University of Michigan
Winter 2025 Instructor Report
EECS 498-051: Special Topics
Nicole Hamilton

27 out of 38 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	19	8	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	18	8	1	0	0	0	4.8	4.2	4.3
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	12	13	1	1	0	0	4.4	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	20	7	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.1	4.1
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)	1	0	8	13	5	0	2.2	2.9	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	18	8	0	1	0	0	4.8	4.7	4.8
Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)	14	11	1	1	0	0	4.5	4.6	4.7
Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)	17	10	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	21	6	0	0	0	0	4.9
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	16	10	1	0	0	0	4.7

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	18	7	2	0	0	0	4.8

Using the lab as unstructured time for team meetings worked well.

(custom question added by the instructor)

SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
14	12	0	0	0	0	4.6

I liked being part of a team.

(custom question added by the instructor)

SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
15	11	1	0	0	0	4.6

I liked the music.

(custom question added by the instructor)

SA	A	N	SD	D	N/A	Your Median
11	8	7	1	0	0	4.2

The medians are calculated from Winter 2025 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 16 to 74 in College of Engineering.

Written Comments

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

Comments
This course was great!
I think her teaching style doesn't work well with me since she sort of showcases the slides and concepts instead of teaching them or leading up to them. However as a mentor to your search engine she is A1 and a very useful resource, which was very helpful.
Professor Hamilton really cared for her students, I could tell right from the start.
N/A
The course was taught very well and clearly. If you asked a question, she found a way to describe it that worked for you
Great instruction. One of the most enthusiastic professors I've ever had

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
The professor cared about the students success and was very well versed in the subject matter
Working with a team of 6 and making an engine from scratch.
Went super in depth in designing a search engine. Lab assignments prepared us well.
The course mimicked what a small start up team may feel like.
Being able to use it as a study hall.
Quality of instruction, and breaking the work between our group. Certain weeks were lighter for some, and we were able to pick up the slack where needed.
I liked how much freedom we had in the design of our search engine.
Very interesting MDE that is unlike others offered
Fully fledged semester long project. Freedom of design.

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

Comments
Maybe having a more defined rubric for how the exams are graded where its unrelated to how other students did on that question.
This class is on a very limited time budget so hard choices have to be made about what's worth having students build themselves and what should be provided either in total or in part such as with homework starter code. In my opinion: having us recreate string and vector and almost any other standard library functionality we want is a total waste of time; conversely, we are given slightly too much hand holding on HTML parsing; bloom filter seems like something that could be optional; the rest are good homework assignments that help us just enough.
She needs more help for sure
Have lectures be more general, sometimes it goes a little too deep into the code, for example the ISRs.
N/A
A bit more organization for labs. i.e. some inter–group communication
Tell future students not to take this class alongside EECS 482. By the end of the semester the combined workload becomes too much, and students will have to make choices on what to prioritize, and they will often pick 482 over this class because the projects are done in smaller groups, meaning each person carries more responsibility. In contrast, this class has groups of 6, so it's easier to not do anything and assume someone else will pick up the slack.

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

Comments
Make groups smaller and more structured
Not using LOC or having competition between teams
N/A

Did everyone on your team get along pretty well?

Comments
Yes
Yes
Yeah I'd say we all got along pretty well.
yes, very well.
So–so
Yes
Yes
I think sometimes our team felt a bit unbalanced in terms of skill levels and contribution, but personally we got along very well.
Mostly
Yes
We would meet up occasionally for things outside of class and, in general, got along really well
Yeah I feel like everybody contributed and there were no big conflicts
Yes
Yes
Yes, very
Yes, they were all good people

Do you think you will stay connected with your teammates?

Comments
Yes
At least some of them
Probably not. They're all going in a different career direction than I am.
yes!
Some of them
Yes
Text and other platforms like instagram
Maybe, those that aren't graduating this semester at least.
Yes
Likely some of them
I sure hope we do. I enjoy my team
I already knew most of my teammates before this course, so probably.
Yes
Yes
Unsure, staying connected is hard
Probably