CIS 420 Database Systems - Students Comments

Fall 2017:

<u>Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?</u>

- Great slides, requires labs
- Great! Best CS teacher
- Gurajala should be department head
- She designed the elements of the course very well. Very understanding and present the material well
- She knew the subject very well and instructed well even if some concepts were hard to grasp

<u>Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course.</u>

- The course should include labs
- It was fun. We need to do more programming events
- Project and presentation are unnecessary overhead from the student. Percent of the grade in this class was web-dev/public speaking. That being said you know the subject well and I learned a lot about SQL/modern DBMS
- There was a lot of useful info, required a lot of practice

Fall 2018:

<u>Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?</u>

- Knows the subject well. Good tests/quizzes
- I would enjoy taking another class with Dr. Gurajala
- Examples very helpful, can sometimes go through/erase board too quickly
- Dr. Gurajala is the best professor in the department. She does the best job conveying information in a way students can understand
- Dr. Gurajala is my personal favorite professor. I would take another course
- Very flexible with deadlines and exam/quizzes
- The issue is that what exactly is due, and when always feels up in the air, as in a report would be due and the class finds out later despite it apparently been assigned sooner, but with little details

<u>Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course.</u>

- Wish we had checkpoints for the project throughout the semester. Would have liked to spend more time with Django.
- I enjoyed the content, especially working with Django on the final project.

- Would have liked to see big data concepts. Incorporated more of a more exciting practical app of the course material (or it's own class)
- Very good I learned a lot, I only didn't like the research project
- Information is very organized and concise. Expectations are very clear
- The final project was very difficult because it required skills that were listed as prerequisites
- The content is relevant and plenty of resources for the materials
- Material covered, and pace were all fine and easy to keep track of

Fall 2019:

<u>Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?</u>

- Knows how to teach the information really well. I would like to take another class with her.
- Grade class.
- Always a great time.
- Teaching is great and knows database very well.

<u>Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course.</u>

- The textbook was a little expensive.
- The course is very informative. I do wish there was more coding sooner because you learn so much more from Hands on experience.
- Fantastic! Django sucks ☺
- The course is great. Great class before software engineering.

Fall 2020:

<u>Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?</u>

- Dr. G is good at relaying how to do something. She is good at pulling a wide array of examples in for things like logic and theory. I honestly love that she has a concrete format and it helps with note taking. I personally struggle with the pacing in class, she moves slightly to quick for me but I write far slower. She reminds me of some of the better math professors I have had though and I would take another course with her on that merit alone.
- It's very clear that you are extremely knowledgeable on this subject and I think your teaching style is very effective. My only critique is that I wish you offered more guidance on the projects. I appreciate the freedom to choose all of our tools, but that adds the extra step of figuring out which tool (i.e. database software) to use as well as learning that tool. I think that in addition to more restrictions, more checkpoints would be helpful to keep students on

track. I know a lot of people that started work on their project very late because they either didn't know how to start or forgot about it. A clear timeline of what should be completed for this project and when would remedy that issue I think.
- Always a pleasure

<u>Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course.</u>

- Impossible to get into a group for required group projects due to current pandemic situation. Impossible for me to pass this class. If it were a normal semester I might've been able to do the work
- The course is almost a accumulation of all the things we have learned thus far in Computer Science. I wish we had spent more time on that aspect in a way. Knowing the database logic is okay, but I think putting in more analysis of different things such a grain and architecture would also be really helpful. The logic, while good to have, was not my favorite part of the course. I loved the final paper and I think if the course almost was closer to that it would be even better. That is not to say this is a bad course. I enjoyed it and I think under a more normalized semester/world this would've been a more enjoyable course for me personally. I just think pulling in from Networks, OS/Assembler, Algo only in the fading hours of the course is missing some awesome interaction and discussion.
- I like the course though and would recommend it to others especially if they have taken OS, Algo, and Networks.
- I feel like the course is a little unbalanced. It seemed like we spent not a lot of time on key database principals like ACID, history, and a lot of time on relational algebra and SQL. I wish we had spent some of that time on doing more practice in decomposition, specifically 3NF and BCNF. Also, I think a few SQL programming assignments would have been helpful.
- Evolved into something I didn't expect, Databases was more comparable to theory than anything else but with tools we could use

Fall 2021:

<u>Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?</u>

None

<u>Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course.</u>

None