Fundamentals of Computer Sci 1 (Fall 2018)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**
Section: **07**
Course Title: **Fundamentals of Computer Sci 1**
Course ID: **12870**
Subject: **CS**

Enrollment: **99**
Responses Incl Declines: **53**
Declines: **1**
Department: **Computer Science**
Number: **2500**

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	52	52%	4.3	4.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	52	52%	3.7	4.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	52	52%	4.3	4.5
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	52	52%	4.7	5.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	52	52%	4.5	5.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	52	52%	4.4	5.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	52	52%	4.5	5.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	52	52%	3.4	3.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	52	52%	3.7	4.0
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	52	52%	4.1	4.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	52	52%	4.1	4.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	46	46%	4.5	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Learning Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
I learned a lot in this course.	52	52%	4.7	5.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	52	52%	3.7	4.0
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	52	52%	4.0	4.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The instructor possessed the basic communication skills necessary to teach the course.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	52	52%	4.9	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	52	52%	4.7	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	52	52%	4.6	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	52	52%	4.8	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	52	52%	4.7	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	52	52%	4.6	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	52	52%	4.8	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Instructor Effectiveness: Nathaniel Derbinsky

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?	52	52%	4.9	5.0

Note: 5:Almost Always Effective; 4:Usually Effective; 3:Sometimes Effective; 2:Rarely Effective; 1:Never Effective;

Course Related Questions (27 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strength and/or weakness of the required textbook/course materials.

1 Just the lecture notes were enough

2 The textbook used considerably more complex language, which did not communicate ideas as effectively. This is especially pertinent in the fact that lecture covers all material anyway, so the reason most students were reading the textbook would be if they were already struggling, in which case it isn't helpful.

3 Book was useful to reference, even if I didn't fully keep up with the reading

4 textbook reading and lectures sometimes dont correspond making it hard to grasp concepts

5 didnt read it

6 The textbook is extremely helpful in helping me learn concepts outside of lecture.

7 course was easy at first but got hard

8 The textbook is helpful for further understanding of certain concepts and extra practice. Though, the assignments and lecture notes were definitely the most helpful throughout the course.

9 Textbook was very good for understanding material, even when it hadn't been covered in class yet.

10 useful lecture notes
not necessary textbook

11 Textbook not necessary

12 Textbook was extremely useful as a way to familiarize myself with material before lecture, but not necessarily as a way of understanding the material sufficiently.

13 I never really used it. I think they have their use, but I never felt that I was less prepared for not having read it.

14 I would definitely recommend that students read the textbook, I was overwhelmed with work this year so I didn't get to read it, and I think that really hindered my understanding

15 There should be dropped assignments because some TA's grade way harder than others and everyone is likely to make some mistakes. Also since the assignments were 35 percent of the grade this could be really helpful

16 I didn't use the textbook at all, the lectures explained the concepts pretty well.

17 I personally did not use them as much as the syllabus said to, but whenever I needed to relearn or solidify a topic from lecture the textbook was great.

18 Piazza is an excellent resource, however I didn't find myself referencing the textbook much.
As well, I said I disagreed with the out-of-class assignments because after the midway point of the semester, the assignments became way too challenging and I found myself only searching for the solutions and not learning as much. They didn't seem to coincide much with the content of the lectures as I had hoped, and I learned best when they were challenging yet also coincided with the lecture content, rather than some abstract music player or etc.

19 make sure to let people konw that the textbook is online

20 The textbook is useful in introducing concepts before a lecture to help familiarize new material before going more in-depth.

21 I know a lot of people (who previously coded) hated Dr Racket, but I (as someone who was totally new to CS) really enjoyed learning the concept and logic required behind CS by using Dr. Racket.

22 The textbook that goes along with this class is super helpful for answering individual questions, especially because it's online and you can search for specific terms. But, it's tedious to try to read the whole thing.

23 The textbook is hard to read and study. I found it much more beneficial to pay attention in lecture and review lecture notes instead of look at the textbook.

24 The book was a great complement to the information provided during lectures.

25 The textbook wasn't really necessary, although it did help somewhat as a way to practice and look ahead for particularly dedicated students. I wish they told me I didn't need to buy it...

26 The lecture notes wee very helpful

27 The textbook was super helpful and helped me learned.

Learning Related Questions (20 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strengths of this course and/or ways to improve this course.

1 Very important CS concepts, and I don't think it's important to make students learn how to express themselves or analyze ideas, since it isn't in the scope of the class.

2 good course

3 Course is good

4 As someone with no prior CS experience I found this class approachable, challenging, and very rewarding.

5 I'm a Bio major so this was a huge change for me and very intellectually challenging. I feel like I learned a lot, and learned a lot more about thinking about things critically and logically. I think about the logical steps for solving a problem and how I could represent that.

