



# CMSC 14100 2 - Introduction to Computer Science I - Instructor(s): Jesus Almaraz-Argueta, Mohammed Suhail Rehman

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

Number Enrolled: **55**

Number of Responses: **24**

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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: **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
I learned all about writing simple code
All the fundamentals of the Python programming language, including learning syntax and learning how to read code like a computer would.
Basic coding structures, familiarity with python
Basic python skills
The most important things I've learned are the basic types and uses in Python and the basics of Object Orientated Programming.
basics of python
basic python coding
Mostly just learning and practicing basics, as well as more complex concepts like classes, objects, and recursion.
Into python.
How to use python to code
Python syntax
python syntax, how to use classes and objects in python, recursion, logical thinking
Lists, Dictionaries, Recursion, Trees.
Trees and maps
Basic programming, data structures, introduction to basic algorithms
Basic python skills – the basic coding principles, like functions, loops, conditionals, etc., and then the second half of the quarter covered dictionaries, classes, recursion, exceptions, and opening files in python
Recursion and computational thinking
Basic python coding: lists, dictionaries, classes, recursion, files.

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

Comments
The lectures taught the concepts, and the discussions and homework were for practicing them
Lectures definitely contributed the most to my learning. I found that the way my professor went over what we were doing during lectures allowed me to take detailed notes without feeling too rushed. When I missed class, the textbook was also great for catching up on material talked about in lectures.
Homeworks were very helpful and Ed Discussion is a great resource. Suhail did an awesome job lecturing and leading the class through the textbook without cold calling. Lectures definitely helpful if you are super unfamiliar with these concepts, but aren't super necessary since most everything is in the textbook online.
Discussions were probably the most helpful, as they helped you solve problems similar to what would be on the homework for that week. Lectures were okay, they mainly had the same content as in the textbook though, so I think reading the homework that the lecture is on before rather than after is actually much more helpful.
I attended every lecture and discussion and I am surprised at how helpful the discussions were to Midterms questions. I thought the assignments were a bit too strenuous for a course considered the introduction to computer programming.
lectures are really helpful and discussions & hw help prepare for midterm
the lectures were great. The homework was very educational because we could keep trying new code until we got the right answer, so it was a lot of trial and error. The discussion sessions were pretty much a waste of time though.
I think the discussions and the assignments (along with assignment feedback) are without doubt the most important parts of this course; technically you could learn everything else in it on your own, either using the textbook or online resources, but the more personalized aspects of the course (including office hours, obviously) are immensely helpful.
Labs and assignments most helpful.
Lectures fine, didn't feel a need to attend them as much, as I already had previous experience in programming from Java. Only attended to become familiar with Python syntax
lectures and reading the textbook were most helpful for an intro to each topic, and homework assignments and discussion section practice problems solidified my understanding
Lectures are very close to the readings, but the examples in class are better than the textbook readings. Lecture is important for solidifying understanding of more difficult topics.
Discussions helped a lot to talk about my ideas
Textbook was the most helpful. Discussions were good for test prep.
Lectures were quite good and contained some remarks and examples that may not have always been in the textbook. Most of my learning came from reading the textbook and doing the homework problems
discussion were very good for practice and review
I personally thought the professor's lectures were confusing, but the textbook went through the topics in every class and was very helpful. Most people ended up not coming to lectures. I really didn't like how discussions didn't really suit new learners. The TA would just give us time to work on it and then the few experienced students would provide their answers and it felt intimidating for new learners to speak up and ask questions. The questions on the discussions and homework were very much relevant to the exams.

### Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.04%	43.48%	43.48%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.43%	69.57%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.43%	69.57%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	4.35%	8.70%	47.83%	39.13%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.26	5.00	0.00%	8.70%	8.70%	30.43%	52.17%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.52	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	47.83%	52.17%
I felt respected in this class.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.26	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	17.39%	39.13%	43.48%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I liked it.
Suhail is awesome – would reccomend to my friends. Discussions are kind of redundant but I still found to be helpful when learning what they are looking for in terms of Code Quality.
I felt like the course was extremely challenging for an introductory course, especially the amount the homework could impact your grade.
teacher is funny, great guy
the grading policy is quite strict, but enough feedback was provided to know how to improve; however office hours were quite annoying because sometimes I felt rushed or wasn't given enough time to understand well

