

CS 4102-001 Algorithms - Fall 2016

ENGR (17521)

INSTRUCTORS: Floryan, Mark (mrf8t)

Respondents: 69 / Enrollment: 121

Summary: CS 4102-001 Algorithms - Fall 2016 (17521)	
Overall Course Rating CS-4102-001 Mean 4.04 CS-4102-001 Std Dev 1.15 CS-4102-001 Response Count 345 SEAS, 4000-level courses Mean 4.15 SEAS, 4000-level courses Std Dev 0.91 SEAS, 4000-level courses Response Count 10631	Overall Instructor Rating <i>INSTRUCTOR:</i> Floryan, Mark Mean 4.44 Std Dev 0.78 Response Count 481 SEAS, 4000-level courses Mean 4.30 SEAS, 4000-level courses Std Dev 0.84 SEAS, 4000-level courses Response Count 15765

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~		~ ANSWER MATRICES ~							
1. The course addressed technically rigorous subject matter consistent with the course objectives. ~ Question Type: Likert ~ <i>contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science</i>	Results for CS-4102-001								
	Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
	69	4.83	0.51	60 (86.96%)	7 (10.14%)	1 (1.45%)	1 (1.45%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
	Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
	2125	4.36	0.75	1012 (47.62%)	903 (42.49%)	129 (6.07%)	38 (1.79%)	17 (0.80%)	26 (1.22%)
2. The instructor used methods other than/in addition to traditional lectures (for example, active learning, in-class problems, collaborative learning, in-class discussion) effectively in this course. ~ Question Type: Likert ~ <i>contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science</i>	Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark								
	Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
	69	4.21	0.90	30 (43.48%)	24 (34.78%)	9 (13.04%)	2 (2.90%)	1 (1.45%)	3 (4.35%)
	Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
	Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
	2252	4.22	0.93	1004 (44.58%)	788 (34.99%)	228 (10.12%)	103 (4.57%)	35 (1.55%)	94 (4.17%)
3. There was a reasonable level of effort expected for the credit hours received. ~ Question Type: Likert ~ <i>contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science</i>	Results for CS-4102-001								
	Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
	69	3.43	1.40	22 (31.88%)	15 (21.74%)	10 (14.49%)	15 (21.74%)	7 (10.14%)	0 (0.00%)
	Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
	Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
	2124	4.26	0.84	922 (43.41%)	956 (45.01%)	136 (6.40%)	63 (2.97%)	35 (1.65%)	12 (0.56%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

4. The homework assignments helped me learn the subject matter.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	4.42	0.79	38 (55.07%)	25 (36.23%)	4 (5.80%)	1 (1.45%)	1 (1.45%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2129	4.18	0.90	831 (39.03%)	789 (37.06%)	222 (10.43%)	85 (3.99%)	28 (1.32%)	174 (8.17%)

5. The textbook increased my understanding of the material.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	3.25	1.12	7 (10.14%)	9 (13.04%)	20 (28.99%)	4 (5.80%)	4 (5.80%)	25 (36.23%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2125	3.68	1.08	258 (12.14%)	356 (16.75%)	287 (13.51%)	74 (3.48%)	52 (2.45%)	1098 (51.67%)

6. The course material was well organized and developed.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	4.49	0.68	39 (56.52%)	27 (39.13%)	1 (1.45%)	2 (2.90%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2250	4.08	0.93	790 (35.11%)	957 (42.53%)	267 (11.87%)	121 (5.38%)	37 (1.64%)	78 (3.47%)

7. The instructor was knowledgeable about the subject matter.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	4.86	0.35	59 (85.51%)	10 (14.49%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2257	4.59	0.64	1481 (65.62%)	647 (28.67%)	93 (4.12%)	13 (0.58%)	10 (0.44%)	13 (0.58%)

8. The instructor was well prepared for class.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
68	4.53	0.70	42 (61.76%)	22 (32.35%)	2 (2.94%)	2 (2.94%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses								
Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2256	4.38	0.76	1124 (49.82%)	872 (38.65%)	155 (6.87%)	48 (2.13%)	12 (0.53%)	45 (1.99%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

