Algorithms Data (Fall 2018)

Instructor: **Young, Neal**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **3000 02**
Course ID: **17870**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **81**
Responses Incl Declines: **29**
Declines: **2**

Course Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The syllabus helped me to learn.	27	33%	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
The textbook(s) helped me to learn.	27	33%	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.0	4.0
The materials posted online, including Blackboard, helped me to learn.	27	33%	4.4	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.0
The out-of-class assignments and fieldwork helped me to learn.	27	33%	4.6	4.3	4.2	5.0	4.0	4.0
The lectures helped me to learn.	27	33%	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
The in-class discussions and activities helped me to learn.	27	33%	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
The classroom technology helped me to learn.	27	33%	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
The required textbook(s) were important for my success in this course.	27	33%	2.8	3.5	3.7	3.0	4.0	4.0
I would recommend that the instructor continue requiring the textbook(s).	27	33%	3.1	3.7	3.7	3.0	4.0	4.0
The required digital and/or other supplemental materials were important for my success in this course.	26	32%	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
I would recommend the instructor continue requiring the digital and/or supplemental materials.	27	33%	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
I found this course intellectually challenging.	26	32%	4.8	4.1	4.1	5.0	4.0	4.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Learning Related Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
I learned a lot in this course.	27	33%	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.0
I learned to apply course concepts and principles.	27	33%	4.8	4.3	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.0
I developed additional skills in expressing myself orally and in writing.	27	33%	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
I learned to analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	27	33%	4.5	4.0	4.1	5.0	4.0	4.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Instructor Related Questions: Neal Young

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The instructor possessed the basic communication skills necessary to teach the course.	27	33%	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	27	33%	4.4	4.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor clearly stated the objectives of the course.	27	33%	4.6	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor covered what was stated in the course objectives and syllabus.	27	33%	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	27	33%	4.7	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor used class time effectively.	27	33%	4.4	4.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	27	33%	4.6	4.2	4.2	5.0	4.0	4.0
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	27	33%	4.6	4.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor is someone I would recommend to other students.	27	33%	4.4	4.2	4.2	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor treated students with respect.	27	33%	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor acknowledged and took effective action when students did not understand the material.	27	33%	4.7	4.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	27	33%	4.7	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	27	33%	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0

Note: 5:Strongly Agree; 4:Agree; 3:Neutral; 2:Disagree; 1:Strongly Disagree; -1:Not applicable;

Instructor Effectiveness: Neal Young

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?	27	33%	4.4	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.0

Note: 5:Almost Always Effective; 4:Usually Effective; 3:Sometimes Effective; 2:Rarely Effective; 1:Never Effective;

Course Related Questions (14 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strength and/or weakness of the required textbook/course materials.

1 I only read ~1 chapter of the textbook. The lecture notes were almost always sufficiently detailed and comprehensive.

2 the lecture notes were top quality.

3 I did not use the textbook very often. However, it was good at helping me clarify things if I had issues. Generally speaking, the lectures notes were enough for me to understand that which I needed to.

4 Textbook is confusing and only makes course content even more unclear.

5 I never used the textbook. Lecture notes, however, were extreme useful.

6 All lectures posted were very helpful

7 The notes can be daunting because of their size and it takes a lot of time to understand the readings

8 Textbook was somewhat helpful but lecture notes were over the top and amazing!

9 I thought that the textbook and the lecture notes were especially helpful in my learning. They both allowed me to review subjects that I had trouble keeping up with during lecture.

10 posted notes/practice problems on BB were integral to course success

11 didn't use the text book at all. referred to course materials when stuck on hw problems and they were semi-helpful

12 The textbook does not do a good job in explaining a problem in simple terms which is easy to comprehend. It overcomplicates basic

things and makes it harder to understand.

The additional lecture notes and MIT course video were far better way in understanding the content being taught within the course.

13	Not needed
14	Didn't use the textbooks too much, but seems like they would be a good supplementary resources. Lecture notes posted online were dense but very helpful for brushing up on details after class.

Learning Related Questions (8 comments)

Q: Please comment on the strengths of this course and/or ways to improve this course.

