

# University of Michigan

## Winter 2025 Midterm Instructor Report

### EECS 498-121: Special Topics

#### Nicole Hamilton

17 out of 24 students responded to this midterm evaluation.

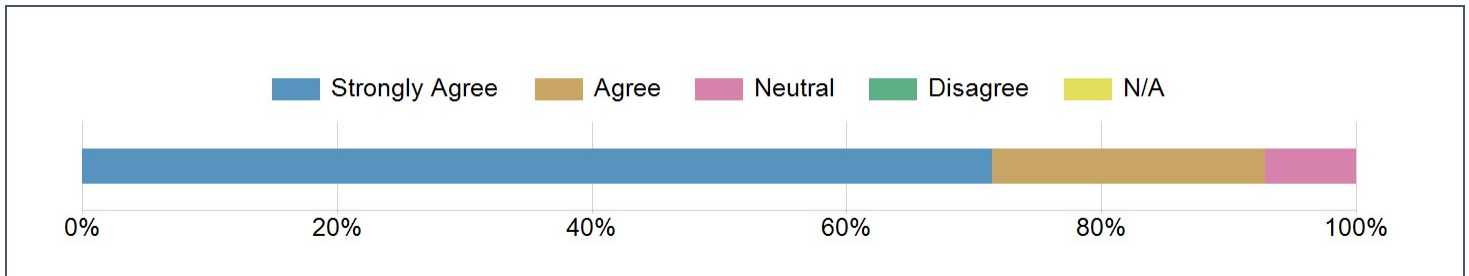
#### Responses to questions related to the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
I am learning a great deal in this course. (Q966)	12	4	1	0	0	0	4.79

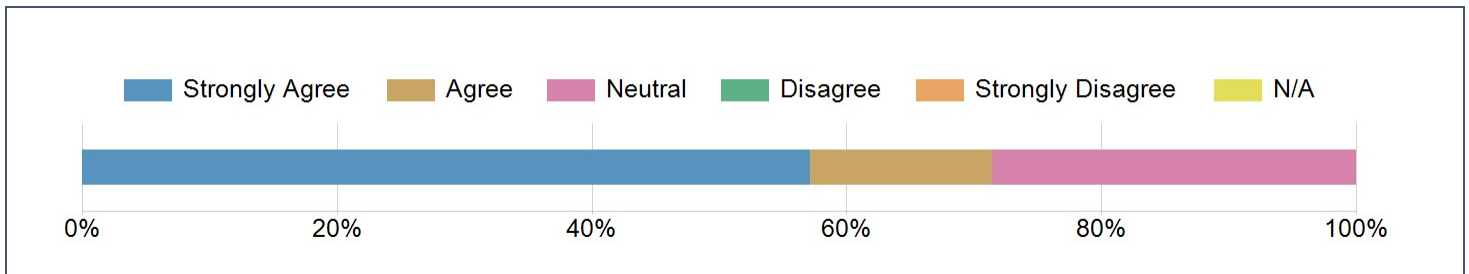
#### Responses to questions related to the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Median
Nicole Hamilton is enthusiastic. (Q114)	13	3	1	0	0	0	4.85
Overall, this is an excellent course. (Q964)	12	4	1	0	0	0	4.79
Overall, Nicole Hamilton is an excellent teacher. (Q965)	12	3	2	0	0	0	4.79
Nicole Hamilton acknowledges all questions insofar as possible. (Q968)	13	3	1	0	0	0	4.85
Nicole Hamilton uses techniques to foster class participation. (Q972)	10	5	2	0	0	0	4.65
Nicole Hamilton is willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q975)	12	3	1	0	0	1	4.83
Nicole Hamilton keeps students informed of their progress. (Q977)	10	6	1	0	0	0	4.65

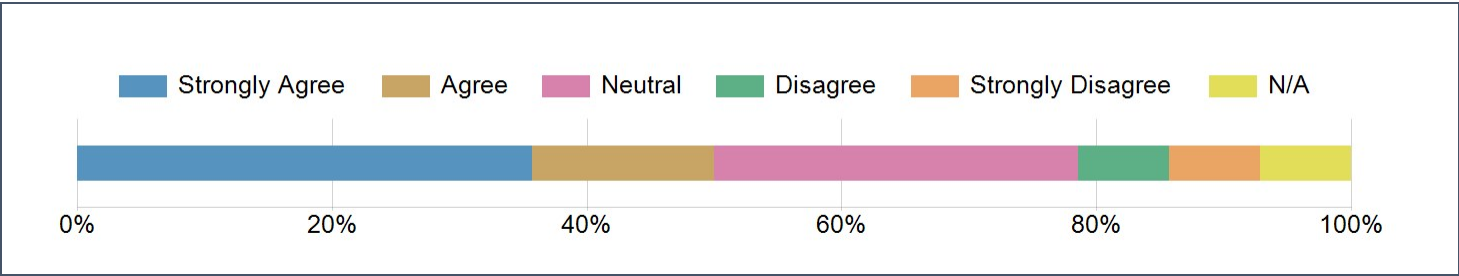
Using the labs for lecture topics that ran over and unstructured time for team meetings is working well.



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
Nicole Hamilton's great domain specific knowledge of search engines is very insightful.
Large degree of independence and self exploration
I really like that the assignments are released for the whole term prior to any lectures. This serves as a sort of pre-reading which really supplements lectures well.
The assignments are very hands-on. It feels like I am working on an actual software engineering team.
I get to reinforce material learned in lecture. Extra time helps.

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

Comments
<p>I feel like the process of forming groups could be made smoother. For example, maybe during the first/second week of class, a Google Form survey could be sent out to the class to gauge which students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– a) know absolutely nobody and are looking for a group</li><li>– b) know a couple of other students and are looking for other students to fill in the rest of the empty slots of the group or join another group</li><li>– c) already have a predetermined group of friends that they're working with and are not taking anyone else</li><li>– d) are tentatively considering dropping the course and still want to shift their schedule around</li></ul> <p>And the results of this survey could be shared with the whole class. This way, students can see where everybody's at and not waste time/effort in meeting people of category c/d. And this survey can have extra information like classes previously taken, the current schedule/workload of the student, availabilities, etc.</p>
N/A
I think it might be better to discuss the index and constraint solver in more detail earlier in the timeline. I know this might not be possible, but I think it would better help visualising the structure of the engine earlier on.
For lab, I think doing quick check-ins with each team would help, though this would be easier with IAs so I understand not being able to do this.
...

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

Comments
N/A
Love the class and hope it continues to be offered.
Great music! I like the vibes

### Do you have some favorite songs we should play?

Comments
Anything by Van Morrison
Music is already great
N/A, whatever works! I like hearing new music.
anything by Bon Jovi , Springsteen