6 Very, very good fundamentals class. Covers design principles and syntax similar to languages students will encounter in the future. I see no issues with the syllabus.

7 Some of the homeworks felt rushed; it might've been better to have more time to work on harder assignments and less for easier ones.

8 I think that the biggest weakness of the course is the length of time you are with the same partner. I wish we had changed partners more, as most partner relationships end up with one partner leading/doing most of the work because they figure it out faster and the other just coming along for the ride, especially if they are less assertive.

9 As a non-CS major, I found this course to be very useful. I find myself applying these concepts to several other aspects of my life, and I believe it served as a new method of thinking for me.

10 Good way to build a base in programming

11 The course was fairly challenging and intellectually stimulating. Some of the assignments were really hard, but I really did enjoy having done them in the end. It would be great if the people who asnwer questions on piazza actually answered our questions rather than just asking us another question.

12 The design recipe actually makes sense to me now, and I have used aspects of it in other languages outside of the course.

13 This course was greatly intellectually challenging. Although, I feel that the coding language didn't do what it set out to do - level the playing field for people who have coded before and people who haven't. Ways to improve this course: encourage more people to move up to accelerated and encourage collaboration between students.

14 .

15 Gave me a strong foundation in CS and made me realize that I am in the right major

16 The course has taught me a lot of new information and approaches in solving various problems in the field of computer science.

17 It taught what it said it would

18 The course was very very challenging but the office hour helped a lots

19 The lectures really helped me learn concepts and the assignments were extremely valuable in cementing topics.

20 Seems to give a strong foundation for coding, especially for students who don't have a lot of experience going into it. The pace of how the difficulty level increases is also beneficial, as it does so incrementally, rather than quickly, all at once.

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky (29 comments)

Q: Describe instructor's strengths, areas for improvement, and any additional comments.

1 He is an enthusiastic teacher and is fun, engaging, and concise in his lectures.

2 Professor Derbinksy has a very enthusiastic and free attitude to lessons, making the coursework just seem more approachable. He presents himself very humanly, in the sense that he looks up documentation and checks his references in class to remove any shame in students doing the same. In general, his lectures are as fun as they are easy to understand. I would highly recommend him to anyone taking this course.

3 Instructor was always enthusiastic and kept class interesting, even through many different eclipse exercises... Professor Derbinsky's sense of humor is fantastic

4 ..

5 Professor Derbinsky always brings an extremely high level of energy to each lecture. I hope his passion for what he teaches stays with me throughout my undergrad years and my career.

6 good instructor

7 The instructor explained the concepts very clearly and the lectures were succinct, comprehensible, and enjoyable.

8 Entertaining and made learning what might otherwise be boring concepts fun, while still teaching well.

9 great instructor

10 Helpful in lecture, clearly taught subject

11 Great professor. Passionate about what he's teaching and has a great sense of humor. It felt like lectures flew by.

12 I felt much more comfortable with the course after every single lecture, both because material was covered sufficiently and because the instructor made it a very enjoyable experience.

13 I love this professor. He made coming to class everyday fun. COND!!!!!

14 I LOVED this professor. He made every class fun and interesting, and really understood the burdens on students. Really knowledgeable in the material.

15 He's funny and makes the classes interactive and fun.

16 Really great professor, clearly showed he cared about the students and was very knowledgable. He broke down complex concepts and definitely made it easier to understand.

17 I am not sure that this falls on Nate rather than the course itself, but I thought that many of the lectures ended early where we could have just gone into more depth on the topic that day. Almost all lectures include some new function that could have been extended to something not covered.

18 Prof. Derbinksy was incredible. I am now a fifth-year student at NEU, and I believe that Derbinksy may have been one of the best professors I've had during my time here. As a non-CS major, I can truly attest to his ability to teach a difficult course and his enthusiasm and humor made the course engaging and interesting.

19 Nate was very informative and made class interesting everyday

20 He was really funny and good at keeping on track so we always finished what we were supposed to learn for the day.

21 Very enthusiastic professor. I would definitely take him in the future

22 Nate's an amazing teacher 10/10 would take again

23 Professor Derbinsky is great. He covers the lengthy material in a timely manner. Even when I was lost in the class he was encouraging. He expects a lot from his students while maintaining a positive atmosphere for learning.

24 Very personable and interesting to listen to. Would not just give dull lectures, he would connect with his students by making jokes and talking about things other than CS at times, so he was not boring to listen to.

25 Instructor has been presenting information in a clear, concise, and articulate manner.

26 Nate was great, 11/10, we appreciate.

27 The instructor was very humorous and the lectures were really interesting.

28 Super enthusiastic! Great professor. I learned a lot. I liked how he gave us time in class to try coding the problem before he did it for us.

29 Nathaniel is a really enthusiastic professor, as well as fully prepared for every lecture. The way he teaches is also very funny and easy to understand.