UC RIVERSIDE - Faculty Instruction Evaluation (iEval) Spring 2010

Course: CS 141 Section: 001 - INTERMED DATA STRUCS & ALGORITHM
Instructor: Neal E. Young
Home Dept.: Computer Science & Engineering

	Enrollment: 44	Enrollment: 1807	Enrollment: 56486
	Respondents: 35	Respondents: 1442	Respondents: 44049
	Response Rate: 80%	Response Rate: 80%	Response Rate: 78%

	Course									Department				Campus			
Questions	5 High	4	3	2	1 Low	N/A	Mean	Med	SD	% tile	Mean	Med	SD	% tile	Mean	Med	SD
1 I had a strong desire to take this course	21	6	5	2	-	1	4.4	5.0	0.9	65	3.9	4.0	1.2	76	4.0	4.0	1.1
2 I attended class regularly	25	6	2	1	-	1	4.6	5.0	0.7	71	4.3	5.0	1.0	78	4.4	5.0	0.9
3 I put considerable effort into this course	20	9	4	1	-	1	4.4	5.0	0.8	57	4.2	4.0	0.9	68	4.3	5.0	0.9
4 I gained a good understanding of the course content	20	9	4	1	-	1	4.4	5.0	0.8	62	4.2	4.0	0.9	73	4.2	4.0	1.0
5 I normally spent at least two hours preparing for each hour of class	16	7	5	5	1	1	3.9	4.0	1.2	50	3.6	4.0	1.2	63	3.8	4.0	1.2
6 Instructor was prepared and organized	26	7	1	1	-	-	4.7	5.0	0.7	75	4.5	5.0	0.8	86	4.4	5.0	0.9
7 Instructor used class time effectively	28	5	1	1	-	-	4.7	5.0	0.7	73	4.4	5.0	0.9	87	4.4	5.0	1.0
8 Instructor was clear and understandable	25	7	2	1	-	-	4.6	5.0	0.7	71	4.4	5.0	0.9	85	4.3	5.0	1.0
9 Instructor exhibited enthusiasm for subject and teaching	24	6	4	1	-	-	4.5	5.0	0.8	55	4.4	5.0	1.0	79	4.4	5.0	0.9
10 Instructor respected students; sensitive to and concerned with their progress	27	4	2	2	-	-	4.6	5.0	0.8	64	4.4	5.0	0.9	83	4.4	5.0	1.0
11 Instructor was available and helpful	24	6	3	2	-	-	4.5	5.0	0.9	55	4.4	5.0	0.9	78	4.4	5.0	1.0
12 Instructor was fair in evaluating students	21	8	3	1	2	-	4.3	5.0	1.1	46	4.4	5.0	0.9	70	4.3	5.0	1.0
13 Instructor was effective as a teacher overall	24	7	3	1	-	-	4.5	5.0	0.8	55	4.4	5.0	0.9	79	4.3	5.0	1.0
14 The syllabus clearly explained the structure of the courses	25	7	1	2	-	-	4.6	5.0	0.8	60	4.5	5.0	0.8	83	4.5	5.0	0.9
15 The examinations reflected the materials covered during the course	27	5	2	1	-	-	4.7	5.0	0.7	79	4.4	5.0	0.9	87	4.4	5.0	0.9
16 The required readings contributed to my learning	25	7	1	1	1	-	4.5	5.0	0.9	75	4.2	5.0	1.0	78	4.3	5.0	1.0
17 The assignments Contributed to my learning	25	7	2	1	-	-	4.6	5.0	0.7	75	4.3	5.0	0.9	82	4.3	5.0	1.0
18 Supplementary materials (e.g. films, slides, videos, guest lectures, iLearn, web pages, etc) were informative	23	4	4	2	2	-	4.3	5.0	1.2	60	4.3	5.0	1.0	72	4.3	5.0	1.0
19 The course overall as a learning experience was excellent	20	10	4	1	-	-	4.4	5.0	0.8	57	4.2	5.0	1.0	76	4.2	5.0	1.0
20 Q1	6	-	-	-	-	29	5.0	5.0	0.0	100	4.1	5.0	1.1	100	4.2	5.0	1.1
21 Q2	6	-	-	-	-	29	5.0	5.0	0.0	100	4.2	5.0	1.1	100	4.2	5.0	1.1
22 Q3	6	-	-	-	-	29	5.0	5.0	0.0	100	4.2	5.0	1.1	100	4.2	5.0	1.1
23 Q4	6	-	-	-	-	29	5.0	5.0	0.0	100	4.2	5.0	1.0	100	4.2	5.0	1.1
24 Q5	6	-	-	-	-	29	5.0	5.0	0.0	100	4.2	5.0	1.0	100	4.2	5.0	1.1

* The number of N/A is not included in the Mean, Median, and S.D. calculation.

