

University of Michigan

Fall 2025 Instructor Report

EECS 481-001: Software Engin

Westley Weimer

31 out of 117 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)	16	10	3	1	0	0	4.6	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	13	12	3	2	0	0	4.3	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	15	12	1	2	0	0	4.5	4.5	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	9	13	6	2	0	0	4.0	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)	1	8	17	3	1	0	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)	24	3	2	0	0	1	4.9	4.7	4.8
Westley Weimer explained material clearly.(Q199)	25	2	2	0	0	1	4.9	4.7	4.7
Westley Weimer treated students with respect.(Q217)	24	4	2	0	0	0	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)	18	7	4	1	0	0	4.7
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	15	9	3	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)	22	4	3	0	0	1	4.8

The medians are calculated from Fall 2025 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
Westley Weimer is unequivocally the best professor in totality. Especially when it comes to the CS department. Every professor could learn from this man and if I were to list everything I appreciate about Wes it would take much too long. As such to put it succinctly, Wes is the only CS professor I can say I will miss seeing twice a week, and I genuinely enjoyed every lecture I attended. Thank you Wes for a great semester.
Great! Instructors very much want to be there and know the material inside and out, and are also incredibly personable and are able to communicate lecture material very clearly and with enthusiasm that makes the students excited to learn even the most tedious of topics.
Wes and Priscilla are always very well-prepared for each lecture, and do a good job addressing questions in-class and outside of class hours on Piazza.
lectures were always very interesting and material was explained very good.
This course was a great survey of the topic of software engineering. I enjoyed learning about the broader ideas of software engineering outside code itself. I think the focus on the practical aspects and priorities of software engineering – for example: debugging, catching defects early, and dealing with large codebases – was quite valuable.
Great
Instruction of the course was engaging and felt like everyone was included due to the various teaching methods.
The instructors clearly know the material extremely well. Instruction was engaging and fun.
Professor Weimer and Professor Santiesteban were really great teachers. They were always enthusiastic while teaching and did a lot to get the class engaged, which helps me a lot with learning. They were also very helpful whenever anyone asked questions, and did their best to answer as many questions as time allowed.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Westley Weimer
Many instructors that are happy to answer questions, a website with all of the material necessary for the course, assignments that can be completed from the first day of class, a very active piazza forum, and many others.
Wes and Priscila <3
The lecture structure was the best out of any (EECS) class I'd taken in college; structured participation activities/comprehension checks, mid-lecture trivia, and both Wes' and Priscilla's positive attitudes each class meeting made it effective for learning and engaging with the material. Wes and Priscilla are very passionate; Wes' long-form piazza posts, while not always directly relevant to the classwork or exams, had insights I got a lot out of. I'd definitely recommend their classes to future students.
the lectures and the assignments. they were very connected.
I found the lectures generally effective: the content was usually explained effectively and taking a break at halfway was a good idea. I also enjoyed the psychology and other related discussions. The lectures were usually engaging.
Instructuon
I would the say the style of teaching. Prof. Wes uses fun yet interactive teaching methods that really make each lecture unique.
The candy in exchange for participation was nice. Keep doing that. Though maybe some peanut-free options would be good too (I don't have a peanut allergy, I'm just saying)
The lectures were really engaging, and the chocolates were a great incentive to answer questions
The professors! They are so fun and make the learning environment inclusive of everyone.
The instructors were the best part, and the concepts they introduced are definitely really valuable for going into the working world.

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

Comments
The spec and assignment understanding are difficult and take more time than other classes
None— any complaints that I have with the class I recognize are more my preferences, as I recognize that the class is taught exactly how a software engineering class should be.
i think its good as it is.
There is always room for improving the lecture content. Reducing coverage of less important topics, improving the clarity of the graphs and diagrams. I understand that the course is designed to assess students time management and risk assessment skills, however I feel that a balance could be struck to aid students with beneficial habits (like the readings and quizzes being due before lecture for example if the content is relevant to lecture).
No it was good
None.
I'm not gonna lie I didn't really know how to study for the exams outside of the past exam questions. We were given so many past exams that you could use them for more targeted practice questions though so it's not a big deal.
the exam was ridiculous. I understand they're trying to AI-proof it, but it doesn't really work. As a result I just spent like half the time just scouring for quotes, which really doesn't test my knowledge of anything and is just a huge waste of time.
Unsure.
I wasn't the biggest fan of the multiple answer multiple choice questions on the reading quizzes, as getting no partial credit wasn't great.

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

Comments
Its fine in that regard
Not sure, as the environment is already very inclusive. Many of the studies shown or referenced deal with diversity in regards to the industry, and any that lack diversity in their implementations are correctly pointed out by one of the instructors for this.
The remote vs. in-person participation structures are already considerate of others' learning styles; as far as I know, 481 also makes the same accessibility considerations w.r.t. exam time as other classes, so that aspect is considered by the class too. The readings, lecture material, and even the in-class trivia questions include info from a wide range of subjects and backgrounds (e.g. papers about gender inequality in pull requests, trivia questions about Asian history, Latino cuisine, etc.), so I would say the class already emphasizes providing a diverse range of knowledge.
i think it was good as it is. we had a lot of inclusion and talking to partners.
It was good
Maybe through the encouragement of groups or study groups for projects. Could be nice to talk about the subject and help each other out.
It was fine for me. No complaints.
This was already included in the course to some degree, but I think mentioning topics like imposter syndrome, bias in SWE, etc is helpful for this. However, this class was the most inclusive EECS class I have ever taken and the professors seemed very mindful of this. I really appreciated it.