9. I received adequate preparation from the prior courses in the curriculum to be successful in this course.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	3.97	1.00	21 (30.43%)	34 (49.28%)	8 (11.59%)	3 (4.35%)	3 (4.35%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2128	4.04	0.93	704 (33.08%)	922 (43.33%)	288 (13.53%)	111 (5.22%)	38 (1.79%)	65 (3.05%)

10. The grading policy was fair.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
68	3.93	0.95	20 (29.41%)	30 (44.12%)	12 (17.65%)	5 (7.35%)	1 (1.47%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2254	4.16	0.89	876 (38.86%)	966 (42.86%)	215 (9.54%)	94 (4.17%)	38 (1.69%)	65 (2.88%)

11. The instructor responded adequately to in-class questions.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	4.74	0.59	55 (79.71%)	11 (15.94%)	2 (2.90%)	1 (1.45%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2250	4.38	0.78	1134 (50.40%)	868 (38.58%)	142 (6.31%)	38 (1.69%)	25 (1.11%)	43 (1.91%)

12. The instructor effectively used technology in support of the learning goals for this course.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
69	4.33	0.77	32 (46.38%)	26 (37.68%)	6 (8.70%)	2 (2.90%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (4.35%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
2246	4.28	0.81	962 (42.83%)	931 (41.45%)	183 (8.15%)	55 (2.45%)	24 (1.07%)	91 (4.05%)

13. The average number of hours per week I spent outside of class preparing for this course was:

Question Type: Multiple Choice

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001

Total	Less than 1 (NA)	1 - 3 (NA)	4 - 6 (NA)	7 - 9 (NA)	10 or more (NA)
69	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.45%)	14 (20.29%)	29 (42.03%)	25 (36.23%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Less than 1 (NA)	1 - 3 (NA)	4 - 6 (NA)	7 - 9 (NA)	10 or more (NA)
2131	85 (3.99%)	746 (35.01%)	904 (42.42%)	263 (12.34%)	133 (6.24%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

14. I learned a great deal in this course.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
67	4.55	0.58	40 (59.70%)	24 (35.82%)	3 (4.48%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
2121	4.14	0.90	839 (39.56%)	895 (42.20%)	262 (12.35%)	92 (4.34%)	33 (1.56%)

15. Overall, this was a worthwhile course.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
68	4.44	0.76	39 (57.35%)	22 (32.35%)	5 (7.35%)	2 (2.94%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
2124	4.18	0.95	940 (44.26%)	818 (38.51%)	223 (10.50%)	90 (4.24%)	53 (2.50%)

16. The course's goals and requirements were defined and adhered to by the instructor.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
68	4.63	0.64	47 (69.12%)	19 (27.94%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (2.94%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
2244	4.32	0.74	1001 (44.61%)	1021 (45.50%)	168 (7.49%)	38 (1.69%)	16 (0.71%)

17. The instructor was approachable and made himself/herself available to students outside the classroom.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
69	4.62	0.69	49 (71.01%)	16 (23.19%)	2 (2.90%)	2 (2.90%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
2251	4.32	0.85	1141 (50.69%)	794 (35.27%)	224 (9.95%)	70 (3.11%)	22 (0.98%)

18. Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.

Question Type: Likert

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001, Floryan, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
69	4.61	0.69	47 (68.12%)	19 (27.54%)	2 (2.90%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.45%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
2261	4.29	0.87	1097 (48.52%)	857 (37.90%)	205 (9.07%)	66 (2.92%)	36 (1.59%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

19. Please make any overall comments or observations about this course:

Question Type: Short Answer

contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4102-001

Total	Individual Answers
48	See below for Individual Results

Very hard class with very hard homeworks! Definitely the class I spent longest on this semester. Had trouble making it to his office hours.

Grading for programming assignments was frustrating sometimes. Especially for Assignment 3. In general, I just don't like how your grade depends only on test cases. You can come so close to getting something right and still get the same grade as someone who didn't turn it in.

