

University of Michigan

Winter 2024 Midterm Instructor Report

EECS 280-015: Prog&Data Struct

Nishant Kheterpal

18 out of 32 students responded to this midterm evaluation.

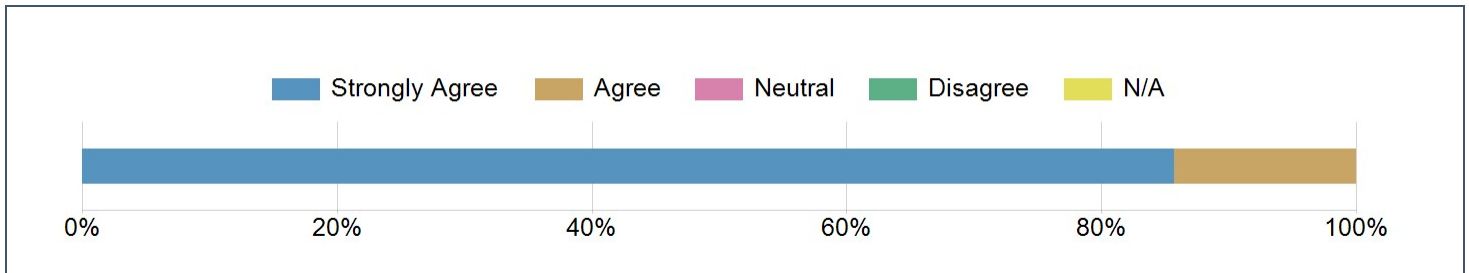
Responses to questions related to the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
I am learning a great deal in this course. (Q966)	8	9	1	0	0	0	4.39

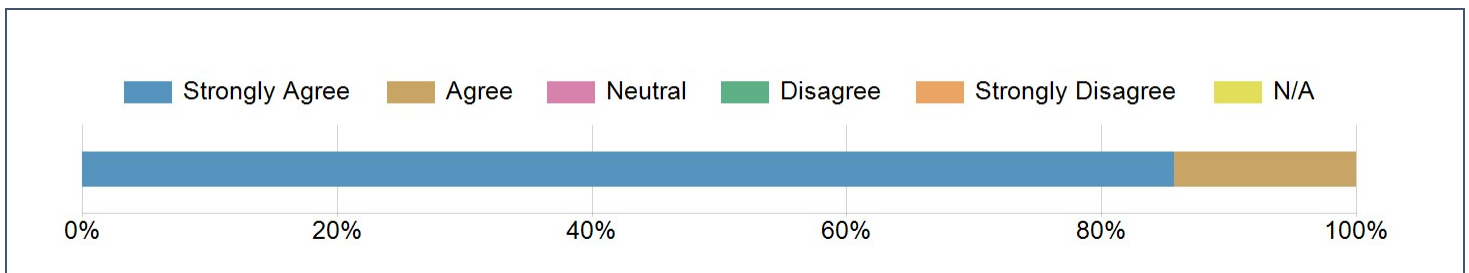
Responses to questions related to the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
Nishant Kheterpal is enthusiastic. (Q114)	15	2	1	0	0	0	4.90
Overall, this is an excellent course. (Q964)	9	7	2	0	0	0	4.50
Overall, Nishant Kheterpal is an excellent teacher. (Q965)	15	2	1	0	0	0	4.90
Nishant Kheterpal acknowledges all questions insofar as possible. (Q968)	15	2	1	0	0	0	4.90
Nishant Kheterpal uses techniques to foster class participation. (Q972)	11	6	1	0	0	0	4.68
Nishant Kheterpal is willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q975)	16	1	1	0	0	0	4.94
Nishant Kheterpal keeps students informed of their progress. (Q977)	11	2	3	1	0	1	4.73

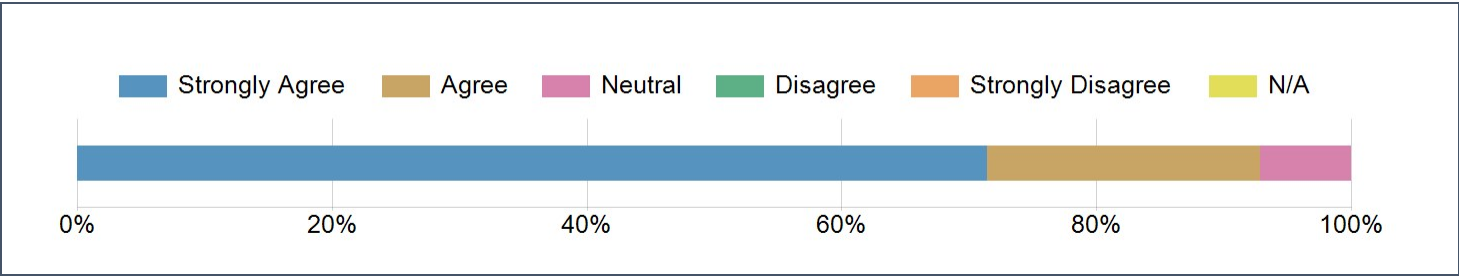
I feel comfortable asking questions in this class.



Nishant Kheterpal strikes the right balance between encouraging me to ask my group for help and helping out when we're stuck.



Overall, I feel that attending lab section is worth the time and helping me learn more in this class.



