

## \*\*\* PROVISIONAL REPORT \*\*\*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
Downing, Glenn P C S371P 51590  
E100 EXPANDED

COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY  
OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

Fall 2016 DEPARTMENT COPY  
Enrollment = 68  
Surveys Returned = 67

	NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE					NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	2	0	2	24	39	67	4.5
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	0	8	59	67	4.9
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	1	1	1	15	49	67	4.6
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	0	3	18	46	67	4.6
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	0	6	21	39	66	4.5
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	5	6	18	38	67	4.3
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	1	1	24	41	67	4.6
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	0	0	0	1	66	67	5.0
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	0	1	3	21	42	67	4.6
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	0	2	4	61	67	4.9
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	1	0	3	20	43	67	4.6
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	0	11	56	67	4.8
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	1	6	20	21	19	67	3.8
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	1	4	15	28	19	67	3.9
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	10	20	15	15	6	66	2.8
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	0	2	5	30	29	66	4.3
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	4	10	33	20	67	4.0
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	0	2	2	32	31	67	4.4
	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	2	2	17	46	67	4.6
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	2	8	26	31	67	4.3
	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	0	21	42	2	2	67	
	Less 2.00	2.00-2.49	2.50-2.99	3.00-3.49	3.50-4.00		
22 OVERALL UT GRADE POINT AVERAGE	0	4	7	29	27	67	
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>		
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	19	28	19	0	1	67	

For the computation of averages, values were assigned on a 5-point scale so that the most favorable response was assigned a value of 5 and the least favorable response was assigned a value of 1.

## COMMENTS:

Total Number of Comments: 28

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1. Positives - Course teaches proper industry software development practices - Course teaches C well, and validates the need to know C well - Downing is an excellent professor, and has a well-designed curriculum  
Negatives - Course name is misleading -- only a third of the class really covers OOP concepts - Too much focus on C and Java, I guess, and no attention given to other valuable OOP languages Python, Ruby, etc. - Main complaint is class doesn't focus heavily on OOP, except in last 4 weeks of semester, and even then, class only covers C . - Attendance policy is way too punitive. 5 untaken quizzes including a broken device result in a drop in letter-grade in addition to 5 zero quiz grades? Way too punitive. Seriously.
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2. This class simply gives me a much deeper insight of CPP language and all the real world tools in the software industry. The instructor definitely knows the material of the class and all the TA and proctors are extremely helpful and friendly. However, there is one things that I wanted to point put and hope could possibly be improved in the future that is that maybe we can come up with a universal way to determine the correctness of the derived RMSE value in the Netflix project since we found that it was somewhat tricky to validate the value.
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3. I felt that this course was not quite as focused on object oriented programming as the name implies, but professor Downing is an engaging lecturer, and relative to most classes in the department, this class was rather rewarding. I appreciated the exposure to Github, Travis CI, Docker, and Doxygen in the course.
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4. I consider Dr. Downing to be my favorite professor out of all the professors I have had during my four years here at UT. His style of teaching is unlike any other professor I have come across in that he is very engaged with the class. I really liked how he would select a student from a randomized list and have a one on one conversation with them in front of the class about a specific topic regarding the lecture.
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5. This was a great class, and although I could've personally done better in the class, I feel that my grade was completely fair. The way the course is structured is brilliant, and the lecturing style is one of the best I've seen at this university and by far in the computer science department. All the tools were relevant and the first project walked us through the workflow. One complaint I have is that the specifications about the workflow were unnecessarily obfuscated at first although it allows the students to shape those specifications by asking questions and made early starters on the projects confused. My biggest complaint about the class is that the 1st exam felt very out of place, and I wish it was made more clear what to study for.
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6. great class. downing is a beast. take this class.
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7. Some little hiccups in the infrastructure of the projects early on and the grades for the first exam took a long time. Other than that the class was very good.
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8. I think this is a great course. The only main issue is that project grades are taking way too long to get back to us. We have 2 weeks to do the projects yet it's taking graders 3-4 weeks at a time to grade. I think you should get more graders if the current number of graders is insufficient to grade these projects in a reasonable amount of time. A reasonable amount of time to me would at least be less than the amount of time given to do the assignment, so under 2 weeks. However, other than that minor issue the course was excellent. Feel like I learned a lot.
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9. I had heard so much about having to take a Downing class before I left UTCS and with the course winding down to an end I can definitely see why. Initially I was a bit skeptical, I lost many points on the first project due to the tiniest details even though my code worked perfectly. I was pretty upset but as the projects came along, I realized how much more being a software developer was than just writing code. We learned how to use a bunch of tools like Git, Gtest and Travis CI. Downing also had some Texas Exes come on behalf of their company and talk a little about what they do at their jobs and give us some advice. This reinforced my appreciation for the experience with those tools as most companies used similar technology.
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10. Professor Downing is a cool dude but his class is soo hard
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11. The lectures were engaging, and I liked the cold calling of students to answer questions. This kept us on our toes and forced us to actively engage the subject even on the more boring topics. Some people who didn't like your class said the cold-call system as unfair to students who don't like to talk, but I really don't get where they're coming from. I really loved the projects, especially compared to OS this semester. They take time but not too much time! and they helped me to learn C and many industry tools. Only complaint for projects is I still don't get why we used Docker for the 1st project. Minor quibble - For many quizzes, 3 mins wasn't enough. You should raise it to 5 mins so we get time to think. Overall excellent job!
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12. Awesome class, keep it up!
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13. I really enjoyed this course. It was challenging and I learned a lot. You are honestly a great professor. One of my favorites, actually. I know that there's not much that can be done about this, but my biggest complaint would have to be that the assignments and tests weren't graded very quickly. There are a lot of large projects and not many people grading them, so it's completely understandable. It was just a bit frustrating to get half way through the semester and have almost no grades to assess your performance with. But other than that, I absolutely loved this class.
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14. My biggest gripe has been the amount of time it takes for an assignment to be returned. It was quite excessive at times. Other minor one, for future students it might be nice to give them a heads up about the makefile deleting the doxyfile.
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15. I learned a lot from this class, about c and about OOP. I enjoyed all the readings and wish there were more questions related to the readings so more people can read them! The projects are not as exciting. I like Darwin and Life the most, since the no getters and setters rule forces me to think and design differently. Allocator is a good project as well, very similar to simulating a heap. Netflix is not very interesting in my opinion. But overall I love the class, and would love to take SWE with Dr. Downing again! Thank you Dr. Downing for all your help and quick responses on piazza!
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16. Professor Downing is a very solid instructor. My biggest suggestions for improvements to the class would be for him to appear a little more friendly and for him to state "This assignment will be graded by xx" to avoid that feeling of "When on earth are we going to get our grades?"
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17. I love the teaching style that this class uses. I wish all teachers used taught this way to encourage their students to be sure they know and understand what is being taught to them. I liked using git, Github, and the rest of the integrated software we used along with that. I particularly like TravisCI and GTest because both of these made it easier to ensure my code was fully functional before I turned it in. I liked all the projects as well. They were all fun, some more challenging than others. I liked having the speakers come in, as well. It was cool to see how they used their knowledge to make some pretty cool things. It was nice to hear about how they treat their employees as well as what software their company uses and how they use it.