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	13.64%	86.36%

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

Comments
It was all plenty
My instructor, Suhail Rehman, took time to make sure everyone in the lecture understood what was happening and why it was being done a certain way before moving on to the next idea.
Lectures
I guess the general explanations followed by examples
I think my instructor's specific examples made it much easier
He went through topics really well in lecture!
he's really good at simplifying topics and always answers questions.
Clear explanations of how it all works under the hood
professor rehman explains really well and is willing to go over things again if you're confused
Live coding in class helps you gain understanding. Suhail is great at answering questions that arise during lectures.
Very clearly explained lectures, have taken intro cs many times and rehman the best instructor so far
I think he gave clear lectures and had good examples that covered content from the textbook but also had additional examples and explanations that went beyond
various examples
Ed discussion posts when I had a specific question about the homework

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

Comments
Nothing
Maybe give us additional, optional problems to work on that would help us train individual concepts instead of only issuing these much larger hw problems that tested many skills at once
N/A
Show more complex examples of things (I feel like there was a huge difference in difficulty between what was being taught and what you were expected to do, especially in the last 3 homeworks/weeks)
Nothing
the discussion sessions were mostly useless. Felt like doing extra homework but for only a participation grade
posting code that he displayed/wrote up during the lecture for us to look at after would be very convenient because sometimes I couldn't write it down fast enough, and since typos could mean the code doesn't run when I am looking back at my notes later, this would have helped my understanding
Nothing
Not much, taught very clearly
Nothing
Not make office hours so restricting — difficult to get available times through the online queue and limited time given so many students need to go but only one at a time. The online office hours queue system was definitely a negative to the learning experience.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.48	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	4.76%	28.57%	61.90%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	4.76%	33.33%	57.14%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.06	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	14.29%	38.10%	28.57%	14.29%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	33.33%	52.38%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	14.29%	28.57%	52.38%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	23.81%	61.90%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	38.10%	42.86%	4.76%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.30	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	19.05%	28.57%	47.62%	4.76%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.32	5.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	28.57%	47.62%	9.52%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.48	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	23.81%	61.90%	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
I don't remember her name. She was a good TA
Nicholas
Nat Getahun. He was good at explaining whatever code we were going over in discussion. Good guy
I had discussion section 2D06 with Nat Getahun and he was really helpful in discussion, both in terms of running it well, answering questions, and explaining things when we didn't understand/if we missed something, etc. These sections were very helpful to me getting more familiar with the material.
nicholas was an amazing discussion ta because he understood all the assignments/questions really well and was able to explain them to us clearly as well as answer questions well
Discussion Sections are important for practicing exam-like questions. These were great for reviewing content and solidifying understanding.
Nicholas was helpful in discussion whenever someone had a question and overall led discussions well, often let us out of discussion a little early
Did well in correcting our mistakes and making discussions engaging.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	40.00%	53.33%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	33.33%	46.67%	13.33%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	40.00%	46.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	53.33%	6.67%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	60.00%	13.33%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.27	5.00	6.67%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	53.33%	0.00%

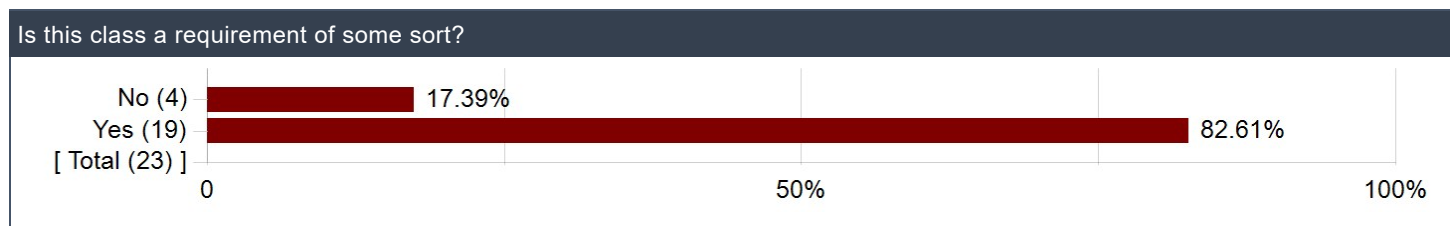
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

