Database Design (201830: Spring 2018)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **3200 03**
Course ID: **37078**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **61**
Responses Incl Declines: **50**
Declines: **1**

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	49	80%	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	48	78%	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.0	4.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	48	78%	4.6	4.1	4.2	5.0	4.0	4.0
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	49	80%	4.6	4.2	4.2	5.0	4.0	4.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	49	80%	4.5	4.0	4.1	5.0	4.0	4.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	48	78%	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	49	80%	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	49	80%	2.9	3.6	3.7	3.0	4.0	4.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	49	80%	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.0	4.0
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	49	80%	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	48	78%	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	46	75%	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	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	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
I learned a lot in this course.	49	80%	4.6	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	49	80%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	49	80%	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	49	80%	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.0

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	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The instructor possessed the basic communication skills necessary to teach the course.	49	80%	4.8	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	49	80%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	49	80%	4.7	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	48	78%	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	48	78%	4.8	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	48	78%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	48	78%	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	48	78%	4.2	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	48	78%	4.4	4.1	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	48	78%	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	48	78%	4.4	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	48	78%	4.6	4.3	4.4	5.0	4.0	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	48	78%	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	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	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?	48	78%	4.7	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0

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

Course Related Questions (23 comments)

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

1 Barely looked at the textbook.

2 I only used the slides posted online to study and they did a good job on preparing me for homeworks and tests

3 Textbook not required. Some supplemental but not required materials posted online - those were helpful.

4 the class provided a good amount of practical and theoretical coverage about databases

5 Since the textbook was available but not required I can't comment on it as I did not purchase it. However, the lectures slides being posted on the course website were extremely helpful for reviewing what went on in the lectures.

6 Textbook was unnecessary - bought but did not use.

7 Weakness: Need more Examples

8 Great, interesting course

9 N/A

10 We had a textbook, but it was never required and I never saw a need to use it. All in class presentations, etc are posted online, and are very useful materials.

11	The lecture slides and homework assignments were extremely helpful towards learning the material.
12	The textbook was not heavily used but the professors lectures were fantastic.
13	Textbook was expensive, although not required
14	I never used the textbook - the lectures and posted slides were more than enough. The way he teaches, if you come to class and pay attention, you can absorb all the required information.
15	Textbook recommended but not required for the course, thought the book was sometimes different from lectures but could also be good to brush up on struggling topics
16	Lecture ppt is helpful.
17	The powerpoint provided on the course website is pretty useful for exam review!
18	The homeworks were challenging enough that it helped me do well on the exams.
19	Maybe order the textbook so it is in the store before the 8th week of the course.
20	While I don't think the textbook is important to do well in this course, it has helped me get a better understanding of concepts that I was initially struggling with.
21	Blackboard slides are extremely thorough and useful
22	The textbook that accompanied this course was very dense. It would be nice if we could be directed to read certain passages instead of whole chapters within textbook to accompany the lecture slides or switch to another textbook that is less complicated.
23	the lecture slides in pdf are helpful.

Learning Related Questions (22 comments)

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

1	Challenges you to think deeply and explore all components of database design.
2	Lectures and slides were very good and the homeworks helped me learn each week's material. I think the tests needed some improvement, the first being too hard and the second too easy.
3	Would appreciate more content on non-relational databases and data mining.
4	N/A
5	Course did a good job of demonstrating real life applications unlike other CS courses here. At times it was unclear specifically what we had to do for assignments, not sure if this is intentional or not but it was confusing at times.
6	Very detail
7	n/a
8	The coursework and lectures often included a section on their application, or why it isn't used.
9	N/A
10	Very effective course that teaches important topics. I probably got my co-op because I was able to list experience from the course. It was also immediately relevant to my interviews. I remember reading previous trace evals that said this course is way too theory based, but I didn't feel that to be the case this section. I felt the instructor provided a good mix.
11	I think the course is run well and efficiently and there is a fair amount of coursework.
12	The professors strength was his willingness to answer questions, take his time with the material, and his lectures.
13	Excellent overview of database design
14	This is a great course and has applications for solving real problems. I think more database programming would be fun in this course (ie requiring that students be DONE with fundies 2). Additionally, more about "creating databases" would be useful because most of the SQL we learned was query-oriented.
15	Good in that it taught me a large variety of topics and concepts concerning databases; would have liked to have worked a little more on programming databases
16	fundamentals of database. Very useful course
17	Everything is great!
18	I think a better job can be done with framing the homework questions. They were often confusing and I wasn't entirely sure what was being asked.

