

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.

- 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

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

<u>Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci</u>	<u>COP32230R04</u>	<u>INTRO TO PROGRAMMING WITH C</u>
Department/School	Course-Section Number	Course Name
<u>208</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>20.67</u>
Number of Students Enrolled	Number Responding	% of Response

-
- 1) The class in itself is very hands on.
 - 2) The assignment are very very very time consuming for someone coming in not knowing anything about programming.
 - 3) From both test and assignments.
 - 4)
-
- 1) nohting
 - 2) the way the class was teach..
 - 3)
 - 4) this class should be thaught with a computer in front of the student.. not just reading out of a powerpoint
-
- 1) n/a
 - 2) n/a
 - 3) good
 - 4)
-
- 1) The method of teaching of the instructor, really gets on the students level.
 - 2) The amount of availability of teacher assistants.
 - 3) Very good, tests were fair, grading was good.
 - 4) More time with the ta's, add more hours where i can go and ask them questions
-
- 1) The new Python segment of the course was very helpful to ease in new programmers, and provide diversity of skills to all students.
 - 2)
 - 3) I think everything was swell. :)
 - 4) Thank you Professor Guha!
-

- 1) very interesting course
 - 2) programs were little hard
 - 3) it was good
 - 4)
-

- 1) the professor is very knowledgeable.
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
-

- 1) C
 - 2) python
 - 3) great teacher.
 - 4) delete section on python.
-

- 1)
 - 2)
 - 3) Guha explains it so clearly, so that his students understand the concepts in the course.
 - 4)
-

- 1) The pace, the topics, and the themed programs. Lectures were very good, and the tests felt like they were very well made and challenged me just the right amount.
 - 2) The vagueness of the scheduling at times, with quiz dates not matching up then disappearing. But I can't really blame the professor, it was his first online class and he has a family to take care of. Despite this, his organization is still better than many other professors.
 - 3) I think professor Guha has created a great way to evaluate students' mastery of the material, with the tests and homeworks being weighted pretty well. I especially like the way he calculates the criteria for A's and B's at the end after evaluating the class itself year after year. I wish more professors would adopt a similar grading style.
 - 4) I wish the course went more in-depth with some materials and had a few extra challenges for people that are somewhat knowledgeable in programming already. I understand why it isn't this way though, after reading the professor's teaching philosophy paper on his website.
-

- 1) The professor is friendly, expectations are clear, the pacing of the course is good
- 2) The TA's messed up on my grading a couple of times, so I had to argue for points

3) Very fair, I liked it

4)

1) Assignments

2) Quizes

3) Fair.

4)

1) The types of programs we created

2) the amount of programs

3)

4)

1) The grading scale.

2) The easily made tiny mistakes anyone can make.

3) It sounds like it'll work out in the end perfectly.

4) None.

1) Accessibiliy

2) Only taught the very basic. didn't really feel like i learned anything new.

3)

4)

1)

2) Homework assignments were a lot harder than what was taught in class. The tests were way too difficult. You couldn't do well in the class unless you read every chapter in the book or had prior programming experience. The TA's took a very long time to grade our programming assignments. This class didn't have SI sessions, when it should have. Instructions on the programming assignments he gave us were vague at often times, making it hard to complete the assignments without thinking you did it wrong.

3)

4)

1)

2)

3)

4) This course could use some reorganization. The professor had students use a book he wrote for this course

1) great instruction

2) Odd Test Days

3)

4)

1) The amount of useful material that I learned. In addition, all the material that I learned can easily be applied to future courses and my career.

2) Testing times.

3) Testing was very difficult when compared to assignments.

4) Professor was great and I learned a lot.

1) Learning about the programming language

2) Writing the program on our own.

3) He was fair in his grading, but his assignments were difficult.

4) More examples of how to use certain programming structures. The assignments were supposed to be completed individually and on our own, this was difficult because there wasn't much prior practice of writing a program, just information of the parts.

1) Thorough lectures.

2) Lectures were sometimes didn't relate to assignments.

3) N/a

4) He takes too long to email back.

1) This class pushed me harder than I have ever been pushed, but I really enjoyed all of it.

