

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

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
Downing, Glenn P C S371P 53530  
E000 Expanded

COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY  
OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

Spring 2013 DEPARTMENT COPY  
Enrollment = 53  
Surveys Returned = 41

	NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE						NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str	Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	0	0	0	3	38	41	4.9
2 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	0	0	1	5	35	41	4.8
3 SHOWED INTEREST IN STUDENT PROGRESS	0	0	0	1	13	27	41	4.6
4 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	0	0	0	3	16	22	41	4.5
5 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	0	0	3	15	23	41	4.5
6 OBJECTIVES/ASSIGNMENTS CLEARLY STATED	0	0	0	0	9	32	41	4.8
7 INSTRUCTOR WELL-PREPARED	0	0	0	0	3	38	41	4.9
8 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	0	0	0	4	37	41	4.9
9 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	0	0	2	39	41	5.0
10 AVAILABILITY OUTSIDE OF CLASS	0	0	0	5	14	21	40	4.4
11 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	0	1	7	15	18	41	4.2
12 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	0	0	0	1	14	26	41	4.6
13 COURSE WAS MADE EDUCATIONALLY VALUABLE	0	0	1	1	8	31	41	4.7
14 INSTRUCTOR INCREASED STUDENT KNOWLEDGE	0	0	2	0	5	34	41	4.7
15 INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING	0	0	1	2	14	24	41	4.5
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	0	0	0	1	13	27	41	4.6
17 COURSE OF VALUE TO DATE	0	0	1	0	10	30	41	4.7
	Vry	Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
18 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	0	0	2	8	31	41	4.7
19 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	0	2	0	12	27	41	4.6
	Excessive	High	Average	Light	Insuffic			
20 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	1	22	17	1	0	41		
	Less	2.00	2.00-2.49	2.50-2.99	3.00-3.49	3.50-4.00		
21 OVERALL UT GRADE POINT AVERAGE	0	0	3	7	18	13	41	
	A	B	C	D	F			
22 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	9	22	10	0	0	41		

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.

