SP 2021-22 — CS/Ec 149

Algorithmic Economics

Response Rate

	Total Responses	Total Enrolled
Course	7	21

Reason For Taking Course

	Option/Minor	Core	Reputation	Interest	Other	Not Answered
Course Average	42%	28%	0%	28%	0%	0%
Department Average	50%	6%	0%	41%	0%	0%
Division Average	55%	13%	1%	28%	1%	0%
Survey Average	36%	33%	1%	27%	1%	0%

Was The Amount Of Work Required Higher Or Lower Than The Units Listed In The Catalog?

	Noticeably High	Somewhat High	About Right	Somewhat Low	Noticeably Low	Not Answered
Course Average	0%	0%	0%	42%	57%	0%
Department Average	13%	21%	49%	12%	3%	0%
Division Average	8%	19%	58%	10%	2%	0%
Survey Average	7%	16%	58%	13%	3%	0%

% Of Lectures Attended

	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%	Not Answered
Course Average	42%	0%	14%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	14%	14%	0%	0%
Department Average	38%	9%	7%	4%	3%	6%	1%	5%	4%	9%	8%	2%
Division Average	40%	15%	7%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%	3%	7%	5%	1%
Survey Average	41%	20%	8%	4%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%

Expected Grade

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Pass	Fail	Not Answered
Course Average	42%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	57%	0%	0%
Department Average	69%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	0%	2%
Division Average	73%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%	2%
Survey Average	66%	12%	1%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%	2%

Hours/Week Spent On Coursework Outside Of Class

	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-19	20-23	24+	Not Answered
Course Average	71%	28%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Department Average	11%	33%	24%	14%	9%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Division Average	17%	33%	27%	10%	5%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Survey Average	23%	39%	21%	8%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%

% Of Homework Completed

	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%	Not Answered

Course Average	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Department Average	84%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Division Average	85%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Survey Average	86%	7%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%

Course Section: CS/Ec 149

Overall Ratings

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
The quality of the course content	4.57 ± 0.49	4.30	4.25	4.31

Instructor Section: Fedor Sandomirskii

Overall Ratings

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
The instructor's overall teaching	4.57 ± 0.49	4.04	4.20	4.29

Organization/Clarity

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
Set out and met clear objectives announced for the course	4.33 ± 0.75	4.36	4.31	4.35
Displayed thorough knowledge of course material	4.71 ± 0.45	4.56	4.60	4.63
Explained concepts clearly	4.71 ± 0.45	4.20	4.26	4.30
Distinguished between more important and less important topics	4.57 ± 0.49	4.15	4.15	4.17
Presented material at an appropriate pace	4.57 ± 0.73	4.09	4.21	4.25

Ability to Engage and Challenge Students Intellectually

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
Emphasized conceptual understanding and/or critical thinking	4.86 ± 0.35	4.49	4.41	4.41
Related course topics to one another	4.86 ± 0.35	4.43	4.43	4.45

Interaction with Students

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
Demonstrated concern about whether students were learning	4.57 ± 0.49	4.35	4.43	4.40
Inspired and motivated student interest in the course content	4.33 ± 0.75	4.32	4.32	4.37
Was available for consultation outside of class	4.67 ± 0.47	4.47	4.52	4.46

Course Organization, Content, and Evaluation

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
Selected course content that was valuable and worth learning	4.86 ± 0.35	4.47	4.40	4.41
Organized course topics in a coherent fashion	4.86 ± 0.35	4.43	4.33	4.34
Chose assignments that solidified understanding	4.86 ± 0.35	4.36	4.25	4.27
Explained clearly how students would be evaluated	4.50 ± 0.50	4.41	4.28	4.28
Designed and used fair grading procedures	4.67 ± 0.47	4.37	4.36	4.35
Gave tests and quizzes that accurately reflected material taught	4.86 ± 0.35	4.37	4.36	4.34

Teaching Assistant Section: Sumit Goel

Teaching Assistant Ratings

	Score	Dept.	Div.	Caltech
Provided helpful comments on assignments, papers, exams	**5.00** ± 0.00	4.58	4.53	4.62
Answered questions clearly and concisely	**5.00** ± 0.00	4.57	4.52	4.59
Was well prepared for section, office hours or lab	**5.00** ± 0.00	4.56	4.50	4.60
Presented material clearly in section or lab	**5.00** ± 0.00	4.63	4.60	4.67
Overall teaching effectiveness	**5.00** ± 0.00	4.57	4.53	4.61

Comments

Please provide any comments that you may have regarding the course (not the instructor), including course materials, textbook, homework, and exams.