2) I wish some more time was spent explaining concepts rather than just explaining the code on the screen. I also wish the professor had a higher resolution web cam or a better way to draw out concepts on the screen. The one thing that was really frustrating was when he would draw out what was happening in memory on a piece of paper, then hold it up to the webcam. It would be impossible to read what was happening. I'd recommend a better camera, or maybe a Wacom Tablet or something like that.

3) It was different, but good.

4)

1)

2)

3) The grading is a little difficult to calculate and the sometime needs better explaining.

4) To help students do better on the tests, I think it would probably be better if there was a tutoring session with the tutors and a study guide to better help the students understand the material and better be prepare for the test before the test is taken to give the students idea of what they can expect to be tested on.

1) The instructor and TAs were very respectful. They were not ill mannered and did not treat anyone subhuman. A quality I find rare in the CS department.

2) Expectations for the weekly programs and exams were became confusing. Examinations were graded based on effort and our peer's achievements. While programs were graded from a strict rubric. Although on paper this seems fair and refreshing, it caused unnecessary stress on my part. I would consistently earn Bs on exams but when graded under the careful eye of our weekly programs it would be no higher than a D.

3)

4)

1) The class has helped me to gain a bit more experience with C and I did learn some interesting things.

2) The tests are fine overall, but why do we have to go to the campus to take tests for an online class? In addition, the test often had too much of a focus on trick questions that don't test how well you know the topic, they test your attention to detail, which is something that programmers normally rely on the computer for (it finds errors, they fix them) Also, the class did not cover everything that it was supposed to, it did not cover linked lists and memory allocation.

3) The tests were annoying for the previously mentioned reasons, but overall the assignments were fair.

4) I have already taken several programming courses in C++, but none of them would transfer, so I had to effectively retake a class. There should be a test or something that can allow students to bypass this class if they can already program.

1) Arup Guha is a genius.

2) Arup Guha is a genius.

3) I think it worked perfectly, work was challenging, forces you to learn, but equally satisfying.

4) Give Arup a raise!

1) Passing

2) Assignments

3)

4)

-
- 1) The time and videos on demand for the course were excellent.
 - 2) time frame between each assignment. Professor should give more quizzes and assignments should not be that hard. Assignment should be real life situations.
 - 3) testing is very good. grading of assignments were good because of curving.

4)

-
- 1) Guha's attitude
 - 2) Some of the grading criteria
 - 3) I enjoyed it.

4)

-
- 1) The intuitiveness.
 - 2) PYTHON!
 - 3) Very accurate.
 - 4) Awesome professor!

1) n/a

- 2) i dont like that it is a computer programming course and its online, we need to be in a computer lab working this stuff live as the instructor goes over it to really get a grasp. I think this class should be modeled after CGS 2100 (Computer FUnd. for Business) we would go to lecture learn what we need to , then attend a lab for 1 credit which allowed us to put our skills to use and had the TA's teaching the course to provide us with individual help during class. The way its set up now is not a recipe for success, too many students left behind.
- 3) the way i learned on the compiler was thru trial and error, its tough to just write out a program on a piece of paper like on the tests. probably not financially possible, but i think exams need to be given on computer! computer class = computer test!
- 4) Guha is a genius , no doubt about it. But this is an intro class, i would have liked for him to break things down into more simple steps and make it easier for people without experience to understand. A lot of things that seem basic to him really are not basic because he is just too smart. Also sometimes I felt like i would be ridiculed for asking a 'dumb' question to Guha, i understand you might get 'dumb' questions a lot coming from students that didnt pay attention or something, but i really was trying as best i could to succeed and some of my questions might have been dumb but it wasnt for lack of effort so that was a turn off from asking more questions. Thanks for the semester, learned a lot.

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- 1) I found the programming assignments to be the most interesting and enjoyable parts of the class.
 - 2) I have taken my fair share of web courses, and generally new assignments/quizzes open at the beginning of the week and are due a week from that point. Many times we would go all week without an update and then would receive a quiz and a new assignment due in 2 or 3 days. This was very stressful, most of us take web courses because we need the extra flexibility they give in our schedules. Not knowing when you're going to have to drop everything to commit to a new assignment takes away that benefit.

3) I enjoyed working through the programming assignments and felt as if I got a lot out of them. I did not particularly care for the tests, it seems to me that hastily writing programs under such rigid time constraints is not particularly representative of any real world applications. I would prefer multiple choice, concept heavy tests with heavier weighted take home programming assignments.

