

Instructor: **Aloupis, Gregory**Subject: **CS**Catalog & Section: **5800 06**Course ID: **17371**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **48**Responses Incl Declines: **19**Declines: **0**

## Instructor Related Questions: Gregory Aloupis (27 comments)

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

- 1 It was a fully online class, so I was able to pause the lecture when I needed to think
- 2 I would say the strengths are the course materials. I always left his videos feeling like I understood the concepts he was teaching. When I gave enough time for note taking, I found it easy to jot down info in a way I could process.
- 3 He clearly explained the topics
- 4 clear
- 5 I actually found the online lectures very interesting and engaging!
- 6 The professor created optional homework assignments, but then graded them much harsher than the tests were graded. I got points off for both being too explicit in my proofs and not being explicit enough - it felt like he instructed his graders to assess whether we answered the homework in the same way he did proofs in class rather than assess how we we answered the question itself. I have always been taught that there is no one right way to prove something - proofs are a form of communication (like essay writing) and should be assessed based on how well the point is communicated. Since homework was so poorly graded and did not contribute to my actual grade, I stopped doing them altogether half way through the course.
- 7 Good and easy to follow material
- 8 Course: taught valuable problem solving skills (in addition to the obvious teaching of algorithmic approaches and optimizations) (also this is more a personal opinion than a general strength of the course but I thought the course was very interesting)  
Instructor: explained subject matter clearly, provided thorough answers to questions both in office hours and via email, responded promptly to emails, fostered student enthusiasm for the course material
- 9 Good
- 10 Good course materials

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

- 1 Hire better TAs/ go over homeworks with them so they know what the solution is. Some TAs consistently gave wrong answers
- 2 A longer exam time and homeworks that feel more connected to the questions asked on exams. I found myself floundering through the homeworks as they never seemed to be on topics that were covered in the course videos (or more specifically they were asking for an understanding of the topics I did not get from the course videos) to the point that I gave up on actually completing the homeworks myself and would just use the solutions as a study aid for the exam. Even doing that, however, felt fruitless as the exam questions never seemed to connect with the homework in much else than that they were pulled from the same general theme.  
I was also always finding myself short on time during exams, to the point where I think I was able to answer all of the questions in only 1 out of the 7 exams. It is so incredibly frustrating to not be graded on your actual answer to an exam question, but on the lack thereof an answer because you didn't have enough time to finish. 50 minutes for an online exam that is asking you questions that are supposed to test you on your understanding of the topics instead of asking questions that are variations of homework or extra problem set questions is not realistic. Two of my first exams were abysmal because I was rushing through questions and answered them using a quick method instead of the method asked of me in the question. If the 50 minutes is non-negotiable then maybe cutting the number of questions down to 2 or 3 each exam (with sub-problems) might be feasible.
- 3 Include more examples for each topic.
- 4 null
- 5 Please re-record the lectures from when you taught the class in person. The audit and visual quality is so poor that I am honestly embarrassed that I paid as much as I did for this course. The educational value and overall professionalism of this course is worse than a free Udemy or Coursera course. This course felt like an afterthought, rather than something the prof saw as his primary job.
- 6 Test difficulty sometimes were challenging and discouraging  
  
I genuinely feel sometimes the material provided was not enough to do well in the tests, however that kept me going
- 7 Not sure if this is something the instructor could really do, but the one thing missing from the course was a sense of community among students. Of course, this was an online course, so there are limits to what can be done in general, but it was the one thing I felt was missing from the course.
- 8 Good
- 9 Teaching assistants were not helpful enough. Office hours of professor as well as TAs were not helpful since they used to reiterate whatever was mentioned in the online lecture.

