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UNL Online Course Evaluation System

Individual Course Report - CSCE478 Sec. 001

CSCE478 Section 001: INTRO MACHINE LRNG

Semester:'10-'11: Fall Semester

Survey Trigger:UNL Fall 2010

Instructor: Stephen D. Scott

Students: 24

Respondents: 22



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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:	0	0	1	10	11

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:	11	7	4	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:	1	5	4	11	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	0	2	14	5

Base Questions item 8

	Yes	No
5. This course is my major field of study:	17	5

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	3	11	8	0	4.23	4	0.69

course topics is reasonable and logical.	0	0	1	9	12	0	4.50	5	0.60
14. The pace at which course topics are covered is reasonable.	0	0	1	11	10	0	4.41	4	0.59
15. This course helped me improve my rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making ability.	0	0	5	8	9	0	4.18	5	0.80
16. After taking this course, my interest in this subject is very high.	0	1	2	9	10	0	4.27	5	0.83
Question Set Statistics							4.35	5	0.70

Base Questions item 14

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Indifferent (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	N/A (0)	mean	mode	Std. Dev.
17. The textbook, workbook, and/or lesson notes help me understand course	0	0	2	12	8	0	4.27	4	0.63

material.											
18. The method (or methods) of presenting information in class enhances my learning.	0	0	1	14	7	0	4.27	4	0.55		
19. The coursework helps me understand and apply the subject matter.	0	0	2	11	9	0	4.32	4	0.65		
20. The amount of coursework is reasonable for what I am expected to learn.	1	0	3	12	6	0	4.00	4	0.93		
21. Testing methods fairly measure my understanding of the course material.	0	2	1	10	4	5	3.94	4	0.90		
Question Set Statistics							4.17	4	0.74		

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	0	0	0	5	17	0	4.77	5	0.43

about his or her preparation.										
23. The instructor makes good use of class time.	0	0	1	5	16	0	4.68	5	0.57	
24. The instructor is enthusiastic and interested in teaching this course.	0	0	0	3	19	0	4.86	5	0.35	
25. The instructor treats students in a professional manner.	0	0	0	3	19	0	4.86	5	0.35	
26. New concepts and examples are clearly explained at a level students can comprehend.	0	0	1	8	13	0	4.55	5	0.60	
27. The instructor motivated me to understand and apply course concepts.	0	0	1	12	9	0	4.36	4	0.58	
28. The instructor provides useful feedback on how I am	0	2	1	11	8	0	4.14	4	0.89	

adequate instructional equipment and technology.	0	0	1	11	10	0	4.41	4	0.59
Question Set Statistics							4.27	4	0.72

Base Questions item 20

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

- The slides were a major help.
- The instructor used many detailed examples when explaining difficult conceptions or algorithms to the class. This helped me understand those difficult things.
- The homework is the primary tool that helped me learn. Even if I did not understand the concepts prior to doing the homework, after writing the code my understanding sky-rocketed. In addition, Dr. Scott was helpful during his office hours when I had questions.
- examples
- Research ability
- Working on the homework.
- Textbook and slides
- Learn the basic algorithms programing them is a very useful tool to learn.
- 1. Instructor is extremely nice to students and very very patient when students have questions. 2. Excellent presentations in class to teach course materials.
- The mini homeworks were a lot of help.
- The presentation and report on specific course subjects at the end of the course where very helpful. I would advise to doing a homework assignment at the beginning of the semester in order for students to get an overall general understanding of the different machine learning methods.

- I really liked the fact that there were no exams in the course. I personally think that exams are an extremely poor method of testing knowledge and I really appreciated how performance in the class is evaluated using homework, papers, and presentations. I feel that being able to implement the algorithms, write technical reports, and give good presentations is a much better method of instruction than just giving exams. Not only am I leaving the class with a good understanding of machine learning concepts but with more developed versions of the aforementioned skills. I can't remember the last time I had an instructor that was completely prepared for class every single day. I have also never had an instructor that I felt was more excited to be in class and more excited about the material they were presenting than Dr. Scott. Due to Dr. Scott's positive attitude, I feel I was much more motivated and excited in the course.
- The hand outs of his notes for each class were very useful.
- I thought the homeworks were well-written, and helped me solidify my understanding of the material. The slides were also very well designed.
- Present the ideas and opinions professionally (both in oral presentation or academic writing) Have a good overview of important machine learning algorithms
- The professor was particularly good at making sure that the material taught sticks - a quarter of each class session is typically spent reviewing the previous session's material. The pace at which material is covered is on the slower side, but it helps with digesting the information.
- The text was very accessible and the notes provided an clear and concise summary of that material. The summarization of the previous lecture at the beginning of each new lecture was useful for re-engaging with the material.

