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Question Period: '04-'05: Fall Semester

Department: **Computer Science and Engineering (CSCE)**

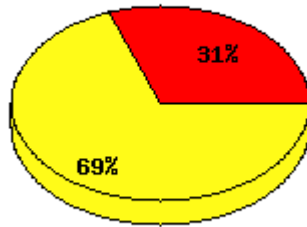
Professor: [Stephen Scott](#)

Class: [CSCE 478 INTRO MACHINE LRNG Section 001](#)

Response Statistics

Total Surveys: **23**

Evaluated Surveys: **16**



Completed Surveys

Uncompleted Surveys

Created by VH Graph

[1] My year in college is:

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate Student
0	0	2	6	8

[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
10	5	1	0	0

[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
0	3	6	6	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
0	3	4	6	3

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

Yes	No
16	0

[6] I see myself as a motivated student in this course.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	2	4	10	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.5	5.0	5.0	0.7

[7] I was academically prepared to take this course.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	1	3	2	10	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.3	5.0	5.0	1.0

[8] I was challenged to think in this course.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	1	15	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.9	5.0	5.0	0.3

[9] My course grade will be a fair representation of my learning.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	2	2	1	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.3	5.0	5.0	1.1

[10] I treated the instructor fairly and respectfully.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	2	14	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.9	5.0	5.0	0.3

[11] Before taking this course, my interest in this subject was very high.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	4	3	9	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.3	5.0	5.0	0.9

[12] I understand the objectives of this course.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	5	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.7	5.0	5.0	0.5

[13] The organization of the course topics is reasonable and logical.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	1	0	3	12	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.8

[14] The pace at which course topics are covered is reasonable.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	1	6	9	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.5	5.0	5.0	0.6

[15] This course helped me improve my rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making ability.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	4	12	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.8	5.0	5.0	0.4

[16] After taking this course, my interest in this subject is very high.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	1	3	2	10	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.3	5.0	5.0	1.0

[17] The textbook, workbook, and/or lesson notes help me understand course material.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	1	5	10	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.6

[18] The method (or methods) of presenting information in class enhances my learning.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	7	9	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.5

[19] The coursework helps me understand and apply the subject matter.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	1	4	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.6

[20] The amount of coursework is reasonable for what I am expected to learn.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
2	1	5	3	5	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
3.5	3.5	5.0	1.4

[21] Testing methods fairly measure my understanding of the course material.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	1	1	3	8	3

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.4	5.0	5.0	1.0

[22] The instructor is prepared for the class and is concerned about his or her preparation.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	1	15	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.9	5.0	5.0	0.3

[23] The instructor makes good use of class time.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	3	13	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.8	5.0	5.0	0.4

[24] The instructor is enthusiastic and interested in teaching this course.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	0	16	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0

[25] The instructor treats students in a professional manner.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	1	15	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.9	5.0	5.0	0.3

[27] The instructor motivated me to understand and apply course concepts.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	3	13	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.8	5.0	5.0	0.4

[28] The instructor provides useful feedback on how I am doing in the course.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	7	9	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.5

[29] The instructor is accessible for help outside of the classroom.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	4	12	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.8	5.0	5.0	0.4

[26] New concepts and examples are clearly explained at a level students can comprehend.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	5	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.7	5.0	5.0	0.5

[30] The classroom physical environment (e.g. temperature, lighting, acoustics) is comfortable for learning.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	1	4	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.6

[31] The classroom is free from outside distractions.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	1	4	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.6	5.0	5.0	0.6

[32] The classroom design and furnishings do not interfere with my learning.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	1	2	5	8	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.3	4.5	5.0	0.9

[33] The classroom has adequate instructional equipment and technology.

Strongly Disagree (1.0)	Disagree (2.0)	Indifferent (3.0)	Agree (4.0)	Strongly Agree (5.0)	N/A
0	0	0	5	11	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.7	5.0	5.0	0.5

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

- Great lecture notes.
- Dr. Scott helped because he is a great lecturer.
- I really liked the in-class discussions and presentations. Listening to the presentations of semester projects really helped me understand the root concepts better.
- Implementation of the learning algorithms. Topic summaries.
- Lots of homework hammered the topics in. The lectures were very good.
- Slides
- The enthusiasum of the instructor is contagious.

The programming assignments and topic summaries were of great benefit iin learning the material.

I loved that there were no exams. Who needs them with the topic summaries and programming!!

- The instuctor was not afraid to repeat himself when he recognized blank stares directed at him
- The lectures and book were both very good.
- The text is very good. It explains concepts about each learning algorithm in sufficient detail.

I think the assignments were also helpful for learning. Although implementing each algorithm was tedious, I think I learned a lot through the process.

