UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN   COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY   Fall 2018   DEPARTMENT COPY
Downing, Glenn P   C S373   51680   SOFTWARE ENGINEERING   Enrollment = 44
E100 EXPANDED   Surveys Returned = 40

	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	0	0	3	9	28	40	4.6
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	0	2	38	40	5.0
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	0	0	2	6	32	40	4.8
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	0	0	0	9	30	39	4.8
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	0	2	5	33	40	4.8
6 COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	0	2	6	8	24	40	4.4
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	0	0	0	7	32	39	4.8
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	0	0	0	5	35	40	4.9
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	0	0	5	4	31	40	4.7
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	0	3	5	32	40	4.7
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	0	0	1	7	32	40	4.8
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	0	3	37	40	4.9
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	2	2	8	10	18	40	4.0
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	0	8	5	9	17	39	3.9
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	0	2	1	8	29	40	4.6
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	0	0	4	9	27	40	4.6
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	0	2	5	10	23	40	4.4
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	0	0	2	9	27	38	4.7

	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	0	1	6	33	40	4.8
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	0	0	6	10	24	40	4.5

	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff	
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	0	14	22	2	2	40

	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	0	0	5	13	22	40

	__A__	__B__	__C__	__D__	__F__	
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	27	9	3	1	0	40

        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.

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COMMENTS:
Total Number of Comments: 29
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1. Professor Downing's teaching style is one of the best at the university. He forces everyone to participate, and it keeps the class engaged. The project was great and probably the closest you could get to emulating the industry in a class.

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2. I really enjoyed the projects and the lectures in this class, the only tricky part was the disconnect between the project and the class. For example, I believe it would have been helpful to learn sql commands before the second phase of the project because that is where sql is used the most so that would be a great project to practice the sql that we learned.

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3. For phase 3 of the IDB project,, I thought that the terms of search could've been better defined. We didn't understand what was actually wanted until the day before the assignment was due, and so we had to scramble to implement it the day of.

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4. Professor Downing is really good at explaining concepts by using a lot of examples and HackerRank. He also follows strictly to the class schedule so we know what weo?=re up to.

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5. I think a day lecture (or two) on RESTful APIs could be useful. At least a general overview, since I know that the lectures aren't meant to teach us the many libraries that we use.

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6. The projects were very rewarding and challenging.

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7. My only comment is that I was often late for my other classes because of this class. I understand that Professor Downing wants to finish his explanation, but it unfortunately cost me in other classes.

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8. I liked the class. Although would have hoped for the project requirements to be more detailed and easier for us to know exactly what was expected out of our group

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9. I like the lectures. They were really useful but somewhat boring. The tools we used for projects/class were great! The projects in this class were pretty fun, but I hated using GitLab Issues. I felt like we all bs-ed some issues just to meet requirement. It didn't feel useful. Our team also didn't use Slack to communicate; Facebook was more convenient. I also didn't like the pressure of needing to match # commits, unit tests, & issues as our team members. Those do not accurately reflect the amount of work each person had put in. UML, Postman, Report, AWS, etc. are all work that aren't reflected in this. Commits don't reflect amount of work someone has put in. Some unit tests are shorter/easier than others.

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10. The lectures were great. I learned a lot of details about Python which will be very useful. The last classes about refactoring were a little bit repetitive since we had multiple HR exercises per day and most of them were easy - they weren't a hard task - so that bored me for the last couple of lectures. Collatz was somewhat difficult for being the first project. I felt a little bit lost in some parts of it since the path to follow wasn't clear and there were many things to use with unclear indications. Anyway, I think it was a great project but a bit overwhelming, although it was challenging and that kept me motivated to improve the code. All tools were great and the selection of languages and frameworks is updated for today's market.

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11. I really liked this class, especially because it allowed me to work on a webapp with my group. However, I would strongly suggest that starting next semester, students are allowed to pick their projects' topic entirely like it used to be. I understand Prof. Downing's intent in doing something 'good' to society by asking us to make a website that follows a 'civic duty', but in reality, our webapps do not do anything to help society, and it would be more beneficial and motivational for students tobe able to pick their own topics. Other than this, maybe have some of the Software Engineers that he brings during the semester teach a framework or library used in the real world.

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12. I loved the lectures for this course. The professor gives a really investing lecture that keeps you constantly focused. The material in the lectures is also fairly interesting which also helps keep you engaged. However, there is a disconnect betweenthe material taught in lectures and the material for the projects. Sometimes the instructions for the project were too vague and led to points being taken off for not knowing what was required.

