Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**

Subject: **CS**

Catalog & Section: **2500 02**

Course ID: **10330**

Objectives:

Enrollment: **70**

Responses Incl Declines: **27**

Declines: **2**

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## 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. | 25 | 35% | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Online interactions with my instructor created a sense of connection in the virtual classroom. | 25 | 35% | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates. | 25 | 35% | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course. | 25 | 35% | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

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

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## 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. | 25 | 35% | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes. | 25 | 35% | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

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

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## 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. | 25 | 35% | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning. | 25 | 35% | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| This course was intellectually challenging. | 25 | 35% | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| I learned a lot in this course. | 25 | 35% | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

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

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## 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. | 25 | 35% | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor used class time effectively. | 25 | 35% | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information. | 25 | 35% | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor provided sufficient feedback. | 25 | 35% | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor fairly evaluated my performance. | 25 | 35% | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor was available to assist students outside of class. | 25 | 35% | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment. | 25 | 35% | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course. | 25 | 35% | 5.0 | 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? | 25 | 35% | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 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 (45 comments)

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

1   Prof. Derbinsky can teach the material well, it's just how he teaches that didn't connect with me.

2   - the teachers were kind and passionate
    - they were weirdly enthusiastic about computer science, especially early in the morning, but that helped keep my attention
    - teaching assistants were always available (if you planned things correctly)
    - i appreciated how the homework todos progressed from easier to harder

3   breaking down of difficult concepts by giving a framework to ask questions

4   This instructor is both amusing and very good at teaching. He is able to make the class and material interested. And the way he explains course material just makes sense.

5   Always communicated topics well, just a little too fast.

6   Prof Derbinsky also made sure that everyone retained the content and was very patient and understanding when I personally didn't get a specific topic. The way he explains things is very helpful!

7   The strengths of this professor are being clear in explaining content and being concise as well as being very enthusiastic about the content.

8   Nate was eager to teach and very efficient with class time. He wasted no time in between material, but gave us plenty of time to ask questions. He was able to cover a lot of material quickly, but I never felt rushed.

9   The instructor was always enthusiastic, made himself available, and took his time to explain everything.

10   Professor Derbinsky takes a lot of time to run office hours and help students every week, despite a rather busy schedule. His lectures were engaging, and despite a rather large class size, he always managed to keep general attention and engagement. He made sure that content was manageable and always checked in with students regarding course material, and always seemed to have a strong grasp on how the general student body felt about an assignment.

11   Enthusiastic professors, always willing to help students, really cared about what we actually learned.

12   This instructor was incredibly understanding and did a good job explaining the concepts. He was also very helpful and open during office hours.

13   Professor Derbinsky was always enthusiastic to teach Kotlin. He always explained everything quickly and in detail that I understood everything perfectly while also spending little time on each subject.

14   He is really compassionate and really calm when I go to his office hours understanding nothing because the material is hard for me; he is so patient when explaining topics and goes to every length to make sure we understand. He is also really funny and engaging when lecturing.

15   Derbinsky was cool. Nice guy. Again, course was still bad because it is comp sci.

16   He had a passion for what he was teaching, and when I needed help with my coding he was able to

17   Both professors were very enthusiastic with how they taught while keeping the purpose of the course in moving forward into future programming classes.

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

1   A slower pace of the class and more simplified explanations during lectures.

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

| 2 | - this was a beginners' course, so it would have been helpful if the pace was a bit slower.<br>- learning about khoury roots felt a bit useless, since they seemed to only apply to this one college.<br>- there were times when the class ran over, which made me late for my next class.<br>- the TAs sometimes rushed through the harder topics but spent a lot of time on things we already understood.<br>- occasionally, some TAs would get sidetracked with their stories or rants, which was frustrating when we just needed to ask a question |
|---|---|
| 3 | Nothing. |
| 4 | Go a little slower... but basics videos are there so they already solved this! |
| 5 | Sometimes I feel like it types and talks a bit fast with that I catch myself scrambling to catch up to him in class |
| 6 | This instructor could slow down a bit at times for the course content. |
| 7 | Refer to earlier response. |
| 8 | It is difficult to understand code being taught in a faster paced lecture class. It might have been better if the instructors slowed down and ensured they explained code sufficiently for people who had no experience. Also, when showing code the instructors didn't always demonstrate how it would run so we could see the product, which would have been helpful. |
| 9 | Same as Professor Hescott's box |
| 10 | N/A |
| 11 | Sometimes I felt like it would be helpful if he slowed down a little bit - however, overall it was an amazing course. |
| 12 | Nothing, I don't know of anything to make better |
| 13 | Don't assign the project over Thanksgiving break, because we didn't have as much access to office hours/outside help, or our partners for the project (it was harder to work together). It would have been better to assign it to be due the day before we left, or assigned as soon as we got back to be due in a couple of weeks, because after the project was due we just had two weeks of class where we weren't doing anything related to our grade, which made it tempting to skip class. |
| 14 | Make it anything other than a CS class |
| 15 | I believe for the beginner coder they can spend more time with them. I spent a great deal of time teaching the people that never coded before to help them do better in class |
| 16 | Instructor could make sure students are abel to follow along and digest material readily. There were periods of overwhelming amounts to learn to stagnancy. |

