



**USC** University of  
Southern California

Individual Report for Instructor Wang  
(30000-20201 : CSCI-360 Introduction to  
Artificial Intelligence (30000))

Project Title: **Learning Experience Evaluations - Spring 2020**

Courses Audience: **218**  
Responses Received: **61**  
Response Ratio: **27.98%**

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Report Comments

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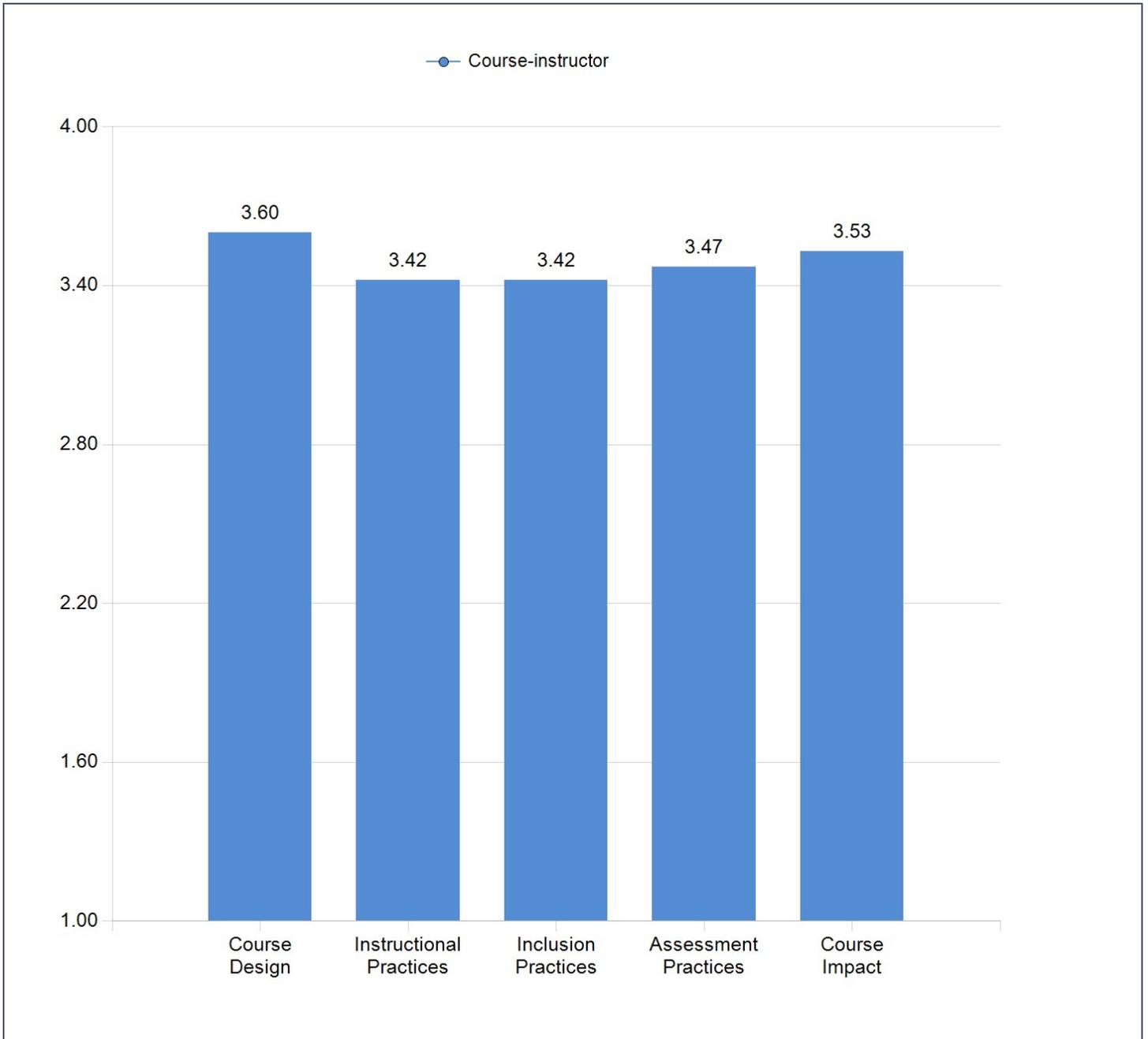
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Creation Date: **Wednesday, May 27, 2020**



## LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS

### Learning Experience Subscale Average Score



Competency	Course-instructor	Standard Deviation
Course Design	3.60	+/-0.56
Instructional Practices	3.42	+/-0.63
Inclusion Practices	3.42	+/-0.68
Assessment Practices	3.47	+/-0.64
Course Impact	3.53	+/-0.60

**COURSE DESIGN**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	60	3.53	0.57
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	58	3.66	0.55
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	58	3.60	0.56

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	60	3.47	0.60
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	60	3.43	0.59
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students	60	3.35	0.71

**INCLUSION PRACTICES**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	58	3.52	0.54
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	59	3.31	0.75
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints	56	3.41	0.68
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences	58	3.47	0.73

