UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN   COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY   Spring 2019 DEPARTMENT COPY
Downing, Glenn P   C S373   51050   SOFTWARE ENGINEERING   Grade-eligible enrollment = 58
E100 EXPANDED   Surveys Returned = 52

NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE

	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	0	2	3	17	30	52	4.4
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	0	8	44	52	4.8
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	6	4	11	30	51	4.3
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	2	2	12	36	52	4.6
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	2	4	10	36	52	4.5
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	2	1	5	18	26	52	4.3
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	1	6	16	29	52	4.4
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	0	0	0	6	45	51	4.9
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	0	3	5	21	23	52	4.2
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	0	5	7	40	52	4.7
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	0	0	7	13	32	52	4.5
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	0	12	39	51	4.8
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	1	9	15	11	15	51	3.6
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	1	10	15	10	15	51	3.5
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	0	0	1	24	26	51	4.5
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	0	3	0	16	33	52	4.5
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	1	5	20	26	52	4.4
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	1	0	0	16	35	52	4.6

	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	2	3	16	31	52	4.5
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	3	4	16	28	51	4.4

	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	3	36	11	1	1	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	0	0	2	14	36	52	

	__A__	__B__	__C__	__D__	__F__		
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	23	22	7	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: 26

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1. I have never learned as much in a class as I did in SWE, but I do feel that it could be run in a way that causes less stress to students. Having clearer guidelines on projects and expectations, avoiding last-minute changes to the rubric, and not having things to do within 24 or 48 hours of the deadline would've been nice. Overall, I do think this class was definitely worth taking and Professor Downing is an excellent teacher, but it is definitely not a class to take lightly.
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2. It was a great class. Professor Downing is soooo logical when he was explaining concepts.   My complaints about the course: 1) Phase 2 is a little too overwhelming. Should have React as part of Phase 1's requirements.   2) No assignments to reflect what we did in class which if there were would be a good review of the midterms. Nothing much after that. Pretty great class and I wish I had taken it sooner. Right now I just hope to pass.
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3. I took SWE after taking OOP last year. Both great learning experiences. I liked the project in SWE better than the projects in OOP, largely because I felt like I was contributing to something greater instead of just trying to meet some static criteria. As I'll be going into the industry as a software engineer in a few months myself, it was 100% worth my time to take this class.
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4. I think that the instructions for the assignments could be refined.   For example, in Phase 3, I felt that the description for "Google-like search" was very vague on the assignments page. I remember that the TAs were also confused about the "Google-like search" requirements, and the follow-up had requirements that were different from what the TAs have been telling groups I think that the rubric on the assignments page on the Software Engineering home page should have all requirements listed onit, instead of putting some only on Piazza. Often, my group would get points off when we followed everything on the SWE website's rubric but forgot to double-check Piazza. The course has been taught for 10 years, so there shouldn't be any surprises.
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5. The rubrics for assignments were often too sparse and required a lot of additional piazza clarifications. Having all of the guidelines in one spot at the time the assignments are given out would be useful.
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6. Downing and the TA's did a great job with the course! For the 3rd phase of the project, I wish there was more time to do it. I think we did the most work in that phase, and it was due the week we came back from spring break. I think most groups opted to not do anything during spring break, and it was really rough for us all. Having more time during this phase (and maybe less time during one of the latter phases as it's just "refining and refactoring, primarily" would be nice. Thanks for the semester! I learned a lot in this class.
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7. Wonderful Class!
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8. 1. I found the lectures very engaging and interesting. Although I was hesitant about the cold-calling at first, I began to enjoy it later on. 2. I enjoyed learning all the different tools required for our projects. I think it will definitely be useful in my career. 3. I enjoyed the non-group project because it allowed me to get familiar with the workflow of the projects by myself before joining a group project. 4. I enjoyed the group project. I understand that it was established that there is a huge disconnect between the lectures and the projects, but I personally would have preferred if there wasn't one. 5. I really enjoyed the different speakers that came in to talk. It gave me an opportunity to learn more about the industry.
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9. 1. The lectures were engaging and definitely promoted class participation. The topics were useful to me. 2. I liked being able to learn about the different tools and at least using it once. I'm sure all of these tools will be vital in the industry,so I enjoyed the fact that we could use them. 3. The project gave a good intro to the structure of the projects to come. 4. The project was helpful and I learned a lot; the grading and requirements were messy. I felt like some aspects were too subjective (e.g backend design). Frequently, there would be a new requirement given only a day before the deadline. 5. Speakers gave some good insight on their specialties, I definitely benefitted from it.
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10. A very good course that covered a variety of useful material.
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11. Information is not in a convenient location and is often difficult to locate or results in having to flip back and forth to find requirements.   There was too much spam on piazza and too many pinned posts. This made it difficult to find relevant information there. It seemed that the instructor nor the TAs had sufficient knowledge of the technologies used such as AWS. If we ran into a major bug sometimes not even the TAs knew how to handle it. HTTPS was a big issue. The content restriction made it difficult to make a well built and cohesive website. When it came to implementing search there were other ways we could have structured the data that would have made more sense. Thanks for going easy on us on the grading. It was appreciated
