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

29 out of 38 students responded to this midterm evaluation.

Responses to questions related to the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
I am learning a great deal in this course. (Q966)	20	7	2	0	0	0	4.78

Responses to questions related to the instructor:

|	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic. (Q114)	19	10	0	0	0	0	4.74
Overall, this is an excellent course. (Q964)	18	10	1	0	0	0	4.69
Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher. (Q965)	18	8	2	0	0	0	4.72
Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible. (Q968)	20	8	1	0	0	0	4.78
Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation. (Q972)	15	12	1	0	0	0	4.57
Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q975)	22	5	0	0	0	1	4.89
Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress. (Q977)	15	13	1	0	0	0	4.53

Using the labs for lecture topics that ran over and unstructured time for team meetings is working well.
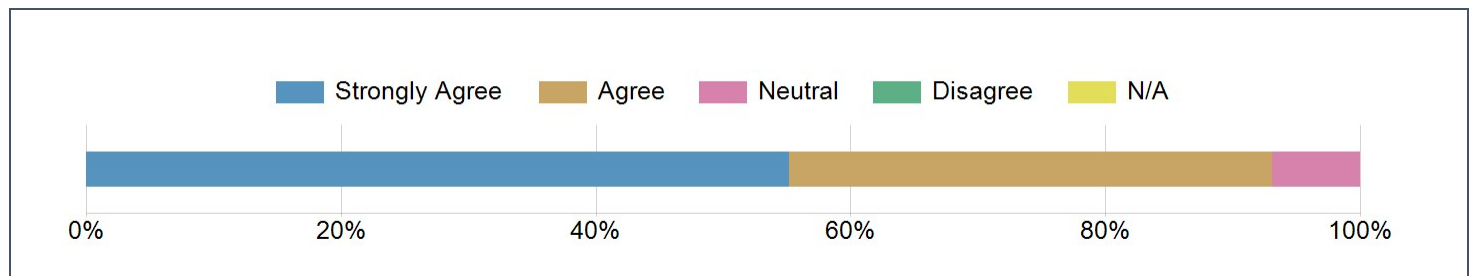
I really like the music.
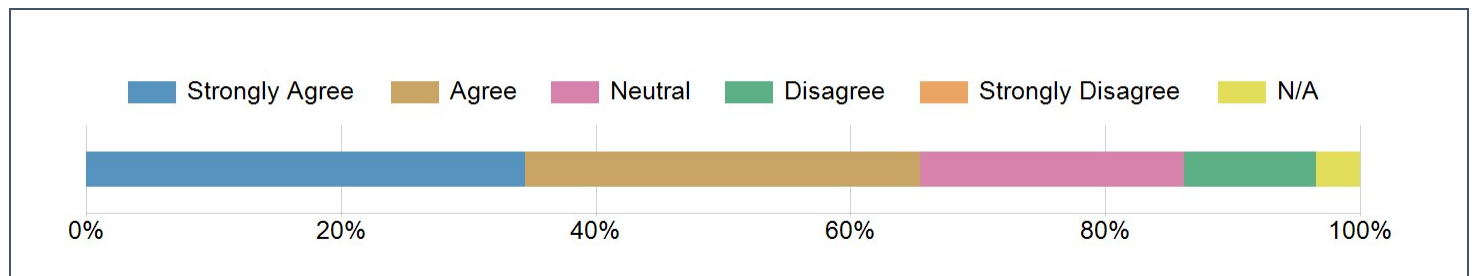
The speed dating at the beginning of the term was really helpful in finding a group.
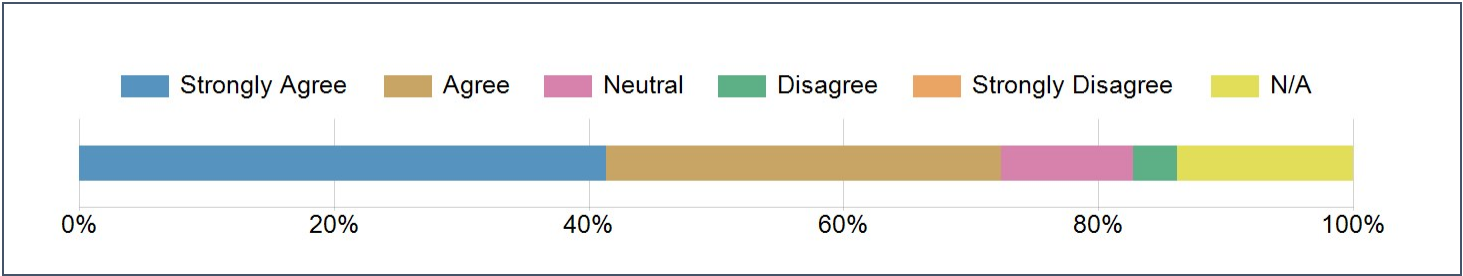
Written Comments