Although challenging, Algorithms was an incredibly helpful and interesting course. The material learned in this course really carried me through my interview process this fall, and I give some credit to Floryan and the course for helping me get my software engineering job. Thank you!

Floryan was awesome! He worked through difficult theoretical concepts and was very reasonable with grading and deadline policies!

wasted time in class answering random specific questions people had. rest of the class would become disengaged when this happened. unreasonable amount of time expected for weekly assignments. also I still don't understand why I needed to learn how to prove things. proofs are useless, really.

Written homework should be shorter

Challenging but super fun and engaging.

Floryan rocks; algo is hard; algo is required; likely nothing will change.

Very difficult, but rewarding, course. The homework assignments could sometimes be over the top, and the only some of the TAs were actually helpful and knew how to do them. The thursday office hours felt more like mandatory class time if you wanted to pass the written assignments. The tests and grading curves felt fine, the homework was just a bit much.

Floryan deserves a raise. He is the bomb.com!

I thought Floryan was a great instructor, I just don't really understand why this is a required course for CS majors. The class seems to be filled with insanely hard problem sets and exams that focus on solving what amounts to either brain teaser problems or proofs. I honestly fail to see how this is going to provide any benefit to me after I'm done with the course. Again, Floryan did a great job teaching and I learned a lot, I just don't see that information as useful. Another complaint: not receiving homework assignments back before we were tested on the material. I understand there are only so many TAs that can be hired and that they have other work to do, but if homework assignments are so hard that they can't even be graded by the time we are being tested on the material, either we should not be expected to know said material or (PICK THIS OPTION) homework assignments should be easier. It is completely unfair to expect students to perform well on exams if they aren't receiving feedback for their mistakes on homework assignments. Maybe if we had feedback, test averages wouldn't be in the 50s and require a huge curve. This class seems to have the problem of other core CS classes as well: where the course is designed to have an average in the 50s or 60s (see CS 3330) then get curved to a B or B+ at the end. I don't understand why this seems to be the teaching philosophy in the Computer Science department unless it is explicitly designed to discourage students from pursuing the major (which I guess is one strategy to use when your department is starved for resources...but an unfortunate one nevertheless). Again, my issue is with the design of the course and the philosophy in the department as a whole, not with Floryan. I thought he was an effective instructor who clearly cared about his students but seemed to be put in an impossible situation (come on, having him teach 2150 at the SAME TIME just seems cruel). Get more resources, or revise your courses so students can reasonably take them. I checked out on the homework assignments partway through the semester because they felt impossibly hard and I knew grade averages would be extremely low. Having many students bullshit a hard assignment doesn't benefit anyone.

This course, at least as taught by Prof. Floryan, should be a 4-credit course. There is a tremendous amount of work expected from this class, and rightfully should be for an Algorithms course. Please try to have more TAs for office hours. Oftentimes, office hours would be completely full, making it difficult for an individual or group with specific questions to speak with the TAs.

There are a lot of great things about this course but in order to make it better, I'm only going to talk about the bad stuff. -You did great explaining things that were on the board but when you explained things that came up in class, you'd breeze through it verbally and as a visual learner (like most) it was super difficult to grasp and understand. -The homeworks were ridiculous. There was a lot of time that went into these 10 point assignments and grading was harsh and unforgiving. - There was so much inconsistency among the TA's about what approach or how to solve a problem. It seemed you never had a concrete answer key so they were making stuff up as they went along -homeworks were never given back in a timely manner -It was not a rare thing for you to brush off certain parts of the material as trivial but then it showed up on exams and yes, I get that it's fair game but it felt like you were deliberately trying to trick us by not emphasizing those topics. I don't understand why it always felt like you hated us. I acknowledge that some students were rather sassy and disrespectful but the majority of us were not. Your lack of enthusiasm gave us a lack of enthusiasm making the whole relationship awkward. I like all the things were covered in this course, I just don't feel like I'm leaving have fully grasped all the concepts.

how do you sat?

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

The most important CS class you will take. I enjoyed having both programming and written assignments. It was, however, frustrating putting a lot of effort into a programming assignment and having it not print the correct answer and getting no credit for it.

