Algorithms (Fall 2023)

Instructor: **Behnezhad, Soheil**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5800 03**
Course ID: **15377**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **103**
Responses Incl Declines: **102**
Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Soheil Behnezhad (187 comments)

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

1 He was very open to receive anonymous feedback from the start of the semester. Initially the organization of the class was rough, but as the semester has progressed, he was receptive to the feedback and has been able to improve the structure of the course, and we were able to gain a better sense of expectations for the homeworks and exam.

2 Delivering content in an understandable manner.

3 HWs

4 Professor know well of the course material, class is engaging and fun

5 Fully interact with students, the course covers most of the knowledge of computer algorithms, and patiently respond to students' questions in Piazza.

6 He did a good job of keeping the class moving and not spending too much time on a topic. I think the time spent on each topic was appropriate and didn't feel too overwhelming.

7 Prof made the understanding of the algorithms very easy and at the same time challenged us to study on our own to do well in the assignments. V effective learning strategy

8 Soheil took time to listen to and respond to each question that arose in class. He thoroughly explained why each question may have/not have merit related to the problem at hand.

9 As I said Soheil as a professor is really good and helpful he makes sure everyone understands . Thank you

10 The course is hard, hw is challenging but related to leetcode questions

11 I found the assignments really difficult but they did help me prepare for the midterm, which was relatively much easier and more straightforward.

12 Post his slides to website

13 2 months in to the class, he listened to our anonymous feedback and listened to us

14 The instructor did a really good job in answering piazza questions.

15 Professor provides lots of resources for students, Piazza platform and inclusive TAs from different background which is awesome.
It could be lots of interaction with either TAs or classmates.

16 The course content and pace was perfect to follow along. The possibility of attending the lecture over zoom gave me the flexibility of attending the class when sick.

17 Nothing much to appreciate for the course.

18 Theoretical approach to the subject was helpful to learn the concepts thoroughly.

19 Prof Behnezhad did an excellent job breaking down the core concepts of the material into a digestable format

20 Friendly
Good Assignments
Empathetic

21 Adaptable, received criticism early well.

22 all good

23 I liked the the use of slides and virtual tools that made it easy to take notes and review concepts from class. The homework's were relatively consistent and expectations were clear. They are also pretty enthusiastic about the course which was nice.

24 the instructor is kind and helpful. he tried his best to answer every students' question in class.

25 It was difficult.

26 Good stuff, I thoroughly enjoyed this class. Especially after hearing time and time again how brutal algorithms was apparently going to be. I thought it was difficult but fair.

27 Difficult assignments

28 I really appreciated the pace of each class.

29 very theoretical and prepares well for interviews.

30 The course was challenging which helped me learn a lot

31 Enthusiasm, knowledge of the state of the field, respect for the students, humor

32 explain concepts clearly

33 very well-prepared class material

34 clear slide and nice lecture

35 He really knows a lot, I guess this is a good course for students have good foundation in computer science. But bad course for students who just finished align courses.

36 Professor Behnezhad really knows his stuff. He's also very good at showing why theory is useful in the real world as well as helping show the problem solving methods that lead to a solution rather than just sharing solutions.

37 The coursework was really well organized - e.g. lectures were recorded and put online, readings were ready ahead of time, assignments and tests were graded in a timely matter

The professor also has a strong understanding of algorithms which was helpful when answering various questions

38 clear

39 the anonymous feedback throughout the class was great! And that he clearly took the feedback seriously. Clearly had a deep understanding of the course material and did a solid job of conveying information.

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

40   Reinforced early on that discourse in class had to be respectful by ignoring those who shouted out answers, or asking them to raise their hand. This is crucial as I've seen this type of behavior become very disruptive if not shut down by the professor.

41   come fully prepared

42   He had a better connect by the end of the semester

43   Professor has strong grasp of concepts of this course.

44   He was knowledgeable about algorithms.

45   The course covered the important topics which develops the understanding of how to think logically and solve computer science problems. The discussions in the classroom, on Piazza and during the office hours were helpful to clear doubts. The instructor did a great job in explaining difficult topics himself and by encouraging students to think for themselves during the class.

46   Excellent Slide presentation.

47   The assignments, though tough and time consuming, helped a lot in understanding the subject in detail.

48   N/A

49   He is super nice and super patient to everyone in the class. Strongly recommendation for his course. I can learn a lot from his course and lectures.

