

## Programming with Data (Spring 2020 202030)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**  
 Section: **03**  
 Course Title: **Programming with Data**  
 Course ID: **38387**  
 Subject: **DS**

Enrollment: **12**  
 Responses Incl Declines: **9**  
 Declines: **0**  
 Department: **Data Science**  
 Number: **2000**

### Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	9	75%	4.7	5.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	9	75%	3.9	4.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	9	75%	4.4	5.0
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	9	75%	4.8	5.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	9	75%	3.6	4.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	9	75%	3.9	4.0
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	9	75%	4.8	5.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	9	75%	4.7	5.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	9	75%	4.9	5.0

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.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	9	75%	4.8	5.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	9	75%	3.7	3.5
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	9	75%	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	Course Median
The instructor possessed the basic communication skills necessary to teach the course.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	9	75%	5.0	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	9	75%	4.9	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	9	75%	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	Course Median
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?	9	75%	5.0	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.**

- The notebook which got updated every week for new python material and the class notes were super helpful for learning and completing homework.
- The textbook was useful, but the weekly notes were more useful.
- The textbook was not necessary at all. I read it once and never went back.. All that I needed was the lectures and the homework.
- Everything was easily accessible through the class website, resources for code as well as terminology were readily available to us.
- The textbook was helpful and Nate was great at hosting virtual classes. He made coding kinda interesting. I just wish he was the teacher for both the class and the practicum aspect of the class as well.  
The fact that the final project was mostly based in the Practicum because I felt like if Nate were helping us through the project part as well, I would have done a lot better and wouldn't have felt like I needed to take the class as pass/fail.
- The textbook was very helpful for learning how to do new coding techniques. Sometimes the amount of reading per week was a bit longer than personally manageable though.
- The lecture notes on blackboard were extremely helpful for learning the material.

### Learning Related Questions (7 comments)

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

- 1 I feel like I've learned more in this class than any other at NEU. I even started creating projects for job applications. Professor Derbinsky made material very understandable and further materials available upon request if we were curious to learn more.
- 2 This course was very demanding but also enjoyable. No improvements needed.
- 3 If this course were to be changed, I wish it went more in depth, I often found myself to be bored with what was going on since the pace was so slow.
- 4 This was a great class and translated well over a remote classroom setting. The course material is jarring at first if you have never coded before, but there is a lot of extra help offered to students as well as resources online to guide them.
- 5 This course could be improved by making Nate the sole teacher for the practicum and the class. Nate was super good at explaining things.
- 6 It was helpful doing the weekly homework with a partner, because I honestly did not know how to complete the homework's solely on my own, as I used office hours every week as well.
- 7 Adds new tools for data analysis which will be helpful as I continue my economics degree.

#### Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky (7 comments)

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

- 1 Professor Derbinsky is the best professor I've had at Northeastern. Class sessions are always well planned with time for questions and discussion about homework. He always takes the time to explain concepts thoroughly, and make sure no one is confused. If I ever needed extra help or wanted to know more about careers in Data Science, Professor Derbinsky was extremely supportive. Being this supportive allowed me to learn without fear of judgement. More professors should be this understanding and supportive. I honestly can't think of any improvements.
- 2 Professor Derbinsky is one of the best teachers I've ever had. He's patient, great at explaining his lectures, and really takes the time to help his students. He's extremely enthusiastic about coding and was able to make the class interesting and enjoyable.
- 3 Prof. Derbinsky was great. If Data Science was my major, I would take more of his courses. I have no complaints.
- 4 Professor Derbinsky is one of the best professors I have had at Northeastern. He clearly cares for his students and shows it by his commitment to the class and helping us understand the material. He was prepared to handle students who had never coded before and was empathetic to their struggles. He does a great job explaining terminology and showing how to execute code in an accessible way.
- 5 Nate was super nice and I never felt like I couldn't ask him a question (very different than how I felt about the practicum teacher). One thing that solidified him as a great teacher was when I emailed him a question about coding, and he was able to respond when an example that did give the answer explicitly but had me think about it and apply it to my issue. The fact he was able to answer my question and help me learn over email shows his great teaching skills, availability, and effectiveness.
- 6 Professor Derbinsky is honestly one of the kindest and most enthusiastic teachers I have ever had. No matter my mood, he definitely made me smile or laugh at least once but often more every class, which honestly can make even just a small positive difference in a day and especially taking a challenging class. He was always more than happy to meet in person when he was in London or online for extra help, and was very reasonable to adjusting to the unexpected circumstances of this semester. The book reading helped me to understand the material, and class examples helped too, just one thing that comes to mind about in class is that unfortunately we would go through examples or explanations quite fast and it could be hard to keep up. At the beginning of the semester I would try to type out the examples at the same time to have them too, but found I couldn't keep up and had a hard time following along sometimes. Professor Derbinsky is truly passionate about what he does and I would definitely recommend taking the class with him, he is such a positive professor.
- 7 The professor's hw and materials were challenging in a good way that helped me learn the material. Also, he showed great enthusiasm for both the students and the subject he was teaching.