

Comments on Student Evaluations

CSCI-300 Software Practice

Fall 2013

What assignments, activities or comments most contributed to your learning?	How could this instructor/course be improved?
I liked that we kept building on the same app.	Grade the assignment before the next one is due.
Programming assignments	Keep due dates instead of constantly changing them
Building the web app throughout the semester	Instructor doesn't care about the students, has unreasonable requirements, and doesn't grade fairly
	Grade and return assignments in a reasonable time frame
By far the most interesting class I have taken. Really enjoyed developing the single app throughout the semester.	Make the problem a little more challenging.
The projects and his example programs	More solid due dates and clear requirements for the assignments.
The web browser app was great	
The continuous building of the web browser.	
Weekly programming assignments. Working on one program throughout the semester.	Try and more evenly provide assistance to students during class. Some students received more help than others. Review the example code more thoroughly line by line.
In class lecture and example code. Great hire to replace Qasem.	Slow down the material a bit. Previous professors did not adequately teach what was necessary for this class.
The use of one continuous project throughout the class.	

Summary: This course was a great success despite the fact that I had no experience writing software for mobile phones. Prior to each lecture I would work late into the morning hours to provide students with example code to base their homework on. Most students were enthusiastic throughout the semester, except those that did not know how to program well. Students enjoyed the concept of building a single usable application throughout the semester. The biggest complaint is that I did not return the grade sheets in a timely manner. This is valid. Some students did seem to need a great deal of help because they simply did not know how to program.

Improvement Plan: I need to test their code and return the results in a timely manner. Having CSCI-200 a prerequisite will ensure students have the knowledge needed to be successful in this course and will allow me to assist more students.

CSCI-320 Algorithm Analysis

Fall 2013

What assignments, activities or comments most contributed to your learning?	How could this instructor/course be improved?
The reading helped. The worksheets were helpful.	The reading and the homework were too much. Too much material was covered – could use 2 semesters. Need more background in math – more math prereq.
Homework and projects	Slow down
Lectures and office hours tutoring. You are the best CS professor I have ever had here at BC. No professor has ever helped me outside of class or took the time to help me.	More lengthy lessons on tougher topics
7-9 study sessions helped. One of the best CS teachers you all have hired.	Having had better teachers before taking this class.
Programming the merge sort	Starting with the nitty-gritty definitions of the problem does not help learn the material. Start with one example or instance of the algorithm or data structure and work out the pseudo-code. Example, pseudo-code, then deeper ideas and implications.
Visual representation of the algorithms. Excellent teaching.	Less upper level math. Set theory was not required but was used.
Worksheets-they allowed the pace to slow down and broke down the material. Progress was made on teaching style.	Slow it down. Make set theory a requirement for the major. Give competency exam at beginning of course to gauge math knowledge.
Examples	Slow down. Give more time on exams. Return hw sooner. Give more time to work on problems in class before showing solution.
Programming was more helpful than reading and theories.	Make graph/set theory prereq for class.
	Less proofs, more programming.
The powerpoint of the algorithm and the merge sort programming assignment.	Way too fast. When students complained he slowed down only to speed up again. Could barely keep up taking notes. Way

	too much work. Too much stress. Instructor was not approachable to student concerns. Unreasonable expectations.
	Slower pace. Teach in different way at level of students. Course should not be required for programmers. Used math proofs not understood by those who don't have strong math theory background.
Lectures	not having as many proofs and having more programming.
In class discussions and some of the master theorem hw.	More practical examples before going into proofs. Most have not been exposed to proofs.
Homework. I thought you did an awesome job of coming in here and getting the class under control.	Give more programming to implement the algorithms. Slower pace. Have math prerequisite.

Summary: Well this course was the most challenging yet. I came in expecting students to have some background in discrete mathematics. Though CSCI-225 was a prerequisite, the previous professor did not teach the appropriate material. Before using particular math concepts that the students should have been exposed to in CSCI-225, I would ask the class if they have previously studied the concepts. The entire class would laugh out load and would laugh at the fact that the instructor only knew Python and taught Python in all his classes, including CSCI-225. I would then teach them the math concepts: set theory, graph theory, propositional logic, etc. then teach the algorithms material.

At the beginning of the course, many students complained to the Chair that my expectations were too high and I was moving too fast. I slowed down the content, but I did not lower my expectations. I continued showing proofs.

To prepare for the final exam, I gave a worksheet with problems for each of the algorithms presented in class and held (2) 2-hour review sessions at night. The exam was as challenging as any top level University would have. Without curving, the students scored an average of 82.4 with 4 students earing above 80 and 6 students earning above 90.

It goes to show, if you challenge Bridgewater students they will rise to the occasion. What truly validates this is that one student who was the voice of the students complaints throughout the semester told me that during the winter break she had interviews with a few company's in DC and that when asked questions about algorithm complexity, she was able to answer them.

Improvement Plan: I need to slow thing down. Knowing that the students have had me as an instructor for CSCI-225, I will only have to review the math concepts before using them in the context of algorithms. I should give throughout the semester practice worksheets that are similar to those given for the final review.