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1. Best instructor I've had at UT.  
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2. Thank you for a great semester Dr. Downing! Greatly appreciated the class. The only thing I have to "complain" about the class is that my grade does not accurately reflect what I learned in class. Tests are extremely specific and if I didn't know one case I would immediately lose 5 points in the MC. Maybe putting more weight on the projects which are the practical portion of the class would help out because it demonstrates how much knowledge I have been able to take and apply it. Tests just consider how well you can "play computer" and in reality I won't do that on a later job but instead do more of the practical things. Overall my C was definitely worth it and would do it again even for the same grade! Answer to all It doesn't compile  
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3. Another excellent semester, Professor Downing!  
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4. I think Downing is a pretty cool guy eh. Teaches c plus plus and doesn't afraid of anything.  
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5. I really have enjoyed your classes so far while here at UT. I feel like I have learned more in your classes than I have in any other ones. I think the way you run your lectures by asking questions and forcing us to pay attention was a large part of this. Piazza makes questions on the projects easy to get the answers to because you and your TAs do a great job responding quickly. Much better than most professors I have ever had. Thanks for all you do!  
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6. I took this course because I wanted to learn object oriented programming, object oriented design, and design patterns. I had several job interviews that brushed on these topics and felt unprepared for them while I was prepared for all the other questions I was asked. This class seemed like the appropriate fit for that as it is the only object oriented focused class the department offers. The class focused more on nuances of c and general c programming than object oriented concepts. I feel no more prepared for those interview questions now than I did when I started this class. I learned more about object oriented programming design in CS439. I learned a lot of great things in this class but not what I expected or desired to learn.  
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7. The way the class is structured, learning is the main goal. There is no way you can sit through Professor Downing's class and not learn what he is teaching. The tests were difficult and very detailed, but the assignments were a great demonstration of the material being taught in class. A discussion section for this class would be useful in order to be able to go through material from class a second time and I think this would help students be more prepared for the tests.  
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8. Great course. I would have liked there to have been homework assignments that would have included exam-like questions, maybe 5-10 questions per topic covered in lecture. I thought such homework assignments would have increased students' understanding of class material and would have been more well suited than daily short quizzes that only included a question or two per learned topic.  
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9. One of best CS courses I have taken in the UT!  
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10. One minor complaint I have is that you wanted us to name our project files using a ".c " extension instead of a ".cpp" extension which is the industry norm. I didn't see the purpose in that. Otherwise I look forward to taking more of your courses.  
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11. Great job with this course. You are an excellent instructor. My only complaint would be that the tests are very difficult - it might be good if less weight were put on the tests. Thank you for being very receptive to student concerns, especially when it comes to project deadlines, information about grades, and study strategies. It's evident that you care very much about each student and want to see them succeed. Also, I really like the format in which the class is taught - that is, we look at code and you ask students questions, but other students can ask questions at any time. It keeps the feel of an open dialogue going, and helps you pay attention because at any moment you might be asked to answer a question.  
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12. Professor Downing's courses are excellent. They really extend your knowledge in the subject matter and prepare you for life after college. Professor Downing, I would recommend making the multiple choice on your exams more diverse. I feel that at times your questions focus on one concept given it might be the most important one .  
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13. Glenn Downing is a valuable asset to the computer science department at UT. For having a rank 10 CS department in the US we have an abundance of professors who can not teach at all and it bothers me, but lecturers like Glenn Downing and Mike Scott are the crown jewels of the CS department. All these PHD's who attempt to teach me have all been horrible, but Glenn Downing has been absolutely great! The class is pretty difficult, but it's the one class I value most this semester. Honestly the CS department needs to give Downing a raise because he is a wealth of knowledge and he is an awesome teacher. If the CS department can not see this then you all should be ashamed. Please invest in more teachers like Glenn Downing.  
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14. Professor Downing is an amazing professor. He should be made a mandatory component of the Computer Science department's core curriculum. In his classing having the correct answer is not enough. In one of our class days even though a student had a question right because he could not explain it he doubted himself and then answered incorrectly. I don't think I have ever seen something like that. Even though I performed poorly in the class it does not mean that I did not enjoy it. I wish I could say more about how amazing and wonderful this course has been but there is a strict 750 character limit on this format and I don't think I will have enough room to type more praises of professor Downing. TAKE THIS COURSE! IT IS FANTASTIC!outofcharacters  
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15. Just to balance the praises that you'll receive, I'll gripe a bit about the negative things. I don't like your tests. I specifically hate the way most questions pile on top of one another and if you miss one, you most likely miss them all. This doesn't demonstrate my knowledge about the material if I consistently get every question marked wrong because of the same silly detail. Although I don't necessarily agree with the daily quizzes, I find them to be an automatic drop in a letter grade. I do understand that reading papers not too much to ask for, however it seems like a very... abstract thing to ask for. Seems as if it's just a method to weed out the people who won't "fully commit" to the class. [pastebin.com forwardslash PsA5j64M](https://pastebin.com/forwardslash/PsA5j64M)  
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16. Fantastic Instructor. Extremely well-prepared for class, and keeps lectures engaging and fast-paced. Clearly has an in-depth knowledge of material. One suggestion it would help material to stick in students minds' if we had weekly homework assignments that review the material we went over the previous week - all the little details start to blur together otherwise.  
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17. Great course. Tests were difficult but fair. Maybe a few homework assignments with similar test questions would help some prepare for tests a bit better.  
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18. Downing has been THE best teacher I've had my whole time at UT. I learned a lot taking this class, and I know it was worth the time!! I loved his teaching style of getting picked out in class to answer questions. Made me pay attention the whole time. Not to mention, it also kind of gave me an adrenaline rush, lol. I needed to be paying attention 100% of the time. I did not want to be called on, and not know what to answer! Great class. Great instructor. Would take another class with him again.

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19. Grading is rough but the class is very good  
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20. I felt many of the quizzes, based on the readings, asked too specific of questions. Also, the tests were much harder than the assignments and examples in class. It would have been nice to have had more examples like the ones on the test.  
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21. His explanations are incredibly clear. Some of the projects are difficult and time-consuming, and his tests are HARD, but I felt like I actually understood a lot more and paid more attention. Not just that, I have come to really enjoy Cpp. This class was recommended to me by a co-worker who took Professor Downing's class in standard template libraries or something a few years ago. The things that stuck with her were his teaching style, the hard projects and that last email from him at the end of the semester where he encouraged students to really pursue what they enjoy, not just what pays the most. I took CS373 last semester and was also very happily surprised when he sent that email. It really makes a difference when your professor cares.  
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22. Professor Downing is great. Very knowledgeable and thorough in his explanations. The tests were quite hard however, because most of it is simply trivia questions, and 'gotcha' questions that are just hard unless you studied A LOT or have a very high understanding of the material. I suppose this pushed one to work harder, but either way the tests are much more difficult than any of the other work you do in the class. It would be great to have some small homeworks or practice problems besides quizzes to get more practice with the finer, nit-picky trivia details of cPlusPlus that I know will be covered on the tests.  
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23. The textbook readings are dull, but I suppose that's inevitable. They rarely came up in quizzes or assignments so I didn't feel very motivated to read them.  
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24. There needs to be more than the slides and your words. Retaining the information would have been easier if there had been something like the annotated examples that some students did later.  
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25. Lectures were dense with information in a good way. Professor explained concepts in a clear and concise manner. First two assignments were trivial to me, while the last three were worthwhile. I felt exams were too heavily weighted toward topics we hadn't covered as often and in depth as other topics.  
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26. Overall, this was an excellent course that greatly strengthened my knowledge of C and helped my general programming skills. One improvement might have been to spend a little more time on OO design patterns in general rather than focusing mostly on C++.  
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