


## Ruben Gilbert – Selected Comments From Student Feedback

"According to Bean, Gilbert's help was crucial to her success in the class. 'I learned most of what I know from Ruben,' she said." – quote from Nov. 29, 2018 article in [The Middlebury Campus](#) 

### §

- One of the best people in the computer science department.
- Amazing. Make him a professor or something.
- THANK YOU RUBEN. You helped me get through CS honestly
- Ruben was amazing and enthusiastic and would make a wonderful professor of CS101
- Ruben is an amazing resource that the CS dept is lucky to have!
- Ruben is amazing– he is a stellar instructor and super committed to teaching without just giving you the answer.
- Ruben is just perfect! Every time I come to him, I end up learning far more than what I expected. He is super patient and knowledgeable. Very willing to help!
- Ruben is always very knowledgeable [sic] and very fun to talk to. I wish there were more opportunities for me to learn from him.
- Ruben was fantastic and so enthusiastic and I feel like I learned so much every time I went to office hours.

### §

- Ruben is great, he explains everything you need him too [sic] and does not get irritated if you ask the same question or a really basic question. He is nice and very very helpful and his joyfulness is encouraging.
- Ruben is very patient and that works well to cater to the needs of people who are barely starting out with CS. His feedback is encouraging as well as thought provoking.
- He explains concepts very well, he puts in a lot of effort to ensure that you understand what you are doing and he has a lot of patience to walk you through the thought process of your code so that you yourself see what you got wrong. He is kind, approachable and very willing to help.
- He is very patient and great at breaking concepts down into simple terms
- I really appreciated that he tried to teach us the concepts no matter how long it took. It would have been easier for him to just hint at the answers, but he was extremely patient and made sure that we understood the material first.
- Had a great attitude, helped you work towards the problem, was willing to stay extra time
- Very good listener
- He was approachable and clear when addressing my issues.
- I think he was very understanding of people not understanding
- Ruben is always eager to help, and he explained everything carefully and thoroughly
- Ruben has a wonderful positive energy and he is very good at explaining the material in ways that make [sic] sense.

### §

- He helped me take my understanding from surface level to comprehensive.
- really dives into the problem with you
- Super nice. Awesome at explaining hard topics.
- He spent time explaining in depth concepts I didn't understand and would ask me questions to make sure [sic] I understood what I was doing. He always stays later than his office hours to help.
- RUBEN WAS AMAZING!!!!!! He explained difficult concepts really well when I did not fully understand them in class. I look forward to spending more time with Ruben.
- He has a very clear way of explaining very complicated topics, and was just generally really fantastic at explaining concepts.
- Ruben always explained things very clearly and was straightforward in his lectures
- helped me think of problems in new ways. Also could explain things on many different levels depending on my interest and was clear that I could stop him if I wasn't interested

### §

- Explained some of the most complicated algorithms or problems in its simplest terms. Did not give up on students until they understood.
- Help fill in the big-picture of why something matters and how to approach the problem with a more practical lens

- Ruben was very helpful in that he helped me step back from the actual code I was looking to write and tried to help me understand, first and foremost, what my programs are seeking to do (information to collect, store, etc.). By doing this, I was more easily able to write my code, and gain a better understanding of the goals of the assignment.
- Helped me understand the reason we used the code that we would use and persisted and found different, creative ways to explain the concepts to me until I understood them. He even explained things to me that are more advanced in order to gain a deeper understanding of what we were doing/not doing in class
- Ruben did a good job at communicating the steps in the process needed to complete the problem. While not always providing a code-based answer, his ability to break down larger issues into smaller problems was essential in finding out how to code larger programs.

## §

- He was EXTREMELY good at explaining concepts and suggesting solutions in a way that really allowed me to understand the material and come to some learning on my own. He often used fun analogies to help me understand a difficult problem, and encouraged really strong, good, coding techniques in me. I don't know what else to say except that he was absolutely a phenomenal teacher and enormous help to me this semester.
- Could understand with ease the situation we were in and what it was that our code lacked. Was also very good with taking a step back when needed and drawing things out on the board
- He was wonderful at explaining key ideas. The best part is that he would guide you through the thinking process instead of just giving out the answer. Luckily I'm always able to solve the problem with Ruben's hint. I felt both challenged and helped at the same time.
- Ruben was really great at helping me see the problems I had in my code, without explicitly telling me what I had to change. He would ask me well designed questions that made me think about exactly what my problem was, and that would allow me to figure out a new solution.
- Ruben is very good at explaining something without actually telling you the answer, and on top of that it's clear he really understands exactly why code is supposed to be written a certain way.
- Ruben does a really good job in answering your questions but making sure that you arrive at your conclusions yourself and actually learn about the material and what you didn't understand before. I appreciate how he spends a lot of time with each student to make sure that they really understand their question/error before moving on to the next one
- He prompted me with questions, so that I understood the code on my own. He prompted me to write pseudocode as we brainstormed together the various solutions to the bugs. This way, I was receiving help but I was not getting the answers fed to me.
- He prompted me to come up with my own ways to solve the problems and then helped check for errors and worked through issues with me until I understood. I really appreciated how he would stick with me until he was sure I understood the material, not just until my code was working.
- When I went to Ruben, he didn't just want to give me answers or help me solve the problem. He wanted to make sure I understood what was going on at a higher level, so I could solve the problem myself, or with some help from him once I understood it at a higher level, which was awesome.
- Made me think about what I am doing and why I need to do it. Helped me learn!
- I really like how Ruben made me think through the problem. I went and saw him when I didn't even know how to start, and he broke the problem down into smaller pieces and helped me tackle them one at a time.
- He's really good at explaining things and having you come to the conclusions by yourself without just explicitly telling you the answer, which was super helpful.
- He spends a lot of time helping people through a whole problem rather than just helping on one part before moving on. He also was always wanting me to learn the concepts rather than just finding the answer. [sic]
- Very good at answering questions in a way that didn't directly give you the answer. If he didn't know, helpful with looking the answer up with you.
- He was very helpful in leading me in the right direction without telling the answer. Ruben was very friendly and approachable, and really could figure out an [sic] issue I had. He was very good at explaining the material to me, and making sure I understood what I was doing.

## §

- Ruben was very helpful and always responded promptly when I emailed him questions about the assignments.
- Ruben was amazing. He helped me understand concepts that I didn't fully pick up during lecture or concepts that I failed to understand in CS101 with exuberance. He always made sure to help everyone and knew how much information to give to help but still allow students to struggle. Ruben also offered help via email when I couldn't [sic] go to his office hours which were just as clear and constructive. Without Ruben [sic] office hours I would've [sic] easily failed the course.