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

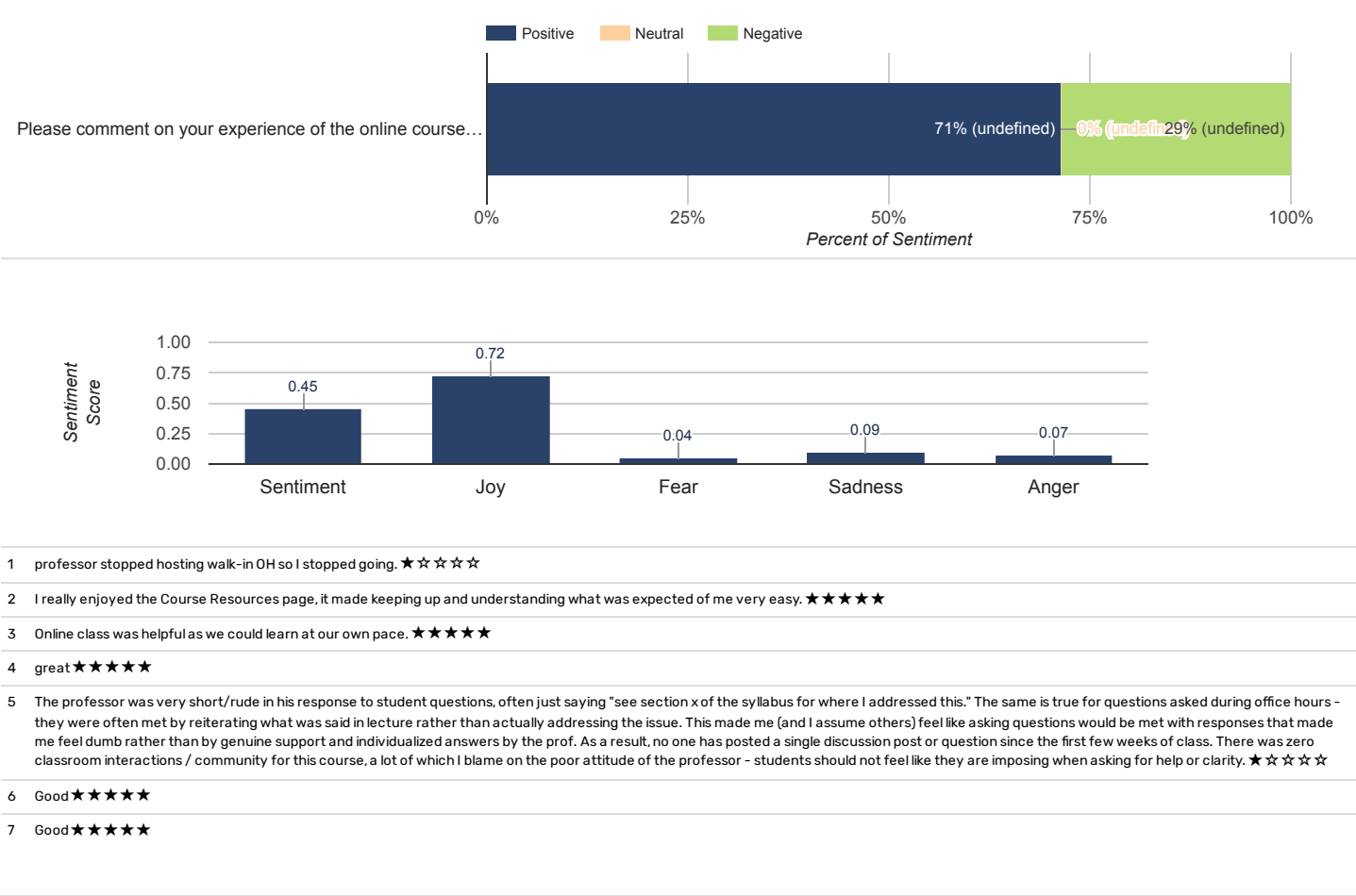
- 1 The videos filmed in 2016 are outdated and hard to follow. Please re record those sections.
- 2 Speaking with the instructor felt fruitless. At one point a student posted in our discussion board about adding 5 or 10 minutes to the exam length and the professor said no because it was his understanding that those who did not perform well under that time limit did so because they didn't understand the topics and not because they didn't have enough time. That's possible, sure, but when a B is given to a student with a 40% in the class then I think something needs to be reworked.  
I really do like Professor Aloupis' teaching style, like I said above I would come away from each video feeling like I understood the material. I have four separate notebooks full of notes from this course. I spent HOURS on this material each week all to culminate in one of the worst averages I've ever had in a class.  
Maybe I'm an outlier in this experience, but I feel like I'm not considering the overall average of the class.
- 3 No need for improvement
- 4 null
- 5 The prof should strive to be more engaged with the class, answer questions in ways that facilitates learning, re-record the low-quality lecture videos (many are fine, but the end of the course is full of very low quality videos), and create homework grading schemes that align better with exams.

Q: Please expand on the instructor’s strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitat**ing** inclusive learning.

- 6 Good material easy to follow.  
Coding would be more practical in this course
- 7 Good
- 8 Office hours should have been improved. The number of exams should be reduced. The teaching assistants hired for this course were useless.

Questions to Assess Students’ Online Experience (7 comments)

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



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 Towards the end I didn't allot enough time to watch the course videos and go over the homework/extra problem sets. I would have better managed my time if I had to do the course over.
- 2 Include more examples for each topic
- 3 null
- 4 I could have went to more of the live meetings
- 5 Nothing
- 6 Started going to office hours earlier in the semester.
- 7 Good
- 8 Focusing on homework problems was the key but this was not communicated in advance.