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

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2012/Summer
Semester: 1450

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COT4210C001	DISCRETE STRUCTURES II
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

17	6	35.29
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) Allowing two oportunities to replace two grades by teaching the class and doing community service. It wasn't just another assignment we had to complete. It helps to give a new perspective on both teaching and just the general problems and solutions in our community.

2) A lot of homework for one class. It is a 4000 level class though so it's to be expected.

3) Very good

4) When teaching mapping reducibility in chapter 5, it would have been really helpful to know that we were not solving B. We were only "using B as a tool" to help solve A and prove that it was computable.

---

1) The daily proofs and the programming assignments

2) The tone of the course in the middle of the semester

3)

4)

---

1)

2)

3) Arup Guha is an excellent teacher but at times he can be a bit condescending when answering students questions. For a difficult course such as Discrete Structures, questions should be treated with great welcome.

4)

---

1)

2)

3)

4) While going over the actual proofs is probably necessary, I'd have liked to have had more examples worked through. I felt like we were shown how the proof was derived, then turned loose to solve problems. Learning the process of solving them would have helped me.

---

1) Programming.

2) Proofs.

3)

4)

---

1) I liked doing the daily proofs that were given because without the constant practice I believe that we wouldn't have done well. Practice is what is key in this course.

2) I didn't like that although the material was presented well and clear, the pace of the course was very fast where I felt as though we were rushing through too fast to understand some of the concepts.

3) Grading was very fair. The instructor was very explanatory and there were plenty of examples to have for later practice.

4) I would say to slow down a bit and explain the process more clearly to help understand the concepts better because this is naturally a difficult course with very challenging material to conceptually understand.

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2012/Summer
Semester: 1450

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Department/School	Course-Section Number	Course Name
Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci		

Number of Students Enrolled	Number Responding	% of Response
17	1	5.88

1) The material was easy.

2) The professor had a hard time explaining things occasionally.

3) We could have had more assignments to improve our grades instead of just 4 tests.

4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2012/Summer
Semester: 1450

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COT3960C001	CS FOUNDATION EXAM
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

26	4	15.38
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1)

2)

3)

4) This was a test, not a class. My evaluation to this course should not be taken seriously.

---

1)

2)

3)

4) This was just a onetime exam.

---

1) n/a

2) n/a

3) n/a

4) n/a

---

1) N/A

2) N/A

3) N/A

4) N/A

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2012/Summer
Semester: 1450

Instructor Name: Arup Guha

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COP3502CC001	COMPUTER SCIENCE I
Department/School	**Course-Section Number**	**Course Name**

213	56	26.29
Number of Students Enrolled	**Number Responding**	**% of Response**

1) He had a good personality

2) Too many programs and not enough conceptual homework

3) Tests were tough

4)

---

1) None

2) None

3) None

4) Lecture notes wasn't very helpful. Lab wasn't very useful as far as getting students to learn and practice what was learned in class. Lab was just additional work on top of class work. Lab should've been use to teach students on how to develop technique or improve their programming skills to implement better algorithm on each assignment. A good way to implement this is to have one assignment at the start of the class, then each week of lesson learned, students will go back to the same assignment to implement what was learned to make the same program runs more and more efficiently.

---

1)

2)

3) Testing and grading are all fair

4) I'd like to see some smaller webcourses based assignments foe some of the non code based material. Things like big-O and recursion techniques.

---

1) The course had a good grading method.

2) The course overall felt a little too fast paced. Using power point slides to express material would've suited the course. Or notes with more examples, would facilitate the students learning.

3) Grading method for the course was good.

4)

---

1)

2)

3)

4) Good as always. Make this man your god, and worship at his ability to dispense computer knowledge to the masses.

---

1) I absolutely loved the lab. Getting the opportunity to program extra really advanced my learning exponentially. I came into this class wondering if I would succeed, and I'm leaving feeling like I've mastered all of the covered concepts.

2) N/A

3) Very fair.

4) More programs! They wouldn't have to be graded though. Maybe you could just have a section on the website that contains a whole plethora of contest-like questions for those of us who simply love the fun. All around, a GREAT class and a lot of fun. Thank you!

---

1) Interesting, straightforward, very thorough.

2) A lot of information way to fast. It's taught well, but it makes the tests next to impossible.

3) The instructor is great and I am convinced that he cares a great deal about what he's doing. He makes the content (which is very difficult) understandable.

4) Good class, just extremely tough. I struggled, but I still enjoyed it.

---

1) Professor Gupta is an excellent communicator. He should be commissioned to teach teachers. His knowledge and command of the subject matter is incredible.

2) Time... I wish I had more time to devote to the interesting and thought-provoking assignments.

3) Excellent methodology employed.

4)

---

1)

2) Extremely hard homework and exams.

