Course Evaluation System at UNL

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Question Period: **'05-'06: Fall Semester**
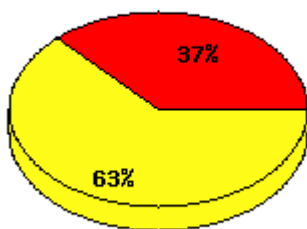Department: **Computer Science and Engineering (CSCE)**
Professor: **Stephen Scott**
Class: **CSCE 156A 061 Intro Comp Sci Ii CSCE156 Sec 150 Fall 2005 Section 150**

Response Statistics

Total Surveys: **27**
Evaluated Surveys: **17**

Created by VH Graph

☐ Completed Surveys
☐ Uncompleted Surveys

[1] My year in college is:

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate Student
2	8	4	2	1

[2] My overall grade point average is:

4.0 to 3.5	3.5 to 3.0	3.0 to 2.5	2.5 to 2.0	Below 2.0
6	5	3	2	1

[3] I am enrolled for the following number of credit hours this semester:

More than 18 hours	15 to 17 hours	12 to 14 hours	9 to 11 hours	Less then 9 hours
1	8	6	1	1

[4] I currently work the following number of hours per week at a job:

More than 40 hours	30 to 40 hours	20 to 30 hours	10 to 20 hours	Less than 10 hours
1	1	4	4	7

[5] This course is my major field of study:

Yes	No
14	3

	Strongly Disagree (1.00)	Disagree (2.00)	Indifferent (3.00)	Agree (4.00)	Strongly Agree (5.00)	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
[6] I see myself as a motivated student in this course.	0	2	4	7	4	0	3.76	4.00	0.97
[7] I was academically prepared to take this course.	0	0	3	12	2	0	3.94	4.00	0.56
[8] I was challenged to think in this course.	0	0	1	6	10	0	4.53	5.00	0.62
[9] My course grade will be a fair representation of my learning.	0	5	7	4	0	1	2.94	3.00	0.77
[10] I treated the instructor fairly and respectfully.	0	0	0	12	5	0	4.29	4.00	0.47
Question Set Stats							3.90	4.00	0.87

	Strongly Disagree (1.00)	Disagree (2.00)	Indifferent (3.00)	Agree (4.00)	Strongly Agree (5.00)	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
[11] Before taking this course, my interest in this subject was very high.	1	0	1	9	6	0	4.12	4.00	0.99
[12] I understand the objectives of this course.	0	1	2	9	5	0	4.06	4.00	0.83
[13] The organization of the course topics is reasonable and logical.	0	3	2	8	4	0	3.76	4.00	1.03
[14] The pace at which course topics are covered is reasonable.	0	4	2	9	2	0	3.53	4.00	1.01
[15] This course helped me improve my rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making ability.	0	2	2	7	5	1	3.94	4.00	1.00
[16] After taking this course, my interest in this subject is very high.	1	1	6	5	4	0	3.59	3.00	1.12
Question Set Stats							3.83	4.00	1.00

	Strongly Disagree (1.00)	Disagree (2.00)	Indifferent (3.00)	Agree (4.00)	Strongly Agree (5.00)	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
[17] The textbook, workbook, and/or lesson notes help me understand course material.	1	1	5	7	3	0	3.59	4.00	1.06
[18] The method (or methods) of presenting information in class enhances my learning.	0	3	5	6	3	0	3.53	4.00	1.01
[19] The coursework helps me understand and apply the subject matter.	0	1	3	9	4	0	3.94	4.00	0.83
[20] The amount of coursework is reasonable for what I am expected to learn.	2	4	2	6	3	0	3.24	4.00	1.35
[21] Testing methods fairly measure my understanding of the course material.	2	3	4	4	4	0	3.29	5.00	1.36
Question Set Stats							3.52	4.00	1.14

