



# UC RIVERSIDE - Faculty Instruction Evaluation (iEval)

## Fall 2009

Course: CS 218 Section: 001 - DESIGN &  
ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS  
Instructor: Neal E. Young  
Home Dept.: Computer Science & Engineering

Enrollment: 57  
Respondents: 47  
Response Rate: 82%

Enrollment: 2102  
Respondents: 1505  
Response Rate: 72%

Enrollment: 59672  
Respondents: 42899  
Response Rate: 72%

Questions	Course						Department				Campus						
	<u>5</u> High	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Low	<u>N/A</u>	Mean	Med	SD	% tile	Mean	Med	SD	% tile	Mean	Med	SD
1 I had a strong desire to take this course	27	13	2	2	2	1	4.3	5.0	1.1	71	3.8	4.0	1.2	77	3.9	4.0	1.1
2 I attended class regularly	39	3	3	-	1	1	4.7	5.0	0.8	83	4.4	5.0	0.9	85	4.5	5.0	0.9
3 I put considerable effort into this course	39	5	1	-	1	1	4.8	5.0	0.7	92	4.2	4.0	0.9	91	4.3	5.0	0.9
4 I gained a good understanding of the course content	26	13	4	2	1	1	4.3	5.0	1.0	57	4.2	4.0	0.9	74	4.2	4.0	1.0
5 I normally spent at least two hours preparing for each hour of class	33	8	2	1	1	2	4.6	5.0	0.9	88	3.5	4.0	1.3	89	3.8	4.0	1.2
6 Instructor was prepared and organized	30	10	4	2	-	1	4.5	5.0	0.8	62	4.5	5.0	0.8	82	4.5	5.0	0.9
7 Instructor used class time effectively	26	12	8	-	-	1	4.4	5.0	0.8	57	4.4	5.0	0.9	81	4.4	5.0	0.9
8 Instructor was clear and understandable	28	10	4	2	2	1	4.3	5.0	1.1	50	4.5	5.0	0.9	77	4.3	5.0	1.0
9 Instructor exhibited enthusiasm for subject and teaching	32	10	3	-	1	1	4.6	5.0	0.8	67	4.4	5.0	0.9	86	4.5	5.0	0.9
10 Instructor respected students; sensitive to and concerned with their progress	37	4	4	-	1	1	4.7	5.0	0.8	86	4.4	5.0	0.9	89	4.4	5.0	1.0
11 Instructor was available and helpful	38	4	3	-	1	1	4.7	5.0	0.8	79	4.4	5.0	0.9	89	4.4	5.0	0.9
12 Instructor was fair in evaluating students	36	5	4	-	1	1	4.6	5.0	0.8	71	4.5	5.0	0.8	86	4.4	5.0	0.9
13 Instructor was effective as a teacher overall	33	8	4	1	-	1	4.6	5.0	0.7	73	4.4	5.0	0.9	87	4.3	5.0	1.0
14 The syllabus clearly explained the structure of the courses	23	15	5	1	1	2	4.3	5.0	0.9	42	4.5	5.0	0.8	77	4.5	5.0	0.8
15 The examinations reflected the materials covered during the course	30	13	1	1	1	1	4.5	5.0	0.8	64	4.4	5.0	0.9	80	4.4	5.0	0.9
16 The required readings contributed to my learning	29	11	4	1	1	1	4.4	5.0	0.9	69	4.2	5.0	1.0	80	4.3	5.0	1.0
17 The assignments Contributed to my learning	34	7	3	1	1	1	4.6	5.0	0.9	69	4.3	5.0	1.0	86	4.3	5.0	1.0
18 Supplementary materials (e.g. films, slides, videos, guest lectures, iLearn, web pages, etc) were informative	28	11	6	-	1	1	4.4	5.0	0.9	57	4.3	5.0	1.0	79	4.3	5.0	1.0
19 The course overall as a learning experience was excellent	26	13	3	1	2	2	4.3	5.0	1.0	64	4.2	5.0	1.0	78	4.2	5.0	1.0
20 Q1	3	-	1	-	-	43	4.5	5.0	1.0	75	4.2	5.0	1.0	83	4.2	5.0	1.1
21 Q2	3	-	1	-	-	43	4.5	5.0	1.0	79	4.3	5.0	0.9	83	4.2	5.0	1.0
22 Q3	3	-	1	-	-	43	4.5	5.0	1.0	79	4.2	5.0	1.0	83	4.2	5.0	1.0
23 Q4	3	-	1	-	-	43	4.5	5.0	1.0	71	4.2	5.0	1.0	83	4.2	5.0	1.0
24 Q5	3	-	1	-	-	43	4.5	5.0	1.0	79	4.2	5.0	1.0	83	4.2	5.0	1.1

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



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**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