Because the lecture notes were so clear and the problem sets were straightforward, there wasn't much motivating me to attend in-person lectures (so I didn't end up attending most of them, apologies). Homeworks were very useful in understanding the ideas, but I think they were actually too simple / there were too few of them. As a result, I felt like I was only "in" the class for approximately 5 days over the course of the entire term: the day before each of the 3 problems sets were due, the day I took the midterm, and the day I took the final. This is partly because I was on pass-fail, but I think many students were able to get by on similar amounts of time even on grades, especially since the grading scheme was so generous. While this was nice from a student perspective, I imagine this isn't ideal from yours (and I do regret slightly that I didn't put in more effort to learn/appreciate the material at a deeper level). Honestly, I think you could go a little faster during lectures and cover more material; alternatively (or in addition), it wouldn't hurt to have a couple more problem sets or weight them more in the overall grade (i.e. less emphasis on exams). Coding assignments could be fun, since this felt much more like an Ec class than CS.
I think the course could benefit from a coding portion. I didn't like the grading structure of the course. 80% of the grade coming from tests is much higher than other courses at Caltech. I don't think group homeworks are necessary because collaboration is big at Caltech anyways. Having joint writeups was unnecessarily stressful. The actual problems on the homeworks were quite easy and easily doable individually. I think having more emphasis on homeworks (mix of coding problems and problems like we had this year) would make it less stressful and encourage people to come to lecture more.
Overall the class is pretty interesting. The lecture notes were extremely helpful and the homework was alright. I think having some coding assignments would be nice to switch things up.
I really enjoyed the course content, and I appreciated that the homework was intellectually stimulating while not being a huge time sink. I personally would not have minded having slightly more challenging homework. Regarding lectures: the pace was fine although it probably also could've been faster. The examples (done with using specific numbers) were very helpful.

Please provide any comments you may have regarding the instructor: Fedor Sandomirskii

I think you did a good job explaining concepts clearly in class. It's a shame attendance to lecture dropped off, but I think it is because much of the class was apathetic seniors, so there's not much you could have done. One think that I think could increase lecture attendance in having more homework, which forces people to learn the material each week rather than cramming before the tests.
The lectures sometimes go a bit too fast. No other flaws though!

Please provide any comments you may have regarding the teaching assistant: Sumit Goel

No comments were entered for this subject.

Do you have any constructive comments for other students considering taking this course? In particular, comments about workload/distribution of the workload of the course, the necessity of the textbook, unexpected time requirements or flexibility, or unspecified prerequisites could be particularly helpful.

This was a very chill course. The grading was a bit rough since it was 40% for each of the midterm and final and only 20% for homework. However, with only three (short) group homework assignments, the class didn't take much time overall. I thought the concepts were interesting and applicable to current research in the field.
This course covers relevant and very interesting auction and fair division of goods mechanisms and their properties and their moral implications. The homework is completed in groups and does not take too long to complete with the exception of a few more challenging problems sprinkled throughout the homeworks. The grading scheme was also quite generous, but that might change as the reason for that this year was that the course was redesigned from scratch for this year.
A fair amount of math. Office hours are ok. Overall the class is reasonably light, but the midterm was kind of hard.
Really enjoyed the course content, and lecture notes are pretty good so you probably don't need to go to lecture to understand the material. The homework and exams were interesting and overall not difficult. This was the first year with the new prof so next year the homeworks will probably(?) take more than an hour a week on average like they did this year.