While Professor Floryan has been a great professor over this semester and I highly enjoyed his class, I have some complaints about the structure of this Algorithms class. For one, my biggest complaint is Professor Floryan's, at times, overly joking attitude. While this is fun and enjoyable most of the times, this is definitely not what students need every class. Professor Floryan had a tendency to make everything seem like a joke, which is good most of the time, but not really when we are discussing a test where the average for the class is 60 or when we are learning material for a homework that is draining the life of an entire week. There were many times where it felt very frustrating to see Floryan being so light-hearted about our grades. While grades are not everything, they are definitely of utmost importance for me, a student. I know that Professor Floryan wants us to care more about learning rather than the grade we get for the class, but most of us students have plans for our jobs/grad school that require a good GPA. Overall, while I enjoy Professor Floryan's attitude a lot and it makes class fun, it would be better at the right times. Another issue is with how the professor office hours are structured. There have been many office hours where we spent over an hour talking about a homework problem and struggling over it without making much progress. I understand the implication of allowing us to learn, but some problems are extremely difficult with almost half the class being in office hours. Not all students can afford to stay at office hours from 3:30pm to 5:45pm, where one problem explanation can take literally over half the time due to the problem's difficulty. I really do understand the learning experience, but there were some specific problems where I felt more guidance would have been more useful for us (think: divorce, skiing problem). Also, I hope there will be a way to fix office hour organizations. Both TA and professor office hours get very hectic without any idea who came in at what time. Many times, some student questions seem to be getting neglected. I think using something like CS 2150 queue or making a sign up list would be helpful. Finally, I just want to say that Algorithms definitely was one of the hardest classes I took at UVA, but also one where I learned the most. I highly recommend Professor Floryan as a professor as he always cares for us students. This isn't really a comment to Professor Floryan, but I really hope future students will learn to be less sassy/full of attitude as I think Professor Floryan deserves more respect than that. Professor Floryan is definitely the reason I didn't go absolutely insane through the semester.

Floryan is a phenomenal professor and UVA is lucky to have him. Algorithms is a very difficult course, but Floryan does a great job. He's young and relates well to students, as well as a funny guy whose humor keeps things from being terrible. Good work, Mark.

While I agree this is a worthwhile course, I think that Floryan has made the course far more difficult than it needed to be. I think that while the tests were somewhat fair, there were huge deductions for small errors, causing averages of 60 and 67... which seems ridiculous. The homeworks took me at least 15 hours a week, and Floryan held office hours for 2 hours on Thursdays, which turned into a review session among students in which he didn't even participate. Spending over 15 hours a week on homework (on average) and still getting poor grades also is incredibly discouraging as a student. I think that this course was unnecessarily difficult and that there could have been easy improvements throughout. If there is a curve at the end (which we still don't know if there will be) I think it would have been better to distribute it among each of the tests rather than curve the final grades up, it ruins everyone's motivation to go into the final hoping for a C.

Professor Floryan is a great, very approachable teacher but his homeworks were a bit much sometimes. I felt like I could have learned the same material with fewer questions per homework. I realize that sounds like I just don't want to do homework but the level of work required is almost as if he expects us to have no other classes. He also got almost too comfortable with the students in class as class went on, class discussion often went on irrelevant tangents that wasted time. This was often not his fault entirely as a few select people in class really loved to interrupt him to make jokes or comments that were really unnecessary. Also Floryan needs to respond to these people a little more harshly than he does sometimes. One girl told him to stand in the corner and not speak while she caught up on the notes and he didn't do anything. I mean I was also shocked at the blatant disrespect but then there was no sort of retaliation from Floryan. Things like that happened a lot and I think people lost some of the respect they had for him.

Written homeworks FAR too hard, requiring attendance of office hours, where answers were literally given out. This is the number one problem with this class. They don't teach concepts at ALL and instead promote regurgitating answers from TA's and copying of other students. Incredibly disappointing. Tests varied greatly, but were generally fair, if a bit limited on time. Policy was poor, with homework assignment deadlines extended the night before they were due. Extremely unreasonable. Grading was inconsistent, and TA's often provided factually incorrect answers or marked correct answers as incorrect. Programming assignments weren't very helpful in regards to learning, but were easy. Course content was not as good as I would have liked, with large amounts of time devoted to examples that were irrelevant, and little time spent learning concepts or how to actually approach and solve problems. Less focus should be placed on theory, and more time spent on learning industry-applicable knowledge and how to apply the material. This helps a lot with technical interview questions, and thus jobs for alums, so please don't ignore it.