CIS-350 Database Management

Fall 2013

What assignments, activities or comments most contributed to your learning?	How could this instructor/course be improved?
The interview and mysql	Exam were too long. Give more quizzes.
Group project and practice. Exam review powerpoint was helpful.	Review powerpoint for each exam.
	Less homework, coupled with other classes it became too much.
Project for using the db was most helpful.	The interview was a waste of time.
Project, class notes and group work.	Give more quizzes on ability to create EER diagrams. Make first test more like the second. More projects, but on a smaller scale.
Homework and project.	More total database system implementation.
	Slow down the pace. Work through the assignments before assigning project.
	Write slower – didn't understand material because wrote too many notes. Work load was too much. Grade assignments too hard – hw is suppose to be constructive. Graded exam inconsistently – gave too much credit to graphing problems.
Hands on activities with db construction such as EER diagrams, relational schema.	Loose the vocabulary at the beginning of the semester.
Chapter questions.	Have study guides. Project was too complicated, students not prepared for it.
The chapter reviews at the end of the chapters in the text.	Go slower. Provide more details about topics. Provide study guides for exams. Make sure everyone understands before going on.
	Make study guide.
Interview project taught me about the field.	More variety of activities and hands on usage of mysql instead of learning commands off the board.

The practice we did with EER diagrams, the homeworks	Be clearer with assignments. Provide review for first exam like you did for second.
	Give hands on activities. The homeworks counted for as much as the exam, but I felt it did not help my learning of the material. He didn't seem to know how to effectively teach the material. The workload was too much on top of our other courses.
The interview was engaging and interactive. The project was hands-on.	Too fast. If the class asked him to slow down, he would but would speed up again. He graded the exam unevenly so those that studied the wrong material were penalized. Incorporate time for review and hand out study guides. I felt I could not talk to him as a person because he does not listen to student concerns.

Summary: The text I used had a number of chapters that discussed terminology and provided a high-level view of database systems. This took nearly 1/3 of the semester. The remainder of the semester was dedicated to actually designing a database. In between students went off campus and interviewed a database administrator. More time is needed to cover SQL.

Clearly, writing everything in the text on the board was not effective. I think slides along with worksheets would have been more effective. This would allow them more time to grasp the concepts rather than writing. Students were not satisfied with my grading of exams. Though I told students that the second exam would test their ability to design a DB, many were unhappy that I allocated more points to the design questions.

Improvement Plan: Slow it down. Give more examples as I work through the material. Find a new book or skip the chapters that discuss only vocabulary. Make the course more interactive. Do like I did in CSCI-300, create a problem that we can work through throughout the semester. Start by designing the db, then implement it, then query it. Give students a breakdown of the exam prior to the exam so they can allocate time appropriately. For example, 20 pts on vocab, 40 pts on EER diagram, 40 pits on SQL queries. The interview project was a success, though some teams (they grouped themselves) did not have leaders.

CSCI-225 Mathematical Structures in Computer Science Spring 2014

What assignments, activities or comments most contributed to your learning?	How could this instructor/course be improved?
The review sheets provided were helpful. Quiz feedback was helpful.	I would change the approach for hw. Assign something to either moodle or to turn in because personally I never really did much of it.
	Would like to see some guidance with the tests. The tests were challenging and a lot of times I would focus on studying on one or two topics I thought would be the majority of the exam, then they would be barely touched on.
Everything	
Homework, quizzes and going over those.	
Practice problems in class	
The hw on the sat solver	slow down a bit writing notes on the board and do some more practice problems that will appear in the hw.
The quizzes were the biggest help and refresher for what I learned.	
Homework and the worksheets towards the end of class	Provide a worksheet/study guide before exams.
Reviewing hw in class.	A better system of assigning practice problems and when they were to be done (published on Moodle). Knowing the sections we were covering was often confusing.
Homework, quizzes, tests	Came into course hearing bad things about the instructor but I never had any problems or concerns. Thought it was a great class.

Summary: The course in general went well. I did not collect homework because I didn't have time to grade it. Homework does not seem to get done if not collected. The practice worksheets that I used during the latter half seems to be helpful. Covering more examples in class would be helpful.

Improvement Plan: Provide quizzes more regularly. Go over homework problems during class. Hand out more practice problems as worksheets. Consider the following schedule:

- Monday
 - Review homework from Friday.
 - Give quiz on material from previous week.
 - Lecture and assign homework.
- Wednesday
 - Review homework from Monday.
 - Lecture and assign homework.
- Friday
 - Review homework from Wednesday.
 - Lecture and assign homework.

CSCI-410 Signal and Image Processing Spring 2014

What assignments, activities or comments most contributed to your learning?	How could this instructor/course be improved?
Homework & class discussions	A pace more consistent with something between first half and second half of semester. 4 hw in 5 weeks vs 2 hw in 12 weeks. Spread out assignments
The homework using matlab	Have lectures on the text, not group discussion. A lot like the last half of the semester.
	The reading and lectures were too similar. The lectures would be more effective as a clarification of the reading, not just reiterating the reading.
Matlab assignments	Better pacing of the material.
Programming in matlab.	A set of exercises for each chapter so that they can be gone over in class.

Summary: This was the first time teaching Signal and image processing so I was learning the material as we went along. I learned about 4 weeks in, that students were overwhelmed with the homework, and I had a Physics major drop the course. I assigned smaller assignments.

Since the students were 3rd and 4th year students, my intent was to *flip the classroom*. For the first half of the semester, in class, we sat in a circle and discussed the reading. The poorer performing students did not read before class, so the discussions were not beneficial to them. As this wasn't working, for the remainder of the semester, I lectured the material.

Improvement Plan:

- Investigate using a different book with more material and more practice problems.
- Introduce classification first and oversee the collection of photos. Use the class photos as examples throughout the semester. Show how we get good results from high quality photos and poor results from blurred photos. Use signal processing to increase performance by using Gaussian filter, cropping, etc.
- Lecture the material rather than have discussions.