



USC University of
Southern California

Individual Report for Instructor Wang
(30000-20191 : CSCI-360 Introduction to
Artificial Intelligence (30000))

Project Title: **Learning Experience Evaluations - Spring 2019**

Courses Audience: **75**
Responses Received: **37**
Response Ratio: **49.33%**

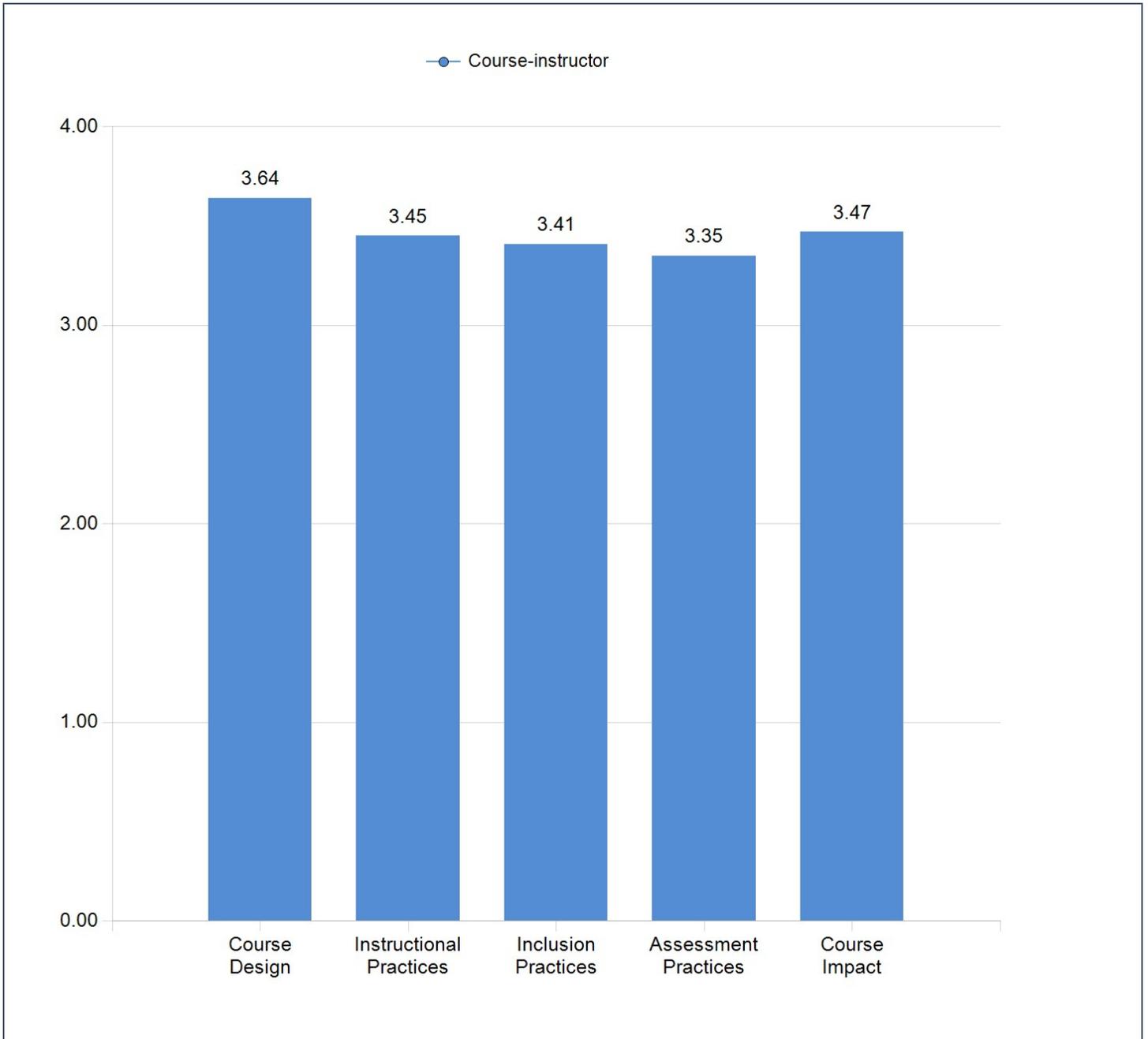
Report Comments

Please download and save a PDF copy of this report. You can also access this and other historical reports in Blackboard.

