

University of Michigan

Fall 2024 Instructor Report

EECS 481-001: Software Engin

Westley Weimer

38 out of 149 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	19	14	4	0	0	1	4.5	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	12	18	4	1	1	1	4.2	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	19	9	7	1	1	1	4.5	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	11	17	7	2	0	1	4.1	4.1	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	10	22	3	0	1	3.2	2.9	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Westley Weimer seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	27	7	3	1	0	0	4.8	4.7	4.8
Westley Weimer explained material clearly.(Q199)	26	8	4	0	0	0	4.8	4.7	4.7
Westley Weimer treated students with respect.(Q217)	24	11	3	0	0	0	4.7	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	15	17	4	1	0	1	4.3
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	19	11	4	0	0	3	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Westley Weimer was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	27	7	4	0	0	0	4.8

The medians are calculated from Fall 2024 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
Very engaging lectures and interesting, well selected topics
The instruction in this course is very high quality.
Wes was a great lecturer! He kept me engaged and interested in the material. I found Ali's lectures to be somewhat hard to follow as he often skipped over slides with no explanation as to why.
very ood
Really love Wes Weimer's style of delivery and the candy tossing
I thought the quality of instruction in lectures when Wes was teaching was great. He kept us engaged and I felt like I learned a lot. Also thought Priscilla & Hanchi were great GSIs! Some of the IAs however, were not great and couldn't answer simple questions for us about the homework.
Excellent
n/a
Wes was the best EECS professor I have ever had, he did a good job explaining content while keeping it entertaining.
Prof. Weimer's lectures are probably the most interesting and engaging lectures I've had at UMich, and I really enjoyed them.
Wes is by far my favorite professor I've ever had. His constant enthusiasm and clear passion for the subject made it easy to pay attention and remain engaged in the lectures.
Good
Quality of instruction for lectures was great.
Wes was probably the best teacher I have had in eeecs so far and honestly I wish everyone was like him in terms of teaching style. He always kept us engaged, the material was very applicable to real life, and I always felt like I could watch the entire lecture without any problem when he was teaching. I would recommend more eeecs teachers take a page out of his book tbh.
Westley Weimer as a lecturer is engaging and thorough. I enjoyed being in class and listening to the concepts which could have been dull otherwise.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Clear expectations of assignment due dates.
Structure, clarity of expectations, real world lessons
I liked that this course really emphasized software engineering in industry.
helpful teaching environment
Teaching things we would actually in-industry, engineering or otherwise.
Great lectures when Wes taught! Clear structure and I knew what to expect.
Good level of interaction
n/a
Wes is definitely the best part of the course. But also all the topics covered are very relevant for software engineering jobs in industry. This is the only EECS course that talks about the non-technical side of working in industry, so I think it does a great job preparing students for internships or their first full-time role. All topics built off of each other very well. I also really enjoyed the guest lectures.
Lectures
Guest speakers, office hours, workload was somewhat manageable
Strengths were all of the readings; as boring as they were at times they had information on studies that have to do with things that were new to me and have become new learning points for me.
A great lecturer with Wes
I enjoyed the projects exposing us to real world tools, and especially project 6. Contributing to an open source project and connecting to developers working on real projects was such a valuable experience and I am grateful that it was an assignment, otherwise I may never have taken the time to do so on my own.

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

Comments
More dynamic slides, they are kinda hard to review and not engaging
N/a
The projects sometimes seemed like busywork that I didn't take much away from. I feel like I loved that the overall content of the course was related to software engineering in industry, but I felt like the projects themselves didn't seem that applicable (except for the final project).
nothing it ws great
Keep Wes
I was a bit frustrated with homework 3 as we started early but still didn't get full points and there wasn't much help or guidance we could get.
It is more of software testing than software engineering
n/a
I think it was great the way it was.
course content
None
Make the homework more straight forward and allow office hours to help. Not sure why certain HWs certain part we could not receive help or hints on.
None
More time between deadlines, felt rushed alot of the time
Make the reading quizzes due before the next quiz instead of on Saturdays. Also, please stop cold calling. Finally, the exams are so long that it is hard to finish in the allotted time and not always representative of the content covered in the course.

