Student comments for Arup Guha, dmarino@ucf.edu

In this report of student comments, each student's comments are presented together in order in response to the following questions. If a student left no comments then nothing appears in this report from them.

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1) The thing(s) I like the MOST about this course

2) The thing(s) I like the LEAST about this course

3) What is your reaction to the method of evaluating your mastery of the course (i.e., testing, grading, out of class assignments (term papers), instructor feedback, etc.)

4) Additional comments and suggestions for improvement

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COT39600001	CS FOUNDATION EXAM
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

48	28	58.33
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) It only took a few hours to complete.
2) It took months to prepare for.
3)
4)

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1) Fundamental concepts
2)
3)
4)

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1) The thorough discussion of the requirements
2) I would suggest a daily question test in the required classes of Computer Science and Discrete Structurres
3)
4)

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1) CS FOUNDATION EXAM
2) CS FOUNDATION EXAM
3) CS FOUNDATION EXAM
4) CS FOUNDATION EXAM

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1) CS FOUNDATION EXAM
2) CS FOUNDATION EXAM
3) CS FOUNDATION EXAM
4) CS FOUNDATION EXAM

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1) Eh

2) Eh

3) Eh

4) Eh

---

1) I passed so I have no complaints.

2)

3)

4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COP3223H0201	HONORS INTRO PROG WITH C
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

24	14	58.33
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) The fianl project to push yourself and your knowledge
2) some of the topics got a bit monotonus
3) very good, appropriate
4)

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1) the fianl project
2) make sure not to go too fast or too slow in certain sections
3)
4)

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1) I liked most everything about this course. The pace was good, the grading was fair, and I found him to be a good professor, with a passion for students' learning.
2) I disliked that the tests were on paper, so you didn't have an opportunity to test if your program worked, although I suppose that does encourage students to truly know what they're doing ahead of time, but it's really representative of real-life situations with programming.
3) His evaluation of my mastery of the course was very fair and thorough. On all of our programming assignments he graded he told you exactly what you did wrong.
4) None.

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1) I liked that he covered all the material in class, and had a vast archive of examples online. Every Friday we also did programs in pairs, which I found to be a helpful way to practice the material.
2) None.
3) I liked how different this course material was from anything I had taken.
4) None.

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1) Everything, it was the best course i had this year.
2)
3)

4)

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1) He was very clear with his thoughts and able to teach the material at an appropriate pace.

2) No need for improvement

3)

4) not making people take it if they dont have to.

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1) Arup is an amazing professor, knowledgeable, able to teach in a manner where I could understand most of the material. Very concerned with his students and their well-being.

2) The pace was a little fast, the tests were difficult as I was not sure what I was being tested on.

3) I know a basic gist of c programming, but I am not a master.

4) I would suggest making kids who already know how to program go in an upper division of the course, and kids who have no clue what they are doing be in the same class. The environment I was in was intimidating, as I was with a very talented group who already knew a lot of programming before. Therefore I felt stupid on tests and assignments and even when asking questions. I was afraid to approach the teacher to ask him to slow down simply because it seemed like everyone else got it and I didn't.

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	CIS33620001	CRYPTOGRAPHY AND INFO SECURITY
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

51	33	64.71
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) The energy Arup brings to every class
2) none
3) satisfied
4)

---

1) his energy
2) none
3) everything
4) none

---

1) Professor is passionate and very knowledgeable. Professor had excellent teaching skills, something lacking in many other professors.
2)
3)
4)

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1) Organization of lesson plans and ability to adapt the course at will to accommodate new emerging technologies (for example the inclusion of elliptic curve cryptography)
2)
3)
4)

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1) Fair grading, very interesting subject, great teaching.
2) Coding assignments.
3) Great.
4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

1) Knowledgeable and personable.

2) None.

3) The theories behind the ciphers.

4) Less coding assignments, less group assignments.

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1)

2)

3) curving the final grade is fine, but what's the point? tests should be made easier so that the student doesn't feel theyre doing terrible in the class and drop it

4)

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1) The subject matter.