- The topic summaries were the most beneficial, both writing and grading. It forced me to really understand the concepts and their theory rather than just regurditating the basics.
- This is one example of a class I truly had no interest in beforehand, and via all of the information we learned now have ideas of how I would like to apply it to my future research or job related work. I really enjoyed the concept of machine learning and would like to investigate it further.
- Topic Summaries were a welcome method.
- While homeworks too a lot of time, I think it is a good way to understand how the learning algorithms work.
- dr. scott is a good lecturer, good teacher, don't make him teach 156, need better professors at higher end classes.
- very good slides and examples

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

- I didn't experience any significant problems. Minor considerations are discussed in the next section.
- I had a lot of personal issues that were a little distracting. Otherwise, the class was really solid.
- In my opinion, there was entirely too much work required for the homeworks and the project. By my estimates, I've spent

about twice as much time on this class as all of my other classes combined (I'm taking 13 hours this semester). I realize this is mainly because you don't have tests, but its really not worth it.

- Overload of material/homework.
- Sometimes too many questions, off-topic questions, homework questions etc. would be addressed (sometimes the same question several times) in class.
- The decks kept getting rotated 90 degrees to face the blackboard when we had to face the projector screen.
- The first HW assignment was a bit involved to the point of being frustrating
- Too much material covered!
- We jumped right in to very large programming assignments which I was far from prepared for. I think that hw 1 and hw 2 were way overboard for what we learned from them. The last two homeworks were perfect as far as time spent on them compared to amount learned from them.
- n/a
- none
- very hard homeworks but challenging

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

- 1. add statistical learning theory as a topic
- 2. more challenge and less amount of homework.
- Break the first assignment up!
- I think reading ahead helps for the lectures.

I think reading the notes after the lecture is also useful.

- I thought the assignments were too hard, so they could get a little easier.
- Maybe not ek some of the homeworks so hard or stress starting early.
- Maybe recommend a data set or too and give some target efficiency to reach.
- On many slides (especially those taken from other sources where information was not in the book), it was difficult to follow all the notation. I think it would have been helpful to have more slides explaining notation. We wouldn't necessarily have to spend a lot of time on it in class, but it would be easier to remember what everything means when reviewing.

Also, I ended up reimplementing a lot of code from previous homeworks for later homeworks, so it would have been nice to have more implementation tips on each homework so the reusable portions will work with later homeworks.

- Perhaps not make the first homework assignment as large, ease into ID3.
- Start with Bayes or Nearest Neighbor or use WEKA to let students get their feet wet before throwing ID3 and Nearest Neighbor implementations at them. I didn't mind doing them, I just don't have the 20 hrs per week to spend on a single class in the midst of the other 4 I'm taking.

[4] How did you like this online course evaluation system?

- I like the idea of having it all electronic, but I don't like spending precious end-of-semester moments to do them. We should have all of December to complete them if you want meaningful answers from most people.
- It is good.
- It's good, but I wish it could be done during class time.
- It's nice. I like it better than paper-based evaluations.
- Its fine.
- Much better
- Not anonymous enough.
- Sweet.
- it's the same old same old.
- ok
- okay
- quick, but the deadline should be the last day of finals because some people have to much other stuff to do besides filling out this form.
- s'all right

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

- Desks in classroom tilted too much. Things have a tendency to slide off.
- Dr. Scott is an excellent instructor. His advice and encouragement where were deeply appreciated.
- Great class. Dr. Scott is one of the best professors this department has.
- I feel that at times, the coursework was overwhelming. Then again I learned a lot, so I have a hard time saying that there

was too much work because I completed it all and learned a lot from it, but at the same time I had to basically stop working my job for the last 2 months primarily because of my combination of classes this semester. Though in general I feel the class consensus was the workload was really high... but then again like I said I learned a lot from the coarse work... but maybe I could have learned a reasonable amount of information with a smaller coarse work load... just a suggestion...

- On many of the topic summaries, I don't really think the grader knew what he/she was talking about. They usually didn't dock me many points, but their comments were either wrong or vague.

