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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN          COURSE-INSTRUCTOR SURVEY      Fall 2018   DEPARTMENT COPY
Downing, Glenn P        C S373    51685    SOFTWARE ENGINEERING          Enrollment = 47
E100 EXPANDED                                                           Surveys Returned = 45
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		Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
1	COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED-EXPLAINED	1	1	2	17	24	45	4.4
2	INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	1	0	0	9	35	45	4.7
3	COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	2	0	1	16	26	45	4.4
4	STUDENTS ENCOURAGED-ACTIVE ROLE	2	0	1	14	28	45	4.5
5	INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	1	0	2	13	29	45	4.5
6	COURSE WELL-ORGANIZED	2	2	4	17	20	45	4.1
7	STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	1	1	3	18	22	45	4.3
8	CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	2	0	1	4	38	45	4.7
9	ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	2	1	5	16	21	45	4.2
10	INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	1	0	1	11	32	45	4.6
11	INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	1	0	2	15	27	45	4.5
12	GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	1	0	2	10	32	45	4.6
13	HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	4	3	12	10	16	45	3.7
14	ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	2	5	8	15	15	45	3.8
15	ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	1	0	1	18	25	45	4.5
16	ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	2	0	2	16	25	45	4.4
17	STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	1	1	1	17	25	45	4.4
18	STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	2	1	3	16	23	45	4.3

		Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19	OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	1	1	4	11	28	45	4.4
20	OVERALL COURSE RATING	1	3	9	13	19	45	4.0

		Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff	
21	STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	3	14	27	0	1	45

		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	7	11	26	44

		A	B	C	D	F	
23	PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	22	19	4	0	0	45

