



UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN

Winter 2019 Instructor Report With Comments of EECS 280-005: Prog&Data Struct for Nicole Hamilton

Project Title: **Winter 2019 Teaching Evaluation**

Course Audience: **144**
Responses Received: **50**
Response Ratio: **34.7%**

Report Comments

This report is a summary that tabulates all quantitative ratings on a single page. Results from the open-ended questions appear at the end of this report. Ratings are from the Winter 2019 teaching evaluations of EECS 280-005: Prog&Data Struct.

Prepared by: **Office of the Registrar**
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Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	27	20	2	0	0	1	4.6	4.5	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	19	19	8	3	0	1	4.2	4.2	4.0
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	23	21	3	1	0	1	4.5	4.5	4.2
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	18	26	5	0	0	1	4.3	4.2	4.0
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	20	15	8	4	1	1	4.2	4.0	3.8
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was... (SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier)	3	3	12	26	5	1	2.3	3.0	2.6

Responses to the University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher.	23	16	4	2	0	5	4.5	4.5	4.3
Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.	22	20	3	0	0	5	4.5	4.8	4.6
Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.	25	14	5	1	0	5	4.6	4.6	4.4
Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.	26	14	4	1	0	5	4.6	4.8	4.7

Responses to additional 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	20	10	5	0	1	4.0	4.3
The laboratory was a valuable part of this course. (Q331)	9	18	5	9	5	3	3.7	4.4
Laboratory assignments required a reasonable amount of time and effort. (Q336)	12	28	4	2	2	2	4.1	4.1
Laboratory assignments were relevant to what was presented in class. (Q337)	16	30	2	0	0	2	4.2	4.3
The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q340)	6	4	5	4	11	20	2.5	3.6
I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer.	14	21	7	3	0	5	4.1	4.0
I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems.	13	22	10	0	1	3	4.0	4.0

The medians are calculated from Winter 2019 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

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
I think the teachers are great in the course
This course provides a lot of practice for some very important areas of computer science. The professors are helpful and it's clear that they want the students to succeed.
Can't say
Assignments were clearly defined, questions were answered quickly and effectively on Piazza, and Autograder made it easy for us to see hw we would do before a final submission
I was able to get a much greater understanding of C++ and I think I really grew in my coding.
The course has very interesting projects and material. I feel much more confident in my abilities as a programmer.
The course explained the underlying fundamentals of coding extremely well. I learned to manage memory and specific interactions in the code, which enhanced my technical knowledge
The teacher was well knowledgeable about the course
include lots of knowledge
I got useful help out of my lab section to reinforce concepts.
In depth and useful for future C++ programmers
I feel like I learned a lot.
The project based focus of the class allowed us to develop our skills in a setting similar to real world deliverables.
Learning turned into survival. To stay afloat, I had to learn quickly, and in return, I learned a decent amount.
There were a lot of resources available to students. Instructors were very helpful on Piazza and just all-around awesome. The projects and labs were interesting. The staff seemed like they really cared and were offering resources they thought would be helpful. Additionally, Professor Kamil posted an online text version of the course material which was incredible.
The strengths of this course were the projects and lab really reinforced lecture material– I dont think I would have understood this material at all had it only been lecture.
Organization
coding
Very intriguing material
Lecture recordings, clear teaching, helpful and interesting topics
The projects were interesting and well put together.
It taught a wide variety of topics
This course teaches students fundamentals of programming in a way that allows students to dive into real–world programming and project–based programming. The knowledge learned in this course can be applied to more than just the language it is taught in.
Great well prepared staff.
The course provides a strong overview of the C++ language and of object–oriented programming concepts.
I think that the projects, while difficult, increased my understanding of the course material exponentially. They gave me experience in applying the concepts we learned in class.
It covered very important concepts in depth.
The trial–by–fire nature of it
i really liked the labs bc they reinforced the information, and office hours are great.
projects are great
Very comprehensive overview

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

Comments
OH QUEUE!!! it is too long
Can't say
none
The fourth project is not the most helpful and is kind of annoying in that the main driver is remedial. It should probably be harder and more interesting.
The course was overall very satisfying and I don't have any improvements to suggest as of now.
Making certain sub due dates on the projects so we don't wait for the last minute
Project 5 was a doozie.
ZyBooks would be helpful
Give partial credit on the main function outputs for projects.
It's really hard currently, which is important for pushing students to achieve as much as they can. But, it does make it kind of intimidating to begin many of the projects because they seem so daunting.
I would either slow down the pace or include another prerequisite. While the best students have no trouble staying on top of the material, those who are new to coding struggle. The projects are also much too hard for one person, coming from 101 where all the projects were doable solo.
More preparation and resources for using the command line would have been helpful. I had never used the command line before this class and I felt like it was assumed that I had used it a little before. As a result, I was really overwhelmed and frustrated at the beginning of the course. I think there was a session about it, but I'm a commuter student who works on the weekends and I couldn't attend. More virtual resources would have been great.
I think I would make the exams worth less, because personally I think they are a terrible way of testing someone's ability to code. They give me a lot of anxiety because of the large percentage they are of the grade, and my performance on the midterm honestly made me consider changing majors because I was so discouraged, despite my capabilities with projects and labs.
The course was fine for me, maybe more office hours availability.
nothing
I feel as if the jump from engin 101 to this class was large and if not for previous knowledge I would've felt very lost.
There was a couple instances where lectures, projects, and labs were out of sync. The course would be improved if concepts used in all three were synced up better.
Better office hours organization. Making private tests available so we can see what we have been doing wrong on the project after it is graded.
There are seemingly wild jumps in difficulty between projects – Projects 1, 2, and 4 were manageable but projects 3 and 5 were significantly more difficult and far harder to understand than any of them. Project 3 in specific I have issues with, mainly due to the fact I feel it is disadvantageous to out-of-state or international students unfamiliar with Euchre – as now they have to deal with learning the rules of Euchre on top of the coding concepts within the project.
I didn't think that I had enough resources to study for the exams. I know a lot of classes use problem roulette, and I think that would've been very helpful for me.
More practice exercises.
Explain the concepts for p5 more clearly, host euchre nights, have more IAs on hand for office hours (waiting 3hrs for help with one line of code is ridiculous)
it would be super helpful if there was a list of which IAs are working when so that I can know who will be there when Im at office hours. This is mostly just so I dont go to office hours needing a lot of help but there is only one person working and cant give me enough one on one time.
remove the lab, fix the office hour system
Perhaps more direction on the projects in lectures / labs