University of Michigan

Fall 2025 Instructor Report

EECS 481-002: Software Engin

Priscila Santiesteban

28 out of 121 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)	8	14	5	0	0	0	4.1	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	9	10	6	1	1	0	4.1	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	8	14	5	0	0	0	4.1	4.5	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	7	9	9	1	1	0	3.8	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)	3	7	9	6	2	0	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
Priscila Santiesteban seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	17	7	2	0	0	1	4.7	4.7	4.8
Priscila Santiesteban explained material clearly.(Q199)	17	6	3	0	0	1	4.7	4.7	4.7
Priscila Santiesteban treated students with respect.(Q217)	17	7	2	0	0	1	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)	11	11	4	0	1	0	4.3
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	9	7	4	1	0	6	4.3

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Priscila Santiesteban was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	13	11	3	0	0	0	4.5

The medians are calculated from Fall 2025 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
I like how the instructors bring in real world examples to the course content as it makes the students think about how they can apply this concept to themselves so it's make learning the material easier.
Westley Weimer is goated, super enthusiastic and knowledgable.
I really enjoyed the lectures. I would say this my favorite lectures that I have at EECS courses. The content is interesting, the presentation is good and I personally enjoyed it a lot.
Even though the lectures had a good, inclusive and positive energy, I found the slides to be a bit overloaded and the explanations as well. Even though the point was to dive into various SWE topics, it felt like it went too specific sometimes to where understanding the lectures could be confusing. I preferred when it stayed more on teaching about general SWE with some diving into specific concepts rather than getting overly into actual programming stuff.
Amazing and the course instructors are so funny and the lectures just feel nice
asd
Decent teaching quality. The instructors were more charismatic than one would expect and seemed like they were having fun.
The instructions and lectures were really good.
Significantly high
Instructors are clearly passionate about the topics taught within this course and work to develop a sense of pride in the work each of their students completes.
Good!

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
The material taught feels relevant because real world examples are brought in. It feels like I can apply the course content to any field I work in.
The strength is definitely its lectures with both Professors. I really enjoy the lectures. I also really like the remote participation work. I would say that is really useful and ensures students like me don't lag too much behind lectures.
The exams are well structured and fair in their content and how they work. Assignments also feel very open to allowing to students to do it different ways. The selection of readings is very good and offers learning about many different SWE topics. I really appreciate the fairness towards both in person and remote section students with the structure for participation.
The teaching quality
jgh
Projects demonstrate core course concepts well. Breaks in the middle of lectures are appreciated.
The lectures and the final project is pretty cool.
Strengths of the course were ensuring that learning in the course is enforced by material outside of the course and providing readings for a more technical course that were able to more readily engage students.
Lectures

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

Comments
I think homework specs could be better written. Sometimes, it just links you to another page with many pages that it makes figuring out what to do difficult.
Give a reasonable number of readings. Having 5 readings for a single day encourages students not to do any of them. If there was only one assigned for a day, I think almost everyone would do it. The more readings presented, the lower the chance that ANY of them get done, for me at least.
I would say maybe make the the assignment instructions and stuff much more clearer and easier to understand if possible, especially the format. Make sure to have better section titles and if possible better flow for the entire assignment.
As a student enrolled in the remote section, I felt there was a disconnect with the class. I actually really enjoyed watching the lecture recordings, and wanted to come to in person lecture to engage more. However, this would require essentially double work since remote activities still had to be completed. I wish there was a either a way for the remote students to receive credit for going in person, or a larger grace period at the beginning of the semester to get a better feel of the lectures before committing either way.
From a remote section perspective, the reading + lecture + reading quiz + remote activity could be a bit much and was very inconsistent. Some weeks would be simple activities and no readings, others would have longer coding activities and lots of reading. The weeks with more content made it harder to actually grasp what we should be learning, and it felt much more appropriate when the remote activity was kept simple and short as for a participation activity should, and the reading could be under a hour per lecture as thats when it was easier to actually focus on the reading and learn from it. Maybe focusing on a specific topic per week and having one load of reading would be better instead of different topic every lecture where often there wasn't a flow of topics from lecture to lecture.
Nothing
ghj
Not sure.
Make some of the homework more interesting
I would honestly eliminate the virtual option. I think that while it was largely helpful for me to be able to take this course virtually due to a scheduling conflict, I took less away from the course had I would have if it was only offered in person.
N/A

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

Comments
I think it's fine
I would say it is already quite inclusive of diverse students. Especially the special facts from different parts of the world is quite fun and inclusive in my opinion.
It couldn't possibly be (in a good way!)
ghj
Not sure.
It's already quite inclusive
Personally, I think this class climate was way more inclusive of students than previous courses I have taken within the COE. There is an emphasis on our learning focusing on more than concepts solely within software engineering which I think helped to create a widened perspective of our learning and its overall impact.
It already is