

Fundamentals of Computer Sci 1 (Fall 2020 202110)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**
 Subject: **CS**
 Catalog & Section: **2500 10**
 Course ID: **19399**
 Objectives:

Enrollment: **142**
 Responses Incl Declines: **85**
 Declines: **5**

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience

| Question | Number of Responses | Response Rate | Course Mean | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Course Median | Dept. Median | Univ. Median |
|--|---------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Online course materials were organized to help me navigate through the course week by week. | 79 | 55% | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Online interactions with my instructor created a sense of connection in the virtual classroom. | 79 | 55% | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates. | 79 | 55% | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course. | 79 | 55% | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; 0:N/A;

Course Related Questions

| Question | Number of Responses | Response Rate | Course Mean | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Course Median | Dept. Median | Univ. Median |
|--|---------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| The syllabus was accurate and helpful in delineating expectations and course outcomes. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes. | 78 | 54% | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree;

Learning Related Questions

| Question | Number of Responses | Response Rate | Course Mean | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Course Median | Dept. Median | Univ. Median |
|--|---------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| In-class sessions were helpful for learning. | 77 | 54% | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning. | 78 | 54% | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| This course was intellectually challenging. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.0 |
| I learned a lot in this course. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree;

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 came to class prepared to teach. | 78 | 54% | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor used class time effectively. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor provided sufficient feedback. | 78 | 54% | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor fairly evaluated my performance. | 78 | 54% | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor was available to assist students outside of class. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment. | 78 | 54% | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course. | 78 | 54% | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree;

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? | 78 | 54% | 4.8 | 4.4 | 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;

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky (131 comments)

Q: What were the strengths of this course and/or this instructor?

- 1 All the videos were very clear and well done, but some small things were not explained during some coding processes.
- 2 The instructor always provide instant and detailed feedback to the questions of students.
- 3 The strengths of this course is that the instructor explains a lot of examples for each new information and the instructor and the TAs give sample solutions to each homework or lab we do also with the practice problems for the exams
- 4 Mr. Derbinsky is a stellar professor who cares about the improvement of his students! He's a fair and honest grader and made learning to code fun and engaging.
- 5 Very clear deadlines, instructions, and organization made the class very easy to follow. I knew exactly where to find everything on canvas, what exactly we were working on, when and where to submit, how to get help, etc. The professor also explained course content very well in his instructional videos, which is especially impressive given how difficult it can be to verbalize the subject.
- 6 Professor Derbinsky was very detailed in his explanation of new concepts and how the codes works. If you are struggling with understanding the lectures, it is usually because of the concepts being hard to grasp.

Piazza are very responsive and helpful. If you have a question, you should go on piazza first before going for an Office Hour.

Lectures were systematically separated into section so it is easier to go back to a specific point, maybe finding the video about the fold function or how recursion works, etc.
- 7 Professor Derbinsky is very funny. Yes, that is not a direct strength to learning, but since he was a good professor when it came to describing topics and ideas to begin with, his humor helped alleviate the stress that comes with deadlines and assignments, and I felt I was able to focus more on the actual content rather than the deadlines.
- 8 Answer questions very quickly and clearly
- 9 Matter of fact man. Very time efficient. Felt like watching every module was worth it. Explained things slowly, but I ended up watching everything in 1.75x speed.
- 10 - Responds quickly to emails

