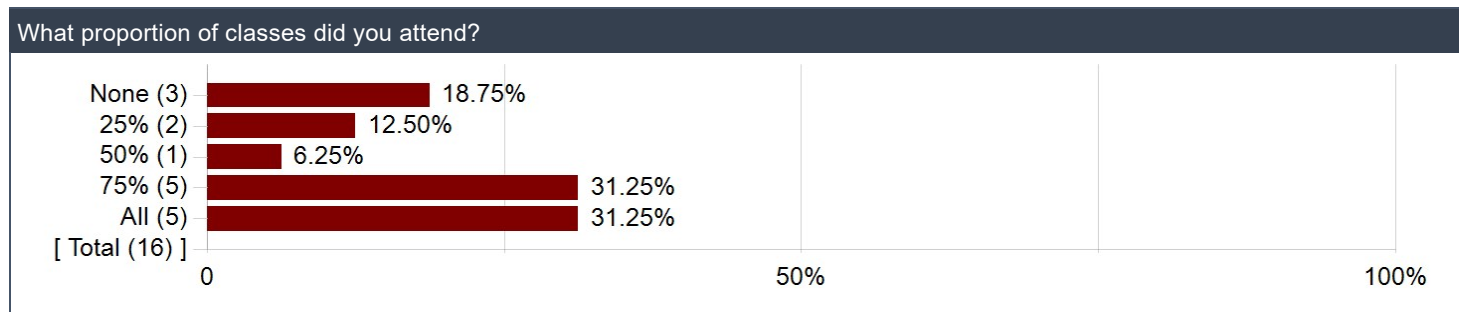
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
If I hadn't taken CMSC 14100 before this, I feel like I would've really been thrown into the deep end, but given that experience, I'd say the class was somewhat difficult – very difficult at times depending on the project, but on average somewhat difficult.
Topics are a bit more challenging than 141 but it's still very reasonable
I have a good amount of coding experience, and I found it pretty tricky at times and always time consuming.
Easy if you know any programming
Not too difficult with having taken just CMSC 14100.
Placed into this class and it was a decent amount of work but conceptually pretty easy.
This class is definitely a step up from 141 but as much as it is different it follows a similar structure to 141 other than the fact there is final project instead of a final exam.
I took 141 and have some experience with statistical packages and I found the class relatively easy, barring homework 2.
I had prior experience and placed out of 14100, and the class was easy for me. It would be challenging if you didn't have prior experience.