Wentworth Institute of Technology

Fall 2015, COMP 4050 MACHINE LEARNING Section 1
Instructor: Derbinsky, Nate (Primary)

There were: 16 possible respondents.

	Question Text	N	Top Two	My Avg	COMP Avg	Div Avg	Div Lvl	Str Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Str Disagr	NA
1	Course required me to use previously obtained knowledge	13	100%	4.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	Analyze a problem, idetifying inputs, outputs and processing req.	13	100%	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.1	69%	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	Better able to design, code and test a program	13	77%	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.9	69%	8%	15%	8%	0%	0%
4	Course used current techniques, skills and tools	13	92%	4.6	4.1	4.1	4.1	77%	15%	0%	8%	0%	0%
5	Intend to further my study of material	13	100%	4.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	Better able to analyze user needs	12	91%	4.6	3.9	3.9	3.9	67%	17%	8%	0%	0%	8%
7	Obtained enhanced understanding of best practices, standards and protocols	13	77%	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	62%	15%	15%	8%	0%	0%
8	Better assist in creation of effective project plan	13	85%	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.9	69%	15%	0%	15%	0%	0%
9	Adequate lab facilities	13	91%	4.6	3.9	3.9	3.9	69%	8%	0%	8%	0%	15%
10	Environment conducive to learning	13	77%	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	69%	8%	23%	0%	0%	0%
11	Goals for learning achieved	13	92%	4.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	69%	23%	8%	0%	0%	0%
13	Access of information	13	100%	4.6	3.9	3.9	3.9	54%	38%	0%	0%	0%	8%
16	Oral communication skills.	13	67%	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	31%	31%	23%	8%	0%	8%
17	Written communication skills.	13	91%	4.4	3.7	3.7	3.7	46%	31%	0%	8%	0%	15%
18	Graphic communication skills.	13	91%	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	38%	38%	8%	0%	0%	15%
19	Improved problem solving.	13	92%	4.6	3.9	3.9	3.9	62%	23%	8%	0%	0%	8%
20	Understanding traits of leadership.	13	73%	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.7	38%	23%	15%	8%	0%	15%
21	Improved team skills.	13	100%	4.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	54%	31%	0%	0%	0%	15%
22	Exposed to ethical behavior.	13	80%	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	46%	15%	8%	8%	0%	23%
23	Sustainable resources.	13	78%	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	31%	23%	15%	0%	0%	31%
24	Societal and global issues.	13	89%	4.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	31%	31%	8%	0%	0%	31%
27	Stimulated thought	13	92%	4.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	77%	15%	0%	8%	0%	0%
28	Knows subject matter	13	100%	5	4.3	4.3	4.3	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
								Str Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Str Disagree	N/A
29	Communicated subject well	13	85%	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.9	69%	15%	0%	8%	8%	0%

Text Responses

Improvement suggestions

Make Machine Learning I and Machine Learning II. Machine Learning I is like all supervised with some unsupervised. MAchine Learning II is review supervised, mostly unsupervised and then reinforcement learning.

Shift focus. Throughout the semester, we studied a small handful of algorithms - this included going over the derivations of each of them and doing each one by hand several times. While I now have a very thorough understanding of a few algorithms, I have no idea what algorithms might be best for what type of problems, and have only seen a small number of the many types of machine learning algorithms out there. On the other hand, if we covered more algorithms in less depth, I might have a better understanding of the subject as a whole. I left the class feeling frustrated because it's a subject which I want to learn far more about, but I feel like I only skimmed the surface.

The grading was a little rough in terms of if you didn't zip on the first homework you took points off. Need to ease people into the new submission method.

The grading policy is a little tedious. I understand that deadlines are important but I don't think they should take away from the learning going on. At times I felt like my grade was dependent only on the format of my assignments and not the actual material. I was discouraged by this.

Possibly change the formatting/wording of the quizzes. It took a little while to understand what was going on with them at first.

