

Database Management Sys (201810: Fall 2017)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**
 Section: **02**
 Course Title: **Database Management Sys**
 Course ID: **14315**
 Subject: **CS**

Enrollment: **72**
 Responses Incl Declines: **66**
 Declines: **0**
 Department: **Computer Science**
 Number: **5200**

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	66	91%	4.6	5.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	66	91%	4.1	4.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	66	91%	4.6	5.0
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	65	90%	4.6	5.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	65	90%	4.5	5.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	66	91%	4.5	5.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	66	91%	4.2	4.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	23	31%	3.9	4.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	23	31%	3.9	4.0
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	22	30%	4.3	5.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	22	30%	4.3	5.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	66	91%	4.1	4.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Learning Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
I learned a lot in this course.	66	91%	4.4	5.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	66	91%	4.5	5.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	66	91%	4.3	5.0
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	66	91%	4.4	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The instructor possessed the basic communication skills necessary to teach the course.	66	91%	4.8	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	66	91%	4.8	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	66	91%	4.8	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	66	91%	4.6	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	65	90%	4.8	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	66	91%	4.7	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	66	91%	4.8	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Instructor Effectiveness: Nathaniel Derbinsky

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?	66	91%	4.8	5.0

Note: 5:Almost Always Effective; 4:Usually Effective; 3:Sometimes Effective; 2:Rarely Effective; 1:Never Effective;

Course Related Questions (7 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strength and/or weakness of the required textbook/course materials.

- 1 its good
- 2 The textbook is so elaborate and difficult to read. The relevant materials are scattered all over the chapters. However the materials offered by professor in slides help understand the topics.
- 3 Slides are self explanatory and enough for learning the concepts
- 4 Course materials provided by professor are very useful.
- 5 The ppt really helps a lot to
- 6 Good material
- 7 weakness: Prof didn't give the solutions to us for PDF files and just go through it before the next class. It's not enough.

Learning Related Questions (27 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strengths of this course and/or ways to improve this course.

- 1 Topics can be more intense that covers some advance level of database, not just the basic one.
- 2 Please try to include some advance concepts such as Procedures, Triggers, Functions and Views as these are very common in industry and should be covered in graduate level database class.
- 3 Could provide the solutions to homework on blackboard for self evaluating and learning from mistakes outside of instructor office hours.
- 4 Good
- 5 Can learn a lot in this course. Professor gives very deep as well as broad idea of the topics. Worth each penny
- 6 The assignments are very helpful.
- 7 It's so good to learn DBMS but i think in this course we can do more thing with some frontend and backend tools.
- 8 Concentrate on the basic concept of database design, but can focus more on the practical use in real life.
- 9 The same problem statement given to the entire class for the project tends to create a sense of healthy competition and gives us avenues to both apply the concepts of what we learned during the course and also to make additions to it and add enhancements to the project.

One improvement to the course could be that perhaps some of the time consuming assignments could be done in pairs of two, although it wasn't anything that was impossible to be completed by ourselves.

- 10 The course is very helpful for someone who has no idea about database, especially for people coming from ALIGN program. The professor begins from the basics and helps you to build a strong base in the subject. The assignments really helped to understand and apply the concepts learned in class.
- 11 Very useful knowledge is taught.
- 12 More exercises about the SQL programming.
- 13 I think professor does well enough.
- 14 Very introductory for a masters level course. The homework was tedious and time consuming but not challenging.
- 15 Very useful and happy during the class.
- 16 Practical course and is a subbranch to many other fields. Very useful.
- 17 the screen shpuld be more clear
- 18 I'm from civil engineering, this course is a little challenging to me, but I like it and it might be helpful in my future career. Homework include java is not very friendly to whom haven't learned about it and the grading is very strict.
- 19 I liked the in-class problems whenever they were given besides the plain lecture. I would incorporate more class engagement with the concepts taught.
- 20 NA
- 21 good
- 22 I think the homeworks are great, but I'm a big fan of in-class assignments.

To a higher degree, I am not a fan of team assignments. I'm a full-time worker who lives farther away, especially at 5pm. I understand the benefits for most other students, but honestly I could have done the entire assignment myself and I already have team experience at work. I already spend all day working with people, so meeting people at night is not fun. Team discussions can sometimes be teaching each other, but I don't have time to teach them.

It should be optionally non-team projects.

- 23 NA
- 24 More practice examples should be given for certain course material since it can be hard to know how well you are understanding things, and trying to find examples in your own online can be difficult/risky/counterproductive.
- 25 it is a long course, very easy to make student become sleepy. I think teacher should prolong the relax time.
- 26 I love how our project using webdev skills
- 27 Pro: Course slides have very useful information.