- Course is superb. Some of the assignments were very hard, some were of moderate difficulty. I expect all the assignments to be of equal difficulty.
- The instructor presented the material in very clear and understandable form. I would like to thank the instructor for interesting lectures and useful materials he posted.
- The only problem with this course was that there were many assignments and they were time consuming for the most.
- A really excellent professor with passion for teaching. He wants to make students understand and he spends a lot of effort on it. He was always available to answer questions and he replied to our mails immediately. He also had an advisory board for getting feedback from the students. I am completely satisfied.
- I enjoyed this course. The subject matter was challenging, but I feel that I gained a good grasp of most of the information.
- Professor Young is the Best Ever Teacher I Have Met!
- He is a great instructor. He is full of desire to teach and cares his students all the times. I learned a lot in this course
- Prof. Young, you are a nice teacher, really! I am impressive with every moment you think hard and try to explain a problem as clearly as possible for us. If I am a professor in the future, I hope to be like you!
- This class is good. I learnt lots of things from this class. The lecture is easy to understand. Home work is good although I have to take much time to do it. Sometime I think the quantity of assignment could be less and content could be more complicated. Since we are graduate student, we need to learn how to design real algorithm. So you can give us one or two project in a quarter and maybe we can work in group to solve a real problem. I think that would be helpful for learning algorithm.
- Dr. Young is the best teachers teaching algorithm so clearly and efficient i have met by far. He has standard accent which is very important for an international student to follow. More important, he answer every question we proposed instantly. He always can explain himself clearly, which can not be achieved by every teacher. I enjoy this course.
- The instructor covered too much material... or just got into the details more than needed. Due to the limited time, the classes were going too fast, and many students were left confused. The time spent on the homework was over 12-15 hours per week easily. That left us almost no time to go over the chapters in the book. The professor loves his students and cares about them, and does spend too much time in his office helping us. Also, the professor should be more prepared before presenting, and should listen to us when we tell him the homework is really taking too much time.
- Dr. Neal Young teaching is the best I've had in my 2 years graduate school here. Some of the lectures were above my information processing powers but I feel that they gave me a very high-quality training in Algorithms. I was working hard like for no other course to meet the unusually height expectations. This had a negative impact on my research and other activities during the quarter (again this has never happened before), but I do not regret for my choose to give priority to this class.
- Professor is very enthusiastic and his way of teaching is really good. However the exams and homeworks were not very good at evaluating our understanding because of time constraints.
- respectable passion of teaching.
- I know that the professor is very smart in the algorithm but I think he is not a good teacher. I personally very dislike his teaching method. In each

chapter. He didn't teach the basic knowledge or introduction to it well enough. Usually very very brief about it. He went directly to the proof. His writing style and explanation are too fast and unclear. So, I usually don't understand what he taught in class. For me, the algorithm class is really hard. I read the textbook and I was still unclear about the contents because this textbook is very hard to read. I had to read materials on the Internet to make me understand more before I can continue reading the textbook again. Of all the factors above make this course so hard.

- The professor is great can not be better. I would've like to take as much classes with him as possible. About the class: the material was too much, homeworks were time consuming and together with the other classes there was not enough time to work on them.
- (\*-!)/High Five(!-\*)
- This course was probably the hardest class I've ever had to take. The teacher knew the material very well but sometimes it was hard to understand exactly how/what he was trying to convey to us. Although that was the case, he DID take time out to answer every and all questions regarding the topic in question and thus we eventually grasped the material.
- This course do help me to have better understanding of algorithm. the assignment loading is a little time consuming, but it really give me good training about how to explain an idea reasonable and clear. And I also understand the material better through the assignment. About the exam, I think take-home exam is considerable. Algorithm issues sometimes need time to work it out and make sure that the idea have no problem. And for students whose native language is not English (like me), it takes more time to organize the idea and to explain it, time limitation makes me nerves and can't concentrate on thinking about the problem. I always spend a lot of time on homework and believe that I've good understand of the material, but the mid term makes me worry about the grade, because the time is much short than what I need to write down my idea. Generally speaking, this course is good and help for me.
- Problem descriptions were often difficult to understand (ie what the goal of the problem was). This often required me to first struggle to understand what the goal of the problem was, and then solve the problem itself. More straight forward examples, without and "hand waving", would have been useful as well.
- The course was useful and informative. The lectures could have covered a little more content and I dont think the in class prover skeptic discussions were very informative. Assignments were helpful in improving understanding.
- the class lectures were very high level - i had difficulty following the 2nd part of the class - the beginning of the lecture was clear - but with time it became very abstract. definitely better than when Dr. Chrobak taught it. Dr. Young was much much better. i wish he covered more of basic stuffs with each lecture, specially for NP class.
- For a teacher who taught this class for the first time, Dr. Young is an effective and caring and respectful teacher. Although he pushed students hard with the homework, his effort at getting us to understand the material was appreciated. His exam was fair, and he graded us according to the amount of effort we had made, and he took into consideration the difficulty we might have experienced.
- Professor, the questions on the homeworks as well as the midterm were very difficult to understand. I spent ridiculous amounts of time on your homeworks just trying to figure out what you were asking. I was in your CS141 course as an undergrad and had the same issue with the questions you gave us. Also, you could give clearer examples and diminish the amount of hand waving.
- Whenever I asked a question, Dr. Young answered it in such a way that I was able to understand the concept better. This subject is difficult to teach, however, instead of open ended questions on the exam a mixture of true/false, multiple choice and fill in the blank questions as well as problems is appreciated. Maybe you can weigh the final less and administer three exams and a final with less material on each exam. I don't think the homework assignments were that great of a learning experience because often I resorted to the web to understand the concept whereas I would appreciate a problem or exercise that can be solved exclusively using the textbook CLRS or the Dasgupta book. For instance, I learn better by doing more exercises that are simpler than three or more difficult problems. The CLRS exercises not the problems are a great tool to use to learn Finally, the TA's frequently didn't grade the homework that fairly but the nature of the material makes grading the homeworks difficult. A good idea was for only Dr. Young to change the grades. The material can be presented in lecture in more detail even if that means grinding out the mathematical formulas on the board. The decorum in the class was excellent most people arrived on time and behaved well in the class room.
- This was a hard course! But that's not a complaint against the professor...the material is simply challenging. Young did an excellent job at staying connected with the course and showed a great amount of concern for how we were doing. He also showed a great willingness and desire to help students individually. I always felt he was available, or that a TA would be available if I really needed help.