50   A wonderful arrangement of lessons and time from Soheil make class great.

51   The instructor explained things in detail and patiently explained relevant concepts and proof processes

52   The lectures were usually very well organized, the TA were very helpful

53   The class encouraged an interactive environment

54   Professor Soheil's lecture is very interesting and attracting. He explains everything clearly and always answer our questions. He is also very approachable outside of class and his office hour is always useful.

55   He is able to write the course content in great detail, breaking it down step by step, allowing me to learn effectively.

56   This professor was very detailed in his lectures and was perfect for a beginning learner like me.

57   answer questions during classes

58   A very easy courses

59   Dr. Behnezhad appears to care about the material and have a low-moderate amount of interest in teaching students. His priorities in research are apparent.

60   The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment where I felt comfortable asking questions. The instructor happily answered any and everything question I had during class.

61   Interest in the subject

62   Incredibly knowledgeable. Well spoken.

63   He has good lecture and how they are planned out. Also the online recording helps a lot with reviewing course material.

64   The materials he provided and the method of teaching was very simple but effective in understanding the concept. It really helped me improve a lot in algorithms.

65   Soheil is very open to receiving feedback from students which is much appreciated as the beginning of the semester was a bit chaotic and disorganized. He seems like a nice person.

66   He was responsive to feedback at the beginning of the class when students voiced their preference for iPad and digital notes rather than notes on the whiteboard.

I also appreciated that he started asking students to raise their hands before just shouting out answers. The class felt extremely disrespectful to me. I had to constantly turn around and ask students to stop talking, so many people talked throughout the entire lecture and never raised their hands. He eventually asked people to raise their hands before yelling out answers, but it would have been nice if he asked students to stop talking, so the rest of us could hear.

67   The professor had plan for each session and gave us enough time to complete the assignments.

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

1   While I understand the material of this algorithms course is difficult by nature, I feel like I had to use many outside resources and slides from other schools' algorithm courses to fully understand and learn the material. This however, was discouraged because we we're not allowed to use the internet. But, I don't think the course is possible without consulting outside resources, especially if the resources provided to us are not adequate enough (or mostly too complex to even understand the material, as a student new to the topic).

Receiving help from the TA's was also a not-so-friendly experience because at the beginning of the semester, I would receive conflicting information regarding the homeworks. I think it would be beneficial to have the TA's prepared and better well-versed on the assignments and topics for office hours.

2   Nothing that i can think of.

3   Better explanation

4   Not to my knowledge of, pretty good

5   Professor can give lectures more compactly.

6   Provide more outside materials for practice aside from the homework. Also working through more problems in class would be helpful. Sometimes the homework would contain topics that were a little bit confusing to implement without going over it much.

7   Go over the complicated concepts that shows up in assignments. Just in brief or as an overview so we know what to look for.

8   The office hours hosted by the instructor and most TAs were online and I feel more offline office hours would have been better.

9   I think Soheil did a great job with the course. My only point of contention was with the TAs, as sometimes it felt as though they did not spend much time reviewing our homework assignments before grading.

10   He already did a lot

11   Giving out more detail examples ;
step by step explaning

12   I think the instructor could go over material that was more relevant to solving the homework assignments. I feel like what was taught in class and going through the readings didn't adequately prepare me to work on the assignments. I needed to use a lot of other resources to start on the questions, and I feel like the lectures alone should be able to provide me the necessary foundation to approach the homework questions. I think going over the simple concepts in class is important but then it's really hard to apply that to more complex questions, and it would be very helpful to do that during class time so that we had a better idea of the expectations regarding how to structure our answers. I think there should be better communication in general about the assignment expectations because they tended to be confusing a lot of the time.