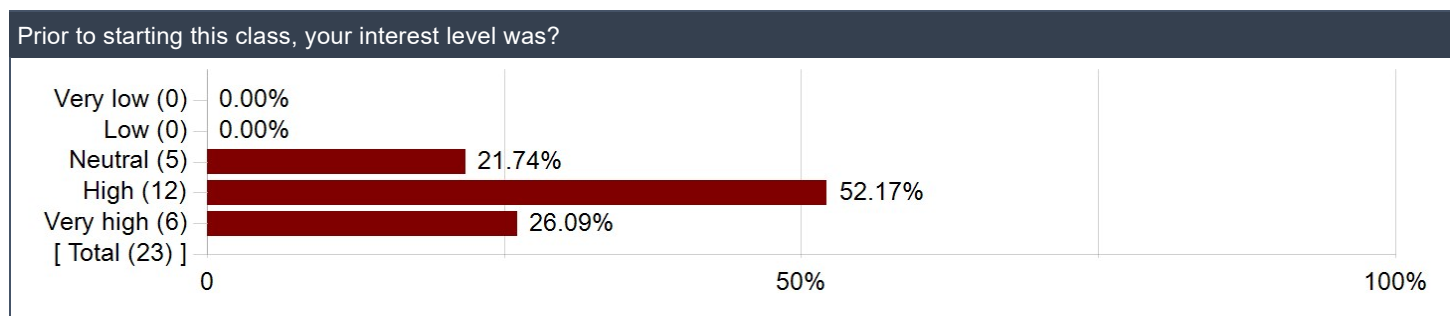
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussions helped

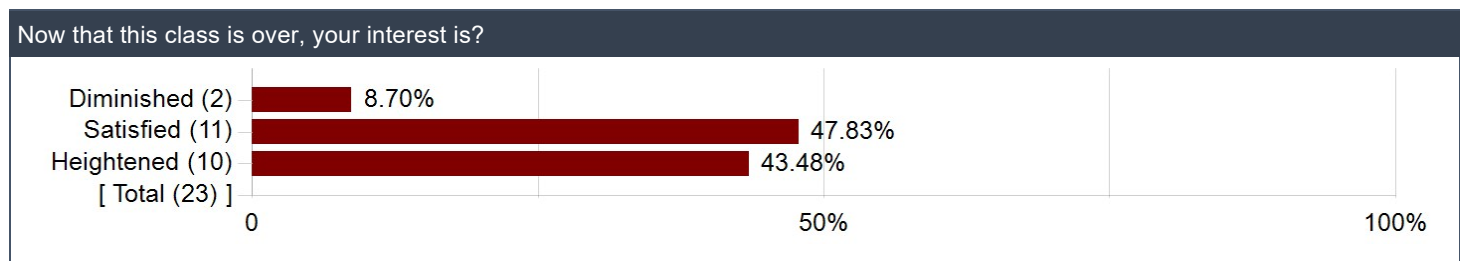
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



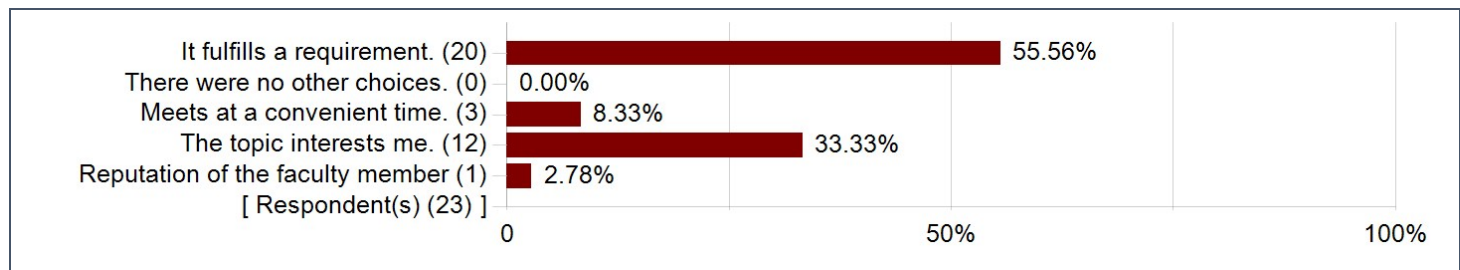
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