	Strongly Disagree (1.00)	Disagree (2.00)	Indifferent (3.00)	Agree (4.00)	Strongly Agree (5.00)	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
[22] The instructor is prepared for the class and is concerned about his or her preparation.	0	2	1	8	6	0	4.06	4.00	0.97
[23] The instructor makes good use of class time.	0	1	3	8	5	0	4.00	4.00	0.87
[24] The instructor is enthusiastic and interested in teaching this course.	0	1	1	5	10	0	4.41	5.00	0.87
[25] The instructor treats students in a professional manner.	0	0	5	6	6	0	4.06	5.00	0.83
[27] The instructor motivated me to understand and apply course concepts.	0	2	5	8	2	0	3.59	4.00	0.87
[28] The instructor provides useful feedback on how I am doing in the course.	0	6	6	3	2	0	3.06	3.00	1.03

	Strongly Disagree (1.00)	Disagree (2.00)	Indifferent (3.00)	Agree (4.00)	Strongly Agree (5.00)	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
[29] The instructor is accessible for help outside of the classroom.	0	2	6	2	4	3	3.57	3.00	1.09
[26] New concepts and examples are clearly explained at a level students can comprehend.	0	2	4	7	4	0	3.76	4.00	0.97
Question Set Stats							3.82	4.00	0.99

	Strongly Disagree (1.00)	Disagree (2.00)	Indifferent (3.00)	Agree (4.00)	Strongly Agree (5.00)	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
[30] The classroom physical environment (e.g. temperature, lighting, acoustics) is comfortable for learning.	0	1	1	8	7	0	4.24	4.00	0.83
[31] The classroom is free from outside distractions.	0	0	2	11	4	0	4.12	4.00	0.60
[32] The classroom design and furnishings do not interfere with my learning.	0	0	2	9	6	0	4.24	4.00	0.66
[33] The classroom has adequate instructional equipment and technology.	0	0	1	9	7	0	4.35	4.00	0.61
Question Set Stats							4.24	4.00	0.67

[1] What are 1 or 2 specific things that helped you learn in this class?

- Doing actual coding in class
- Homework assignments was the main thing that helped me learn in this course.
- I dropped this class.
- Labs
- Labs and the internet.
- My desire to get a good grade in this class and the fact that I knew it is a very tough course. It is also known as the make or break course.
- Reading the book and going to lecture.
- The enthusiasm that the instructor gives when he teaches the course, and the concern and understanding he has for his students.
- The handouts that supplements the book reading were great!

  The applied programming assignments and labs taught me more then the book reading.

  The flexible edu exams were crucial.
- The homeworks, while a lot of work, we a very good experience.
- The instructor has been great.
- The lab, and the book!
- classmates and the handouts
- slide handouts, textbook, online tutorials and links
- the homework assignments are to much and require to much out of class time to complete. the assignments are designed for a higher level of course. the explinations were mediocre, and the quizes, and tests were not very accurate as far as what was covered inthe course. Several times the professor did not know what was even being assigned. he just copied something from some previous professor so there was very little cogesiveness in the lessons, exams and quizes. The course is very misleading and requires a deeper knowledge in other related

areas then what was required to sign up for the course.

[2] What are 1 or 2 specific things that caused a problem with your learning in this class?

- I believe that the homework assignments were too frequent during the second half of the semester and not frequent enough during the second half of the semester. I also believe that there was too much theory during class time and not enough practical, this caused me to not understand the practical asspects of the course. Most of the labs expected too much work to be done in the amount of time that was alloted.
- I didn't have any problems learning in this class.
- I dropped this class.
- I prefer a hardware design class, where this one is mostly software and algorithm analysis.
- Material not covered deep enough. I mean Scott would teach what things are and what they do but never how to use them in a program. Ex. Recursion. I know what it is and how it works but I never really learn the in depth taught how to implement it except for the tower example .
- Missing lectures and not reading the book.
- Sometimes the work load was a problem in that it conflicted with other classes and work.
- The home work assignments were so long that I could not keep up with the reading and be able to study the topics covered inorder to fully understand the material.
- The homeworks that we had, had a lot of coding in them in a specific language , mainly php and c++. We did a lot of theory in class but we never really went over how to do a lot of the stuff, and the book was not really much help, bad reference. WE were basically forced to learn the languages on our own, which is not what the point of taking the class is, yes c++ is like java, but pointers are a different story, they are easy in theory, but coding them and passing in and making header files and makefiles is very confusing. I have mentioned to a couple of teacher about our homework namely the php homework and how we have to do a BST, and they are like WHAT, why what for, that is pointless. I would like to do practical things that I will use later on in my career, not stupid trivial stuff that is done just because it can be.
- The subjective points have to go. Who are you to question the way that I learn. If I don't ask questions in class that means I know what you are saying. I ask questions when I don't understand something not becuase I want to get bronie points from the instructor. The only 'fair' points you can assign are attendence points.
  I don't question the methodology of 'the dumb question asker' (3 questions in class) It jumpstarts the conversation and that is something that we can measure.
  But, I don't believe a student should be penalized because they don't constantly make comments. I spend many, many hours studying my book. Where were you then to assign my subjective points.
- Too much to do in very little time. The lab takes up most of the time and so plus it is only 15% of the grade,it should be more than that.
- procrastination
- the overbearing nature of the tests and multiple assignments from other classes overlapping
- time, but that's hardly the classes fault