- Smart
- Clear structure in the course

- 11 It is a NU Start course, which means that I could learn as long as I have time without much consideration about time difference.
- 12 Well explained lecture videos, and it gives a sufficient amount of example questions.
- 13 The instructor is good at teaching. Although what we learn is difficult, he is well organized and has clear expectations.
- 14 Professor Derbinsky was always available one e-mail away at any time of the day and I loved going to his office hours because he was very approachable and amiable :)
- 15 The TAs are always there to help.
- 16 All of Professor Derbinsky's videos were clear and concise, which was super helpful when trying to understand the core of the subject at hand. I really appreciated how well organized the videos were (breaking different parts of a topic/problem up into separate videos) and was able to understand exactly where Professor Derbinsky was going in all of his points. In all the videos, Derbinsky took great care to make sure that we understood the how and why he was adding in a certain component to the code, always thoroughly talking through his thought process so we could follow along.
- 17 It was a really challenging course, but as much as it was difficult, I was able to learn a lot. Extra help (office hours and piazza) and feedbacks (on handin server) from professor and the TA's were very clear and helpful for me to learn and complete future assignments.
- 18 Professor Derbinsky explained concepts clearly and was very prompt to respond to my questions on Piazza.
- 19 He is exceptionally patient when explaining code and in his videos he seems calm and his tone is very reassuring.
- 20 Very well organized and challenging content
- 21 Professor Derbinsky was enthusiastic in the lessons and he explained all of the concepts very clearly. The set of the course, where the concept was introduced followed by example problems was very good because it helped me see how a concept could be applied.
- 22 All questions on Piazza were answered super quickly, problems were also addressed quickly, the modules were set up really well, and overall it was a great course to take.
- 23 The instructor was always available to help and gave really good help when needed. This also goes for most of the TA's. I enjoyed the style with which he ran this course and taught the material as it allowed me to be successful.
- 24 Concepts build on each other and increasing complexity is taken in stride.
- 25 Strong background knowledge
- 26 A delicately designed homework with helpful practice.
- 27 The puzzles were pretty fun to make, and Prof. Derbinsky was very enthusiastic about the course which was fun.
- 28 The instructor responds to questions and emails fast (at least for EST), and is always very nice and friendly.
- 29 I appreciate that the instructor and TAs were supportive and had positive attitudes. It helps to make coursework less stressful.
- 30 Clearly and effectively lectured the content of the course.
- 31 Clearly understands and explains course material. Enthusiastic during the lessons, which made the difficult concepts more engaging.
- 32 The course used BSL/ISL (it's easy but somehow not intuitive) which doesn't require cs skills beforehand. It covered enough data structure that a cs student needs to know, especially for recursion, I felt this language do recursion in a simpler way than any others. Prof. Derbinsky can give effective lectures and make everything clear and in order; HW covers everything we learned for the corresponding module, exams can effectively evaluate our learning outcome. Perfect course and I'll definitely recommend to my friends/take it again.
- 33 I like the way we had a chance to choose a partner for homework assignments in the survey. Also, the office hours were organized really well (especially the private chats and calls).
- 34 Great professor! Very clear and engaging explanations.
- 35 Introduced new computer science concepts by providing numerous examples which enhanced my understanding on the material
- 36 Teaching very well and being available practically always. It was incredible actually. A question on Piazza doesn't go unanswered for more than like an hour, and most answers came from Nate.
- 37 Logical, great quizzes, effective platforms, great information giver!
- 38 I loved that the instructor and the TAs as well as the way this course was set up, made it easier to navigate my first semester of college. It explained concepts in a way that is easily digestible and offered so much feedback!
- 39 The course itself seemed good, and even having CS experience going in, I learned new things. The instructor for this course is one of the best I've ever had. Super supportive and engaging. It's clear that he knows the material and wants students to do well.
- 40 He replied quickly to questions asked.
- 41 The practice problems in class prepared me for the homework and labs well.
- 42 I liked the number of examples he gave

- 43 Video lectures were produced very well, covered course material methodically, and cleared up any specific questions through interactive forum via Piazza. Instructor excellently guided students through the thought process and design thinking behind the content we learned.
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- 44 Loved the enthusiasm for the subject.
-
- 45 he's good
-
- 46 I code personally, I now use elements of the design recipe on personal projects, so there's a bonus. The teacher was really effective, I always understood the concepts. At first, execution on homeworks was hard, but I learned how to approach problems better
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- 47 The strengths of the course would be the detailed videos about each week's topics and several resources we had for help on any assignment,
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- 48 Despite the difficulty of the course, I thought the help system that the course had for its student was very useful and easy to access. It definitely helped my learning throughout this course. I also think that the coursework schedule was very manageable, it was a bit chaotic at first.
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- 49 Great prof! Really no bad things to say
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- 50 Professor Derbinsky and the TAs did a great job helping us with any questions and were very resourceful. The lectures were easy to follow along, and all necessary information was posted in an organized manner.
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- 51 The lectures were really fun and interesting to listen to. Because the lectures were broken up, everything was easy to digest. The practice problems that are posted are really helpful in showing how the concepts are used. The feedback on labs and homework assignments is really helpful too.
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- 52 videos were interactive and made sure that I understood concepts

Q: What could the instructor do to make this course better?

