



# CMSC 14200 5 - Introduction to Computer Science II - Instructor(s): Jesus Almaraz-Argueta, Mohammed Suhail Rehman

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

Number Enrolled: **49**

Number of Responses: **21**

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## 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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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
Graph traversals.
I learned about more advanced data structures and algorithms such as graphs and Dijkstra's algorithm as well as foundational software design principles.
AVL tree, graph etc.
All the steps of the software development life cycle.
Collaborating on a team project
Anonymous functions, functional programming, typing, class, development philosophy, software dev.
search algorithms, trees, software development
I learned how to program a board game and a textual user interface
OOP, recursion, graphs, trees, software design
More advanced Python concepts, Python libraries, Git, working in teams
Basic approaches to software engineering, a deeper proficiency in the Python programming language, and a good introduction to graph algorithms.
more programming in python, software development in groups, more appropriate use of git
more python knowledge
pygame
The basics of working in a software development project as a team. In terms of skills, type checking and learning about graphs and different traversal algorithms.
the complete skills to build a project in CS

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

Comments
Profs' lecture notes were better than actually going to lecture.
The lectures were generally very critical for explaining the concepts that we had to learn and the discussion sections were nice to be able to dive deeper into some of the topics.
My instructor was SUPER good at teaching, so much above my expectations (as I unfortunately found most of my CS I instructor to be quite confusing).
If you found CS I to be difficult because the lectures are incomprehensible, don't worry, because this Prof will make your life so much easier for CS II.
Assignments, while some were challenging efficiently and effectively prepared me for the final project and midterm.
I only went to lectures, but they were a great contribution to my learning!
The lectures taught the most, it would've been helpful if the discussions were mandatory and gave worksheets similar to 141
Lectures explained relevant programming ideas, discussions explained other concepts relevant to software engineering, course project saw the two together
I learned most of my content through homework assignments, but I think the lecture also helps to complement my learning.
they contributed positively
understood how to design a simple software
The assignments were the most helpful ways of advancing my knowledge since it allowed me to engage hands on with what we were learning. The lectures were helpful for introducing me to new concepts, but I only truly understood the concepts after working through the homeworks. The discussions were only helpful when I needed help with a specific problem.
lectures and discussions allowed me to properly understand the steps to succeed in this course.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.42	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.89%	42.11%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	47.37%	52.63%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.11%	57.89%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	21.05%	36.84%	42.11%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.26	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	42.11%	42.11%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.84%	63.16%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	36.84%	52.63%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
HW is really hard, project way easier.
final is a great oup project which lowkey sucks but it's nice having one less final exam and the grading scheme is fair
The first half of the course is much more intense than the second half.
I feel like the second half of the course was not as useful as the first. The lectures became less applicable to the work we had to do for the project, so they felt less necessary to attend.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	5.26%	94.74%
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
When he worked through examples
The lectures in general were clear and explained the concepts and their applications well.
Prof. Rehman explains things very well, and is great about answering questions when you need help.
They posted all materials on canvas so I could digest material at my own pace and supplement in class learning.
I think Professor Rahman's little vignettes on CS history really made the lectures for me. They kept me engaged and I learned something that I probably would have a harder time with than learning through web tutorials.
Giving us access to the notes from class
Suhail is very passionate about the subject that he teaches. He tries his hardest to make the content he teaches as interesting as possible.
Examples in class
He did a great job of working through examples
he used examples for every new concept explained. It was very clear for us students.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Some of the algorithm walkthroughs seemed redundant, however I can understand that that could be useful if the pseudocode itself didn't make much sense.
N/A
I felt like the lectures in the section of the course which dealt with the project were not very helpful to actually doing the project. The wide scope of the lectures was a bit frustrating too, I felt like it was a very surface level description which made it very hard to stay motivated to keep coming. I would prefer more lectures on a smaller number of topics and more in depth study of those topics.
Not really that much!
Going more in depth into GUI and Tui
I think spending more time and more repetition on the deeper concepts such as algorithms and recursion could make me understand them better.
slow down the curriculum, though I know it's pretty much impossible
n/a
He could try to interact more with the class.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.84%	63.16%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.84%	63.16%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.35	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	26.32%	47.37%	10.53%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	21.05%	68.42%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	26.32%	63.16%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	36.84%	57.89%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	21.05%	42.11%	26.32%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	42.11%	42.11%	5.26%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	21.05%	68.42%	5.26%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	31.58%	57.89%	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
Zain
My TA was Zain Sarwar and he is amazing. He puts a lot of efforts into his TA sessions. He is humorous and very knowledgeable. I attended every session of his and I greatly enjoyed each of them.
Zain Sarwar
Don't remember their name
Zain Sarwar is passionate about computer science and is good at explaining me concepts that seemed obscure to me. His additional instructions in the discussion sessions aided my learning.
There were too many of them and I can't match the names with the faces. but every one of them were excellent.
TA of the Tuesday 5:00pm–5:50pm session. TA presented the core concepts very well. Great TA