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

Comments
N/a
bringing in diverse speakers
It is inclusive.
NA
n/a
I think it was already very inclusive.
Not sure
It is already inclusive enough.
None
Stop cold calling.

University of Michigan

Fall 2024 Instructor Report

EECS 481-002: Software Engin

Westley Weimer

34 out of 137 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	18	12	1	0	0	1	4.6	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	19	8	4	0	0	1	4.7	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	17	9	3	1	0	1	4.6	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	18	8	3	2	0	1	4.6	4.1	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	6	18	4	1	1	3.1	2.9	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Westley Weimer seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	26	4	1	0	0	1	4.9	4.7	4.8
Westley Weimer explained material clearly.(Q199)	26	4	1	0	0	1	4.9	4.7	4.7
Westley Weimer treated students with respect.(Q217)	26	4	1	0	0	1	4.9	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	22	6	3	0	0	1	4.8
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	20	7	1	0	0	4	4.8

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Westley Weimer was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	25	5	1	0	0	1	4.9

The medians are calculated from Fall 2024 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
EECS 481 Lecture is very high quality. I particularly appreciate the psychological aspects that are barrenly covered in other parts of CS education. Software Engineering being the premiere career path of most CS students, its important for CS students to cover the Human Aspect of their Human Oriented career path. I originally found structured activities contrived but later on I began appreciating how they helped guide interaction with the course material. I liked how discussion was structured as office hours with a single section being utilized as lecture review. Most other EECS courses use discussion as 60% lecture recap, 40% boring worksheet (with egregious 2 hour periods for required attendance ones), but this course has a better structure.
Professor Weimer is such an amazing, kind, encouraging teacher. Although there was a ton of information in this class, he explained things in a clear, but also fun way that made watching the lectures enjoyable (for section 002).
Perfect!
Pretty good ngl.
The quality of instruction in this course was very high, the instructor was extremely well informed and able to answer questions on various related topics with ease when a student asked a quesiton.
I really like how I was able to take my experience with my internships and apply it to other areas
Good slides and explanations
Amazing

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
The reports are the core strength of this project. I really put a lot of time and effort into my reports because I found them really engaging and interesting, particularly report 5c. Not only are the underlying activities engaging and puzzle-like, but the report itself really helps to exercise and draw understanding from the activities and connect them back to course content.
It was beneficial to use the terminal a lot and learn about working on a Virtual Machine to run things for homework assignments.
The candy perverse incentive :D
The course homeworks and piazza were well formatted, and I was rarely confused when reading instructions to complete an assignment.
It's tools and things we have to use.
Good slides and explanations. Homework 6 in a nice culmination of our learnings
Projects

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

Comments
For the Model Checking Lecture, the microphone was not working so the recording was very hard to follow. I ended up just using the slides on their own. Other than that the course is great as is.
For section 002, it was a bit hard to not have in person instruction and interaction in this course, so I think that maybe adding more collaboration for section 002 students or asynchronous sections in the future would be beneficial. Also, I wish that there was more references and in-class explanation of homework material in lecture just to serve as a reminder, especially with busy college schedules.
nothing!
The turnaround on the homeworks felt very tight, especially when combined with the exams... Setting a due date to 'pretend' something is due by should be the exclusive domain of the students.
I have no suggestions.
Please make the activities and participation due at midnight.
Some homeworks like Homework 4 are too tedious. Slides could use more examples. Reading quizzes should give partial credit for "Select all that apply" questions.
NA

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

Comments
The class is inclusive in my opinion.
n/a
I think the class is already inclusive of diverse students
Stay the same. It's a SWE class.
N/A
NA