Written Comments

What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)

Comments
The course materials are explained very thoroughly and the instructor is very approachable
I believe the major strengths are the abundance of resources, such as office hours and piazza. I never feel like I can't get any help when I am stuck because my GSI and professor are very open during office hours, and they are offered quite frequently. Additionally, the professor and GSI teach the content very well, using descriptive examples to help me learn new content.
The structure of lecture style power points into a more relaxed class structure is super helpful, to give us more time to work though things on our own and ask questions when needed.
This class reinforces lecture material through the various projects and lab assignments provided throughout the semester. The use of application based learning really helps me to understand what material I "think" I'm learning when in actuality I do not understand it as well as I think I do.
I think the GSI's examples and explanations in class are very helpful and helps me understand the content better.
Anytime I need clarification from the lectures, Nishant is super helpful in answering questions and ensures that any confusion is cleared up. Drawing things out on the whiteboard is really helpful when trying to visualize what's happening in memory. Nishant also always has tips about VS Code or using the terminal, which are things that I was not super familiar with before this class.
individual interactions / close group work that you cannot find in large lecture
environment where it is easy to ask questions
practical examples
review of lecture material
I like how helpful and enthusiastic the IAs are in this class.
It's an excellent way to practice without the pressure of the projects.
Very hard coding
The lab worksheets are very helpful in reinforcing what we learn in lecture.
The structured deadlines and office hours are super helpful.
Extra practice and review lessons are the major strengths of the class.
Teacher

How can Nishant Kheterpal improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)

Comments
it will be great if we can briefly go through the the lab assignments first
I think Nishant could possibly draw out more examples on the whiteboard when explaining a topic, or have more interactive exercises like he did in the first few labs.
I would love it if there were more practice questions for us to do in class/lab.
I think the lab worksheets are too long and some of that time could be better spent with a content review so we can ask conceptual questions
N/A
add more quick examples and problems to solve in the lecture portion of the lab
I can't think of any so far.
More examples in the slides would be helpful.
It is perfect
N/A
Keep doing what he is doing, his teaching is phenomenal.
More "pop quiz" style slides for us to give what is taught a try and to ask specific questions before the start of lab work.
N/a

Please enter any additional comments you have for Nishant Kheterpal. (Q981)

Comments
none
He is already doing a great job, and there is not much he needs to improve on.
You are a great instructor! You pay attention to the audience's reactions as well to gauge where some content may need more explaining vs. what can be moved on from. Honestly, I think you could totally record Youtube videos of your teachings because you word explanations concisely yet with enough clarity for anyone to understand (even if they haven't watched the lecture for that given topic).
none
Thank you for learning everyone's names and just caring so much about the class as a whole :)
She's great.
He's a great lab instructor, easily among the best I've ever had.
None
N/A
We love you Nishant.
N/a

What are some ways Nishant Kheterpal encourages class participation that are working well? What can he do to improve?

Comments
he will give approval to our thinking process
I think he uses a lot of interactive examples that makes students want to ask questions and also partake in his examples.
I believe that enough people participate in lab without being forced to. It might be worthwhile to cold call on people sometimes given that it can help students that don't know the content learn more via seeing what mistakes other people make in providing the wrong answer.
By asking good questions and wandering around during the lab worksheet. Provide a time to ask for help on some of the concepts taught in lecture which are too abstract so they don't really show up on the lab worksheet
Being excited about the material !!! Asking for volunteers when there's an example problem in the slides Not making people who get the answer wrong feel ashamed (taking a lighthearted tone makes people want to give answers) Ensuring that it's not always the same people that answer questions Not being annoyed or irritated when someone asks a clarifying questions, and instead taking the time to make sure everyone understands the concept
N/A.
There used to be more questions built into the slides, but I think they were removed due to time concerns. Still, it would be nice to have a couple of them.
Perfect
He always encourages questions during his review lecture and during the completion of the lab worksheets.
Being enthusiastic about the content and doing his best to ensure that if a question is asked not only is it answered but the person questioning's understanding has improved.

Describe a time when Nishant Kheterpal was helpful in this course.

Comments
almost always in labs
He is very approachable and open when it comes to answering questions, and he also ensures that everyone can get their questions answered. Additionally, he clearly has a lot of knowledge about the topic, so it makes it easier to ask questions in general.
Every time we are working on labs he is walking around and checking in, which is super helpful to get the labs done, and he also goes the extra step to help with non lab related issues, even staying after class sometimes.
Every lab is super helpful, I always have questions about the lab assignments and/or the general projects due for that week, and Nishant always answers my questions in-depth and to the point where I fully understand his explanation.
Definitely very helpful when asked questions
I had an issue with VS Code and he sent it out to the other instructors of the class and kept in contact with me over email until the issue was solved. Even though he wasn't really familiar with Windows, he asked others for help and made sure I didn't have to go through a bunch of people to get my issue solved.
Nishant gave out helpful study tips when trying to learn computer science and gave out encouragement when we were not doing so well.
He's great about providing information in a way that recognizes we're limited in our understanding, without dumbing it down at all.
Helping with project
I was once getting seg-faults everywhere, and had never used the debugger before. When I asked Nishant, he sat down with me and walked me through the entire process of using the debugger, and before he got up, he made sure that I fully understood how to use it.
Drawing diagrams to better understand pointer arithmetic. And in improving understanding of content in most other lab lectures.