CMSC 14200 2 - Introduction to Computer Science II - Instructor(s) - Hannah Morgan, Jesus Almaraz-Argueta

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

Number Enrolled: **70**
Number of Responses: **30**

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, July 11, 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 how to further code in python, particularly with classes.
the course taught some topics (functional programming, recursion, some python libraries) at a high level, but the most important learning was done within the context of the project, where we had to make a team of four students to code a game.
I learned a few more python skills and a lot of software engineering skills.
trees, graphs, software development
Skills of programming, accessing and using different python packages, and implementing/learning the different data structures and algorithms.
graphs, inheritance (classes and objects), functional programming, algorithms (DFS, BFS, Dijkstra), etc.
Trees, NumPy, lambda, map/reduce, list comprehensions. Further expands on 141 for the first part of the quarter and after the midterm it focuses more on software development.
More advanced applications of basic python concepts like AVL trees, graphs and graph traversals, software design, and other libraries.
Graph traversals, more trees, pygame.
I feel like I gained a much better understanding of software design and debugging.
Trees, graphs, classes, different algorithms(BFS, DFS, and Dijkstra's)
More advanced data structures and algorithms, object–oriented programming, trees, graphs, heaps, some pygame, some numpy.
how to do a software project
Search algorithms were the most important, and really only significant part of the course from which I learnt. On the other hand, the course focused significantly on object oriented programming which made for good practice and learning a couple of other concepts such as abstract base classes or decorators.
Binary Trees, Algorithms, Group Projects, Functional Programming, Data Structures, PyGame
Recursion, search methods, and software development
How to work collaboratively using github, packages, more trees, djikstra
Better coding skills
software development process, more fluency with graphs and other data structures
Working in groups
Basic algorithms, binary trees, how to work on a computer science project
I learned about trees, graphs, functional programming, as well as how to collaborate on projects.

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

Comments
Lectures were good
the project was most useful
lectures with professor morgan were superb. she is brilliant and very kind. responsive to questions. if she's offering a course... take it!
Homework is where you implement everything you learned from lectures Discussion sections were really helpful in learning just how to collaborate with other people when doing CS project, using git, and also help for homework/assignments/
lectures were helpful for understanding concepts.
The style is lectures, and professor Morgan is great at explaining the concepts in depth and answering questions. I gained a really good understanding of the topics by attending lectures.
Lectures were helpful for introducing concepts and providing examples that would be applicable for homework. Lecture notes and additional slides were super helpful to hammer home the ideas in lecture when studying after class. Homework was difficult but was good for practicing real applications of the concepts and code we learned in class.
Lectures were good for understanding the material conceptually.
The assignments helped me the most. I thought that the lectures were somewhat helpful but the knowledge I gained from them was inadequate.
The homeworks are designed very well to teach you anything you need to be successful in this course. Start early in the week!! Push yourself to do your homeworks saturday–sunday and you'll be fine.
The lectures weren't super helpful, but the homework assignments were very helpful. As well as the final project.
The lectures were mostly conceptual but relatively translated to practical application in the assignments. The discussions were helpful with the assignments. The assignments helped put what we learned in lecture into practice.
lowkey the lectures weren't really all that helpful this quarter
Lectures and homework were very helpful to learn the concepts
The project assignment contributed the most to my learning as it provided an opportunity for in depth object oriented learning together with a team programming project.
The lectures helped build my understanding of the theory and logic behind CS concepts and the discussion sections and assignments often placed this into practice
Lectures were kind of useless. The homework was fine.
Homeworks were helpful, lecture less so
lectures were generally helpful, if a bit slow. homeworks were probably the most interesting and useful part of the class
lectures were kind of useful for the assignments
The final project was a good experience
Though time–consuming, the assignments were quite useful in helping me learn the concepts.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.23	4.50	0.00%	7.69%	11.54%	30.77%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	3.85%	3.85%	34.62%	57.69%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.85%	30.77%	65.38%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.92	4.00	3.85%	3.85%	23.08%	34.62%	34.62%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.19	4.00	0.00%	3.85%	7.69%	53.85%	34.62%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	38.46%	53.85%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	34.62%	57.69%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.31	4.00	0.00%	3.85%	0.00%	57.69%	38.46%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
It was pretty easy, much easier than I expected. I greatly appreciate that they posted a table before the class started with grade breakdown so we knew exactly what we needed to do to get an A, B, etc
very manageable. only the midterm, 5 assignments, and project. the midterm was rather straightforward. the project was enjoyable. this was an excellent class.
The assignments for me took a long time, but overall enjoyed the work, and all the professors especially Professor Chugh and Professor Morgan.
The course is easier than 141, but builds off some of the concepts that we learned in 141 and beyond. The project the second half of the term I found interesting and different than the style in the first half of the course.
My biggest complaint about this course is the amount of time it took for assignments to be graded. There were times when I made code quality mistakes on assignments, but I didn't know about them before the next assignment was due, so I would get penalized for the same issue on both assignments. Last quarter, in CMSC 14100, we always got feedback on our homework assignments before the next one was due but in this course, it usually took almost two weeks. Also, there were times when it took a very long time for me to get responses to my questions on Ed. I think that the problems I had with this course could easily be fixed by hiring more graders and TAs.
I love the very clear grading scheme, I wish it was a requirement for all courses in the college... It really helps me focus less on my grade.
Not worth it unless it is a requirement of some sort.
The lectures were incredibly boring and essentially a waste of time after the midterm.
Grading was very slow

