CMSC 14100 1 - Introduction to Computer Science I - Instructor(s): Anne Rogers, Jesus Almaraz-Argueta

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

Number Enrolled: **63**
Number of Responses: **28**

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
Building up Python programming from the ground up, allowing me to feel more confident in my syntax and other skills (recursion, classes/objects, data structures, etc.).
I learned coding in Python and how to solve complex problems by thinking them out.
how to code
How to think like a computer.
Basic python
Recursion, and the basics of the Python language.
Control Flow Statements, Linux, Git, Recursion
basic python skills
Computational thinking, basic computational concepts and approaches.
python
Object–Oriented Programming in Python, Procedural Programming in Python, basic Github.
Using Python and some of the ways you build on the basic skills/for what projects.
Basics of python: for loops, working with lists, matrices, dictionaries, creating classes & objects, recursion
Basic programming fundamentals (recursion, dictionaries, etc), Python, using VS Code
I learned the basics of Python and computer science. It was a very useful class and has got me started in cs.
Basics of python
Recursion and how to think through solving these types of problems. Dictionaries and the intuition behind using them. List of lists.
Thinking computationally
Basics of programming in python. Conditionals, Data Structures, Classes, and Recursion.
Recursions, classes, etc.
How to program and think computationally
Recursion, analytical thinking, coding

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

Comments
Lectures were extremely helpful to answer questions, and discussions/assignments were good practice. The textbook was very helpful too.
Discussions helped a lot to learn what would be needed for each homework and the exams,.The homeworks also helped a lot.
Lectures followed the textbook to a t. If you read the textbook chapter before the lecture, you will be very prepared to ask informed questions.
Discussion was epic. Super helpful, honestly wish we had another discussion instead of one of the three weekly lectures
The homework assignments and discussions were the most helpful contributors to my learning because they allowed me to figure out the problems through my own efforts and receive assistance from others when needed. The lectures felt like a waste of time, as the 50–minute class times felt too short to make any substantial progress in understanding the covered topics. So in the later weeks, I mostly taught myself the material by reading the textbook, attending discussions, and talking to classmates and skipped the lectures altogether.
Go to the lectures even if you are familiar with the material; they take off style points for things you miss if you do not go to lecture and see how to improve your style/structure.
hw was most important
Assignments were extremely well–designed and contributed the most to my learning. Ms Roger's lectures were excellent and the textbook was also helpful. Overall an incredibly well–designed course.
lectures are generally helpful, but hard to catch up once you missed one because there is no recording or note; discussions sections are super helpful; homework problems are helpful as well
I cannot comment on the lectures as I didn't attend them. Problem sets were the main aspect of the course and were generally easy but taught the material well. The grading system used felt arbitrary and the style guide felt applied randomly.
Since there are multiple sections taught the same way with both professors, I found that they both were great lecturers. I also found the discussion sections to be helpful, they gave more practice problems. Homeworks were extremely helpful and directly correlated with exams, so definitely know those like the back of your hand.
homeworks, discussion sections, and extra practice problems were most helpful
The lectures and discussion sections helped solidify my understanding of the material. Read the textbook before class since lectures are based on it.
Lectures were helpful to learn topics, and then the discussions were useful to practice the theory.
Homework assignments and discussions were the most helpful tools for studying purposes. Lectures were fine, but very fast paced. I did preview the textbook readings before lectures, which I found to be very helpful in staying on pace throughout the quarter.
They built a basic foundation for my intuition and understanding of how certain algorithms work. This allowed me to think carefully about the problem and break it down into its components to solve it.
Discussions were incredibly helpful
Lectures mostly just covered textbook content. Discussions were small group problem session and were very helpful for building understanding of course content and getting a chance to work with peers.
Homework help reinforce my understanding.
The discussion sections were very helpful in that they allowed me to know the information more in a supportive learning environment.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.29	4.00	3.57%	0.00%	7.14%	42.86%	46.43%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	3.57%	3.57%	35.71%	57.14%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.21	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	3.57%	28.57%	53.57%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.96	4.00	3.70%	11.11%	7.41%	40.74%	37.04%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	40.74%	51.85%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.37	5.00	3.70%	3.70%	0.00%	37.04%	55.56%
I felt respected in this class.	4.32	5.00	8.00%	0.00%	4.00%	28.00%	60.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.11	4.00	3.70%	3.70%	14.81%	33.33%	44.44%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Start on hws early, they can be tricky.
I feel like the class size is too large and the lecture times are too short for discussion or questions. While I plan to major in computer science, I can only look forward to smaller, more discussion–focused classes.
Excellent course.
too hard for an intro course. very difficult for someone who has never coded before. That being said, I got a lot out of this course and gained a lot of useful skills. ruined my 4.0 but oh well
I had some previous experience in computer science before this class which I think greatly helped me. Otherwise, the pace of the class would feel way too fast.
The assignment of quality grades for the homework felt inconsistent, sometimes you would get punished quite severely for minor infractions, and sometimes ignoring requirements for exercises would get warnings. Although I understand the purpose of having resubmissions due one week after the assignment, I would like to see this policy modified or changed as it essentially forces students to bet against themselves in their future performance, especially since no resubmissions are allowed for the last homework.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	3.70%	96.30%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.41%	92.59%