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18. I would recommend this class to all CS students

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19. Completing the projects and learning how to use the software tools with the projects was a useful learning experience. The lecture was engaging. However, I still do not feel I learned much in this class. The lectures created large gaps in my knowledge and the supplemental material provided and googling tutorials could not fill these gaps. Downing only knew how to explain concepts in one way so if you didn't understand something there was no real way to learn it and the concepts were too obscure to search or ask about. The fact that Downing essentially told people they must have an internship but then wouldn't excuse people from quizzes for interviews and or conferences was ridiculous.

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20. The daily quizzes suck.

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21. Maybe try to be clearer in the requirements for the projects. Don't rely on Piazza since answers sometimes seem to contradict. Good class otherwise!

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22. The projects were pretty interesting and definitely taught C and OOP concepts. The tools that we used are tools that are actually used by devs in the workplace, so it's useful to get some experience with those. The speakers were pretty good as well, we got a variety of different companies come speak to us so we got to see how they compared.

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23. I really like how the projects are done using git. A lot of companies use git and knowing the commands is very useful in industry. Doxygen is also really important to know because the companies I've interned at required me documenting the methods that I wrote.

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24. My only complaint is the fact that quizzes can't be dropped if missed for an internship or full time interview. I think if you're going to preach that we should be getting internships, then you should at least give people the chance to use one of their quiz drops for a career opportunity like an interview. It's a bit hypocritical, and I'm not the only one that feels this way. Aside from that, the course was great. C is a very daunting language and I feel much more comfortable with it now. Great job!

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25. This is the best course I have taken at UT. Dr. Downing is an amazing instructor, and I can't wait to have him next semester for Software Engineering. I would recommend his course to any Computer Science major.

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26. Students are put through a significant amount of stress every project because the requirements are constantly changing even up to the day the project is due and the changes are made in individual piazza posts that we must manually search for. I've had to completely redo 2 projects the last day to conform to completely new restrictions like disallowing wget or new requirements on how our classes interact and I know of at least one other student who had submitted their project the night before it was due who had to risk being fired at their work by skipping their shift to redo the Netflix project for exactly this reason. When students bring up concerns like these, Professor Downing makes 1-2 line responses that basically say "it is how it is"

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27. It would be really nice if we had a practice test for the exams. As the testing requires us to write functions and not really depend on the finer details, I feel it would be amazing to get a practice exam out before the actual exam.

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28. This was one of the best courses I have taken at UT. I will fail the course because of my own personal issues, but I still learned a great deal. This will likely be my last semester at UT and one of the few reservations I have about that decision is that I won't be able to take your Software Engineering course next semester. You were an excellent Professor who made me interested in the subject matter and want to succeed, which hasn't happened in a long time. I hope that I can work on my personal issues and come back to UT in the future to have the privilege of learning from you again. Thank you.