Fall 2018 Midterm Instructor Report of EECS 280-001: Prog&Data Struct for Nicole Hamilton

Project Title: **Fall 2018 Midterm Evaluation**

Course Audience: **153**
Responses Received: **37**
Response Ratio: **24.2%**

Report Comments

This report is a summary that tabulates all quantitative ratings on a single page. Comments appear at the end of the report. Ratings are from the Fall 2018 midterm teaching evaluations of EECS 280-001: Prog&Data Struct.

Prepared by: **Office of the Registrar**
Creation Date: **Thu, Oct 25, 2018**

Responses to questions related to the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
I had a strong desire to take this course.	20	12	3	2	0	0	4.6
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.	17	16	3	1	0	0	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.	13	12	7	3	2	0	4.0
I knew what was expected of me in this course.	18	15	3	1	0	0	4.5
Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)	15	16	5	0	1	0	4.3
Overall, this is an excellent course.	14	16	4	3	0	0	4.2
I am learning a great deal in this course.	17	15	4	1	0	0	4.4
The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.	11	19	3	3	0	0	4.1

Responses to questions related to the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.	9	17	6	2	1	2	4.0
Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.	13	14	5	2	1	2	4.2
Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.	22	10	1	2	0	2	4.7
Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.	10	15	4	4	2	2	4.0
Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.	13	18	2	1	1	2	4.3
Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.	11	13	5	5	1	2	4.0
Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.	18	16	0	1	0	2	4.5
Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.	12	11	7	2	3	2	4.0
Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.	18	11	0	0	0	8	4.7
Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.	19	13	2	0	0	2	4.6
Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.	9	10	10	0	2	6	3.9
Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.	10	18	5	0	0	4	4.1

Written Comments

What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)

Comments
Good explanations to new topics.
Talking to the Professor during Office Hours. Learning through reading the Projects Specs.
The slides are a very useful reference when working on labs and projects.
This class helps me learn basic expectations of good code
The class is well organized and all of the documentation online ensures that for each project/lab students know what is expected of them. Hamilton's lectures are clear and she always makes sure to take questions from students and make sure they are involved in the lecture.
The lectures are great, she is very informative and knows a great deal about what she is teaching.
A variety of questions asked by my peers in class helped me inspect my own understandings.
Honestly just being forced to do stuff is what's helping me the most. I don't get much out of the lectures.
Professor Hamilton does a good job of explaining most of the slides in detail. Though we sometimes fail to finish the powerpoint I believe it is because she is explaining things in greater detail than they are explained through the slides.
I taught myself to program, so I understand most of the content already, but I've never really had to implement anything I'd learned, and I'd never worked with others on projects before. The main benefit of the class, to me, is the experience of working with others.
Class recordings are very useful to listen to again. I am learning a lot in lab where we actually code.
Projects
Mostly lectures and lecture recordings are helpful. I wish that projects are a little easier in the sense that there should be more resources other than just the office hours and (non–specific question postings on piazza.)
The examples we go through on the slides are helpful
I really like that all lectures are recorded and we can watch anyone we want to.
The creative projects and lab activities definitely help reinforce the concepts in a more real–world way. I really enjoy the class's emphasis on learning by doing. The projects are so interesting that developing them doesn't even feel like real homework!
Introductory computer science skills that are necessary to succeed in any computer related career.
Professor Hamilton is very knowledgeable on the concepts taught in lectures and the CS field in general.
It is very well organized and puts students in a position to learn the material and succeed in doing so with the resources provided to them. The recorded lectures really helps, as it fits my learning style way better than in person lectures, and I would recommend it for every EECS class.