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

Comments
Professor Rogers was kind and receptive to students' points of confusion.
The examples she went through in class.
Clear lectures and quick responses on Ed
She knows a lot and is good at teaching it
The lectures
Conceptual explanations on the board.
Lectures and Q&A on Ed
The Professor was extremely available on the Ed Discussion page and was good at answering questions.
I enjoyed that they would actively run the codes they were showing in front of us and give a few different examples, as well as explain it conceptually before going into the application of it.
The lectures were useful as she went through examples while explaining the theory.
Professor Rogers never fell behind during the entire quarter, which was very good because it meant we did not need to cram lectures during 9th week. Lectures did tend to be pretty fast paced, though, which is understandable given a block of 50 minutes.
Going over different syntax and running through example problems on the board to explain the intuition behind what was happening in the code.
Professor Rogers is a very engaging lecturer. The professor was very responsive on Ed.
N/A
Real–time examples of coding she did in class

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
Being nicer. I'd never had a class where a professor made me cry after a midterm, and Anne Rogers took it upon herself to remind me that there's a first time for everything. I was shocked at her lack of compassion and short temper. If this was a smaller class wherein I necessarily had closer/more frequent interactions with the professor, I would have seriously considered withdrawing after this negative interaction I had with her. Genuinely don't understand how someone can work with students and treat them in that way.
I feel like the problem in the class stems from its size and the length of its lectures. 50 minutes is too short, and 70+ students is too many. I also never had the opportunity to reach out to the instructor through office hours. Instead, the Ed Discussion program feels just as helpful as trying to use Windows Help to troubleshoot your issues—nearly useless. It is difficult to reach out to the teacher when there are so many other students with their own individual problems, so it is easier to simply not reach out and try to figure it out yourself or ask another friend.
The style points are occaisionally confusing/you wouldn't know you would get points off for something until you get the points off, but they say it is part of the learning process and not to worry about points (but of course we are all worried about losing points we can't know we would lose). But I get that it's hard to provide an exhaustive list of every possible style error. It was just a bit of a nuisance.
N/A
share class recordings and notes
Honestly, the course was taught too slowly or at a lower level than expected, and yet you could miss subtle things if you did not go to every lecture. A more complete syllabus would be nice.
Not much, I think they have a really good system.
start introducing recursion earlier in the course. learning about it 1.5 weeks before the exam was not enough time/not enough practice, especially if 25% of the exam points come from recursion
The instructor didnt supply notes for classes or solutions to discussions or practice exams which would have helped immensely.
Not Professor Rogers, per se, but the entire cs department. I understand the purposes of academic dishonesty, but not allowing students to collaborate is very detrimental to learning new material, especially for beginners. This school thrives on students working collaboratively, so not allowing us to do that in this class seems to be pretty crazy...
I think posting the materials presented in the lecture afterwards would be helpful to give us more notes
N/A
Greater emphasis on recursions during discussion sections and lectures.
She could go slower and be more mindful of the students who come into this class not having prior cs experience
I think she could modify the way she explains the concepts – I feel like with exceptions it's hard to be given a block of pre–written code and know what to do. I feel like sometimes it felt rushed and maybe they shouldn't include exceptions at the end of the quarter and just focus on recursion.

