

Algorithms (Spring 2024)

Instructor: **Tsekourakis, Iraklis**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5800 01**

Course ID: **30569**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **139**

Responses Incl Declines: **48**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Iraklis Tsekourakis (43 comments)

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

- 1 He explained complex topics well but he could have explained them a little slow
- 2 prof helped and motivated throughout the class to keep people curious throughout this intensive course.
- 3 Everything
- 4 The course is clear and understandable even for those who learn algorithm at the first time.
- 5 It was a deep dive into Algorithms, it is really helpful for interviews and generally to hone your core Computer Science skills.
- 6 Herc is always enthusiastic on the class, and will have some questions for students to think on the class, and students can ask any questions any time on the class if they don't understand some parts. Besides, the lecture notes are organized very well, students will learn very well based on the lecture notes, and the homework question is also good.
- 7 -
- 8 Prof. Tsekourakis is an enthusiastic teacher and very interested in communicating with students during lecture. He provides detailed instruction and will always answer questions during lecture or online.
- 9 Prof. Tsekourakis is an interesting and fun professor.
- 10 The professor was very kind and fair. He is great with his explanations and encourages us to challenge his ideas to reinforce our learnings.
- 11 Lectures were as as good as a 3.5 hour lecture can get, and the professor had informative slides that were often more digestible than the textbook.
- 12 in-class example.
- 13 Great Course
- 14 Helped visualize the different algorithms. The lectures, homework, book, and exams were all consistent with each other.
- 15 The course itself is organized very well. The objectives and requirements are clear, which I appreciate. He always stressed reading the book and completing practice problems, and these were key to doing well in the course. I also like Professor Herc since he always took his time to make sure everyone understood what was being presented. He seems like he enjoys teaching and tries to keep the class engaged.
- 16 This course doesn't require a specific program language. I can use any program language in this course.
- 17 Good way of communicating aspects of algorithms.
- 18 Fast paced course made it sometimes hard to grasp the more detailed proofs, but most if not all topics were explained well

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

- 1 Provide better resources for preparing for exams. The two exams compromised 60% of my final grade and covered so much content, that I wasn't sure what to study. It would have been helpful to have sample exams to know what kind of questions to expect. It would have also been helpful to have in class or out of class review sessions in the week leading up to the exam to ask questions and gain clarification.
- 2 he could keep online recordings
- 3 Post lecture notes before hand
- 4 Put slides up pre-class
- 5 Make the lectures available online. It is 2024 and classroom-only lectures only cause inconvenience as there is no way of looking back at something that was missed.
- 6 Maybe try to keep class size as small as possible. But I think this is not the problem of instructor.
- 7 Recordings of lectures
- 8 I wish exams were weighted slightly less and assignments weighted slightly more.
- 9 I don't think this is really on the instructor, but the course content probably could have gone a bit deeper. I took the course as an undergraduate student hoping that it would skip me past a lot of the basic data structures/algorithms you learn in high school AP CS, but we ultimately spent a lot of time going over things that I would have expected a graduate class to expect preexisting knowledge of.

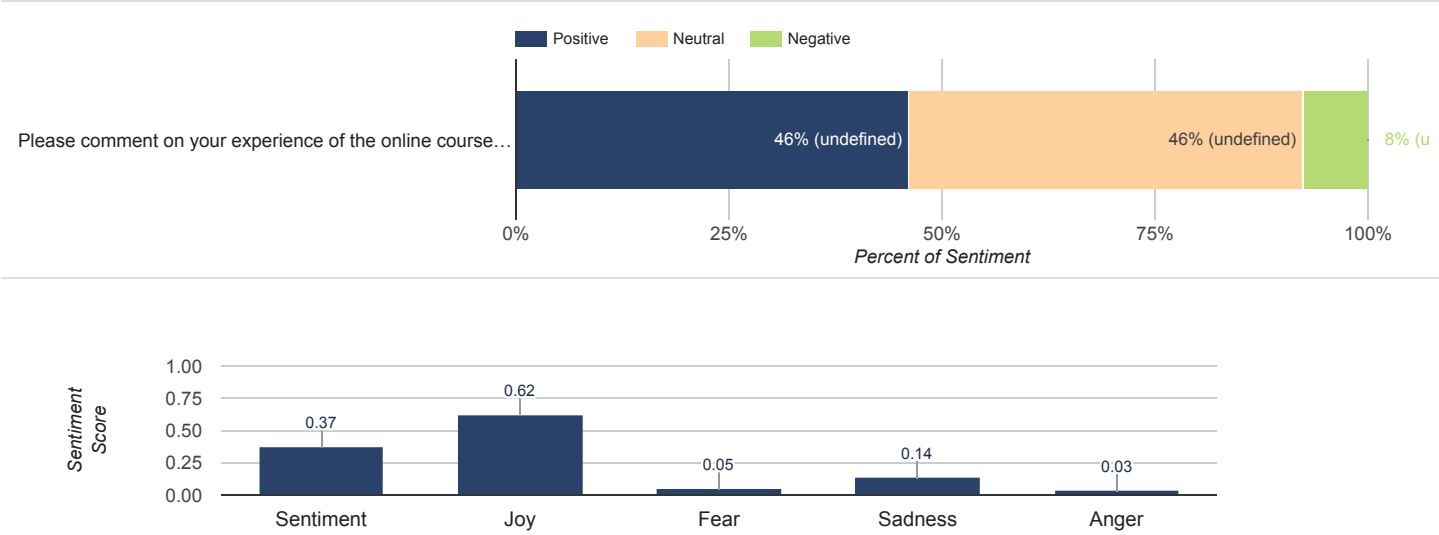
Also, grading on homework wasn't always the best (though this is on the TAs more than the instructor). The regrade request system made it so issues could ultimately be resolved, but there were many times that it was annoying that there was even an issue in the first place, and some grading choices had me questioning the grader's literacy.
- 10 all good
- 11 Great Course
- 12 Post the lecture notes before the class. During OH, explain concepts in a different way.
- 13 The only real part of the course I would change would be to release the notes before the class lectures. I find in my other classes that reviewing the notes beforehand helps me absorb the information during class more easily.
- 14 He could give us some optional practice questions.
- 15 Preferably spend some more time going in depth explaining what is going on with the algorithm and make sure people understand complicated ideas.
- 16 Post slides before lecture and have bigger variety of examples in OH. TA's were also either very helpful or not helpful at all. Some were not able to help with specific problems and concepts and instead knew the concepts for problems they were assigned to grade on homeworks but not others which made it difficult at times

