

University of Michigan

Fall 2019 Midterm Instructor Report With Comments

EECS 280-002: Prog&Data Struct

Nicole Hamilton

64 out of 157 students responded to this midterm evaluation.

Responses to questions related to the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
I had a strong desire to take this course.	25	31	6	0	0	1	4.3
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.	29	32	2	0	0	1	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.	22	33	6	1	0	1	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.	20	30	13	0	0	1	4.1
Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)	20	34	5	2	1	1	4.2
I am learning a great deal in this course.	31	27	5	0	0	1	4.5
The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.	17	28	6	10	1	1	4.0
Overall, this is an excellent course.	20	33	8	2	0	1	4.2

Responses to questions related to the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.	26	29	4	1	0	4	4.4
Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.	26	22	9	2	1	4	4.3
Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.	34	22	4	0	0	4	4.6
Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.	24	28	7	0	1	4	4.3
Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.	31	24	4	0	0	4	4.5
Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.	20	27	8	4	0	5	4.1
Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.	33	25	2	0	0	4	4.6
Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.	20	25	12	2	1	4	4.1
Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.	25	28	3	1	0	7	4.4
Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.	26	31	2	0	1	4	4.4
Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.	16	23	16	3	0	6	3.9
Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.	18	27	11	1	0	6	4.1

Written Comments

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

Comments
The teacher is good.
n/a
The class is structured very well.
Working through examples and exceptions for the material we learn is what usually helps me the most.
The projects and labs help me a learn a lot. Lecture can sometimes be a lot to process at one time especially without a break.

Comments
Major strengths include the availability of help outside of the lecture hall. From lecture recordings to lab sections to office hours to supplemental study sessions, there are many resources for students seeking to strengthen their understanding of course material.
Standardization across sections makes it very easy to find help from any GSI or instructor if needed
The lecture slides are useful for taking notes
It makes me get used to C++ syntax and data structures.
Hamilton clearly knows the material very well and it shows. She demonstrates her mastery of the concepts and provokes thought in her students. She is witty and has very good control of her class. Two thumbs up.
I like the online lectures because I can replay things that didn't make sense the first time, or to allow myself more time to take notes and understand the material.
project based learning
The use of pictures from the ide when writing and giving examples of code
I think that the code examples help me learn best
How to handle larger projects than even the lab.
The labs, in class exercises, and connections to industry are all helping me learn.
The labs and projects are well laid out and easy to follow in a way that they help me learn the concepts as I'm implementing them.
Nicole is an outstanding instructor and goes through the content so well, and I am really enjoying learning all the content from her. She is always prepared to answer any questions that students may have, and she is always available for further help and explanations in her office hours. Overall, she is a solid professor and really knows how to teach.
Straightforward class structure
The lectures are great, Nicole Hamilton does a good job of explaining topics and making sure everyone is up to understanding. Piazza is a big strength; the responses are fast and thorough.
Students are quite comfortable bringing up questions to Prof. Hamilton and she always does her best to answer.
The in class examples are very useful.
Hands on experience with available help
Professor Hamilton knows the material really well
Visual examples, ensuring all students' questions are answered are the major strengths of this class and is helping me learn greatly.
The projects are challenging and long, but they are where the majority of my learning takes place and I enjoy (almost) all of the time I spend on them. This is my favorite college class so far.
Going into more detail conceptually on how everything works is helping me understand just what I'm getting myself into by majoring in CS. Examples help a lot.
The projects and labs, while really difficult, are definitely a major strength. They allow me to actually use and practice the material we learned, and I actually usually better understand how to use what we learned after/during completing the labs and projects.
Projects are great for first hand learning
I attend a different lecture section than what I'm signed up for, so I actually have Kevin Fu for an instructor in LEC 001. I am sorry, but my responses should be trashed :(.
Office hours are key.
Learned a lot of stuff and is useful.
na
Slides are posted online
Good explanation of complex topics
clear explanations
The projects
Information related to the topic of discussion, but not necessarily used for the projects, is considered which I find to be helpful for my learning.
The projects help me learn the most.

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

Comments
The projects suck. It's not her fault, though, she's doing well.
n/a
N/A
The lab is fine how it is.
Slowing down, class lectures move very quickly
None
I think it would be helpful to have homework. Like after each lecture a problem or two to make us utilize what was learned in class that day.
The slides that not just her, but all the instructors use are kind of confusing in following along with. Examples can also be redundant and confusing.
Talk a bit louder, is sometimes difficult to hear from the middle of the room
Perhaps slowdown on explanations.
Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher. I would like more interaction with the lecture slides (i.e. more drawing out what happens in the code) as I am a visual learner and many others too.
I don't know how common it is in other classes, but a 5-minute break halfway through the lecture really helps me focus in the remaining time.
maybe spending time learning the new things and spending less time on the review. relating things back to the current project
I don't think there is anything that needs improving in the class at the moment.
N/A
Having more interactive activities during lecture so that we can practice using what we learn in real time.
At times, there will be someone raising their hand and Prof. Hamilton won't see it. Their hand isn't seen for quite a while and then they have to put it down. Possibly keep an eye out for questions in between slides?
Sometimes the way she urges us to participate or answer questions can seem overwhelming/make us feel rushed/pressured.
She's doing a great job not much to improve
Use more real code in class like the other professors
N/A
Maybe potentially going over the things we'll be seeing in projects (unless that's the job of labs) because most of the things we learn are very top-level, and seeing a few examples or detailed explanation on how to implement concepts would help.
Perhaps adding a short 3-5 min break halfway through the class period, if possible. 110 minutes is quite a long time to sit and stay focused :)
none
I attend a different lecture section than what I'm signed up for, so I actually have Kevin Fu for an instructor in LEC 001. I am sorry, but my responses should be trashed :(.
Stay on task more.
I think if we're behind on material compared to other classes, we could skip the recap section of lecture cause often times it takes away from new stuff we need to learn.
na
Explain example problems more in depth.
Slow down, use lobster
n/a

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

Comments
n/a
N/A
n/a
On a personal note, I'm very sorry to hear about the tragedy you experienced recently and you have my sincerest condolences. I have a deep respect for you for being able to conduct lectures so well after such an unfortunate event. Your bravery is admirable. Thank you so much for what you do.
You are amazing! 11/10 teaching, makes it easy to learn.
It seems like the lecture always gets cutoff by time with 5 or 6 slides left and I think that while every question is answered in depth, sometimes it's too deep where a simple answer would work and that's causing the class to run out of time
She is a fantastic lecturer!
N/A
N/A
N/A
Is it possible for you to also save whatever you write on the slides? Just wondering.
I really enjoy your lecture and you are an amazing professor! The way you explain things is very clear and I really appreciate your enthusiasm every day!
none
I attend a different lecture section than what I'm signed up for, so I actually have Kevin Fu for an instructor in LEC 001. I am sorry, but my responses should be trashed :(.
Overall she is a great teacher.
na
Professor Hamilton is so awesome.
None
n/a