Creation Date: **Thursday, August 01, 2019**

LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS

Learning Experience Subscale Average Score



Competency	Course-instructor	Standard Deviation
Course Design	3.64	+/-0.54
Instructional Practices	3.45	+/-0.70
Inclusion Practices	3.41	+/-0.75
Assessment Practices	3.35	+/-0.83
Course Impact	3.47	+/-0.74

COURSE DESIGN

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	37	3.65	0.59
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	37	3.70	0.52
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	37	3.57	0.50

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	37	3.27	0.77
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	37	3.49	0.69
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students	37	3.59	0.60

INCLUSION PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	35	3.49	0.66
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	37	3.19	0.94
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints	36	3.53	0.65
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences	36	3.44	0.69

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	37	3.59	0.60
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	37	3.32	0.75
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	37	3.19	1.08
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	37	3.30	0.81

COURSE IMPACT

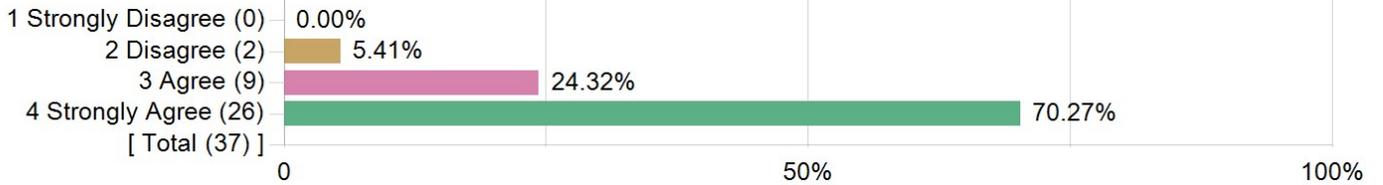
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.	37	3.51	0.69
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	37	3.49	0.69
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	37	3.41	0.83

LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE DESIGN

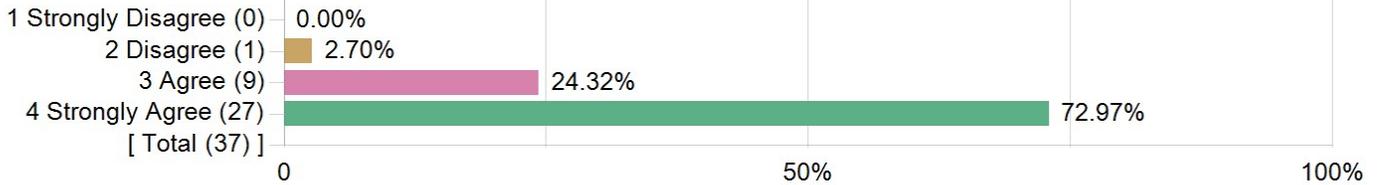
COURSE DESIGN

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	37	3.65	0.59
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	37	3.70	0.52
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	37	3.57	0.50

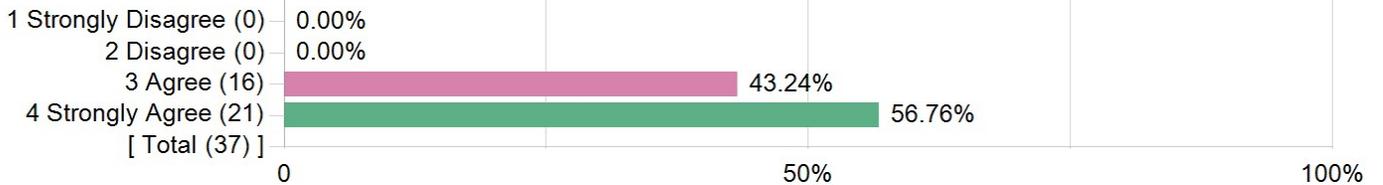
1. The course objectives were well explained.



2. The course assignments were related to the course objectives.



3. I understood what was expected of me in this course.

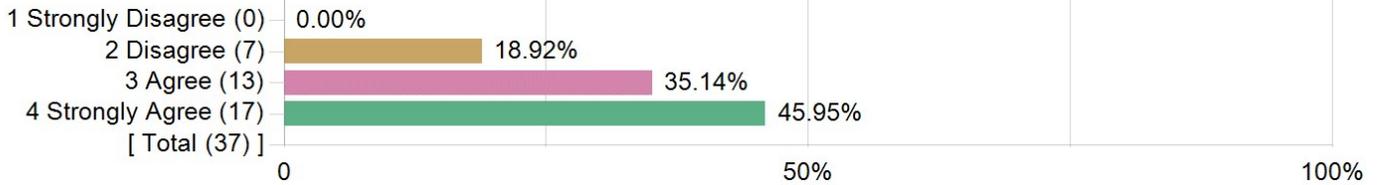


LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

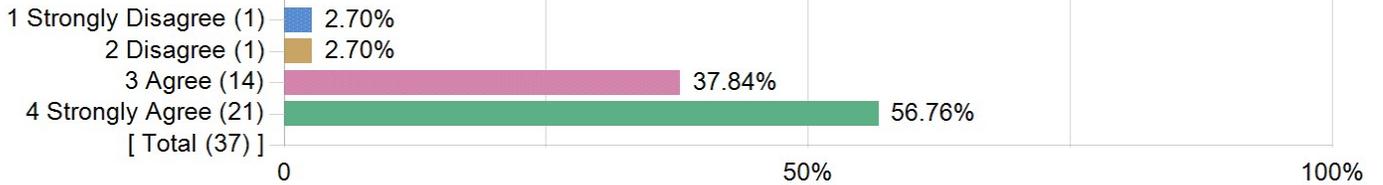
INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	37	3.27	0.77
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	37	3.49	0.69
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students	37	3.59	0.60

