University of Michigan
Winter 2020 Midterm Instructor Report With Comments
EECS 280-003: Prog&Data Struct
Nicole Hamilton

43 out of 149 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. (Q4)	20	17	3	1	0	1	4.5
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	19	19	2	1	0	1	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	16	20	2	2	0	1	4.3
I knew what was expected of me in this course. (Q1633)	16	21	4	0	0	1	4.3
Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)	14	23	4	0	0	1	4.2
I am learning a great deal in this course. (Q966)	17	20	3	1	0	1	4.3
The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received. (Q971)	11	19	4	6	1	1	4.0

Responses to questions related to the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic. (Q114)	21	15	2	0	0	4	4.6
Overall, this is an excellent course. (Q964)	12	23	4	0	0	2	4.2
Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher. (Q965)	15	18	5	0	0	4	4.3
Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations. (Q967)	13	18	5	2	0	4	4.2
Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible. (Q968)	18	16	4	0	0	4	4.4
Nicole Hamilton uses class time well. (Q969)	16	17	4	1	0	4	4.3
Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class. (Q970)	15	21	2	0	0	4	4.3
Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation. (Q972)	14	16	7	1	0	4	4.2
Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student. (Q974)	13	13	10	1	0	4	4.1
Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q975)	18	17	2	0	0	5	4.5
Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress. (Q977)	13	14	5	3	0	7	4.2
Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students. (Q978)	15	18	2	0	0	7	4.4

Written Comments

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

Comments
I feel like the material is presented in a very effective way. The slides are very straightforward and the additional documentation on the 280 website is helpful.
The labs and projects help to reinforce what is taught in lecture.
It is incredibly organized. There are lots of resources (lecture slides, lecture notes, labs, piazza, etc.) to help students learn. My instructor is very experienced.
Hamilton answers questions very thoroughly and seems to both be very passionate about the material as well as understand it incredibly well.
I really really like how there is some summary or review at the beginning of every class to remind us of where we left off, this is always extremely helpful for me.
I believe it is helping me learn more advanced programming techniques to improve my programming skills.
The time for questions is really useful and the thorough explanations for example functions.
It has taught me a lot about becoming a better computer programmer.
Office hours, especially with the increase in staff. The labs are usually very helpful for previewing the projects but are sometimes too long (especially on the weeks a project is due). IAs are very talented. Availability of resources on course website.
Examples in lecture slides allow for help understanding.
Very good work flow
Very good lecture presentations
The LAB exam prep questions are helping.
I think the exercises with diagrams that we go through in class are really helpful because they let us see what's going on in the computer. I also really appreciate the drawings
Projects
available resources, everything uploaded on the course websites
N/A

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

Comments
Some days we finish class early, so it would be helpful to go through the slides a bit slower if there is less material to be taught on a certain day.
I think she can go through the examples a little more slowly. Sometimes it feels like she is speeding through the examples.
Hamilton assumes the base line of knowledge for students is higher than it is. I frequently struggled being able to follow certain lectures because she assumed I already knew some underlying principle relevant to the material. I would appreciate if she took a step back with some lectures and restated some of the more fundamental aspects of the material.
I think she can include more practice problems in the lectures.
Move slower through the material
Better explanations in lectures.
Nicole is a great teacher and it is evident has she is very knowledgeable on the topics. I would suggest, however, sometimes slowing down a little bit and trying to be more clear and neat when writing on the slides. I know this is minor, but sometimes it is hard to follow when they are messy/you can't read them and are trying to take notes. Also just keeping in mind that everyone is coming from a different background, so while some students have already seen and mastered the content, it is difficult and challenging for others. When I ask her to reexplain something, it is usually because it is the first time I am seeing it– not because she was unclear or I wasn't listening.
Taking more time to cover difficult concepts.
Jump around less during lecture. She becomes scatter brained at times, that can be confusing.
Go a little aster on some topics, reduce redundancy between lectures
Maybe spending more time on the difficult concepts. Sometimes class goes to fast on these topics.
I think it would be nice to incorporate more exam–style prep into not just lab, but also lecture, because sometimes the exam prep in lab feels really rushed.
Since not a lot of people don't go to my lecture anymore, and Professor Hamilton started randomly calling on people in class to participate, I am now more likely to choose to skip the class and just watch the lecture recordings out of fear of being randomly chosen on in class. I would prefer if she didn't randomly call on students because not everyone learns best when they are scared of being called on for the whole class. Having this fear distracts me sometimes from the content being taught because I will be constantly prepping myself for being called on.
I think she repeats content far too much. It's fine to review concepts, but sometimes she'll spend nearly half the lecture going over the exact same content as the previous lecture. I think this time would be better spent going more in depth into new topics.
Need to expand the CS department. Perhaps even make it the University of Michigan School of Computer Science. CS is a popular major, and this class just does not have the infrastructure to handle the amount of people taking it.
engage more students attention
N/A

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

Comments
I like the music before class!
N/A
good stuff
I wanted to thank the professors for hiring additional IAs. I also wanted to thank Professor Juett for having the anonymous question form and responding to them. The students really appreciate, respect, and admire this.
I love Professor Hamilton's enthusiasm!
N/A