



UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN

Winter 2019 Midterm Feedback Report of EECS 398-001: Special Topics for Nicole Hamilton

Project Title: **Winter 2019 Midterm Evaluation**

Course Audience: **61**

Responses Received: **15**

Response Ratio: **24.6%**

Report Comments

This detailed report displays individual student ratings and comments from the Winter 2019 midterm teaching evaluation of EECS 398-001: Special Topics.

Prepared by: **Office of the Registrar**
Creation Date: **Friday, March 8, 2019**

Individual Response Sheets

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Hardly Ever
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Neutral
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Neutral
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Neutral
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Neutral
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Neutral
13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Disagree
14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
 - ◊ Agree
16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Neutral
17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**
 - ◊ Agree
18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Agree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree

21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
- ◊ There is a lot of room for creativity with all of the assignments and the big project. Professor Hamilton and the IAs are very knowledgeable and willing to help students.
22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
- ◊ The course still seems very disorganized and the grading scale for assignments seems to be arbitrary and sometimes defined after the assignments have been submitted.
23. **Please enter any additional comments you have for Nicole Hamilton. (Q981)**
- ◊ I know it's only the second semester it's been offered, but I think this course has the potential to become as popular as EECS 482.

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics
Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Sometimes
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Neutral
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Agree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
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13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**

- ◊ Agree

20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

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

- ◊ The professor, Nicole Hamilton is a superb lecturer. I very much appreciate her industry experience as an engineer on software projects. That one of her advantages, as well as this class's advantages over other classes.

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

- ◊ None, it's superb.

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

- ◊ I admit I disagree a bit with the professor's policy on being discouraged from using the STL. But I know she must have good reasons for doing so, because I trust and respect her.

Professor Hamilton is superb at getting the class involved in class. She absolutely cares about if someone is a little bit confused about a concept or a topic, and will try hard to get a meaning across. She admittedly seems to care more about her students than the professors I have had so far, but that might be because most of my computer science classes literally have 200 people enrolled. This is one of the few classes computer science classes where the instructor actually knows my name.

I have no regrets having professor Hamilton as a professor.

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**

- ◊ Agree

2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**

- ◊ Sometimes

5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**

- ◊ Neutral

6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**

- ◊ Agree

7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**

- ◊ Agree

8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**

- ◊ Agree

9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Agree
 13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
 14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
 15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
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 16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
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 18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
 19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
 20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
 21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ I would say the major strengths of the class are that the project is interesting and lecture has provided a lot of the programming and design information necessary to accomplish it. I think the homework/ lab assignments have been fun and not overly complicated, which is good because we also have a large project to work on.
 22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
 - ◊ I like that she is always willing to answer questions and that she does so really thoroughly; however, I feel like between people asking a lot of questions and going over both Windows and Linux code for every topic, we sometimes don't get to everything we want to cover in a given class period and end up going over more important topics too quickly. Just paying more attention to pacing would help.
 23. **Please enter any additional comments you have for Nicole Hamilton. (Q981)**
 - ◊ I think she has done a really great job, and I've enjoyed the class a lot so far. The lectures have been well-prepared and relevant, and her lecture style is conversational and enthusiastic and engaging. She is always willing to chat or answer questions. The course has also been really organized for being in only its second semester. She's crushing it.

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics
Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Neutral
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Occasionally
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**

- ◊ Neutral
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
 8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
 9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Neutral
 10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Disagree
 11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Agree
 12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Neutral
 13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Neutral
 14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Neutral
 15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
 - ◊ Neutral
 16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Disagree
 17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**
 - ◊ Agree
 18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Agree
 19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Agree
 20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Agree
 21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ This class is a great way to combine knowledge learned in other classes or if not having taken them you get a good intro to them.
 22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
 - ◊ It would greatly help me if grading rubrics could be more clear. If we are not allowed to use vectors or if lines of code will be counted, that should be announced prior to submission. The rubric should not change after the assignment is due. Secondly, It should be clear how you will be counting lines of code. If we are only required to have taken 281 to be prepared for this class, you should address when you are going to stray from how the rest of the EECS department run things. Also, I would appreciate if lecture slides could explain topics other than just providing example code. All of the example code on canvas is uncommented!! this is not helpful when you are trying to understand a concept and the additional resources can't confirm your interpretation of how the code works.
 23. **Please enter any additional comments you have for Nicole Hamilton. (Q981)**
 - ◊ Sometimes I feel that we are not using class time effectively if there are 112 slides posted and we only make it to 54. Does this mean we are now behind? Should I not be worried about it? It concerns me that we won't get through the necessary information and teams that have members that already know this information will have an unfair advantage to others. Since you've demonstrated that you grade on a steep scale when you say competitively, I would want the initial playing field to be even. Barely getting through the information before that milestone is due does not provide that.

