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UNL Online Course Evaluation System

Individual Course Report - CSCE478 Sec. 001

CSCE478 Section 001: INTRO MACHINE LRNG

Semester: '12-'13: Fall Semester
 Survey Trigger: UNL Fall 2012
 Instructor: Stephen D. Scott
 Students: 28
 Respondents: 15



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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	4	0	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:	10	3	2	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	1	5	9	0

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:	0	0	4	8	3

Base Questions item 8

	Yes	No
5. This course is my major field of study:	13	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	1	2	8	4	0	4.00	4	0.85
7. I was academically prepared to take this course.	0	0	1	7	7	0	4.40	5,4	0.63
8. I was challenged to think in this course.	0	0	2	3	10	0	4.53	5	0.74
9. My course grade will be a fair representation of my learning.	0	0	1	11	3	0	4.13	4	0.52
10. I treated the instructor fairly and respectfully.	0	0	0	5	10	0	4.67	5	0.49
Question Set Statistics							4.35	5,4	0.69

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.	0	0	6	4	5	0	3.93	3	0.88
12. I understand the objectives of this course.	0	0	0	9	6	0	4.40	4	0.51
13. The organization of the course topics is reasonable and logical.	0	0	1	6	8	0	4.47	5	0.64
14. The pace at which course topics are covered is reasonable.	0	2	0	6	7	0	4.20	5	1.01
15. This course helped me improve my rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making ability.	0	0	1	7	7	0	4.40	5,4	0.63
16. After taking this course, my interest in this subject is very high.	0	1	1	8	5	0	4.13	4	0.83
Question Set Statistics							4.26	4	0.77

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 material.	0	1	1	7	6	0	4.20	4	0.86
18. The method (or methods) of presenting information in class enhances my learning.	0	0	1	8	6	0	4.33	4	0.62
19. The coursework helps me understand and apply the subject matter.	0	0	1	8	6	0	4.33	4	0.62
20. The amount of coursework is reasonable for what I am expected to learn.	0	0	1	9	5	0	4.27	4	0.59
21. Testing methods fairly measure my understanding of the course material.	0	0	1	7	3	4	4.18	4	0.60
Question Set Statistics							4.27	4	0.65

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	1	3	11	0	4.67	5	0.62
23. The instructor makes good use of class time.	0	1	1	4	9	0	4.40	5	0.91
24. The instructor is enthusiastic and interested in teaching this course.	0	0	0	3	12	0	4.80	5	0.41
25. The instructor treats students in a professional manner.	0	0	1	3	11	0	4.67	5	0.62
26. New concepts and examples are clearly explained at a level students can comprehend.	0	0	0	6	9	0	4.60	5	0.51
27. The instructor motivated me to understand and apply course concepts.	0	0	1	5	9	0	4.53	5	0.64

28. The instructor provides useful feedback on how I am doing in the course.	0	0	1	8	6	0	4.33	4	0.62
29. The instructor is accessible for help outside of the classroom.	0	0	1	5	9	0	4.53	5	0.64
Question Set Statistics							4.57	5	0.63

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	1	0	9	5	0	4.20	4	0.77
31. The classroom is free from outside distractions.	0	0	1	9	5	0	4.27	4	0.59
32. The classroom design and furnishings do not interfere with my learning.	0	0	1	9	5	0	4.27	4	0.59
33. The classroom has adequate instructional equipment and technology.	0	0	2	7	6	0	4.27	4	0.70
Question Set Statistics							4.25	4	0.65

Base Questions item 20

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

- I really enjoyed Dr. Scott's lecture on giving talks. I've given many over the years, but his pointers helped.
- 1. Programming assignments and reports help understanding the topics
- - Group activities - slide handouts
- 1. The homeworks, while a fair amount of work, really helped understand the concepts 2. The slides prepared were very well done, and were a good reference, so it was nice to have them printed off.
- slides
- Good examples in class
- The text book was very good and the explanation of the instructor on the text book was extremely clear and useful.
- The homeworks were instrumental in my understanding of the various ML techniques. The course project also helped a good deal.
- I really liked the textbook and the notes being available online and handed out before he started lecturing is always nice.
- Reading the textbook Reading papers for the projects and homework.
- The handouts were extremely helpful. The games were fun and helped reinforce topics.
- The implementation assignments were very helpful in understanding the algorithms. The statistics refresher lecture was also very useful.

Base Questions item 21

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

- My only quibble might be the length of the projects (homeworks). They were very time consuming. That said, I knew as such going in, so its an unfair complaint. The in-class group exercises were mostly useless. ID3 was helpful because we could reasonably build a decision tree by playing around with the data. The ANN exercise was completely useless (we just ended up guessing weights), and Naive Bayes wasn't much better.
- 1. The course seems to become a "math only" course when gradient descent is introduced. After that class I felt like everything was math but we didn't pay enough attention to it. So I didn't understand what was being said and I lost the interest in the class.
- Some slides were very heavy on formulas
- 1. I thought the lectures were sometimes a little slow. I understood the concepts, but often time was spent elaborating things that were clear. 2. I thought the WIKI project was an unnecessary stressor. I did not learn very much from it, yet it required a large amount of work.