2) The way the class was graded, the way the tests were put together, the lack of adequate notes online.

3)

4)

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1) Programming Assignments were really cool actually.

2) Some of the proofs seemed to go on forever, and telling us we wont be tested on it made me not care about it so much (lie next time!)

3) As always in Arup's classes, fair an the best grading scheme I know. Challenging tests but we're not penalized.

4) Keep on keeping on Arup.

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1) asdf

2) asdf

3) asdf

4) asdf

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1) Liked the topics that we learned about.

2)

3)

4)

University of Central Florida — Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Student Perception of Instruction Comments — Semester: 1430

1) The assignments could often be challenging but were still enjoyable, while reinforcing the material taught in class.

2)

3) The methods of evaluation were good with respect to the material taught throughout the course.

4)

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1) The programming assignments. While I am not sure if the genetic algorithm I wrote works, the ideas I learned from that project are something I am sure I will use.

2) Groups. I had actually been looking forward to programming with a team however, in this class I unfortunately got stuck with students who claimed they could not program, so me and one other person were typically saddled with doing the whole assignment.

3) Test were fantastic.

4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COP32230003	INTRO TO PROGRAMMING WITH C
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

233	141	60.52
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) You did a good job explaining things

2) Since I understood the material when you went into detail on a certain thing worked it made me not want to pay attention

3) it was good

4) By the end of class I don't think you need to trace through everything

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1)

2)

3)

4) I tried going to offices hours a few times and felt like more time was allocated to some students, my suggestion would be to keep in mind if there are other students waiting to make sure to put the same effort in explanations for each student. This was not the case every time but did happen more that once. Also the TA lab is not very organized and did not provide helpful. I went in a few times and asked for help and was some what passed off. Overall I was happy with the class but these areas did cause a bit of frustration. Thanks

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1) Challenging but fair.

2) I thought the testing was appropriate level and understood that it is to see who really know the material, but on one test the first part of a question dependent on seven following answers. I thought that this was a little extreme seeing as I knew the concept but made an error in calculation.

3)

4)

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1) It was fine.

2) The text and notes were more helpful than the lectures.

3) It's perfectly fine.

4)

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1) He made the class pretty entertaining with a good sense of humor

2) There was unfair grading on some homeworks and test questions.

3) Could be more detailed and more focused on what is right than what is wrong.

4)

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1) The way he involves the subject of whatever we are doing into real life examples, including, his sense of humor.

2) More feedback and consideration for what was done right than what was wrong and super penalized.

3) It could be implemented in real life situation with ease. Plus coding is pretty fun.

4) Work with the student not against the student.

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1) i need more extra credits.

2) i need more extra credits.

3) i need more extra credits.

4) i need more extra credits.

---

1) Everything

2) Nothing

3) Very good

4)

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1)

2)

3) Tests and homeworks were hard, but fair. They made sure I really knew the material.

4)

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1) Went through each step how the program would work and how the computer would think and read it

2)

3)

4)

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1) Challenging assignments and interesting lectures.

2) Edge test cases count off just as much as core unit tests. Not enough time on the test. Arbitrary grading scale.

3) The tests had too many questions that tested the same skills, which hinders the ability to thoughtfully answer questions in the amount of time allotted.

4) Shorter tests.

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1)

2) Larger fonts or a screen zooming feature. Use desk light when using doc cam.

3)

4) The projection screen isn't lit very well making it hard to see.

---

1) teacher was good at explaining the material

2) too big made it harder to learn, no one on one time

3) none

4) none

---

1) tried making it easy to learn

2) none

3) fun to write programs

4) none

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1) Arup is a likable person and knows what he teaches like the back of his hand.

2)

3)

4)

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1) He explained programming in a conceptual manner to give us a better sense of what we're doing with the functions we've learned.

2)

3)

4)

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1) Professors website with lots of additional material.

2) groups

3)

4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

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1) The professor kept an open door policy and it was easy to ask for assistance when needed.