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Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Sometimes
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Neutral
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Agree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Neutral
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Agree
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12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
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18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Agree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ I think working through a large design project with other members is the major strength of this course.

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Sometimes
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Agree
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Disagree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Neutral
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Neutral
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Disagree
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Agree
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Agree
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 - ◊ Disagree
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 - ◊ Neutral
15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Disagree
17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Agree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Agree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**

- ◊ The multithreading lab and other homework projects have been very helpful in learning concepts better. The emphasis on planning the project has also been helpful.

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

- ◊ I have no idea how to study for the midterm or how we will be evaluated, so more clear expectations and idea of "testable material" would be helpful.

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

- ◊ I think the competitively graded photo should be worth less points or graded non-competitively, since every team submitted a creative and high-quality group photo, yet several teams still received low scores.

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Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. I had a strong desire to take this course.

- ◊ Strongly Agree

2. This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.

- ◊ Neutral

3. My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.

- ◊ Neutral

4. I knew what was expected of me in this course.

- ◊ Sometimes

5. Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)

- ◊ Agree

6. Overall, this is an excellent course.

- ◊ Neutral

7. I am learning a great deal in this course.

- ◊ Agree

8. The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.

- ◊ Neutral

9. Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.

- ◊ N/A

10. Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.

- ◊ Agree

11. Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.

- ◊ Strongly Agree

12. Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.

- ◊ Agree

13. Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.

- ◊ Neutral

14. Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.

- ◊ Strongly Agree

15. Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.

- ◊ Strongly Agree

16. Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.

- ◊ Neutral

17. Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.

- ◊ Agree

18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Neutral
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ Labs
22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
 - ◊ Not sure what I should be getting out of each lecture
23. **Please enter any additional comments you have for Nicole Hamilton. (Q981)**
 - ◊ Lots of excellent experience and wisdom to share

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics
Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Almost Always
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Neutral
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**

- ◊ Agree
16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
- ◊ Neutral
17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**
- ◊ Agree
18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
- ◊ Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
- ◊ Agree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
- ◊ Agree
21. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
- ◊ Explanation of some topics is very unclear
Instructor uses technical terms and assumes everyone understands.

Please do not add requirements to homework without letting us know, you did not specify that lines of code was a factor for grading and later took off points for that in HW1.

Forces us to implement everything from scratch. I think it would be more appropriate to leave it to us what we should re-implement for optimization

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

- ◊ Explanation of some topics is very unclear
Instructor uses technical terms and assumes everyone understands.

Please do not add requirements to homework without letting us know, you did not specify that lines of code was a factor for grading and later took off points for that in HW1.

Forces us to implement everything from scratch. I think it would be more appropriate to leave it to us what we should re-implement for optimization so that we can focus more on the overall design

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Neutral
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Disagree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Disagree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Sometimes
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Neutral
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Disagree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Disagree

9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Disagree
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Disagree
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Neutral
13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Disagree
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 - ◊ Disagree
15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
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16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**
 - ◊ Agree
18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Neutral
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Neutral
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Disagree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ It almost feels like 485 in that it teaches different aspects from different parts of computer science.
22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
 - ◊ I think Hamilton needs to be more straightforward with teaching concepts. For instance, sometimes she'll use jargon, then ask if anyone knows what the word means, and then give a definition for it, but doesn't really tell us how to apply that jargon (ex: the lecture where she talked about a CAT program). Something that would have been more useful more would be like 'this is the definition of a CAT program. Here's what it does, then tell us it's called a CAT program, and tell us what it can be useful for in our search engine project.