How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)

Comments
Get better control over the class, and spend less time on pointless questions. She goes off on tangents and wastes time not going though actual content on things that are irrelevant. For example she spent 15 minutes talking about why 4 bytes is called a nibble.
In the beginning of the semester, there were a few lectures where we were not able to get through all of the lecture slides thoroughly. However, we have been able to finish all of the slides in more recent lectures. I would recommend not answering the questions that seem far out of the scope of this class. Also, I would appreciate seeing a few more examples in lecture of coding practices (like in James Juett's lectures)
She takes everyone's questions which is amazing, but too often she indulges questions that are too far off topic that don't help me and slow down class.
She talks a lot about content that isn't in the scope of the course because other students ask questions about it. However, I feel that this content should be addressed during office hours because I don't understand anything about what they're talking about and it makes me feel disengaged. The stuff outside of the course goes over my head and I stop paying attention because it overwhelms me. I really wish we could consistently talk about the content on the slides because then I'll be able to stay focused and engaged.
Seems fine the way it is!
Overall I find Nicole Hamilton's teaching style to be really easy to follow. The only area I would be interested in hearing more about is how general the topics we learn are. How much of what we learn is specific to c++/how much is common to many languages. However, Hamilton always offers to talk more about topics in her office hours, so I could learn this information then.
On Mondays I attend Prof. Hamilton's 9am session and on Wednesdays I attend Prof. Juett's evening session, (I'm not a morning person) and one thing I noticed is that Prof. Juett has us do exercises on lobster that I think really help learn the material than just straight lecture. But every professor has their own style and I think Prof. Hamilton does an all around good job teaching the material.
I would like optional exercises that are graded by autograder that I can do on my own time to advance my understanding.
Staying on topic with questions. If the question doesn't pertain to the material being covered then ask the student to discuss that in office hours
If a student's question is not relevant to the lecture and topic that is being discussed that day please ask the student to come to your office hours to ask their question. Another one of the reasons we don't finish is because some people like to ask very advanced questions and Professor Hamilton answers them often in great detail. Though they may be relevant to the field of computer science I think they could be asked privately so that the material that needs to be covered can be. Many of the questions that are asked are over my head and make me wonder why the student asking them is only in 280 since their knowledge of the subject seems much more advanced. These questions also confuse me and make me think that I don't know things that I should know for the class when in reality I really don't need to know them.
I have one suggestion: she should restrict questions to well–defined Q&A periods, instead of answering them as the lecture goes along. Frequently, questions in the class are answered on the next slide, or the people who ask them come up with the answer themselves after thinking about it a bit. If questions were restricted to a certain time, it would give students a chance to think about them more, and lead to more productive lectures.
Professor Hamilton can set breaks in the lectures so students can stay engaged, have more problems where students can work on in lab, relate what we learn to the project, and simplify the material so it is easier to learn.
Answers questions in one single answer rather than spending 5–10 minutes repeating the same answers to the questions.
I understand that there a few people in class who know more than the rest, but please take into account those who are not at that high level of understanding of the subject and explain the coursework in that sense. It would be nice to have more in–class activities and exercises.
As someone whose only knowledge of computers is what I learned in EECS 183, the extra computer talk is sometimes difficult to understand.
I really enjoy the insight Prof. Hamilton provides into the real–world industry through her past experiences at Microsoft and elsewhere. In lectures, I would definitely appreciate a more complete understanding of how the topics are being applied in industry: what kinds of techniques/technologies are preferred over others, historical insight into why things are the way they are, where things are headed, etc.
I think the class is run well
Better time management. And give answers relevant to the questions asked.
I do not have much to comment on this.

Please enter any additional comments you have for Nicole Hamilton. (Q981)

Comments
This class is making me consider switching to Comp Sci or Comp Engineering! Or maybe at least a minor in those fields.
No other comments.
Overall great professor with high intellect. However the professor should consider the students in the class with low knowledge about the subject matter.
n/a
Professor Hamilton is a fantastic lecturer who brings her fervent passion and extensive experience to each and every class —- not to mention her great sense of humor. I can safely say that, thanks in part to Prof. Hamilton, this is the best class I've ever taken over my entire life thus far. I look forward to seeing what's to come in EECS 280 and exploring the other areas of computer science as I enroll in more advanced and specialized courses.
Good lecturer
I primarily watch DeOrio's lectures, but I have heard nice things about Hamilton from my friends who attend her lectures.