CMSC 14200 2 - Introduction to Computer Science II - Instructor(s): Jesus Almaraz-Argueta, Matthew Wachs

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

Number Enrolled: **57**
Number of Responses: **22**

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
Graphs, more advanced object oriented programming (abstract base classes, inheritance), functional programming, and some fundamentals of software design. Some introduction to the numpy and pandas software libraries.
We studied multiple algorithms and data structures, such as AVL trees and heap queues in this quarter.
Graph Traversals, BST and Trees using Classes Debugging AVL Trees and Insertion Pygame and TUI dev. Intro Software Development
Python data structures, software development skills
trees, grids,
More advanced coding in Python, the basics of software development and working in groups.
Code quality, search algorithms
Typing, search algorithms, numpy/pandas
More python concepts, building on from last quarter
I learned more about data structures , classes, and object oriented programming. I also learned how to work collaboratively on a more complex coding project.
Basic data structures and algorithms
BFS and DFS
basic data structures algorithms and software design principles
programming in teams (especially remotely)
Data Structures and using githib properly
I learned about class inheritance, abstract classes, and how to add type annotations to variables, functions, and classes. I also learned to harmonize this with other students' skill sets to design a board game as a team.
Graph algorithms

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

Comments
Lectures and assignments often felt quite disjointed, especially past the first few weeks of the course. Some assignments included teaching ourselves a lot of material.
The lecture is the most important part of the course. The discussion also helps me to understand the course materials as it gives me a chance to ask questions.
Lectures were helpful before midterm, HWs were very well–designed and helpful, overall organization is great, responsiveness on Ed is incredible and very helpful; discussion sections not very helpful (topics felt random)
Lectures are ok (the notes are great, lecture just helps solidify those), homeworks and project are fantastic. Discussion is very helpful too, for general computer and coding stuff.
Mostly the homeworks
The lectures were somewhat helpful in the first half of the quarter, but in the second half they felt repetitive and somewhat useless. The assignments were helpful in developing our coding skills.
Lectures were helpful at the beginning of the course, but then after the midterm when they were about software development I didn't feel like I was learning anything. People stopped going to these lectures until there was only <1/5 of the class left, so I think if they made these more interesting/teaching practical skills then people would come more. E.g. expand the numpy/pandas section, more searching algorithms, etc. Even the lectures before the midterm were slow and could have benefitted from more material. Discussions were optional, so I didn't go. Assignments as usual were essential for practice.
Lectures were helpful, but most learning for me came through the HW assignments every week.
Lectures were of marginal help, mostly as a way of getting a first look at the material. The majority of learning, personally, came from executing theses ideas on the homeworks as a way of translating theory into practice. The final coding project was also a great culmination of using git and ideas from the course. After the midterm, the importance of classes dropped significantly as the topics would no longer be on homeworks due to the class then being focused on the final project.
taught th stuff
very good class to build foundations as a cs major.
I thought discussions as well as Ed Discussion were best for asking questions and assignments were great for testing the skills I learned in the course.
Great lectures

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.15	4.00	0.00%	5.00%	10.00%	50.00%	35.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.00%	10.00%	85.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.90	4.00	5.00%	10.00%	15.00%	30.00%	40.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.65	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.00%	25.00%	70.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.60	5.00	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	75.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	5.00%	10.00%	15.00%	70.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Overall, 142 felt significantly less organized than 141, and many of the lectures felt quite aimless. Of course, maybe it's not the course itself, but rather the lecturer. I would not recommend taking this course with Wachs.
The grading scheme is draconian and unfair. Even if you came in knowing all of the content of the course, you still will struggle to get an A because how high the bar is for an A with the SNU system. Couldn't sleep before the exam? Got an 89? Too bad. You can't get above an A–. The homeworks are far too long for added E scores to be a reasonable solution to this.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	5.00%	95.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	15.00%	85.00%

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

Comments
The instructor is really helpful and he is willing to help me even after class.
I feel like you can skip the lectures and be perfectly fine just doing the hws.
Helpful lectures
I thought Professor Wachs was very thorough in his lectures. It was clear that he thoroughly understood the material he intended to present in each lecture and was able to respond clearly to all questions asked to him. In my opinion, it would be hard to leave one of his lectures without a strong theoretical understanding of whatever topic was being presented.
lectures
very nice guy, listen in lecture everything on midterm is addressed in lecture
Professor Wachs was good at explaining concepts during lecture, and I appreciated him drawing out examples of BFS and DFS on the board.
Good examples during lectures

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Teach faster! Teach more things! We don't have to go through every example completely— perhaps slow down only if people have questions.
N/A
Since the best way to learn a lot of this material is through personal application, I think it would be hard to change much about lectures to make the material more accessible. Maybe allowing students to ask questions by raising their hands as Professor Wachs' policy was to only respond to interjections.
wachs teaches well but makes me fall asleep
The pacing of the class is really bad and don't match the coding homeworks well. The homework is disproportionally difficult in comparison to what is covered in class.
Nothing, Professor Wachs was great!
Nothing