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Neutral
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Neutral
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Occasionally
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Neutral

6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Disagree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Neutral
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Disagree
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Disagree
13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**
 - ◊ N/A
18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Disagree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Agree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ I'm not learning from the class... it's more my own research instead.
22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
 - ◊ 1. Be prepared for class. *THIS ONE IS TRULY OUTRAGEOUS* Why would I ever be prepared for class if you aren't? This is the most unprofessional thing a teacher can do. I have 0% belief that you'll have your midterm done before the 28th.
 - ◊ 2. Don't ask "who doesn't know?" because that shames students who don't. Ask, and have a student explain to foster participation.
 - ◊ 3. Make slides that are actually helpful to learning. Blocks of text are a waste of time, better formatting, include graphics that can help. (You can also tell they were cheaply put together simply in black and white, just... no effort put in. If a student did this for a presentation, they'd lose a ton of points. Why shouldn't a teacher do the same?)
23. **Please enter any additional comments you have for Nicole Hamilton. (Q981)**
 - ◊ How did you get hired here to teach? You're literally the most incompetent teacher I've ever met. To be labeled as a teacher is a shame to all teachers that actually try to help students learn. There is no preparation, there is no creativity in your teaching, and there is no professionalism. And I still despise you for your comment in the CS engineering page about slowing down and EVERYONE making 100k after graduation. That is simply pathetic. And I'm sure you don't know how to handle feedback effectively too, so this is just great. Just because you're knowledgeable doesn't make you a good teacher.

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Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Frequently
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Agree
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ The labs and homework have been incredibly helpful so far in reinforcing the concepts taught during lecture. Shout-out to Carolyn for creating such an important and helpful aspect of this class.

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

- ◊ We spend some time during lecture reviewing the material covered during the last lecture. While this review is good as a reminder of what we were talking about, sometimes we spend too much time on it.

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

- ◊ This class is incredible so far. I'm thoroughly enjoying the class even though it's still relatively new and unpolished. The lectures are very interesting and informative, the labs are very engaging, and the project as a whole is a wonderful challenge.
This class has done wonders for my resume because I finally feel like I have something interesting and unique that I can confidently talk about with recruiters. Thank you for offering this class and making it such a great success!

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

- 1. I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 2. This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Agree
- 3. My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 4. I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Almost Always
- 5. Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 6. Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 7. I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 8. The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 9. Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 10. Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 11. Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 12. Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 13. Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 14. Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 15. Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 16. Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
- 17. Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**

- ◊ Agree

2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**

- ◊ Agree

3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**

- ◊ Neutral

4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**

- ◊ Frequently

5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**

- ◊ Agree

6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**

- ◊ Neutral

7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**

- ◊ Neutral

8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**

- ◊ Agree

9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**

- ◊ Neutral

10. **Nicole Hamilton gives clear explanations.**

- ◊ Neutral

11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**

- ◊ Disagree

13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**

- ◊ Neutral

14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**

- ◊ Agree

15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**

- ◊ Neutral

16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**

- ◊ Neutral

17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**

- ◊ Strongly Agree

18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
21. **What are the major strengths of this class? What is helping you to learn? (Q979)**
 - ◊ The parts of lectures that focus on teaching concepts (e.g. index) are useful for the project and interesting.
22. **How can Nicole Hamilton improve this class? If possible, give specific examples. (Q980)**
 - ◊ I think EECS 482 should be required for this class. Maybe about half the class already took EECS 482, so almost the entire first half of the semester wasn't that useful for those people.

I also think I would learn more if more time in class was spent teaching concepts and less on showing specific examples. Much of the examples seemed to take more time than was necessary to teach a particular concept, and even then I would sometimes get lost in the specifics of the examples. Maybe the more in-depth examples could be converted to homework.

I also think that the class should focus on teaching for just 1 operating system. Doing both Windows and Linux examples is just too much and doesn't seem useful for the majority of people. It would make sense to choose Linux just because that is what most people studying CS at umich are used to, but I would even rather just do Windows than dividing my attention between the 2.

Course Name: EECS 398-001: Special Topics
Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **I had a strong desire to take this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
4. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.**
 - ◊ Occasionally
5. **Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning. (Q232)**
 - ◊ Disagree
6. **Overall, this is an excellent course.**
 - ◊ Agree
7. **I am learning a great deal in this course.**
 - ◊ Agree
8. **The amount of work required so far appears to be appropriate for the credit being received.**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher.**
 - ◊ Agree
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 - ◊ Agree
11. **Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
12. **Nicole Hamilton uses class time well.**
 - ◊ Disagree

13. **Nicole Hamilton seems well-prepared for each class.**

- Agree

14. **Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation.**

- Agree

15. **Nicole Hamilton treats students with respect.**

- Agree

16. **Nicole Hamilton is teaching in a manner that serves my needs as a student.**