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

| 1 | I've never coded before, never even cared to really look at coding. I thought this class would be manageable because it said it was a good course for beginners, however, I strongly disagree with that. I found it hard to understand the material and keep pace with the class. The language itself also had a big disadvantage, since outside resources weren't helpful or available a lot of the time. |
|---|---|
| 2 | Professor Derbinsky is a really fun professor who made lectures fun to attend and was able to gauge how the class was doing based on office hour engagement, quizzes, and homework, which helped him control the pace of class and the content he taught. Professor Derbinsky understood that students come from all different types of educational backgrounds, and was able to cater to basically every student due to that. |
| 3 | N/A |
| 4 | The instructor was very good at asking questions to the class to create an inclusive environment. |
| 5 | The teacher is always well prepared for class. He makes sure students understand all the material that he explains. And in his office hours he is also very helpful. |
| 6 | Office hours were super helpful. |
| 7 | Nothing besides that I loved this course, and I wish that it was offered to everyone instead of just global scholars |
| 8 | This instructor is really passionate about what they do and it makes learning much more exciting. He does a good job of incorporating interactive examples in class to help understand the content. |
| 9 | He is always inclusive of everyone; even though I'm not a computer science major like most (if not all) of the other students in my class were, I never felt like I was treated differently by my professors because of it. |
| 10 | Like Hescott, Derbinsky was able to relate the things we were doing to the things he had seen in industry. It was always cool seeing how the things we were learning had applications in research he had done. I think that having a wide range of interests in a field makes someone a good teacher for an introductory course. |
| 11 | N/A |
| 12 | N/A |

## Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience (14 comments)

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

| 1 | I don't think this class was beginner-oriented due to the content, speed, and teaching methods. The outside resources (tutoring/TA's) also weren't super helpful since the coding language was new across campus. Some upperclassmen I know who code have never even heard of Kotlin. I think under a different setting, it could have been easy to understand, but the material just never clicked for me. |
|---|---|
| 2 | derbinsky made videos explaining core concepts with was helpful. it would have been nice to have them linked on the modules page in the week we learned it. i enjoyed the weekly structure but adding specific dates would be helpful. also on canvas you can't experiment with adjusting your points to see how it would affect your grade because of how it is set-up. i found the khoury Root Explanations website difficult to understand as a beginner. the khoury root explanations website was really hard to grasp from a beginner's perspective. |
| 3 | easy to navigate |
| 4 | Hescott needs to upload his notes to Canvas. There was no zoom options. |
| 5 | Derbinsky and Hescott were very prompt with emails which made the homeworks and projects much easier to complete. |
| 6 | The online course environment was well put together and easy to navigate. |
| 7 | The way that Gradescope was set up was very helpful in seeing what was due, and I liked that code for the lectures was always in the same place. |
| 8 | There were multiple helpful course materials. However, I do wish some of the class code provided was better labeled so it was easier to refer back to. Also for the most part my technology didn't hinder my completion of the course, but there were some issues with it not running programs, or code being deleted. |
| 9 | The online course environment provided was easy to navigate and had everything necessary... Everything made sense and was clearly described/explained. |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 10 | Most of the class was online obviously since it is centered around programming. The experience was good and the homework helped to facilitate understanding. Not much interaction with peers online, but that would possibly be a bad implementation. |
| 11 | We did not have much of this course online. However the videos that we could reference back to were so incredibly helpful. |
| 12 | N/A |
| 13 | No online experience |
| 14 | Online courses were mainly done by the TA, they were helpful but depending on the questions they were a bit confused |

## Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes (16 comments)

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | I could have gone to my teachers' office hours more, but I have a complicated extracurricular schedule. |
| 2 | - dedicate more time to it<br>- realize i shouldn't be scared to look dumb in front of profs |
| 3 | look over concepts before lecture |
| 4 | I wish I had taken advantage of office hours more often. |
| 5 | Tried to implement class notes into homework more, instead of just starting with a "blank" mindset. |
| 6 | I could have gone to in-person office hours more often since they were very helpful. |
| 7 | I could have participated more in the example code solutions in class. |
| 8 | I could have tried finding more times to go to office hours and get help. I often was busy during these times, but I really needed the support so I should have fixed my schedule to better attain it. |
| 9 | Asked for more resources earlier... while the course material was hard, I felt like I could have worked harder to push myself out of my comfort zone or to do something that would keep me more engaged with the class. |
| 10 | Start projects earilier |
| 11 | Personal projects |
| 12 | I could have started the homeworks a little earlier to allow myself time to ask questions if I got stuck. |
| 13 | Nothing much besides studying for the quizzes more |
| 14 | Be better at CS |
| 15 | Tried harder. |
| 16 | Had prior programming experience. |