University of Michigan
Fall 2021 Instructor Report With Comments
EECS 481-001: Software Engin
Westley Weimer

23 out of 152 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)	11	11	0	0	0	1	4.5	4.5	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	7	11	4	0	0	1	4.1	4.2	4.1
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	10	11	1	0	0	1	4.4	4.5	4.2
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	10	9	3	0	0	1	4.4	4.0	4.0
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)	2	7	13	0	0	1	3.3	3.0	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Westley Weimer seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	20	2	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.8	4.6
Westley Weimer explained material clearly.(Q199)	20	2	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.7	4.5
Westley Weimer treated students with respect.(Q217)	19	3	0	0	0	1	4.9	4.9	4.7

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	12	8	2	0	0	1	4.6
Prerequisites provided adequate preparation for this course. (Q61)	13	8	1	0	0	1	4.7
The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q64)	2	3	4	1	0	12	3.5
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	14	8	0	0	0	1	4.7
I felt comfortable asking questions in class. (Q521)	14	6	2	0	0	1	4.7
I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer. (Q1769)	8	13	1	0	0	1	4.3
I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems. (Q1770)	12	8	1	0	0	2	4.6
The discussion section was a valuable part of this course. (Q1771)	5	4	5	5	0	4	3.4

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Westley Weimer was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	18	4	0	0	0	1	4.9

The medians are calculated from Fall 2021 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
Wes and the GSI/IAs were very helpful and accommodating.
Professor Weimer was hands down the best professor I've had at the university of Michigan. His passion for teaching makes lectures engaging and fun and it is clear that he is a master of the subject material. I had a great time in this class because of his teaching.
good
It was good
Weimer the goat
Professor Weimer is enthusiastic and incredibly knowledgeable about the material he teaches.
Wes is a great professor and I love how this course is geared towards software engineering as it is in the real world, not as we are misled to think it is in prerequisites.
Great.
Probably the best lecturer I've ever had
Legitimately my favorite course in the entirety of the CS courses available at umich – expanded my view of real world computer science and software engineering while Wes made every lecture a joy to watch and be a part of. I'd take this class again solely to go to lecture, and that's something I'd never do with my other classes.

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

Comments
I felt it was very inclusive! Definitely keep including discussions about the experiences of women and other minorities in software engineering.
not sure
As a diverse student I don't think there is much more to do from the staff to make it more inclusive. The only thing to do is add more diverse students.
N/A
I think Professor Weimer does an excellent job already of being inclusive of diverse students.
Wouldn't change much as a minority (kinda) who never really felt excluded

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
The course staff and Piazza were the best components of this class.
I particularly enjoyed the coverage if philosophy, psychology, anthropology, and neuroscience in this class. I felt it was really useful to see how these fields connect to software engineering. Fee classes in the CSE department cover human connections in software engineering so it was great to take this class that did.
relatively light
Westley is the main strength of the course.
Homework 6b (Open contribution project)
The readings can be a little dry but I think they provide a good base of discussion/talking in lectures because we have enough prequisite knowledge for the interesting stuff.
Accurate representation of real–world software engineering
In–depth preparation and responsive Piazza.
Strong lectures and homework assignments that focused on things other than "get the right answer by writing code"

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

Comments
This class is awesome! No suggestions
nope
I think more low stakes coding would be beneficial. Also more clear deadlines. I know we are supposed to check on gradescope but it seems like an arbitrary lesson for students.
Labs that pertain to doing more open source contributions!
Less reading
Honestly, this course probably could be shortened into a seminar. The material, while relevant, was often repeated and there were many lectures where I felt I didn't actually learn something I didn't already know.
The lecture material is great, but honestly, it was hard to concentrate for 80 minutes straight, especially just hearing and reading the slides. My brain can only concentrate for 45–50 minutes, so I enjoyed the trivia breaks.
If you used Canvas more, it would improve the quality of life of students so they have all their due dates/info in one place.
I think some of the homeworks can seem tedious or not super useful to have completed (particularly defect detection and mutation testing). Trawling through tons of bug reports on CodeSonar or trying to split two test suites is fine on the surface but the amount of time it took was frustrating at times (which could be the point that I'm missing, not sure).

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

Comments
Probabbly EECS 281, I gained good experience in project planning.
lectures
I think 183, 280 could do better introducing other languages. I wasn't prepared for the Java aspect at all and 183 could have more intent in teaching python.
Annotation of slides, and highlighting the readings. Helped me get high scores in the tests. Partnering up with a student to do the homeworks.
I feel like you should definitely take this course after EECS 481 and when you are about to enter the workforce. It would be good to complete the open source contribution homework and talk about it in a job fair.
EECS281 since in–class examples are used assuming students have taken the class