- Agree

17. **Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class.**

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18. **Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic.**

- Strongly Agree

19. **Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress.**

- Strongly Agree

20. **Nicole Hamilton sets high standards for students.**

- Strongly Agree

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

- The biggest strength of this class is the concept of the class itself. We are building a (relatively) complex software system. This fact alone means that we are learning many of the core, practical skills that really good engineers master. We deal directly with the OS (networking, threads, processes, memory, disk I/O), have to deal with data on a (relatively) massive scale, heavily analyze performance and trade-offs, write lots of code, and, perhaps most importantly, work in a team of realistic size and composure, where each member has variable skill levels and experiences. I think that a class that offers all of this – and does at least a decent job on every part – is an incredible opportunity for undergrads who are just starting their careers in software. All of these aspects of the course are what makes it a truly special offering at UofM – I am extremely grateful I have the opportunity to take it.

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

- Before I start, I want to say I think this is a great class and I think that you're a great instructor for it. However, I do think there are aspects of the course that could be improved to make it even better. So, here are my critiques, in order of how important I think changing them is.

1. Far too much class time is spent going over source code in class. I mostly mean that up to half the class is each day is going through code that illustrates the use of various OS calls on both Windows and Linux. I think that this can be resolved very simply – have the entire class based on a Linux system. There are a few reasons for this. First and foremost, many (if not a vast majority) of students taking the course have zero experience programming in a Windows environment. All of the intro courses and the majority of upper level EECS courses are in Linux environments. Given the number of other things students are expected to learn in this class, learning Windows system calls is simply not important relative to the others. Another reason for this is that if the class was based purely in a Linux environment, it would give students the opportunity to learn one OS, and learn it (somewhat) deeply. I know that you come from a Windows background, but to me its pretty obvious you have learned more about the Linux environment than 99% of the students in the class.

2. The use of C++ in the class doesn't make sense. The name of the course is System Design in C++. Yet, the code we are required to write is heavily discouraged from using the standard library of the language. I am aware that the STL has its flaws, but use of C++11, 14, and 17 features (which are, in a very large way, compartmentalized into the STL) is a major part of what C++ developers working on production projects are expected to use. Over the past years, the performance and consistency of the STL has been massively improved, and I am worried that your demonization of it will convince many in the class that the current C++ STL is garbage (which it is not) and dissuade them from learning it. However, I actually agree with the goal you are trying to accomplish by barring its use – the goal of getting students to write a system, by and large, on their own. So my recommendation is to use C for the course. This recommendation is similar to my point about using Linux for the environment. Rather than having people write heavily restricted and archaic C++ code, have them write it in C. They will learn how to use the tool (C) deeply (and in a manner that more closely represents what production C code looks like), rather than essentially writing C code with some classes thrown in and run through a C++ compiler.

3. The final issue worth touching on is the pre-requisites for the course. I understand that one of your main goals is to give students a real experience that teaches them real skills that they can really talk about early on in their education. But as a second semester senior in the course, I know for a fact that I would not be prepared if I had taken this course much earlier

in my career. At a minimum, you should require 370. You talk about bits, hardware, processes, etc. all of the time in lecture, but a lot of this material has next to 0 coverage in the courses up to 281. Having 370 under their belt would give students at least some grasp of the low-level concepts that you stress in class and that are essential to understand for the engine. There are obviously highly motivated students who already know about most of these things before being in 370 or their upper levels, but if your goal is to provide the best experience as possible for students, then having them be properly prepared is important. If I was in charge I would require 482 as well, because that would enable the class to have much more focus on the design of a great software system (which in my opinion is what is really important) rather than explaining the basics of how an OS works, but I don't think its as important as having 370 and I know you probably won't ever want to require 482.

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

- ◊ This has been an awesome experience so far and I truly think that this class, with some changes and more time under its belt, will be the most valuable course for students at UofM. Additionally, I am a massive fan of your focus on the Unix basis for much of what we know today. I think that more time in the class should be dedicated to exploring this type of stuff, as I don't think any of my other classes have even touched on the individuals and concepts that laid the foundation for the incredible things we are doing with software today. THANK YOU FOR TEACHING THIS CLASS AT UM!!!

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- ◊ Strongly Agree