

*** PROVISIONAL REPORT ***

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Downing, Glenn P C S371P 51620
E100 EXPANDED

COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY
OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

Spring 2018 DEPARTMENT COPY
Enrollment = 55
Surveys Returned = 52

	NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE					NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	0	0	1	9	42	52	4.8
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	0	6	46	52	4.9
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	0	1	6	45	52	4.8
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	0	0	12	40	52	4.8
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	1	4	10	37	52	4.6
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	0	2	7	43	52	4.8
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	0	3	13	36	52	4.6
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	0	0	1	4	47	52	4.9
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	0	0	2	10	40	52	4.7
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	0	0	4	48	52	4.9
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	0	0	1	11	40	52	4.8
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	1	3	48	52	4.9
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	1	2	11	14	24	52	4.1
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	0	0	4	17	31	52	4.5
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	0	0	3	16	33	52	4.6
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	0	0	0	17	35	52	4.7
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	2	2	18	30	52	4.5
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	0	0	0	11	41	52	4.8
	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	0	1	6	45	52	4.8
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	0	2	13	37	52	4.7
	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	1	11	38	2	0	52	
	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	1	0	8	18	25	52	
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>		
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	28	19	5	0	0	52	

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: 27

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1. OOP was a great course. I learned c++ from scratch and I feel pretty confident with it, and can also see similarities and differences with Java now. Had some issues with the format of the test, since it is hackerrank, and a not compiling a question means 0 pts for it, I feel like it is unfair to students because it is hard to get all the syntax correct with the time constraint.
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2. Thanks for the amazing semester :) Everything is great except for the readings, I'm not exactly sure how closely are they suppose to be related to the course, I confess I didn't do the readings personally, didn't see the need to.
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3. I learned a lot in this course. I really enjoyed the format of the lectures. Calling on random people rather than allowing anyone to answer allows for people to be confused and slows the pace of the class down which is helpful because often times I have similar issues understanding topics than some of my classmates. I enjoyed all 5 projects. They all were a good difficulty and were pertinent to what we were doing in class. My only negative about the class was the readings. The textbook and the individual readings were hard to connect to what we were learning in class.
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4. Honestly this was one of the best, if not the best class I've taken at UT! I'd definitely take another class with Prof. Downing. The class was very well organized and defined. It was excellent!
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5. I learned a great deal from this course even though I did pretty bad on the first exam. The projects helped me really learn the concepts and I felt the use of CI with Travis and the Google Test suite will prepare me for my internship this summer. I'm really glad I took this course and look forward to taking another course with Prof. Downing next semester.
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6. Cancellation of office hours: It'd be nice if you could make them up that week. Some issues are handled easily when we meet in person rather than having a conversation on Piazza which spans multiple days. Project details online: For example, return values for Allocator were not specified. I know they were stated in class, but it'd be nice if they were written in the project description online. Quizzes: I believe that the quizzes were difficult, but I think you provided enough extra credit to make up for the difficult quizzes. It'd be nice if we went over similar questions in class before the quiz. Thanks for a great semester! I look forward to taking SWE with you in the future.
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7. I really love Professor Downing's class! He does grade pretty harshly - but it forces you to pay attention to detail. It's a very worthwhile experience!
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8. I really appreciated how organized this class was. The tests, lectures, and projects weren't disjoint, which made the course feel more fair and also more useful. It never felt like we were rushing through topics, so I thoroughly understood everything that was taught, as opposed to superficially understanding a bunch of things. Additionally, Professor Downing is a very engaging lecturer.
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9. One of the best professors I've ever taken. Learned a lot of interesting concepts. Lectures were very engaging.
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10. Great course, great professor. Lecture style is engaging and leaves you wanting more information. The projects in this course were slightly challenging, but very fun. My only complaint is the tests. I believe they are weighted too much. My grade on the first test was abysmal because I started writing code that was wrong, but passed some of the tests for that question. I began to correct it, but ran out of time, and at the end no tests passed, and I received NO partial credit for code that was more correct than before. Also, since I was not able to get that question, I could not do the next question, so I was doubly screwed. Questions should not directly build off each other. I do not feel my test grade reflects how much I have learned.
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11. I really liked this class and recommend it to friends! Sometimes the lectures do get boring or repetitive but I think in a way it's kinda necessary to learn about one programming language in deep detail. The grading was weirdly easy which I have NO problem with. I put a ton of effort into this class and I'm so happy that my grade will actually reflect that, unlike in other CS courses I've taken. The requirement for changing partners every time was burdensome. I ended up working with someone that I regret interacting with in the first place, and I didn't have a good way to know if they'd be a good partner before starting the project. I really liked the scheduling of the class and how the exams didn't overlap with projects.
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12. The class was great but I do have a few complaints. The professor would take a long time to notice whenever a student would raise their hand. I wasn't a fan of the blogs and the workflow (it was a bit tedious). The talks were great, especially the Grobman talk. Everything else was great.
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13. Downing was very helpful and could communicate the concepts clearly.
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14. I really enjoyed this class, especially the real-world applications. I wasn't a huge fan of being called on all the time, but I appreciated that Professor Downing made an effort to make everyone feel comfortable, and asked about improving the experience of the students in the class / UTCS in general. He should probably charge his laptop more frequently, though.
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15. This class introduced me to several tools that I hadn't worked with before (Travis CI, Google Test, doxygen, and Docker). We briefly covered each of these tools in class, but I had to do a lot of learning outside of class. Learning more about these tools in class would be great, but being able to pick up things on your own is something that will be expected of you in industry. Using HackerRank as a testing platform was great! Being able to get live feedback during the test helped a lot. All of the projects were interesting and I was able to learn a lot from them. I only attended the last 2 optional lectures, but I enjoyed both of them. I'd recommend this class to all of my friends.
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16. I found this class to be extremely satisfying, and I learned a lot. I loved the lectures, and the projects provided enough challenge to teach concepts without being impossible.
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17. This is one of the best courses I have taken at UT. It puts the organization and effectiveness of some other CS courses to shame. C++ is probably the most intimidating of the important programming languages, and after a few months in this course I feel confident writing it. The collection of tools seemed well chosen. I feel that I used each tool regularly in working on the projects, and have continued to use several of the tools outside of class. I enjoy the use of Hackerrank for evaluation.
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18. I thought this class was very good. The information was thoroughly taught and the structure of the class was organized. I thought