4) I really appreciated how much time the professor had spent collecting data from past semesters to make the class better. The practice exams were very helpful and the comparative data from previous semesters was great for relieving some of the stress of the class. Regarding the professors grading philosophy, I definitely see the merits in the way your grading system challenges students to go further than they might otherwise. I would just like to offer a counterpoint: It's really hard to not feel like you're doing poorly in this class if you're not doing REALLY well. Perhaps that is a worthy tradeoff, I just know it was kind of stressful. I walked into each exam not really sure if I was going to get a D or an A.

1) learning the material.

2) The lectures were hard to follow, and too much was expected of us to do on our own. For an intro class, I expected more explanation for the subjects we covered.

3) Having a computer based class with paper and pencil based test is just oil and water. I can do the programming on a computer just fine, but on paper, its literally a different mindset which for me was hard to follow. Poor test grades stemmed from this issue, which really just sucked.

4)

1) completing a program that worked 100%

2) the tests were quite difficult and probably my least favorite aspect of the course

3) I think the teacher taught the course fine for an online class.

4) none

1) I liked doing the many computer programs for the class. I thought they were really fun even when they were difficult.

2)

3)

4)

1) I liked that you gave programs that made us think about what to do with all the concepts. I believe that it helped me to retain more of the information that i learned. I also appreciate the instructors lively personality. Did a great job overall though.

2) All of the following comments are meant as helpful criticism. My understanding is that this was the first time that the instructor taught this online course, but i did not like the disorganization. Some days i felt very unprepared, like on test days or on some of the concepts. Sometimes i felt like the instructor was just rushing through the lectures because he was just run down with teaching this online course or he needed to be somewhere else and i felt like it really made me struggle to grasp the concepts.

3)

- 4) My understanding is that this was the first time that the instructor taught this online course, but i did not like the disorganization. Some days i felt very unprepared, like on test days or on some of the concepts. Sometimes i felt like the instructor was just rushing through the lectures because he was just run down with teaching this online course or he needed to be somewhere else and i felt like it really made me struggle to grasp the concepts. Overall though he is a really nice guy and is knowledgeable in the material but just needs to not rush through things.
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- 1) Taking it online
- 2) He goes through ideas way too fast so you must struggle to keep up. Grades from different TA's on assignments vary, and I got huge marks off for things that I had in some of the assignments that should have scored more points.
- 3) I hate how it's damn impossible to get useful feedback in computer science, it's basically do-it-yourself trial and error. There's no feedback on assignments except "10 points off because comments were in wrong place".

4)

- 1) Making the practice problems make sense to our everyday lives
- 2) wishy washy due dates for an online course

3)

4)

- 1) The course was taught online so I could learn from home.
- 2) The information gone over in the course was not my favorite. Exams were given on Saturdays with make-up exam times on the Friday before and the Monday after during the day so those of us who work 8-5 could not attend them.
- 3) When I first read the grading philosophy I was a little scared. After the first exam I kind of understood where I fell within the grade lines and I felt much more relaxed about the grading in this course.
- 4) Overall Professor Guha was awesome. His love for coding shows in his lectures and he really wants us to succeed. I dont have to have a huge amount of coding knowledge this basic course is the only one I need but for those who are going into Computer Science he is probably the best professor around for them.
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- 1) finshing
- 2) programming... i just dont like it lol

3)

4)

- 1) nothing
- 2) nothing
- 3) none
- 4) none

- 1) It was challenging but very informative. I can't imagine learning how to program any other way than by doing it and the assignments ensured I actually did the work.
- 2) I felt lost in the beginning trying to find out when quizzes and assignments were due. Many of the due dates got changed for assignments and quizzes got changed. I understand it is an online class but I don't want to have to check the website every day for changes.

