

*** PROVISIONAL REPORT ***

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
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E100 EXPANDED

COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING-WB

Fall 2020 DEPARTMENT COPY
Grade-eligible enrollment = 59
Surveys Returned = 56

	NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE					NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	0	1	0	13	42	56	4.7
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	1	0	10	45	56	4.8
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	0	3	10	43	56	4.7
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	1	1	6	48	56	4.8
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	3	2	8	43	56	4.6
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	1	1	4	9	40	55	4.6
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	0	2	12	42	56	4.7
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	0	0	1	7	48	56	4.8
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	1	0	2	16	37	56	4.6
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	1	1	12	42	56	4.7
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	0	2	1	11	42	56	4.7
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	1	7	48	56	4.8
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	1	1	11	14	29	56	4.2
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	2	4	9	15	26	56	4.1
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	0	0	3	20	33	56	4.5
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	1	0	1	10	44	56	4.7
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	2	1	21	32	56	4.5
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	1	1	3	8	42	55	4.6
	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	2	1	11	42	56	4.7
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	3	3	11	39	56	4.5
	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	5	35	15	0	1	56	
	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	1	2	12	41	56	
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>		
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	39	15	1	0	1	56	

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: 30

1. RESPONSE: I appreciate the use of class time to cover topics unrelated to the projects. While some may see this as a negative, I believe learning core materials like Python and SQL that will remain in web dev activates our ability to research the more up to date tools used in our actual development. One aspect I believe could be improved is the timing of the exams. I believe group work time should be shorter, rather than split 50/50 with individual time. I understand group work is to allow all students to collaborate on an answer, but the truth is that if an individual has not fully completed the work, they are aiming at a sub-80 score on the exam. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-4, Q2-5, Q3-4, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-3, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-3, Q10-4, Q11-3, Q12-5, Q13-4, Q14-2, Q15-5, Q16-4, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-4, Q20-5, Q21-3, Q22-5, Q23-1,

2. RESPONSE: Good professor. I do wish that examples weren't pre-written and that we could watch him write a test or two live during lecture because sometimes it's a bit hard to keep up / understand what some block of code is doing if you're one of the people who is less experienced in swe. I also think it'd be nice to have some lectures dedicated to the content of the projects because I think that would've clarified some things and made for less hours wondering how to work on the projects /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-4, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-4, Q11-4, Q12-5, Q13-4, Q14-4, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

3. RESPONSE: n/a /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-4, Q2-4, Q3-4, Q4-4, Q5-4, Q6-4, Q7-4, Q8-4, Q9-4, Q10-4, Q11-4, Q12-4, Q13-4, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-4, Q17-4, Q18-4, Q19-4, Q20-4, Q21-3, Q22-3, Q23-2,

4. RESPONSE: FYI Python doesn't use buckets or linkedlists in its hash-map/set implementation. Would prefer no cold calling. Test format is one of the best I've taken. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-4, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-4, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-4, Q11-5, Q12-4, Q13-5, Q14-3, Q15-4, Q16-4, Q17-4, Q18-3, Q19-4, Q20-4, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

5. RESPONSE: This was a truly amazing class! I have learned so much from this class including various languages and tools, which I believe will be so valuable for my career in the future! Professor Downing is a great professor and he has made learning the material very fun and engaging. Overall, I would recommend this class to everyone! /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-4, Q23-1,

6. RESPONSE: I really enjoyed writing the blog posts every week. It's fun to reflect on your week, and it's also nice to know that you're not the only one struggling or having a busy week. Controversial opinion, but I didn't find the papers to be too enjoyable, and thought some of them were a bit long. I really liked the catme tool that created the group I'm working in. We all work great together as a team, and I've enjoyed working on the projects with them. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-4, Q3-4, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-4, Q12-5, Q13-4, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-4, Q20-4, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-2,

7. RESPONSE: I thought this was a great class, which is unsurprising, because I was in the similarly structured OOP class last semester. MOST EFFECTIVE: the conversational way Downing teaches the class works very well. We get to see the concepts we're learning about in action. I also think the in-class HackerRank exercises are effective, because we're forced to immediately apply what we've been learning. MOST CHALLENGING: Definitely building a website. My team was amazing, so I had a very reasonable workload, but it was still a hard thing to do. I know it's meant to teach us how a CS job actually is, but it still felt a little strange that our homework was completely unrelated to our classwork. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

8. RESPONSE: The project was super valuable as a learning experience and I feel it directly contributed to me landing a software engineering internship! /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-4, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-4, Q13-3, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