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- 1 Clearer instructions in the beginning about templates and formatting style.
-
- 2 Have no idea.
-
- 3 The instructor is perfect. Just keep the strengths you have!
-
- 4 More extra credit opportunities!
-
- 5 Not much. He's amazing!
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- 6 Specifically, the Todo instructions for some of the assignments were poorly phrased/confusing. I understand from my own experience how difficult it is to verbalize computer science, but perhaps refining the Todos on the homework assignments (especially week 8 onward) would have clarified what the task was, and saved students a lot of time from trying to decipher instructions.
-
- 7 Scheduling meetings for office hours and getting help from TAs was definitely difficult at times. I think having small review sessions where TAs walk through practice problems and answer questions live could help remedy this issue.
-
- 8 N/A
-
- 9 The only change I would make to this course with my experience would be the exams. I feel as though the first and second exam could use a couple more questions, especially on the conceptual side (canvas quiz side). This could serve to make a larger sample size so one-off mistakes and confusion can be separated from genuine conceptual errors. Although I wouldn't have vouched for this going into any of the exams! For the homework, some questions and sets could be vastly more difficult than other sets. If this was not affecting just myself, it might be best to spread the difficulty out to have a more smooth total curve.
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- 10 Great course. Not much to improve on. None of my problems with this class are Derbinsky specific, more about just the model of online learning.
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- 11 Maybe there should be more accurate instructions on what should we use for solving a problem/ what could lead to score losses because I found many people are complaining they got scores off not because they can't do the problem but didn't know what is an expected method/outcome. Otherwise are all excellent!!!!
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- 12 I think the instructor did his best!
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- 13 I think providing the completed codes from lectures could have been helpful. Often, when completing the code along with the lecture, I found myself spending a lot of time fixing my typo errors, so having the completed code given would have helped me fix those quicker.
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- 14 N/A
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- 15 Maybe include an activity or two that involved the class. I recognize this is a completely asynchronous course, but perhaps there is a way to connect everybody on Teams or something in some way. Other than perhaps that, I have no other suggestions
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- 16 - Goes through the lecture videos way too fast. Most of the information I learned in this course was from the TA's.
- Assumes we understand steps and often skip explanations of code.
- Very hard to deal with. Does not offer any understanding or second chances even when it is unreasonable. Unlike all my other courses.
-
- 17 I'm just not sure that BSL is the best language for a computer science starter