3)

4)

---

1) I love Arup Guha

2)

3)

4)

---

1)

2)

3) I think teaching to the higher end of the spectrum is a good theory but it leaves the middle and low end grasping at straws and feeling overwhelmed. If the subjects were taught to the middle of the spectrum I think more people would grasp and understand the concepts.

4) I think that if there were several small programs throughout the week versus one large program, I would have learned and grasped the concepts better. If after each lecture there was a program that focused on what was covered and tied it together with previous programs it would give people a better understanding of the course material, versus one large program due every two weeks. You spend more time stressing the large program than learning the concepts.

---

1) Teacher is very patient with the students, and explains concepts incredibly well. The analogies that Professor Guha comes up with are a something to marvel at.

2)

3)

4)

---

1) The availability of material online and excellent lectures.

2) Grading of assignments. The graders claimed they evaluated your code, but it seemed that there was more focus on what my program output did then how it was structured and implemented.

3) I think the evaluation methods used in this course were accurate and fair with a few exceptions about how major assignments were graded.

4) Spend a little more time on algorithm analysis. There seemed to be a lot of confusion and uncertainty from the entire class during those lectures. Other than that, this was one of the best courses I've taken at UCF.

---

1) I liked the lectures

2) programming assignments

3) good

4) tough course

---

1) the challenge and ideas behind the content

2) the class itself takes up alot of time outside the lectures, but not really a problem

3) good, a little hard but good

4) none

---

1) cookie

2) oreos

3) good

4) overall satisfied

---

1) The great instruction inside and outside of the class and easy explanation of even the most difficult concepts.

2)

3)

4)

---

1) Very good professor

2) I think the level of this class is a little too high for people not majoring in computer sicence

3) It is very fair

4)

---

1) He has a great way of explaining new ideas to the class, always seems very interested in making sure every one understands.

2) The test difficulty, I always felt very discouraged leaving the tests.

3)

4)

---

1) Related to my major, instructor was enthusiastic about the course and our learning.

2) Difficulty of homework assignments was a little too hard, some concepts were hard to understand.

3) Tests covered literally everything we had learned, and sometimes were formatted in ways we weren't expecting or could have studied for.

4) I appreciate all that he's done for me, and I hope to have him again for another course sometime in the future.

---

1) Good class, great teacher. learn a lot of fundamental C programming. Hard class but good and forcing you to learn the concepts you need

2) A lot of work and there is a recitation in this class that lasts an hour.... why is this not a 4 credit class... The recitations were helpful but definitely added to the home work.

3) I am way better at C programming after taking this class.

4)

---

1) Learning new material was fun and lectures were given in proficient manner.

2) The excruciating homework programming tasks.

3) Overall adequate and efficient.

4) Clearly state protocols to follow in specific test inquiries.

---

1)

2) The thing I liked least about the course was using partners for the recitation portion of the course. My partner could not code anything in C, so for the sake of my time and grade I coded all the assignments. I also think it allows avenues for student's solutions and code to be shared with other students without their knowledge.

3)

4)

---

1) The many available sample programs for each topic.

2) Not a big fan C programming language, prefer Java

3) I'll have to wait until the class has ended to make a better evaluation

4)

---

1) The amount of practice programs and notes available on his site

2) The amount of time given to finish lab programs since one lab had an extra two days to finish the programs.

3) It was not bad but i do believe the output of the programs was weighed a lot more heavily than it should have been. The TAs really need to take more time to look through the code to evaluate if it was a small error or the programmer really had no idea on what he was doing.

4)

---

1) The programs

2) I felt like I was studying a lot for the tests yet not getting a really high grade. 2 hour class (summer) was too long. gets boring by the last half hour.

3) tests were challenging, im hoping the curve is big enough that i still end up with an A.

4)

---

1) Mostly the pace of the class; I thought it went fast enough for me where the pace of most classes usually feels too slow.

2) The grading was a little off for my tastes. I understand that not every program can get the level of attention it deserves and that the whole point is that a program should run, but one shortcoming lowering a grade to a 20/100 is a little unfair when I feel that there was enough there to prove that I was appropriately applying the concepts, just may have had an error in one line of code. I understand that a large class causes problems and that I am bias on my grades but just what comes to mind.

3) See previous.

4)

---

1) Very engaging instructor, explained difficult concepts easily

2) Did not go over homework assignments in depth in class

3)

4)

---

1) Proffessor was very honest with the work

2) the class room was big, but small chairs!!! this is inhuman!!

3)

4) Keep making student do community service hours!!

---

1) Profesor knows what he is doing saying

2) Sometimes it feels like the prof doesnt care but thats cool he shouldnt

3)

4) can I have a hug please?

---

1) He offers a lot of help and some extra credit to help.

2) It is a ver tough and rigorous course for non-computer science majors and i hope he will find a way to address this problem in the future.