**ASSESSMENT PRACTICES**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	59	3.54	0.62
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	59	3.37	0.72
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	59	3.47	0.63
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	58	3.48	0.60

**COURSE IMPACT**

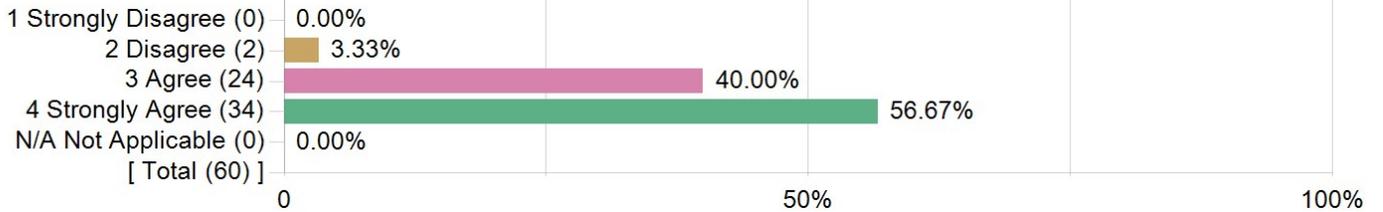
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.	59	3.51	0.60
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	58	3.53	0.57
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	58	3.53	0.65

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE DESIGN

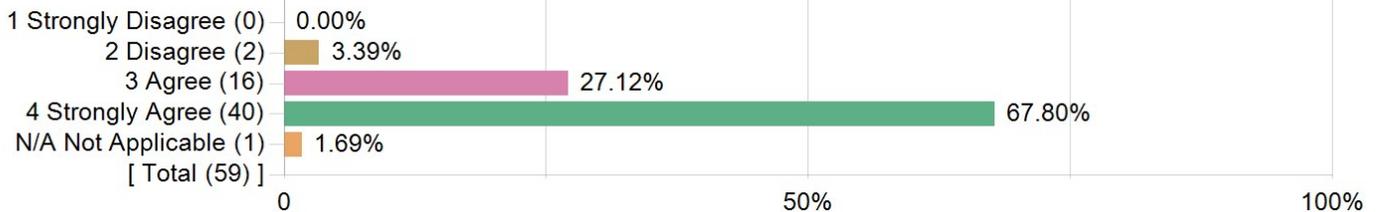
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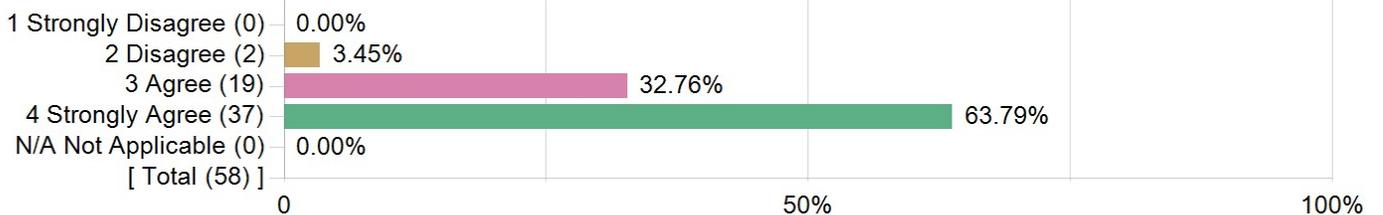
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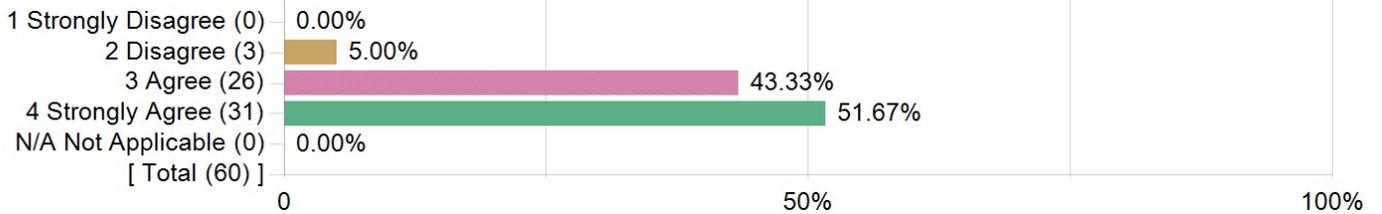


## LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

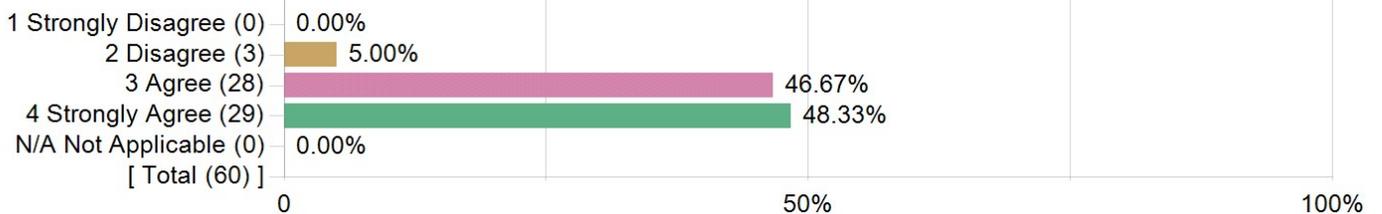
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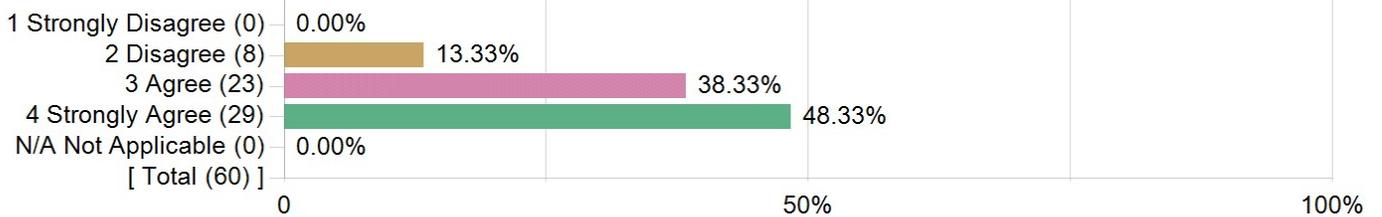
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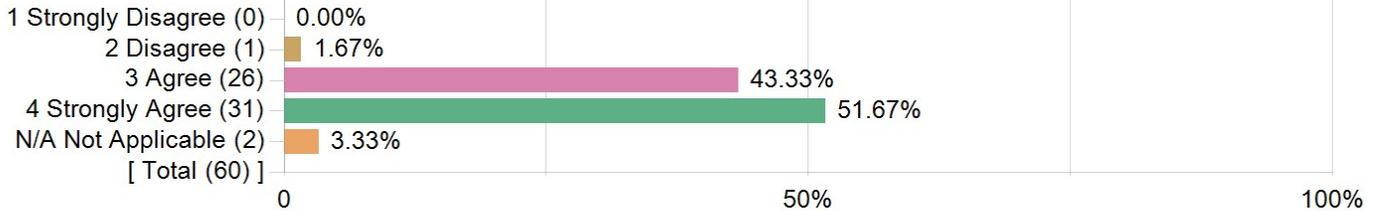


## LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INCLUSION PRACTICES

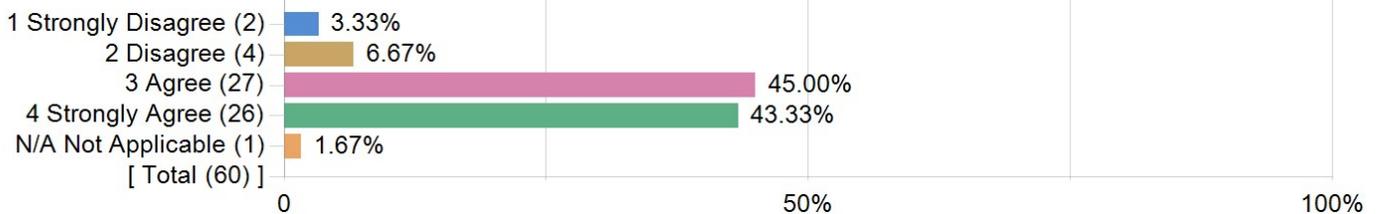
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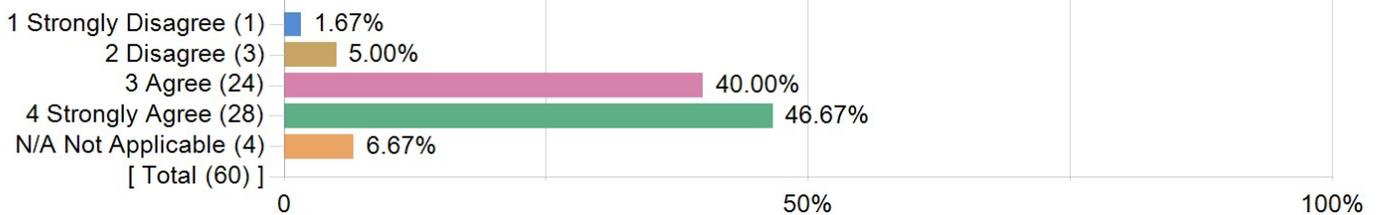
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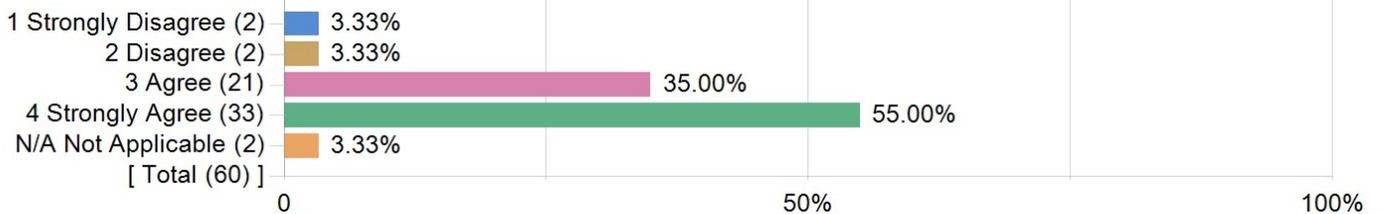
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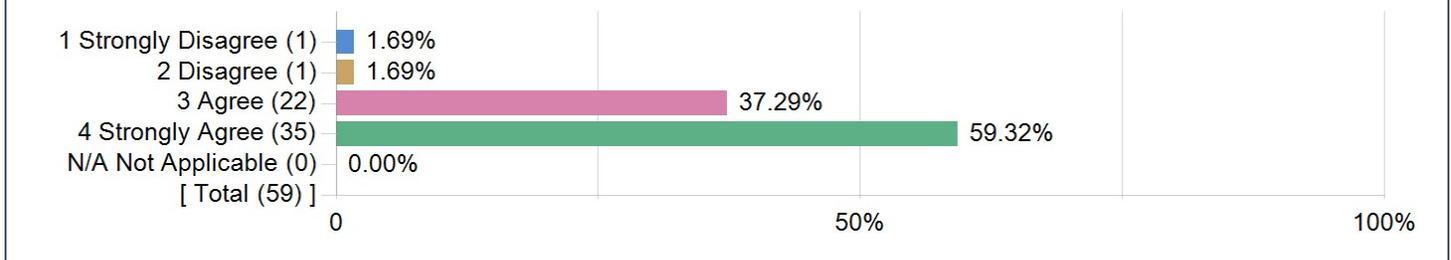


## LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

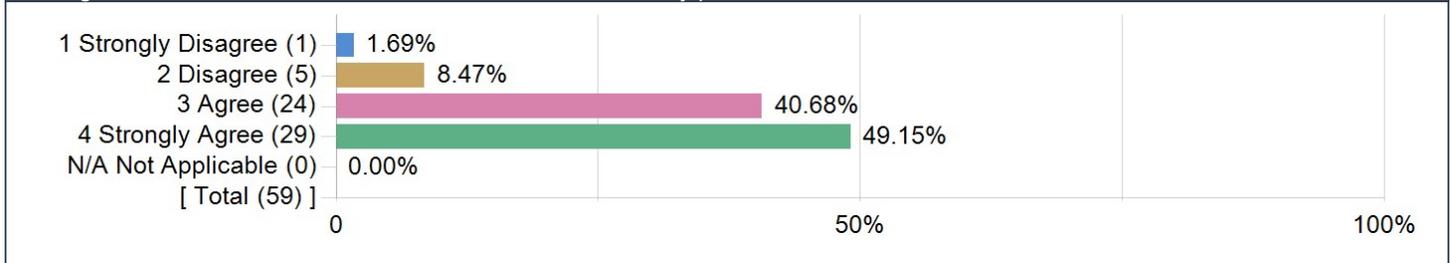
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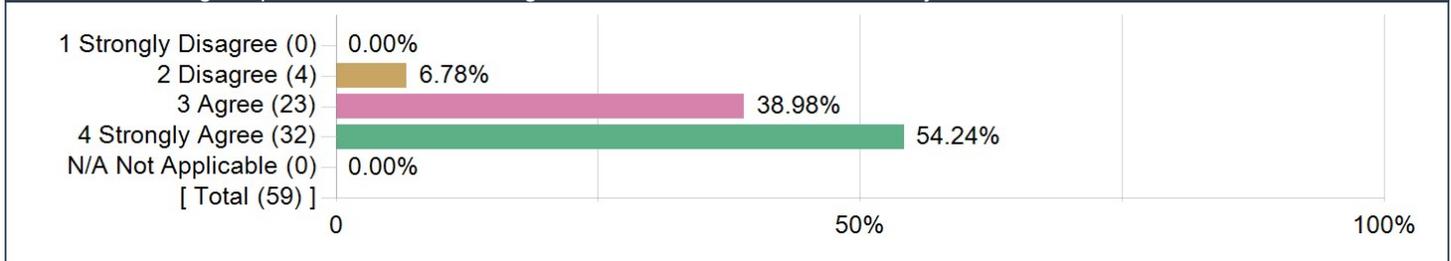
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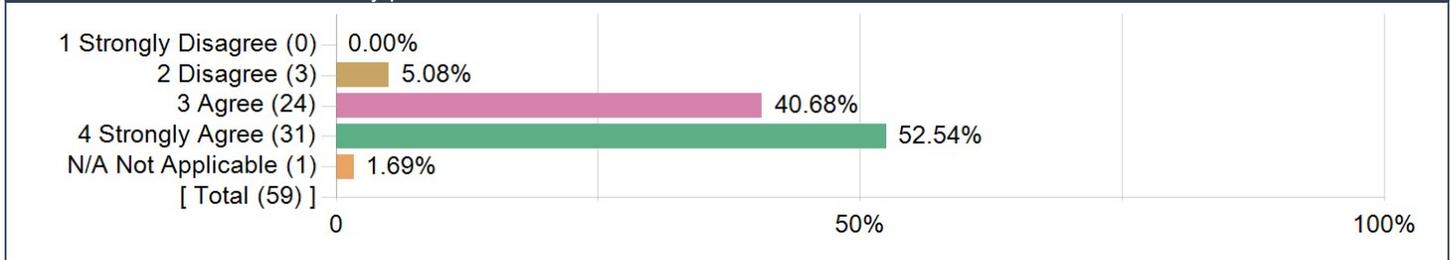
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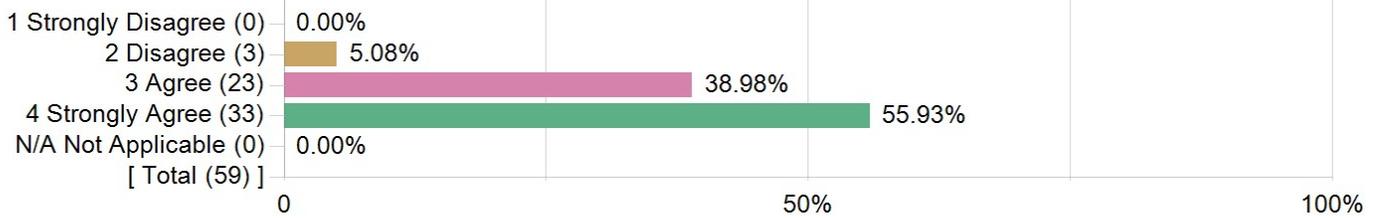


## LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE IMPACT

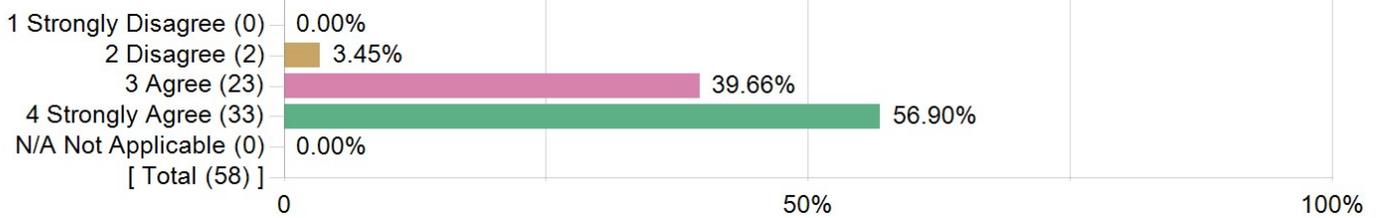
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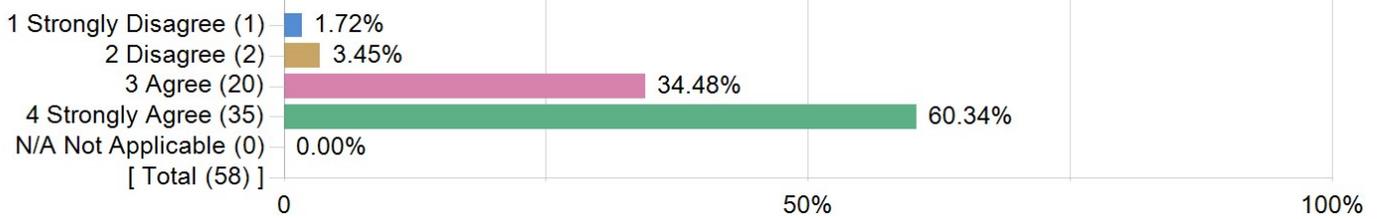
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**If you have selected at least a "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" option with one of the previous statements on COURSE DESIGN, INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES, ASSESSMENT PRACTICES or COURSE IMPACT, please describe a change that would improve that aspect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