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

13	some materials are too abstract, maybe find a another way to demonstrate theorems
14	listen to students, give practice problems beginning of semester
15	The slides from his class material can demonstrate more details and example. Often time, I am not able to connect with those information.
16	For certain homeworks, there were multiple occasions when different TAs would give contradictory answers to the doubts. This would waste potential time to complete the assignment successfully.
17	Making teaching and understanding better.
18	Worked on more recitation or problem solving classes.
19	We already took the prerequisite CS5008, spending less time on the topics covered there will make it much better. The professor forced us to complete this evaluation by quiz... It's just not right.
20	Improve pacing in the first half, work with TAs to be more effective in feedback provided in office hours, provide solutions to practice problems in the book (either through TAs or via the online course materials)
21	Detail Specific Help for interview prep
22	all good
23	Started using slides from the start of course.
24	it would be better if professor can explain the homework in detail in class, and provide more practice question for us.
25	Make grading a little easy.
26	Screen your TA's before those sessions. The first TA was great, the second TA phoned it in.
27	should have focused more on teaching or explaining the topic. At first, it was fine but when we delved into Difficult algorithms, the ppt approach was not working that well.
28	I was not prepared for the first assignment. The instructor could share the expectations around the first assignment better, by perhaps explaining that the assignment has very little to do with what is taught in class in terms of the specific material and that the assignment requires many iterations of thinking about each question.
29	Space better the homeworks to prepare for the midterm and final.
30	I wish the instructor can provide more detailed notes and more practice problems to solve the assignments
31	I feel that the lectures would often get into the granular details of an algorithm and then move to the next, then the next, etc. I think always bouncing back to the broader, more abstract ideas and themes that we should be picking up is essential, as is briefly revisiting material from previous lectures for a sort of spaced repetition learning. Absolutely most of all, I would have immensely appreciated if the majority of the time discussing the problem-solving side of divide-and-conquer, dynamic programming, and greedy algorithms (as opposed to the abstract side mentioned above) was spent walking through your thought process step-by-step as you figured out how to see the problem through the lens of the given algorithm paradigm. It felt instead like it was often treated as somewhat trivial, other than a few times where the potential yet wrong dynamic programming approaches to problems were discussed.
32	give more time on exams or change to online exam instead of writing code with hand
33	be more concise about introducing new ideas and concepts to the class.
34	upload note on slides, as some slides are missing
35	He should provides more information and better course rubric.
36	Start assigning the homeworks earlier and make the first homework a bit lighter. Latex is kind of scary.
37	I think the lectures could have been a little better organized, sometimes we would run out of time going over less core topics and problems
38	more practice
39	grading felt a little unproportionate to mistakes. At the beginning of the course the homeworks and lectures seemed completely unrelated but closer to the end they seemed to overlap an appropriate amount to still be challenging while giving you just enough breadcrumbs to peace it together yourself most of the time.
40	Recitation sessions... They were not the same quality as the sessions lead by Soheil. I think he should teach these sections himself.
41	Could have included teaching and making us solve LeetCode problems which may be more relevant and can help us in preparing for real world DSA interviews.
42	Probably take some time to show students how to formally make proofs as an example so that students know how to formally prove algorithms without half guessing.
43	There is a room for more examples of the concepts explained in the class. The assignments were usually very difficult which required a lot of hours and commitment from students.
44	Homework could have been described properly, not much aligned with the material taught in class.
45	Solve more exercises in class similar to the ones in Assignments.
46	N/A
47	Maybe more review sessions.
48	He is doing great because he exactly knows what he is doing. Consistency of material are good.
49	I have no idea at the moment.
50	Sometimes lectures got disorganized if we were rushing to finish a topic before class ended but this was usually cleared up at the start of the next lecture. The homework were incredibly difficult while I did learn a lot they were impossible for me to do without help from TAs
51	Scheduling - Homeworks were due very close to the finals and midterm
52	I don't know.
53	Provide more reasonable TA office hour. This course is a bit too hard. But when I need help from TA, I could not find them.
54	More TA office hours could be assigned.
55	more examples of some concepts
56	Make it harder please

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

57   By order of importance/impact:
#1 Organization, communication, completeness, and timeliness of sharing materials. For example, participation was graded but never well defined and edge cases were not explained (e.g. don't come to class when you have COVID-leading many students to come anyway, which is exlusive policy to immunocompromised people and those with loved ones).
#2 better learning strategy and better defined course objectives. Structuring the course in a way that obviously meets those learning objectives.
#3 Providing adequate support and communication to students. Give all students more resources, especially if they are struggling.
#4 Better solutions. Solutions to in class problems were often rushed and poorly explained. Providing additional resources and allowing students to study the material in advance both help significantly with this. But you also need to increase your office hours time. The TAs had lots of office hours but they coudln't answer the questions and also didn't have enough time to explain the complexity of the problems. They often struggled to understand the material and would shrug at our problems.

