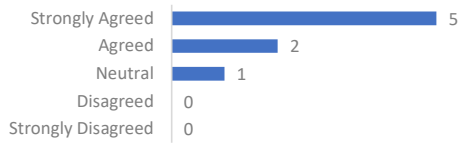
Course Evaluation: Algorithms: Design and Analysis

Semester	Spring 2022
Course Instructor	Waqar Saleem
Course Code	CS- 412
Component	Lecture
Section	L3
Class Size	13
Response Rate (%)	62% (n=8)
Avg. Rating of Course	4.20
Avg. Rating of Instructor	4.20

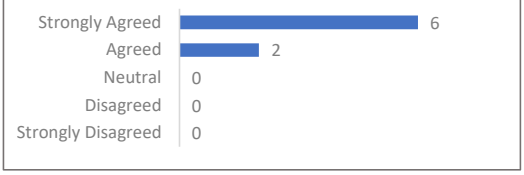
Course Evaluation:

Course Recommendation = 88%

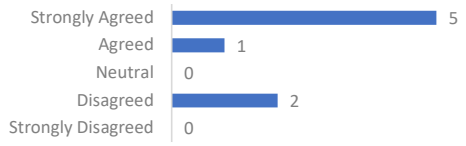
1. Learning Outcomes and Assessment criteria were clearly stated in the course syllabus. — 4.50



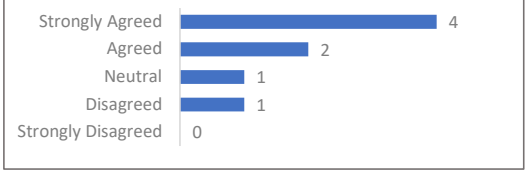
2.Canvas course website was well-structured and updated regularly. — 4.75



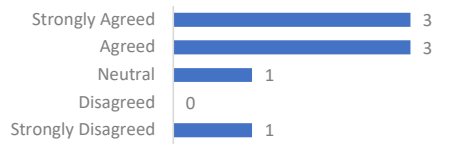
3. Course resources (e.g. readings, contextual examples, case studies, problem statements/sets, videos etc.) in the course were helpful to learn new and/or advanced concepts. — 4.13



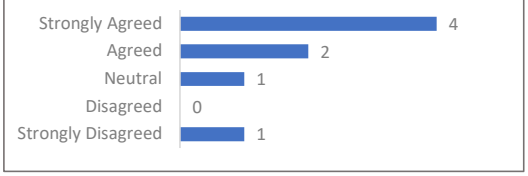
4.Course materials stimulated my interest in the class subject matter (e.g. curiosity to know more, drive to learn new skills, motivation to implement ideas). — 4.13



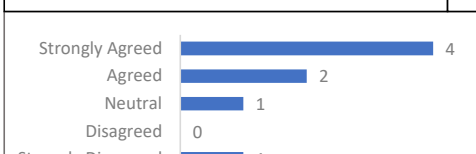
5. Assessments provided an opportunity to evaluate my course performance at different times in the semester. — 3.88



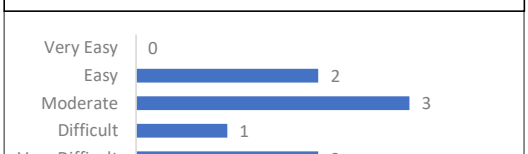
6. Assessments helped to increase my knowledge/skills and confidence in the subject. — 4.00



7. This class challenged me in ways that encouraged my intellectual growth. After taking this course, my thinking about the subject matter became clearer and moved in previously unexplored directions. — 4.00



9. As part of the overall design, how would you rate the perceived difficulty (in terms of work hours & experience) for this course?



