Instructor: **Kennedy, Justin**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **5800 07**

Course ID: **17388**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **78**

Responses Incl Declines: **22**

Declines: **0**

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## Instructor Related Questions: Justin Kennedy (33 comments)

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | None, the instructor is a ghost |
| 2 | As the course was asynchronous online, I didn't feel the sense of class setting. |
| 3 | The strengths of this course are that: it covered a broad range of topics and made students think about algorithms in a more mathematical way. |
| 4 | Professor Kennedy seems like a nice guy. It's a lot of work but the grading seemed easy. |
| 5 | The format of the course with videos and short quizzes and then HW that allowed us to apply that week's material to problems was helpful. The numerous TAs with varying hours was helpful. |
| 6 | Complex problem sets |
| 7 | The teaching slides are concise and provide good directions for self learning. The extracurricular materials are helpful. And the problem sets are well designed to let us think about the algorithms from various perspectives. |
| 8 | N/A |
| 9 | This course's strength is saving alot people's time. And the top itself is good enough. It gives a good structure for us to get our hands on the topics and problems, and there are people learning based on this structure, got jobs. Therefore, I believe the potential of the topic structure. |
| 10 | Instruction was very well organized |
| 11 | His ability to demonstrate complex material. |
| 12 | Have flexible time to learn and finish homework |

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

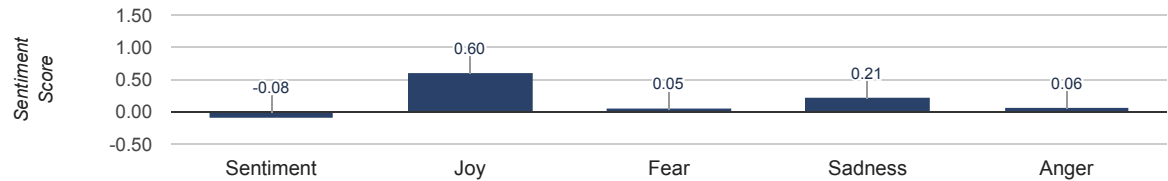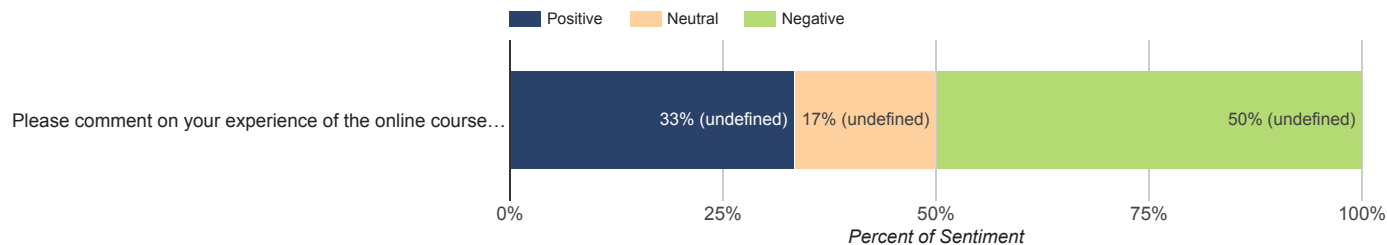| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Too much to list |
| 2 | Some flexibility in the release of course content, so that we can plan our study sessions better. |
| 3 | This was the worst course I have ever taken at Northeastern. As I said in the strength, professor Kennedy is a nice person but doesn't teach anything.<br><br>The videos are from another professor and are only 10 minutes each for very advanced topics. Professor Kennedy doesn't grade (the TAs did). I don't understand why he was paid for this course. He held a weekly lecture that was usually an hour long where he simply went over the same slides as the module videos. No additional context. They were a waste and most people stopped watching them.<br><br>The worst part was when you ask the professor a question about a homework assignment he wouldn't answer. He wanted you to "provide justification" when turning in your homework as to what you assumed the problem may have been asking. This guy is the worst professor at this school.<br><br>Avoid at all costs! You will spend 99% of your time on YouTube or taking a Coursera course to actually learn. |
| 4 | The instructor could work on value add with his Teams comments and the intro video he made each week. For the video, he often seemed to go over the slides directly, which is what the course videos do, so they were not helpful. |
| 5 | more space for project and deleting the homework for last two modules. |
| 6 | It was hard to find the TAs' office hour schedule and there was no feedback on which parts of the assignment solutions were wrong. It would be better to provide a drop-in office hour schedule of TAs and more feedback when grading assignments. |
| 7 | Make it more lively or communicative sessions. Live classes |
| 8 | The best way to make this course better for the instructor, is leave this position immidiately. This instructor is not good at helping students with close follow-ups, and not able to handle large group of students. There are nearly no interactions or office hours, and students has great difficulties finding him for questions. What makes things worse, he does not follow his own rules on grading. My suggestion is, he could be perform better on small groups on special topics, but not courses like this. We all can feel this course is killing him and us. |
| 9 | The course videos are quite rushed with some examples not really getting the depth they probably need for instruction. External content was needed. |
| 10 | Change the due time for first two assignments and quizes |
| 11 | My experience in this course was challenging due to the complexity of the subject compounded by the limitations of an online format. While navigating this course, I sought guidance and clarification on several occasions, hoping to solidify my understanding. My attempts to confirm my comprehension of the material were denied responses from one of the TAs, which left me feeling confused and disappointed.<br><br>Furthermore, the responses provided to students seeking clarification on homework questions or topics often boiled down to a non-response: 'Read the instructions.' This approach felt insufficient and discouraging.<br><br>Encouraging a more interactive and supportive environment during office hours and in responses to questions would benefit students striving to grasp this challenging subject matter. I hope that future iterations of this course consider these aspects to provide a more enriching learning experience. |
| 12 | For complex algorithms, if instructor can explain with more examples or more detailed examples, it would be even better. |
| 13 | Put less emphasis on the video modules recorded by Northeastern University and spend more time in his own weekly lectures discussing the material. The video modules rushed through a lot of the material and some of it was without context. This required me to look into a lot of the material through outside sources like YouTube and texts. |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | This is the first time I felt a course is a waste of my time and money. I learned almost nothing from this professor or this course. The professor's interaction with students is minimal, impacting the learning experience. And he makes everything very difficult for students (TA office hour is not clear, on Teams? Regrading need to send a report that even takes more time than the homework itself? The syllabus doesn't match the course material… too much to list, please check all his wired setting for the class.) The course materials, particularly the videos and slides, are bad. They primarily consist of reading off slides, which is not effective for deep learning, especially in an algorithm class where critical thinking and detailed explanations are crucial. I am very disappointed. |
| 2 | Online engagement through teams was decent. |
| 3 | 1) Make your own module videos<br>2) Provide actual feedback to students and answer their questions |
| 4 | There is a lot of opportunity for the live professor to add value to the course. |
| 5 | The instructor did a good job on well-organized teaching materials. It would be better if more details about the application examples are given. |
| 6 | N/A |
| 7 | I guess professor Kennedy's strength could show up once he found relaxed with small group of people without 'dumb' questions. There is no chances for him creating an inclusive learning at this scale. He is not capable of this. But on small groups, maybe there could be a chance. |
| 8 | Everything is good. |

## Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (6 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… : 33% (undefined) | 17% (undefined) | 50% (undefined)

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

Sentiment Score:
- Sentiment: -0.08
- Joy: 0.60
- Fear: 0.05
- Sadness: 0.21
- Anger: 0.06

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Overall, the course set up for online learning was to be expected with use of Microsoft Teams and recorded video lectures. ★★★☆☆ |
| 2 | The format of the class was good, but the videos presented were often not helpful and the instructor added little value to the class. ★★☆☆☆ |
| 3 | The online course provides a great convenience to the students. The study schedule is flexible and fits our practical needs. It is okay to find the team members through the teams platform. However, it is harder to ask for the help of TAs than in-person environment. ★★★★★ |
| 4 | This was the worst 7000 $ I have ever spent in my life. ★☆☆☆☆ |
| 5 | The overall experience of this course does not meet my expectations for online learning environment. I'm now enrolling other institutions' online sessions, and I have to say this course is not as good as other institutions programs. It is not worth it. I can see the material from Ravi is in good alignment with his homeworks, but those topics are dis-aligned with today's instructor's teach and assignments. The gap between the learning material and assignments are causing a lot trouble among the students. ★☆☆☆☆ |
| 6 | Good ★★★★★ |

## Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (9 comments)

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Some more challenging tasks |
| 2 | I could have given myself more time to find outside resources to fully understand the topics. We aren't given all the knowledge we need to complete the assignments from the short 5-8 minute videos. So, we need to find other resources to guide our learning. |
| 3 | Started using YouTube videos sooner. |
| 4 | n/a |
| 5 | To improve my study for this course, I could have read more literatures and tried to solve more relative problems. |

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

6   Could not have taken the course.

7   I made this course better for myself by taking the source of what this course is coming from. It is a shame that this course's second half is borrowing examples from Kevin Wayne's COS423 without good explain. Therefore I went for their help. As a formal educator, I know it could be painful to make transitions to online, asychronized learning. I totally understand and accept flawwed product. But this online session as a core course? I can't bear it. It is ruining the reputation of this program. A good course does not need to teach everything, but at least it needs to provide a motivation for students, so even they left with an F, as long as they are still interested in the Algorithms, they will be back, and ultimately, be good at it. It is a shame for a course tells me not how hard the course could be but how hard the life could be. Please don't drive away your student to other classrooms thanks to what happened to this session.

8   more focus on the project.

9   Make the due of the homework more reasonable