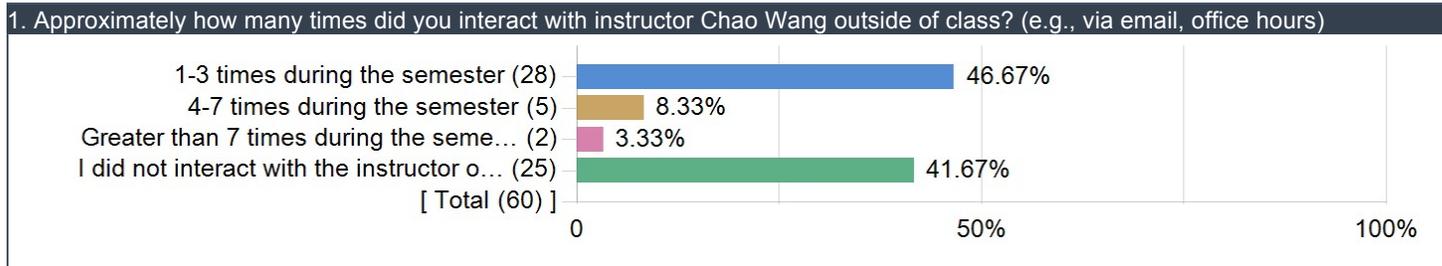
Students
The professor is using recorded lectures during for all online courses, and he does not have personal office hour after the online classes policy, making it very difficult for in-class or out-of-class discussions.
This course didn't teach students anything new. It was simply a reiteration of CS270. I had a bad experience, because my impact by COVID-19 wasn't considered which left me in a position to mark the survey as "STRONGLY DISAGREE" when it comes to the quality of my work. Professors need to be more aware of what students positions are during a Pandemic, and not adhere so strongly to a syllabus when they're students are so clearly in need of help during this time.
ASSESSMENT PRACTICES: I have had issues with misreading questions, or getting little guidance during exams that have lead to me missing lots of points on questions that I know how to do. I just mess the premise up. Clearer instructions would be very helpful and the ability to ask questions especially so.
The move to online learning was not effective in this class. The course reverted to pre-recorded lectures with no student engagement or instructor engagement online. While I understand certain circumstances might have changed, I don't think there was a fair or reasonable attempt to make the value of the course similar to what it would have been in person.
There is no code review, but some minimal review might help give students feedback on how to improve.
The first assignment did not work out well for the majority of the class and was not clearly communicated, however the rest of the course assignments were much more doable while remaining challenging
The midterm was quite difficult, and from discussing it with my friends it seemed like I was not the only one who did relatively poorly. Although the material in the midterm was reflective of what we had learned in lecture, I think the fact that many people didn't do as well as they had hoped is indicative of the idea that regardless of the material being the same, we hadn't quite understood it.
I think the class was just too big in one section. There are times when I want to ask questions but I don't think I can properly interject. A lot of students also don't like questions being asked (don't know why) but thats not a course problem...thats a people problem.
It would help during this COVID period if Professor Wang could hold live lectures instead of prerecording all of them, because it would allow students to ask clarifying questions during lecture. Also it would help if the TAs and CPs gave consistent information about our assignments, as they tend to give varying answers to our questions, which makes it confusing for students who are working through the assignment.
Professor did not engage with the students very often at all. When questions were asked, he'd oftentimes not answer them or say to figure it out on our own, which was extremely unhelpful. The CPs honestly taught the whole course when it came to engaging with the students, grading, and answering questions.
Wang is an awesome teacher. He presented the material in new and interesting ways. He always seemed very knowledgeable. He is funny, smart and witty. Unfortunately, he is not very good answering questions. For example, I sent him an email on April 2 and I am still waiting for a response. Likewise, several questions on Piazza were unanswered or remained that way for long periods of time.
There was not discussion in the course, but I also don't think an upper-division computer science class needs a lot of discussion. I think adequate review was provided and questions were answered in office hours and Piazza.
With only three programming assignments, the class was overly theory-oriented, and there was no chance to practice or implement much of what we learned in the course. I think there should have been more programming assignments.