- 18 I did at one point felt that the NuStart and NuFlex Fundies 1 were drastically different, which I understand considering the circumstances, but I felt like I was not learning at the pace nuflex students were learning. I felt like I was not learning as much or doing as much because of the way the assignments were set up. However, now as a graduate of Fundies 1, I feel competent in the concepts just as nuflex are.
- 19 I'm not sure. I thought the course was structured fairly well. This is probably something he's already taking into account, but there were points of confusion that he clarified in the beginning weekly videos, which could be made clearer in the lecture videos.
- 20 Personally, I have nothing to say.
- 21 Clarify the wordings of the questions in the student's assignments, so they could understand it better.
- 22 N/A
- 23 the prerecorded lectures felt monotone half the time
- 24 Make homework assignment questions less vague. Not an issue for the first half of assignments, but the second half of assignments had extremely vague homework instructions to which TAs had different answers for what was right.
- 25 The world programs were too long for a lab and initially, I would stay up all night trying to finish it before the deadline
- 26 He could have given harder examples
- 27 In my opinion, more practice problems may make this course better.
- 28 Professor Derbinsky was amazing -- I don't have anything to say about this, except for one thing. It's very hard to access all the multiple choice quizzes that appear in the video. I wish I was able to have a list of those questions at one place so that I can review them for midterm/final. Other than that, I have no complaints. I'm so thankful I had Professor Derbinsky for my first Fundies class! :)
- 29 The homework assignments could have been shorter. Most assignments felt like busy work.
- 30 I wish the instructor incorporated the style of the textbook reading more into the video lectures or perhaps implemented a way to make the textbook more immediately relevant to the content.
- 31 Maybe provide a more detailed explanation for the specific tasks in every to-do assignment, which I think would greatly reduce my time spent on understanding tricky ones.
- 32 N/A
- 33 I wish the exams were weighted a little less as I wasn't fully prepared for the first exam. I know this is on me primarily, but I wish the high percentage of the final grade was conveyed a bit more clearly.
- 34 Overall, the instructor did very well in teaching this course. Perhaps an extra video or a more in depth video each week explaining the concept more generally (before the videos with example problems) might help students grasp the idea of the concept more firmly. However, even the way it was set up this semester was very good.
- 35 Not sure how this would be done, but maybe several-person groups among students. Then these groups could work on group projects that could be biweekly, longer versions of that week's lab.
- 36 Trying to incorporate the readings into the course more, even though there were assigned readings I found them to be not really necessary since we didn't really talk about them much.
- 37 I just wish (this is a really tiny thing) that the volume of the video content was matched with the volume of the video outro. I would sometimes be listening to the videos with my earphones with the volume up and then the outro was really loud it hurt my ears.
- 38 This is not something the instructor can fully control at times, but there were a few 'not the best' experiences with some TA's. Some of them had trouble answering questions about the material, which can be understandable at times, but I would rather they say that then keep me waiting for a few hours despite them saying they will be back. They also sometimes gave some information that contradicted how they graded assignments, so points could be lost on things they said was okay to do. Overall, I liked the office hours there were just a few experiences that I wanted to share.
- 39 Nothing related to him. The whole remote idea is bad
- 40 Create reference materials to review important concepts and structures.
- 41 A little bit less hw?
- 42 The only additional thing I would request is that I wish we had more time to interact with Professor Derbinsky and my classmates. Maybe if there was a class meeting on Zoom every week were we could just get a chance to interact with each other and get any doubts cleared up.
- 43 Please add some optional practice with a solution that does not include in the lab.
- 44 I'm not sure where the feedback was. I would have liked to read it but I did not know where to find it.
- 45 some functions i don't think i knew about until a TA told me, might have been because I missed it in the video though
also please use :) not (:

Q: Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

- 1 At the beginning there should be more emphasis on how to format code because there was a lot of missed points due to that not being made clear.
- 2 The learning is already very inclusive.
- 3 The instructor explains the information very clear and patient.
- 4 Nothing! :)
- 5 He's really supportive and very approachable.
- 6 I think this course was great and wouldn't really change much. I loved being able to work with a programming partner, and I did establish a great relationship with them this semester. Perhaps, however, the nature of the course intrinsically makes it difficult to include students with no background in comp sci. The course is supposed to expect no prior experience but moves at such a pace that it is incredibly difficult to keep up with for those without a background in the subject.
- 7 Professor Derbinsky gave us the option to have a partner for our homework when we code, which helped foster connections between students. Additionally, the TA's were wonderful and always available, and I felt they were always on page with Professor Derbinsky's learning.
- 8 N/A
- 9 Perfectly inclusive in my experience.
- 10 Office hours were amazing. I could hop in on any day, pretty much any reasonable hour and talk to somebody.
- 11 Prof. Derbinsky is very helpful when we met with various difficulties. He gave us reasonable/useful hints but left space for thinking independently, and in terms of receiving help, the experience is awesome.
- 12 The instructor was truly great and helpful, and so were the TAs.
- 13 Materials in videos were more helpful than the actual textbook in that they provided me useful examples that helped me while working on the assignment.
- 14 - He did a good job considering the circumstances with NUstart.
- 15 The Instructor responds quickly to any questions anyone has compared to other classes and made such a great effort to be flexible and teach to their fullest ability so that we don't feel lacking or not understanding anything.
- 16 In particular, I found engagement with the instructor and TAs to be very accessible. A point for improvement could perhaps be interaction with classmates? I generally didn't know who they were beyond seeing their names in the Teams chats and on Piazza; my interactions with classmates were formed from actively searching out communities online. I probably could have done more to engage, but I also feel that there wasn't much interaction in general. Not sure how to improve this, because it is an online course.
- 17 He and the TAs are quick to answer questions on Piazza.
- 18 Not much. All good!
- 19 Keeping this teaching model. Everything is good.
- 20 Fundies 1 was by far my favorite class studying online because I didn't feel like I was alone. I had my peer programming partner, TA's and the professor's support at all times
- 21 We couldve had group discussions
- 22 Professor is really organized about the teaching materials and is able to give help in time.
- 23 Office hours were incredibly helpful, and while I personally never took advantage of setting up a meeting with Professor Derbinsky himself, I can say that he definitely made himself available whether it be when office hours needed covering or when we had a question on exam day.
- 24 Instructor answered questions on Piazza immediately and gave detailed feedback.
- 25 The videos are very informative and the he is also really active on Piazza (sometimes even answering question at very early hours around 4am to 5am)
- 26 Loved the class, the positivity made it less stressful.
- 27 The instructor made everything very clear when explaining a concept. He went into depth about not just how to implement a concept but the reasoning behind why that topic is useful, which helped me see the bigger picture of why we were learning the topics we were. He was also enthusiastic throughout all of the videos. Finally, he made expectations and deadlines very clear so there was no confusion.
- 28 Nothing really to comment on expanding strengths, I think he did a great job. The only thing I would change about the course is the due-at-8AM thing was confusing at first and I turned in a few late assignments since I thought they were due on Friday but they were due at 8AM friday instead of midnight like every other class.
- 29 It's hard to address this since my class was asynchronous so there weren't many opportunities to interact with the class nor the professor much. However, from what I saw from the lecture videos and a small number of emails I sent him, the professor truly demonstrates a passion for teaching and understanding towards his student. There not much I can really criticize, I enjoyed my time in this class.

