

Programming with Data (Fall 2018)

Instructor: **Derbinsky, Nathaniel**
 Section: **02**
 Course Title: **Programming with Data**
 Course ID: **17875**
 Subject: **DS**

Enrollment: **52**
 Responses Incl Declines: **28**
 Declines: **1**
 Department: **Data Science**
 Number: **2000**

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.3	5.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.3	5.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.8	5.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.3	4.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.2	4.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	27	51%	3.9	4.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	27	51%	4.3	5.0
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	24	46%	4.6	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.	27	51%	4.7	5.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	27	51%	4.7	5.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	27	51%	4.2	4.0
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	27	51%	4.4	4.5

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.	27	51%	4.6	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	27	51%	4.6	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	27	51%	4.7	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	27	51%	4.7	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	27	51%	4.5	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	27	51%	4.3	5.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	27	51%	4.7	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	27	51%	4.4	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	27	51%	4.5	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	27	51%	4.7	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?	27	51%	4.6	5.0

Note: 5:Almost Always Effective; 4:Usually Effective; 3:Sometimes Effective; 2:Rarely Effective; 1:Never Effective;

Course Related Questions (14 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strength and/or weakness of the required textbook/course materials.

- 1 The textbook was definitely a good supplement to what was taught during the lectures and practiced through the homework.
- 2 nil
- 3 having the online interactive textbook was very helpful for both the lectures and the homework. The quizzes were a bit misleading and there were not enough of them (quizzes/questions on quizzes) if you did poorly so maybe give students more points to improve quiz grades.
- 4 Free online textbook was pretty good although sometimes hard to figure out how to go from what was in the textbook to what we were actually doing in class/on homework; could get through almost the entire class without reading the textbook.
- 5 The interactive textbook was helpful. Was clear and easy to understand
- 6 Great interactive textbook! And it free!
- 7 Textbook was outstanding. I've recommended it to numerous friends who are trying to learn Python.
- 8 I count Python Jupyter through Anaconda and Atom as the required supplemental materials
- 9 Textbook is good.
- 10 In the test book, we see how a piece of code works and this is pretty beneficial.
- 11 Although the homeworks were a pain, they were instrumental to my learning. They really helped me figure things out.
- 12 nothing
- 13 the textbook was okay, the course materials helped on top of the textbook

- 14 The textbook was useful to get a sense of what will be taught in the lecture that day, but is definitely not required to be successful in the course, as the lecture and practicum practice help to teach the content.

Learning Related Questions (14 comments)

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

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- 1 A very valuable course overall; good for those who have no programming experience
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- 2 nil
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- 3 The final project helped me conceptualize things and bridge the gap between the data side of things and using what we now know in the real world.
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- 4 I went into this class having been told that it is for people with no programming experience. However, it moves extremely quickly and it is hard to keep up; only having 2 lectures/week (plus the practicum in the middle) was an interesting set-up. I think it worked fairly well in that regard. However, I would recommend having a tiny bit of the homework, just one or two pretty easy questions, due earlier in the week so that it is easier to get help with the mechanics of the new concept before attempting the very challenging homework.
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- 5 During class, focus less on homework review. Also, introduce some of the libraries earlier (Pandas especially). All in all, pacing seems about right and everything was presented clearly.
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- 6 This course is wonderful, everyone should take it. You learn super useful, interesting, and fun Python/Data Science skills.
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- 7 A course, highly recommended. Gives you a comprehensive general knowledge of Python if you have no programming experience.
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- 8 It is hard for a person who did not learn about programming before.
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- 9 Notes posted online doesn't cover everything and needs to be more clear
- Instructions/feedback of homework needs improvements. it will good if instructors/ TAs tell us the standard procedure before we starting our homework. Now, I only realize them after losing points.
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- 10 I wish there was a slightly slower pace for the beginners. I learned to learn fast but it was a little overwhelming at times.
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- 11 Really great course. As a senior taking this class, I gained a lot out of it. Having prior programming knowledge was very helpful but certainly not a necessity. The homeworks were the best way to learn in this course, in my opinion. For an introductory level class, I am very impressed with all that I learned.
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- 12 nothing
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- 13 n/a
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- 14 The beginning was rather disorganized with the cycle of new content, practicum, and homework due dates being too fast-paced. But later in the semester, it got better as the next homework was explained during class. I believe the previously due homework does not have to be reviewed in so much detail, and students who have questions should either ask online or during office hours, and that that time should be used instead for covering more new content that is useful for the next homework. Also, I wish that we covered the pandas and csv modules in more detail rather than spending one lecture for each, because many students ended up finding these modules very useful in completing the final project.

Instructor Related Questions: Nathaniel Derbinsky (14 comments)

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

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- 1 Great professor. Very smart, clearly passionate about programming, concepts were taught very clearly.
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- 2 nil
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- 3 Professor Derbinsky has been one of my favorites at NU. He really takes care of his students and listens to what we have to say about the class.
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- 4 Professor Derbinsky did a pretty good job teaching this course. He was usually fast to answer questions on Piazza, which was for the most part helpful; the replies themselves were sometimes very helpful and sometimes not at all helpful. The course material is challenging and the professor moved quickly, which made it hard for people with no programming experience to keep up.
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- 5 Nate was one of the best professors I have had at Northeastern. In class was always enthusiastic and happy to help
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- 6 Professor Derbinsky is super passionate, knowledgeable, and overall a great professor! Classes were fun and engaging and the homeworks were actually enjoyable to do.
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- 7 Professor Derbinsky is one of, if not the single best professors I have ever had. Could not recommend him highly enough.

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- 8 Although this course is hard, the professor is a very nice person!
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- 9 1. More information (short modules for example) can be given in the lecture
2.
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- 10 I think Nate's great. He's obviously very passionate and willing to share his knowledge with his students. The only thing is sometimes he assumes students know basic CS skills when we don't. Otherwise, keep up the awesome work! I've def learned a lot and he makes this course challenging and interesting,
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- 11 Very engaging and considerate of people for whom the material doesn't click immediately
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- 12 good
-
- 13 great professor. good at explaining concepts and makes the lectures fun and exciting.
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- 14 The instructor was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the content of the course, and always stopped to answer any student's question, and was also always helpful during office hours. Time management could definitely be improved. Less time should be spent reviewing a past homework, and that time should be used instead to cover more new material that is useful for the next homework assignment. Also, the notes for that lecture should be posted before the actual lecture so students can follow through on their laptop as the instructor teaches.