[3] Please provide 1 or 2 practical suggestions on ways to help improve student learning in this course.

- I could not tell you any ways. I personally thought the class was set up just fine and I could easily learn the course materials.
- I dropped this class.
- I think the programming assignents desperately need to be made easier since it is impossible to finish them for a beginner. Plus it would help if instead of working individually on the homeworks they were made to be group projects. I have found that my learning curve increases at a rapid rate when I work with other people from my classes.
- I'm not sure how else to teach the material, but powerpoint presentatinos are very boring and hard to sit through.
- Learn your material, and get in sync with the lab, go over more "coding" examples. And really did we learn any php in class? Anything about sessions?? No, I think if we are suppose to do a homework on php then we should at least touch on things that it is going to involve!
- Make the class a 50-minute course and be more ocncise when covering material.
- More evenly spread out the homework assignments and provide more practical demonstrations of programming in class to reinforce programming concepts. This will provide a more solid foundation of these concepts for the students to use on the homework assignments. I feel that the homework assignments were overly difficult for the ammount of programming demonstrations that were provided in class. Granted, this encouraged me to find other avenues to learn the material but that is what is supposed to be taught inside the classroom.
- More specific syllabus to follow. (such as reading that should be done).
- Simple...
  More homeworks and more quizzes. The quizzes help me more than anything. They make sure a person doesn't fall behind.
- The main thing is that I dont learn well by taking concepts and applying them. So to better teach students the best thing (for me at least) is hands on learning or practical examples. What I mean is in class just go over say a stack... then open up putty on the projector in a file from our Labs or something with a stack and break it down and then implement a stack in the putty window from scratch and show its results. Thats the best way to teach.
- make the homework more interesting and fun, like that of the CSCE155 class that Prof. Soh does.

- n/a
- shorter and more focused homework assignments that build on each other instead of a 3 week assignment that prohibits the study of the course material. He just wanted to asign as much homework as possible and took no thought as to the amount of time required to accomplish the assignment
- smaller assignments with examples of the subject matter between large assignments would be nice
- test should provide a more fair basis for a grade ie not two to three questions that determine the whole thing

[5] Other comments that you would like to make:

- I dropped this class.
- I think the test reviews sucked. The game is a good idea for students to do outside of class and review on EDU to help, but I think the classtime of test review should be something like where you make a handout with everything that IS/COULD be on the test and we just slowly jump to each line reviewing and doing examples of what WE need to know more about.
- Professor Scott has a great attitude towards teaching and helped me feel confident learning the material.
- Scott is a spectacular teacher. I never have to question his knowledge and he keeps me interested. His class organization is superior and his arguments are tight. One of the best I have had(I am a senior).
- This was a fun, interesting course!
- happy holidays
- n/a

(1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Average	Mode	Standard Deviation
Using EDU in the labs did not interfere with my work on the labs.	0	3	2	5	7	0	3.94	5.00	1.14
Using EDU in the labs enhanced my learning of the lab material.	3	5	3	2	3	1	2.81	2.00	1.42
Using EDU on the exams did not interfere with my work on the exams.	3	2	4	2	6	0	3.35	5.00	1.54
Using EDU on the exams enhanced my learning of the course material.	4	4	4	1	3	1	2.69	3.00	1.45
The dumb question asker policy helped me learn.	1	1	4	8	3	0	3.65	4.00	1.06
Xuli Liu (grader and asst lab TA) was helpful whenever I sought help from him.	1	0	0	3	13	0	4.59	5.00	1.00
Brandon Hauff (lab TA) was helpful whenever I sought help from him, and was helpful in my learning of lab material.	1	0	3	5	8	0	4.12	5.00	1.11
Question Set Stats							3.61	5.00	1.38

State your opinion of each TA.