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

Comments
the way she walks through code in conjunction to explaining the subject. and her unique visuals that are better than anything on the internet.
It teaches us to self–organize and seek help when we need it, just as we would as software engineers working in a company outside of college. There's a fine balance between collaboration and independence, and I think a large project like the one in this class is a great way to teach us students how to discover that balance.
The homework that helps set up our search engine project.
The lab is helpful for having some time to meet with team members or Nicole, discuss and work on assignments.
N/A
Just the design of the class is unique and very interesting, and the collaboration with people is unique.
Unique, fun topics
The taste in music during the lab period is top–notch! She does an excellent job of being available to help us when needed.

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

Comments
n/a
Maybe you could provide some sort of milestone, like "you should ideally have your parser done by x date", just so we have an idea of how much time to dedicate to each part. I know you offer meetings for us to ask you on our own, but maybe it could be a part of the project guidelines as well.
Create more homework assignments that are related to the project
N/A
I like having lab as a time for work with the opportunity to ask Ms. Hamilton questions when applicable.
more specific lab activities would be nice, maybe on distributed cloud computing, optimization, etc
I honestly don't learn from lecture much. It's not her teaching, she's an excellent teacher, but I think it's how the lectures are. When I go up to Nicole, she answers everything perfectly, but the slides more so show everything at once and for me I'm a person that learns off of mistakes so lectures like James Juett's or 482 lectures like peter chen's that make the class very active in terms of concepts before showing you the solution instill more into me, in my opinion. Please don't take this the wrong way.
N/A
Potentially reworking the meeting with teams. It was during class this semester which worked out great when it was our turn but hindered asking questions when it was other teams' turns

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

Comments
Good music taste
I already wrote my feedback for major strengths and something to improve in my feedback for the lecture section, and it seems redundant to repeat myself here.
N/A
Very passionate instructor having difficulties to the sheer course size, but no complaints since I was only let in to this course from her mercy. Depending if I get an A on this class, I will hopefully be an IA and try to help her the next time this class is ran.
N/A
Hire her again 100% very entertaining and educational teacher.

Do you have some favorite songs we should play?

Comments
Hotel California
Dice – Finley Quaye, William Orbit Doin Time – Sublime From the Inside – Linkin Park
like a rolling stone
Joni Mitchell – Coyote Genesis – Watcher of the Skies Return to Forever – 500 Miles High George Duke – I Need You Now The Pharcyde – Runnin' Esperanza Spalding – Cuerpo y Alma Black Midi – Still Elis Regina & Antonio Carlos Jobim – Aguas de Marco Lamp – Kimi Ga Nakunara Allan Holdsworth – Panic Station Joao Gilberto – Tin Tin Por Tin Tin Curtis Mayfield – Freddie's Dead XTC – Senses Working Overtime The Cure – In Between Days King Crimson – Frame By Frame Caravan – Memory Lain, Hugh / Headloss
I quite like Break My Stride by Matthew Wilder
Big Iron – Marty Robbins
Let us play some songs for you and you should rate them!
N/A
Dancing in the Moonlight – King Harvest