

Algorithms (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Socha, Katherine**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5800 11**

Course ID: **19778**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **16**

Responses Incl Declines: **12**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Katherine Socha (20 comments)

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

- 1 Very enthusiastic.
- 2 Dr. Socha specialize in math, so it does provide some advantage in lecturing the math part
- 3 Gives great resource materials,
- 4 She's the kindest professor I've ever met. I strongly believe that she did all she could to teach the course as effectively as she could. I have a lot of respect for the amount of effort that she had put into the course, always trying to be helpful and cheerful.
Also, I really loved the way she evaluated me. She gave me a lot of detailed and very useful feedback which helped me to improve my understanding of what I was tested upon. She was more than willing to reiterate on a concept being taught in class if I or any of my other peers weren't able to understand it. Though I have a
- 5 Professor really patient in solving problem.
- 6 Really helpful and kinda teacher, open to helping each student by how much they need
- 7 I had to do a lot of self learning for the assignments. Instructor is really good at math concepts.
- 8 She was effectively able to link concepts with real-life examples

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

- 1 Better organization of classroom content and syllabus.
- 2 However, algorithm course in CS major is not only about math, but also about coding. Adding more helpful skills from coding side will helps a lot.
- 3
 1. Please fix the technical issues and organize the canvas so that everything is in the right place.
 2. Please provide grades on time.
 3. Please use only one textbook for the course. As students, we spend \$60 on an online required book and only use it 2-3 times the entire semester. Therefore, kindly choose one of the following textbooks: Cormen's book, Dasgupta's book, or Kleinberg/Tardos book.
- 4 The instructor should focus a lot on stepping through what's being taught in class and covering the syllabus instead of spending a lot of time on trying to "nudge" the class towards the solution. Though, in theory, it sounds good, in practice, it just results in a lot of class time being wasted.

Problem sets were extremely difficult and frustrating to solve. Now, I understand that, as a masters level student, I am expected to learn some concepts on my own and that the professor is not expected to teach every single thing in the syllabus. But, several problem sets included a lot of content that was not even mentioned in the class at all. And that made it extremely difficult to complete them.

I strongly believe that that the structure of the course is to be blamed here. I believe that the professor did everything that she could to help us go through this syllabus.

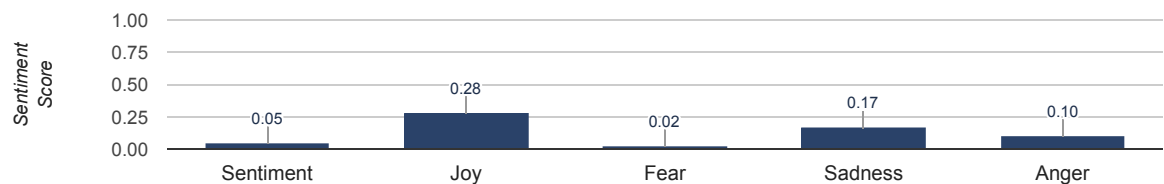
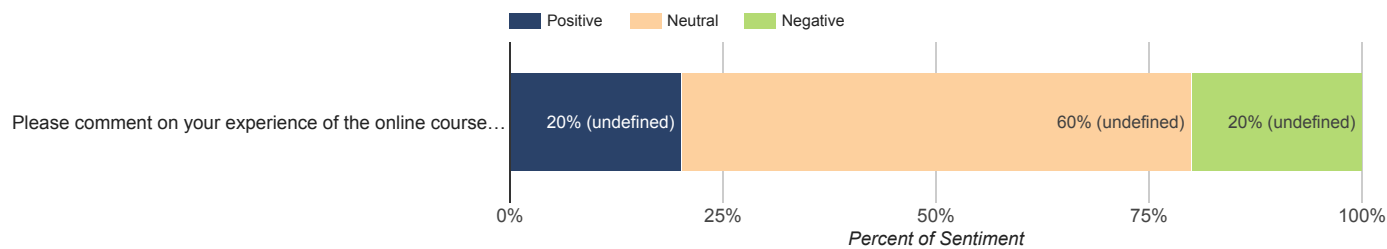
This entire course was structured very poorly and I am beyond disappointed. It felt like the course aimed to cover different topics just for the sake of covering it. There was no structure to this course at all and it felt like we kept jumping from one concept to another in a haphazard manner. The only reason as to why I was able to cope up with this course was because of the fact that I had previously some prior knowledge about some concepts that were taught in this course. I could not imagine myself taking this course without the prior knowledge that I had.
- 5 Could make the teaching plan more organized.
- 6 Sometimes lectures were a little too surface level for the work asked of us in Problem Sets
- 7 I feel the course could have been more organized in terms of the material we followed and topics which were covered in the class.
- 8 If it was a bit more organized and planned would be better

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

- 1 Reduce the emphasis on certain mathematical aspects and incorporate more content related to algorithm improvements and applications.
- 2 -
- 3 None
- 4 Instructor is really good at communicating and would always make efforts to come prepared and work on her short comings. She is also very approachable and empathizes with students.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (5 comments)

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



1 Nice ★★★★★

2 However, the composition of the material is somehow chaotic ★☆☆☆☆

3 Not applicable ★★★★★

4 -★★★★☆

5 None ★★★★★

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 practical experience in algorithm implementation.

2 Do more algorithm problems

3 I could done some prep work before each class

4 -

5 Do some exercises.

6 More consistently used modules

7 Spent more time coding but I was not able to manage my time effectively.

8 Probably could have devoted a little more time to go through the course material on my own