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: 23

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1. There is not enough guidance on how to do anything required of us in the projects. Aside from having to flail around trying to figure out how to do anything, there is little to no directions on what is expected as far as grading is concerned. To me,the instructor's entire mindset was that "you want to build a product you are proud of and can showcase", but he forgets that this is still a class in which grades matter considering that the website is 40%. Also, mandatory attendance is unnecessaryand incredibly ineffective. Forcing us to attend class and stay the full time suggests an egotistical motivation on the instructors part, and is a waste of students time, particularly those who do not learn best in a lecture based setting.
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2. I think I came into this class with a misunderstanding of what would be taught/done in this class, and that made the class a bit of a letdown. I was thinking we would focus more on design patterns and situations to use different common patterns, butinstead we focused Python semantics, SQL semantics, and now we're talking about refactoring. I don't think we need to dedicate a software engineering class to teach Python and SQL. That being said, I think Dr. Downing did a great job and taught Python and SQL very well. While I was not a fan of the course material, I think Dr. Downing did his job well. He kept the class engaging and informative. I would've appreciated some more material that wasn't so language specific.
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3. I think this class should not be about python, sql and java but more about designing software systems, how to do modern web development and what are the tools and technologies to use. It felt more like a programming languages course than a software engineering course. Also, I wish we had more freedom on the project instead of making IDB. I also didn't like the schedule of user stories since they were due one day before the deadline which meant most of the stories were not possible to implement.
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4. Downing has been one of the best professors I've had at UT. No class has gone by where I don't learn something new.
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5. This was one of my favorite classes at UT. I learned how to build a website and effectively communicate in a group.
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6. While the lectures and the projects felt individually useful. It felt like there was a disconnect between the lectures and the projects, and that neither topic really had much in relation to each other. The course felt like two separate topics crammed together and that learning how to do well in one topic really did not affect the other. The lecture did not really help much for the projects, and I felt that the projects largely felt self taught with almost no bearing on the material the lecturer taught us.
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7. My main complaint is that the lectures and the projects were so unrelated I felt they should be separate classes - I would have preferred to learn web dev, not bits of Python, Java, JavaScript, SQL, etc. I didn't like being encouraged to not take notes - it made me feel less engaged in class, and I am not able to look at the notes on GitLab and remember the details of everything we went over. I felt that some assignments were issued on timelines that were too short. I did appreciate the real-world aspect of the class (not being able to ask your boss for help, working with a team), but felt my team was graded in a confusing way - it would have been nice to see the full rubric to better understand our grades. Overall, a worthwhile class.
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8. I wish there was more information on what is expected for the projects. Only after the projects were graded did we find out that we needed to include some information.
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9. I thought this class was strangely organized. I took OOP which seemed to align pretty well with the projects. I think this class would be improved if you covered API design and SQL in the beginning and taught students how APIs and backend code work.Many, many people don't learn these things until industry and the groups with people who had solid internships were the ones that had a good start. Many people never learn proper API design in their career. Focusing on the nitpicky cool tricks Python does didn't seem very helpful for my future as a software engineer.
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10. The only comment I would like to raise is on the effectiveness of cold-calling students. I would say that most of the time the student being called would be completely unprepared/unwilling to answer the question. I question how well of a learning tool this method can be since often-times Professor Downing would be the one answering his own question anyway after a few seconds of silence or mumbling from a student. Alternative participation methods such as iClicker questions might be a good way to promote participation.
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11. It would be more helpful if some guidelines were more clear. And if those implementations on certain projects were open for us to play with, then it would be helpful to know which parts were up to our own discretion. It also would be nice to learn more about some of the tools we were expected to use on projects in class.
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12. Professor Downing cares so much about students it's insane. Amazing professor. Tests, however, are a little too hard.
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13. Enjoyed this course a lot. Your teaching of both C++ and Python is definitely some of the best in the department. I wish the course was a little more adequately termed (same with OOP) for the content we actually learn, but other than that I thought it was a great learning experience. Thanks for the great two classes!
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14. The Python tutorials were very informative. I've used Python for a few years now and still managed to pick up a few new things. I really enjoyed the regex lessons. We covered a lot of information. I wish that we were able to spend a few more class days on the subject. I like the CI/CD system in GitLab. My team was very balanced. We didn't have that bad time creating the website. I went to the Atlassian and Google talks. I enjoyed both of them.
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15. I thought some aspects of this class would be more worthwhile if we went over some of the project material during lectures. I feel that we could have learned the tools needed for the project better this way.
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16. I didn't go to the Atlassian talk, but I genuinely learned and enjoyed the Under Armour and Google talks. The lecture topics were relevant and well presented, especially with the hands on HackerRank. One thing that was inconvenient was the multiple requirements for the group project being in multiple places like Piazza, Canvas, and the course website, rather than consolidated in one place. Not a big deal though
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17. I like most things about this course, however, I feel like the projects could use a little more explanation. I like that students are encouraged to learn the tools themselves since that is useful in itself, but I do think there should be some explanation for what the tools are. For example, I didn't really understand what SQL Alchemy does until I was too deep into the project to use it effectively. I think if there was a lecture dedicated to explaining how the front-end, database, and back-end interact and what some of the recommended tools do it would help people get started. Again, I think the self-teaching aspect is valuable, but for some, it may help if there was a little guidance like this to help get started.
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18. Lack of experience with web development in groups can place a high burden on those who do have experience, especially since the

lecture material is not related to the project.   The restriction of the topic of the site was also demotivating. It was difficult to find enough free APIs/data sources that could come together to make three different data models and serve one cohesive site idea. I found myself being much less interested in the project due to our site idea.

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19. Great class overall, my only complaint is that I would like to make a website on topics I'm more interested in, instead of very limiting subjects.

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20. I loved this class. Professor Downing was excellent.

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21. Great class, i hjust wish there were more info upfront about consequences or remedies for days you have to miss, such as presentation day

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22. I learned nothing new in this class but was still forced to show up by the attendance policy.

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23. The disconnect between class material and the projects is too much. The lecture material is very good, but would be better off in an in-depth Python class. Making the lectures about various technologies needed for the projects would better prepare us for the industry, and instill good habits. Scrambling to learn something like React well enough to turn a project in is not the ideal learning experience. I think it would be better to learn about good React coding before jumping straight into it. And although this class provided an experience very close to an internship, it was missing one important thing: the equivalent of a Scrum Master. Meeting with TAs weekly to make sure tasks are being worked on and assigned fairly would have helped a lo

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