I Have a lot more constructive feedback but not enough time due to the timed quiz for this. My biggest recommendation is to talk to Dr. Lionell who teached 5008 and who's career focus is on effective learning techniques.

58   better schedule between homework and midterm exam

59   The instructor could give more time to study for midterms and finals including working smoothing out the logistics of when assignments are assigned and due. The instructor could also upload study materials/answer keys earlier.

60   NA

61   Homework seemed significantly harder than examples given in class.

62   The timeline for homework can be planned better

63   Dumb down the concepts more

64   I think that student should have more safe environment to experiment and get used with the new content of the class, and assignment isn't a good way in my opinion. The midterm and the final is also a bit too long for 90 minutes.

65   Cover more topics maybe. Some topics like trees, and data structures were not covered. Also, I would like it to be more coding intensive since in real life, you have the option to verify your algorithm rather than writing on paper (Where you dont have).

66   Stronger, more clear syllabus and course layout so students are aware of HW release dates and due dates. This allows for better semester planning for students that are in other courses. The introduction and use of slides was incredibly helpful and should be used throughout the semester. More clear communication about upcoming quizzes. Stronger presence in the classroom to foster a better working environment (raising hands, quieting loud students, etc.)

67   He could have done a better job reviewing his lectures and homework assignments to make sure there were no mistakes, or to make sure that the questions were clear and explicit in what they expected from us. He could have done a better job getting the teaching staff on the same page, because often we would get completely different answers from different TAs, so we never knew exactly what was expected from us.

68   -having more recitation/solving problem sessions
-using the board more, not just teaching through slides

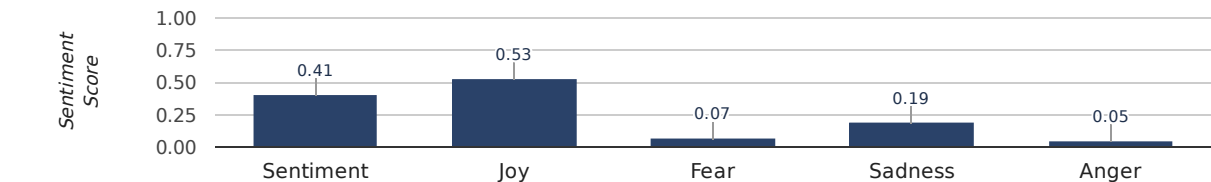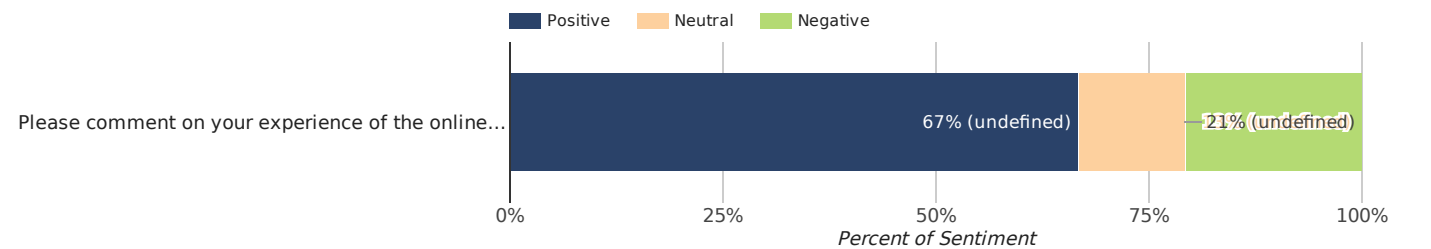## Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

1   He help to facilitate a better learning environment when he firmly ensured that we raised our hands when he asked questions in class. During the first lectures, try-hard students would shout out answers, before anyone else had a chance to process the question or have the time to come up with an answer. Especially as a student without a CS background, this was incredibly intimidating. The professor did well on shutting that down.

2   He records his classes and they are available all the time for us to revisit.

3   Better explanation

4   Professor know well of the course material, class is engaging and fun

5   he and his teaching assistants will be very patient and helpful. If you don't know how to do it, please ask and let them know. They will be very patient and enthusiastic to help you

6   I think the instructor needs to provide better materials, especially for exams. He gave the practice for the final much sooner than the midterm so he does seem to listen to feedback.