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	16.00%	84.00%

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

Comments
Prof. Morgan is really great at explaining and she makes sure to take her time to answer questions and is willing to explain concepts if anyone gets confused. She's amazing.
I knew most of the content already so I didn't pay much attention
the live demo as professor morgan does it as opposed to the slides of other professors is much, much more helpful imo
Professor Morgan's depiction of how algorithms worked using drawings and graphs helped my learning
Professor Morgan was great at taking the time during lectures to make sure we fully understand the content, and was happy to answer any and all questions we had. She also would provide examples in class which were both interesting and relevant.
The professor was really good at answering questions and explaining concepts clearly so they were digestible for everyone. Her drawings on the board were clear and her organization of concepts/lectures made it very easy to follow her thought process and work flow.
It was very helpful for her to work through specific examples using real code.
I enjoyed her use of the chalkboard.
Professor Morgan would display code on the projector screen and we'd do a code along with me kind of thing which helped visualize what was expected of us.
They were open to questions and made good use of examples in class.
When she went over the concepts in class but also showed us actual examples of how things worked
Nothing really
Homework
nothing stands out in particular – we covered the material
Writing on the board, doing examples in class
Lectures and office hours
Class was not that helpful. Hannah was tripping the whole time.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
n/a
absolutely nothing
the second part of the course could have introduced more topics that are more helpful for the project, whereas they kind of just started teaching random topics about how to use different libraries.
One thing that could potentially improve the lectures is to add more real–world examples, as that made the specific lectures more interesting and fun to look at.
I thought that Dr. Morgan showed us too much pseudocode, which was not very helpful for my learning. Specifically, when we learned about graphs, she did not show us any real code at all and only drew diagrams and wrote pseudocode. When I had to write algorithms for graphs for an assignment, I did not know how to do it all and I had to ask for a lot of extra help.
Be more confident when her lecturing! I did really appreciate when Prof. Morgan didn't know the answer to some of the questions, she would say so. But when answering some questions she would start with "I think..." which made me feel like maybe the answer that she is giving us isn't correct. I would also love to see more examples in class using code.
For some of the assignments, we were tasked with figuring it out all on our own which isn't necessarily down to the instructor but it was pretty hard having to figure stuff out without a helping hand.
I had Professor Morgan as a lecturer. She was great and clearly cared about her students. However, one aspect of her lectures that I personally felt could be improved was that sometimes she would seem to hold back on explicitly stating a key point of the topic she was lecturing on in order to save it for when she was almost done with the concept as a way to summarize it all. However, sometimes this confused me as I wasn't sure if I had grasped the bigger picture of why a certain topic was important or how a central function was set up, so it would have been helpful for me (and maybe for future students) if the big ideas or most important features of a topic/coding concept was stated outright at the beginning of covering the topic as well as at the end. One example of this was when we were discussing graph traversing algorithms, and I wasn't sure if I understood the difference between breadth–first and depth–first searching even though it was kind of obvious from their names because the difference wasn't explicitly stated instead we went through an example of searching with each method without explanation of which was which. While the difference was eventually clarified and the class understood, I believe there was initially some confusion that could have been avoided
The class content was often slow, vague, and not incredibly new or relevant.
better homework instructions —– they were a tad unclear
Lectures that also looked at the code
not sure
Talk about the homework specifically
Organize lectures more effectively
Be more confident in the material that she is teaching.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.35	5.00	0.00%	4.35%	8.70%	34.78%	52.17%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	8.70%	8.70%	39.13%	43.48%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	4.35%	17.39%	26.09%	26.09%	26.09%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	8.70%	8.70%	34.78%	47.83%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	4.35%	13.04%	39.13%	43.48%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	8.70%	4.35%	43.48%	43.48%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	50.00%	40.91%	4.55%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.35	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	47.83%	43.48%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.52	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	47.83%	52.17%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	8.70%	13.04%	34.78%	43.48%	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
idk
Zain Sarwar. Brilliant and very, very kind. Very helpful be it answering conceptual questions to debugging code which had frustrated your every attempt to get it to work over the previous week. S–tier TA
Yimin was my TA, but I've also went to office hours and gotten help from Sylvie and the TA that's in CSIL 3 (on Thursdays). All the TA's were really helpful and insightful, for both the project and the Homework. All These TA are really awesome and dedicate so much time which I really appreciate.
Sylvie was incredibly helpful to me during office hours. They would not only answer all my questions but also give additional insights on a plethora things that enhanced my learning.
Sylvie Badur
Yiming Su. Yiming was great. Could not have done a better job. He understood everything deeply, was a great teacher, and cared about his students' experience. Also was happy to be a mentor for extracurricular things in CS.
Yiming was amazing and very helpful.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	11.11%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	66.67%	11.11%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	66.67%	11.11%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	66.67%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	11.11%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	66.67%	11.11%

