*** PROVISIONAL REPORT ***

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN   COURSE—INSTRUCTOR SURVEY   Fall 2019   DEPARTMENT COPY
Downing, Glenn P   C S373   50535   SOFTWARE ENGINEERING   Grade—eligible enrollment = 55
E100 EXPANDED   Surveys Returned = 51

		NUMBER CHOOSING EACH RESPONSE			NO. REPLIES THIS ITEM	AVG.
	Str Disag	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree		
1 COURSE OBJECTIVES DEFINED—EXPLAINED	0	3	4	21	23	51	4.3
2 INSTRUCTOR PREPARED	0	0	2	12	37	51	4.7
3 COMMUNICATED INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY	1	1	2	20	27	51	4.4
4 STUDENTS ENCOURAGED—ACTIVE ROLE	0	0	5	13	33	51	4.5
5 INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY	0	0	0	14	36	50	4.7
6 COURSE WELL—ORGANIZED	1	7	6	15	22	51	4.0
7 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	1	1	10	16	23	51	4.2
8 CLASS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED	1	0	1	14	35	51	4.6
9 ENGAGING INSTRUCTION	2	3	6	15	25	51	4.1
10 INST. HAD THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT	0	0	4	11	36	51	4.6
11 INSTRUCTOR EXPLANATIONS CLEAR	0	2	3	13	32	50	4.5
12 GENUINELY INTERESTED IN TEACHING COURSE	0	0	1	13	37	51	4.7
13 HELPFUL COURSE MATERIALS	5	5	15	14	12	51	3.5
14 ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS	3	8	14	14	12	51	3.5
15 ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS RETURNED PROMPTLY	0	0	6	22	23	51	4.3
16 ASSIGNMENTS USUALLY WORTHWHILE	1	7	3	17	23	51	4.1
17 STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATED FAIRLY	1	4	8	18	20	51	4.0
18 STUDENT PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT LEARNED	2	5	4	12	28	51	4.2
	Vry Unsat	Unsat	Satisfact	Very Good	Excellent		
19 OVERALL INSTRUCTOR RATING	0	1	4	19	27	51	4.4
20 OVERALL COURSE RATING	2	7	10	10	21	50	3.8
	Excessive	High	Right	Light	Insuff		
21 STUDENT RATING OF COURSE WORKLOAD	4	29	18	0	0	51	
	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	2	1	1	17	30	51	
	__A__	__B__	__C__	__D__	__F__		
23 PROBABLE COURSE GRADE	16	25	10	0	0	51	

