*** PROVISIONAL REPORT ***

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN   COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY   Summer 2016 DEPARTMENT COPY
Downing, Glenn P   C S373   87560   SOFTWARE ENGINEERING   Enrollment = 0
E100 EXPANDED   Surveys Returned = 50

	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	1	0	1	19	29	50	4.5
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	0	9	41	50	4.8
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	1	1	14	34	50	4.6
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	0	0	17	33	50	4.7
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	1	3	18	28	50	4.5
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	2	2	22	24	50	4.4
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	0	4	18	28	50	4.5
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	0	0	2	6	42	50	4.8
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	0	0	3	16	31	50	4.6
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	1	0	12	37	50	4.7
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	0	0	3	15	32	50	4.6
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	2	0	9	39	50	4.7
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	0	3	8	23	16	50	4.0
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	2	5	7	19	17	50	3.9
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	3	5	10	20	12	50	3.7
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	0	0	4	13	33	50	4.6
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	2	9	25	14	50	4.0
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	1	0	2	16	31	50	4.5

	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	0	2	16	32	50	4.6
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	0	6	17	27	50	4.4

	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	8	25	14	2	1	50	

	Less 2.00	2.00-2.49	2.50-2.99	3.00-3.49	3.50-4.00		
22 OVERALL UT GRADE POINT AVERAGE	1	4	9	30	6	50	

	__A__	__B__	__C__	__D__	__F__		
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	7	30	13	0	0	50	

For the computation of averages, values were assigned on a 5-point scale so that the most favorable
response was assigned a value of 5 and the least favorable response was assigned a value of 1.

COMMENTS:
Total Number of Comments: 35

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1. For these group projects you may want to add group evaluations instead of just having if the group leader thought they did good or not. Please use Piazza Canvas is slow, chunky, and pretty unorganized. Also I don't know why we stopped using the google doc. I thought using it was pretty helpful compared to using just canvas. Other than that it was a pretty good class! Thanks Professor Downing!
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2. The workload was fine, except for the 1st and 2nd parts of the group project. I think more time was necessary, especially since the first project coincided with the 4th of July which is unfortunate timing . I understand that adding two group members was supposed to alleviate this, but sadly, there is only so much work to go around, and the two group members' benefit was marginal. Besides for that, I felt a disconnect with the projects, tests, and lectures. The quizzes are hard, especially since they involve edge cases special behavior that you may not think to ask about during the lecture. Regardless, I did learn a lot and feel much more prepared for full-time. Thank you for the awesome class! Oh, and I missed Piazza.
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3. Amazing class. Professor Downing is very knowledgeable and I would say he is one of the elite professors of this CS program. I learned lots about many software engineering tools and a lot about the computer science industry in general. Sometimes theproject specs were a little unclear and I didn't like the canvas discussion format that much, but overall a great class that challenged me and reignited my excitement for computer science again. Definitely would recommend!
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4. The last 3 projects required a lot of learning on your own, which is probably something that is done in the real world, but I think that in an academic setting, there should be more resources for learning about different tools. This would give students more context about how to approach the problem. Instead, I feel like a large chunk of time was wasted struggling with problems that could have been solved easily with a little help.
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5. I think the new tools for Python were taught pretty thoroughly, and were good to know why we use it. However, people didn't seem very good with git. Constantly pushing on the wrong branch, adding all unnecessary files, unsure of what to do with a merge. If you could teach good practices for using VCS, I think it could go a long way. Non-group projects were pretty good. The IDB project was extremely difficult, and a pretty big jump from the previous projects. Very much a "sink or swim" situation, with the new non-python tools that weren't taught about. Would be nice to know why we used these tools, some alternatives, and or how to look for other tools that do the same job differently. Atlassian speakers gave an alternative to Slack and Git
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6. -tools I learned a lot more about version control and how to use git Github, branching, merging dealing with merge conflicts -non-group projects I learned more about the syntax, data structures of Python as well as figuring out how to use the different tools we were required to use -group projects learned how to communicate better and deal with lack of communication among group members -speakers interesting to see that in the work place they vote to predict how long hard it will take to complete a project
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7. I prefer Piazza to Canvas for discussion.
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8. 1. Using the tools was very helpful and eye-opening for how software is formatted, tested, and tracked. 2. Collatz and Netflix were interesting projects, and I liked doing them. 3. The web group project was very interesting to complete, and provided great insight as to how websites are built and run. However, I believe that the instructions on these projects should be more comprehensive and clear about the expectations. Many times we would have to stop work completely until an instructor or peer could clarify a requirement for us. 4. The guest speakers were quite interesting, and I felt like hearing them speak about their experiences provided a reassuring message about how "the real world" works with challenges.
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9. Consider making it all in java. Going from python to sql to teaching design patterns in java. It is kind of all over the place. This class is a web application design course but really does not talk about patterns useful in that domain. The invited speakers where very interesting. Maybe asking the presenters to talk about different things each day would improve the reception. Having one speaker talk about internships and recruiting and other talk about the everyday realities of industry
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10. Overall the class was good but the work load was a little bit high. Some of the quizzes were very hard to solve in just 4 minutes. I wished more time was allocated to those. I also wished we had practice exams to help us prepare for the exams or even sample exercises so that we could have a good feeling of what to expect. I loved this class because I learned about so many new software engineering tools like flask,git, Apiary, Digital Ocean, Travis CI etc The non-group projects were good but I feel like the 20 percent off penalty if one of the requirements isn't present is quite harsh. The group projects were good but I wished we were group according to our strengths not just done randomly by canvas.
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11. Projects were a little rushed but I learned a lot about the software development process.
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12. 1. Numerous tools were overwhelming at first, but I got used to at it feel at least much more comfortable than before, and it is a good experience to feel overwhelmed by the unknown tools and learning them. I felt like creating the issues seemed little too forced that most of them are just not useful. But I agree that issues were beneficial in IDB project. 2. I think they were interesting. Should keep them in my opinion. 3. I would like to study the back-end part, since I focused on front-end. I wished I could have learned both sides. 4. Interesting boring at the same time. Fact that class material is almost not related to our project felt little weird compared to other classes .
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13. It was clearly explained at the start that a good chunk of the class was going to be self taught, but I feel like it was a little bit too "thrown into the river and hopefully don't drown". I understand that the purpose of that was to somewhat emulate what it is like to actually work in the industry, but I'm not entirely sure if I learned that much about SWE in the end. I came into this class knowing basically nothing about the things we were asked to do in the last 3 projects, and gaining a good understanding of the tools, especially given the 3 week period, was overwhelming and not entirely reasonable. I think Professor Downing is an excellent professor, I just wish the structure of the class was more geared towards SWE.
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14. Quizzes should be midway or at the end of class to accommodate students that come in late, if even by a few minutes.
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15. Probably the best course I've taken at UT. Explanations were defined strictly so there were no misconceptions about information.
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16. Professor Downing is extremely prepared and very articulate. He makes students dive head-first into Software Development which