- 30 It's kind of hard to promote inclusive learning in an asynchronous class since we never meet. I thought piazza was a good tool since we could also answer each other's questions. And, pair programming was a good idea as long as the balance is equal.
- 31 Taught complex concepts diligently.
- 32 More expanded knowledge on other style programming languages.
- 33 Overall, this class was one of my favorite this semester. I was a bit nervous to take this challenging course online because I wasn't sure if I would get the help I needed. But, I was pleasantly surprised. The instructor and TAs did a great job with this class and I loved taking it, even with the odd format.
- 34 Prof. Derbinsky did a good job with inclusive learning.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (47 comments)

Q: Please comment on your experience of the online course environment in the open-ended text box.

- 1 It was good, we could ask questions in the forum type resource they gave us.
- 2 Overall speaking, it's a very engaging course. I can always get instant feedback to my questions after posting them on Piazza.
- 3 I've had a great experiences having this course. The instructor well organized each week's class information and I love how the instructor explains some examples in each week's module
- 4 I would have loved a more formal class setting, but going through this course online was also sufficient!
- 5 Overall very positive
- 6 I really enjoyed this course, it was hugely challenging but also extremely rewarding. Professor Derbinsky organized it incredibly well, making instructions, expectations, and scheduling crystal clear. The instructional videos were great, and despite not interacting with Professor Derbinsky much, the videos did allow me to develop a connection to him.
- 7 The experience was ok. Watch the lectures, do the labs before Wednesday, finish homework before next week. Pretty standard thing to do. Piazza and Office Hours were extremely helpful.
- 8 It's definitely less motivating to do work completely online.
- 9 Rapidly learned and progressed through a completely new coding language.
- 10 Clear instruction
- 11 Very positive.
- 12 Excellent course, really well taught in the module videos. I LOVED the model of Videos -> Lab to practice -> homework assignment due one week later.

Separate problem: online interactions just don't really make online learning feel like I am in college. I didn't feel connected to my classmates, or the professor really. Perhaps if it were just virtual, and not asynchronous, then the class would feel more connected.
- 13 Recorded classes, from my perspective, are actually better than the live one because it allows us to review/watch at anytime. Though the time difference makes something challenging, materials can still be given at an appropriate pace. Overall, the course design and teaching/peer interacting environment are excellent.
- 14 The modules and assignment solution walkthroughs were very helpful.
- 15 I was able to access to module videos when I wanted to since it was remote, and still be able to ask questions through office hours/piazza.
- 16 Overall a good job structure-wise during the course. It was always clear what needed to be done. I wish they had let us meet other students.
- 17 Overall, I enjoyed this course, and Prof. Derbinsky is fantastic. However, I did not have a sense of connection to my classmates, which is understandable because of the nature and size of the class.
- 18 Because of the lack of real in-person interaction with professor, the experiences of having classes in totally remote form is kind of challenging. However, I really like the pair programming program which helps me connect with at least one of my classmate really closely in this course.
- 19 It was easily accessible and easy to navigate.
- 20 All the lecture videos were detailed and well organized. I enjoyed it, instead, sometimes, I needed a lot of clarifications from TA about my assignment's questions.
- 21 The online environment goes well. The instructor and TAs are very helpful.
- 22 This is more to do with NUstart being asynchronous than the professor