Sometimes, the homework assignments would be extremely challenging and excessively long. I did not like that. I did like the balance of coding homeworks and written homeworks. I think Floryan was an excellent professor and did the best he could (with a kind of annoying class low key high key). Will I remember everything? Most definitely not. But, I think this has changed the way I approach problems, and hopefully that's enough :-).

Hardest Class I've ever taken but I feel like I learned more than I have in any other CS class.

Professor Floryan is one of the best professors I have had here at UVA! He is both intelligent and approachable; he makes one of the hardest CS classes fun and engaging, despite the tremendous workload. Professor Floryan was always willing to reach out to students and made sure that we felt comfortable in the class. He often joked around with us and always talked to us as equals more so than professor/students. Algorithms is definitely a difficult course, but he made it worthwhile and not that draining to go to!

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

The homeworks were effective, but they literally took my 30+ hours to complete a week. Absolutely love Floryan as a person, and a professor, but there are definitely ways to make the class a little more manageable while still getting the same level of understanding from students

i love Prof Floryan. I really do. He's a great professor. But seriously, ALGO IS SO HARD!!!! WHY IS THIS CLASS SO MUCH WORK!!! I DIDN'T SLEEP FOR LIKE 3 DAYS FOR THIS COURSE MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER. Your TAs are amazing. I love them all. Especially Qian and Joe. Why was Andrew Norton given piazza access? Why is he everywhere? I think if Cam hadn't quit that would have been great because one more TA would have drastically decreased the barrage of students at every OH. I love how Prof Floryan lectures and he's super nice to people asking questions. But seriously, the homeworks are killer. I would say a decent amount of them, if each question was going to be that hard, didn't need to be as long as they were. If you want each question to have that level of rigor then you have to make the homeworks shorter. This was just not fair. It felt like a punishment because some of the questions were so similar I wasn't learning anything new from them. Also your exams. SO HARD! I definitely think they need to be made shorter. I don't think I actually finished a single one. With that all said though. I did learn. I learned a lot. I knew I would because of Prof Floryan. I hate you sometimes, you've made me cry multiple times, but I always leave your classes having learned a ton. So thanks for that. But seriously, shorten the homeworks. Oh also, I will say, thank you so much Prof Floryan for giving an extension on that one homework after the election. I can't tell you how grateful I am for that. It was a tough time for a lot of us and it really felt like you cared about us. Thank you so much for that. I really appreciate it. <3

This is a challenging course, but it's also very rewarding because you learn valuable information. Professor Floryan presented the material well and was extremely helpful, which made this course quite enjoyable despite the workload.

hard class, give a nice curve please

This is the second semester I've had Professor Floryan, the first being for CS 2150. I can't recommend him enough. He's approachable, extremely knowledgeable, and his classes have been my favorite 2 I've taken at UVA. Flo's the man

Mark is a great professor, and he is VERY well liked by all of his students. The problem with being friends with all of the students is often times students would talk back or crack jokes in class, or often talk and mess around in class while hes lecturing and I found this to be quite distracting

Professor Floryan does a really good job of explaining complex material in a way that I can understand. There were some students in the class who I know are not easy to deal with, but Floryan handled their questions with ease. I also love that we had programming assignments for some of the homeworks; I think it's important to know how to actually code an algorithm in addition to explaining it. My complaints about this course stem mostly from the written homework assignments. Throughout the semester, I spent more time on those homework assignments than I did for any Organic Chemistry test, yet I feel as if I'm doing significantly worse in Algorithms. I think the difficulty of the written homework assignments actually hinders learning. I require so much help from the TA's to finish them that I don't feel like I'm truly learning how to solve problems. I feel no sense of accomplishment upon finishing them - only intense relief.

