

University of Michigan  
 Fall 2019 Instructor Report With Comments  
 EECS 481-001: Software Engin  
 Westley Weimer

40 out of 153 students responded to this evaluation.

**Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:**

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University- Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	20	18	1	0	1	0	4.5	4.5	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	17	17	2	3	1	0	4.3	4.2	4.0
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	21	15	3	0	1	0	4.5	4.4	4.3
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	24	9	3	2	1	0	4.7	4.2	4.1
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	15	15	6	3	1	0	4.2	4.0	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier) (Q891)	3	11	19	4	1	0	3.2	3.0	2.8

**Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:**

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Westley Weimer was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	31	8	0	0	1	0	4.9	4.6	4.3
Westley Weimer seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	34	5	0	0	1	0	4.9	4.8	4.6
Westley Weimer explained material clearly.(Q199)	30	6	2	0	1	0	4.9	4.6	4.4
Westley Weimer treated students with respect.(Q217)	34	5	0	0	1	0	4.9	4.8	4.7

**Responses to additional questions about the course:**

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Prerequisites provided adequate preparation for this course. (Q61)	24	10	5	0	1	0	4.7	4.3
The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q64)	7	3	4	4	3	19	3.4	3.6
I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer. (Q1769)	21	13	3	2	1	0	4.5	4.1
I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems. (Q1770)	20	14	4	1	1	0	4.5	4.1
The discussion section was a valuable part of this course. (Q1771)	5	8	10	8	6	3	3.0	4.0

The medians are calculated from Fall 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 75 or greater in College of Engineering.

## Written Comments

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

Comments
It's been said countless times before, but Wes is an impeccable lecturer. He is easily my favorite professor I've had at UofM (and it's not easy to compete with DeOrion, 281 Gang, Sindhu Kutty, 482 Gang...). Wes Weimer's dedication to answering student questions (as well as tackling difficult questions from a very argumentative approach) facilitates a lot of respect in and out of class. He's also really funny.
Wes has been my fav professor ever. Loved all the references and jokes he would make. Psychology section was also really interesting, even if it wasn't very advanced. I was able to be engaged with the lecture for the vast majority of the time, which I can't say about many other EECS classes.
Very clear, entertaining, and informative
Very broad, lectures are too strayed from exam problems and homework problems.
Wes Weimer is the most engaging professor I have had at this university. It is clear that he is passionate about the subject of software engineering and cares about his students.
Wes is an amazing instructor, he is very dedicated to his students, isn't afraid to let his unique personality shine (which only added to the instruction of the course and made the material more engaging). I liked that he always answered questions on piazza, no matter how obscure.
instruction was fine, but condescending when someone didn't know something that is supposed to be well known. made me afraid to ask questions because of the inevitable sarcastic response from the GSI or prof that made me feel bad for not knowing.
Wes is a good instructor
Wes was an excellent instructor, but I just found the course material to be incredibly boring
The professor was well-prepared and answered questions very well.
The instruction was great, the professor kept me engaged and had clear explanations.
Wes Weimer is probably the best person I will ever learn from in my lifetime
Prof Weimer is an excellent instructor who is genuinely present in class and enjoys teaching.
Absolutely a wonderful class. One of the most applicable classes for industry in general regardless of specialty or field.
incredible
Wes is a great teacher! He explains things clearly and keeps students engaged with all the fun stuff he does in lecture.
Prof. Weimer is just the GOAT. Never had anyone like him. Give this man a gosh darn raise. He is as close to a perfect teacher as I've ever seen.
Wes is super passionate about the topics we talk about in class, and it definitely shows! It helps to have a professor who clearly cares so much about the topics we discuss – not only does it keep students engaged during lecture, but the high spirits can often rub off on the students.
Wes Weimer is a fantastic professor. His lectures are engaging. I loved the breaks part way through the lecture on a related but not mandatory topic.
Westley Weimer is one of the best professors I have ever had.
amazing