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%

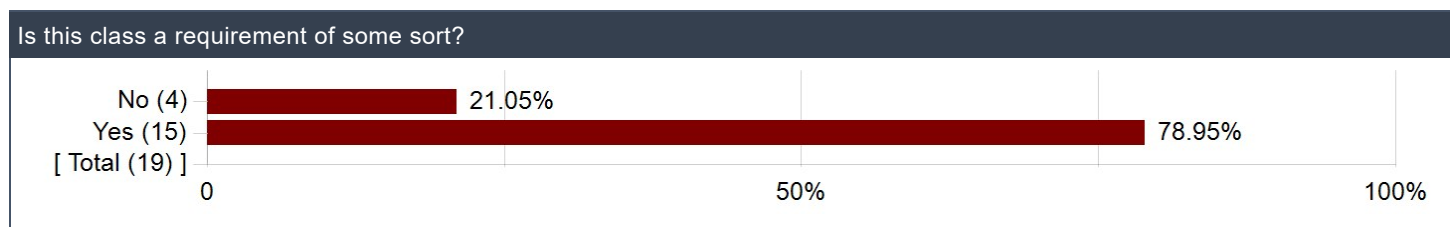
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
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	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

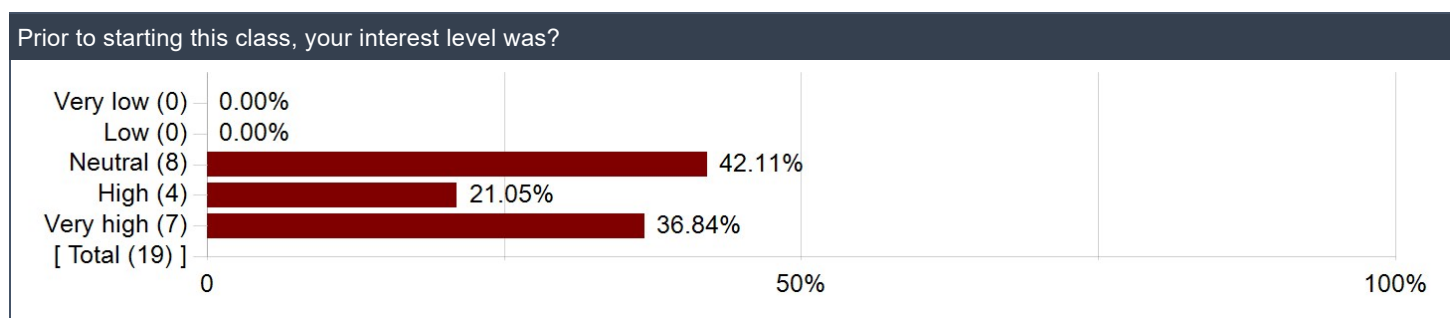
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion Sections

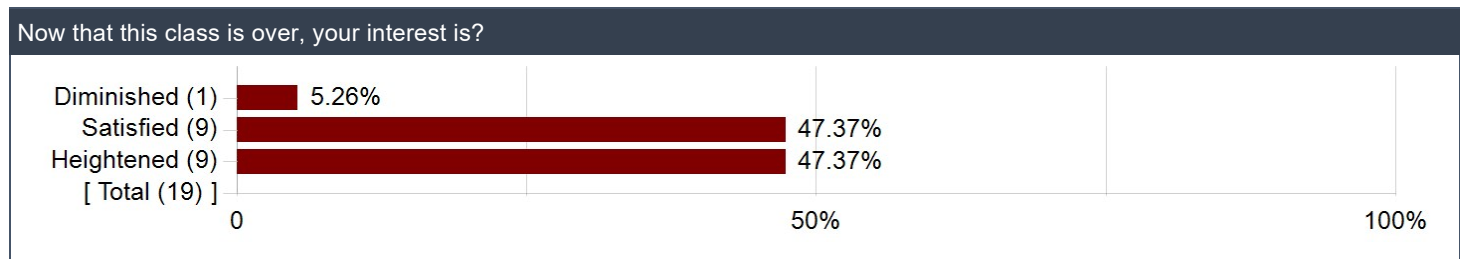
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



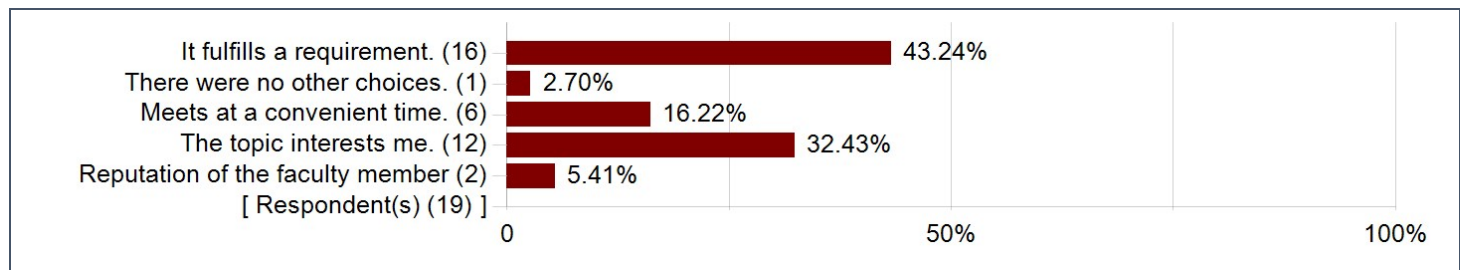
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