Base Questions item 21

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

- The class was right over my normal lunch time.
- No such problems.

- The slides were often very cryptic and technical. While this is not always an issue, At times it caused me to loose focus in class and I rarely referenced them when completing my homework.
- room is crowded. it is hard to see on the side board since I sit next to it.
- Sometimes the home is a bit difficult
- The lecture material was fairly technical and hard to get into at times.
- Still a lot of technical terms which I felt like I needed further reading to understand. Dislike having to do the wikis.
- 1. Maybe the homework can be arranged with an increasing difficulty instead of decreasing? I don't know whether that would be good for students to get more and more used to it. However, I liked it that the last homework was that easy as students have a lot towards the end of the semester:)
- The wiki distracted from the homework and final project.
- It would be helpful to mention Weka for some of the homework assignments. Research topics can sometimes be hard to find.
- Nothing in the instruction. Sometimes it felt like the course work was a bit overloading at least for an undergraduate student with 5 other classes.
- The wiki editing was unclear on what was wanted by the instructor, also I liked the idea of the wiki pages, but it feels like an unnecessary include in the course.
- When the instructor was gone at a conference, some of the substitute instructors seemed to rush through the material and not have a solid idea of what they were talking about, which overall confused me. I think it would have been better to just cancel classes or find some other project to do, and wait for the instructor to come back to go through the material in a more thorough way.
- Nothing caused a problem.
- There weren't any class-related things that hampered my general learning in the class.

- The room often felt cramped. The class adjacent to us often had loud and distracting media playback.

Base Questions item 22

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

- Additional class contests would help solidify concepts.
- Perhaps the instructor can give some code examples showing how some algorithms can be implemented.
- It would have really engaged me to see more real life examples of machine learning. These examples could be in the form of videos, code samples, or even stories of companies and researchers that are applying machine learning every day.
- Focus more on the tricks of implementing algorithms and why we need to implement it in this way than just talking about concepts and ideas.
- just needed more space in the room, everything else is good.
- mentally prepare yourself before talking this class
- I'm not sure of a better way to break up the material.
- I would say reading outside of class.
- Pay attention in class. You should be able to understand most of the content of the course if you follow the instructor all the way through in class. You won't even need to read the book if you do this:)
- Looking at actual code or spending more time on pseudo-code in class would greatly help understanding when implementing machine learning algorithms.
- I think that the weight of homework should be increased based on it's total time consumption and effort involved compared to the wiki topic and presentations.
- Give a better list of what is expected for the final paper and wiki edits.

- The textbook is starting to show its age a little, so maybe it's getting closer to moving to a newer and updated textbook.
- Have more homework (not necessarily all of them are algorithm implementation homework) to cover more key points of this course instead of three programming homework cover three topics
- While the coverage of SVMs seems sufficient, there weren't enough examples in the notes for me to understand kernels at a satisfactory level. Perhaps creating and walking through a more-concrete example problem using kernels and SVM would better teach the concept.
- Explanations were occasionally too detailed, resulting in my zoning out while waiting for the next portion of the lecture, then realizing I had missed it. Taking questions before moving on to new material was useful for combating this. The mini-homeworks were effective for introducing material before diving into the assignments, but the semester wikis probably did not add much not already offered from previous assignments while detracting from project time. I would probably dispense with the wikis or encourage a one to two exploration of a topic not extensively covered in class.

Base Questions item 23

37. Other comments that you would like to make:

- Great Course.
- It would be helpful if some more statistical learning materials can be added to the class.
- I have really enjoyed this class. The algorithms presented here are ones that none of my other classmates seem to recognize which gives me an advantage.
- Great course, Great professor. Although most will not start on projects/wikis early. I would have liked to start earlier.
- Nothing.
- Stay funny in class. The answers to the open-ended questions will make the survey not anonymous. I think It is fairly easy to infer

from whom each one is from. Do you know who I am? Ha~

- The class course was great, I really liked learning to implement learning algorithms and I plan on using one of them in my team's senior design project.
- Considering all of the CSE courses I've taken in the last five years, Dr. Scott is, without hesitation, the BEST instructor in the entire department.
- He was very well prepared for each class, and you could tell he enjoyed the subject that was being taught
- Better luck to the Cowboys next year... :)
- Dr. Scott is very approachable and helpful, the course material was interesting, and the assignment structure seemed to really facilitate learning the material. My only regret is that there is no Machine Learning II.
- Options for extra credits should be included.