Overall I was very happy with the course setup and felt like I learned a lot, so I don't see the need to really change anything

Hopefully get the prerequisites sorted out since it felt like the class was a bit held back because of it. I think we all still got a lot out of it regardless though.

Add more sections and better apply the prerequisites

Since this is an interdisciplinary course between math and computer science, then when homework is assigned I would a math option and a programming option. In he beginning, we had python hw problems, and my quiz scores were high, then the class quiz score were low, so we started doing math hw problems, my quiz scores were low, the class quiz scores were high. In the beginning, you can the class do both until it long enough to have a choice. People learn differently and the homework is too long to do both, I physically don't have time, and I wish I did. Also the blackboard quiz were nice at first, but also removed the some helpful things about a quiz. showing all work. Getting an instant grade is nice (well as long as you pass), but if you get it wrong, it nice to get a comment on it, or the ability to go back to te professor to see what you did wrong. With blackboard, you get it right or wrong, no partial credit no ability for partial credit, so iI don't get to review my thought process with the professor afterwards. It's not the same if I just do the problem with the professor after.

bump prerequisites to either Data Structures or Algorithms and Linear Algebra, keep Statistics; have quizzes that are graded fairly.

Other comments

Fun course, alot of work. I wish I would take just this course and focus on it for the whole semester. I probably would have gotten a job at Google if it was the case.

Great Class, interesting topic and awesome to have a professor who is passionate about the material. Definitely learned a lot and enjoyed the classroom environment

This class rocks

None

Really didn't like the quizzes. Made me feel like if a question didn't get any points I wasn't learning anything, especially the ones using math.

Comments for professor

I do not enjoy the professor's way of teaching. He speaks condescendingly to the students. I understand that the professor has the most knowledge on the topic of the class but that does not mean you are the smartest person in the room. This stopped me from participating more in class because I felt uncomfortable.

Great class, very interesting topic. I wish we spent a little more time learning about how to pick the right ML for your dataset. Also, the excel homeworks were as good as torture . I think this class will improve greatly when everyone has taken the required classes and we can move away from excel and into R/Python. I thought your slides were very helpful and it was really cool to see the algorithms you helped develop at Disney.

I like how the lab period is optional work that will help with homework. Very useful as it doesn't overload the student with work. Doing the labs will help you with homework. The lectures were useful but some could get a little boring but having them online made it so I can relook later in the day when I am in a quiet setting.

perfect balance of funny, smart and annoyingly hard/troll

Lower your expectations. You clearly have a strong command of the subject matter, but we don't, and you act incredibly condescending when a student struggles to pick up on the material. Additionally, you need to become more flexible. Submitting your homework in the wrong format should not be punished with a lower grade, and similarly, you should allow for more flexibility as to the due date of assignments. Lastly, you should shift your focus away from going into extreme detail about a couple of algorithms and make sure we have time to try many types of algorithms. While these algorithms are useful, doing them out by hand over and over did nothing for my understanding of machine learning as a whole.

No complaints

I really enjoyed this class. For something outside of my major that I wouldn't normally have taken I had a lot of fun and learned a lot. Machine Learning in general is now very interesting to me and I hope to continue learning more about it. Professor Derbinsky does a fantastic job teaching the material and going beyond what he has to do. He's always available for help at all hours of the day and is very easy to talk to. I hope to have him as a Professor again.

Great professor, liked how you were real with us, also would take time to explain misunderstandings even when it seemed like no one was paying attention in the entire class.

Overall good class, even with most of us missing some of the prerequisites. One improvement I could see would be to do Reinforcement learning a bit earlier, it seems really interesting and we didn't get much time with it. Suggestion for next time, give out some bonus points to the class if everyone fills this out. Typically gets most students to do it.

More practice, more example.

The spiel was unnecessary, people already do these.

Slides are awful, if you tired to the homework, just using the slides, I don't think it physically possible. I challenge you, as long as your not Derbinsky. You will not be able to finish without asking a question because you need to know stuff not presented in class. Then do the quiz. Good Luck! Slides, and HW, and Quizzes doesn;t line up like how they should help stimulate knowledge