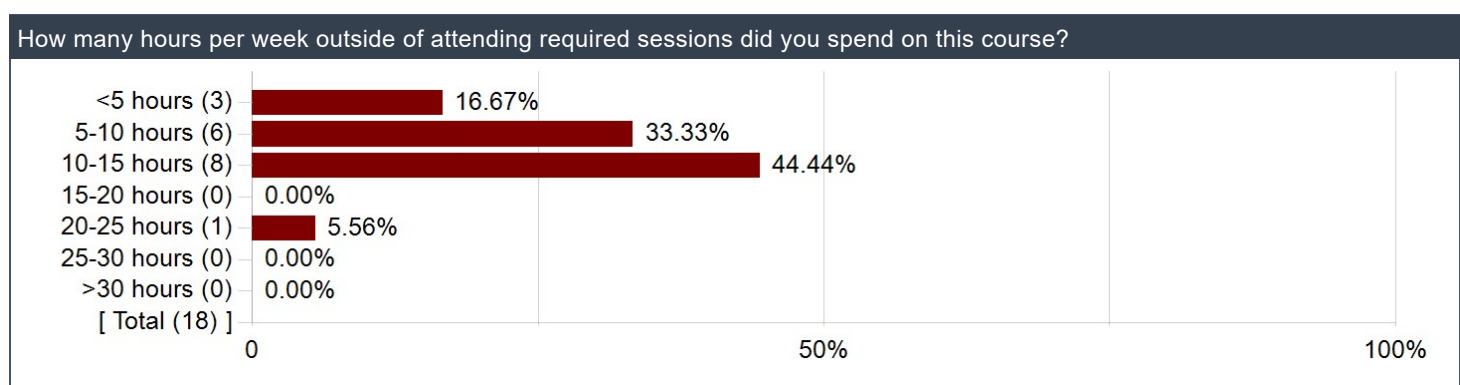
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



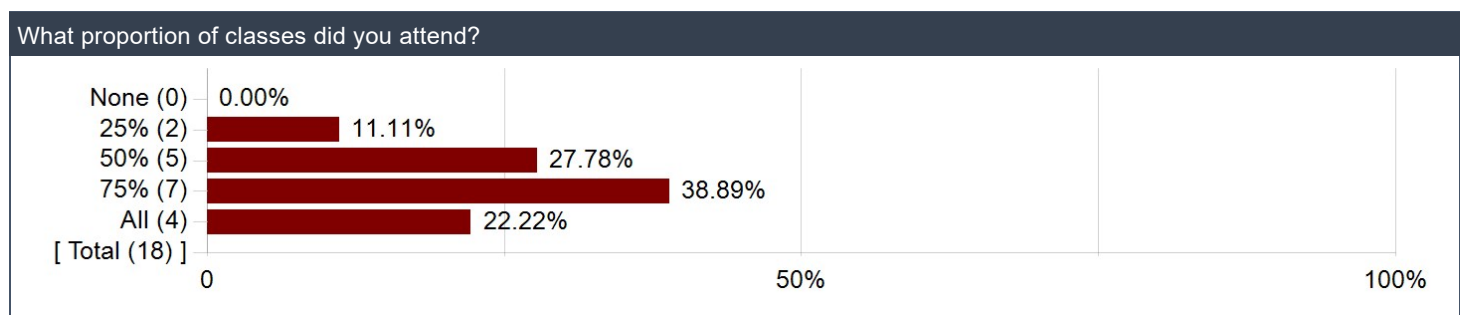
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
step up compared to 141. I still feel like my lack of experience prior to 141 was a factor.
I had little to no experience with the concepts discussed in class, however I didn't find the class to be very difficult. I do, however, have a fairly strong foundation in computer science.
Exam is easy if you read ALL lecture notes, practice ALL past midterms and treat ALL psets seriously. Unfortunately, that adds up to ~20 hrs per week or even more. So if you are determined to get an A, do expect a lot of time commitments in this course. If not, still don't be too afraid to take it, because A- boundary is as low as 75%, so ~10 hrs per week can probably get you a comfortable A-.
This class follows very nicely from CS141 and is not too difficult if you follow along.
Good level of difficulty.
Just about as difficult as 141. The project doesn't involve particularly difficult coding so don't be intimidated by that. The hardest part of the project is managing group work rather than any particular coding skills. Would definitely recommend.
if you have prior CS / python experience this class is very easy
I have little experience before 141, I did have some trouble understanding recursion and some algorithms, but it didn't deter me from getting a good grade
much time effort, but learns a lot
It is very doable.