3)

4)

- 1) the video lectures helped a great deal
- 2) not having grades or feedback back before an exam or before the next assignment is due
- 3) Arup's teaching and grading philosophy. Not knowing my grade made me work harder than I may have if I knew my grade easily by calculating it.
- 4) It was refreshing to be in a class where the professor teaches to the real world and expects his students to be adult about the expectations for the course

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci

CIS3360001

SECURITY IN COMPUTING

Department/School

Course-Section Number

Course Name

90

10

11.11

Number of Students Enrolled

Number Responding

% of Response

- 1) The Professor made this course much more interesting and engaging, even though the material at some times was quite dry. Thank you!
 - 2) I don't think this class is appropriate for CS Students, as it was not challenging enough As a CS major I expected something more hands on, but it seems that it was not intended for just CS majors.
 - 3) All Homework Assignments and Exams were fair, in respect to the material of the course.
 - 4)
-
- 1) The teacher was enthusiastic and described concepts using easy to understand examples most of the time. The subject matter was interesting and expectations and assignments were relatively well described, although improvement to homework scheduling would have helped.
 - 2) The practicality. The course is for computer security, but we learned a lot about encryption and the math behind computers. This is a good thing to know, but other courses cover these subjects. I learned very little about practical computer security in Windows, Mac, or Linux. Almost everything was theoretical with only a few examples. The homework scheduling, especially toward the end of the semester could be improved (although I think this was the first semester the teacher was teaching this course, such problems are understandable).
 - 3) The homework and tests contained very few questions. A lot of grade points were place on very few questions, some questions were worth as much as 3% of your grade. I think more questions with some easy and some hard questions would help relieve the stress this course caused many students.
 - 4)
-
- 1) Learning about encryption and decryption
 - 2) The course material could have been more about modern day security and less about general IT material
 - 3) The practical aspect that the test had was great
 - 4)
-
- 1) I found the material to be highly interesting, and it was taught at a very nice pace.
 - 2) I disliked that Professor Guha used his father's lecture notes. It made it more difficult for later review.
 - 3) There were times when it was unclear as to what exactly was going to be on the test, and that made it difficult to study at times.
 - 4)
-

- 1) Some of the material was kind of interesting.
 - 2) The instructor seemed very unprepared. Most of the time, it seemed like it he had no clue what he was talking about. He would normally just take out the slides (which weren't his own), and read them out loud to the class. It seemed like he was reading them for the first time, and he didn't really try to hide it. He was often arrogant, and disrespectful to students on a few occasions.
 - 3) Much of the class had NO relevance to neither Computer Science nor Information Technology. We wrote an essay on the business perspective (economic analysis) of virus attacks. What does that have to do with anything? There was also a debate/research assignment on the impact of the recent settlement between the DoJ and publishing companies regarding e-books. No relevance to CS or IT. The topics in the class seemed very unrelated to each other, and to our disciplines. A change of curriculum may be in order.
 - 4) I have heard many good things about this instructor from other classes he has taught. I still must give the instructor the benefit of the doubt, as professional courtesy. Perhaps it was just this class he was unprepared for, but he acted like he didn't care too much, and at these tuition rates, it's quite disrespectful (especially when the material has little to no relevance to your studies).
-

1) Fantastic teacher

2)

3)

4)

1) a

2) a

3) a

4) a

1) Things graded quickly. Good teacher.

2) Topics not really related to subject. I still have no idea how to secure a computer. not much real world examples. lack of background in subject. Too much time on crypto like DES and AES

3) Over all good class. Wish it was more security related.

4)

1) Very easy to understand, was able to make complicated concepts simpler.

2) Grades took a very long time to be released.

3) I enjoyed the option for a reference sheet on tests. I didnt like the grading rubric for essays, i felt like they focused more on aesthetics rather than subject matter.

4) Really enjoyed this class.

- 1) Interesting topics, engaging lectures.
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

<u>Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci</u>	<u>COP3223H0201</u>	<u>HONORS INTRO PROG WITH C</u>
Department/School	Course-Section Number	Course Name
<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>33.33</u>
Number of Students Enrolled	Number Responding	% of Response

1) Programming

2) N/A

3) Positive

4) A positive experience

1) Prof. Arup is the best! Give him a raise! :-)

2) Only small complaint would be the (intentionally?) vague requirements for the final project checkpoints. (Requirements for the submitted project proposal, and project presentation outline were only 1-3 sentences.) But I mean, overall, that's getting pretty nit-picky. :-)

3) I prefer programming projects over paper tests. I REALLY enjoyed Friday problems. I wish that was an even larger portion of the class or more competitive or something. It was great.

4) Prof. Arup is the best! Give him a raise! :-)

1) The professor and the material.