9. RESPONSE: Great teacher! The only thing was really that sometimes Larry added or changed requirements that made it really hard to get a good grade because we're cramming to fit in all of these requirements. Additionally, not all TAs are on the same page about what it means to grade fairly. Larry would often set unreasonable requirements, other TAs would agree that they were unreasonable, and then they would help us out. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-4, Q8-5, Q9-4, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-4, Q23-2,

10. RESPONSE: Really great class /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-3, Q22-4, Q23-1,

11. RESPONSE: For grading on the projects, the TA's were unfair at times. Many students say they regularly get points off for things they did in fact do, and to remedy they must submit regrade requests. My group for instance had two phases where nearly a letter grade was taken off for criteria we had done and had to submit regrade requests for. We got our points back, but having to repeatedly contact TAs to get credit for work we had done was unpleasant and a time drain. Also, points get taken off for items not listed on the rubric which is extremely frustrating. I just think that this semester, in particular, the TAs' grading of the projects was a bit harsh and unreasonable at times. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-4, Q8-5, Q9-4, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-3, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-2, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

12. RESPONSE: I really enjoyed your encouragement of class participation as a way of solidifying our understanding rather than penalize students for not knowing the information immediately. You are very patient and you explain swe topics well. My only regret is not taking this class in person! /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-4, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-4, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-3, Q22-5, Q23-1,

13. RESPONSE: Professor Downing is extremely sweet and a great lecturer. I always felt like he cared about his students and their concerns, and really enjoyed this class. The projects, while extremely difficult, were worthwhile learning experiences. The one thing I would say is that Phase 2 of the web projects was far, far too much work to be able to handle, and it was some of the most stress I'd felt in all of college so far. I'd recommend putting some of the Phase 2 requirements into the other phases, or make the deadline later (especially since we had a test around the same time). Phase 4 was extremely light, so a better balance across phases would be better! /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-4, Q14-3, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-1, Q22-5, Q23-1,

14. RESPONSE: Many of the points that were taken off were for things not specified neither on the rubric nor on Piazza. Exams were a bit hard to balance out as the website development didn't really use much of the in-class material, and the website was already a timesink. My team and I already had some web development experience, but I felt like this class was unfair in expecting professional-level development from students that could have no experience whatsoever; however, the class, in the end, was still very valuable in the experience it provided. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-3, Q7-4, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-4, Q11-4, Q12-4, Q13-3, Q14-2, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-4, Q20-4, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-2,

15. RESPONSE: I thought that this class taught me the most about real-life than any other class I've taken at UT. In this class, I have the freedom to use any tool that will make my website good, and Downing really encourages you to that! This class is very realistic in terms of what we'll encounter in the industry, so this class is extremely valuable :) Thank you Professor Downing! /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-4, Q23-2,

16. RESPONSE: Although the lectures were certainly informative, it often felt like it has little to do with what we are actually working on. Even though it was explained that this was the expectation of the class, a lot of times there were large disconnects between the course material and the actual projects that we were working on, to the point where sometimes it felt like it was two different classes, which sometimes made me feel lost. I am assuming this was likely intended to allow us to experience what a real-world working environment might be like, but it still made me feel uncomfortable and confused at times nonetheless. Also, a lot of times the class experience felt intimidating, where sometimes it felt like there was a condescending view on people who didn't understand the material, and for the projects, it almost felt like there was a hidden rubric that the TAs had made up themselves on top of the given rubric which they made based off of their own preferences, which our group felt like gave us an inaccurate representation of the actual work that we created. For the actual project experiences, they were quite nice, and I wouldn't change anything about the working experience other than the confusion about the grading process and results. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-4, Q2-4, Q3-3, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-3, Q7-4, Q8-5, Q9-4, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-3, Q14-3, Q15-3, Q16-4, Q17-2, Q18-4, Q19-4, Q20-4, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

17. RESPONSE: I think this class was the best out of all my classes in terms of everything being online. I think the participatory-style of lecture was nice. Cold calling really wasn't that bad. Although the learning curve for some of the tools is really high, but I guess that's to be expected. Definitely am glad my other course load was relatively average when taking this class. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-4, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

18. RESPONSE: The way the classes were structured using the Socratic method made me feel like my questions could be easily answered and helped me learn the topics much better. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-3, Q22-5, Q23-1,

19. RESPONSE: I think I learned a lot in this course. I really enjoyed working on the project with my group even when it was stressful and challenging at times. I really appreciate how Professor Downing answered to extending the due dates, which was really helpful for my group and others I assume. I didn't mind the disconnect between lecture and the project. However, hearing from backend, they said it would've been more helpful if the SQL material was taught more towards the beginning of the semester since it would have come in handy around phase 2. For phase 1 of the project, I think it would've been nice to have our groups decided earlier, so we could have thought of an idea/proposal earlier and start on creating the website earlier. Overall, great class. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

