CMSC 14200 3 - Introduction to Computer Science II - Instructor(s): Adam Shaw, Jesus Almaraz-Argueta

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

Number Enrolled: **55**
Number of Responses: **25**

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
Trees (a LOT about trees in this course / different types of trees), classes, pygame, working in a group project
Dfs bfs software
I learned more about different structures and software programs
More Python knowledge, graphs, trees, functional programming, inheritance, and collaborative programming. Broadly, more computer science thinking skills and not just coding.
I learned data structures such as trees and graphs. I also learned the basics of Software Dev and how to implement a computer game. Some tasks also taught us how to use pygame.
python skills, including typing, inheritance, trees (expression trees / avl trees / ...), graphs, dfs/bfs/dijkstra's algorithm, heap, numpy, pandas, and the experience of writing code for a project
How to work in a team on a software development project, git fundamentals, and DFS and BFS
python, software development
Traversal
Graph theory and algorithms
Type checking, inheritance, trees, graphs, functional programming, and software development.
I learned more about classes and coding, recursion and classes and different types of trees, and in the end, software programming as a team.
Graphs, AVL Trees, Software Development
The most important thing I learned was probably how to use other python libraries.
In the first portion of this course, you will expand on topics from 141 including recursion, trees, and graphs, and will be introduced to new things such as types and algorithms for navigating trees and graphs. You will then have the opportunity to work on a project during the second half with teammates from any section. Overall it's a great continuation course that shouldn't challenge you with knowledge from 141.
Advanced data structures and supplemented my programming skills through Python.
Coding a game.
The course covered slightly more advanced concepts in introductory Python programming and began to dabble more in algorithms. For example, we began by discussing object–oriented programming, binary search trees, and recursion before moving onto graph–traversal algorithms and broader topics in software development (such as good collaborative practices and various Python libraries). All throughout, I got more practice with writing code in Python.
Technical coding skills specifically graphs and graph traversal
Learned some graph search algorithms and how to make Go in python
This course was split into two halves. The first half worked through some more advanced programming concepts, similar to CMSC 14100, introducing type–checking, debugging strategies, trees and recursive methods for traversing them, graphs and algorithms for traversing them, and functional programming. The second half of the course taught principles of software development, including version control, collaborative strategies, etc. with a few supplemental lectures on the numpy and pandas libraries for data analysis.
more advanced python concepts along with how to interact with such concepts in a pragmatic way.
I mainly learned about recursion, graphs, and trees all of which expanded my knowledge of Python. I also got better at debugging throughout the course.