the tools clang, git, hackerrank, and valgrind were useful since they helped make programming much more manageable by automatically formatting the code, saving the code, and checking the code for memory leaks. I thought that the projects were very fair and manageable within the given time and they also helped me learn concepts of C plus plus. I think it would have been nice to have been told we would not be getting any starter code starting from the second project, but other than that I have no complaints. As for the talks, I thought they were interesting and insightful on the actual cs industry.

19. This class was challenging for me, but I enjoyed it overall. I think the Hacker Rank tests for exams are a good idea, and I appreciate that we are given a chance to review similar material to practice with. I also really liked that we had specific lab hours in addition to office hours. The TAs were great, and I appreciate all their help. I do think some of the project specs could have had a bit more clarity, specifically in the Life project regarding the Fredkin Cell life cycle. Overall I think this has been a useful course, and I'm glad to have taken it.

20. Lectures weren't bad, but I found it hard to comprehend the material while he was talking. The lectures were very verbal, so I often get lost quickly. Having some more visuals or the words on the screen would definitely help. Or at the beginning of the lecture, explain what we're going to learn today help me not get lost. I did like talk with the women. It was very interesting to listen to more life and career issues and not just CS topics. Found the class to have little incentives to learn about OOP concepts. Despite having weekly readings, there are not much quizzes on them. Since the exams doesn't test them, you eventually stop doing the readings.

21. I learned a lot from all of the projects, the one that gave me a tough time was the life project. I wasn't able to understand how the project could be completed without using a getter for the cells state, and neither was anyone that I spoke to. Everything about this class was great. I do feel that some of the quizzes can be a bit confusing in determining what exactly it is trying to ask.

22. I feel like I learned a lot in this class. I usually felt like I wasn't given enough time for the quizzes, however studying for them was also difficult because there was a lot of material. Going over the quizzes in class was helpful. The tools were interesting however I felt like we weren't given enough instruction on how to use them. For example, it wasn't until later in the semester I found out how to run travis locally or how to view the documentation generated by doxygen. I really liked how the projects included HackerRank tests. While they were often difficult to figure out, they were also helpful when trying to figure out the project. I also enjoyed having speakers in this class and hearing them talk about topics from class.

23. Thank you so much for an incredible semester, I look forward to SWE next year!

24. Downing is a very good professor. His lectures were engaging and useful. I feel like I learned a lot of useful knowledge about C++ in this class. I felt like the least useful part of the class was the blog. I understand the importance of being able to write, but I don't think that writing about what I thought of the class transfers that well to writing the kinds of documents that would be useful in industry. The blog was mostly just busy work to me. However, since it was such a small portion of the grade, I did not care that much.

25. The only thing that really bothered me about the class was the exams, more specifically the second exam. Though the questions on the exams did cover material that was relevant to the exercises and practice we did in class, the timing for the second exam was quite constrained for the format it was given in. 7 programming questions, 2 or 3 of which I would classify as very substantial in terms of the length of the solution and the number of concepts that needed to be applied to have a working solution, requires very few mistakes to be made in order to finish the exam on time, taking into account how long it takes to compile the code and run against the tests frequently. For the most part, however, this class was very enjoyable and informative.

26. Thank you for a great semester, I learned a great deal about C++, and being a better programmer in general.

27. I absolutely loved attending lecture for this course. Professor Downing was engaging and concise, and I feel like I have a thorough understanding of the material. I found all the tools that we used useful except for Docker, which I never used once for this course. I thought HackerRank was great for both the exercises and the exam. I found all the projects interesting and that they all solidified the material we were learning. I even found them as good introductions to future topics, such as learning about handlers through the Cell class of the Life project. I do second the feedback that Paul left on Piazza concerning the exams. Adhering to the suggested method of coding, uncommenting one test at a time, was tough given the time limit.