2) The lack of TA assistance

3) I still don't feel like a have a full grasp on the C language. While I have tried quite diligently to learn it, I don't feel that I've made very good progress. With the tests, I unfortunately have floundered, the free response has actually been the better part for me, while the multiple choice has been demoralizing.

4)

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1) Professor Guha was active while on the stand. He gave plenty of easy examples and was typically available during his hours unless he mentioned otherwise.

2) The material is understandable, but the subject isn't to those who're new. I've found myself, as a relatively new programer, having a difficult time understanding some of the more difficult parts primarily because, while I can get the examples listed, I find myself constantly wondering how can I relate the previous lectures or examples into my work.

3) The fact that I essentially learned a new language, though not quite as well as I'd have hoped.

4) Personally, there's a large amount of languages out there that students can learn. I personally have found myself with a fondness for Python.

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1) I love how all of the assignments were online, and Arup is an awesome professor.

2)

3) I thought the tests were very broad in the sense they covered all of the material he discussed.

4)

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1) He is very enthusiastic in class and makes his assignments and examples very interesting.

2)

3) I love programming, but I have learned almost all of the material before, so it was a very easy course.

4) Have two different pieces of intro to c: one for experienced programmers and one for inexperienced programmers.

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1) The fact that you tought us how to use things in general so we could apply it to any language

2) shapes :)

3) mc questions are not fair in my opinion

4) make it so that students receive content for the course automatically, so they don't have to go to the site so often for updates

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1) the programming

2) nothing

3) it was nice

4)

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1) hands on

2) nothing

3) n/a

4) nothing

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1) The content.

2) Class times. I never went to Wednesday courses because of time conflict with robotics club.

3) Not bad and VERY generous curve.

4)

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1)

2) More powerpoints.

3) The content.

4)

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1)

2) How the review for Exam 2 didn't help one bit with the actual exam and how the class is intentionally made hard when it is an INTRODUCTION to C programming.

3)

4)

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1) I love Arup Guha. He was amazing at teaching programming and every single day he was full of energy. I honestly thought I was going to do bad in this class, but he made everything clear and I appreciate that.

2)

3)

4)

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1) The information I learned.

2) The classroom. The projector is to out of focus and to small to be able to see if you sit beyond the first 4 or 5 rows. The seating is horrible. You can't get in and out of your seat without walking over everyone in the row, and when you have to take test you only get a table to write that is the size of your hand. Its so small that you can't even have the entire scan tron on that little space, and the seats are so small that you are constantly butting arms with the people next to you. No outlets. If you bring your own laptop there is no outlets so if your battery dies your out of luck.

3) The testing I believe tries to make you fail. It's not testing whether you know the information, but whether you mess up on the arithmetic. The tests have questions that you would never see in a job. One TA actually stated that if you did anything similar to the question on the test while working at job you would get fired. Also the tracing examples if you messed up on the first pass through then you get all 4 questions wrong, and you don't have enough time to go back through and find where you went wrong.

4)

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1) Break the course into 2 different courses. One class for people that have programmed before and people have done programming before.

2)

3)

4)

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1) Very organized online supplemental material.

2) The online lecture notes were usually delayed and not always accurate to what was taught that day.

3) I learned to be careful of my programming deadlines and submissions, even if I had already completed an assignment I forgot to turn it in!

4) Better lecture notes for those that can't make it to every class would make this class awesome!

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1) Awesome online materials.

2) Better online lecture notes.

3) Very good foundational course.

4) More extra credit opportunities, perhaps a large project based on programming.

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1) The groups.

2) Use of class time.

3) Assignments do a good job preparing somewhat for exams. So do the old exams.

4) Keep groups, volunteer service, and old exams in archive.

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1) Answered a lot of questions regarding coding.

2) More explaining of code instead of jumping right into a problem.

3) The volunteer opportunity and exam format.

4) Use of class time.

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1) The way he described things in pictures to help us understand better.