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

Comments
Lecture: useful, notes are also posted! Discussion: TAs are quite helpful with questions
The lectures where very helpful as well as OH
Shaw's lecture were great. Homeworks were reasonable and interesting. Discussions were not all that helpful.
Lectures were fairly useful in the first part of the course but moved quite slowly. Would recommend attending though, particularly before the midterm.
Lectures on concepts are very clear, engaging and helpful. Assignments help me become more experienced in coding.
The lectures were very helpful in building a base understanding of the concepts, but reading the lecture notes after they were posted really hammered it home for me.
I loved the 4 homework we had and the final project.
The lecture helps a lot.
Lectures with professor shaw were really clear and helpful.
The lectures helped me build a foundation of knowledge. The discussions and assignments helped me practice and strengthen my knowledge.
Lectures were definitely the most helpful in teaching us about the material; in the first half, about topics on the midterm, and afterwards, it extends to teaching us more about coding and computer science in real life applications, which I found fascinating. Office hours were also incredibly useful, whether to ask for help on content of the course or for detecting bugs on homeworks.
Lectures from Shaw were super helpful and fun
The assignments were the most helpful by clearly presenting what was expected to be learned and then providing practice. Easy access to notes was also helpful.
Lectures are pretty helpful for learning new things. Professor Shaw made sure to provide solid examples and take the time to clarify any questions students may have had on any topics in class. He also actively had students participate in coming up with solutions or building code during lecture. Discussions were nice for learning smaller things that are relevant for things such as git and design choices.
Lectures covered principles of software design which was useful for understanding how to build more complex software projects over time.
The project contributed most to my learning as it was a collaborative effort in which I had to learn how to read, understand, and build upon my teammates code.
Lectures were helpful!
Lectures presented necessary information for the homeworks and course project, both of which were in turn important for practicing and clarifying a wide range of skills. I felt that the course project in particular gave me a good sense of how software changes from its inception to completion and how various elements of an implementation can work hand–in–hand.
first half of the year lectures helpful second half useless, homework was good applications of knowledge
did not attend lectures, they were not helpful. assignments were good and project was good. did not go to discussion sections
Lectures were incredibly helpful, introducing topics in an abstract, conceptual way and showing us a bit of the code we could use to implement them. Discussions generally provided supplemental lectures covering more logistical aspects of computer science, while also providing some dedicated time to ask questions. Homework assignments allowed us to put the conceptual information we got from lectures into practice, which was incredibly helpful making sure we knew how to apply all the concepts we were learning to real problems.
HW were the most helpful with lectures preparing/solidifying material for them. Discussions were pretty useless imo.
The homeworks and final project were the most useful parts since they let me apply what was covered in lecture.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.30	5.00	0.00%	4.35%	13.04%	30.43%	52.17%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	43.48%	56.52%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.52	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	47.83%	52.17%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.13	4.00	4.35%	4.35%	8.70%	39.13%	43.48%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.32	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.64%	40.91%	45.45%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	43.48%	56.52%
I felt respected in this class.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%	30.43%	65.22%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.48	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%	43.48%	52.17%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
At the stage of the project, the lectures seem less helpful and slightly boring —- there is room to improve the course structure and make the second half of the quarter more helpful to us
If you placed into 14200 and never took 141, make sure you have a solid Python foundation (could just do 2 hr python course on yt, that's what I did). Class is very welcoming and offers a lot of help.
Try to get Professor Shaw. Even if you aren't in his section, attending his lectures was super helpful and a great introduction to thinking like a programmer.
Midterm was easy, project was interesting, assignments were interesting. Probably easier than 141
HW 2 was terrible for me, but I wanted to challenge myself and chose GUI for the end project and honestly I did very well, so if GUI could have a little introduction before its introduced, that would greatly help.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	4.55%	95.45%