7   V easy to understand his teaching. V easy to approach him with doubts and questions.

8   I think Soheil did a great job facilitating inclusive learning. There are no suggestions I have for this aspect of his course.

9   Teaching clearly is his biggest strength

10   I had hard time trying to understand the concept of the topic most of the time...

11   I think the instructor made an effort to answer any questions the students had in class.

12   enthusiastic

13   .

14   There seemed to be a difference in the expectation of answers for homework assignments. This was evident when comparing the expectation that was set when assignment was released against the solution key released after the deadline.
If we can bridge the gap in terms of reducing the expectations on student answers to be at the level of the answer key, that can save me some time being spent on assignments.

15   Please make the teaching more better.

16   Work on more problem solving sessions. Difficulty level of problems solved in class and given in exams was not the same.

17   I think Prof Behnezhad did a good job of explaining the material, but I wish the pacing of the course was a little faster in the first half, as it felt rushed to get in all the material as we approached the midterm, which in term made it difficult to prepare

18   Be more prepared, you were lost couple of times. Loved examples and level of questions, please keep going.

Add a project, application is required to understand conecpt.

19   all good

20   instructor is patient and helpful

21   Prof is really good a graphs and explaining the concepts.

22   I don't know about inclusive, I guess just make sure that students who require more time on quizzes get the time allotted but other than that good stuff.

23   He made good assignments which required a lot of hard work. Only thing I missed was a connection with the professor which made the class quite boring for me.

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

24 The instructor is absolutely fantastic!

25 Hwk 2 was so close to the midterm and i didnt have enough time to revisit previous topics neither check if my answers were on the right track.

26 N/A, see prior answers.

27 give more time on exams or change to online exam instead of writing code with hand

28 He is a passionate instructor. He can explain the material well. And the test is well aligned with the class material

29 is very good

30 The lectures and notes are all really good. Whenever I needed to remember the specifics of a lecture I could always go back through the notes to write something down I had forgotten.

31 I think the coursework was really well organized and I felt that I was able to follow along pretty easily. If there was something that I missed or if I couldn't make it to class, I could easily figure out what to do. The assignments and tests were fair and grading was rather quick, so you could get feedback quickly and figure out which areas to improve.

The lectures sometimes felt a little disorganized and/or the pace was too fast to follow along. This could be because of how I prefer to learn, but I think more examples of algorithms applied in real life and/or pictorial demonstrations of how these algorithms would work and/or just slowing down and really explaining each step and why we are doing them when introducing a new algorithm would be really helpful in following along.

32 Soheil is a really nice guy and a good instructor. I found him to be very passionate about the material, and he was always very good about answering questions both in class and online.

33 He went through the algorithms, but didn't formally prove them in class, so it was tough to try to formally prove algorithms on the homework when we didn't get much instruction on how to make formal proofs.

34 The instructor has the clarity about the topics he covered in the class. He explanation of difficult concepts are great signifying his good grasp on the course materials. The instructor encouraged classroom discussions providing students a platform to think and come up with ideas to tackle problems at hand.

35 NA

36 Takes student's feedbacks and acts on it promptly.

37 N/A

38 His patience, kind, friendly and solidness of knowledge. I only hope that there could be a little more review sessions and code sessions.

39 If it is possible take some time after each class to discuss about materials.

40 I have no idea at the moment.

41 Soheil is obviously very passionate about this subject and that is reflected in his teaching. I got the feeling that he wasn't just reading us notes off slides but rather that he really wanted us to understand the topics. I think sometimes he would move a little quickly through things and students do not always feel comfortable asking questions in larger classes so sometimes they would fall behind but overall Soheil was a great professor.

42 The professor ensured clear and inclusive communication which enhanced the learning process

43 Professor Soheil did great in this area. I hope I can take his other classes before I graduate.

44 The course is very hard for an align student. If the professor could provide more basic knowledge for them, it would be excellent.

45 I think the teacher is very detailed, and also gives bonus questions during the exam, which I think are good considering the different basics of the students.