This was my favorite class this semester. Professor Floryan is fair, approachable, knowledgeable, and a very effective lecturer. He is always willing to help students and is fair about taking off points and giving them back. The material was super interesting, and he did a great job at presenting it all. I always love taking classes with him and hope I get to take more in the future.

Well, I'll begin by saying that Floryan is awesome. He's the only professor I've had who makes me laugh out loud several times every lecture. Plus he's nice and compassionate and definitely cares about the students. I have mixed feelings about the homework. I think they tended to throw us in the deep end. An example of problem I liked was the three part recurrence relation derivation problem-- it's a kinda confusing topic and was a straightforward way of walking us through the process. But most of the problems weren't really like that and were all transfer without helping me really grasp the idea/algorithm approach before having to apply it to some sort of challenging word problem. So my feeling is that the homework problems should ramp up in difficulty, with the difficult bridge-type problems showing up at the end. I don't want to say the earlier problems should be "hand-holdy," but they should be more straightforward and should aim to consolidate our understanding more. Ideally, we could then advance to the difficult problems without having to spend as much time in crowded office hours.

Mark Floryan is one of my favorite professors in the CS department and at UVA in general. The course was very challenging but I think he did a great job with it. It would be nice if the TA would release the grades faster; if I made an error on a previous homework I want to know that before submitting the next. Professor Floryan dedicated a lot of time on Thursdays to helping with the homeworks in office hours and his TAs were helpful as well. Andrew D was a really awesome TA.

Give Floryan a raise.

Very challenging, but very interesting. Having homework due Friday at midnight wasn't my favorite. A lot of times we wouldn't see all of what we needed to until Tuesday for the homework that was due Friday, which made it hard to use the weekends to work on it. Professor Floryan was excited about the subject and did a good job explaining difficult material. He definitely wanted the students to succeed and made an effort to answer questions thoroughly and make sure people were following what he was explaining.

Professor Floryan is a great professor and very helpful to his students. This should obviously be a 4 credit course though. I don't understand why the CS department only gives 3 credits for 2150 and 4102 when those classes require significantly more hours than any other 3 credit class I have ever taken.

Very good office hours, always willing to help

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

Great class overall. Professor Floryan is a terrific lecturer.

Floryan is a wonderful professor- knowledgeable, funny, approachable. I do think this class was a lot of work and I think the stress of completing the homework assignment was very high for this course. I felt bad for people who couldn't make it to office hours because that was the only way I personally could complete the assignments. Also, some TAs weren't as helpful because they didn't prepare before office hours and during the professor's office hours, sometimes we would spend a long time and the guidance was a bit unclear. I felt confused in this class, but at the same time I understand it was to help us learn. But the stress was really high for this class.

Make sure the TAs actually know the answers to the questions.

Overall, a pretty good class. Some of the written homeworks were a little bit lengthier than I thought they needed to be, but otherwise a cool class

I really enjoyed the concepts I learned in this course. The material was very challenging but Floryan does a great job making it more understandable. I would read parts of the Cormen book and be sort of confused but Floryan's explanations would clarify a lot. I did not like your homeworks, well the written ones. I thought some were ridiculously long and took forever to type up in LaTeX. If there a lot of challenging problems, please make the homeworks shorter. I would rather have 1-2 easier to medium problems and 1-2 really HARD algorithms than to write up 7 algorithms or proofs. The exams were really harsh and vastly different. Why would you have 10 T-F questions where they are all false?? I understand the whole concept of "if you really understand it, you'll get it right" but like most people, I second guessed myself. The first exam was really hard in that I couldn't really come up with these algorithms on the spot but they were ridiculously simple after hearing the solutions... I thought the programming assignments were really great, and I appreciated how you challenged us with a single hard problem to implement, including some from the ICPC world finals (i.e. Problem L from last years). Otherwise, I think the material was presented very well but certain improvements can be made to how the class is conducted. I didn't like how some people were very sassy to you and kind of spoke disrespectfully to you. It seems like you were very nice, didn't call people out on it, and played it off jokingly but I think that's why those individuals continued to sass you and be disrespectful. It's important to have some conversations offline, especially when some of the same students interrupt your lectures. Also, I know you like for us to have this epiphany moment during certain points of the lecture. Sometimes it takes a little bit longer for everything to click so it may not be immediate but I agree our class should have been a bit more engaged. Overall, I appreciated this course and I learned a great deal that will be helpful in my career.