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: 26

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1. Assigned groups was not a good idea when the people in the groups are of different skill levels.
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2. Awesome Class
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3. I didn't like the 45-45 test format, but everything else was good!
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4. This was my least favorite UTCS course for the following reasons   - Random groups, and no support/grade change when I carried my group the whole semester - Cold calling, most of the time the students who were called did not know what was going on,which interrupted the class flow. It also discouraged students from asking questions - The professor would regularly interrupt students when they were talking. - The exam format was changed minutes before we took the exam - Daily quizzes took up too much time for the value they provided - Content of the class (basic python, basic SQL, basic design patterns) seemed to cover mainly edge cases and did not aid in software development - Too many Piazza posts
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5. I didn't like how the test's new format was a surprise for us moments before we were about to take the exam. Furthermore, I am aware that previous semesters had students were allowed to choose their groups. I hope that for future semesters that could still be an option but I liked that there were peer reviews. Lastly, I wished that the files that Professor Downing uses during class had more notes within it.
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6. I really enjoyed this course. I learned a lot of commonly used tools through the projects and got a lot better at python from the lectures. I do wish we could have been able to pick our own groups, as working with teammates I already knew and trusted would have made this semester much less stressful.
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7. Professor Downing is great and definitely enjoyed the course overall. I feel I learned a great amount and like that the class was interactive. There are a couple of things I believe could be improved upon though. With the projects, quizzes, exams, blogs, attendance, the different languages, etc. the class feels a little sporadic. The disconnection between the projects and lectures is great, which was to be expected and stated by Professor Downing, but I feel like maybe scaling back on one of those aspects would help to make the course feel more cohesive and manageable.
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8. This class was interesting. I would have enjoyed to learn more about frontend development rather than java.
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9. While most of the in-class material seemed useful, I did not enjoy the refactoring content. The project seemed useful, especially for those who had never been exposed to that type of work.
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10. Great course, really enjoyed the overlapping of concepts - helped to drive them conceptually in to my mind. I have started using several python concepts in my day to day programming - which is the ultimate aim I imagine. The website is a fantastic project to do - I would recommend making it compulsory to have a group leader for each phase and a different one for each phase. Amazing enthusiasm of Professor Downing in organizing talks, giving extra credit and making sure students have the opportunity to ask questions. The tech report for each phase is the one that is most heavily scrutinized - and I would say it is essential to have more clear guideline on how to structure the report - groups lost points because they were not made aware.
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11. I think the class was good overall. I didn't like the split of time for the tests. I wish there was more time in the individual section.
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12. I really liked this course and an instructor was just awesome. However, a group project is something students should be treated fairly and somewhat needed to be more concerned by managers.
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13. This is the best UTCS course I've ever taken.
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14. I enjoyed the class. I would have preferred to pick my partners just for the fact that I know their strengths and it would have sped up the process of assigning tasks as well as working together. I felt that the projects themselves were very informative for me and will help me better serve an employer in the future. Overall good class.
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15. As much as software engineering is important to the field (and the industry), I don't think this course was so much about software engineering practices as much as it was a tour of advanced Python and pushing students into the pool of web development. I expected it to be a somewhat more theoretical course discussing a philosophical approach to writing programs and how to find the right tool for the right job. I also expected to learn about other basic patterns, such as the observer pattern and MVC - how can a SWE course not have time to cover those?
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16. I've learned so much from taking SWE, I just wish the Project guidelines were a bit more clear, and maybe getting to pick our teams would have been better too. Have a great Break!
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17. I really loved the class for everything I was able to learn. I liked being able to work with a partner the second go around for tests and quizzes. However, I wish we had known that the midterm was going to be structured that way before we got to theexamination room. I came in not knowing anything that we learned in this class so it has been a real struggle, but I feel as if I learned a lot of valuable things from this class.
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18. Professor Downing provides captivating lectures and I personally actually like the cold calling style of the class so everyone has a chance to participate. The projects are very demanding and time-consuming; as for someone who has fairly little experience in these new techs, I find myself constantly watching tutorials and most of them are not that helpful. I wish that there are more materials and guidance outside class (since lectures are already compact in themselves) to provide more guides tostudents who are not so familiar with the techs.
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19. Professor was not familiar with many of the tools we were required to use for the projects. Every project had requirements that were NOT on the project instruction page and were communicated through piazza or word of mouth. this seemed almost intentional?
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20. I enjoyed everything I learned in class, and by doing the project I got exposed to a lot of tools and software engineering practices. The tests can be harsh, so that could be improved. It's hit or miss on these questions. Also, in the first test, there

was a question that was almost identical to another one, so if you didn't get one then you wouldn't get the other. In addition, there was vagueness in the assignment instructions that need to be fixed.

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21. I liked the idea of the projects but it was so hard to learn all of these tools on our own. I came into this class really excited to learn all these languages and tools you put on your website, but I thought you were the one who was going to teach them. It seems the lectures and exams prioritized "grade" and structure purposes rather than maximizing the learning for the students. I wanted to learn GCP or AWS and React, and I know those are hard to grade, but it would've been such a great experience had we explored those in class. Thanks for the passion, the organization, and chance for us to learn and build something together. I still learned a great deal, and I hope you have a wonderful holiday break.

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22. This was a very helpful class and I feel much more prepared for a career as a back-end engineer after taking it. I like that the projects were tool-focused because we were forced to learn how to read documentation and use these tools in a short amount of time, which I expect will be similar to the onboarding process in real workplaces. I think the complaint about the disconnect between the lectures and projects is probably fairly common, and while I do feel that the lecture content is useful, there could be a compromise of some sort. We could have a separate "intro day" for each of the major tools (I'm thinking Flask/Flask-Restless, React, D3, and maybe Javascript, since many of us haven't learned it in advance) to cover basic info on it.

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23. SQL lectures earlier in the course pls

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24. I think the divide between the lectures and the project is a mistake. It would've been much more helpful if lectures were to explain the different technologies required for our project. Prior knowledge is definitely required for the project, and I do not believe courses should neglect to teach the knowledge necessary for the projects. I do understand the intent of preparing us to adapt to the uncertain and ever-changing workplace but in a college setting, I wish to develop concrete and structured knowledge of the technological tools and how to utilize them in an effective manner. Although Python is very useful, I wish there were more lectures on various topics.

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25. The class is well structured and organized. Cold calling is a great idea because it was beneficial throughout the semester. Also, thank you for not being condescending when a student said the wrong answer. You're an amazing professor and I can't stop recommending this course to other students. Thank you for everything.

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26. I think the course materials could use some change. I think there should be a course in UTCS that focuses on professionalism in the industry much like the Engineering 333T course. Software Engineering is a broad title for a course in which we mostlyjust self learn how to make a website. The transition to this newer form would take a while I understand, but I think it would make for a more valuable experience for students in the future. Quite frankly, the CS culture needs a revamp. If this course were focused on professionalism and communications in the CS industry given its broad title, it would be good fit.