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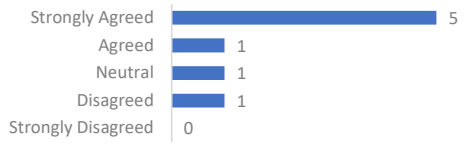
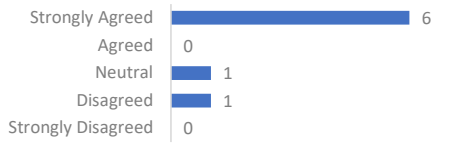
Instructor Evaluation:

Instructor Recommendation = 88%

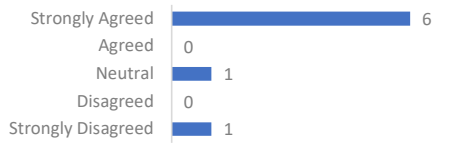
1. Instructor was able to effectively explain the concepts, which aided my learning.	4.25



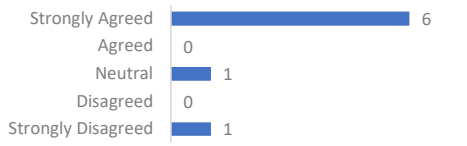
2. Instructor employed teaching and learning approaches that facilitated and supported the process of learning.	4.38



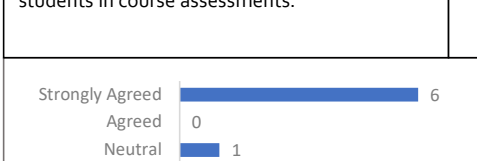
3. Instructor was receptive to my questions and answered them in timely manner.	4.25



4. Instructor treated me with respect and was successful in creating an inclusive environment to express my ideas and learn from my peers.	4.25

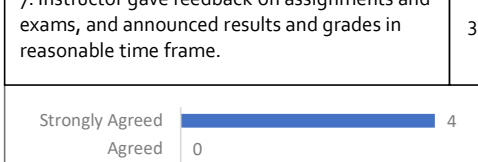


5. Instructor transparently shared through guidelines or rubrics what was expected of students in course assessments.	4.25

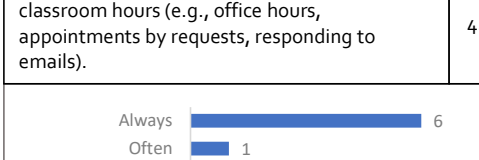


6. Instructor gave me constructive feedback, effectively creating meaningful conversation (highlighting strengths and areas of improvement) on the work I submitted, that helped me improve my work as the semester unfolded.	4.38

7. Instructor gave feedback on assignments and exams, and announced results and grades in reasonable time frame.	3.50



8. Instructor was available outside the classroom hours (e.g., office hours, appointments by requests, responding to emails).	4.38



CS Program Rating		DSSE School Rating	
Average Rating of Course and Instructor		Average Rating of Course and Instructor	
4.41	4.53	4.37	4.44
Course	Instructor	Course	Instructor

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Students' Comments:

For this course, please share a brief analysis in terms of achievement of learning outcomes, readings, activities, assessment, and intellectual growth:

• This course has greatly enhanced my problem solving skills. After taking this course, I am able to map every problem to certain class of algorithms which makes the problem solving process much easier.
• With respect to learning outcomes, I can attest that through this course, I have learned to devise new algorithms for a variety of computational problems that is with the restriction of a specific approach or the freedom of determining the most optimal approach of my own volition. Moreover, I have learned to identify the algorithmic paradigms in play and have additionally, gained a greater grasp on the determination of the computational complexity for a given problem.
• I dont like this course
• different forms of algorithms
• Syllabus was modified a few times during the semester to make sure that quality is given importance as compared to quantity and this led to intellectual growth
• The course was interesting overall as it made us look farther than just coding to get the job done and look more intently at how we do what we do. The course material had enough depth to give us a good understanding of the concepts involved which were reinforced in homework assignments, and the weekly challenges allowed us to explore them further in different ways which helped us think about the concepts beyond coursework. The pacing of the course was also manageable, and the concepts were taught thoroughly in class. All in all, a good learning experience!

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Favorite, constructively challenging or interesting elements of the course:

- Analysis of algorithms.
- Favorite part of the course were the weekly challenges.
- I dont like this course
- dynamic programming
- Doing the weekly challenges were challenging
- Weekly challenges, as they provided regular hands-on practice of analyzing algorithms instead of just the 2 assignments.

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Elements of the course that need to be revised or improved:

• There is a lot of room for improvement in terms of synchornization amongst the sections. The nature of quizzes and pace of covering the content was very different in other sections.