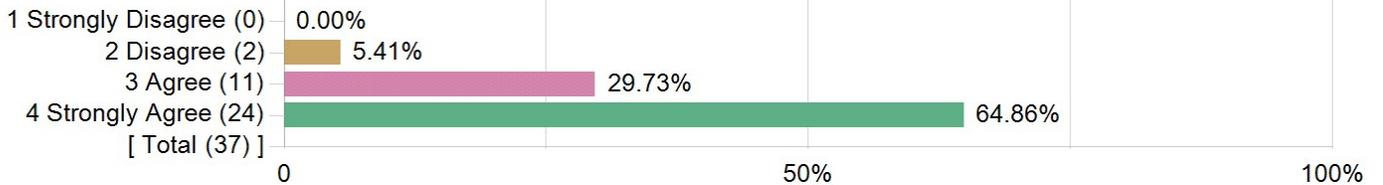
1. The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.



2. The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.



3. The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students

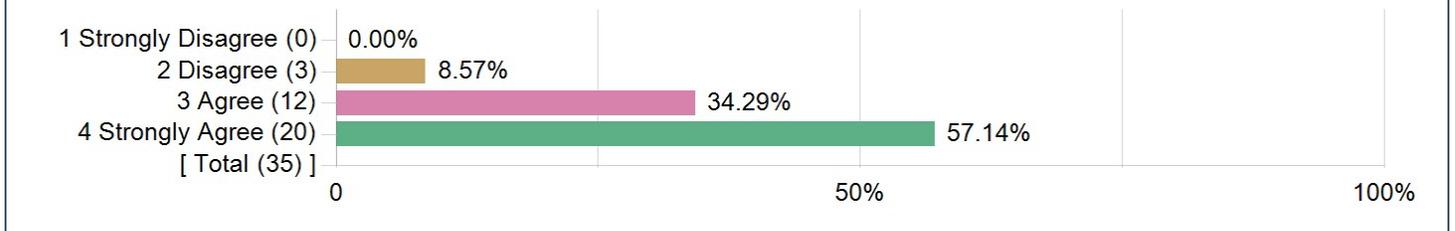


LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INCLUSION PRACTICES

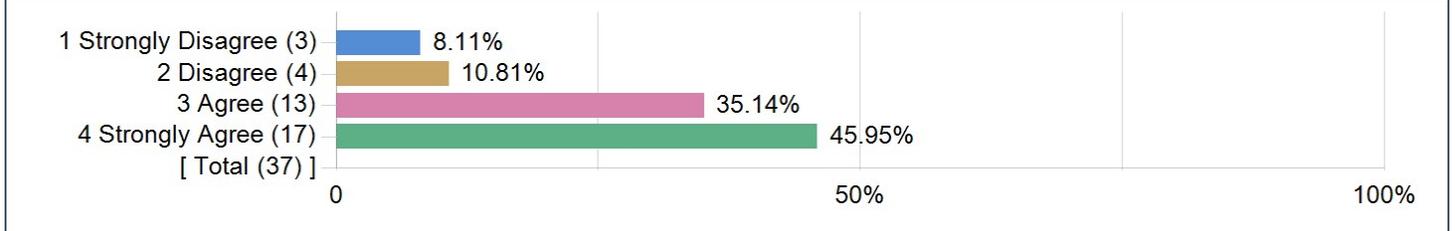
INCLUSION PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	35	3.49	0.66
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	37	3.19	0.94
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints	36	3.53	0.65
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences	36	3.44	0.69

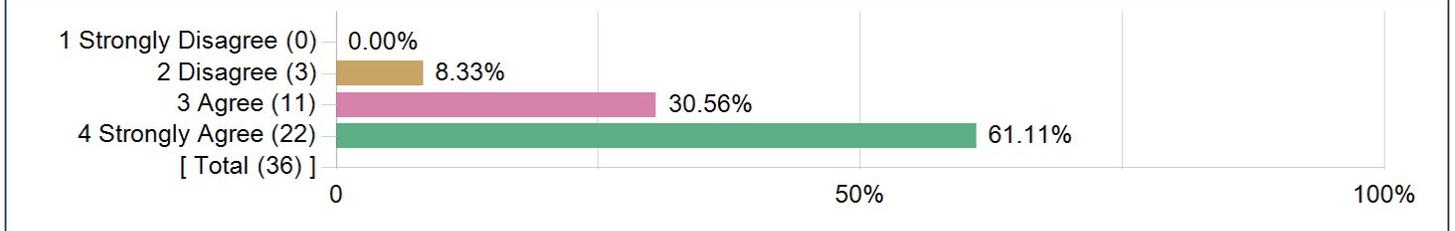
1. The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.