- Both TA's are good to have for this class
- Both TAs were helpful and very accomidating for answering questions that I had. I sought help from Xuli Liu more often because he allowed me to meet him outside of his office hours which was very helpful.
- Both are awesome
- Both were very polite and helpful throughout all the labs.
- The TA's were quite knowledgable and able to help students
- They seem to know their stuff, especially Xuli Liu, and they're nice to boot.
- Xuli Liu is very helpful and understands the material very well, and was able to portray his knowledge to us. Brandon also knows the material well and was helpful when needed
- Xuli Liu knows his stuff and is a great help during the labs

  Brandon Hauff is also very helpful
- Xuli is an amazing TA. He was very helpful and a very good grader as well. Brandon was helpful as well.
- Xuli is excelent, mainly because he is a great person and knows what is needed to answer our questions.

Brandon is a nice guy, well prepared but not as knowledgeful of Xuli.
- Xuli is simply a master in C++ and always has a detailed answer to each and every problem and question. Brandon needs to be more prepared for the labs; yet he never says no when asked for help.
- Xuli was awesome. He was always ready to help. Very approachable and understanding.

  Brandon was a bit on the grumpy side. I am sure he is a great guy but not TA material.
- Xuli was excellent due to his understanding of each language covered. He was also very good at explaining the topics and providing links were more or better information could be found
- Xuli you can tell he is really experienced and knows anything you could ask for about a c++ or php program or errors you get.

  Brandon is also very good programmer. He was most helpful to me in labs. He explained what stuff did if i didnt know and then would help me enough to get the task done.
- good, especially xuli liu he is a genius

What is your opinion on using the EDU system for labs? What about for exams?

- Both are great. I thought at the beginning that EDU exams were going to be bad but turns out they are okay. I think they should both be carried on to further classes.
- For labs it was nice, but with tests, it didn't really hurt or help.
- I did not enjoy using the EDU system for exams. I feel that to many of the quetions on the exams and quizzes did not reflect what was covered in class. no one is paying attention to the questions or quality and relevance of the questions until a problem happens and then its to late
- I don't believe that EDU provided any good or bad experiences during the course.
- I don't like EDU.
- I like it. Gives me a little more flexibility for when I can take it.
- I prefer to have exams in class rather than in the testing center.
- It doesn't bother me much for the quizzes but as far as the exams are concerned. I found it really unhelpful since there is no one present at the testing center to answer my questions regarding the content of exam. I suffered greatly just because of that.
- It is inpersonal.
- It seems like a practical way to take exams. It does not enhance studying in any way, but it's convenient and just as well off as a scantron test.
- Personally, I believe EDU is a great idea for labs and exams, because it takes that certain amount of pressure off of students during in-class paper exams. Also, because there is less pressure, the grade you recieve is a better representation of what the student was able to comprehend.
- The prelab and post lab questions were great. I don't think that the grading overhead would have allowed such a good program without EDU.
  For the exams the edu system was great. Taking a test when well rested and studied up is how it should be. In class tests add additional pressures. Especially when someone gets up and walks out 20 minutes early.
  KEEP THE EDU system. The instant graded feedback was invaluable. ++ I like the 80% pass policy. I have never seen that before but it is a great idea.++
  Try to make the quizzes lead the lectures more to ensure that every idea we see is old to us(like we already have studied it for the quiz).
- Well for the labs I do not mind at all. For the exams is just different because you are given a time frame in which you have to go in and take the exam.
- for the labs it was fine but with a busy schedule it is difficult to find a time when one can take the test outside of scheduled class time
- they were okay but the time limits were sort of annoying. it would have been nicer if the post-tests could have been done AFTER the lab class period ended instead of having to figure out where to quit trying and then do the post-test.
- works i guess, easy for the instructor

Give your opinion on how well the topics covered in class matched your expectations and how much they interested you.