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13. Overall, the only part of this course that was difficult to keep up with was the vague description of expectations for the projects. We would get points off on criteria what were not clearly defined in the project specifications, which caused frustration and unnecessary points off my grade.

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14. First of all, I like this course. I like the idea of making a 5-people group and create a website together, and it is really fun. However, I am not happy with the topic limitation for the project. It is okay to ask us find 3 seperate dataset and so on, but it is a wrong choice to force us to select a topic that enhance civic engagement. I think it makes no sense. Students can be creative, and smart people tends to do good thing. This is what I believed. Therefore, don't reject students' proposal when they actually have a brilliant idea. Don't you think adding this "civic emgagement" limitation makes all of our websited boring and disappointing?

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15. I would have liked more of a connection between the project and the lectures. Maybe talking about React or other python packages and how they can be used, the best way to research tools, and proper directions with the tools used. Moving the sql partof the lecture to earlier in the course would help as well with setting up the database, as once we had the database set up, the sql lessons were mostly just re-iterating what we had learned on our own, the hard way.

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16. Hard class but extremely beneficial. Great teacher and great topics.

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17. It would be better for students if the quizzes are at the end of class rather than in the beginning because it affects the mood for learning knowing that you were late for quiz and missed it. Other than that, it's a great class and the professor is awesome!

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18. I know that on the first day of class, you mentioned that there would be a disconnect between the material taught in class and the subjects we learned about through our group project. I didn't mind the disconnect, but I felt that the material could have been more related to software engineering. I wish there were more talks from programmers in the industry (the Google/GCP one was more about GCP and less about their experiences or the problems they faced). I feel like we spent a lot of time on nitty gritty details about Python, which was great because I had been wanting to learn the language. Maybe we could have code review exercises so we'd have to think about what needs refactoring instead of being told that X needs to change.

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19. Please remove the penalty for missing class, not really fair for students with mental health issues.

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20. The course is really great. However, I guess it would better if we do less on Python syntaxes. Because I think they are kind of too detailed. Learning how to use the tools are great, and the project is also good. I hope we can do some more

practicalprojects, like working with a company or some clubs organizations on campus, to solve real issues.

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21. Professor and lectures were fantastic. Really enjoyed learning Python, SQL, Refactoring, etc in class. The HackerRank exercises were also very enjoyable. All materials being available on class schedule is also great. However, the rubrics to the group projects were often unclear or ambiguous and led to a lot of guessing what was required and later getting points off on things we didn't realize had to be done or be done a certain way. The specifications of the projects could be made much more clear-cut and straightforward. Also, the quizzes are set up to promote learning during the quiz, but for some reason don't let you go back and change your answer. If quizzes were meant to be learning experiences, I don't know why we'd be punished for it.

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22. I really enjoyed the course. My only gripe is that my project group sometimes felt confused about the project grading criteria.

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23. Great class, the only gripe I have is that the rubrics for assignments were a little vague- it was easy to miss a lot of points for things that were never explicitly stated in the project description.

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24. I think this course was one of the most applicable courses for the career most UTCS graduates enter after college. I really appreciated everything we learned. My only qualm was that the rubrics were very ambiguous for the projects. I understand thisis meant to reflect how we will have to do projects in the future, but from speaking with the TA's, they were provided more specifications on how to grade us that if we had known, we would have met those as well. Not knowing led to less than desirable grades on the projects and feeling a bit blindsided with grades. Other than that, I think that this class was great, Professor Downing is a wonderful professor who is very knowledgeable, and genuinely cares about ensuring that his students do well.

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25. I really enjoyed the course overall and felt the IDB projects were really helpful to apply concepts learned in class. However, one suggestion I do have is maybe spending more time on things directly related to the project. For example, we did a lot of Python-specific lessons, which can sometimes be helpful while doing the projects, but having to set up and configure a project from scratch can be daunting, so some lessons on best practices would also be great.

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26. The only complaint I have with the course is the relevancy of the lectures to the actual project. I felt that a lot of the material learned in the lectures, while useful in general, weren't immediately useful to the project. I would've preferred to learn more about the webdev tools we used, such as React or Mocha, as those were the things I had the hardest time grasping. Other than that, I feel like I learned a lot from this class.

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27. The things we learned in class didn't really have anything to do with the project that we do during the semester.

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28. I think the content in the second half of the course much more closely matched what we were actually doing, and so was more engaging. I appreciate that we were given all the material needed to study for exams.

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29. I thought some of the python lectures were a little bit drawn out. We also could have spent a little more time on Javascript, since I feel that was not emphasized at all through the course. Other than that, I really enjoyed learning about the intricacies of python and sql, and the refactoring as well.