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%	11.11%	18.52%	70.37%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	3.70%	7.41%	29.63%	55.56%	3.70%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.20	4.00	3.85%	0.00%	11.54%	38.46%	42.31%	3.85%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.22	5.00	3.70%	3.70%	11.11%	29.63%	51.85%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	29.63%	62.96%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.48	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.81%	22.22%	62.96%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.36	5.00	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	28.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.48	5.00	3.70%	0.00%	7.41%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.12	5.00	4.00%	8.00%	12.00%	24.00%	52.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.35	5.00	0.00%	3.85%	11.54%	30.77%	53.85%	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
Zhiru Zhu
Zhuohan Gu
William Wang, he was incredibly helpful. He answered questions in the discussion section and responded quickly to my questions on Ed.
William
Zhu was amazing!!!!! So kind and helpful, made amazing slideshows that really enhanced our understanding of the discussion material
His name is William, and he helped lead our discussion section. He helped us understand the workings of some functions and features in the code that was either not explained or being newly introduced in class. During such discussions, he was also a great resource for asking questions and understanding concepts that were difficult to follow during lectures.
Zhe Heng Eng
William Wang
Ryan. He was a good TA for discussion section purposes, although we went a little fast sometimes.
William Wang! He was really great, very willing to help and probably the best TA I worked with in terms of ability to explain conceptually, which was most helpful for me.
Zhe Eng Heng. He is the best ever. Such a friendly guy, and was very helpful during and outside of discussions. Very positive energy as well
Zhe Heng
The TA helped go through the practice questions making the topics much more clear
My TA was Zhe. He was the most amazing TA I have ever had. He made sure to know everybody's name by our second discussion meeting. He kept us on task during discussion and made excellent powerpoints to explain the breakdown of the code.
William Wang
William Wang
I can't remember the TA's name, but I had discussion on Tuesdays at 3:30. I thought they were very helpful discussing course content and led the section well.
William Wang: he was very helpful and is willing to stay after discussion to go over any question that was not covered in the discussion section.
William Wang
William

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.65	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	34.78%	65.22%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.43%	60.87%	8.70%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%	30.43%	65.22%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	26.09%	65.22%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	39.13%	60.87%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	21.74%	52.17%	17.39%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%	30.43%	65.22%	0.00%

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

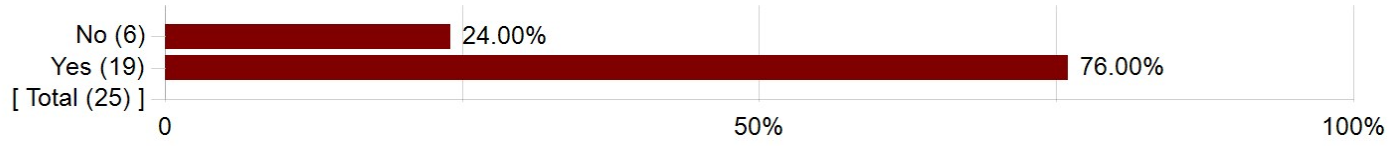
	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	3.33	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Review Sessions	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	42.86%	28.57%
Writing Seminars	1.00	1.00	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Discussion Sections
Discussion section
Discussion

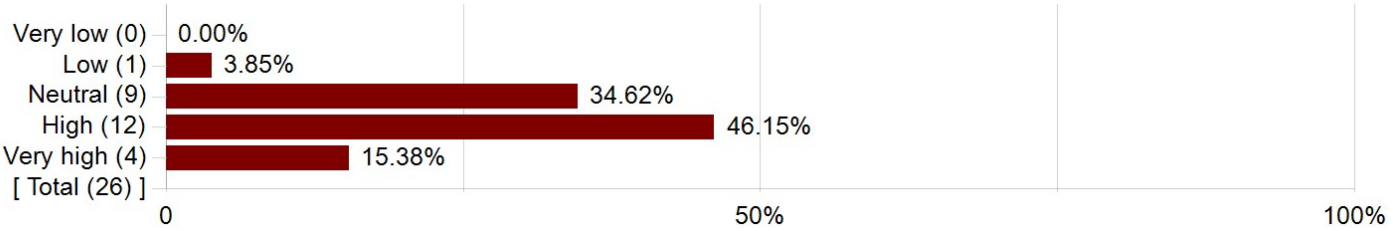
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?