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

- 1The professor used to be quite abstract at times about the concepts he was trying to explain. This is subjective but having more visualizations would have really helped me score better. There is a lot of self-learning involved, which is good but also infeasible at times due to time constraints in general.
- 2I think my instructor is good enough.
- 3-
- 4Sometimes his penmanship is hard to read.
- 5strength: explanation of complex problem statements very well
improvements: could go little slow
- 6all good
- 7Great Course
- 8He will ask us questions if we don't have any questions. The questions guide us to think on different aspect of the algorithm.
- 9Good professor. Moves at a good pace through the material. Sometimes in class someone would ask about a concept and he would say that solving a homework problem related to it would make it more clear, but getting the overall concept learned more before doing the homework could sometimes be more effective than trying to struggle through it. Overall, great instructor and person and I would recommend taking the course to others with Herc

Questions to Assess Students’ Online Experience (13 comments)

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



- 1No online classes were available and the classes were not recorded. ★★☆☆☆
- 2The TAs were knowledgeable but there was no online environment as such as the course was classroom-only. ★☆☆☆☆
- 3I attend to the class in person. ★★☆☆☆
- 4Lecture notes were uploaded on Canvas and easy to access. Otherwise the course was taught in person. ★★☆☆☆
- 5N/A ★★☆☆☆
- 6Lecture slides were always posted to Canvas, and Piazza made it easy to get timely answers to questions for the homework. ★★★★★
- 7Great. ★★★★★
- 8Great Course ★★★★★
- 9Questions were answered at a reasonable rate through piazza ★★☆☆☆
- 10Good class, good professor. He is strict at times but everything is fair. The course followed closely with the required textbook, so as long as you go to classes and do practice problems in the book, you should do well in this class. The lectures were nice too, although I might not recommend the 3-hour-long section, it's a lot to process in one sitting. Overall, I highly recommend his class! ★★★★★
- 11Piazza is a good way to ask questions. ★★★★★
- 12Piazza was good and helpful ★★★★★
- 13Was not online, but canvas organized well. I would suggest posting slides in advance instead of after lecture ★★☆☆☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (20 comments)

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

- 1 Read the textbook synchronously with the class sessions.
- 2 I could have attended more office hours of the TA and the professor to get my doubts clarified
- 3 Maybe if the lecture notes were posted before the class it'd help me to look up the pre-requisites and come prepared to class.
- 4 Kept on track reading textbook, practiced more
- 5 could have attended more classes
- 6 Started early.
- 7 Read the text book completely. But I have 4 courses this semester, I could only spend time on studying the lecture notes.
- 8 -
- 9 Keep up with the readings prior to lecture
- 10 Taking the perquisites
- 11 Solve the assignment on time.
- 12 I could have completed studying the topics of the course right after every lecture, this would have increased my understanding of that topic.
- 13 Probably do more homework on time; the late policy made it very easy to put it off.
- 14 Great Course
- 15 I did pretty well, but I think that I should've started studying earlier before each test than I did. I luckily gave myself enough time before the midterm to study everything, but it was stressful. The two tests are worth 30% each, after all. Make sure to ask questions on Piazza if you are not sure, the TAs or the professor will answer you quickly. I also should've studied the textbook chapters before each class since the classes can often get complicated very quickly, and I had to go back later to review them.
- 16 I need more practice on the best and worst case of algorithm.
- 17 I could solve more Leetcode questions along with this course
- 18 Started early on the assignments and readings.
- 19 Doing more textbook problems
- 20 Practiced