- 23 I thought that the availability of TA's really helped me navigate through the course and in a way make up for in-person classes because I always had someone I could freely ask questions to
-
- 24 I liked that he provided code in the examples
-
- 25 The online course is very organized and helpful in getting me to understand every week's knowledge.
-
- 26 The course content itself was really well organized throughout the semester. Professor Derbinsky's overview videos were super helpful to start off every week, not only because they outlined what objectives we had but also what we had to look for on the horizon. I also appreciate the consistent structure of each module: a few/couple pages for videos, a lab, and a homework assignment. Deadlines were fixed and predictable, which helped with planning my time.
-
- 27 Videos were very informative and necessary for the class, however there was little to no classmate interaction.
-
- 28 At times, it was very frustrating and stressful for me personally because of the mindset that I created that I need to figure everything out by myself, when in reality I really didn't need to. I had to constantly remind myself that TA's and professor are always there for me when I need help. Once I started going to office hours more often and became comfortable asking questions in a remote setting, I felt more relaxed and comforted at the fact that I am not alone.
-
- 29 I thought that the Piazza integration was very helpful and it was especially gratifying to see the course instructor answering students' questions directly. I thought the video lectures were great and the built-in quiz feature was very helpful in retaining knowledge.
-
- 30 I really enjoyed the course videos assignments Q&A on Piazza study schedule. It was challenging but also fruitful.
-
- 31 Good sense of community. Pleasantly surprised.
-
- 32 best course I've had in the first semester
-
- 33 Really liked the structure of this class.
-
- 34 The experience was very positive. The online course environment was well set up and the videos were organized in an order that made sense. We had many resources, including Piazza and office hours (which were both well managed), which contributed to the positive environment.
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- 35 I enjoyed it, but there wasn't really a sense of community since the class was asynchronous. I don't think there's a way around this though. He offered a partnership system where you could work together with other students, I didn't ever do that so can't comment on that.
-
- 36 Overall, my experience of the online Fundies 1 course was good. I liked how the videos provided detailed examples and explanations of the topic each week. These materials really helped when completing labs and homework assignments.
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- 37 It was a very challenging course, despite that, I still very much enjoyed the course! I think the class did a really good job of providing resources for students with little/no experience with coding.
-
- 38 I really liked how the course was constructed, videos were easy to follow and the weekly announcements really helped.
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- 39 Obviously no online course is going to be perfect and completely replicate how it feels to be in person. The professor did a good job of making the materials easy to navigate and accessible. He and the ta's were also easy to reach and I liked how they set up the online office hours. The only reason I put disagree for the sense of community question was because I never really interacted with other classmates since the pair programming did not work out for me.
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- 40 As I said also for CS1800 the whole remote learning idea is bad. It would be much better to record whole lectures and post them to be watched
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- 41 The course material was well-adapted to the online format.
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- 42 The online experience is pretty good for computer science course since it allows us for watching the lecture during finishing the homework.
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- 43 This class was very well organized and easy to follow along. The class used many platforms to improve communication amongst the students and instructors making the content much more manageable.
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- 44 Everything was really easy to access, from the lectures and the textbook, to help on Teams. I loved how the lectures were organized, it made referring back to them a lot easier. As smaller videos, the concepts were easy to digest.
-
- 45 The questions in modulo lessons should only pop up the first time when learning and a button to disable them when reviewing.
-
- 46 The videos were well made and students had the option to do homeworks with other students which created a connection to classmates in an online setting. I thought this was a very good idea.
-
- 47 MY FAVOURITE CLASS!

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (45 comments)

Q: What I could have done to make this course better for myself.