46 Just make it harder

47 The professor used only very outdated teaching policies and methods to teach the course which are known (proven through many research studies and practice) to be highly ineffective, especially for rigorous mathematical/logical instruction. The instructor was obviously unprepared for instruction in the method he chose, which was also a poor, outdated method. He needs to read these research articles to learn how to teach and the effective methods for teaching, as well as talk with the other instructors at Khoury who already know these things and can help him understand. I suggest removing him from the instruction of a required course and have him teach only electives while he builds his skills and preparedness for this course. I would ask for my money back if I could for this poor quality of instruction.

This course, if taught this way, should not be a mandatory class, and should be an elective. It lacked a focus on making the students better professionals, which is an overall focus of the rest of the degree. It was misaligned with the degree objectives. It verged on un-inclusiveness with outdated policies and procedures which are harmful for neurodivergent (identified or not) people, minorities, and typically underrepresented people.

The professor made completing this TRACE evaluation part of timed quiz without telling us in advance that it was part of this particular quiz and it having other questions. I was given less than 30 minutes to fill out this evaluation after answering the other, technical questions of the quiz. I typically spend at least an hour on Trace evals so please keep in mind I have more to say and would have edited for clarity if I was allowed to complete this on my own time

48 The homework is difficult and need extra self learning. It can include more coding exercise and less algoritm proof.

49 NA

50 Inclusiveness seemed fine.

51 I understand it is his first semester teaching so there are challenges that come with that and I can empathize with the difficulties of doing so. However, I am still paying a lot of money for a course and do not want to be a guinea pig for a professor to sort things out. I think the university should put more effort into monitoring and providing guidance and resources to new professors so it can be a positive experience for both the students and professor. Changes were made over the course of the semester which made the overall experience a bit better, but it is incredibly frustrating when it took the first half of the course to sort things out

52 The first half of the semester was honestly very frustrating for me. The rhetoric that was used by the professor and TAs made me feel extremely dumb and slow, as if I shouldnt need extra practice because I should already know these concepts. I do not feel that the first half of the class was an inclusive learning environment at all. It felt like if you didnt already understand the concepts, you were wasting your time trying to learn them. Adding to this sentiment was the fact that we were not allowed to use the Internet. That is absurd. Self-learning is a very important skill, and to ban that makes no sense. Banning AI tools like Chat-GPT makes sense to me, but saying that we cant look up any concepts online felt draconian and unnecessary.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (48 comments)

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

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Please comment on your experience of the online...

| 67% (undefined) | | 21% (undefined) |

Percent of Sentiment: 0% — 25% — 50% — 75% — 100%

Sentiment Score bar chart:
- Sentiment: 0.41
- Joy: 0.53
- Fear: 0.07
- Sadness: 0.19
- Anger: 0.05

1. After the first couple of weeks, the online experience improved with the addition of his iPad usage to facilitate the lectures. ★★★★★

2. The course work was good and increased my technical understanding with Algorithms. ★★★★★

3. not bad ★★★☆☆

4. Didn't use it much ★★☆☆☆

5. The lectures were really great, but they were way better in person where focus was easier. ★★★★★

6. Online can have more manageable time and flexibility to learn when other course might have excessive amount of work with priority selection. ★★★★★

7. The professor provides synchronous classroom links and after-class videos to help students review and check for knowledge.
very useful ★★★★★

8. I think the organization of course material was pretty straight forward, but there could have been more materials for practice throughout the term. And maybe just stick to Canvas? Having two websites is a bit annoying. But really I think the only way to really make sense of this class is by actually going to it. Attendance is important and do not be afraid to hold people accountable for not showing up ★★☆☆☆

9. Soheil should probably upgrade his site to https. Otherwise good lol ★★★★★

10. The online course environment for this particular course was not very engaging and organised. Whenever Professor uses board for writing, it's very hard to follow as the cameras are not at all positioned to focus onto the board. We could barely see anything that's being taught on the board. ★☆☆☆☆

11. His video recording online were good enough to help me review the content when needed. ★★★★★

12. Slides for the classes were uploaded on timely manner. ★★★★★

13. The online course environment was pretty limited seeing as this is an in-person class. However, Professor Behnezhad made sure the zoom stream was working for those who chose to take the course from home. ★★☆☆☆

14. Soheil as a professor is really good and helpful. Thank you ★★★★★

15. Classes were available online as well as offline evertime. Each class was recorded and the course materials were published before class making it easier to follow what was taught in the class. ★★★★☆

