Full Report

Evaluation for 2019 - Term 1 (Fall)

Course Code	Instructor	Response Rate (Respondants/Enrolled)
COMPSCI 1JC3 (C02)	D'Alves, Curtis	47.54% (29/61)

1. Overall for this course, what is your opinion of the effectiveness of the instructor?
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 10 Excellent*)

7 Students (24.14%) said: 9
7 Students (24.14%) said: 8
6 Students (20.69%) said: 10
4 Students (13.79%) said: 7
2 Students (6.90%) said: 3
2 Students (6.90%) said: 4
1 Students (3.45%) said: 6

Median: 8.00	Mean: 7.83	StDev: 2.0714	Variance: 4.2906	Not Responded: 0

2. The timing and appropriateness of feedback on your progress:
Receiving assignments back in a reasonable time frame, clear explanation of grade
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent*)

11 Students (37.93%) said: 4
10 Students (34.48%) said: 5
6 Students (20.69%) said: 2
1 Students (3.45%) said: 3
1 Students (3.45%) said: 1

Median: 4.00	Mean: 3.79	StDev: 1.2358	Variance: 1.5271	Not Responded: 0

3. Independent critical judgement was encouraged:
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent*)

13 Students (44.83%) said: 4
11 Students (37.93%) said: 5
4 Students (13.79%) said: 3
1 Students (3.45%) said: 2

Median: 4.00	Mean: 4.17	StDev: 0.8048	Variance: 0.6478	Not Responded: 0

4. OVERALL, how do you rate the value of this course compared with others you have taken at McMaster?
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent*)

12 Students (41.38%) said: 4
8 Students (27.59%) said: 5

6 Students (20.69%) said: 3
2 Students (6.90%) said: 1
1 Students (3.45%) said: 2

Median: 4.00	Mean: 3.79	StDev: 1.1142	Variance: 1.2414	Not Responded: 0

5. The organization of this course:

Progression of learning material, resource availability, professor was timely and prepared
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent*)

13 Students (44.83%) said: 5
12 Students (41.38%) said: 4
2 Students (6.90%) said: 2
2 Students (6.90%) said: 3

Median: 4.00	Mean: 4.24	StDev: 0.8724	Variance: 0.7611	Not Responded: 0

6. The instructor's response to students:

Approachability, attitude, availability, well-explained answers
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent*)

14 Students (48.28%) said: 5
9 Students (31.03%) said: 4
3 Students (10.34%) said: 3
2 Students (6.90%) said: 2

Median: 4.50	Mean: 4.25	StDev: 1.2285	Variance: 1.5093	Not Responded: 1

7. The coverage and fairness of tests:

Material coverage, mark distribution, difficulty level
(*Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent*)

10 Students (34.48%) said: 5
10 Students (34.48%) said: 4
8 Students (27.59%) said: 3
1 Students (3.45%) said: 1

Median: 4.00	Mean: 3.97	StDev: 0.9814	Variance: 0.9631	Not Responded: 0

8. Please comment on the quality of the TA's in this course:

- I though the TA was good at explaining the material of the course but I had trouble applying the material to the assignment given due to lack of class time.
- The TAs were really good at going in detail when trying to explain a concept in the tutorials, especially when they wrote out code in real-time. They were also readily available on Slack, and were open to answering any questions people had. Overall, very helpful TAs.
- Jack was amazing at clearly explaining topics that were covered in the SlideSets prepared. The only thing is the fast laser nature didn’t allow as much practice through exercises. It would also help (and this is not a blame), that some of the slides had different methods than the ones used in class, so it was slightly confusing at times. But overall Jack was good at teaching the tutorial materials.

- TAs are very helpful, and will do their best to make sure you understand everything. I like how Jack adds more to the tutorial slides so that the students better understand.
- Tutorials were harder to follow than lectures.
- Jack was an outstanding ta. My greatest regret in this course was not utilizing the tutorials to the full extent. He is approachable and probably the best comp sci ta I have ever had and this is not an exaggeration.
- Jack does an excellent job explaining how to program in Haskell and offers pointers on further learning outside of the classroom.
- very good and clear
- I had Jack. He was very good, don't know what else to say lol.
- Jack and Julie were both amazing!
- TA’s were pretty good.
- TAs were amazing for this course. Especially Jack.
- Jack was the best TA I have had at McMaster
- The TA's weren't that helpful. The tutorial class sessions were too big and the screen was not visible.
- TA's seemingly had a difficult time keeping up with grades on assignments.
- The TA's did a great job of teaching the course
- My TA's are very helpful and are very willing to help students. They almost instantly reply to queries I have.
- I found the TA to be very helpful, compared to others the TA was very helpful in terms of guiding me to the solution. They made sure not to give me the solution right away and helped me understand the process thoroughly.
- jack is a very helpful and good TA
- The TA's were inconsistent with marking assignments and midterms on time.
- The TA Jack was very helpful and friendly. He created a learning environment fostered by a friendly nature and atmosphere. it made it very easy for us to understand the key concepts and practice coding.
- TA understood the content fully and was able to teach the material to students.
- The TA is very helpful and explain course material well