1	really helped me develop a deep understanding for the algorithmic concepts in the problems we looked at.
2	I feel like I have learned so much throughout this course. This course did a good job giving me a strong foundation for algorithms.
3	I am much more confident in my ability to design efficient algorithms, bound their runtime, and prove correctness for all cases
4	Maybe have classes shorter than 1:40 mins or give a break in the between. It is very hard to maintain full concentration for the entire class
5	I thought that the course was very successful in developing my ability to develop an algorithm when presented with a problem. I am excited to apply these skills during my next co-op.
6	Mathematical and proof-based structure was nice for developing reasoning skills although we moved slowly through material because of it
7	The long term proofs which are given seem either too complicated or do not seem to prove that something is correct. Another aspect which could be adding is trying out the algorithms which are learned in languages taught in Fundies 1 and 2. This way people are able to understand more differences in runtime and how the algorithms should be designed. There were optional coding challenges, however they were not taught in class and were more self learning basis.
8	A good course, great for students who enjoy the intersection of CS and Math. But also very practical/applicable. Expect to put in some time for understanding the material and working out solutions.

Instructor Related Questions: Neal Young (16 comments)

Q: Describe instructor's strengths, areas for improvement, and any additional comments.

1	First time teaching UG? Wouldn't believe it. Neal's a fantastic professor.
2	Very accessible professor. He would answer my Piazza posts very quickly and I found this to be extremely helpful. He was also flexible in his lectures, which I found to be very beneficial. He would often ask the students to vote for which topics to cover/go over again, and that was helpful.
3	Sometimes didn't always communicate course concepts clearly. Felt like he thought we knew more about the subject than we did.
4	Professor Young was always willing to help students and was one of the professors who said that he wanted to make sure students understood material and not worry about grades as much, and actually followed through with it. At times he could get a little wordy and sometimes confusing but he would always break it down and repeat it again if people were confused and he encouraged questions.
5	I appreciate the abundance of office hours, and I do appreciate the usually substantial feedback on homework. However, I don't know if this is instructor specific or a department thing, but the frequency at which errors show up in the homework, and gradings of HW and exams is a lot and it keeps many of us on our toes to download the most recent copy of HW instructions, sometimes very close to the HW deadline.
6	Professor Young was the best professor I've had so far at Northeastern. I've never had a professor so knowledgeable, so effective at teaching, and who sincerely cared for his students. He truly did everything in our power to help us learn, and I can honestly walk away from this class knowing that I have a very strong foundation for algorithms. 10/10 would take again.
7	Prof. Young is a very good professor, but sometimes speaks unclearly and explains things too mathematically
8	Very understanding and helps out the students. Only issue maybe give shorter HWs
9	Neal Young is a great professor who cares about his students and posts extremely detailed lecture notes on a super organized Blackboard page!!!
10	It was clear to me that the professor had a strong enthusiasm for the course content, and I thought that he very clearly conveyed the course content during lectures. I noticed that many of the students around me struggled to understand the mathematical syntax used

throughout the course and wonder if that syntax could be better explained at the start of the course. I also felt that lectures sometimes contained unnecessarily repetitive material.

11 Bit boring lecturer. Clearly explains things and writes detailed notes. Not "out to get you" grade wise which is appreciated. Well meaning instructor not the most approachable

12 I could not recommend Neal enough to any of my peers. He went above and beyond to make sure students understood the material. If they didn't, he would want to know why; was it his teaching style? the material itself? was there enough time for the assignment? He responded on Piazza extremely fast and even allowed for students to call him with questions at any time of day. Although this class was extremely difficult, Neal did the absolute most to ensure every student's success.

13 Weakness - The overall morale of the class was very low and the instructor was not able to make people understand the content in the first go. The class started becoming boring leading to a decent amount of people being distracted from the lecture.

Strength - I have never seen any professor who dedicates so much time outside class to answer questions posted on Piazza. I have seen the professor reply to posts even at 11:30pm which is something not seen in other courses. The time taken to answer a question is also really quick. The dedication of the professor is extra-ordinary.

14 Amazing professor- If you are going to take algorithms take it with Professor Young! Provides very detailed, fast responses on Piazza. Very accommodating, wants every student to succeed.

15 Professor Young definitely knows the material and comes to class prepared to teach. Sometimes a little hard to hear, but can explain things well. Lectures are good if you are keeping up, but if you fall behind somewhere it might be tough to get back up to what he is talking about.

16 Is very approachable when material can be difficult to understand. Makes himself available through many channels (phone, email, office)