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

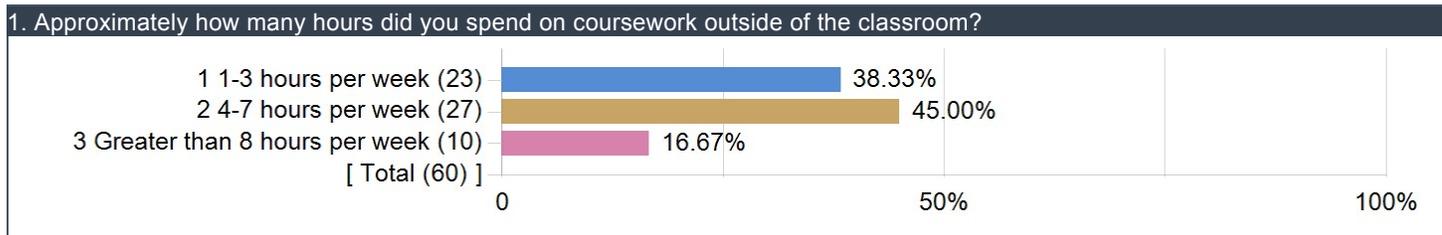
Students
I think the teaching contents and homework assignments can be harder. I understand CS360 is an introduction level class, but the three coding projects you gave this semester are way too simple. We are almost simply implementing the pseudo code on the slides and it is not challenging at all. I believe this class can be more interesting if the coding project becomes something like image classification, adversarial search in real computer games, etc.
After all, thank you for teaching us CS360 this semester!
Thank you for making AI lectures so entertaining!
I think the 5-minute break during lectures is effective in getting our concentration back :)
You are an amazing teacher and were very helpful
Thanks for the great semester!
I feel like real time lectures could still be conducted when we switched to online classes, and the lectures could be recorded for people who aren't able to make the real time lectures
Very clear instructions and concept description!
I really like Professor Chao, but I think that he needs to take more control of the class piazza. There were a lot of really aggressive posts both from students and some of his TAs that I think were not appropriate for an academic environment.
The midterm/final review could be a bit better. Also some more Piazza interaction would be appreciated since it's empty sometimes. The T/A's try and do a good job but sometimes their answers aren't the best.
The classes in person were great. I wish you were a bit more responsive on Piazza, or that the TAs were better at answering things and knowing what was going on. The recordings for online classes were great, but made it harder for students to ask questions about lectures.
Enjoyed your lectures, and thought they were good at explaining tougher concepts
Fantastic course, thanks for always being a pleasure to attend class to listen to!
I genuinely liked Prof Wang's style of teaching. I think that he made class fun and interesting, often comparing our subject matter to outside material. However, I think that we could do more examples in class that are similar to the exam questions that could prepare us for how test questions look.
prof, you're very funny during lecture. It helps with the flow of the class.
I understand that office hours in a class this large was tough. But there are times I want to ask questions about AI out of class but I didn't get the impression I could approach you with them. Piazza is unfortunately not a substitute for inter person communication.
this course became extremely stressful and stress inducing ever since i did badly on the first assignment (because I forgot to recommend in one line of code before submitting), and when me and countless other student came to speak to you, i felt as though you were very unresponsive and not sympathetic. it felt as though you weren't really rooting for our success.
The lecture size was large, but I think more engagement with the class and the students would have been helpful. During the midterm review, it was supposed to be a time to review and ask questions about things we didn't understand but our questions were hardly answered or we were told to figure it out on our own which defeated the purpose of having a review.
Wang is an awesome teacher. I just would like him to improve getting back to us when we send emails or ask questions on Piazza.
I enjoyed the course!
Your explanations made a 2 hour lecture bearable. Please, don't change.
With only three programming assignments, the class was overly theory-oriented, and there was no chance to practice or implement much of what we learned in the course. I think there should have been more programming assignments.
Great job. Very clear instruction, great explanation of difficult concepts, well-crafted and relevant assignments and testing. I always felt that I knew what was expected and was given the tools and material to succeed. Thank you!
outstanding professor!

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

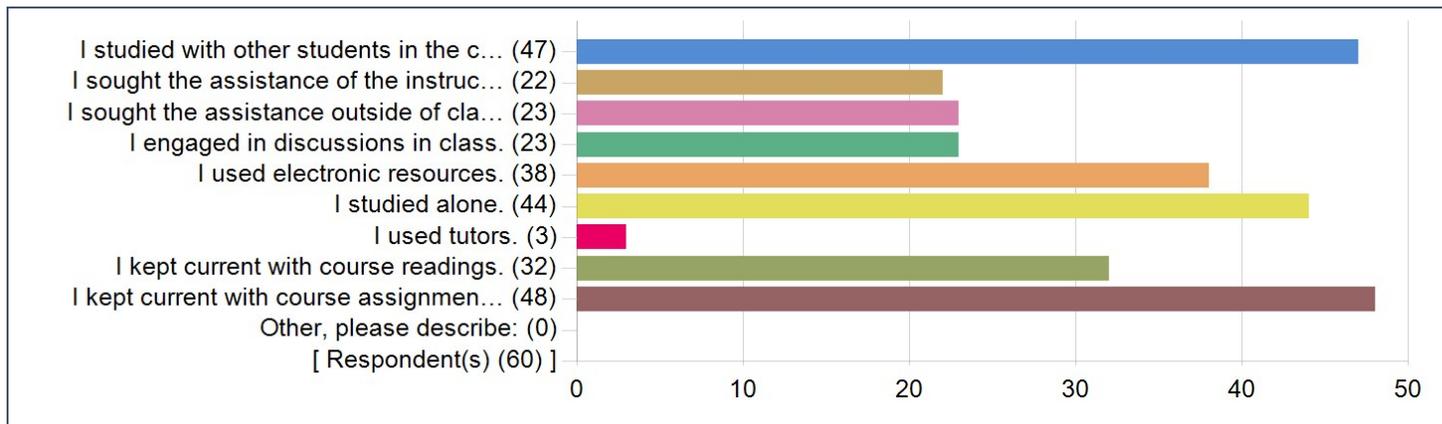
### Number of Instructor Interactions Outside of Class