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

Comments
Notes were very helpful
He was very informative and kept the class entertained
Shaw's use of the blackboard was great. I learn way better when he's writing things out than a slideshow. Though we might have moved slower at times than other sections, I really liked how much he emphasized the computational thinking perspective.
Shaw was always super kind and respectful. He made class time as fun and interesting as possible whilst also being very chill. He was great about answering questions and giving students a chance to feel engaged.
Clear explanation of concepts, very engaging and fantastic lectures
His lectures were very lively and it is easy to pay attention
Prof Shaw was great. I'm a chronic skipper and could've skipped the majority of classes, but shaw was so engaging and passionate in the course content that lecture was really fun to go to. He explains everything in a thoughtful yet concise manner and teaches in a way that gets the class to participate. No kidding, great guy.
Lectures and code demos.
The examples of codes and explanations of definitions contributed most to my learning.
Professor Shaw is an incredible professor that really motivated me to wanting to explore and learn more about the subject. He explains material in a clear manner and helps us to digest the information in a concise way. He interacts with the class to keep us engaged as well, through asking questions and conversing with the students often.
No devices and paying attention
The instructor was really good at presenting information in a clear and concise way. All info was made super digestible.
Professor Shaw knows how to engage his students well. Lectures were full of problems that students were encouraged to help solve. He would constantly make it a point to involve students in participating in learning and was very clear when teaching.
Clear organization of the course, office hours, and effective feedback on prior work
The no electronics policy helped me stay focused and absorb material better.
The way Professor Shaw explained topics was helpful!
Professor Shaw did a wonderful job explaining concepts and answering questions in a detailed manner in class. His genuine interest and passion for the course material was also contagious and I felt that I became much more interested in programming as a result.
he was normal it was good
Did not go to class
Prof. Shaw singlehandedly revived my interest in computer science through this course. His lecture style was incredibly engaging and made everything we were learning feel substantive, while including quite a significant bit of student participation given that it was a lecture class. I was a little bit thrown off by his no technology policy on the first day of classes, especially given that this is a computer science class, but it quickly became clear that this classroom setup was advantageous to my learning, so I grew to appreciate it. I also especially appreciated the fact that most of class time was spent discussing topics in abstract so that we had a complete conception of what we were working with, rather than just watching the instructor code for most of the lecture the way my CMSC 14100 class was taught.
Posted notes were very helpful, and Profesor Shaw is very interactive and an amazing prof.
The written–by–hand examples in class helped me learn the theory behind the programming.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Some of the lectures seemed to be more helpful than others. For instance, the lecture on creating functions didn't seem as useful toward the end given that we've learned similar content before.
N/A
Shaw could sometimes move through material a bit faster.
I would have liked if lectures were sped up a bit more – would have made class time more engaging.
No computers is a bummer
N/A
Nothing much, really.
N/A
There is nothing I would suggest Professor Shaw change about the way he teaches. He is clear, knowledgeable, and passionate.
Literally nothing Adam Shaw is perfect
He could stop liking the Cavaliers as a basketball team.
I wish the course was more practical and involved real examples of how the code gets used in actual software engineering contexts.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.59	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	31.82%	63.64%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	4.55%	9.09%	31.82%	54.55%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.20	4.50	0.00%	4.55%	18.18%	22.73%	45.45%	9.09%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.41	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	40.91%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.32	4.50	0.00%	4.55%	9.09%	36.36%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.41	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	40.91%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	50.00%	4.55%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.32	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	31.82%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.59	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.91%	59.09%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.36	4.50	0.00%	4.55%	4.55%	40.91%	50.00%	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
Sylvie. I went to a few discussion sections, she was very helpful with my questions.
Sylvie – she was very enthusiastic and was great at keeping you engaged even during the late–night discussion sections. Unfortunately I did not go to many of the discussion sessions because I simply did not find the content to be super useful.
Sylive – really sweet; I didn't go much to discussion once the project started but great at teaching discussion content and seem.
Issa
My TA is Issa. His demonstration of code implementation and lecture slides contributed most to my learning.
Yiming Su was my TA. He was great. Very helpful when asking him questions during discussion sections and was also a great lecturer when doing presentations in class. Great experience.
Sylvie Badur led my discussion section and was willing and able to answer questions and explain supplemental material clearly.
Issa was very helpful in discussion section and in office hours; overall solid TA
Yiming Su was not my TA but I went to most of his office hours and we was very helpful and was able to clearly communicate the type of errors that I needed to fix. David also helped me greatly towards the project time, and was willing to sit down and truly help debug.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	72.73%	27.27%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	27.27%	27.27%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	72.73%	27.27%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.10	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	45.45%	27.27%	9.09%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	54.55%	27.27%	9.09%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.10	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	45.45%	27.27%	9.09%

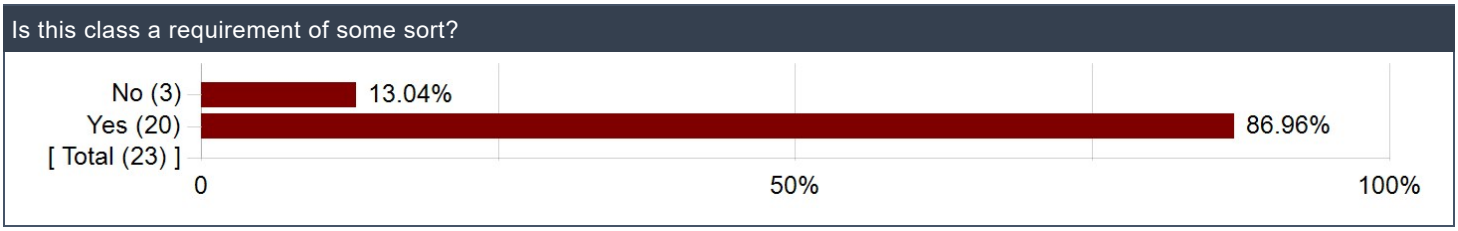
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	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%