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

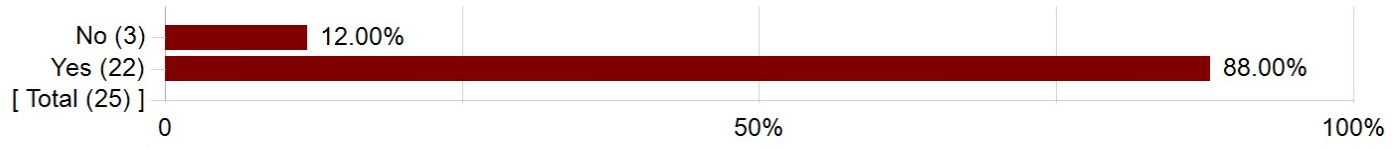
	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	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 sections were interesting during the first half of the year, and the second half of the sections were used as office hours for the project.
Discussion section – No gain

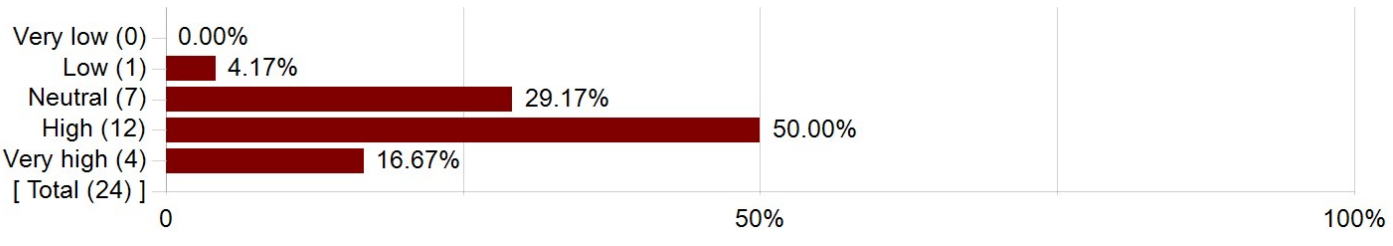
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