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12. the lectures: Python - interesting and engaging material, JavaScript - never looked at them, SQL - interesting but simple, refactoring - boring but probably important; the tools: mostly good & easy to use. Gitlab CI could use more instruction in class. HackerRank is great during lecture; the non-group project: Collatz - easy, good intro to gitlab; the group project: AWS - easy to use; GitLab Issues: good, React/Bootstrap - difficult learning curve at first but lots of resources online (providing some signposting would be good); the speakers: Atlassian & Under Armour - typical recruiting, not super useful, Dr. Rich and Dr. Cline - good material but a bit dated, Miriam Grobman - LOVED this talk, engaging and thought-provoking, my fav by far
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13. Assignment scope was often unclear and needed a lot of piazza posts to clear up, often leading to last minute changes. Very hard to work with.
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14. Please provide clear project specifications well in advance of deadline.
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15. Probably one of the best classes Io?=ve ever taken at UT. I felt challenged but in a good way where I learned a lot. Downing is super passionate about teaching and genuinely cares about his students. I personally wish there was more practice material for the exams because ito?=s either app or nothing with the questions, which makes the tests very anxiety inducing.
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16. I learned a lot about python and oop from this course. I like the lecture style very much. However, I would like to have weekly light-weighted homework that we can practice using Hackerrank and lecture content.
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17. Highly enjoyed the course, and the project was quite a learning experience. I feel like it should be required to use react from the very first phase though - we had a lot of issues because we had to move to react partway through.
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18. Learned a LOT of Python details. Would have liked to see the same amount of detail for JavaScript. Should have forced the use of react from phase 1. Project requirements were only made explicitly clear about a day before they were due, which was a little annoying. The ssl requirement was pretty annoying and took a good chunk of my time. Even if some people managed to get it working rather quickly, others will probably make a small mistake somewhere or use a different tutorial that just takes forever to fix.
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19. did not enjoy the refactoring lectures. In class notes are good in class but reviewing them is very difficult.
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20. Comparing the amount of time needed to work on the projects vs the tests. It does not make sense for the tests to be weighted so heavily. Requirements for the projects are usually scattered around Piazza and the course website. It makes it troublesome to keep up and track all requirements that might have possibly changed. The Instructor also made major changes to one assignment one day before the deadline. I found that to be disrespectful to the students' time. The reasoning was to simulate areal-life work environment, however in real-life a person usually has one job and not 4 other classes that need their own time and attention. Overall, the instructor is probably the most prepared and most excited professor I've had at UTCS.
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21. I learned a great deal in this course. I wish the projects aligned more with what we learned in class though. With the number of different languages we used in this course, such as Python and JavaScript, I would've felt like I had a better understanding of each of them if they had been discussed in class.
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22. I liked the clear explanation about the large disconnect between the lectures and projects, but I think it would have been best to discuss some of the required tools for the projects. I like the lecture material, but it seemed very much like a how to code in Python and SQL course. I think having at least one lecture about javascript or how React works would be helpful. Even if students aren't tested over it, most UTCS students have no exposure to frontend development and I think a stepping stool (even a small one) would be highly beneficial. I also did not like that the TAs and the instructors had conflicting instructions. It seemed the instructor had a very clear idea of what he wanted after the fact, but instructions were vague sometimes.
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23. I like how your course is set up and I appreciate how much thought you put into teaching us industry-relevant skills. Contrary to some, I really liked the variety of different things that were taught in this course. I liked doing blog posts, though they got mundane after a while with the same questions. Personally, I would have preferred to write a response to a reading instead of the same weekly questions. I also think loosening the project design constraints would let people be a little more creative with their websites and might make people more engaged with their project. One other minor nitpick is that I really didn't like how you interrupted students when they were answering your questions in class.
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24. lectures - the lectures were very useful. I already knew python before entering the class, but there were a lot of nuances that you covered that I didn't know. tools - it would have been helpful to have even a brief introduction to all the tools that we used. collatz (individual project) - If you have experience with python already, it's a pretty simple project. group project - again, I feel like even a brief introduction would have been very useful. Besides that, there could have been a bit more guidance. The project was a bit open-ended, so stricter criteria could have helped. the speakers - all were really interesting to listen to. I really enjoyed their lectures. Really great class to take!
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25. The disconnect between the projects and lectures makes the course hard to see what I am trying to get out of it. The lectures only matter for two points in the semester, test 1 and 2, and that material feels arbitrary and without direction, while weare also dealing with very complex projects throughout the semester.
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26. Lectures: Very good The Tools: I would have liked time spent in class on explaining some project tools. The Non-Group Project: Very good introductory project The Group Project: Again, I would have liked time spent in class talking about how to go about some aspects of this project. The Speakers: All generally good.