Instructor: **Mukund, Smruthi**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5800 15**

Course ID: **20302**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **40**

Responses Incl Declines: **15**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Smruthi Mukund (18 comments)

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

1   extremely patient in explaining course material after class, provides lots of examples

2   She's very passionate about the class and handwrites all the important notes.

3   She provides easy-to-understand examples

4   She is knowledgeable in the field and provided additional resources outside of class so we could learn the material.

5   The second half of the course showed the professor's passion more clearly. She clearly enjoys the topic and has lots to say. This was much appreciated by me and some other students. I enjoyed her teaching style and the wealth of knowledge she has as well as her industry examples. She is very available for both class-related questions and mentorship when trying to figure out future career paths.

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

1   Need to be clear about the algorithms and concepts. Almost each time(almost every class after the midterm, as contents after midterm are difficult) she explained one complex algorithm, she first went to a wrong direction and then tried to come back. Sometimes she couldn't come back to the right track and already made students really confused.
The instructor's ability to explain a complex algo is limited.

2   when she draws on iPad, she can use another color or the cursor when she explains, i.e., simply saying 'here' and 'there' over the writings sometimes are hard to follow.

3   provide better learning materials such as slides

4   Teaching Pace: The pace of teaching is notably fast. This speed can be challenging, especially for students who need a bit more time to absorb information. A slower pace would help in better understanding and following the lectures.

Homework Management: There seems to be a need for more organization in terms of homework deadlines and workload. Consistency and clear communication in this area would be beneficial.

Class Time Management: There have been instances of class schedules being unexpectedly changed, such as the addition of a class due to the professor's mistake. Adherence to the syllabus schedule for class times would aid in better planning and attendance.

Teaching Assistants' Involvement: It would be helpful if the Teaching Assistants were more informed about the homework solutions. This would enable them to provide better assistance to students.
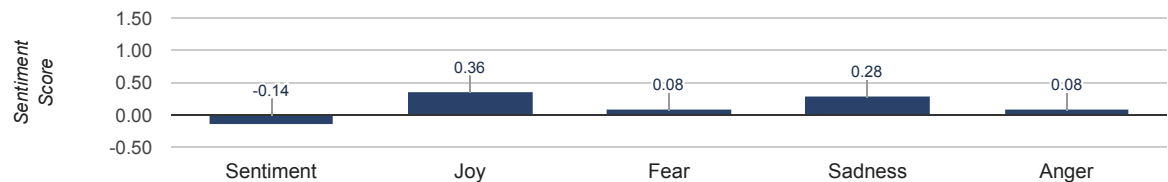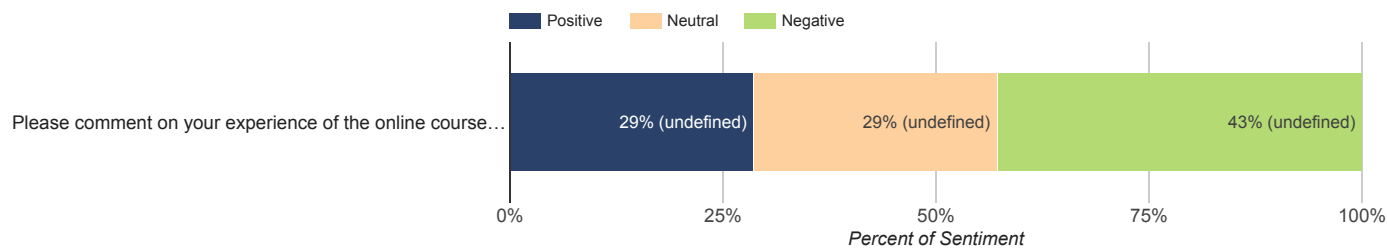
Clarity of Notes: The legibility of handwritten notes sometimes poses a challenge. Clearer notes, or providing them in a typed format, would assist students in taking accurate notes and understanding the material more effectively.

5   make sure her teaching progress is aligned with the schedule. even if some classes are affected by public holidays, they should have been handled beforehand.

6   She is a great professor. With that said, if she could improve on her organizational skills, especially regarding the topics covered in the class, that would be helpful.

7   We understand that it is a lot to juggle with industry and other matters, but some more consistency would be appreciated in terms of how the syllabus is delineated. If make-up courses need to be scheduled, it would be good to get this done early on instead of needing to scramble. This was done reasonably well, but planning a little more in advance when make-up sessions need to be scheduled and attempting to update the syllabus regularly when there are changes will help students keep a watchful eye on exactly what we need to learn and when and where we can focus our efforts.

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

1   Not good at explaining something complex.
Make complex things more complicated.
Students even feel less confident after taking this course.

2   n/a

3   This course is really helpful for preparing for an SDE interview. Professor Mukund's insights and teachings have been particularly helpful. I have gained a wealth of knowledge from the content she has shared. However, the homework appears to extend beyond the class content, presenting a challenge and we need a significant amount of time and effort to complete it. If the professor could explain the assignments or possibly reduce the difficulty level, it would greatly enhance the learning experience. I really appreciate the professor's guidance and believe that such adjustments would further contribute to the success of the course. Thank you!

4   she's doing a pretty good job. she's my favorite professor at Northeastern so far. I love that she uses in-class handwriting notes to teach, not just slides. Moreover, including examples during algo introduction from beginner-friendly to more advanced, the approach help me a lot.

5   As mentioned above, if her organizational skills could be improved, especially regarding assignments and lectures, this would be helpful.

6   The professor showed great improvement in making the subject accessible as the semester progressed. I have no further comment in this area as I feel she is doing very well.

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.

Please comment on your experience of the online course…

Positive: 29% (undefined) | Neutral: 29% (undefined) | Negative: 43% (undefined)

Percent of Sentiment

Sentiment: -0.14 | Joy: 0.36 | Fear: 0.08 | Sadness: 0.28 | Anger: 0.08

Sentiment Score

1   The instructor provides online materials. But she never offer standard solutions/feedback for any homework. ★☆☆☆☆

2   Professor refused to provide her class notes. And she refuse to provide the recordings to every class. ★★★☆☆

3   I've found that the pace of the lectures can be quite rapid, which sometimes makes it challenging for me to thoroughly grasp the material in real-time. Additionally, I sometimes struggle to read the handwritten notes on the her iPad. Basically after midterm, I don't have much confidence about learning algorithms anymore. She doesn't like to give homework answers to TAs or us. When I have questions about homework even TA can't really help. I have a hard time finishing homeworks. ★☆☆☆☆

4   the TAs are very helpful ★★★★★

5   Still one of the worst class of all time, I could've just learned everything on youtube instead of coming to class. ★☆☆☆☆

6   She communicated online via announcements on Canvas about upcoming information about the class. ★★★☆☆

7   It was nice having Slack to get in touch with the professor and TAs easily. It might be better in the future to just use Piazza, as that is a little more centralized and sometimes my notifications did not come through. But either way, it is fine. ★★★★☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (6 comments)

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

1   Need to be a master of Leetcode medium and above before the class so that I could do well in her exams.

2   more coding practice by myself

3   Watch more YouTube algorithms class teaching videos and review homework again and again.

4   focus even more during class, and make sure i practice A LOT until I fully understand the concepts

5   Prepared more for the course before taking it.

6   I could have doubled down on the slides a bit more. I spent time with a study group I led to learn the concepts, which was great, but maybe some minute details slipped by when I did not review slides as much as I could have. Those details could have helped me in my future career. Then again, I will continue to learn in this area in my free time after the course is over.