Question # 25: Please comment on how the instructor's teaching helped your learning of the material in this course. Please give serious thought to your comments. Your comments will be studied by the professor after the grade and performance evaluation of your work have been submitted and may be used in changing future offerings of the course. In addition, these comments are placed in the instructor's file and maybe used for purposes of evaluating the instructor's teaching. The information collected will remain anonymous

- Dr. Young is a great professor. He showed enthusiasm in algorithms and was very helpful in outside review sessions and office hours. The homeworks were a challenge and I believe the grading methods for the homework were quite unfair. I would like to see more examination preparation for the class.

- Professor Young is an awesome teacher. The way he develops algorithms by creating an intuition of how to solve the problem is the perfect way to teach the topic. I learned so much in this class. And the challenge problems were also really fun and helpful.

- Good instructor, just hope you tone can be more peart

- Professor Young is excellent. His ability to clearly and concisely explain the dense concepts that compose the everyday material of this course is in my experience thus far unparalleled. I also greatly appreciate the time he takes during lectures to help us develop the intuition behind the solutions to the problems, rather than just presenting us with the solution.

- The class wasn't extremely hard. Professor Young explains the material pretty well.

- I loved the amount of time you spent per algorithm it really helped me grasp the concepts.

- Excellent at explaining complicated algorithms in intuitive ways.

- Professor Neal Young is honestly the best CS professor I had so far! This class involves a lot of mathematical concepts that were taught in earlier classes, and our earlier instructors didn't do a good job of explaining stuff as much as he did. Many professors use slides or just read from their notes and elaborate on it. But Professor Neal Young wasn't afraid of using the chalk board (using it very effectively) listing down all the objectives of the lecture, writing down algorithms and definitions on the side to reference back to them, and going into each topic in detail and repeating it over some times to make sure we clearly got the message through. He also drew many diagrams and pictures to help us understand more difficult ideas. And he was able to do all that each lecture (80 minutes) and still finish within reasonable time. I wish I had him for CS/Math 11 & CS/Math 111, because that's where I think students in the CS program need the most motivation and understanding of logic/math/CS to keep them motivated and working hard in pursuing this hard field. Another interesting point to make about Professor Neal Young is that he likes to challenge students with challenge puzzles with the greatest reward being not having to take the final if a student collects the most points from solving puzzles. After solving two puzzles in the beginning of the quarter (one was late and the other I got in time to earn points) I felt very motivated about the subject and I wanted to give it all I got to really learn it and challenge myself. I also need to acknowledge and thank the professor for coming up with the weekly study group, which is run by him. Every week, students meet with the professor for an hour and a half and we get to ask him any questions from previous HW's or explain to us topics and material relevant to our labs or project assignments. He would also use that study group time to review for upcoming quizzes. Not only are study groups helpful, but it also makes connecting with the professor and going to his office hours much easier, because the student gets the feeling that the professor wants to help us and he is easily approachable. Thanks again professor Young for being a great instructor this quarter, and if it is possible, I hope you will consider teaching other upper division CS classes in the future.

- Super awesome!

- I liked how he asked the class small questions to get us thinking about the problem, which eventually lead to understanding the general concept.

- The only thing I could say is that the professor should be a little more concise in lecture. But overall, his lessons were very well-prepared and understandable.

- The content seemed very dry and wasn't very inspiring. In addition, it would be nice if the files provided for programming were cross platform. I like to work in my home (Windows) environment rather than lab as I have it set up in a more efficient manner. I did appreciate that Dr. Young

focused on intuition rather than plain memorization.

- Not much to say, really. Prof. Young is fantastic, and his lectures really helped me through the class. Apart from homework, I didn't need to spend a lot of time outside of class studying. Not because the class is easy - it's pretty tough - but because the lectures were extremely informative and helpful. Working through a lot of the algorithms, especially the recursive and dynamic programming ones, was incredibly useful. If I just had the book, I definitely would have had a significantly harder time. That being said, the book was pretty great, too. It's infinitely more useful than any CS book I've ever owned or read, and it's maybe a quarter of the size. The lab sessions were extremely helpful as well. Whenever we covered a new algorithm, I generally had a pretty good idea of how it worked, but implementing them helped me get them down. I'll be able to write and modify Dijkstra's, DFS, BFS, and any dynamic programming table for the rest of my life. Things that I had seen before but never even remotely understood: RSA, Dijkstra's, Complexity theory, and P=NP?. Spent hours in other classes or wikipedia trying to understand them, to no avail. With this prof? I've got 'em down. Not much else to say. Fantastic class, had a fun time. I felt like a wizard every time my algorithms worked. Very cool.

- Best professor I've had at UCR so far. I hope to take any other classes he may teach in the future.

- He is very prepared, well organized, and fair in his grading. He is approachable, and exhibits a clear enthusiasm and interest in the subject. He goes out of his way to help students, whether by responding quickly to forum posts and e-mail, or holding extra study sessions each week. Overall, an excellent teacher.

- The professor was good in teaching the material, but I just did not have much interested in the material being taught.

- Dr. Young was an excellent professor, easily one of the best in the computer science department. My only qualm is the extreme difficulty of the homework, a level of difficulty that does not carry over to the tests (thankfully). Overall, I felt as though his methods were effective and hardly a class went by that 'dragged', so to speak. I would be honored to have him as a professor again in the future.