- All very interesting, though I would have gotten more out of the class if I was able to devote more time to it (too many other semi-difficult classes).
- I actually expected this course to be somewhat more difficult, but am very satisfied with the workload and expectations.
- I believe that too much class time was spent on theory instead of practical programming concepts. The amount of programming demonstrations was good for SQL but was lacking for the rest of the class.
- I dropped this class because the material is not applicable to my major.
- I think that just about everything that has been in a computer science class has been held with great interest by myself and the topics are exactly like the sylibus said they would be.
- I think that there should be some kind of scale for each student to figure out how much time they need to spend on this course and the instructor should keep a tab on how students are using there time out side of class. I say this because I spent most part of my semester on this class and the instructor has no idea how hard I have had

- to work.
- I think that we need a class devoted to php and mysql. There is ALOT of stuff that I was curious about but we never pursued.
  All of the topics we covered where interesting. Not a boring moment.
- Really I still dont have a very good grasp on any language. There was a lot covered in the first 2 months that everything kept getting backed up. I think I can take what C++ and php , mysql that I learned from 156 and use it to apply it outside of school to better help myself in future Computer Science Courses.
- There was more to be known than I expected. They were interesting, but often times hard to stay awake during. More classroom interaction is needed.
- They matched my expectations and my interests. However, many topics in the class had already been covered in my AP computer science curriculum in high school.
- Topics covered, but not how to implement them
- much of the graph information is uninteresting; however the rest was quite well done
- the topics were good but the Homework assignments with drew from reading and studying the additional course material and was nothing more than a headache and distraction.

Offer your opinion on the amount of work required for this course, especially on the homework.

- As stated above, I believe the work required for the course is exceptionally fair.
- Homework required a reasonable amount of time given the amount of time we were given to complete the homework, though with a full load of classes my assignments in this class are always a race against the clock.
- Homework was very very time consuming, and labs were much too time consuming. Put an emphasis on one or the other, but not so much on both.
- It was fair but I procrastinated and did poorly. I think smaller assignments between the large ones to make us do examples of all of the topics covered would have been nice.
  They could be more elaborate and code-intensive than the labs, but much much smaller in scale than the homeworks.
- It was just right. :)
- More evenly spread out the homework assignments and provide more practical demonstrations of programming in class to reinforce programming concepts. This will provide a more solid foundation of these concepts for the students to use on the homework assignments. I feel that the homework assignments were overly difficult for the ammount of programming demonstrations that were provided in class.
- Please see the above statements
- The amount was good. The time was the only thing that is iffy. Some homeworks took a week where others were so complex they took three. I think it would be better to give like one HW assignment a week but really small (sort of like a hands on quiz).
- The homework are simply to tough for an introductory level course; one almost feels that as if the department wants most students to flunk the class. I mean the difficulty level can have some really good coders scratching their heads for a while. The homeworks that we are to individually should be made out to be group projectgs, so students can learn from each other.
- The work load was rather high, but after being done with the course, I kind of appreciate it because I feel pretty confident in my abilities as a programmer.
- Way too much work on the homework for how much they count towards your final grade, And the exams are worth a lot more and I you screw up on the first test, you are screwed, you can not really pull yourself out with the way the grading is. Offer a retake on the first test, because everyone needs a feel of how the tests are going to be structured....
- We need more homework. Don't be afraid to push back the homework. In fact, assign it so that you attencipate the extensions. I believe that we needed more homeworks in queue to run as a background task.
  The labs were good. Maybe more PHP in the labs?
- Well, I do not know how much work was actually required to do the homeworks. I personally like to have my programs absolutely flawless, and my attempt to do this most likely made me take more time than everyone else.
- maybe have time lines for the homework. ex. by this time you should have this part done etc.
- the homework is a little difficult for the time span given for each, but the first was just right.
- there is a lot of work required for the course but not more than i expected