University of Michigan
Winter 2025 Instructor Report
EECS 498-121: Special Topics
Nicole Hamilton

17 out of 23 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)	14	2	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	11	5	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.2	4.3
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	9	5	2	0	0	0	4.6	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	12	4	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)	0	0	7	8	1	0	2.4	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)	11	4	1	0	0	0	4.8	4.7	4.8
Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)	11	4	1	0	0	0	4.8	4.6	4.7
Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)	11	5	0	0	0	0	4.8	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)	13	2	1	0	0	0	4.9
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	10	3	2	0	1	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)	11	4	1	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
10	4	1	1	0	0	4.7

I liked being part of a team.

(custom question added by the instructor)

SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
10	3	2	1	0	0	4.7

I liked the music.

(custom question added by the instructor)

SA	A	N	SD	D	N/A	Your Median
10	4	1	1	0	0	4.7

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
Absolutely amazing class, probably the most influential i have taken or will take during my undergrad degree. Would recommend to anyone who wants to become a better engineer.
I learned a lot from this course. Nicole does an amazing job teaching and making sure people understand. She also acknowledges her own mistakes and corrects them which I feel many professors here at UMich struggle to do. Honestly one of the best teachers I have had.
Fantastic, most applicable course to real–life systems programming I've taken.
N/A
Very informative and learned more about sockets, distributed computing and low–level programming than any other course.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
The final project was my first time working in a large team and getting to learn how to work in large codebases with many other contributors. Further, the emphasis on hand–rolling your own solutions over using the STL was absolutely crucial in expanding my knowledge of "what happens behind the scenes" and making me mindful of calling other people's library code.
Learning by doing rather than learning by memorization.
Emphasis on applications and results.
N/A
This course felt like a true capstone because the search engine made us use knowledge from other courses, including about multithreading and sockets from EECS 482 and distributed computing from EECS 491. I learned more about low–level programming than any other course.

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

Comments
No real suggestions, I absolutely loved every part of this class
N/A
None
N/A
Encourage teams to start earlier, because we kind of ran out of time. If we had one or two more weeks of hardcore development, our search engine would be much better.

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

Comments
N/A
Already inclusive.
It's already very inclusive
N/A
Maybe go more in depth on distributed computing and cloud deployment.

Did everyone on your team get along pretty well?

Comments
Yes, pretty well.
Yes, we have been and still are close friends!
Yes for the most part.
Yes
Yes.
I think I got along with everyone else pretty well but it was very surface–level and the friendship wasn't there, save for 1 other person.
Yes, we all got along

Do you think you will stay connected with your teammates?

Comments
Yes, we've built a great connection, and now we share some truly cherished memories and an unforgettable experience.
Absolutely, we play poker twice a week!
Yes.
Yes, they are some of my best friends
Yes.
Yes, some of them.
Yes