16. N/A ★★★☆☆

17. really good ★★★★★

18. this class experience was a rollercoaster.
if we had not been given the anonymous feedback option on google forms, and if we did not bombard you with begging pleas for 2 months to help us out the class would be failing. we were struggling a lot and were lacking basic resources such as practice problems (yes there are practice problems in the book but they have no solutions how am i meant to know if i am doing them correctly? professor mentioned to go ask a TA but the TA doesn't have the solutions either so it takes a lot of time for them to figure it out too. aka a waste of time) for the midterm review we had to ask multiple times for a practice exam because we all felt really unprepared, solutions were given out 2 days before the exam (he said its because he wanted us to figure it out on our own, but in reality a lot of the class thinks its because he didn't type up the solutions yet) there was barely enough time to study because of how much time the homework takes. the lack of acknowledgment was astounding and I have never experienced a class like this before. we did not even have powerpoint slides till 1 month into the semester. this class was a mess for the first 2 and a half months. the semester is only 3 and half months. lol. i realize you are a new professor but that does not mean the students should not be heard. we also begged on piazza for the midterm to be pushed a week or even to push it 1 class period so we can have an extra review, he said no. which makes no sense because the last week of class before the final, he has been going over "special topics" that are not even on the final exam. the reason he did not push the midterm is because he said it would mess up his schedule. not accommodating to the students needs at all. did not upload topics he would be teaching that week so we can prepare for class till the day of class. we are prohibited from using outside resources SPECIFICALLY the internet. ★☆☆☆☆

19. Very clear, consistent with the feeling of attending classes in person ★★★★★

20. N/A ★★★☆☆

21. Online material was very useful for preparing for exams, quizzes, and solving HWs ★★★★★

22. Professor Soheil put the powerpoint and recordings on Canvas everyweek, which is convinient for us to go over the material. ★★★☆☆

23. Very useful and easy to use. ★★★★★

24. Very nice and convenient. ★★★★★

25. Never take online courses ★★★☆☆

26. Online office hours, and piazza platforms for doubt clarification was helpful ★★★★★

27 **The professor made completing this TRACE evaluation part of timed quiz without telling us in advance that it was part of this particular quiz and it having other questions. I was given less than 30 minutes to fill out this evaluation after answering the other, technical questions of the quiz. I typically spend at least an hour on Trace evals so please keep in mind I have more to say and would have edited for clarity if I was allowed to complete this on my own time**

Professor forbade internet use for all assignments, however LaTex knowledge was not a pre-requisite for the course. Therefore it is impossible to follow the rules of the course and also complete the assignments correctly and professionally. It is also a highly inefficient and unnecessary restriction.

Online interaction on Piazza was curt, ineffective, and demeaning. Responses were very fast but almost never answered the question well, were often condescending, and never pointed to additional knowledge or resources in solving.

The instructor allowed for collaboration but there was no encouragement either online or in person.

Few resources were pointed to by the course webpage and they were typically very late, with readings posted during or immediately before the class, making studying ahead of the class impossible. ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

28 The online materials/help provided was good but could have been better. ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

29 The course materials provided and interactions on Piazza was satisfactory. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

30 While the course page was very well organized and resources were laid out in an accessible manner, the delay in response time on Piazza made it difficult to receive help via the online classroom ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

31 It would be helpful to have the reading materials and lecture slides uploaded a day before to review before the lecture. It is also helpful to continue uploading annotated lecture slides after the lecture. I also appreciated having the zoom office hours with the professor. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

32 Great experience, the classes were very interesting ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

33 It wasn't really an online course, but I thought the course was good for an in-person experience. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

34 This was a total in person class so online experience didn't really matter ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

35 all good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

36 Good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

37 the overall experience is neutral, but the professor and TA is helpful. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

38 good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

39 It was good for the most part. The one thing that concerned me and still concerns me is the fact that I have no idea what my participation is going to be. I have to commute like an hour to go to the one class I have, and some days I would either miss the train or I just would realize the commute wasn't worth it especially if I could just attend virtually. And I don't know if that will hurt my participation grade since I don't always ask questions in class. ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

40 Very fast paced for students that come from the align program, but the material is good and the grading is fair. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

41 The resources including the class recording were very organized and piazza had a good conversation. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

42 I don't know how much you can expect to create a "sense of community and connection to classmates" via online lectures or discussion boards, but I do think addressing the people watching online instead of just the in-person classroom could be good. ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