may seem daunting but makes for an extremely valuable learning experience, where you learn the bulk of the material on your own. Exams are tough as they expect you to write a good amount of code without the ability to use a terminal debugger but that is understandable . He is very ambiguous about what topics to know for his tests quizzes.

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17. Getting familiar with the tools was an interesting experience as I was trying my best to understand how to use them correctly. The instructor brought well-experienced speakers based on what goals I'm trying to reach for as a software engineer. The non group project were a bit challenging and interesting to complete, yet I had many issues with turning in them. However, the group project was engaging as it related to what work I would be dealing with in the future. Overall, this class has been one of the best I have taken so far despite on how the tests have been formatted.

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18. Perhaps you could give more tools or templates for the teams to start on the projects. I feel the quizzes had material that did not reflect what you taught in class. Quizzes were very hard. Sometimes, even if I studied or read your material, I stilldid bad on the quizzes. There should be some more flexibility on submission of assignments.

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19. Piazza is way better than Canvas for discussions as everything is in one place and you can quickly look through the discussions. For Canvas you are brought to a new page which takes forever to load and when you go back you have to refind where you were. Google Docs is way better than Canvas for posting class notes as Google Docs keeps it all in one place where for Canvas we have to search for the class notes. As with OOP I don't think my knowledge in the course reflects my test grades at all. Ithought I did extremely well on the first test and it seems they grade to a specific answer when there are endless answers. Some project reqs seemed tacked on like Planning Poker should've been a part of phase one before we started working, not after

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20. The programming assignments and tests took a while to grade, which was kind of annoying. For example, the test took 2 weeks to grade when it says one week max on the syballus. also, getting back the rubric on the project after the next project or the day of was due was annoying because you have little to no time to fix the issues . I didn't like the mandatory questions and answers, but I understand why you did it. The readings were pretty dry and some were interesting, but others were not.

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21. Canvas discussion is awful and stifles conversation, piazza is way better and worth having to go to another website. I like having the class notes where we have a place to discuss them instead of google doc. The IDB projects are too heavy for everyone in the group to learn all aspects of it in a 9 week semester. The 3 extra weeks in the full summer semester would help that a lot. I didn't like that 1 person in the group got to rate everyone else and affect their grade. On the flip side since everyone could see the rating our group never gave a bad rating to a member who literally did nothing.