2) The pace.

3)

4)

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1) The use of pictures.

2)

3)

4)

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1) Assignments were a good teaching tool of material

2) the group project thing seemed kind of a last minute thought

3) very good, comparable to the tests I got in previous programming courses

4)

---

1) he knew his stuff and was energetic when teaching

2) no group project

3) the assignments

4)

---

1) Taught us as if we had no idea what programming was.

2) No suggestions.

3) The programs

4) Hw assignments on a regular.

---

1) Everything

2) Nothing

3) It was good

4)

---

1) Everything

2) No suggestions

3) Everything

4) No suggestions

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1) Learned program very well, glad i took it with arup.

2) Just pulling up a program and saying "what this part does" seemed to hurt the learning of people who had no prior experience.

3) Tests were not hard, people just did not study for it correctly.

4)

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1)

2) The expectation that every student is on an accelerated level of learning and if they aren't they are treated like they don't belong in the class. There should be no reason to fear asking questions but when one is treated like their question is stupid no one asks them. Convoluted lectures bogged down with unnecessary information. Not enough developing code fresh - instead used old code and just "described" it.

3) the tests are designed for failure. My comprehension was not tested the way it should have been. What I expect a teacher would do is test the way you work out whatever problem is handed to you. Instead, half of what makes up your test grade is multiple choice on a scantron on which the questions asked should be graded according to how they solved it and not just the answer itself. Even with a complete understanding of how to solve the problem, messing up little things like adding/subtracting/dividing/multiplying (all without the use of a calculator) could result in a wrong answer. Multiple instances of this occurred and it was extremely frustrating. If asked to display how I achieved the answer on these occasions I could get full credit but it just wasn't so.

4) Extremely frustrating course due to the instructor. Could have been very interesting. Was hoping to get excited for programming, this course's instructor has done just about every thing aside from throwing rocks at me to get me to not like programming.

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1) Nothing.

2)

3)

4)

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1) He pushes you to your limits, very aggressive style of teaching.

2) Probably the pace, but to be honest teaching C programming I couldn't imagine a better way than how he taught considering how many things you must learn to get started with the language. Arup could probably be a bit more understanding towards students who don't fully understand a concept, but again for programming it's a completely different animal than say, trying to learn concepts in english or math and as such requires a robust approach to both teaching and understanding. To be honest, Python would be much more suited as a language to learn first than C, and considering he included Python as an option to learn in the class towards the end, it's pretty clear to see that he cares for his students. Probably the only thing that really makes this class difficult is the style that he writes program assignments in. If you've never seen it before, trying to understand what exactly to do with each program assignment was much more difficult than implementing the actual code. If anything, I'd suggest that as an area to change. I know the only way I really began to understand what to do for each assignment was to skip reading what was actually wrote and look at the sample input output runs provided.

3) Fantastic. When I thought I had some things with C figured out, Arup showed me how this is only the tip of the iceberg and continued to challenge me.

4) You need thick skin in order to persist.

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1) He was very blunt and straightforward. I know for me, I got the feeling during lectures that there's so much more past what he's saying, which helped me since I realized how important these basic concepts are.

2) Like I said in the other response, I'd suggest improving the writing for programming assignments so its more friendly and understandable. It's certainly intimidating if you're not familiar with it. Although again, the nature of the class demands an aggressive approach.

3) It's relative to my major, I now love programming.

4) Teach Python first, it's much more forgiving and introduces programming concepts in a more friendly and understandable manner.

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1) Mr. Guha is friendly and approachable, and makes learning about programming fun -- not an easy task to the majority.

2) Not applicable

3)

4)

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1) I liked how there was examples available online and how you showed extra examples in class.

2) At the beginning of the course the pace was fine, but as we got further along the course the pace began to pick up while the content got more complicated.

3)

4)

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1) Actually creating a successful program.

2) It is so difficult and time consuming.

3) I could have done better.

4) More help outside of class, via. tutoring, review sessions, etc.

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1) When class ended.