## What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Mainly Wes Weimer. HW6 and its relevance on a resume is great too. I loved the Piazza discussions, and brief dives into philosophy and psychology, as well as pop culture. But I'm just more personally interested in these topics.
Wes, candy, Wes's thoughts on Piazza.
Information comes at a 100 miles a second, so it's never dull seaming and the flow is just right
Good buzzword
Lecture! Very engaging and interesting
This class is like no other I've taken here, and in my opinion would be great as a required course. It gave me the most practical knowledge for industry, and allowed me to reflect on my previous internship experiences and think about what I could do better in the future as a software engineer, product manager or engineering manager. Contributing to open source was daunting, but a unique experience that I'm glad I did!
comprehensive, interesting sometimes
Strong teaching, good professor, useful information is conveyed
The course helped me write good reports
The professor
Lecture material was very interesting and applicable to the real world.
Relevant to real world
The projects as well as the lectures
Wes does a splendid job in both instructing, engaging the students, showing his passion, and promoting healthy discussion in Piazza. I love being able to talk about the course and any topic in general in a civilized manner as all conversations should be. The blue slides were also very intriguing, and this has been one of my favorite if not most favorite classes in my four years.
being incredible
Until I took this course, even after having an internship, I was grossly unprepared for software development in a professional environment.
Prof. Weimer is the GOAT.
Variety of topics that are all important in the software engineering field.
Wes Weimer.

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

Comments
Some homeworks weren't super fun. But I suppose that's kind of the point as it reflects the real-world.
Make reading quizzes easier, sometimes I actually read the article but struggled with specific questions. More reading quizzes. Discussion sections could make use of time more. More quizzes. Some lectures felt more dull at the end of semester or maybe I was just burned out. Guest lectures were not as good because no Wes.
Discussion section didn't seem that useful
Make lectures and discussions be solely homework and exam prep based
The projects were quite difficult to understand at times. I would suggest eliminating one project so that students have more time to dedicate the the open-source contribution project because that one is the most time consuming.
I would perhaps put in a few assignments that were not related to testing, maybe something about requirements elicitation or risk management since the open source project was the only opportunity to explore this and it didn't fit well with the requirements of the assignment. I would also change the format of the reading quizzes, since there was too much detail required to answer questions about readings from 4+ weeks ago, making them hard to study for since they were always changing.
i cannot see myself compiling any of these softwares at work
Healthier snack options, make discussions worthwhile through the application of material
I would like to see more reading discussed during lecture. Also, maybe have more diverse and interesting reading material like maybe about video games or something.
There is not much I would do to improve the course as I feel it is a great course already/
Honestly nothing
None come to mind for now. I didn't go to a single discussion however as I saw no use. Maybe being able to increase the amount of time for open source? The fact how we have a final a couple of days before it is due sort of makes us not focus as much on a potentially very interesting assignment.
Would be great if more emphasis could be given to Design Patterns and Design for maintainability, rather than just testing.
Buy Prof. Weimer a boat or like a small island in the Caribbean. But seriously, if the discussions were mandatory that would help keep people engaged. In addition, the reading quizzes shouldn't be about some reading from several weeks ago in my opinion, they should be about the readings assigned to that day.
Better candy? And better aim?
I would make homework 6 a project that spans the semester with short assignments due in more intervals instead of one large assignment at the end.

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

Comments
281 (in general), 482 (for concurrency and nondeterminism), 280 (for OOP principles)
There's more reading that none of the previous courses prepare you for.
Getting lucky with the autograder
I took a few humanities and social sciences courses, so those prepared me for the reading and writing aspects of the class. None of my previously taken computer science courses prepared me for this course (370, 281, 376, 388...not particularly helpful here).
EECS 485, EECS 441, and ENTR courses about organizational management and project management. The practicum/less theory-based classes were more helpful.
none really helped
I believe it would be the MDE course EECS 497 which was also about software engineering and it covered similar topics to this class.
No courses really helped me prepare for this course as I feel like this is more what's out in the real world rather than coding based or something (knowing a variety of languages helps?)
eecs281, eecs370
EECS 281, EECS 495
Honestly, my internship helped me the most. Otherwise all you really need is 281 and some python knowledge which I got from 485.
EECS 482 helped sober me to the realities of solving hard software problems, and helped my understanding when Prof. Weimer talked about multi-threading and the likes.
Almost none of the materials in other courses I took prior to this course really helped, but I took EECS 495 at the same time I took this course and I found that taking the two together was helpful. Both courses emphasized the importance of requirements and the software development lifecycle in general, so I found it helpful that I could apply material from one class to the other.