3) He is a very fair grader.

4)

---

1) The lectures were well taught and presented in a understandable way.

2) The difficulty of the programs that were due

3)

4)

---

1) The in-depth answers for questions asked in the audience, programs written and re-written on request (i.e. new features)

2) Programs were too hard in my opinion, the transition from Intro to C -> CS1 is rough

3) Tests were not well thought out, the test methodology was changed abruptly after the first test; from multiple choice + free response , to only free response

4)

---

1) good

2) good

3) good

4) good

---

1)

2) The professor had another job outside of UCF during the summer semester which seemed to take up a lot of his time. He missed several classes (including the week leading up to finals) and did not post important material (such as exam reviews, exam solutions - that would be helpful in studying for the final - and lecture notes) in a timely manner, and in some cases not at all. The summer semester is difficult enough without a having professor who cannot give his full time or attention to his class.

3) Testing was fair. Grading took a very long time, which is probably the result of UCF packing too many students into one class and not having enough TAs to handle the job. As far as instructor feedback - there was none. All exams, homework and lab assignments were graded by the TAs. The TAs did provide brief commentary on the homework assignment grades but the students were not allowed to question their grades due to time constraints

4) I'm paying for the professors time as well as an education. I suggest outside jobs/projects during the shortened semester be prohibited.

---

1) The instructor is very engaging

2) I did not dislike anything. The difficulty of the assignments helped me learn a lot better.

3) Testing

4)

---

1) The community service was a great experience for me.

2) The data assignments.

3) Pretty fair.

4)

---

1) Before taking the course, I was terrible at program, I had no interest in it, and I was very slow with any programming I did do. Now that the course is nearly over, I definitely have more of an interest in it, I've become much faster in programming, and I understand the language far better than I ever did.

2) The programming assignments were really challenging.

3)

4)

---

1) This course was interesting and is defiantly a different style of thinking.

2) To much was commanded of the students. To show an example then put one that is exponentially harder on the test, knowing that 80% of the class will fail is curl. A majority of students need that feeling of accomplishment to foment into the world of education.

3) Indifferent to it really. The professor does help with the curve but I wish mastery was a part of the course.

4) Professor Guha is a really good professor intrinsically, however at times it might not show. With this type of course one must pick there battles and carry out what they have paved before them in regards to school and performance. Go in, be open minded and preform to your fullest!

---

1) Arup is by far the easiest professor to listen to and understand.

2) The assignments were at times very rigorous

3) Very good

4)

---

1) Arup is a masterful teacher and all around brilliant guy. His teaching style is fluid and makes the material really stand out. Arup really fine tunes his courses and makes results-based decisions. Very awesome indeed.

2) I guess I feel like the course doesn't really need a lab component, but I suppose this is subjective.

3) Great.

4)

---

1) I love that the professor has catalogued and posted a ton of stuff online that is easy accessible and easy to follow. I also really loved the professor's teaching style/methodology. I felt like I got a great deal out of each class session and am grateful for that.

2) I feel like towards the end of the semester, the class kind of came to an early halt. I wish we could have just taken the final early instead of dragging it out.

3) Testing was tough but fair. The grades I earned definitely reflected the amount of time I put into the course.

4)

---

1) Computer Science

2) Classroom

3) The data parts were lame.

4) Keep it up. Lectures were outstanding.

University of Central Florida — Year/Term: 2012/Summer
Student Perception of Instruction Comments — Semester: 1450

---

1)

2)

3) with the slow pace, it was clear from the start we would not finish.

4)

---

1) Arup's interest in the subject. Focus on problem-solving skills and algorithms used for specific purposes (sorting,searching,storing data etc).

2) I did not like the programs being due at 5pm vs 11:59pm. I think the majority of students are more used to having assignments due at that time, and I feel having it due right before midnight is a lot more manageable for students, as most are busy during the day on weekdays and they will have more time to fix last minute issues/bugs before the final copy is due. Class moved a little quickly but this is because of the summer structure of the class. Most of the concerns I have with the course are because of time constraints I ran into because of the condensed nature of a summer class, not the teaching of the material itself.

3) I thought tests and program were fair. I felt like the programs and tests were very difficult, at least for me, but that is a good thing. They covered what was taught in class, not too many surprises so I feel the methods used for evaluating our mastery of course materials were fair.

4) More structure for the lab portion. I would like to have had the lab TA's go over what was taught in class more frequently and provide more supplemental instruction.

---

1) The recitation assignments were quite interesting, and not too difficult. They piqued my interest in programming, and showed me the value of collaborative coding work.

2) The first test was proctored quite badly. We were given too little time to complete the multiple choice section, and too much time to complete the free response. As a result I did very poorly on this test.

