University of Michigan
Fall 2020 Instructor Report With Comments
EECS 280-004: Prog&Data Struct
Nicole Hamilton

40 out of 126 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)	24	10	1	0	0	0	4.8	4.6	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	18	15	5	0	0	0	4.4	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	21	13	4	0	0	0	4.6	4.5	4.4
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	23	12	3	0	0	0	4.7	4.4	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	21	11	4	2	0	0	4.6	4.1	4.1
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	0	15	17	4	0	2.4	2.9	2.8
How did you participate in this course? (Q1854)	19	19	0	0	0	0	4.5	4.7	4.5

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher.(Q2)	18	10	3	0	0	6	4.6	4.7	4.6
Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	19	10	2	0	0	6	4.7	4.8	4.7
Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)	17	11	2	0	0	7	4.6	4.7	4.6
Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)	24	4	2	0	0	7	4.9	4.9	4.7

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Prerequisites provided adequate preparation for this course. (Q61)	14	12	5	0	0	5	4.4	4.5
The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q64)	5	1	5	2	7	16	2.7	3.9
The laboratory was a valuable part of this course. (Q331)	15	11	7	3	0	1	4.2	4.3
Laboratory assignments required a reasonable amount of time and effort. (Q336)	15	13	7	1	1	0	4.2	4.1
Laboratory assignments were relevant to what was presented in class. (Q337)	22	11	4	0	0	0	4.7	4.4
I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer. (Q1769)	17	15	3	1	0	1	4.4	4.2
I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems. (Q1770)	13	17	5	1	0	1	4.2	4.2

The solitude and lack of live human contact brought on by the pandemic made everything more difficult.

(custom question added by the instructor)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Your Median
15	14	5	2	0	0	4.3

The disconnect from synchronized life as we used to know it made everything more difficult.

(custom question added by the instructor)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Agree	N/A	Your Median
20	10	6	1	0	0	4.6

The faculty and staff were responsive and accommodating of student needs during the pandemic.

(custom question added by the instructor)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Your Median
26	9	2	0	0	0	4.8

The medians are calculated from Fall 2020 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 lower division with enrollment of 75 or greater in College of Engineering.

Written Comments

Given the format of the course (e.g., fully online, in-person, etc.), what teaching methods worked well? (Q1855)

Comments
Having lecture recordings available to watch, example questions in class.
Synchronous lectures worked well
Going over lecture notes
fully online
I think the lecture notes option was very helpful.
little coding snippet examples in the powerpoints I thought worked well and were helpful
It was nice that lecture recordings as well as notes were posted for us because if I didn't understand something, I could easily re–watch the lecture recording or look through the notes to better understand.
I guess sharing the screen with annotations was really nice.
Good lecturers
The asynchronous courses are great.
The synchronous labs helped me a lot to understand what we learned in lecture. The synchronous lectures kept me on task and helped me learn effectively.
recording helps review
Synchronous lectures were pretty good overall, the professors always stopped and answered questions which was nice.
Breakout rooms, crabster, PowerPoint slides.
By far the best way for me to learn was just reading the lecture notes on the website. It was faster and clearer than live lectures and I could always go back and take my time to read and understand the code or run it myself.
Professor Hamilton's lectures did a great job of teaching me the necessary material for the cla.
The only teaching mode was synchronous online lectures, and I did not really have a problem with it. I would have definitely preferred an in–person method of instruction like most other students, but I understand that this was not possible.
the exercises included in the asynchronous lectures were very helpful
I liked that you got to choose when you wanted to get everything done since it was all released at the beginning.

What were the greatest challenges to your learning in this course format? (Q1856)

Comments
N/A
N/A
None really
office hours
I think some of the lectures felt very long due to questions and the online zoom format.
the classes being remote
Being Online
not being able to ask questions to someone in real life
Online teaching format.
Staying focused.
Learning remotely. In–person learning is much much better for students.
Not being able to interact with other students and the professors.
Long office hours wait.
Motivation to join synchronous sessions is the most difficult part of a remote format for me.
N/A/ It was a pretty smooth–sailing class for me.
I do not really think I had any challenges.
Staying on task with projects.
difficult to stay engaged
It was hard being online and getting help sometimes.

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Great teaching.
Top grade. Loved all of it
Professor Hamilton is a great teacher. I have a somewhat heavy course–load, and it makes it hard sometimes to get the time to do the projects. Hamilton takes this into consideration, among other things, to help you get through them.
We love Hamilton!! Great teacher and very kind and humble
I think the accommodation of the difficult semester was a lifesaver in this course.
Very good instruction quality
The quality of instruction in this course, in my opinion, was very well done.
good course, would recommend to all
It is great.
She was a phenomenal teacher. She really cared about us and taught us very well.
Really great!
This was one of the better large courses which was managed very well.
Very well structured content and decent pacing.
The course was well taught, though I'll admit that as the semester progressed I just moved to reading the lecture notes and skipping synchronous lectures/labs.
I loved Professor Hamilton's lectures, and the fact that she was always willing to answer student questions.
Good
The quality of instruction was definitely very high. I thought that Professor Hamilton explained the lecture material very well and was very good at offering help.
lectures were clear and examples were relevant
I think, overall, it was good despite being online

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

Comments
I couldn't give a good answer
I think the course was already inclusive, but a better way of finding a partner for projects could've been helpful.
I'm not sure, it seems pretty accommodating as it is
Due to the class being online, I cannot give a definite answer for many of the zoom–call attendees did not use webcams.
Be Online.
Not for sure.
taking attendance?
Not really sure, seems fine as is
I have no idea what this question is meant to ask. It very strongly did not seem to me like anyone in the class was discriminated against in any capacity from my observations.
I do not think there was a diversity issue at all, at least from what I saw and experienced.
N/A