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22. The quizzes were interesting, but the grading seemed a bit harsh. Missing one question often meant getting a 67 at best, and because they were worth 18 of our grade, they hurt.

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23. I found the grading system to be very well defined throughout the course. However, I think that the quizzes could be made better by including more questions in order to dilute the impact of any individual question on a persons grade. The way the quizzes are currently set up makes it very easy for simple mistakes to kill any possibility of earning an A in the course. For instance missing one question on each of the 15 quizzes that are graded makes it so that the final maximum grade in the courseis 880. I think that more questions on the quiz would offer more opportunity to test students' knowledge without the worry of a bad grade looming over their heads.

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24. The only real qualm I had about this class was the group assignments. Prof. mentioned he was going to have us do surveys and assign groups that way, and I think that would have been a worthwhile endeavor. While I didn't learn that much as I work part time as a software developer, the concepts are important. Everyone should have at least one class where unit testing, CI, and git are important.

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25. USE PIAZZA. CANVAS IS NOT NEARLY AS GOOD FOR DISCUSSIONS. All tools used in this class were new to me, and I learned the importance of each and how to use them. The non group projects were interesting because we had to make used of all the new tools. It wasn't just solving a problem. I liked that we didn't get skeleton code for the second one, but we could reference the first project. The group project was great in terms of learning and using new tools. Nothing bad to say about the speakersbut I did prefer Pariveda.

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26. Pylint, unittest, coverage, cProfile, pydoc, autopep8, and TravicCI were all new tools for me. They were all pretty straight forward.   I feel like netflix and collatz were great. Collatz might have been a really big hand holder but having it to reference how to write netflix was very useful.   The group projects were the best part of the class. Learning all these technologies was amazing and really fun. It is going to be really useful. It would be welcoming if the group could "tattle" on a partner that does not work or show up without feeling like we are telling on them. That happened with my group but we did not know how to handle it without telling so we didn't. We only docked points. I do not remember much about the speakers.

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27. Really fun class enjoyed it more than Object Oriented Programming. The final project really encouraged me to be a more competent and resourceful programmer which was one of my weaker spots. Tests could probably be done differently since they don't cover most of the class material, just implementations of functions. I did notice that people weren't as engaged on Canvas discussions so I'd like for the class discussion board to go back to Piazza next time.

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28. Piazza and google doc were easier to use. I found the TA office hours to be insufficient. It's unfair to submit the next phase of the project before getting feedback on the previous phase without knowing what the graders didn't like so it can be fixed thus losing points on multiple phases. Thank you, you killed my gpa but also taught me the most out of all the CS classes I took at UT, i can only wish to one day be half as good a programmer as you

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29. Great course. It would be neat if we could try out React as part of the website project.

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30. I thought that calling people out during class was not as effective as it could have been given the size of the class needed to be more random i think, seemed like same people got called on every class . Towards the end of the class, the lectures and projects felt really disjointed, especially given how our group divided up the work for the project. we end up learning about things like SQL but if you are working on the front end part of the website you dont get a lot of practice using it so when it comes to the exam and there is java python sql and xml and you arent allowed to bring in code it can be difficult to remember everything. It would have been nice if for the last test we could bring in example code for each language as a template

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31. I felt this course was great. I was new to many tools we used in our projects and it was a great learning experience trying to use the tools to complete our project.

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32. My main and only one I can currently remember gripe with the course was the use of Canvas Discussions over Piazza. Piazza

definitely feels smoother and is better in my opinion for communication whereas Canvas Discussions made it slightly painful.
Other than that everything was awesome.
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33. The structure to this course provided clear expectations from lecture to lecture, including test questions which reflected
in-class exercises. I also really appreciate the instructor's pedagogy, in particular he consistently framed misunderstanding
as a chance to re-explain topics rather than demeaning students. Working 60 hrs a week, already provides significant barriers to
education, especially logistical concerns. Thus, I find the professor's belief, that arriving a few minutes after start of class
equates to not showing up at all, insulting. Group assignments without regard for schedules or knowledge provided unnecessary
challenges. Rather than engineering, this felt like construction management. More generics theory would be appre
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34. Some of the projects seemed to be copy and pasted in some areas from the previous project and didn't relate to the current
project. Some of the software seemed relevant and helpful for the future but some seemed useless ex planitpoker
especiallywith its requirements late into the group project.   The tests were over material that we covered in one class period.
It would be nice to have homework over the material that would be on the test or some kind of backup. ex SQL covered in one
class never mentioned again   It seemed like the prjcts were on a different material than the quizzes and those were on a
different material than the tests. I would be nice to have the quizzes, tests and prjcts on the same material so it be more in
depth
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35. Professor Downing was an excellent teacher. I just wish he spent more time on SQL, States and subclasses.