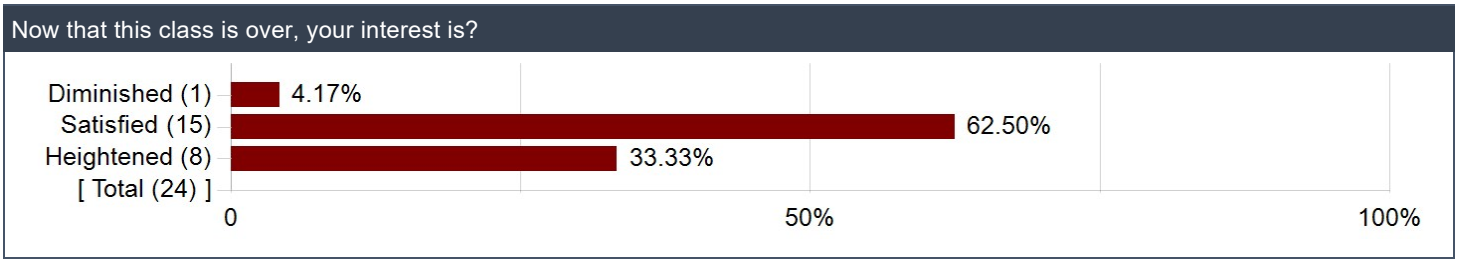


Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

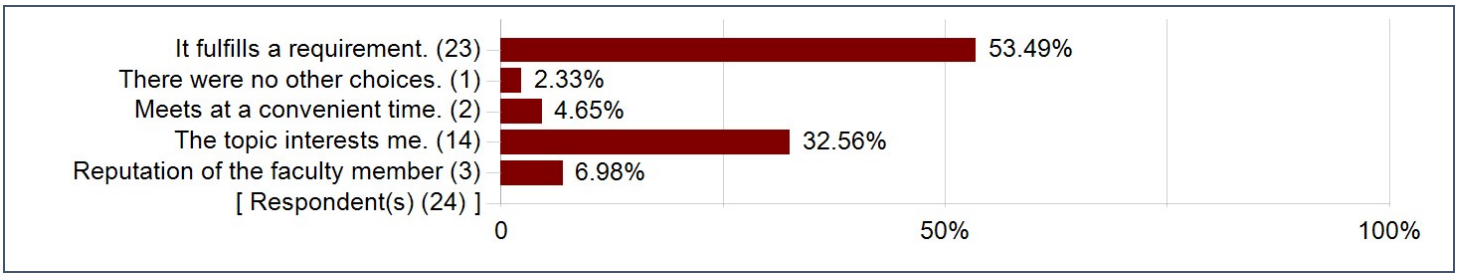
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



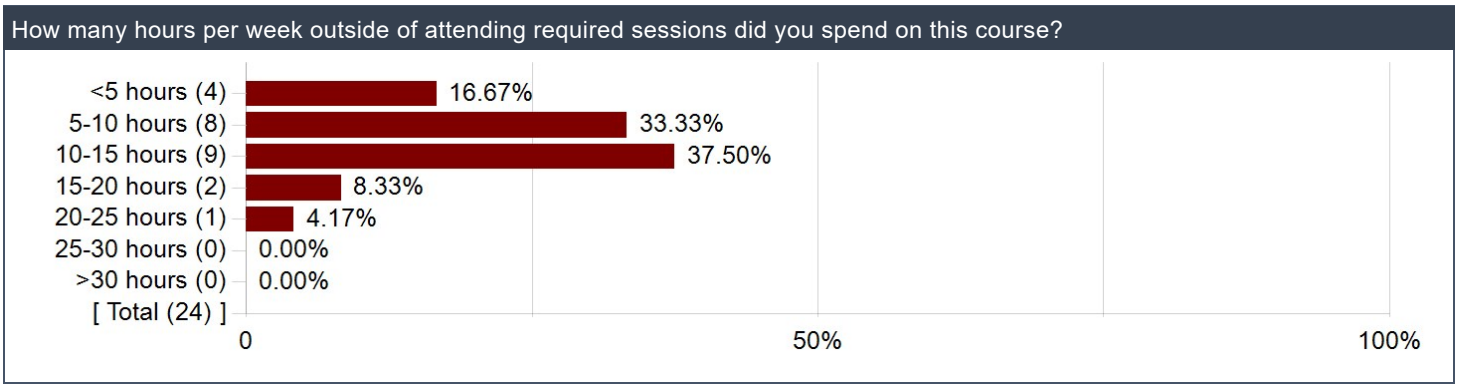
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