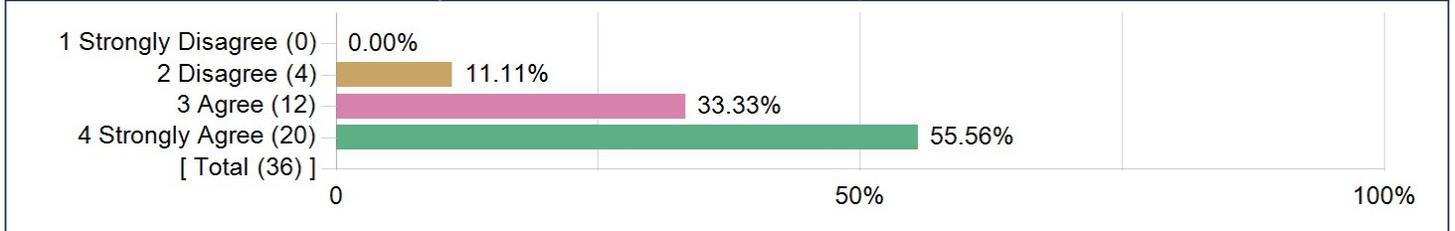
2. The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.



3. The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints



4. The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences

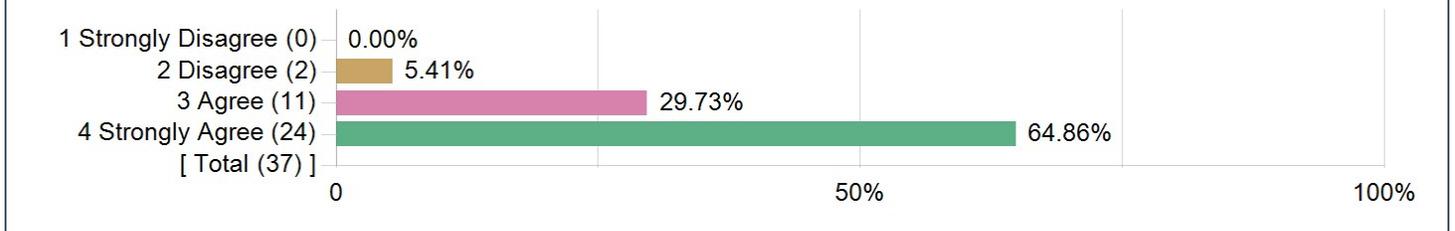


LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

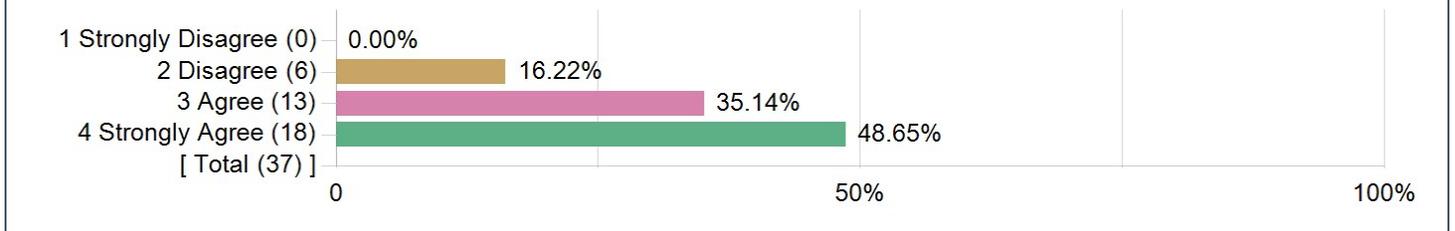
ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	37	3.59	0.60
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	37	3.32	0.75
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	37	3.19	1.08
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	37	3.30	0.81

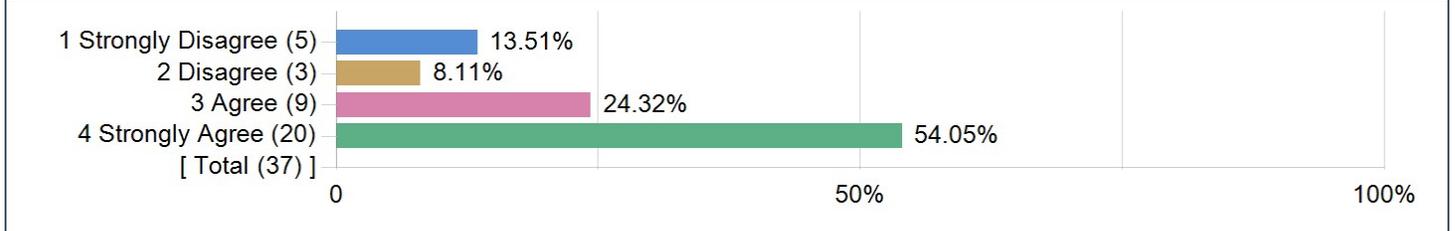
1. The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.