I learned more from doing the topic summaries and the course project than I would have learned from taking exams.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
11	1	1	1	1

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.3	5.0	5.0	1.3

Doing the topic summaries helped me learn.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
10	1	2	1	1

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.2	5.0	5.0	1.3

Grading the topic summaries helped me learn.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
7	4	3	1	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.1	4.0	5.0	1.0

The dumb question asker policy helped me learn.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
2	4	6	2	1

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
3.3	3.0	3.0	1.1

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

- All of them were fascinating and I really enjoyed the topics thoroughly.
- As an undergrad/grad course I think the topics covered and pace was just about right. Like everyone, some topics interested me more than others, but there was a good balance.
- Every topic was pretty engaging. This was a very interesting class and I am glad I took it.
- I am very satisfied with the class overall. The subject mater was interesting and was presented in an understandable way. Both the topic summaries and the homeworks aided in understanding the material. I would be interested in an advanced course that covers the topics more in depth as well as the topics that we didn't cover.
- I had no expectations so this question is a NA. I did find the topic very interesting to the point where I would like to continue in it.
- I really had no expectations when I signed up for this course. I just knew that it would have been to much of a hassle to drop it. I serious thought amount dropping for a few minutes at the beginning of the semester. The topics covered were interesting and I am glad that I learned them.
- I think the topics in the course was covered sufficiently well. I wish the days that topic summaries were going to be assigned weren't so delayed by students that didn't want to do them. (Maybe if they asked real questions, then the class would slow down in a normal fashion.)
- I thought the material was very interesting. I really didn't have many expectations going in to it.
- I thought we gained a good understanding of all topics covered. Even the ones we didn't spend 20+ hours implementing. I liked the lecture on reinforcement learning. More time on that would be all I'd ask for and maybe a little less time with ID3 or ANN.
- I was very pleased with this class, far surpassed my other two classes. The teaching was excellent, however, I felt

overloaded with information sometimes.

- The class was not exactly what I expected
- Topics were very well covered.
- very interesting topics. To me it seems that logic-induction and statistical learning theory is what i haven't touched before. So would be good to introduce them in class as well.
- wasn't exactly what i expected, but is very practical and useful

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

- I think the amount of work required was not too bad. Especially after taking the SVM class, I was well aware of the work necessary for one of Dr. Scott's class. The first assignment is always difficult for the parsing, but once the framework is set up, then the subsequent assignments are not difficult.
- I think the time spent on the first two homeworks went way beyond what was learned about the two algorithms. I think that WEKA would be a good direction for a homework or two, to give students a chance to focus on the algorithms themselves as opposed to parsing data and all of the crap that comes with giant programs. Nothing like "learning" the hard way...pun intended.
- I would say that perhaps giving a longer period for homeworks, especially for the first homework where we had to come up with a file/dataset parser.
- Obviously, there was a very high work load for the class. All of the assignments were very beneficial, but the high work load did force me to cut corners in certain areas. I would have liked to have done a better job with the writeups, as well as do more in the way of evaluating my algorithms. Because of the high work load I was unable to do my best work.
- Refer to above to see my comments on work required... I would say if anything the topic summaries were very time consuming... the homework was necessary to better understand the algorithms... maybe the latter hwks could have been just using different algorithms on wecca(spelling wrong)... and more of them instead of implementing one of the last algorithms. Presentation and Report were great ways of learning... just encourage us to start even sooner than when we did, because I really waited a long time before I got going on them... just because of other requirements in other classes...
- Some of the programs were just too difficult.
- Sometimes the homeworks seemed like a bit too much work...but I was consistantly behind right from the start, so it was my own fault most of the time.
- The first homework is long because it jumps you right into designing a program to input data from files and implementing an algorithm in addition to that. The input program was recycled for the other programs which simplified things. Only had to worry about the algorithm. Also id3 is hard to implement with all the data management in order to find the gain.
- The hw was a bit much, old son, really a bit much, but then again, no pain, no gain.
- The load is about right for a course that does not have tests/quizzes; I especially like how assignments are more open ended with lots of the decisions left to us. However, it seems that the assignments should carry more weight than they do while the project should probably not count as much.
- The second half of the course seemed more balanced homework wise. The later two assignments were not as large, more manageable (some of this was due to the datasets already being formated and importable). Perhaps the first homework assignment should be only concered with the data. During the first two months I was very concerned about the homework load, and definately was worried about the volume of work in one class.
- There was a lot of time that had to go into doing homework for this class
- hard but challenging, fun if you like 20 hours homeworks.
- ts plus project(that requires implementation and writing and presentation) seems a bit overwhelmed for me for one semester.

I learned more from doing topic summaries and from the project than I would have learned from taking exams.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
0	0	0	0	1

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0

Doing the topic summaries helped me learn.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
0	0	0	0	1

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0

Grading the topic summaries helped me learn.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
0	0	0	0	1

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0

The dumb question asker policy helped me learn.

5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	3 (3.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
0	0	1	0	0

Average	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0

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

- The homework was all helpful to learning, but it did seem like I was spending an awfully long time on it. This course definitely required much more time than my other two. Maybe it would be better if we didn't have to do topic summaries. I felt like I learned much more from homework than topic summaries anyway.

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

- I thought the material was very interesting, but more depth on each area would have been nice. I support splitting this course into two semesters so that more can be covered and in more depth.