Professor Floryan was a great teacher who was incredibly approachable and really cared about his students understanding. 10/10.

While Prof. Floryan was very knowledgeable in the course material, his organization of the class left much to be desired. Often fielding difficult questions for the first time in homework assignments, and as result, OH was a necessity for a majority of the class. While this is not unheard of, the credit hours awarded becomes inadequate, and slowly being fed the answers to an impossibly hard question led to very little learning being done by the student. Furthermore, the disorganization was evident in the first two exams. The first exam seemed to not take time into consideration, as most of the class struggled to finish, while the second exam clearly seemed to make up for that error, and was much more feasible. Overall, Prof. Floryan is a strong and approachable teacher, but it's unfair that the shortcomings of experimental hw and exams should be the students' burden.

Class discussions and extraneous questions derailed the class a bit which made it hard to pay attention. Overall though, this was a challenging but rewarding course.

Very informative course. Floryan is a great teacher, albeit a little difficult, but the curve makes up for that.

Dear Professor Floryan, I have never had a class bring me to my knees as much as Algo did. For the other notorious classes in CS like CS 2150 and CS 3330, I knew that if I worked hard enough and devote enough time to it, I could do well. But for Algo, I constantly felt like I was being thrown a curveball and getting hit by it in the stomach. I know that this course material is very hard. You do a very good job teaching it and I feel like I'm learning a lot from this class. It's honestly my favorite course this semester. I enjoyed the challenge of solving the homework problems. However, I found the tests to be unnecessarily stressful. I'm not good at coming up with algorithms quickly and under time pressure so even though I can come up with solutions to the homework, I find that I do subpar on the tests in spite of spending over 10 hours studying. Perhaps a take-home test like how Dr. Shelat had it would help alleviate this stress. I like to keep a growth mindset- that if I work hard enough at anything, I can grow and get better at it. But this class had me questioning if I was smart enough to be in this major for a majority of the semester. I love this class and I love how you elucidate this very abstract and dense material because it's challenging and fun to think about. I am also very grateful for you being so understanding of our mental health after the election since many of my friends back home are at risk. However, I felt that this class was unnecessarily stressful because of the timed tests. I felt that they were not a good measure of how well I learned the material, but instead a measure of how well I can take a test. I think a take-home exam would help alleviate most of this stress and be a better measure of my abilities. I'm sure many of my peers would agree too. I enjoyed this class very much otherwise.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~

~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

Let me start off by saying Floryan is a great professor, at least in a class and office hours sense. He is always willing to help and shows the material in a fun and entertaining way. However, the written homework assignments for this class are truly obscene. Maybe I am just incompetent at this class, but those assignments are the bane of my existence. They demand far too much work for the lessons that they teach. Most of the time, they are so difficult and time-demanding that my only chance at survival is solely based on the TAs. I have to go to enough office hours that eventually I get the answer from the TA, other students, or Floryan himself and this is a shame. I want to learn the material in a way that truly teaches me the material. However, this class demands time while giving nothing in return. I am so brain dead by the end of the week that I can hardly recall what we even went over on the homework. Many people complain about the exams, which they are horrible, but if the homework more closely resembled the exams, it would be alright. The homework and the exams seem to come from two different people. The homework is insanely proof heavy, while the exams require a mental flexibility that is not taught in this course. If the flexibility of the tool kit was shown in homework, then it would be completely fair to put on the exam. Instead, you're left mostly stranded and guessing at what to do. This is similar to a lot of CS courses where the material is much harder than it needs to be for the lessons learned. Overall, it was really just the written homework that makes me despise most of this course. Everything else was great, but doing a fruitless endeavor that takes all of my time casts a dark shadow over the rest of the course.