19 Favorite cs/engineering course I have taken!

20 It is better to go over more examples in the class.

21 This course helps me understand how the principals of database design function in the real world. Everything we learn seems very practical and useful.

22 this course teaches people a lot.

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky (28 comments)

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

1 The instructor was very helpful in explaining concepts fully in office hours. Very helpful.

2 Good lecturer - I learned a lot in class. I appreciated that he gave many examples in the lecture slides and frequently asked the class questions to gauge understanding. Even though the class was large, I felt comfortable asking questions.

Outside of class, however, he was not empathetic towards students. Grading policies were sometimes fair, sometimes too strict, and professor was not understanding of student circumstances.

3 Derbinsky is a great professor. He has high expectations for how assignments are submitted though, so don't try to cut corners.

4 Energized without being hyperactive. A fantastic sense of humor. Brings insightful experience to every class. I especially enjoyed the last lectures which explored concepts beyond the scope of our course.

5 Overall effective instructor that structured his section of the course very well. Provided a good mix of practical database experience and theory/design of databases. I wouldn't change anything in your curriculum, it was done very well!

6 Good lecturer

7 Professor Derbinsky was always willing to help outside of the class during office hours. He provides great examples that really helped me understand the concepts.

8 I would say the only area of improvement needed is supplementary exercises or more frequent homeworks that are smaller in length but more frequent in content.

9 Thought instructor's knowledge for databases and enthusiasm for teaching was strong. Good at engaging students in class. Thought feedback on homework could have been better (example: taking off points once for a common mistake, rather than taking off each time it happened)

10 Enthusiastic, sense of humor, complete coverage of course knowledge

11 Awesome instructor. Well-versed and passionate about the material.

12 Top professor

13 Best professor I've had at Northeastern. Really clear, easy to understand, detailed, straightforward, and a good personality/nerdy jokes. Enjoyable lectures

14 Please do not make the first exam so hard next time.

15 Very funny and engaging lectures, took time to go over homeworks and tests which was appreciated

16 The PPT for each lecture, some conation the practice questions, but I notice that many of them doesn't have answer. Even the professor talked the answer in the class, but have an answer is helpful for review after that.

17 Lectures were interesting and engaging. I initially did not expect to really enjoy the material, but that changed due to the professor's way of teaching the course.

18 enthusiasm

19 N/A

20 His exam grading style is unnecessarily harsh.

21 Prof. Derbinsky is an excellent lecturer. However, I found myself frequently disagreeing with how homework and exams are graded. He takes a very hard-line, unemphatic view on grading with no room for flexibility or consideration of circumstances. While I did learn a lot, I ultimately spent a lot of time babysitting my grade and making sure the places where I got points off were merited.

22 Honestly no weaknesses. Answers to questions are better than any prof I've had, he can and will explain anything that is asked quite well. I learned a ton in this class and I credit a lot of it to his teaching style. Prof Derbinsky has a way of explaining technical concepts in a boiled down way that is crystal clear and not riddled with jargon.

23 Again the powerpoint is pretty useful for study. And the syllabus online is very clear.

24 Professor Derbinsky is an awesome professor and he is very enthusiastic about what he teaches. He is also very helpful during office

hours.

| 25 | I believe Prof did a great job at teaching this course. Definitely one of the better professors I have had being a CS major. |

26 Lectures are great as well as office hours. I think the first exam was too hard even with the take2 involved mainly due to time constraints. However, I understand that the second exam was made easier to remedy this. It would be nicer to have a more consistent difficulty across the board that takes into account time constraints. Also, while doing homework problems, I was not that experienced in using command line/XAMPP due to me being a first year student. On assignments, I'd often spend a lot of time setting up the homework assignment vs actually doing it. While the hw instructions are very thorough, in general, it would be nice to save 10 minutes in class to go over setting up the dev environment for each assignment. This includes configuring PHPMyAdmin, MariaDB, command line applications, etc. Lastly, while the lecture notes are very thorough, I'm often left with deeper conceptual questions after reading them. In the chance instructors are not available during office hours, it would be nice if sections of the slides could direct students to certain chapters in the textbook for further discussion.

27 he has some very solid lectures. i liked it and enjoyed it. he always help people after class as well.

28 Overall knowledgeable and was very enthusiastic about the material. I would suggest coming up with a different way to teach the class SQL because programming languages aren't really learned in a power point. I would recommend in class programming exercise where students bring their computer and write queries with the professor.