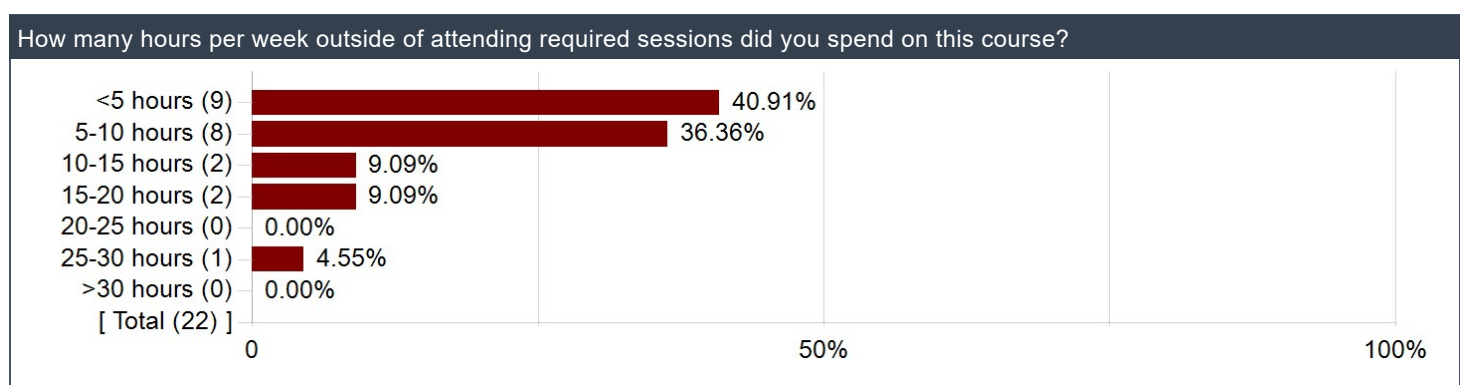
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



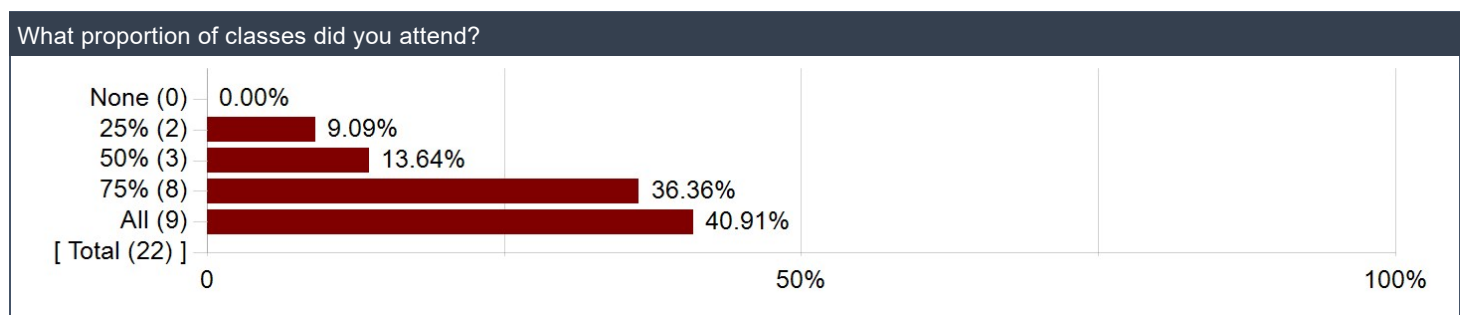
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
It matched.
Somewhat easy
I took AP CSA in highschool and found the first 3/4 of this class to be pretty much review. Homeworks take some time but I was expecting this to be my hardest class and it was not.
This course would have been pretty hard if I had no CS experience prior to the course
Very difficult
I thought this class was quite difficult and I have prior computer programming.
I took AP Computer Science and the course was easy for me.
I knew little to no python before this course, but still found it pretty easy. I noticed there was a different type of thinking involved when doing for loops and recursion and such, which could take a bit of getting used to, but at a certain point it just feels like logic
It's not terribly difficult for anyone who has coding experience, regardless of language, though recursion in particular might give you some trouble before you get a hang of it.
Minimal experience, not too hard.
Relatively easy if you are familiar with programming up to basic data structures up until the first midterm, but recursion was more difficult as usual
it definitely got harder when we got to topics I had never learned before
I had a good deal of experience in CS, (APCS and beyond) beforehand so it wasn't too difficult. If you are a first-time coder, this class is extremely high-paced but is very rewarding because of the skills you will learn.
Beginner
I have some coding knowledge but just not from python before this class, and it wasn't that difficult but feels hard to get an A because the grading scheme leaves little margin for error on the exams. But the class itself is not difficult.
I had quite a bit of experience with these topics already so the course was definitely not overly difficult. The first few weeks in particular were quite simple, but later on it does get more challenging especially when you cover recursion
Extremely difficult and not accessible for new learners.