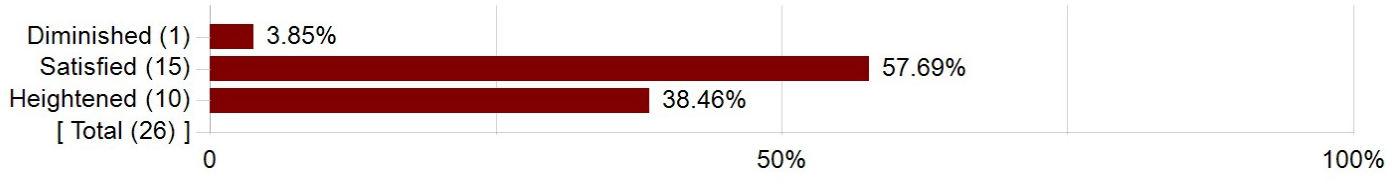
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

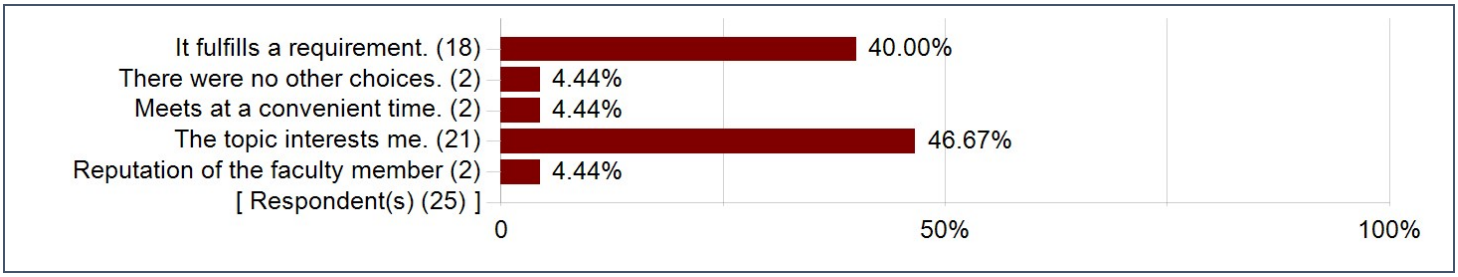


Now that this class is over, your interest is?

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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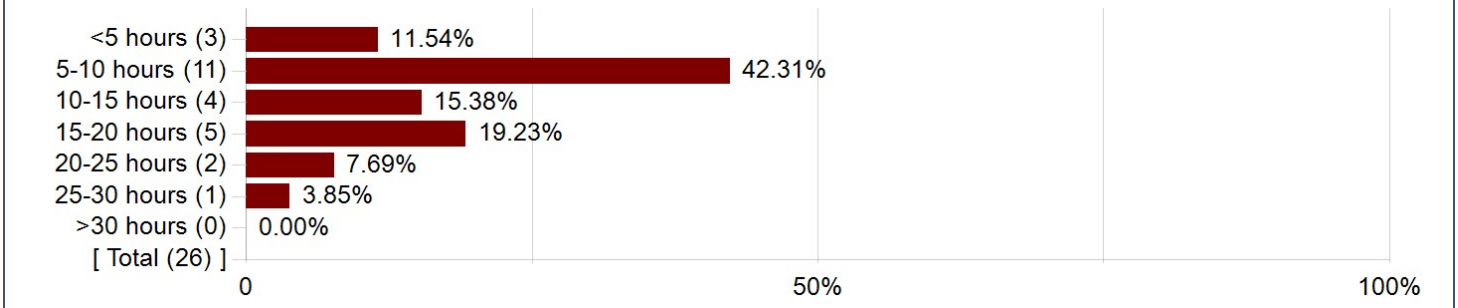
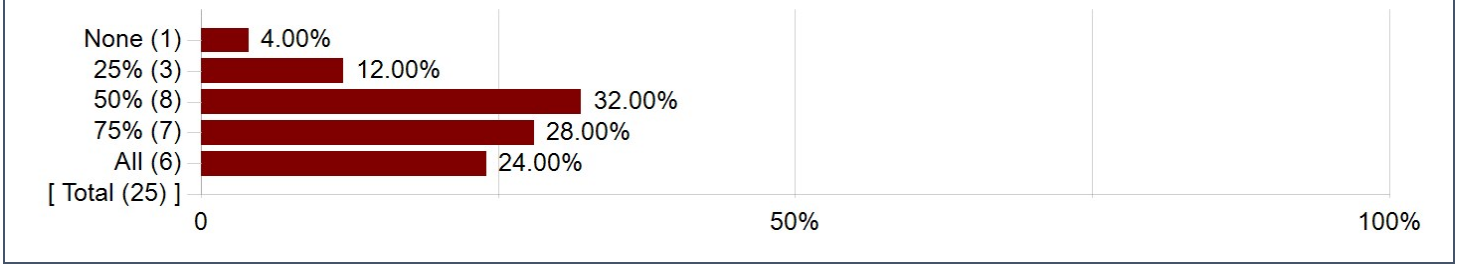