• The quizzes need to have a proper balance with respect to the tasks and time allotted. I do feel that all quizzes thus far, have had too little of a time span which has led to default sub-par performance - this is particular true (in my opinion) for the quizzes conducted in person, which though are not at all difficult, have too many questions with a too high of a expectation (i.e., degree of formalism in the solution; diagrammatic dry-runs) with respect to the artifacts being submitted in the given time.

• I dont like this course

• hw and weekly challenge

• Weekly challenges should be biweekly rather than weekly due to its difficulty level.

• Weekly challenges should be marked on completion rather than correction. Or perhaps only some can be marked on correction and the rest on completion. They were very time-consuming and the marks did not justify the effort required which made it disheartening to lose marks on them even after putting in all that time and effort.

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How was your overall experience of taking the course with this instructor? How was the quality of teaching and feedback? Please give specific examples to support your answer.

• It was good, the overall experience was very formal but logistic and other issues can be improved for the next time.

• Dr. Waqar is by far the best instructor I have ever had. I have greatly enjoyed taking this course with him and can very well concede that I have learned a lot. His method of building concepts in relation to student participation greatly succeeds in weaving out general misconceptions that the class may generally hold. Moreover, his use of tools such as lucid chart do allow for the visualization of the problem at hand which makes understanding easier. Additionally, the pace of the class is slow but not in a tedious manner such that, I am able to maintain considerable concentration. With respect to Q7: I still have not received my midterm scores as of yet. Then again, I have asked the instructor several times and can appreciate the amount of workload that they are inundated with when handling two other courses and KWG.

• My experience was not good

• he explains the concepts very well

• Taking courses with Sir Waqar is always a pleasure. He makes sure to get the class engaged and goes out of the way to support students in every possible way.

• The pacing of the course was also manageable, and the concepts were taught thoroughly in class. All in all, a good learning experience!

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Additional comments:

• Moreover, in the comparing the quiz assessments between the sections, it seemed obvious that sections L1 and L2 had much simpler and manageable assessments in relation to what we were given in addition, to the grading being tempered in that regard as well. Thus, I feel that there was a great discrepancy (dare I say unfairness) in this particular assessment category. While I can appreciate that this mismatch of workload and time in the quizzes has prompted me to operate much more quickly however, my positive sentiments about the experience are greatly diminished when said mismatch single-handedly succeeds in diminishing my efforts in the course overall.

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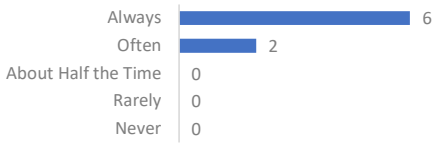
Student Self Evaluation Section:

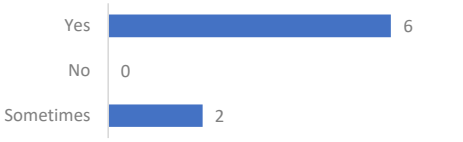
1. I arrived in the class on time.



2. I did my readings/assignments on time.

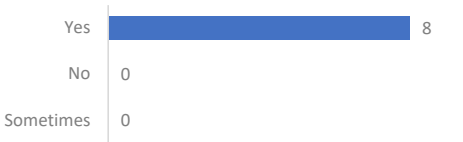
3. I participated actively in class conversations and group work (wherever applicable).

4. I attended the office hours and other appointments that I had scheduled with the instructor.

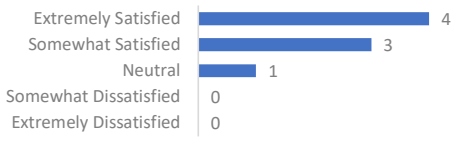
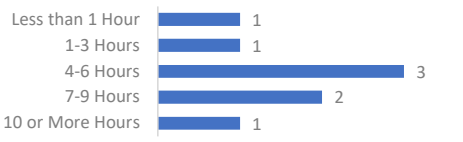


5. I referred to the course syllabus whenever I wanted clarity about the learning outcomes, assignment guidelines and other course requirements.

6. I was respectful to my instructor and peers in different situations (e.g., academic discussions, group work, challenging conversations)



7. How satisfied were you with your effort in this course?



7. The average number of hours per week I spent outside of class preparing for this course were