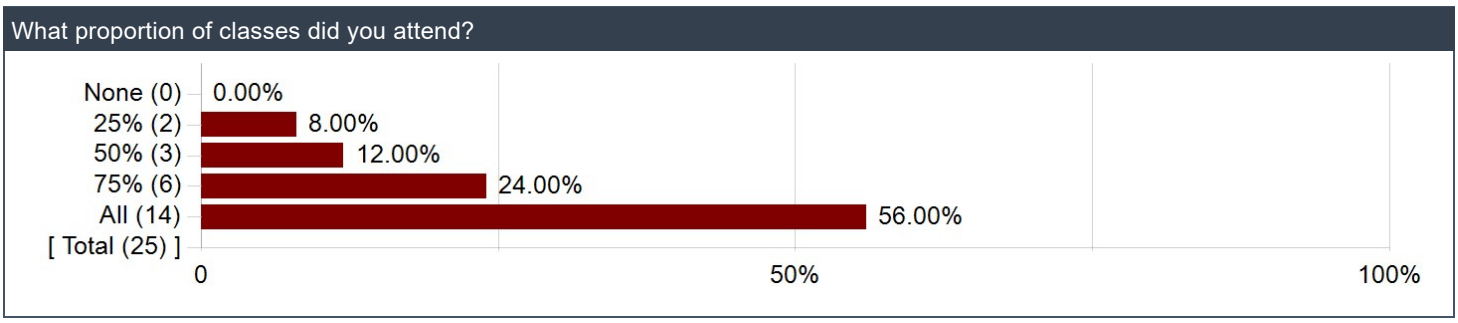
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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's fine if you did decently in 141
n/a
so much easier than I thought it would be. I tested out of 141 but barely and I was concerned I would not be prepared for 142. In reality, the course was quite easy
I found this course pretty easy with most assignments being completed in less than and hour, but I already had vast experience coding in Python and most likely would have placed out of this course if they had offered placement exams at the end of fall
very manageable
I am fairly new to CS, so this class was a bit of a struggle, but I really enjoyed the challenge, and hope to grow as a programmer.
compared to 141, this was an easier experience mostly because the project allowed me to get some hands–on experience without worrying about exams
I had taken 141, and this course was easier in my opinion. With that being said, some of the homework before the midterm could get very challenging and took me a lot of time (15–20 hours) to complete.
The level of difficulty was reasonable compared to CMSC 14100
This is a very easy course if you do the homeworks responsibly. Help is always extensively available, I think people who find it extremely hard are just not responsibly doing their assignments.
I found this course to be much easier that 141. The topics were somewhat easier to understand, but be prepared to work on the homework assignment for a few hours.
From CMSC14100, the level of difficulty jumps that much higher and more is expected from you but that is not necessarily conveyed.
I had a python background, and the class worked as a good refresher, and with enough time put on this class it can be very easy.
Up to the midterm, I would say this course was as difficult as the latter half of 14100 although I had minimal background experience in the contents taught in this class. After the midterm, however, we got to complete a project which was less theoretical and more hands on application which I enjoyed.
Not massively difficult past first 4 weeks, some experience
easy, but i had previous cs experience and placed into the class
Builds well upon 141
I think that 141 prepares you quite well for this