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Learning by doing.
Everything was doable with enough time and effort
Everything in this course is useful. Definitely a valid prerequisite for CSE.
Fun content and good teachers
While the course was difficult, figuring out the projects made it possible to learn very well.
Instructors adapted well and made this course the best they could given current conditions. Was nice to have extensions and content cuts, they were needed.
I like that so many resources are provided to us to help us succeed and that the teaching staff is extremely understanding and genuinely want us to succeed.
I feel like that the course was very intuitive in the way it explained the many different aspects of programming.
Good projects, fun and informative
A lot of projects.
Plenty of resources to make sure students learn the material.
explanation is clear in class
The projects are very well made and overall pretty well explained.
The lecture notes were very helpful, and the projects were interesting and – dare I say – fun.
Having a tightly focused material, an engaged professor, and interesting projects.
This course taught the fundamentals of computer science very well, and I believe this will help me out in higher–level courses.
flexible professors, many resources provided to supplement lectures
Having all the resources available for students

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

Comments
None
None
I would improve by providing a bit more guidance for some of the projects.
None other than go back to in–person as soon as we can!!
I really have no idea on how to improve the course.
Make projects a bit more real–world related, some could be a bit harder.
Cover more detail things for the projects.
Make the labs a bit more challenging so they can help me understand that concept more in depth.
NA
I feel that Maps were not really explained in class, it might help to go over them a bit in class.
Color coding code in presentations
I thought the course in general was great overall, so I do not really have any suggestions. The only suggestions that I have are about the mode of instruction, but obviously these suggestions are not possible because of the current situation.
N/A

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

Comments
Transferred from MSU so N/A
Most effective course already taken would be intro C++.
I have not taken any of the prereqs for this course at college.
The only other coding course I took before this one was ENGR 101. It did a decent job at preparing me, though half of it was covering MatLab which I don't think appears in this course
ENGR 101 was definitely very helpful in preparing me for this course because it gave me a good introduction to programming and taught me a lot of the basics that I would later use in 280.
The workload of the projects.
This is my first year at college, but AP Comp Sci proved to be very helpful in my understanding of EECS 280
280
N/A
Taking the prerequisite computer science course adequately prepared me for the level of knowledge needed for 280.
N/A/ for courses at Michigan. Most of my C++ experience came from being co–lead programmer in my school's FIRST robotics club.
I do not think any courses prepared me for this class, it is an introductory course.
ENGR 101
Engr 101 because it was my only prior experience

How did the switch to online-only affect your experience?

Comments
I loved the extra flexibility.
No routine, which makes it much harder to focus
I think it being online and thus forcing us to use gitlab to collaborate was a useful experience.
Hard to keep a schedule
I think the switch to online made everything harder, but the staff was very accommodating for this situation.
Made it significantly worse Feels like I'm learning less, less motivation, real life things taking up my free time, worse workload
It was a lot more difficult to start projects early because it felt like I had so much more to do for my other classes compared to a normal in–person semester.
I cannot really tell due to this being my first year in college.
It made everything worse.
very little
Nothing.
It wasn't horrible, but I would definitely enjoy it more with more interaction.
Online–only learning is much harder for students. Please consider making courses in–person as much as possible.
It might be hard to keep up the pace
I felt less motivated to outperform other students
it ruined my expirience
My experience really didn't change a huge amount, as I was already doing all of my work from my computer in my room.
I definitely found it harder to focus during lectures; I often found myself browsing Reddit or the like during class time because I was already on my computer.
made it harder to learn
I definitely felt more lonely with online instruction, just like most other students and instructors.
It made it harder to focus on all my classes

You could choose between attending a synchronous or an asynchronous section. What did you choose and why?

Comments
synchronous, more flexibility.
Synchronous to keep some semblance of a routine
I chose synchronous, so I could ask questions. But sometimes I would skip to focus on other things and then go back and watch the lecture and read course notes.
Synchronous because it helps me stay on schedule
I would choose to attend the synchronous section because it would give me the drive to watch the lectures and learn.
I can't even remember honestly this semester has been very tough on me
I would choose to attend an asynchronous section because I can watch lectures on my own time. I personally find the chat in Zoom too active and distracting, so by watching lectures asynchronously, I won't be able to see the chat and so I won't get distracted during lecture.
I chose synchronous attendance because I wanted to have direct contact with the lecturer and also because I knew that if I went asynchronous, I would forget to attend the section.
asynchronous, so that I can speed up the lecture
asynchronous section.
Synchronous. This way I get a schedule for myself and can ask live questions in both the chat and the teacher.
I chose synchronous because it helps me pay more attention and I can ask questions
asynchronous section
For this class – asynchronous as I learned a lot of it on my own.
Synchronous because it seems like it'd be more fun and engaging
I did both at different times throughout the semester based on what I had going on in my personal life.
I chose a synchronous session because I could always opt to just watch the lectures asynchronously if I wanted to.
Synchronous, for a number of reasons. Among them, being able to ask (and receive answers to) questions in real time, being made to pay attention to lecture rather than have it on 2x speed in the background, and having a regular time each week during which I worked on the class.
synchronous because it's easier to not fall behind
I would definitely choose a synchronous section because it allows me to interact with the instructor and other students, which I think is beneficial.
I chose synchronous because I like keeping myself on a schedule I set and I like the chance to ask questions in real time.
Synchronous, so I could stay on a schedule and not fall behind on lectures.
asynchronous– I liked being able to break the lecture up
asynchronous because it allowed my schedule to be more flexible with my other classes