

University of Michigan
Winter 2025 Individual Response Report
EECS 498-012: Special Topics
Nicole Hamilton

19 out of 23 students responded to this evaluation.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ This class enabled me to pursue thinking about going deeper into computer science. Might to PhD, but will definitely do low-level programming. I loved learning how things actually work instead of having to use python wrappers that I don't understand.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**

- ◊ Low-level programming, felt like a true MDE because incorporated elements from networks, operating systems, distributed systems, etc. All a collection to build a really cool project.

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

- ◊ Teach distributed systems more, especially deploying to cloud, as we took forever to figure that out.

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

- ◊ [No Response]

19. Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?

- ◊ Everything that I expected, but on a more deep scale. I never thought we would be able to make a search engine that could really search the web.

20. What will your memories be of this class?

- ◊ Those late nights in the final week to make the whole system work

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5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
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13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ I loved this course. I have learned so much in a short amount of time. These skills will stick with me forever.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Absolutely my favorite class of all time and the most I've ever learned in a semester. My team has frequently talked about how the project is the coolest thing we have ever built!
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The large team and sheer size of the project teach you so much that you won't learn any other way. Also, the lack of a formal spec and open decisions that each team gets to make teaches you so much about how to work in industry and be an efficient engineer.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ None, I absolutely loved it!
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ N/A
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ It was more work than I expected, but I was pleasantly surprised by the kind of work we were doing and it is most definitely my favorite project/class of all time!
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**

- ◊ The three weeks, where me and my team spent 10 hours together per day trying to get our project working was so fun and gave the vibes of an early-stage startup. I'll always remember how hyped we were when we were in the ugly and finally got our crawler working after weeks of debugging, and promptly went out to eat to celebrate. I think the other people studying that day were a little mad after all the noise we made.

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think the t-shirt assignment should just be scrapped. It was in the middle of when we were making our engines so it caused some unnecessary stress. Also, given the fact that most of the students in this class are more interested in systems-level / backend / infrastructure, it makes sense most of the students aren't good frontend people with artistic / creative skills and most of the t-shirts were lackluster.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]



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14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Great class! I really learned something practical in this class. I like it.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Learning something and trying it in practice is great!
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Amazing, Nicole does a great job explaining topics and making sure students actually understand the content. Probably one of the best teachers I have had during my time so far at Umich.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The application method of learning. I learned everything in this course by doing, rather than memorizing information I learned a majority of the content just by doing my part in building our search engine.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ Nothing, it is great as it is.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ Already inclusive.
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ I was surprised how much I gained from this class. I feel a lot more confident taking on large scale projects because of this class.
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ Building a whole search engine myself.



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13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Disagree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Professor Hamilton is very enthusiastic about the topic, and takes the time to re-explain concepts over multiple lectures which is amazing. The exams also felt very fair.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The course provided just the right amount of support to get the search engine finished by the end of the semester, we didn't feel too overwhelmed the entire semester, and it also didn't feel like we were being given too much of the code for how to finish the project. Having a team of six was a unique experience because most classes are teams of 2–4. This project definitely felt larger in scale compared to any other I've completed at Michigan. I also like how we learned about every component of a real-world system, instead of just the parts relevant to the specific cs area for other courses.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ Provide a little bit more support for building the crawler. No need for an autograder assignment, but please give us a more comprehensive starting list of cases to consider when writing the crawler. And please completely drop the requirement to write our own data structures and c++ libraries, we all passed eecs 281 and know how it works, nobody in the real world re-writes those libraries and we would not have finished the project if we did.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ I don't know.

19. Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?

- ◊ The design of a search engine is less complex and hard to understand than I was expecting, but we ran into more challenges building the search engine than I was initially expecting.

20. What will your memories be of this class?

- ◊ Connecting our frontend to the finished backend and querying the engine on my laptop for the first time. Working together as a team and getting lots of work done, then getting food right after.

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 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Fantastic. Professor Hamilton is very knowledgeable and it shows
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Greatly applicable, learned a great deal.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ None
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ It's already very inclusive
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ Pretty close to what I expected, not much surprised me, expectations were made clear from day 1
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ Getting our crawler to work distributed across our laptops for the first time

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 - ◊ Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Neutral
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ Professor Hamilton is excellent. She designed this course very well and helped us with general idea of search engine.
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Nicole did a very good job explaining operating systems concepts and search engine concepts at a very high level of depth that increased my understanding.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Overall intrigue of the project
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ Grading criteria for tests and assignments could be clearer from the outset
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ Having fun working with my group in the library

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Neutral
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ I feel like other than the sometimes wall-of-text presentations, the teaching was very good
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The sheer scope and variety of subprojects that allowed me to refresh and learn a vast amount
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think if we were allowed to reasonably use code from the standard library it would've made things significantly less tedious.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ I'm not entirely too sure – I feel like this involves literal general cultural shifts and that's difficult and not within the scope of this class.
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ Yes, and no
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ Finding excellent new friend(s) to debug until sunrise with...

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Typical
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Neutral
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
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6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Frequently
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Independence in working and project design.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ 1 Yes, 2 no.
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Neutral
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Frequently
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Neutral
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Neutral
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Hardly Ever
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Disagree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ Teach how to work effectively as a team, its surprisingly unintuitive.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
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10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was a great experience and not like other classes.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Professor Nicole is very helpful, enthusiastic, and always willing to provide guidance—whether it's on the course project or academic planning.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The experience of building a search engine from scratch as part of a team made this course one where the effort I put in truly matched the knowledge I gained.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ It surprised me how much the instructor valued having students in the class and genuinely cared about keeping them engaged—truly cherishing every teaching opportunity.
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ Watching our search engine come to life for the first time was a moment of pure excitement and pride.



Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **This class caused me to think about graduate school and the career I would like.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **Was this class what you expected? Did anything surprise you?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What will your memories be of this class?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

