

Data Mining Techniques (201810: Fall 2017)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**
 Section: **01**
 Course Title: **Data Mining Techniques**
 Course ID: **13532**
 Subject: **CS**

Enrollment: **46**
 Responses Incl Declines: **41**
 Declines: **0**
 Department: **Computer Science**
 Number: **6220**

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.6	5.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.0	4.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.6	5.0
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.5	5.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.4	5.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.3	4.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	41	89%	4.4	5.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	17	36%	4.1	5.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	17	36%	4.1	4.5
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	17	36%	4.3	5.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	17	36%	4.5	5.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	39	84%	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.	41	89%	4.5	5.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	41	89%	4.6	5.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	41	89%	4.5	5.0
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	41	89%	4.6	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.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	41	89%	4.6	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	41	89%	4.8	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	41	89%	4.6	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	41	89%	4.8	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	41	89%	4.6	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	41	89%	4.7	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	41	89%	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?	41	89%	4.7	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 N/A
- 2 Good text material.
- 3 The textbook won't help that much, the ppt slides from class helps a lot.
- 4 Textbooks largely unnecessary from a course point of view.
- 5 course materials should be more elaborate. Current in-class materials shared is not very effective as it does not explain many things. Material is good for the instructor to teach his class but is inefficient for students who study it after the class.
- 6 Upto Mark
- 7 For more advanced topic, I think we need more reading material.

Learning Related Questions (12 comments)

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

- 1 A very good course taught by a very good professor

- 2 Absolutely loved the course!

- 3 Make homework due every week, and work on the the individual projects.

- 4 The assignments have been designed very practically and are very interesting.

- 5 Strengths:
 - Really hands on with the techniques and technologies
 - Thorough and well-researched compilation of the relevant topics
 - Love jupyter notebooks style of assignments
 - The memes and funny references

Improvements needed

 - The distribution of the assignments: sometimes too heavy or too light, both in context of time and energy
 - The quizzes do not work and need more work
 - Lectures can be made more comprehensible; especially the maths & stats parts
 - Emphasize more on quality of work than quantity

- 6 Great work explaining basics and keeping the mathy part at bay!

- 7 There were not a whole lot of topics covered, but every topic was covered in detail and I understood it fairly well

- 8 Textbook is the strength of this course

- 9 Strengths:

 1. The course was structured very well with very good learning content.

Improvements:

 1. The course could've probably been more intellectually challenging

- 10 The course was well structured and was very smooth throughout.

- 11 Gave indepth knowledge

- 12 I think we may should core more theoretical material or advanced topic.

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky (14 comments)

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

- 1 Professor is very good at teaching the concepts . Attending classes is enough to understand all the concepts and ace the course

- 2 The class is very interesting, but the homework load is too much for students with no python background.

- 3 Overall I learned a lot and liked the course.

- 4 Love Nate is always responsive, but seems he's getting lazy towards the end of the semester. I love how you walk us through the whole process for FP tree, but for PCA and recommender systems, there were very little if not none examples.
Another thing is homework is too easy and quizzes are too hard

- 5 Best professor I have been through in northeastern. Passionate and humorous.

- 6 Prof Nate is very enthusiastic and very passionate about his course - he's spent considerable time designing our assignments which really helped me learn a lot in his course. Looking forward to take more courses under him.

- 7 The course was a bit on the lighter side. I would suggest being a little more aggressive with the workload and making the assignments a little more challenging.

I do understand that this class had a mixed audience of all levels, but still the course sometimes lacked direction between maths and engineering. My personal opinion is that the classroom time should be divided 2:1 Maths to engineering. (since its a data science course and having a maths/intuition behind everything is more important than being able to use tools if we're doing something new).

- 8 In my masters program, I can definitely say Professor Nathaniel has been my favorite! Loved the way assignments were designed to not only make it challenging but a great learning process.

- 9 The instructor has a sound knowledge of the subject and a very engaging way of teaching. Best lecture I have ever attended.

- 10 Strengths:
 - Really funny
 - Detailed
 - Well researched

Improvements needed:

- Way to normalize how to teach the complex maths and stats

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- 11 Strength is the instructor's passion for this field. His assignments and quizzes are very good for learning. He always pushes students to explore new concepts, technology.

Improvement: I feel sometimes he assume few concepts trivial and don't explain it much in detail. Also, it will be great to have quiz correct solutions with us after they are submitted. That will give students opportunity to go back and try to understand the concepts where they did wrong in quiz.

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- 12 Professor Derbinsky is absolutely great at present ideas clearly and goes out of the way to design and provide learning resources(his slides) to make sure the material is understood clearly by the students. His assignments are designed very well to make sure that every concept we learned in class is applied. However, sometimes this can be a bad thing. As a student, I felt that I was spoon-fed answers and methods. He could've made the course and the assignments more intellectually challenging.

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- 13 Prof. Derbinsky is very knowledgeable and his teaching skills are an A . Something so difficult as Data Mining was effortlessly learned by all the students because of his ace way of teaching. He takes a lot of effort and time in preparing the course materials and the material is so good enough that you don't even need to refer the book!! He also brings an enthusiastic and a go-getter kind of a vibe to the class which uplifts our motivation level. His class is really fun and productive. The only area of improvement I felt was a lot of the class time was spent on going over the solution for the HW, which in some way was a good thing but an online solution could have been given to the students, so only the questions that the students have a problem with, would be discussed in the class. Also, I feel the course was somewhat easy compared for a graduate course, and with the level of teaching skills of Prof. Derbinsky, the difficulty level can be kicked up by a notch with a few more complex real-world problems added as an assignment - Social Network Analysis or other interesting Data Mining problems.

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- 14 The best professor so far.