2) N/A.

3) A little strict, but fair nonetheless.

4) Professor should take certain things a little slower and not rely on or expect so much out of the student's preexisting knowledge of the subjects, because few students don't have any at all. He does a good job at this already, but I feel like he goes a little faster than he would with a different class because he expects us to pick up on things faster since we're honors and some of us have past experience. Overall still a very good professor.

1) The professor makes it easy to learn

2) The second half of the course goes very quickly and a lot is covered in the short amount of time.

3) Good balance of assignments, exams, and projects.

4) Overall a very good teacher makes a difficult course seem easy

1) Interesting material

2) Weird pace. Python at the beginning

3) strict but very helpful grading

4)

1) Teaching style; laid back, yet professional; great online resources

2) Having to use Python for the first segment; poorly-worded assignments/tests

3) Tough/strict grading, yet fair with letter grade cut-offs

4)

1) I liked the lectures and the programs that we had to write most of the time.

2) Some of the lectures were harder to follow but this was made better by some personal study. I had a hard time with exams and wasn't quite sure how to prepare for them well.

3) I thought it was good.

4) Dump the Python portion or make it all Python. I don't like the hybridization that much.

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	CIS33620001	CRYPTOGRAPHY AND INFO SECURITY
Department/School	Course-Section Number	Course Name
46	6	13.04
Number of Students Enrolled	Number Responding	% of Response

-
- 1) Professor Guha's ability to relate the course material to the history and real world uses of the material.
 - 2) The difficulty of the course was a bit off-putting, though it was not fully unexpected.
 - 3) I feel it was fair. I was able to tell what I understood and didn't understand pretty quickly.
 - 4)
-
- 1)
 - 2) You teach really really fast for e.g. skipping steps in solving problems etc. Most of the times, I had difficulty focusing on due to that. Course contents were not very interesting. It is NOT due to math but because of topics. The course contained same old topics like old cipher methods etc. Try to update this course with the latest technology topics.
 - 3) Assignments were very difficult but the tests were little bit easy but lengthy.
 - 4)
-
- 1) The styling of the tests.
 - 2) Programming assignments.
 - 3) Very good. The assignments were very well oriented in a way in which we can apply what we learned in class. The tests also show whether or not we know the material.
 - 4)
-
- 1) Everything was well explained, and Arup found a way to relate just about everything back to real life, and kept even the most bland stuff interesting.
 - 2) There should be a math prerequisite for this class. The math used here is very difficult to get it your head around in the short amount of time we have. Homework was graded way too strictly. I thought I did fairly well on the homework, but it was graded way too difficult. Not all of the problems that were assigned were even solvable, but for not solving it, you got hit pretty hard. Minor programming errors also nickel and dined your score away. Homework should be graded based on your understanding of the concept, not the exact specific template for the program. If it doesnt match exactly, you shouldnt fail an assignment.
 - 3)
 - 4)
-
- 1) The cipher challenge was pretty fun.

2)

3) One of the assignments I got a 50% on because there was an issue with having a 'A' instead of an 'a'. I got 30% back but I thought that I deserved more.

4)

1) The topic of the course was very interesting, it was structured so both CS and IT students can do well. The group assignments were very useful in understanding the material.

2)

3) The grading of assignments and exams were very fair. I appreciate the instructor's willingness to not overly penalize for simple mistakes.

4)

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci

COT39600001

CS FOUNDATION EXAM

Department/School

Course-Section Number

Course Name

79

5

6.33

Number of Students Enrolled

Number Responding

% of Response

- 1) This wasn't even a course
 - 2) I had to take it
 - 3) Thoroughly, although redundant with the two courses whose finals it mimics
 - 4) Unnecessary
-

- 1) I learned soooooo much in this course!
 - 2) I cried soooooo much in this course!
 - 3) I survived! GOOD ENOUGH.
 - 4) Make it more difficult! PLEASE.
-

- 1) none
 - 2) none
 - 3) none
 - 4) none
-

- 1) Excellent exam.
 - 2) Kinda hard, but hey this is computer science. It should be hard.
 - 3) Very fair.
 - 4) N/a
-

- 1) Good review for Foundation Exam.
- 2) Only a few days of review.
- 3) Good evaluation. Similar to CS1 and Discrete.
- 4)