3) I believe that making our own test cases for every program from scratch, without any help from the instructor was a bit too difficult. If providing test cases for a few of the early programs seems too easy, perhaps just give some hints in class as to what they should be.

4)

---

1) I dont have to take another class with Professor Guha

2) Professor was out of town way too much and spent more time on outside hobbies than helping students. the last two weeks of class he took a family vacation to north carolina and was out of reach. The Professor did not follow his syllabus and would make changes in middle of class to his benefit. The Notes on website were incomplete and inaccurate. Test questions were different from what was taught in class. using the notes professor Guha stated in class (had to use what was done in class because hte online notes which he told us to refer to to save time in class were incomplete at sample parts) did not work on test and, was not able to go over the test because again he had to go on a vacation. The first week of class when a number of students had shared their concerns about the due dates of a project professor guha stated he does not appriciate being asked about this matter when he s on vacation with his family... hes been on at least three vacations in a single summer semester, seems like such a awful this to do to students paying top dollar.

3) The test review and the test were total opposites, what was said to study and what was actually on the test did not coencide. Office hours were frequently canceled because of his outside hobbies such as high school programming or community service, he missed one because he said he needed to coach his sons sport.

4) I did not learn a single thing from the professor, his teaching method seems more like hes showing off what he can do rather than making sure the students understand. he spends waaay too much time on the simple concepts, then speeds through the more difficult. I expect to get a B in this class but it was no help from the professor. Ive been waiting over a week for the solutions to my second exam which professor said he he would post, but again hes been out on vacation.

---

1) Arup is a very qualified teacher, and creates challenging assignments to push us into learning material we might not have otherwise.

2) The tests are incredibly difficult. Sometimes almost cruel in their difficulty level.

3) The tests are incredibly difficult. Sometimes almost cruel in their difficulty level. Assignments on the other hand are challenging but doable using methods learned in class.

4)

---

1) I loved how Professor Guha teaches with the elmo, and that he draws pictures as he lectures. It makes it much easier to understand

2) I felt that sometimes the pace of the lectures was a bit too quick and that he took for granted that people could follow him when he did mathematical analysis's and made numerous shortcuts. I'd prefer if he ran through the math a bit slower.

3) The out of class assignments were great, and the tests while difficult seemed to be appropriate.

4)

---

1) I liked how interesting the subject matter and the quick pace in which it was taught.

2) There sometimes an overwhelming amount of information to review before a test.

3) I believe it was fair.

4) I believe this class is fine the way it is.

---

1) Working in groups

2) The webcourse website. Students should be able to resubmit late assignments, as long as it's in the designated period. Webcorses prevented that which is unfair.

3) I enjoyed the class a lot.

4) More interaction with the TA's and the student's should occur to ease the load off of the professor.

---

1) Very detailed notes on his website.

2) I would have liked if the labs connected with what we were learning a little more.

3) I thought all of the assignments and tests were fair

4)

University of Central Florida
Student Perception of Instruction Comments

Year/Term: 2012/Summer
Semester: 1450

1) I liked the way the grading scale was implemented to give us a fair chance at passing the class

2) I dont like how we had lab assignments and regular assignments. I had a very hard time trying to do both especially during an accelerated summer semester. I feel that the lab should have been students working on the actual assignments.

3) The grading in the class was extremely strict. If i made one little mistake on a program i was penalized way more than what i felt the mistake was worth.

4) Dont give lab assignments and regular assignments. Just do one of these.

---

1) .

2) .

3) .

4) .

---

1) Professor Guha teaches fast, and I think primarily to intuitive students, so if you're quick, you can understand a difficult concept intuitively before you even leave class.

2) It's difficult to take reliable notes when the instructor writes very quickly and/or erases (or crosses things out) as he teaches. This works great for a student with enough programming intuition to really catch on and learn, but my primary method of learning involves looking over well-written class-notes. For example, my notes on binary trees were terrible, consisting of 4 separate binary trees with numbers struck-out, and miscellaneous arrows pointing all over the place. My search and sort notes were similar.

3)

4) . When examples are given on paper, at least for a couple iterations, write out the steps (e.g., rewrite the binary trees instead of just crossing out and/or adding pieces) at least for a few iterations so that it can be written down.

---

1) Interesting lectures. Demonstration of concepts (such as sorts) by using students was good and helped keep class interesting.

2) Some lecture documents are in an incomplete state missing pictures that the text refers to. If you direct students to read certain documents on their own, those documents should be complete. For example, the very first document CBackgroundForDynMem.doc which students were to read on their own, page 2: "our picture would look like this:" and no picture is included. This occurs in many lecture documents.

3) A bit too much emphasis on coding and not enough on other aspects such as algorithm analysis. The focus of exams was more on things other than coding so course work should reflect that. Math aspects of the course felt rushed through and shallow.

4)