Comment on the quality of instruction in this class.

Comments
I think she is a great professor with a ton of industry experience and it shows in her teaching skill which I like because she can relate to how this class is important in real world applications. She is also very understanding of how people come in knowing different coding. Like me (being an EE and not coding in 2 years) she motivated me to do the best I could because that would pay off in the long run
Nicole Hamilton was an engaging and effective instructor throughout the semester, and I felt that my quality of learning was directly better because of her.
Can't say
none
Prof. Hamilton knows her stuff and is a great instructor. She really cares and it shows in her enthusiasm every class period. She always tries to keep students engaged and does a great job of it.
The instruction quality was extremely high and explained crucial coding concepts very well
Very good quality
Hamilton was repetitive and often covered the same slides multiple times in the exact same manner
Really enjoyed Hamilton's lectures!
Good
The instruction was good.
Juett is a very good instructor, I ended up watching most of his lectures online instead. Some of the other instructors aren't quite up to his quality of instruction. Also, DeOrio was amazing and it's a shame he didn't teach this semester.
Nicole is an excellent teacher. She brings a wealth of industry experience to every class, and she was extremely knowledgeable.
I did not attend Professor Hamilton's lectures because Professor Kamil's lectures fit into my schedule better. I very much enjoyed his lectures and felt like I learned a lot.
I think the instructors are all great, and I really want to note and thank all of the IA's at office hours for really making it their mission to help people in this class.
Strong, Hamilton was very good.
great
The material was taught in an understandable and logical manner
Topics were clearly taught and presented in an interesting manner
Lectures were informative and useful.
It was fair even if it did move too quickly.
The instruction of this class is sufficient for the material that needs to be covered. Instruction is clear and concise, and material is covered effectively even though some lectures finish quickly.
Great.
Nicole Hamilton was a strong instructor of the EECS 280 content, often presenting information in an easy to understand and concise manner. She often reiterated learned content in lecture, which certainly helped in retaining that information.
Professor Hamilton was a fantastic instructor. I learned a ton and enjoyed attending lectures.
Very in depth and comprehensive. I like her Socratic approach.
Nicole Hamilton was a good teacher. Thanks.
it would be helpful if the lecturers were more in sync with their powerpoints. i like the way one prof explains material but i like the way one prof presents it on their slides so this is confusing

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

Comments
None actually. A little of 101 to get you familiar with C++
This course is a bit of getting tossed into the fire, as ENGR 101 doesn't introduce you to some very integral parts of 280, such as classes. I think the transition would be a lot smoother if 101 did ease you into c++ a little more.
Can't say
EECS 183 because it gave me a good understanding of C++, but this course really took what I knew to the next level up.
EECS 183 was very helpful for this course. We learned the basics of programming and problem solving as well as working with a team.
Engineering 101 helped prepared me the most for this course as it gave me more exposure to coding real projects and how to structure my code
Engr 101
ENG 101
EECS 183 because it was a good introduction to C++
Engineering 101, but even that felt like was not a good representation of the workload for this class.
EECS 183, because I had no prior programming experience and 183 taught me everything about C++.
ENGR 101 is the only course that prepared me for EECS 280. It was a good start, but I would have needed more in order to do well in EECS 280.
EECS 183 was the most effective in preparing me for this course.
EECS183 prepared me for the format of this course, just due to the project/exam layout.
Prior completion of 280
eecs 183
ENGR 101 I feel was not necessary as a prerequisite
EECS 183, because it helped me refresh my memory
ENGR100 because we did some coding in that class.
The only prerequisite from the University for this class was engen 100. It does not prepare us well for this class. I've taken apcs and it did a better job preparing me.
ENGR 151 prepared me the best because it taught me how to setup the programming environment and how to do basic concepts in the language, which this class reinforced and finalized.
While I can understand the reasoning behind it, I still feel as if the jump from ENGR 101 to EECS 280 is rather large, not to mention the larger jump in class expectations.
I took EECS 183 last semester which taught me the basics of coding that I needed for this class.
Engr 101 taught me C++ basics.
EECS 183 prepared me well for this course.
eecs 183 taught me how to manage my time around projects and also basic programming skills.
Engin 101 was obviously helpful in providing introductory material such as syntax, but little else. Basically no preparation was provided in terms of algorithms or the such