

Information Retrieval (Spring 2023)

Instructor: **Amor-Tijani, Ghita**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **6200 01**

Course ID: **31575**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **83**

Responses Incl Declines: **30**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Ghita Amor-Tijani (24 comments)

Q: What were the strengths of this course and/or this instructor?

- 1 Taught effectively , answered questions and explained concepts to any student in need.
- 2 Course content was interesting, instructor delivered content well
- 3 The class has alot of resources to ask for help and assistance
- 4 The professor and TAs are very understanding and willing to help students at any time.
- 5 She was very ethusiastic, and clearly cared about the materials. She also was great answering questions outside of class.
- 6 Clear schedule and well structured course material.
- 7 Lots of office hours times are very helpful as well as demo's for the homework.
- 8 The instructor was knowledgeable.
- 9 She is clearly knowledgeable and passionate about the material, and carefully considers all student questions/feedback.

Q: What could the instructor do to make this course better?

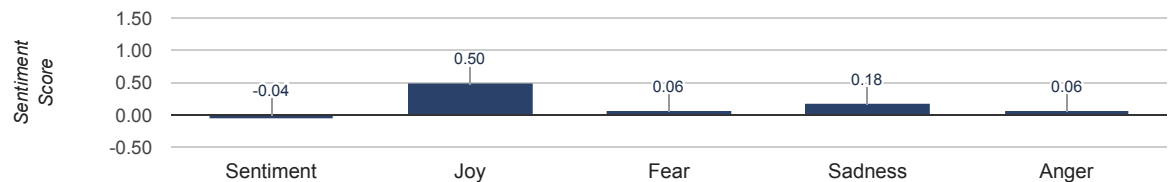
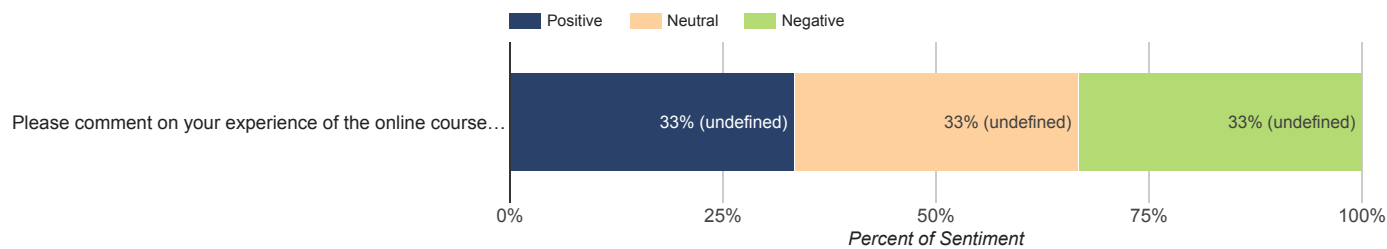
- 1 Make the course more challenging in terms of concepts (not homework), especially for the ML stuff at the end (which could have been related to IR, since most of us knew ML to a certain extent)
- 2 make certain homeworks take less time, I think I can learn the concepts better if the code/assignment didn't need to run forever.
- 3 Stop having assignments that build on each other, that group project was entirely unnecessary. Also don't have assignments that are DESIGNED to take a minimum of 12 hours. Find another way to reinforce the material that doesn't require hours of processing power.
- 4 It was hard to follow derivations/math explanations that weren't essential to course content. It would be great to see more real world demos that would help bring the course into 2023 - esp info retrieval in industry
- 5 A lot of the assignments have you doing work that is not related to the tasks at hand and just makes you spend way more time on it than what is necessary. I also feel that the content needs to be refreshed as we are using things made from the early 2000's for example (trec_eval). This course is also apart of the AI concentration and I fail to see how this would fall under it.
- 6 I feel that the lectures get dull at times as most of it is just lecturing. Having more forms of student engagement would help facilitate learning.
- 7 Her lectures were not engaging, and I found myself drifting a lot. Also attendance plummeted and the last lecture only had 10/75 people
- 8 Way too much was asked of us for the assignments. They rarely had much to do with the content
- 9 Some of the homework instructions are confusing, and some of the homework is not helpful in topic understanding. Consider make it more clear & reduce the workload so that it only contain necessary tasks that helps student understand topics being covered.
- 10 Split some of the larger assignments into multiple parts. The first few assignments are very difficult and it feels like being thrown into the deep end.
- 11 The majority of the grading in this course was based on the practical applications of course material but the instructor mostly taught the theoretical parts.
- 12 The assignment courseload can become overbearing, especially considering how long it takes for some programs to physically run.

Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

- 1 How is this class in the AI concentration for CS? We did one AI homework and it wasn't even remotely challenging
- 2 The instructor is very kind, was fairly flexible with deadlines, and clearly cares about student success and wellbeing.
- 3 Better demos or more support for assignments would have been useful instead of relying on TAs to handle all of the practical components. Assignments assumed a lot of previous knowledge. The prerequisites for this course should be re-evaluated.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (3 comments)

Q: Please comment on your experience of the online course environment in the open-ended text box.



- 1 The assignments are worded very confusingly on the course website, and pretty much only the demo explains what you need to do. ★☆☆☆☆
- 2 The online course environment mainly consisted of asking questions on Piazza, attending office hours, and watching demos. All three of these were useful for learning the course material.
There were some scheduling issues such as assignments and demos being released late or not having enough slots to demo, but the professor and TAs were very accommodating and were flexible with their office hours and moved deadlines to adapt. ★★★★★
- 3 The course was in person. ★★★★★

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (8 comments)

Q: What I could have done to make this course better for myself.

- 1 more proactive trying to get TAs help or communicate with the TAs/Professor to get things started early
- 2 Assignments were large and infrequent, I should have started them earlier / spread out the work, attended office hours more, etc.
- 3 Starting earlier
- 4 Starting assignments earlier would have been helpful because it allows me to demo earlier to TAs and receive feedback on my work. However, given I have other classes and sometimes assignments are released before the relevant content is covered in class, it was sometimes difficult to start assignments early.
- 5 Started with assignment early
- 6 Not sure, this course was a lot of work.
- 7 N/A
- 8 I think I would have taken this course in a later semester.