### 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.**

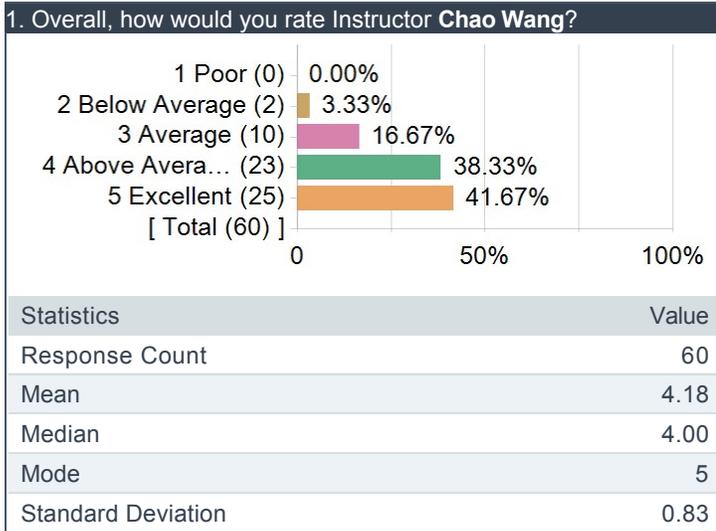
Comments
No unnecessary assignments! No "fluff" assignments. Quizzes were good for accountability.
In depth information about AI, a very topical field of CS; great instruction and sense of humor from the professor
NONE
This course introduces us to various aspects of artificial intelligence and consolidates our understanding through quizzes, projects and homework.
Artificial intelligence is a very interesting concept in CS... makes it easy to understand for beginners
Learning the fundamental concepts of AI
Learning about searching algorithms relevant to game programming.
Search algorithms applied in games.
Markov decision chains and following concepts towards the end of the course.
AI Algorithms and Projects
The CPs and TAs were nice and helpful.
This class was a great introduction to the core concepts that make Artificial Intelligence possible. We learned a variety of topics that are used in AI and the homeworks/projects gave us hands on experience on how to implement some of these techniques.
Learning how intelligent agents work
It gave me the realization that artificial intelligence is less intimidating than I thought it was, and provided me with tools that, even if I don't pursue a career in AI, I'm sure I'll be able to use.
I learned a lot from the programming assignments, and I thought they were perfectly spaced (as opposed to CSCI104 where you have programming assignments on a relentless schedule)
The real-world aspects of this course are definitely the most valuable.
interesting topics.
The projects and their relevance to the subject matter.
I think the thing that I liked the most was decision tree leaning cause that stuff made a lot of sense today.
Projects 2 and 3 were the most valuable aspects, as was the textbook.
The project assignments and the homeworks
the projects were very fun and interesting
I appreciate that there were conceptual homework assignments and programming assignments – this gave the course some cohesion between the mathematical concepts and the more practical, programming-related ones. I appreciate the relative depth and breadth of topics as well
AI is such a useful and expansive concept, that the breadth and clarity of the course made it a remarkably effective introduction.
Understanding of AI search techniques and how to apply probability theory to reasoning.
Very informative lectures
The assignments and lecture material! Written hw was surprisingly useful!

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

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Too simple homework.</li> <li>– Recorded lectures.</li> </ul>
Nothing :)
THE WHOLE COURSE WAS REVIEW, A LOT OF STUDENTS FELT UNSTIMULATED WITH THE COURSE CONTENT ASIDE FROM A FEW THINGS.
N/A
Going over DFS/BFS.
All very useful.
Graph searches at the start of the course since previous classes already teach these. Felt unnecessary.
Probability Theory
Pre-recorded lectures were not very useful or conducive to engagement in my opinion
It seems that we will never implement or use some of the topics that we have covered in class. Other than that, it was a valuable learning experience.
The grading process seemed a little inaccessible.
the coding assignments were TOUGH
Project 1 was least valuable, as I learned very little from the assignment yet the assignment was unnecessarily difficult.
The lectures
instructor not answering my email
I wish we had spent more time on the concepts covered in the last 4 weeks of the course. Neural networks, MDPs, reinforcement learning, and decision trees are all pretty challenging topics, and I feel like we only scratched the surface with them. I understand some topics require a longer introduction (probability theory for Bayesian networks, for example), but I think we spent several weeks at the beginning of the class reviewing concepts that we have all learned in other classes (DFS, BFS, A star, first-order logic, etc). Maybe this means that CS 170 and 103 or 104 and even MATH 407 should be pre-requisites (since most students have taken them anyways) – this would allow us to speed through the topics we've already covered and to spend more time on new, more AI-related topics that I think we all wanted to further explore
N/A
With only three programming assignments, the class was overly theory-oriented, and there was no chance to practice or implement much of what we learned in the course. I think there should have been more programming assignments. I especially would have liked a programming assignment related to machine learning, but now I feel that what I learned about machine learning is not complete because there was never a chance to practice it.
I felt that all the time I spent in the class and doing classwork was valuable to learning the material.
Not allowing students to share test cases lead to a lot of wasted time. Usually there test case creating is a good way to get multiple perspectives on the problem, but by forcing us to use our own test cases, testing became more tedious than interesting.

## VITERBI SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

### Overall, how would you rate Instructor Chao Wang?



### Overall, how would you rate this course?