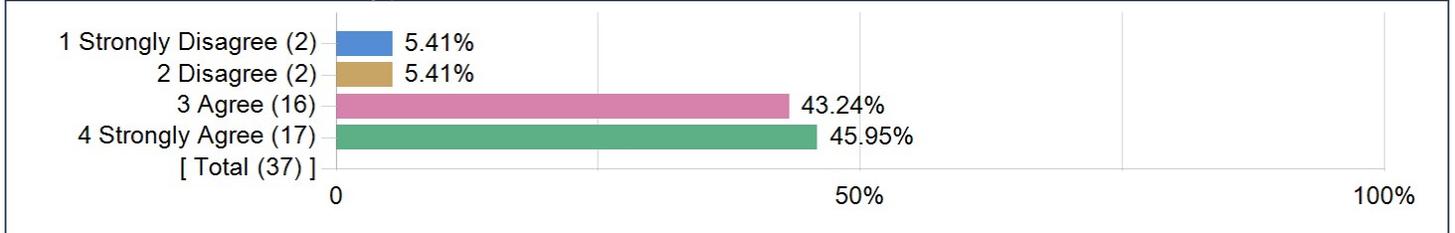
2. The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.



3. The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.



4. The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.

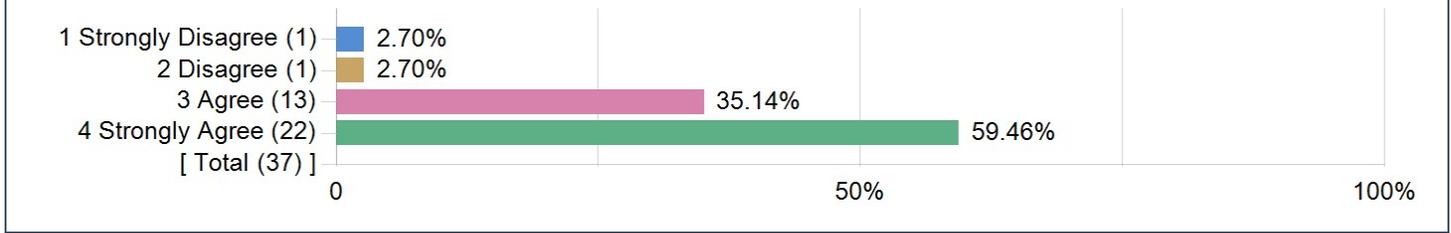


LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE IMPACT

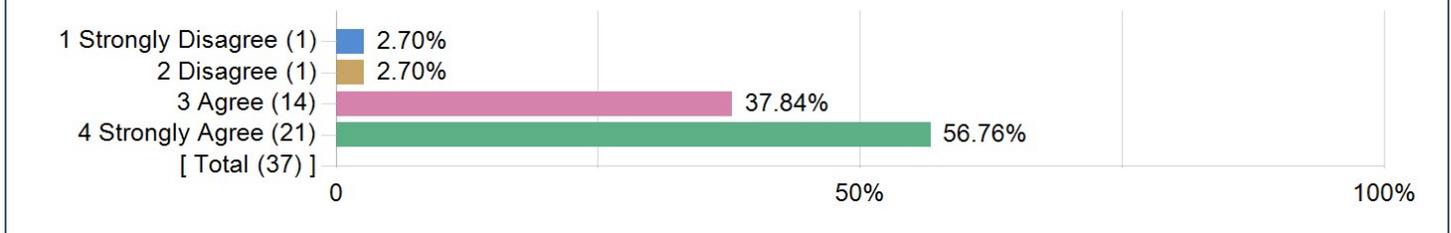
COURSE IMPACT

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.	37	3.51	0.69
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	37	3.49	0.69
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	37	3.41	0.83

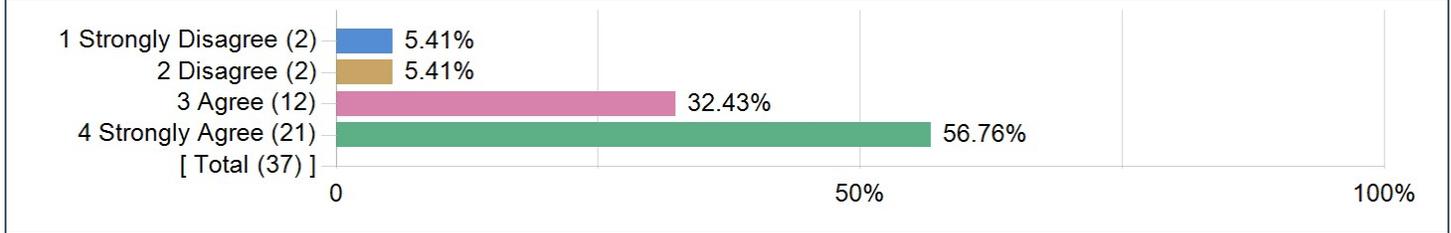
1. I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.