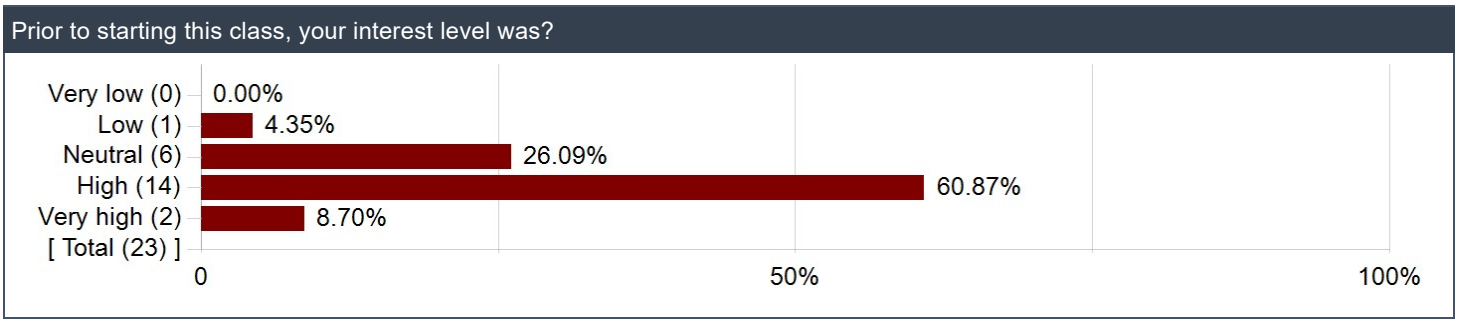
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion Sessions

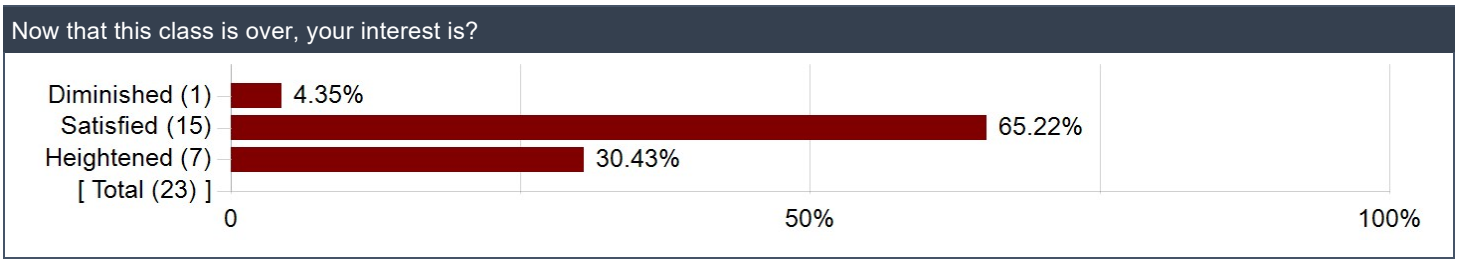
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



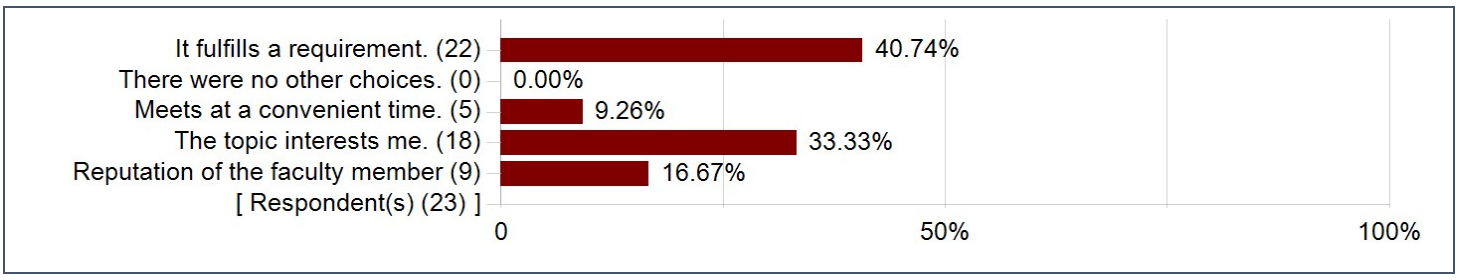
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



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?