- expectations on the wiki is unclear did not feel like anything was gained by doing the wiki edits
- Book was difficult to follow, contained errors
- None, really.
- My presentation skill is poor, so that My performance is affected.
- N/A

Base Questions item 22

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

- I think forcing groups for the final project would be a non-terrible idea. Presentations could go faster and we'd learn more from each-other.
- 1. Math contents should be approached slowly AND they should be evaluated somehow. That way, students know it's actually important and they have to work on understanding. In the ANN lectures, Prof gave me the impression that it was only going to be a little bit of math and then we would continue, but the rest of the semester was almost math only. So if the math part of it is so important, some evaluation is required to make sure students understand and do not lose interest.
- 1. Either allow the WIKI entry to be related to the main project, or simplify it. 2. Speed up some of the less complicated lectures a bit. The pace was overall fine, but, as I said above, some of them were slower than they needed to be.
- pace was slow 60% of our grade depends on the project, way to much
- More whiteboard space in the room
- For some lectures (such as equations on ANN), I think students need to study before coming to class. I think studying the book before each lecture is very helpful in understanding the materials.
- I'm not a huge fan of the wiki. It's a solid chunk of our grade, but it's a bit ill defined (i.e., how much of an alteration constitutes an edit, what should be made a new page and what should be part of another, etc.). IF it must be done, having incremental due dates for each entry so we would know what was expected, or having assigned (or proposed) entries to add/edit would help greatly.
- Maybe have STATS 380 as a prerequisite, a couple of the topics involved fairly heavy knowledge of statistics, and I felt quite lost in lecture when he lectured over such topics, however after reading the book and reading some online material, I quickly grasped the concepts.
- N/A
- One or two of the homework problems were frustrating just because it was difficult to draw trees efficiently and quickly on a computer. I'm not sure if hand drawing and then scanning was permitted but that would be a much faster way to go, maybe just mentioning this would save some time.

Base Questions item 23

37. Other comments that you would like to make:

- Dr. Scott is a great instructor and I look forward to taking more of his classes in the future.
- If I compare this class with 823, I feel like the other one was slightly better organized and that I was able to follow. In 878, i believe the outline was often not very clear to me. Also, it seems like students' participation is lower here than in 823. It would be nice to find a way to get students to participate more in class.
- The final project is great for showing all the ways machine learning can be used. I'm enjoying the presentations.
- Overall I had a lot of fun with the class.
- I really enjoyed the class. Dr. Scott is a great and inspiring teacher. I enjoyed every minute of the class.
- Fun class, learned a lot, great teacher.
- The instructor is very nice and professional. I learned a lot from this course.
- N/A
- Enjoyed the class; learned a lot.

Evaluation of GTAs

The CSE department is committed to continuous improvement of its programs and would like to have more information than is provided by the end of the term evaluation form. All responses remain absolutely anonymous.

Yuji Mo

GTA

	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Below Average (2)	Poor (1)	N/A (0)	mean	mode	Std. Dev.
38. The GTA's preparation for the course, recitation and/or lab sections is	2	4	2	1	0	6	3.78	4	0.97
39. The GTA's effectiveness at stimulating productive discussions is	2	4	3	1	0	5	3.70	4	0.95
40. The GTA's respect for all students and sensitivity to their views are	6	3	2	1	0	3	4.17	5	1.03
41. The adequacy of the GTA's hours in the office/resource center is	5	3	3	1	0	3	4.00	5	1.04
42. The GTA's punctuality at office/resource center for the specified office hours is	6	3	2	1	0	3	4.17	5	1.03
43. The GTA's availability at office/resource center for the specified office hours is	6	2	3	1	0	3	4.08	5	1.08
44. The quality of the GTA's explanations during office/resource center hours is	3	5	3	1	0	3	3.83	4	0.94
45. The GTA's fairness in grading is	5	7	2	1	0	0	4.07	4	0.88
46. The timeliness with which the GTA returns the graded materials is	4	6	2	1	0	2	4.00	4	0.91
47. The GTA's feedback on written work he or she graded is	4	4	5	1	0	1	3.79	3	0.97
48. The extent to which the recitation/lab section is beneficial.	3	2	2	1	0	7	3.88	5	1.13
49. The communication skills of the GTA are	6	2	4	1	0	2	4.00	5	1.08
Question Set Statistics							3.96	5	0.97

GTA Text Response

50. What strengths does the GTA display?

- Yugi's a good guy, and he does his best to help.
- Very helpful and always willing to help.
- can hardly find the TA
- Quick response on grading
- I had no contact with the TA in person.
- Intelligent, knows the problem domain.
- knowledgeable in this field.
- N/A

51. What areas does the GTA need to improve in?

- Yugi's communication skills could be improved, but I imagine that they will in time.
- No comments
- I wasn't always aware when his office hours were for this class. I have this TA for another class as well, so I just went in those office hours...not really a big deal as he's always available over e-mail, just worth mentioning maybe.
- I had no contact with the TA in person.
- Clearly explaining concepts
- N/A