43 My experience is good. His lecture always include a handwritten explanation of his slide, and it is also recorded, and that's handy for reviewing the material after some time has passed. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

44 good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

45 Not much an online course environment ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

46 The class material is very convenient and organized. The Piazza forum helps answer students' questions. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

47 The homeworks and lectures were often disorganized, the response time on Piazza was very slow, and different TAs often gave drastically different answers so it was never clear exactly what was expected from us on the assignments. It would have been nice to feel like the teaching staff was on the same page. ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

48 recording the lectures during the class times help to make notes and understand concepts better. ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (61 comments)

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

1 Reading the textbooks to understand the material in more depth would have been helpful. The slides presented during class were more surface level exposure, compared to the difficulty of the homeworks.

2 Maybe try to implement it using suitable data structures.

3 Attend more

4 learn more other than the course before class start

5 You need to review the course thoroughly, otherwise the assignments will take you a lot of time.

6 Start the homeworks earlier and collaborate more with my peers.

7 Been more consistent with the homework instead of staring near the deadline.

8 I could have prepared the class content before the meeting times in order to further my understanding. I also could have dedicated more time to learning from alternative/additional resources.

9 Practiced more in detail than I did.

10 study ahead

11 Learned the topics outside of class time by accessing other resources.

12 Pre read the material before course

13 nothing.

14 Reviews the optional reading assigned to the lectures more diligently.

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

15   The explanation in the class was not appropriate in my opinion. The professor at times did not have proper explanation to doubts been asked in the class.

16   Practiced on the coding aspect of algorithms more.

17   Live closer to campus

18   Add a project and reduce exam weight age. Application is better than theory.

      Provide LeetCode links and talk about famous questions.

19   all good

20   I feel like I've done well to this point, but I could spent more time at office hours.

21   It would be good if professor can go through the homework question in detail.

22   Nothing I can think of.

23   Gone to more TA office hours and spent more time drilling questions.

24   Improved my sleep schedule as this affected my attendance in person. Asking tas more.

25   Learn the basics of algorithms in advance

26   Read the textbook more, which I could not easily fit into my schedule due to non-academic yet necessary items on my schedule.

27   rewatch the class video

28   Attend Office hour more often

29   do more lc questions

30   Take this course later before I graduate. Instead of right after finishing align course.

31   Taken public transit to get onto campus when my car was damaged.

32   The only thing would be to ask more questions during class or go and visit office hours more often

33   more practice

34   Read the textbook more diligently. Not to say that I never read the textbook, but I certainly could've been better about it some weeks.

35   spend more time and do pre-work on the content

36   Prepping before class

37   May be give myself a head start and learn the basics of topics and concepts that are being taught in this course before hand.

38   Probably learn beforehand how to prove algorithms formally.

39   Practicing more sample problems and going through other online resources could have further developed my understanding of the course. Also, active participation in the classroom discussions would have helped me ace the course materials better.

40   Start assignments early

41   N/A

42   Do more reviews and more coding practice

43   I think I need to practice more and try to open the subjects with myself.

44   Doing more pre-class preparation and post-class related exercises would help me better understand some concepts

45   Spent more time in office hours reviewing lecture content instead of only going for homework help

46   Attended more OHs

47   Go to office hour more often!!!!

48   Self-learn knowledge relative to algorithm before the course.

49   Pre-reading enough time before each class would be beneficial to me.

50   more review

51   Add more hard problem and more interesting algorithm and more efficient algorithm. The answer you provide before the mid-term algorithm is not the best!!!

52   Studied beforehand. Attended other professors lectures/relied on another Professors instruction to teach myself the material. Spend an equivalent amount of time studying other sources of information to learn the course material.

53   start homework early

54   NA

55   Start homework earlier. Go to professor office hours more often than TA office hours.

56   It was great, challenging but lot to learn

57   Engage more with peer students and professor

58   I could have also practiced the algorithm implementation on leetcode to strengthen my concepts.

59   I guess I could have done more time to review the course material.

60   The university should have done a better job making sure that a new professor has all the resources she/he needs and follow up with the students to ensure that things are going well. I don't appreciate being treated as a guinea pig when I am paying 8,000 dollars for this course.

61   studying or reviewing the contents before taking the course.