Instructor: **Mwaura, Jonathan**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5800 08**

Course ID: **17401**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **28**

Responses Incl Declines: **24**

Declines: **0**

Instructor Related Questions: Jonathan Mwaura (34 comments)

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

1   - Very enthusiastic, motivating professor
   - Great utilization of in class time
   - Syllabus and structure were well defined

2   He is a good teacher and knows how to breakdown complex concepts into simple bits.

3   The homework assignments are designed well. They are challenging but helpful for me to understand concepts.
   And the feedback and support from the professor is helpful. When I was not doing well, the professor sent an email and made me become more clear about my performance.

4   teams communication / outside class availability

5   interactive and inclusive sessions

6   The strengths I saw with the course is the canvas course set up but there was not many strengths other than the course canvas set up.

7   Professor Mwaura is incredibly enthusiastic about the material, which really improves the experience.

8   good

9   Was able to visualize algorithms effectively and answer questions/confusion in class well.

10   Respects ideas and topics external to the course

11   I appreciated his approach to specific algorithms, leading the class to them in an organic manner, rather starting with a top down, pseudocode forward approach.

12   Prof Mwaura was very friendly, enthusiastic, helpful in office hours, and flexible.

13   Professor Mwaura has a lot of enthusiasm for the subject. He is willing to spend more time explaining a complex topic until the students fully grasp it.

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

1   - Group office hours for students who could use more learning time (in addition to in-class)

2   I sometimes felt like class sessions were only loosely planned, and sometimes it felt like we would get "stuck" in a topic and it would throw off the original time plan for the course as a whole. While I appreciated the multi-modality of the course, especially early on, where we did interactive activities in class along with discussion and lecture, a little more planning about how long different class elements would take might speed us along.

3   good

4   Have additional readings to compliment the classwork.

5   Schedule assignments better in accordance to current class topics

6   The zybook reading ended up being the least helpful for me - I gravitated towards the cormen and link to MIT notes/lectures. The zybook a very concentrated and useful for review.

7   Accurately assess all students prior exposure to algorithms in first ever class for the semester

8   I thought the problem sets, synthesis, and quizzes were great for practicing the skills, but I didn't have a lot of time to dedicate to them. Maybe we don't need to take on a significant workload to sufficiently master the material. Another suggestion could be to reduce the ratio of highly challenging problems.

9   include more practical coding

10   The instructor could be readily available on Teams and through email. He said that teams was his way of communicating but did not make that clear until I did not receive responses back via email. He also said that if there was no response it meant he was working on the issue but it took on average two weeks for me to receive an answer. Grading was also a month behind and because of this I did not know how well I was doing on the problem sets and quizzes.

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

1   - All positive for Professor Mwaura on inclusive learning

2   Professor Mwaura really strives to include everyone. I'd say it's just an overall strength of his. On the other hand, sometimes we'd stall class for a little to go over a topic if some folks didn't get it. It would be nice if some of that work could happen outside of class.

3   good

4   Was really good with this.

5   He is an enthusiastic instructor but sometimes he can stretch out a specific topic for too many classes.

6   The class itself was very enjoyable, despite the difficulty of the material. This is all thanks to Dr. Mwaura!

7   I imagine it's easier to get a good grade in this class than in other professors, because it's all open-book and basically untimed, and the grade is more based on putting in the time than actually mastering the material. But if you want to really learn from your professor, instead of learning from books on the side, don't take this class.

8   The Professor always came very prepared for class sessions. It's very easy to feel the energy and passion he has, and how much work he puts into preparing for lectures. He knows how to slow-down when students have hiccups with certain concepts, and is always ready to give more elaborate explanations. He is also readily available to chat after classes and during Office Hours about concerns and difficulties.

