

## Fundamentals of Computer Sci 1 (Fall 202310)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**  
 Subject: **CS**  
 Catalog & Section: **2500 02**  
 Course ID: **10355**  
 Objectives:

Enrollment: **34**  
 Responses Incl Declines: **20**  
 Declines: **1**

### 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.	19	55%	4.2	4.1	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Online interactions with my instructor created a sense of connection in the virtual classroom.	19	55%	3.8	3.4	3.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates.	19	55%	3.8	3.3	3.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course.	19	55%	4.2	4.2	4.2	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.	19	55%	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes.	19	55%	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0

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.	19	55%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning.	19	55%	4.5	4.3	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.0
This course was intellectually challenging.	19	55%	4.5	4.3	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.0
I learned a lot in this course.	19	55%	4.5	4.3	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.	19	55%	4.8	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	19	55%	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	19	55%	4.7	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	19	55%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	19	55%	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	19	55%	4.8	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment.	19	55%	4.7	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	19	55%	4.9	4.6	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?	19	55%	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 (33 comments)

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

- 1 He communicated the material very well and ensured participation
- 2 Everything! Professor Derbinsky was always super excited to be in class, and was always willing to set up office hours/ reply to emails/ stay behind class for a few minutes if it means that we will understand the content!
- 3 The professor is very enthusiastic about the course and explains each concept to its most simple level. If you have any further questions, he is very easy to reach out to and willing to help.
- 4 The instructor was very excited about the course and made the classes interesting.
- 5 N/A
- 6 Instructor is super interactive with the class.
- 7 Professor Derbinsky clearly knows a lot about computer science, and his enthusiasm helped me maintain focus during class. He is also good at communicating large ideas in a simple way and breaking them down.
- 8 Professor Derbinsky is the best instructor I've had so far at Northeastern. He's funny, enthusiastic, and very clear when explaining things. He has a gift of being able to communicate his ideas to us students, and I am very grateful that I was able to have him as a teacher.
- 9 The instructor had a strong grasp of the information and was entertaining while teaching.
- 10 his enthusiasm explaining the topics
- 11 Good explanations and answers to questions. Had a lot of resources for homeworks and labs.
- 12 Professor Derbinsky was always helpful with any questions students had and never left anything unanswered. He was understanding of everybody's learning paces and styles and never failed to explain even the most difficult problems. Simply could've not done better, in my opinion.
- 13 By far the best professor I've had at Northeastern. All of my questions were always answered and Prof. Derbinsky always took enough time to explain concepts.

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

- 1 He would go through the topics really fast and expect you to know things already which made the class very difficult.
- 2 N/A
- 3 He goes over the code really fast sometimes, but he has a bunch of videos and extra resources we can use to better understand it.
- 4 I had some trouble translating the things we learned in class to the lab/homework. When I tried to watch the homework review videos, a lot of the time they just showed code and didn't go really in depth into what I didn't understand about the homework. I think it would be beneficial if there was in class time where we walk through the homework briefly. I also was unaware before the course about the aspect of partner programming, and was disappointed we had no say in who our partner was. My partner actually ended up cheating on homework with his friends without my knowledge, and I was accused of an academic integrity violation which made me extremely stressed about the class. Until the problem was resolved it was virtually impossible for me to continue learning in the class, due to worry I was going to be found guilty of violating the policy. Even after I was no longer at risk of being affected because it was clear I did not cheat, I still suffered in the course because my options were to do the rest of the homework/lab assignments without any help from a partner, or continue working with my partner and worry that he might cheat again. I chose to work alone for the rest of the semester, and I think that this whole event and the lack of support changed my whole mindset and attitude about computer science, which is disappointing because I was enthusiastic about learning more but now I don't think I will be pursuing it further.
- 5 Not much, maybe go a little slower when doing some in class examples but there are always so many resources online to help us out if we need it
- 6 The instructor could not have made the class better.
- 7 focus more on the beginning about explaining the data design recipe
- 8 While I know the course is meant to level the playing field with non experienced coders and experienced ones and that it the point of using racket, I found it very difficult to use and understand racket as someone who never had any coding experience versus many of my friends who easily understood racket and didn't have to dedicate much time to it because they had experience even if it wasn't specifically with racket. This course only benefits and is easier to kids who had a background and isn't introductory at all.
- 9 Post more practice problems; otherwise, everything is perfect as it is.
- 10 Honestly, nothing. Great class.
- 11 Nothing really, this course went well on his end!

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

- 1 I feel like the teacher should offer more support for the homework assignments.
- 2 N/A
- 3 The teaching was inclusive.
- 4 He had the class laughing all the time, and made us all feel welcome and safe. Loved spending time in class.
- 5 The entertainment factor paired with communication meant that the students in the course learned a lot throughout the semester.
- 6 the classes were very good
- 7 Professor Derbinsky is always respectful of every student's learning style and is always open for questions or feedback.
- 8 N/A
- 9 The professor understand's student's struggles very well and is willing to make adjust to student needs. The professor does literally everything in his authority to make sure you learn all the concepts.

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (9 comments)

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

- 1 Everything online was organized but there were so many links which was overwhelming.
- 2 N/A
- 3 I was unaware before taking this course that part of the class would be attending from London. I wish this had been more transparent, because frankly it was distracting and while Professor Derbinsky was in London, it was difficult to understand/pay attention. The few days in class where he was only instructing us in Boston were exponentially better and I am disappointed the whole course wasn't that way.
- 4 Everything was organized neatly and easily accessible on canvas. Never had a problem trying to find anything that I needed.

5 N/A

6 - the canvas site is well-organized.

7 All materials for the course were organized well on Canvas and were easy to access and navigate. Empty copies of notes from the class as well as walkthroughs of the class notes were also posted regularly, so it was easy to catch up if you miss a lecture.

8 The online module videos were very helpful if I missed a concept in class.

9 I really appreciated that Professor Derbinsky had organized video uploads of every topic that we covered in the course with the example problems we did in class, regardless of whether we were in person that day or not.

#### Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (11 comments)

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

1 I could have looked through the textbook more, but the textbook is terrible.

2 Did more practice

3 Taken more advantage of TA office hours

4 Paid attention in lectures more, there were simply some days where the information went in one ear and out the other. I also could have spent more effort on trying to get the homework done.

5 I could have spent more time looking back at some of the additional resources provided by the professor.

6 Do more practice problems

7 Done more outside work

8 Utilize the resources provided by the professor better (not hesitate to use Piazza, walkthrough videos, and posted notes)

9 Sometimes, my pair programmer and I were not diligent with starting the homework, but we are given 2 late days, so that was helpful.

10 N/A - This course is really good as long as you do your work/ attend office hours when necessary!

11 Just attend class and you'll understand the material.