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# UNL Online Course Evaluation System

## Individual Course Report - CSCE471 Sec. 001

### CSCE471 Section 001: INTRO BIOINFORMATICS

**Semester:** '10-'11: Spring Semester

**Survey Trigger:** UNL Spring 2011

**Instructor:** Stephen D. Scott

**Students:** 10

**Respondents:** 9

90.0%
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#### Evaluation of Course and Instructor

##### Base Questions item 4

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate Student
1. My year in college is:	1	0	0	0	8

##### Base Questions item 5

	4.0 to 3.5	3.5 to 3.0	3.0 to 2.5	2.5 to 2.0	Below 2.0
2. My overall grade point average is:	5	3	1	0	0

##### Base Questions item 6

	More than 18 hours	15 to 17 hours	12 to 14 hours	9 to 11 hours	Less than 9 hours
3. I am enrolled for the following number of credit hours this semester:	0	0	1	7	1

##### Base Questions item 7

	More than 40 hours	30 to 40 hours	20 to 30 hours	10 to 20 hours	Less than 10 hours
4. I currently work the following number of hours per week at a job:	1	2	5	0	1

**Base Questions item 8**

	Yes	No
5. This course is my major field of study:	7	2

**Base Questions item 10**

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Indifferent (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	N/A (0)	mean	mode	Std. Dev.
6. I see myself as a motivated student in this course.	0	0	0	8	1	0	4.11	4	0.33
7. I was academically prepared to take this course.	0	2	1	3	3	0	3.78	5,4	1.20
8. I was challenged to think in this course.	0	0	1	4	4	0	4.33	5,4	0.71
9. My course grade will be a fair representation of my learning.	0	2	0	6	1	0	3.67	4	1.00
10. I treated the instructor fairly and respectfully.	0	0	0	2	7	0	4.78	5	0.44
<b>Question Set Statistics</b>							4.13	4	0.87

**Base Questions item 12**

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Indifferent (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	N/A (0)	mean	mode	Std. Dev.
11. Before taking this course, my interest in this subject was very high.	1	0	1	6	1	0	3.67	4	1.12
12. I understand the objectives of this course.	0	0	1	5	3	0	4.22	4	0.67
13. The organization of the course topics is reasonable and logical.	0	0	0	5	4	0	4.44	4	0.53
14. The pace at which course topics are covered is reasonable.	0	0	0	8	1	0	4.11	4	0.33
15. This course helped me improve my rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making ability.	0	0	0	8	1	0	4.11	4	0.33
16. After taking this course, my interest in this subject is very high.	0	0	1	6	2	0	4.11	4	0.60
<b>Question Set Statistics</b>							4.11	4	0.66

**Base Questions item 14**

Strongly Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A	Std.
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	Disagree (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Agree (5)	(0)	mean	mode	Dev.
17. The textbook, workbook, and/or lesson notes help me understand course material.	0	0	2	4	3	0	4.11	4	0.78
18. The method (or methods) of presenting information in class enhances my learning.	0	0	0	4	5	0	4.56	5	0.53
19. The coursework helps me understand and apply the subject matter.	0	0	0	5	4	0	4.44	4	0.53
20. The amount of coursework is reasonable for what I am expected to learn.	0	0	0	8	1	0	4.11	4	0.33
21. Testing methods fairly measure my understanding of the course material.	0	0	1	6	2	0	4.11	4	0.60
<b>Question Set Statistics</b>							4.27	4	0.58

**Base Questions item 16**

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Indifferent (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	N/A (0)	mean	mode	Std. Dev.
22. The instructor is prepared for the class and is concerned about his or her preparation.	0	0	0	7	2	0	4.22	4	0.44
23. The instructor makes good use of class time.	0	0	1	6	2	0	4.11	4	0.60
24. The instructor is enthusiastic and interested in teaching this course.	0	0	0	5	4	0	4.44	4	0.53
25. The instructor treats students in a professional manner.	0	0	0	5	4	0	4.44	4	0.53
26. New concepts and examples are clearly explained at a level students can comprehend.	0	0	0	7	2	0	4.22	4	0.44
27. The instructor motivated me to understand and apply course concepts.	0	0	0	8	1	0	4.11	4	0.33
28. The instructor provides useful feedback on how I am doing in the course.	0	0	1	4	4	0	4.33	5,4	0.71
29. The instructor is accessible for help outside of the classroom.	0	0	0	5	4	0	4.44	4	0.53
<b>Question Set Statistics</b>							4.29	4	0.52