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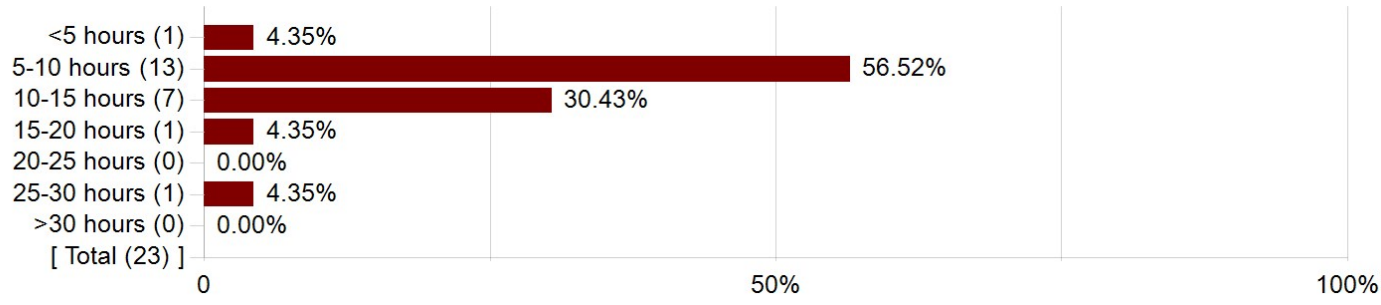
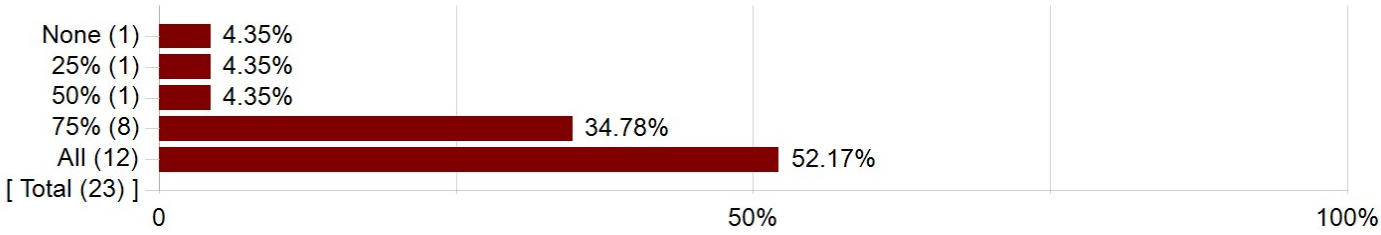


What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Took 141; this course was difficult and took time. Worth it if you want to really learn CS, but you definitely have to dedicate tons of time on this.
If you've taken 141 it was easy to follow, overall the course is not difficult and they offer a lot of support
A bit harder than 141, but nothing unreasonable.
I had taken AP CSA and found the class very easy
As a first–year being placed to 142, this course is generally manageable.
I've coded before but even I spent A LOT of time on these homework assignments. They were really challenging so make sure you set aside enough time to do them and don't procrastinate.
This course has an intermediate level of difficulty for me. The final project of this course is creative and interesting.
Good given minimal experience and having done 141
Difficulty may shock you if you had no prior coding experience before CS 141. However, it is manageable. If you're like me and have coding experience from before the CS intro sequence, you will be fine. You should find it simple.
Appropriate for those with programming experience
Relatively difficult
With the previous course in this sequence, CMSC 142 followed very directly. No additional programming experience was assumed and every topic introduced was explained clearly.
Easy coming from 141
It was reasonably challenging, but manageable if you dedicate enough time and effort to it. The only experience I had was CMSC 14100 which I took a year prior, and a tiny bit of numpy experience from CMSC 35620 (Computational Linguistics)
Did 141 and learning Javascript on the side.
It was appropriately difficult.