Con: There is a lack of practice problems/examples (on slide or elsewhere)

Con: The course seemed more like an introduction to databases than a master's level exploration. A lot of theory, very little practical application. After taking a master's level database course, I expected to be able to communicate effectively with professional database administrators (at least on some level). I have realized that i am very far from that level of understanding as brief conversations with other classmates (who must have previous db experience) expose numerous holes in my technical understanding of the subject.

Q: Describe instructor's strengths, areas for improvement, and any additional comments.

- 1 1. Assignments were perfect that helped in understanding the concepts.
2. Course topics can be more advance level
- 2 More examples in the slides can be included to clear the concepts in a better way
- 3 Excellent teaching. Used good application type examples to explain concepts
- 4 Good
- 5 Great communication skills. Will make concept or topic understand easily. Has great interest and enthusiasm toward the course. Homeworks are little bit time consuming but are very helpful an fun to solve them. Overall he is a great professor!!!
- 6 The instructor is very humorous.
- 7 Material could be revised to include more topics such as NoSQL.
- 8 just like i said, he is a good teacher but has some problems. I think he can do better if he improves these.
- 9 Prof. Nate is a really talented professor who explains 'n' number of times until all the students in the class understand. The materials he gave were very self explanatory. The materials he gave was enough to understand and solve the weekly assignments on our own. But, the lectures were many a times theoretical. To make the experience better, Prof. Nate can at times pause the lecture and demo us the concepts in his computer so that everyone also knows how it actually works rather than thinking about the abstract topic until end of class where in the demo is given. For concepts like TCRS, a demo would have been very helpful. My suggestion would be to have demos for every topic so that the students will be in constant sync with what is being taught in the class. Apart from this, Prof. Nate is a great professor and I would happily recommend his classes/courses to my classmates.
- 10 Instructor is humor and responsible, always give fast feedback on piazza. But sometimes is too strict with small details.
- 11 His willingness to help us out with our questions, irrespective of how trivial or silly they are is a big strength. Combine that with his passion for the subject and for teaching in general, well sick or rain or snow, I did NOT ever want to miss his lecture.

P.S. Prof.Derbinsky, your references to Dr.Who got me addicted to the show, so well, thank you for introducing me to an awesome show and the whovian fandom. :D
- 12 Professor Derbinsky is one of the best instructors i have had in Northeastern. Would highly recommend him to anyone who wishes to take a class in DBMS. His classes are very organized and his assignments are very interesting and helped me love the subject.

Only drawback is the project was highly challenging for people with no background in web development. However, i learned a lot in the process. :)
- 13 Materials provided are clear and useful.
- 14 Good humor!
- 15 Very good and kind professor
- 16 Well enough
- 17 Very good professor. Very helping, and polite with everyone. Available throughout the week on piazza as well as office hours. Prompt replies over piazza. Definitely a fantastic professor.
- 18 Really knows his stuff and responded to Piazza questions quickly.
- 19 Great professor
- 20 He is a funny teacher and helpful to students.
- 21 He is a great addition to the CCIS faculty. I wish I had more semesters to go in NEU. I'd love to take courses under him ! :)
- 22 Very enthusiastic and expert in database management systems. Make sure that every one understands the concepts and keeps the class interactive.
- 23 Professor Derbinsky cares about students' learning and is generally available for questions in a timely manner. I however do not like his 50% off homework grade if it is not submitted by 5pm sharp on a day. Should be more lenient since things happen and some people work full time/in a peaked time at work that the opportunity to balance Work and school is hard for them. I however don't mind his policy to give homework 0 for delivering the homework after 24 hours late. That to me is fair.
- 24 The way of teaching is good!
- 25 Nate is a good professor. His strengths are that he makes classes very engaging. He communicates well. He could improve the materials a lot. The materials/slides are old. He needs to add good content.
- 26 I wanna the hw answer !

27 The Professor is great. Strong communication.

Please ask the registrar to not cram 30 students in a room with inevitably 25 seats.

And please offer flexibility with the team project - solo please (no need to tone it down).

28 One of my favorite teachers at Northeastern so far. I would recommend him to anyone with the option to take his courses or with the option to choose him or a different professor.

29 good course

30 Professor Nate definitely knows what he is talking about and he knows a lot, not only about database stuff.

31 Pro: The professor tries to make class interesting with jokes and tech/pop culture references.

Con: His refusal to provide students with the answers (or even feedback) to homework/test problems is very puzzling. He will show us our tests or go through our homework responses if we go to office hours only.

32 Thumbs Up! Raised the level of CS5200. No longer an easy course at NEU