**Base Questions item 18**

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Indifferent (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	N/A (0)	mean	mode	Std. Dev.
30. The classroom physical environment (e.g. temperature, lighting, acoustics) is comfortable for learning.	0	0	2	6	1	0	3.89	4	0.60
31. The classroom is free from outside distractions.	0	2	2	4	1	0	3.44	4	1.01

32. The classroom design and furnishings do not interfere with my learning.	0	0	0	8	1	0	4.11	4	0.33
33. The classroom has adequate instructional equipment and technology.	0	0	0	7	2	0	4.22	4	0.44
<b>Question Set Statistics</b>							3.92	4	0.69

**Base Questions item 20**

34. What are 1 or 2 specific things that helped you learn in this class?

- Similar courses taken (e.g., CSCE 970) for learning the computational material, as well as the background information provided for the biology material
- The way the instructor teaches is mind blowing. The toughest and perhaps the most complex concept in Bioinformatics and machine learning were described so lucidly and with practical examples that it was never difficult to understand.
- Dynamic programming and Hidden Markov Models, two subjects that will greatly aid me in future work.
- Homeworks
- one computer science book which was written exclusively for this subject helped me to understand what exactly is going on and then interpret the textbook what it is trying to tell. Overall I am okay with the subject

**Base Questions item 21**

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

- Nothing as such
- Some students would ask (in my honest opinion) questions that could be answered by simply reading the text or just thinking a bit first.
- Thinking all the problems in Biological point of view caused a lot of problem because I don't have that background and was not able to judge whether my output is what expected or not. Another thing is relating algorithms, that I learned in the past for computer science applications like Networks, AI, to this subject posed me a lot of problem. Was not able to understand exactly how a sequence result that I get when programmed is correct or not because I was not having enough background on this subject.

**Base Questions item 22**

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

- As this is an interdisciplinary course, so one or two guest lectures from Biology Professors would strengthen the foundation of the concepts of students
- Provide incentives to read the text and perhaps even ask students to find answers to their own questions, if they're basic enough.
- Personally speaking I would have liked the opportunity for more credits via hws, as your hws really helped to understand the material.
- There are some students who practically see the DNA or RNA sequences for the first time when professor shows on them on the slides. If the pace goes on and telling how the sequences get transformed for estimating their predecessor, those students

practically dont understand what is happening even though everything seems know as they might have studied algorithms for other applications. So digesting such sequences will take time and I suggest to go more into details befor going into concepts that automate such processes. I also suggest to treat non-biological students who dont have least background separately in the subject. If you take a MS student from Biology background he knows exactly what is going on and how to approach for a result but can be able to do programming with little difficulty. But if a MS student from Computer Science is taken even though he knows how to program, if he does not understand what to do and what is expected, it is of no use. Only this troubled me.

### Base Questions item 23

37. Other comments that you would like to make:

- Make sure that no one is playing instruments in the next classroom. They are distracting.
- The grading policy can be more flexible.
- Very very motivating and fascinating lecture. I may not have done well in the course but if I ignore my grades, the knowledge I gained from this course is immense. My research interest is in Medical Image processing but the bioinformatics course made me think in a different angle towards my research. Frankly speaking the knowledge I gained from this course is surely going to be a milestone in my research. Moreover I am fascinated with Dr. Scott's way of teaching. I will look forward to taking other courses offered by Dr. Scott and hope that those would be as motivating as this one.
- Overall a very effective and worthwhile course.
- None

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