University of Michigan
Winter 2022 Instructor Report With Comments
EECS 281-003: Data Struct&Algor
Hammad Ahmad

30 out of 150 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	13	11	2	0	0	1	4.5	4.6	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	8	13	6	1	0	1	4.0	4.2	4.0
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	10	13	5	0	0	1	4.2	4.6	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	9	11	5	1	1	1	4.1	4.1	3.8
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	1	5	7	15	1	1.4	3.0	2.5

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Hammad Ahmad seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	8	6	3	0	0	11	4.4	4.8	4.6
Hammad Ahmad explained material clearly.(Q199)	8	6	3	0	0	11	4.4	4.7	4.5
Hammad Ahmad treated students with respect.(Q217)	8	5	3	0	0	11	4.5	4.8	4.7

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	7	12	7	0	0	3	4.0
Prerequisites provided adequate preparation for this course. (Q61)	11	12	4	0	0	2	4.3
The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q64)	3	6	6	0	5	8	3.3
The laboratory was a valuable part of this course. (Q331)	10	10	2	5	0	2	4.2
Laboratory assignments required a reasonable amount of time and effort. (Q336)	7	10	5	3	2	2	3.9
Laboratory assignments were relevant to what was presented in class. (Q337)	8	15	3	0	0	2	4.2
I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer. (Q1769)	5	19	3	0	0	2	4.1
I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems. (Q1770)	5	15	7	0	0	2	3.9

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Hammad Ahmad was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	8	6	2	0	0	11	4.5

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Pretty good
Overall very good, and I liked that I can choose different instructors with different teaching styles.
different section
Good
great
Awesome course. Professor is really reachable and helpful.
I went to paolettis lecture — it was good
This course was structured very well and at no point did I feel lost. The professor was always available for questions and provided guidance to the students.
Helpful.
I didnt go to professor Ahmad's lectures. Dr.P is amazing!!!

How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)

Comments
Nothing
Translations on recorded lectures I guess? Every student here knows that the courses are taught in English though, so I don't know why that would be an issue. And it's not like you can make a comp sci course discuss minority groups or something.
It is not exclusive of diverse students...(?)
already good
have more female IA's — and have IA's that dont skip people in the OH queue
Nothing comes to mind.
Idk.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Good teaching of concepts, useful for tech stuff
I can choose different instructors with different teaching styles. Projects helped understand materials well.
Examples of interview questions incorporated into the lectures and labs. Practical application is vital in this course AS WELL AS 280 because we start looking for internships right around the time we take 280 and 281.
labs
Proffice hour
it covered a lot of content
The organization, structure, and remote recording options.
Many example codes helped.
Dr.P's office hours

What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)

Comments
More leetcode style problems and how to optimize those kind of problems instead of only teaching us the algorithms at a high level. Labs would be good for this but a lot of lab work is busywork or mini–projects
Some lab assignments are a bit too challenging (compared to other courses) and take too much time.
As much as I benefited from and appreciated the tutorials for the projects, they cheapened it somewhat. They trivialized the critical thinking component of the assignments and just made us write it up. I feel projects would benefit from having a smaller quantity of work, but letting students figure out the concepts independently. Of course, this would be hard to enforce since we could always just share our ideas with each other. I think it would still be worth trying though, starting with lab assignments that aren't just regurgitating the slides. Really excellent lectures though, I just think we need a better chance to use that knowledge ourselves with less hand–holding.
EECS 281 attempts to do too much. Lab work should be shortened to make it possible to complete both labs and projects in a reasonable time. Students were forced to choose between labs and projects which greatly hurt our grades and understanding of the material.
make office hours more efficient. waiting hours to get one question answered in office hours and piazza was frustrating
More IAs
MORE IA'S and group office hours really helped
Nothing comes to mind.
Idk.
A better way to do office hours.

Among the courses you have already taken, which proved the most (or least) effective in preparing you for this course, and why? (Q1098)

Comments
EECS 280 just for the coding experince
280, obvious reasons
EECS 280 prepared me very well
280 because it taught me data structures
eecs280
eecs 280 and 203 really prepared me for this course
EECS 280 because it set me up to be more prepared for the programming aspect of this course.
280.
I think 280 helped prepare me however i think there was a large gap in the project expectations. From going from having functions to fill out and TODOs in 280 to blank files in 281 was a really hard adjustment. I think 280 should have time designated to talk about the most effective ways to set up your program (i.e. how to write a .h file with a .cpp file; when you should use a struct versus class; how to use different classes together etc) I felt like i was thrown in the deep end at first because in 280 we were provided thorough skeletons of code(which was super helpful) but i think there should be improvements with the transition. Some 203 concepts really helped, however i think 203 goes way too in depth on them (i.e. learning mods was super helpful for hash tables and probing, but having to do extended euclidian algebra didnt apply, being familiar with graphs was helpful but we didnt need to go so in depth in 203).