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%	6.25%	25.00%	68.75%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.19	4.50	6.25%	0.00%	12.50%	31.25%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	6.25%	0.00%	31.25%	43.75%	18.75%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.31	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	31.25%	56.25%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.13	5.00	12.50%	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	56.25%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.31	5.00	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	12.50%	68.75%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	68.75%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	56.25%	6.25%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	62.50%	6.25%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	6.25%	31.25%	43.75%	6.25%

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
The TA is really helpful in answering my questions
Sylvie Badur was very enthusiastic, energetic, and willing to help. Can't think of any feedback.
David. He was very helpful, both with his slideshows about additional tools for the class and also with his answers to individual questions.
Sylvie was my TA for discussion sections and did a great job! She was very energetic and kept momentum while moving through the materials each week while also engaging students in the discussion. She also responded clearly and thoroughly to any questions asked to her about the homework.
Sylvie Badar

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	11.11%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	77.78%	22.22%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%	11.11%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	11.11%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	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	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
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?

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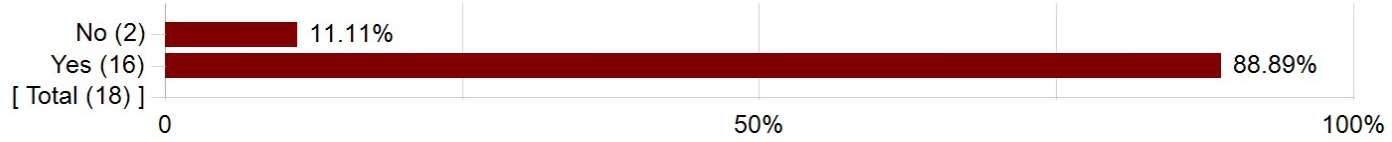

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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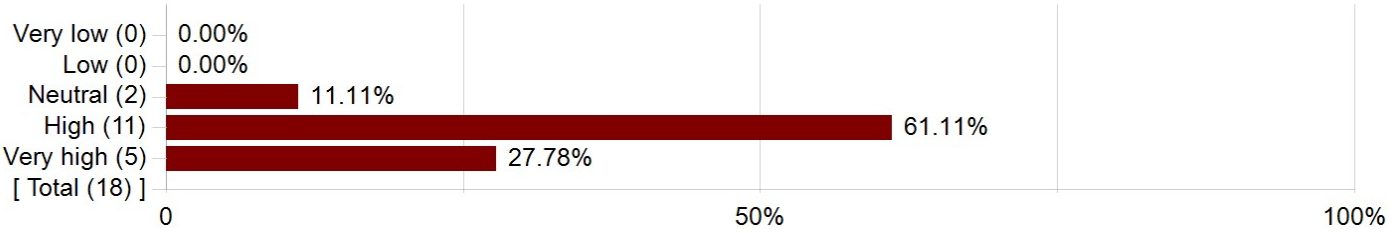

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

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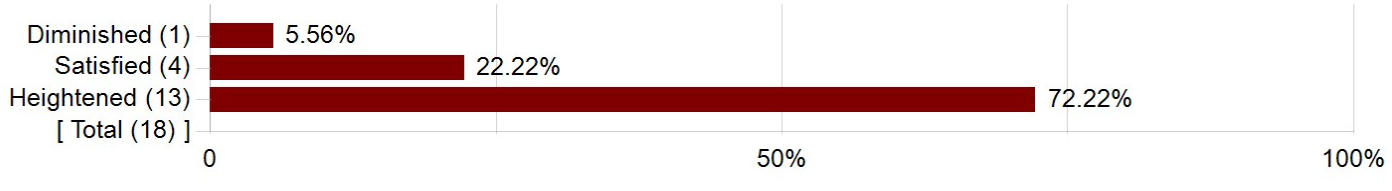
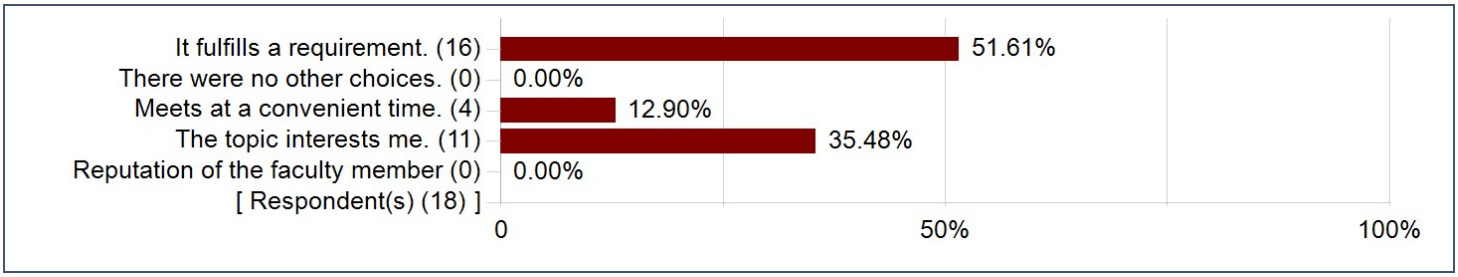


Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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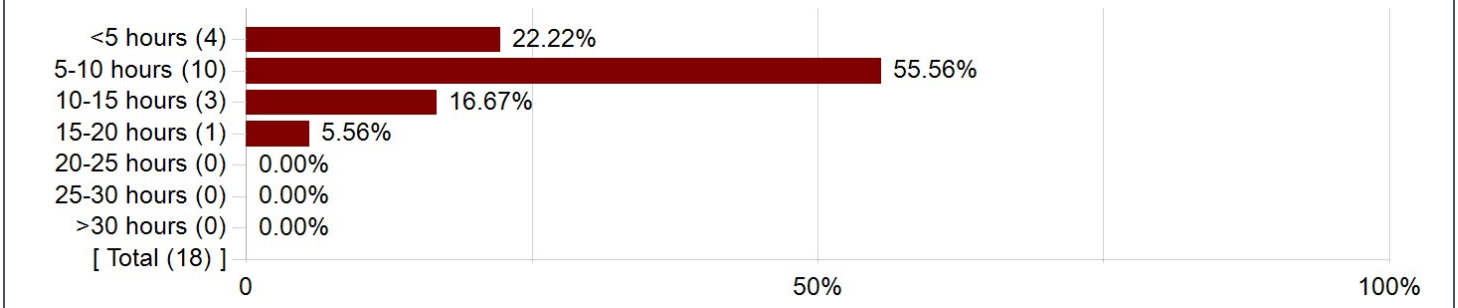

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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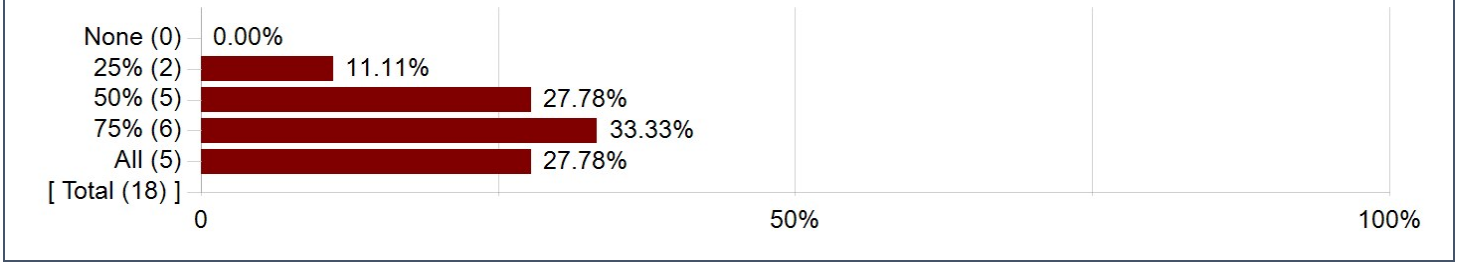

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
On average, similar to 141 in terms of time commitment. Each assignment varies significantly in length however, with some taking me 2 hours and others taking 16. Be on top of it and try to get started early on work and you'll be fine.
The difficulty is about the same relative to my background
As someone without prior CS experience to 141, I think this course was the right difficulty. HW2 was too long to do in a week (and I'm sure they're changing it), but super doable with the generous resubmission policy
I've had a lot of experience in Java, not in python, the homeworks took a very substantial amount of time every week but was easy and low–stress
Similar in difficulty to 141, but it is much nicer to have a final project than another exam.
Very easy, especially being placed into this class and having good programming experience in Java. Just had to learn the basics beforehand.
Coming from CMSC 14100, this class was a logical increase in difficulty. It was not obscenely difficult, but the homeworks definitely posed more of a challenge than those in the first class. The midterm was likely the most stressful and difficult aspect of the class, and that could be addressed by a few days of studying prior to taking the test. Lectures and discussions not being necessarily required also made the class quite flexible. Overall, 6.5/10 difficulty.
its aight
If you don't do well with high volume, low difficulty work, you will be in pain
as long as you pay attention its super easy
I took AP Computer Science A in high school and CMSC 14100 last quarter. Based on those experiences, I would say that this class was fairly doable. One of the homework assignments was a bit intense, but the instructors compensated for it by making another homework optional. All in all, I found it easier than CMSC 14100 if for nothing but the fact that it wasn't a large step up in difficulty.
Not too bad