2) Tests & programs

3) Good considering that the majority of people have problems with the class.

4)

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1) Everything very challenging Professor

2) Nothing just very hard!!

3) I learned programming C

4)

---

1) I enjoy the subject matter and i believe it was taught wonderfully

2) nothing

3) this was a great way to teach C

4)

---

1) very helpful

2) HARD assignments

3) fair grader

4) none

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1) The group meetings. They were psychological stress relieving meetings about how bad this class is for beginners.

2) This course was in no way an introduction to computer programming. Those who have had experience with programming even had difficulty with the programs. No matter how much I studied, I just didn't know the next step in the program without getting help and having to think about it for several days.

3) The tests have practically nothing to do with the lectures, up until the free response. Even then, time is limited for beginners, making it hard to work on the exams comfortably.

4) The drawings that were done in class to try and help explain the processes going through in the functions, did not help at all. In fact, they made things more complicated. For every box that was drawn, something that was actually important to remember was forgotten in attempt to understand these drawings. The instructor did not give a lot of options for the students. It felt like a class for prisoners as we were only allowed to do things the way the professor wanted things to be done. I don't think anyone in the class actually got the group they signed up for. Some of the group members in our group never showed up. Thankfully, those that did, could actually help after several hours of programming. I think this whole class needs to be redesigned. The instructor needs to get up to date with today's teaching habits. He is the most demotivating teacher I have ever had.

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

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1) He was personal and comical.
2)
3) Use of computers.
4)

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1) The instructor was easy to understand
2)
3)
4)

---

1) I learned an immense amount of knowledge in this course that I will most likely use in the future.
2)
3) Hard, but fair.
4)

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1) Explained thoroughly, always there to help.
2)
3)
4)

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1) His knowledge of the entire language and ability to answer all questions presented to him
2) Either remove group work, or find a way to make the group interactions more helpful somehow
3) Besides the group work, everything was effective in the learning process
4) Some of the more obscure topics on exams weren't covered in class, even a brief mention of them would help, i.e. pointers, tracing

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1) Programming interests me.
2) The assignments are time consuming yet worth rather little. You also had to do the assignments "his way" instead of maybe a better way. Tests felt like they were tests of how you could be tricked, not assessments of knowledge.
3) See LEAST.
4)

University of Central Florida — Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Student Perception of Instruction Comments — Semester: 1430

1) Learning the new language
2) Way too fast paced and I got lost too easily
3) hard tests, but fair.. somewhat.
4) Make programs easier, assign more homework to get more practice.

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1) Instructor
2) Material
3)
4) Less raw calculations on tests, specifically dealing with pointers on test 2. Too time consuming on a timed section of a test.

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1) Learning something new.
2) The pace of the class seemed quick to me.
3)
4)

---

1) Nothing
2) Difficulty of Tests, not enough time
3) it was fair, just needed more time on the test better if it was just one part instead of two
4)

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1) good professor
2) the programming assignments are very hard for "beginner programmers"
3)
4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2011/Fall
Semester: 1430

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COT42100001	DISCRETE STRUCTURES II
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

48	16	33.33
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) In a weird sense, its interesting. Also, the epic curve. Id rather have tough questions and a low avg with a curve instead of a watered down version of the class.

2) Doesnt seem like its possibld to teach someone how to think in a way to prove some things. I think theres a lot of creativity invokved that needs to be inherent. I very much had the "i'll either know it or i wont" mentality on all exans and quizzes.

3) Tests and quizzes were difficult to come up with the right proof idea in such a short amount of time

4)

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1) Everything...except the impossible test and assignment questions.

2) Impossible test and assignment questions.

3) Those test questions. Sigh.

4)

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1) I found the programming assignments to be interesting; they helped demonstrate how the theory being taught could be used in a real application. Also, the material covered, though challenging, was very interesting.

2) Assignments seemed to pile-up at the end of the semester.

3) The methods of evaluation provided an adequate challenge but were fair with respect to the material covered in the course.

4)