- 1 Starting earlier.
- 2 Join more office hours to discuss confusing homework problems.
- 3 I should've well organized each week's class modules and organized the examples so it would be easier for me to review
- 4 Spaced out my work and started on assignments in advance. I often felt crunched on time, so I feel like I didn't get to truly complete assignments.
- 5 Not much. I'm pretty satisfied
- 6 I wish I had chosen to have a programming partner much earlier on. It really was a huge help to have a separate set of eyes and brain to go through the same problem, and I built a great relationship with my partner. I also wish I utilized TA hours earlier on as well, as I realized how truly helpful of a resource they are.
- 7 Collaborate with other students and reach out to TAs more.
- 8 I definitely should have been more quick to compare my lab/homework code to the actual solutions, so that I am constantly seeking new ways to improve my code (even if my method worked, it did not mean it was the best approach)
- 9 More time on reviewing the content on a weekly basis.
- 10 ask any questions I might have
- 11 Do more detail revise before homework submission
- 12 I applied myself 100% in this course, do not think I could have done better.
- 13 Depending on this last homework assignment, I'm going to get an A or A-. Trouble is that without accountability and VERY flexible due dates, I did all of my work last minute. everytime.
- 14 N/A
- 15 CS2500 was very time consuming, so I could have organized my time properly and spent less time stressing about the deadlines.
- 16 Take more time going through lab solutions (especially in terms of formatting).
- 17 Start working on the assignments earlier, and read textbook materials
- 18 Perhaps make it easier for TA regrades (if possible at all). CS1800 allowed for the option of HW regrades if you thought there was insufficient reason for points being taken off. And if there was sufficient reason, they further explained why what you did was incorrect. The HandIn server does not give this ability, and there were times I was a bit confused by the TA's corrections (e.g. "this needs to be simplified" with points off). And though I cannot statistically prove it since I cannot determine variation in my own errors, it seems that some TAs grade harsher than others, but perhaps that is a good thing to always keep you on your feet
- 19 Worked harder and used the TA's more.
- 20 Previewing
- 21 Started working hard earlier!
- 22 Make a schedule myself.
- 23 Gone to more office hours and start work earlier.
- 24 Challenge me and practice more questions
- 25 I wish I chose to do pair programming.
- 26 I could have managed my time better
- 27 Taken notes on the program
- 28 If I could have more practices and always review what I did wrong, I would make this course better for me.
- 29 While well organized, this course definitely took up more time out of my week than all my other courses. Spending 3-4 hours on a lab and then an entire afternoon and a half on homework was normal for me throughout the semester, even while consistently attending office hours. I'm not sure if this is abnormal, but it was still the case regardless of the fact I was proactive throughout the semester.
- 30 I could have started assignments earlier than I already did and make myself more room to go to office hours in case I am stuck. I could also have done close reading and get as much information possible from the textbook (to guide myself with the videos).
- 31 I could have attended office hours to gain a better understanding of the assignments which I especially had difficulty completing. Would have been quite useful for office hours to be recorded for later viewing for those who could not make it.
- 32 Spend more time on lab assignments and attend office hours frequently (although it's in conflict with my time zone and sleep schedule)
- 33 I could have practiced more.
- 34 Given myself more time to learn the material before the lab.
- 35 I think I could have done small practice problems, perhaps from the textbook, as extra practice (such as over the weekends) to gain more practice and reinforce concepts learned from the course videos. Also, perhaps taking more general notes on concepts would make this course better in terms of when I want to review a concept.

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- 36 It was definitely an adjustment from high school but once I got in the habit of forcing focus since I was remote it became pretty good.
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- 37 Spending more time working on the lecture problems by myself.
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- 38 I probably could have used better time management skills in some situations. Overall, I created a pretty good time schedule for this class because I always tried to watch the videos and finish the assignments early to save time in the end if I had any questions. I also did this because I knew this class is a larger time commitment than others. Creating this class made the course better, so it is what I would recommend.
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- 39 Just experience of organization
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- 40 Attended office hours more often.
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- 41 More available TAs?
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- 42 I wish I participated in pair programming because I think I could have benefitted from working on my code with another classmate.
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- 43 I could have taken advantage of office hours more and reached more out when I needed help.
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- 44 More optional practice with solution.
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- 45 Start the homework earlier in advance, and watch the videos twice. The reason I should have done this is because for one week, the homework would only be due next week. The homework from last week would be due during the same one week. This sometimes made it confusing about what we were supposed to use for code.