2. This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.



3. This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.



If you have selected at least a "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" option with one of the previous statements on COURSE DESIGN, INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES, ASSESSMENT PRACTICES or COURSE IMPACT, please describe a change that would improve that aspect of the course.

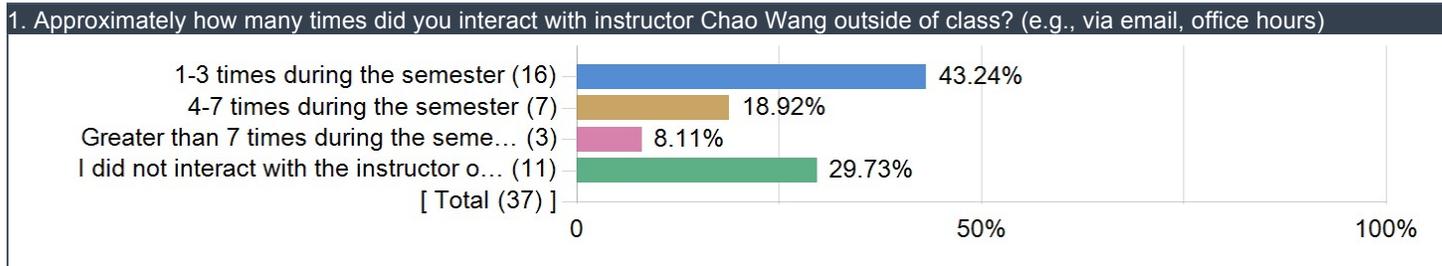
Students
<p>The professor can explain the concepts better by going though step by step on the board. With slide, it is hard to see how the professor gets to the result.</p>
<p>Thank you professor WANG you are truly amazing and worthy of much respect. I love algorithms because of you</p>
<p>First programming assignment grading criteria was not clearly communicated, tested with cases outside of the description of the project, and I received a grade that did not reflect my understanding and performance on that project.</p>
<p>Many of the assignments and grading criteria were unclear. It was difficult to gain understanding of difficult topics from the professor or the TA's. Often we were told to read the textbook. Many students stopped showing up to class because the professor just reads from slides. The slides are very informative and great for studying but it would be helpful if the professor used other material in class to help demonstrate and explain complex topics. Generally, when questions were asked the professor would just repeat the slide instead of explaining it in a new way.</p>
<p>Present the more difficult concepts first so that students taking this as an elective have the chance to drop it. The professor is monotone and often makes mistakes during lecture. He does not explain the material well, and I have to teach myself what's going on instead. A different professor or clearer material would help, too.</p>
<p>The instructions for assignments were very frequently revised, making it hard to know exactly what to do, resulting in a lot of unnecessary stress and frustration.</p>
<p>Better grading practices.</p>
<p>the only thing i would criticize of this class are its ambiguous assignments</p>
<p>Structuring everything in a more transparent manner would have been very beneficial throughout the semester. There always seemed to be changing guidelines on every single assignment.</p>
<p>Firstly, make sure the course staff has a strong understanding of the assignments and the topics discussed in the assignments so they can actually engage in helping the students learn the subject matter. There were numerous issues, especially at the beginning of the course, where a lack of information or even misinformation was given out by the course staff about the assignments to students.</p>
<p>The assignments don't seem structured to ask students to engage with the course material in any critical way. Either they're poorly designed and unnecessarily difficult, or they're too easy and fail to engage students critically.</p>
<p>Finally, when a student comes into office hours to ask for help on an assignment, the response "well you should figure that out on your own" is antithetical to fostering a learning environment. I understand that assignments exist to some degree to evaluate a student's understanding of the material, but if a student doesn't understand the subject matter responding in such a manner only serves to punish them for it, as opposed to using it as an opportunity to teach and make sure the student has an adequate understanding of the subject matter – which, after all, is the entire purpose of teaching in the first place.</p>

Is there additional information or feedback that you would like to share with instructor Chao Wang ?