20. RESPONSE: I enjoyed this class a lot! Notes for the for the future: I liked the format of the second test, and I wish we had spent more time on refactoring before the second test. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-2,

21. RESPONSE: This is probably my first class in college so far. It was an overall useful class that I expect to help me further into my career, and it was just a fun class to be in as the class group-oriented. Being stuck with upperclassmen was intimidating, but had a lot of fun working with my peer and made new friendships that I didn't think I would in this pandemic. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-4, Q6-4, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

22. RESPONSE: I really enjoyed the format of this course, and even though I don't have the time to take OOP, I'll definitely consider auditing it just to learn about C++. One change that I think would be effective would be to have the course material complement the projects. For example, the refactoring lecture didn't overlap completely with phase 4, and I think it would have been great to have it before phase 4. Same with the SQL material, which would have been effective during phase 2. I also think some more guidance for the initial setup of the project would be great. Besides this, I think the course was great. I would highly suggest it to anyone, but I do think it may be a little hard to pick up if no one on the team has experience with full stack development. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-4, Q6-4, Q7-5, Q8-4, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-4, Q14-3, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-3, Q22-5, Q23-1,

23. RESPONSE: CS373 was my favorite class that I have taken at UT so far, and Professor Downing was an excellent professor! Each lecture had a well-defined format, and Professor Downing's explanations were very clear and understandable. I also really liked the two-stage tests and quizzes. They allowed me to go into an exam being less stressed since I could discuss the questions with my group after the first attempt and attempt the test again. This also helped me better understand the questions I missed in the first attempt. The intentional disconnect between lectures and projects allowed me to become better at self-learning. I learned many new technical skills through the projects that will be useful for a future career in software engineering. My only suggestion for the projects would be to perhaps spread the IDB phase 2 requirements across phase 2 and phase 3. We implemented most of the important features in our website during phase 2, so spreading out the requirements across phases 2 and 3 would allow groups to structure their website better initially. Overall, I thought this was an extremely enjoyable and valuable course. I would recommend that all CS majors take at least one of Professor Downing's classes! /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-4, Q23-1,

24. RESPONSE: I think this course taught me a lot about the industry. I really liked the two-staged quizzes and tests because I felt relieved when I worked with others. I think there really should be one class on Javascript and maybe a little less on Python. I also think it would be beneficial to have one class dedicated to ethics or women in tech and how to help the situation. I really liked the women in tech articles we had to read, so thank you for bringing light to the situation. Maybe give extra credit for going to the "How to be an Ally" session next semester held by WiCS? Overall, this class was amazing! Thank you for being gentle during the cold-calling, and the TAs were very helpful and kind. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-4, Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-4, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

25. RESPONSE: I enjoyed the class. The only thing I would change is the requirements/workload for each phases. Phase 2 is so much more work than any of the other phases. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-4, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-3, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

26. RESPONSE: The class was pretty pog. I learned a lot from the project, although it is pretty awkward how we just get thrown into the project extremely fast. I have a feeling that we probably need a little bit more context on what docker is, because 1 lecture does not really teach it too much and it's pretty difficult to understand. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-4, Q2-4, Q3-4, Q4-4, Q5-4, Q6-4, Q7-4, Q8-4, Q9-4, Q10-4, Q11-4, Q12-4, Q13-4, Q14-4, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-4, Q18-5, Q19-5,

Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-2,

27. RESPONSE: This class was awesome, and I learned a great deal from it. It also helped boost my confidence as a programmer. ///
SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-4, Q3-4, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5, Q12-5,
Q13-5, Q14-4, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-3, Q22-5, Q23-1,

28. RESPONSE: This class is extremely useful, and Downing is a very organized and knowledgeable professor, which is much appreciated.
Recommend. /// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-4, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-4, Q10-5,
Q11-5, Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-3, Q15-4, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-0, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

29. RESPONSE: I think this course was great and I've learned some really valuable skills in a short period of time! Thanks Downing!
/// SURVEY SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-5, Q10-5, Q11-5,
Q12-5, Q13-5, Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-5, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-1,

30. RESPONSE: I enjoyed this course and found the projects to be the best part of the experience where I learned the most, however I
found it to be really challenging to learn different material in class that wasn't reinforced by homework or projects. /// SURVEY
SUMMARY (Question Number-Scale Position) /// Q1-5, Q2-5, Q3-5, Q4-5, Q5-5, Q6-5, Q7-5, Q8-5, Q9-4, Q10-5, Q11-4, Q12-5, Q13-4,
Q14-5, Q15-5, Q16-4, Q17-5, Q18-5, Q19-5, Q20-5, Q21-2, Q22-5, Q23-2,