What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
I had minimal formal Python experience, and I thought the class was fair.
Not too difficult for someone who already has some sort of a basic background in python
Difficult but enjoyable.
I took an intro CS class in Java at a different university before transferring here. Most of the concepts are the same, but the homework's and tests were mostly very difficult. If you allow yourself to struggle with the homeworks until you figure them out, the tests will be much more managable.
Please take this class if you're curious about CS/coding!!!! I took this class as a Philosophy major with zero coding experience coding prior to this class, and still found it really manageable. It gives you a great foundation in CS concepts that even enable you to keep learning on your own (through Coursera or whatnot) if you don't want to take 142. It's fairly easy to get an A– in the class, so the stakes aren't *that* high either. Highly recommend this class to anyone interested, regardless of background.
I took an Introduction to Computer Science and AP Computer Science during my sophomore year of high school (2020–2021). This was during the height of the pandemic, so I only achieved a solid understanding of Intro–level material such as Java. I also had some Python experience in Introduction to Data Science in fall senior year (2022), so much of my learning was made to understand the differences and nuances of the Python language.
I have done three years of CS, starting with the AP then some independent work with AI, and I somehow ended up with a barely over average grade on the midterm. let this be a lesson to all of you like me who were overconfident — you have to go to class and practice the skills/hone your style, bc the way you learned in high school has a lot wrong with it probably. Especially for recursion. I felt like I was relearning it entirely. I haven't been actively coding in a year, though, so maybe that would be why lol
Very doable for someone familiar with basic concepts of programming (loops, variables, functions)
No CS background—generally acceptable, but some people in this class have CS background so the mean score is higher than expected
I thought it was pretty easy, but I have a small amount of prior programming experience. In general, anyone with around ten hours worth of experience in Python should find this course a breeze.
Definitely hard. I had never worked with Python, had some experience years ago with some other languages that I think occasionally helped conceptually, but overall it was definitely a very challenging course. Currently very afraid waiting for my final grade. Be ready to spend time and work hard at it if you want to do well.
Hard. I've only coded a little bit in R before, and this class challenged me a lot. However, I'm surprised with how much I've learned/how far I've come in 9 weeks. I went from struggling with weekly topics to those ideas being second nature by the end of the course. Though this class made my GPA take a hit, I actually got a lot out of it.
As a beginner, it was pretty challenging. I found the homework assignments to be somewhat hard, but not too bad. The SNU scale for grading helps give beginners the chance to make some mistakes, but still do well in the course. That being said, I found the exams to be pretty tough.
I had been exposed to all the topics in the course before but this course definitely helped strengthened my intuition in them especially recursions. Even so the course was still somewhat challenging at times but manageable.
I had never programmed before but have experience thinking computationally from taking a lot of math courses. I did not find this course exceptionally challenging.
Relatively easy if you have taken some form of CS class in the past.
If you’re new to CS, good luck and prepare to sink a lot of time into this course. Otherwise, you should be fine.