

## Fundamentals of Computer Sci 1 (Fall 202310)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**  
 Subject: **CS**  
 Catalog & Section: **2500 06**  
 Course ID: **11725**  
 Objectives:

Enrollment: **33**  
 Responses Incl Declines: **18**  
 Declines: **0**

### 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.	18	54%	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.	18	54%	2.6	3.4	3.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates.	18	54%	2.4	3.3	3.1	2.0	4.0	4.0
I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course.	18	54%	3.9	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.	18	54%	4.8	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes.	18	54%	4.7	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.	18	54%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning.	18	54%	4.5	4.3	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.0
This course was intellectually challenging.	18	54%	4.4	4.3	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.0
I learned a lot in this course.	18	54%	4.6	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.	18	54%	4.7	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	18	54%	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	18	54%	4.7	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	18	54%	4.6	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	18	54%	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	18	54%	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment.	18	54%	4.7	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	18	54%	4.8	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?	18	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 (25 comments)

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

- 1 He is very friendly and genuinely cares about what he is teaching
- 2 He really made it a great class to take, I've heard quite a few people complain about fundies in the past, but honestly taking it with Derbinsky, I did not experience any negativity, and he made the course quite enjoyable and easy to follow
- 3 His enthusiasm to teach every day kept students interested and involved with the material at hand. He also introduced topics slowly and started progressively building up to more complex topics, which made the learning process easier to understand.
- 4 Prof. Derbinsky is exceptionally well organized. Being able to teach in a cohesive fashion, all while remaining engaging to students is not small task. His lecture style was super helpful in understanding and applying the concepts of fundies.
- 5 Well organized for each lecture
- 6 LITERALLY THE GOAT. I absolutely loved professor derbinsky. He explains concepts SO WELL, is passionate about the subject, cares about his students, and is just so approachable
- 7 Professor Derbinsky is great! He's super enthusiastic and engaging and communicates ideas very effectively. I was never once bored in this class. He's always available after class to answer questions and is super approachable and friendly.
- 8 The class was incredibly well organized and the professor is one of the best I've ever had. He explains things extremely well and provides a bunch of really helpful examples. He's amazing at keeping the class engaged and he makes class really fun and entertaining.
- 9 Had lots of available office hours which were very very helpful and crucial to understanding and topics and assignments
- 10 Professor Derbinsky made class fun and engaging while also presenting the material in an easily digestible manner.
- 11 Had a very good understanding of the material and communicated very well to the students. Was always prepared in lectures with examples.

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

- 1 Racket feels weird, but I understand why it's used, so honestly not much
- 2 I do not think there needs to be any additions to make the course better, it is already very well designed.
- 3 - Find a separate professor to teach in London.  
More for the course in general:
  - Get rid of partner programming or at least have some method of match making for partners based on experience instead of being completely random
  - Don't use Dr. Racket
- 4 Try and bridge the gap between the jump lecture and hw
- 5 He does type really fast .... maybe type slower and go through concepts a bit slower
- 6 N/A
- 7 I understand why fundies has partner programming, but in practice, it's not really effective. In most, if not all, cases I've seen one person knows what they're doing and does all the work, and the other person is lost or refuses to contribute anything. If fundies really wants to stick to partner programming I'd suggest matching people based on how much programming experience they have. I feel like it shouldn't be the responsibility of the student who knows more to have to use their time to teach the other person. The person who knows more has to spend more time on assignments and the other person doesn't get to practice with the material so they end up getting even more lost.  
The best solution is to have people work individually but maybe have a partner to talk to if they get stuck (talking but not coding together). But, if fundies insists on having partner programming, I'd suggest matching people based on experience.
- 8 I do not know if there is anyway to improve the course
- 9 N/A

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

- 1 He brings a great deal of excitement to the course, and honestly everything about his teaching style makes the class shine.
- 2 The biggest help was properly organizing the course content and including extra material to help students review for homework and exams. This includes a list of flashcards and videos that explain every topic even more in-depth.
- 3 Pair programming was a sore spot in my opinion. While it is valid to expose students to this methodology, I don't feel that it's fair to require this on a majority of homeworks. If one of the partners is not as diligent or well versed in the code, the group can suffer as a whole. I would prefer all labs be done as pair programming, and only half of the homeworks.
- 4 goated prof.  
i wish i could take another class with him  
please teach fundies 2 !!
- 5 N/A

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (5 comments)

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

- 1 The course overall is very well organized. All of the content is sorted by week, and an extensive list of resources is included on the canvas course page.
- 2 not an online course
- 3 All the online materials are super helpful - the site to ask questions is very effective and the answers are always fast.
- 4 Canvas was organized really well; everything was easy to find. The other resources used were also very helpful.
- 5 Canvas page was well organized with video lectures posted as well as other helpful materials.

Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (10 comments)

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

- 1 Not much, maybe had a better schedule with my partner for meetings, but we stuck to it pretty well
- 2 Towards the end of the semester, I should have been more strict on my attendance, and I should have devoted more time outside of class hours to get my work done.

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3 Watched and practice the optional labs.

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4 Paid more attention (exam 2 was hard af tho)

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5 Worked by myself instead of with a partner.

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6 Space out the work and ensure that equal amounts of time was spent on each subject

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7 n/a

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8 Nothing

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9 Attended class in person more frequently. Although, the videos on canvas were also incredibly helpful

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10 I could have attended lecture more often and been active in class.