9. Please list aspects of this course that you found valuable and should be continued:
- I believe the knowledge I gain within this course is valuable for my future career because we learned the fundamentals of programming and how programs and computers work this will help whenever i will work with a computer.
- I found the actual concepts learned in class to be very valuable. I found it very helpful when Curtis typed out examples, dot jots and code onto the big screen. That made it easier to follow along. I also found Slack to be very useful. Just having an online platform to ask questions on was very convenient for me, and I found that I would always get an answer back no more than a day after.
- Mr. D'Alves was an amazing instructor and explained things perfectly. He was really passionate about a lot of topics taught so it was easier to learn from him. Also his 2-part midterms are fun and really helpful, cause in CS people gotta communicate with team members a lot so that helped a lot.
- weekly discussion sessions, no matter how pressurising they were at times - more practical aspects of the more theoretical materials (helps understand their application a bit more) - examples in lecture (and exercises in the tutorial) Slides
- instructor and TAs adding additional information outside of what is written on the Slides - ways to message instructor and TA outside of class with questions that will be answered in a very timely manner - discussion sessions: help cover important material

- M&Ms Discussion sessions Test discussion time
- a strong appreciation for functional programming - how computers input/output data and display this on an interface
- the way we take midterm is very interesting.
- Discussion sessions are awesome. Assignments were also good, but maybe some too hard. Of course, that might be the point. Oh and the midterms having an individual part and a group/anyone part was nice.
- I really enjoyed the second part of the test. I've noticed that this makes the test more memorable, to the point where I still remember many of the questions I ended up switching during the second part.
- The discussion sessions were really helpful for reviewing content.
- I found the tutorials extremely useful
- The slides were interesting.
- The tutorials were super useful in learning actual functional coding.
- M&M's were a great idea it made me look back at what I learned that week.
- Recursion.
- I enjoyed the first half of the course where we talked about floating-point numbers and functions and whatnot.
- Nothing
- I liked the M&M's and the Bonus Marks since they brought my mark up.
- the programming language Haskel was learnt and was a different experience as Haskel does not usually follow the set of commands like the other major computer languages. I personally likes the discussions about the various software developments and internet facilities that we use on a daily basis.
- weekly M&Ms - discussion sessions

10. Please list aspects of this course that might be improved:
- I believe the tutorials should be more oriented to content in the assignments, such as examples the resemble the assignment that are explained by the TA.
- Learn how to pronounce names. Also, for the assignments, written feedback would be much appreciated, so that I know what in particular to focus on for next time.
- SlideSet examples could provide more than one way of doing some examples (or offer more explanations to the methods in the Slides as Jack sometimes doesn’t utilise the same method) - slowing the pace a bit? (I felt some topics were a bit more rushed and jumped over more than others) - examples on lecture Slides Providing a bit more of explanation rather than just a slide of a piece of code (or at least organising the Slides a bit better rather than having to jump back and forth between Slides)
- more examples - more explanation of examples
- Tutorials catered to help with assignments More Haskell learning in class. I felt like induction should have been talked about more since recursion in Haskell is essentially induction lol
- - Curtis could time the lectures to fit within the 50 minute limit and not go over. This could be done by having diagrams done beforehand instead of drawing them in class. - A better understanding of where Haskell is implemented in the real world could be
- Discuss section hope can post answer on avenue.
- I'd like for tutorials to go over the assignments. Not to be solved in the tutorial, just to explain what's going on, maybe what should/shouldn't be done, or an example of what should be the result for some formulas. Oh also M&Ms are fine, but it's very easy to forget to do them (I missed 2). So maybe take like 9/10 M&Ms for full marks? It's not a huge deal, but it kinda frustrated me a lot when I remembered.
- The Haskell textbook is kinda bad. I'm pretty sure we can all agree on that.

- Going over some concepts over in a slower or more effective manner. Sometimes a lot of time was not spent on the content and it was difficult to grasps concepts since most of us had no background knowledge.
- I don’t know how this could change, but I felt like the content in this course was too much, compared to other course. And especially for those who don’t have any programming or comp sci background, they would find it really hard
- The discussion session was unfair as the difficulty of the questions varied.
- the jump in difficulty between the general material and coding assignments is very high given the beginner nature of the course.
- Since it is a course that some people have a lot of difficulty understanding. It could use some more examples.
- Tutorial rooms are way too far away.
- The second half of the course seems really useless, also the discussion lectures were challenging as we are put on the spot to answer certain questions. Some people are not comfortable with that.
- why haskell, its useless.
- I despised the objective marking portion of the assignments, and found it abhorrent that the objective marks were based on a pass or fail basis. I hated working with Haskell as a programming language. I didn't mind the functional programming language function of it, but I kept getting parse errors which forced me to comment out some of my code, otherwise I would've got a zero on the objective marking scheme.
- the theoretical part like the case studies and some topics like logic and recursion taught in the lectures could be improved for better understanding by the students.
- Handing back assignment grades within a more reasonable time frame rather than all at once near the end of the Term - Providing solutions to the assignments

11. Additional comments:
- Overall, I learned a lot from this course
- N/A
- This has been by far the best course I've ever taken in my four years at McMaster. Curtis is an amazing prof! I really appreciate the way he also acts as a mentor, by going on tangents, explaining the basics and special cases, and by also being very approachable. I really like the idea of using Slack.
- None
- overall the course was very nice and helpful. the knowledge I gained from it will surely stay with me for a long time
- I found that the 2-part midterm was unfair to those writing as a SAS student because they didn't have the opportunity to compare their answers for a chance to raise their marks.