# University of Michigan
# Winter 2021 Instructor Report With Comments
# EECS 485-004: Web Systems
# Nicole Hamilton

33 out of 147 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) | 19 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.4 |
| My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632) | 15 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633) | 17 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.2 |
| Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1) | 19 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.1 |
| I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4) | 16 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| 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 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| How did you participate in this course? (SA=Attended most synchronously, A=Attended most asynchronously, N=Attended most in person, D=Attended some in person and some online) (Q1854) | 4 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 4.4 |

**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) | 12 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230) | 12 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 4.7 |
| Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199) | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217) | 15 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 4.7 | 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) | 11 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q64) | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| The laboratory was a valuable part of this course. (Q331) | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3.8 | 4.4 |
| Laboratory assignments required a reasonable amount of time and effort. (Q336) | 9 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Laboratory assignments were relevant to what was presented in class. (Q337) | 9 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer. (Q1769) | 14 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4.5 | 4.1 |
| I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems. (Q1770) | 14 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4.6 | 4.1 |

The medians are calculated from Winter 2021 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 upper division with enrollment of 75 or greater in College of Engineering.

## Written Comments

**How did the teaching techniques (e.g., certain technologies used, specific approaches to testing and assignments, asynchronous or synchronous teaching methods, instructor flexibility, class interaction, small group work, other teaching methods) of this course serve the aims of this course/ or serve your learning in this course? (Q1872)**

| Comments |
|---|
| I thought the asynchronous lectures were taught incredibly well (possibly the best I've ever taken). |
| Asynchronous lectures from John Kloosterman are very important and Helpful. |
| projects/labs were good understanding |
| The only good things are lectures and staff's efforts |
| Project walkthroughs helped |
| John Kloosterman's videos were excellent and so well done. |
| I liked the panpto lectures. They were well conducted and easy to follow. |
| Panopto was amazing |
| John Kloosterman's lectures were extremely professional and helpful. |

**Given your experience in this course, what teaching techniques do you think the instructor should continue to use in the future (e.g., certain technologies used, specific approaches to testing and assignments, other testing methods, asynchronous or synchronous teaching methods, instructor flexibility, class interaction, small group work, other teaching methods)? (Q1873)**

| Comments |
| --- |
| I really enjoyed how the lectures were broken up into parts. |
| keep giving examples |
| Taking this course is the most awful experience I've ever had.<br>1. Poorly designed lab questions and lab content. I have discussed with many other students in this course. We all think it's hard to learn things in the lab by just reading the lab specification. We don't know where to learn relevant info and answers to questions in lab quiz. The wording of 485 choice questions are awfully poor.<br><br>2. Awful mid–term exam. I have know nothing about web systems before taking this course. It's quite hard for me to learn in this course. I got A+ in both EECS 281 and EECS 370. But I am afraid that I will get bad grades in this course. I come to OH regularly. Staff is helpful for projects. But when asking about how to learn the course well or how to prepare for the exams or argue about grading, they don't tell anything.<br><br>3. Projects, labs, and exams are far beyond the lecture materials. I feel it requires students to have experience in web system before.<br><br>4. Many posts in piazza got no response or very slow response. We could learn better if we got help but no one help or help is insufficient.<br><br>5. Awful exam experience!!! the multiple choice questions are exteremly poorly wording. Many students can't agree with the sample answers actually.<br><br>6. Points assigned to the autograder private testcases is not reasonable. Can't figure out why we lose points. Not helpful at all.<br><br>Really a hard semester for me due to EECS 485. But still, thanks course staff for their hard work. |
| Project walkthroughs, weekly labs |
| I think you should have more piazza posts answered– I found it extremely frustrating when piazza posts weren't answered and every other eecs class I've been in did a better job with Piazza |
| Using panpto in the future is good and drawing it out was really helpful. I wish there were more exercise questions in the earlier questions that were added to the later lectures. |
| Panopto was amazing |

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

| Comments |
| --- |
| The instruction of this class was really well. |
| good |
| extremely poor |
| Hamilton didn't make the slides. Admitted to reading them the night before lecture. Often commented that she literally didn't know what she was talking about and couldn't answer certain questions |
| John Kloostermans lectures were excellent |
| I attended Kloosterman's lectures which were great! I did not attend Hamilton because in the past they were slow and boring and everyone else I know in the class went to kloosterman too. He provided great explanation and analogies. |
| Great |
| I thought the course was reasonable quality. |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| i think it was fine |
| provide more suitable OH slots for international students |
| what |
| Helping create project groups maybe for those that didnt have one. try to get different students to meet online if they would like. |
| N/A |
| I thought it was perfectly adequate. |

## What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

| Comments |
|---|
| The strengths of this course was taking the class at your own pace. |
| very applicable learning |
| nothing<br>maybe lectures |
| projects were interesting |
| I think the projects were really cool and the lecture content was very interesting |
| Kloosterman, cool applicable projects, |
| Instruction and projects were awesome |
| Lecture material was very interesting and the projects were interesting and fun to complete. |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| dive more into the last two projects and their uses |
| give generous curve |
| I think a project should be on recommender systems. I also think piazza posts should be answered by IAs way more frequently. Additionally, the exams seem like all trick questions for no good reason. Exams should be testing my understanding of the material, not my ability to read every single answer and figure out trick questions. |
| added more time for project 3. giving a break between midterm and p4. Making labs more applicable or don't have them at all. weekend office hours. |
| Instructors need to answer piazza posts more often pls |
| I think some labs seemed to be extremely difficult and somewhat off–topic |
| I'm not convinced lab assignments really add much to this class. Also the exam multiple choice questions often feel like trick questions and/or are more complicated than they really need to be. |

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

| Comments |
| --- |
| An online web development course |
| most – eecs 281<br>least – eecs 203 |
| No course.<br><br>Previous experience to javascript and other web related languages and web design experience would be helpful. |
| 281, used to managing large projects |
| I dont know |
| Most effective: knowing this is a super applicable class for industry.<br>least effective: N/A |
| Nothing. this required a lot of self–learning |
| EECS 281, just because it is the core programming class. |
| Having 482 was quite useful to have taken because of project 4 concurrency material, though I don't think it is necessary to be successful. |