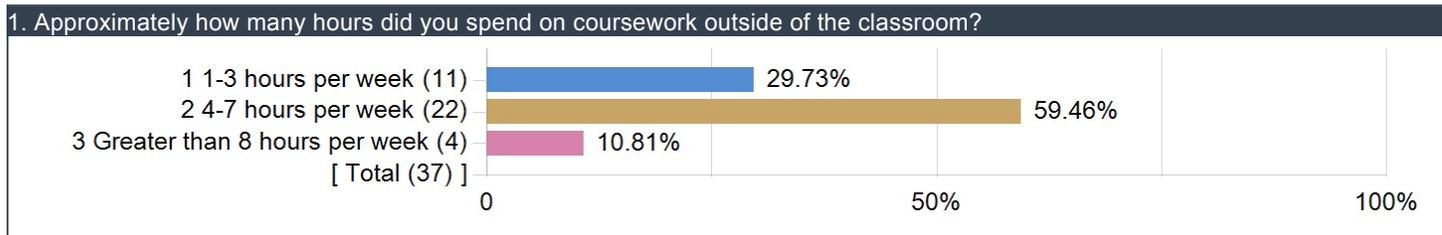
Students
Excellent professor. Very kind and considerate
I have two sons (7 and 2 yrs old) and had to get a part time job to help pay bills. I am barely floating by some how. I am sorry I did not do so well in this course. I love every topic and plan to do machine learning and cyber security.
Thank you for showing me intro stuff to A.I professor. I hope to see you soon in CSCI310
Professor Wang is a good professor, but the CPs are horrible. They do not admit they are wrong. They often misgrade assignments or exams. It is frustrating that we need to ask for regrade after every assignment.
The programming assignments needed to be designed better, project 1 and project 3 had unclear implementation and unclear criteria for grading.
More examples of how to implement some of the code for structures taught in class would be helpful
The breaks are very helpful for staying focused.
Thank you professor WANG you are truly amazing and worthy of much respect. I love algorithms because of you
Did enjoy your class and lectures, but please do not repeat how the first programming assignment was graded.
Consider hiring more undergraduates who have taken the course as CPs rather than master students who have taken a similar course. Regrade deadlines are not lenient.
nope
Double-check your slides before you lecture and if you don't have enough time to make sure your quiz is correct, save it for later.
It would really help to have more practice problems, either in the form of quizzes or more homework or practice problems (not necessary to turn in) with provided answers for review or practice, since it is really by applying the knowledge that we know whether or not we have learned it. Otherwise, it is difficult to follow in lecture and pick out the most important aspects of all that we are covering and it also makes it very difficult to know how to study if the first time we see a kind of problem is on the midterm.
Excellent class and topics this semester!!
There have been many courses that have lessened my interest in computer science as a field, but none more so than this one – by a significant margin. The sheer level of incompetence and detachment from the course staff is unparalleled.
A shrug and an "I guess we'll figure out as we move forward" is not a suitable response when it comes to evaluating your students on their performance and, in my opinion, the grades resulting from the first few assignments is less a reflection of our ability to work as students, and more a reflection of your inability to create thoughtfully constructed coursework and provide adequate support to the students attempting to understand the course material.
From larger things, such as unclear grading guidelines for the first assignment – to smaller things, like releasing an assignment late and not pushing back the deadline (something that virtually every reasonable professor I've had in my college career has done). Combined with a lack of clear communication from the professors, in my eyes, this is semester has been a course that has failed numerous times to take accountability for its shortcomings.
If something goes wrong in your coursework, that is on you, and it is unfair that we as students need to accommodate your mistakes while you figure out how to get your class together.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

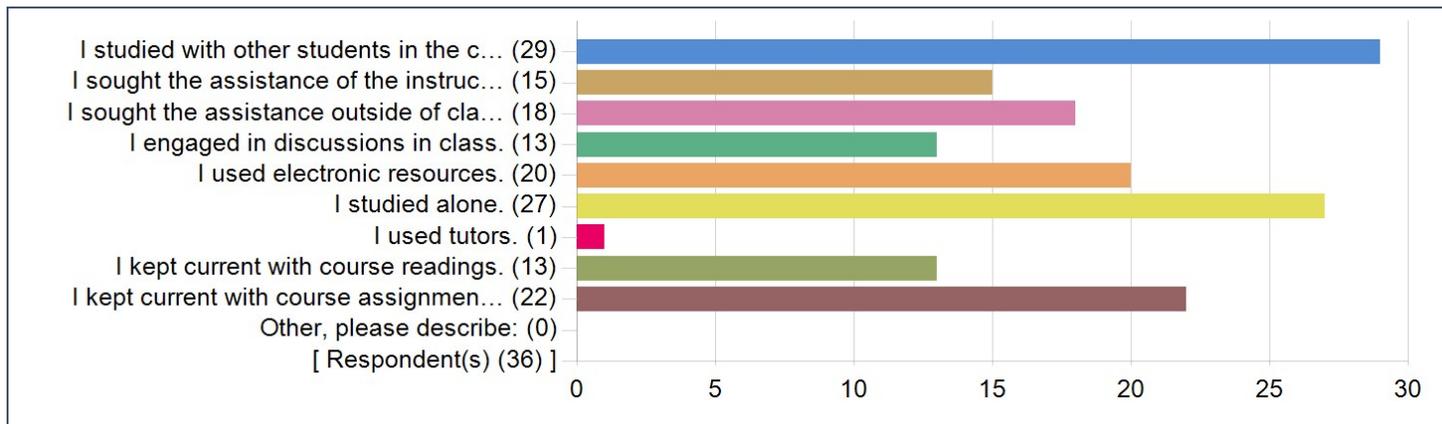
Number of Instructor Interactions Outside of Class



Approximately how many hours did you spend on coursework outside of the classroom?