9   The professor provides very useful notes and resources to understand concepts.

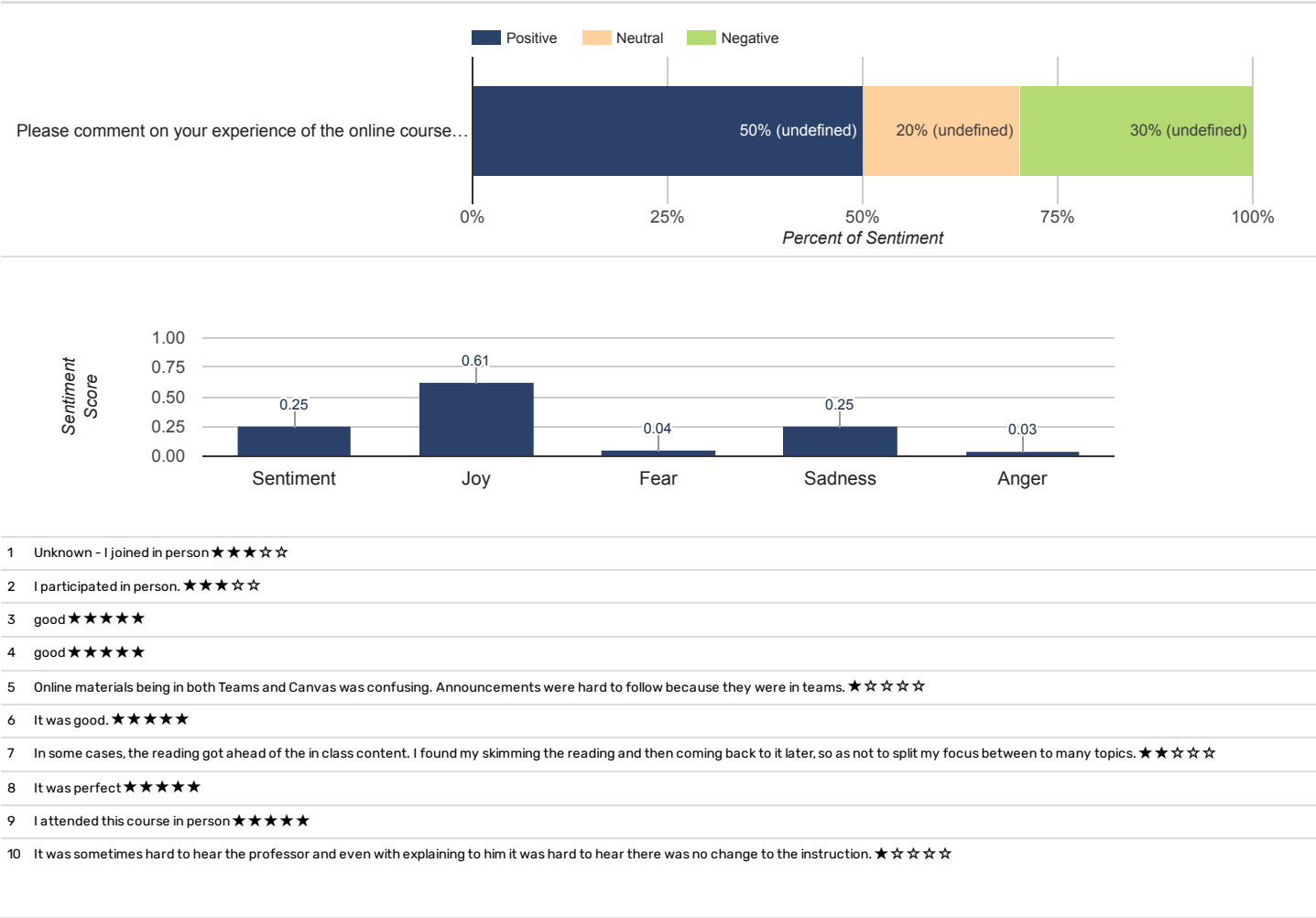## Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

10   I was satisfied with this course, but I suggest that the workload of the class and the number of challenging problems might be reduced.

Another option could be to give challenging, ungraded problems that we work through in the class. For example, you make as much progress on it as you can in the homework, then review it in class. That was an approach that we took in some of my physics and math courses in college.

11   Overall I think the instructive should be more punctual with responses and grading if he is not able to submit grading in a timely manner he should not expect students to submit there assignments in a timely manner.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (10 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 course…

Positive	Neutral	Negative
50% (undefined)	20% (undefined)	30% (undefined)

Percent of Sentiment (0% – 100%)

Sentiment Score:
- Sentiment: 0.25
- Joy: 0.61
- Fear: 0.04
- Sadness: 0.25
- Anger: 0.03

1   Unknown - I joined in person ★★★☆☆

2   I participated in person. ★★★☆☆

3   good ★★★★★

4   good ★★★★★

5   Online materials being in both Teams and Canvas was confusing. Announcements were hard to follow because they were in teams. ★☆☆☆☆

6   It was good. ★★★★★

7   In some cases, the reading got ahead of the in class content. I found my skimming the reading and then coming back to it later, so as not to split my focus between to many topics. ★★★☆☆

8   It was perfect ★★★★★

9   I attended this course in person ★★★★★

10   It was sometimes hard to hear the professor and even with explaining to him it was hard to hear there was no change to the instruction. ★☆☆☆☆

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (10 comments)

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

1   - Publish solutions when problem set grades come out
    - Do some more smaller projects throughout the semester

2   I could have started the more open-ended challenges, like the LeetCode portfolios, earlier.

3   good

4   concentrate more as 3.5 hours of class at one stretch gets too much.

5   Could have added more space in the last few assignments. It was a little heavy post-Thanksgiving.

6   Dedicated specific hours for study

7   Read more external textbooks

8   I spent much time completing the homework. Although the homework is hard itself, I should finish important readings and note before do the homework.
Also, I should start to work on assignments earlier.
Attending classes is actually important because it can help me track whether I understand the concepts on a regular basis. I need to attend class more often instead of watching videos and recordings before major assignments.

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

9	It would have been easier to take this course if I was not working a full time job
10	I was not able to get in contact with the professor or the TAs until part way through the semester, if I was able to make contact sooner I think it would have strongly impacted my grade.