In what ways have you participated in your learning for this course? (Please select all that apply.)



Please describe the MOST valuable aspect(s) of this course.

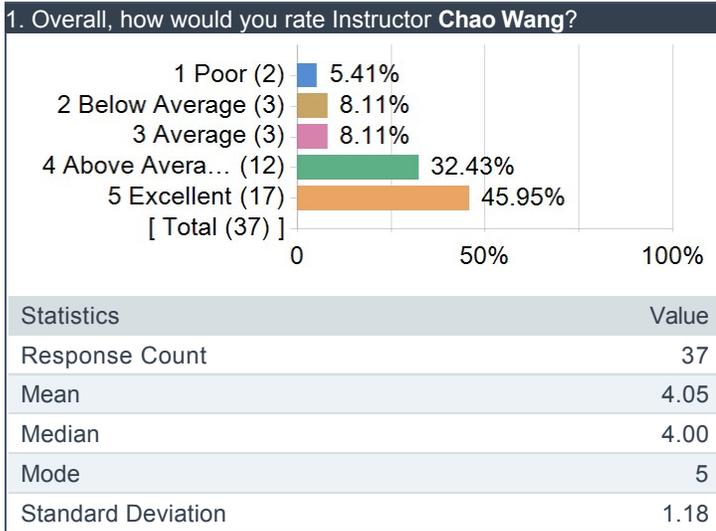
Comments
Interesting content, very applicable to the real world
Decision Theory
Give students basic understanding of AI
Introduction to ai
learning basic AI ideas
Broad experiences with a lot of AI topics
Learning about the wide array of topics in AI
Everything
Lecture, assignments (homework and programming), and quizzes
New current topics on AI I think are very valuable. The projects were mostly very relevant to what we were learning
I feel like I have a good understanding of the basics of AI.
Material are easy to follow and applicable in many real life scenarios.
lecture
The TAs/CPs could explain the concepts much better.
Material was interesting, Prof. Chao gives it his all during lectures. Slides are comprehensive.
the content! so valuable, and very interesting
The assignments really helped solidify what we discussed in lecture, in a class with such an abstract and mathematical topic, good assignments like these really helped me understand what we were trying to do.
Super useful, up-to-date topics in AI are covered in this course. The assignments are really helpful in gaining a deeper understanding of them.
Some of the topics we covered, especially towards the end of the semester, will be relevant to my career
The assignments were a good way to learn about the material.
Deciphering vague assignment guidelines.

Please describe the LEAST valuable aspect(s) of this course.

Comments
Homework problems weren't very interesting
The material is too general and may not give student an in-depth understanding of AI.
The class is kind of outdated. Wish we covered more up-to-date technologies that are actually being used in industry today.
Some of the assignments go very in-depth in things we glossed over and resources were not enough to help figure it out
I wish we went more in depth in the machine learning part and had less about search at the beginning.
nothing
n/a
The lectures were very dull and slow. If you fell behind just a little bit, it felt like you were very far behind
The assignments and grading criteria were confusing and stressful. For course assignments we should be given the test cases that will be used to grade so that we can judge our performance and learn from mistakes. In addition, other classes give full test cases so that students can tell if they are doing the assignment correctly. If I am working on an assignment I would like to know if I am failing an edge case so that I can work to understand the problem and my code better. Rather than trying to figure out what a very challenging test case would be.
N/A
boolean logic
The lectures and the equally incomprehensible readings.
Slides can be very difficult to understand for students who missed class. Projects seemed to be in early stages and weren't quite ready for students (very poor statistics on project 1).
application of knowledge, advancement in today's society
I think the lectures were trying to accomplish a little too much at once sometimes. If i did the reading and understood everything then the lecture was a good review, but when I was confused on the readings the lecture was pretty useless because I'd get lost really quickly.
Sometimes there are some confusing parts or mistakes in projects that require further clarification.
I wish we spent more time on neural networks and deep learning instead of some other topics we covered in the beginning of the semester. I would have liked to see one of our projects involve creating a neural network.
Piazza was a mess, there is absolutely no reason that clarifications for the assignment questions shouldn't be broadcasted to the entire class. You should not have to search through every comment on piazza to understand what is expected of you for the assignments nor should you have to ask a thousand clarifying questions (it's not a technical interview--no one has time for this). There's no reason to have TAs who are rude on piazza and during their office hours (and would suddenly move around their office hours on a whim). This class has the most TAs i've ever seen but they need to be vetted, I would go to OH and they didn't even know what we were doing in the class or know about the assignments. Every other CS course (yes, even upper division classes) provide all test cases for assignments so that we aren't surprised by our final grade. Overall, I looked forward to taking this class since freshman year but I was disappointed by the assignments and accessibility of outside help.
Taking it.

VITERBI SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Overall, how would you rate Instructor Chao Wang?



Overall, how would you rate this course?

