CSCI 161 – Survey #1 Responses (n=22)

Chart legend: ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

Survey items (top to bottom):
- Received useful feedback
- Lectures & activities were all well organized
- Information and concepts were presented clearly
- Text, materials, and/or activities helped
- Objectives and grading criteria were explained clearly
- Returned materials in a reasonable amount of time
- The instructor demonstrated concern and interest
- Encouraged critical thinking
- Varied teaching approaches
- Available to assist students in or outside of class
- Graded my work fairly and impartially
- Enthusiasm for teaching
- Treated the class fairly and with respect
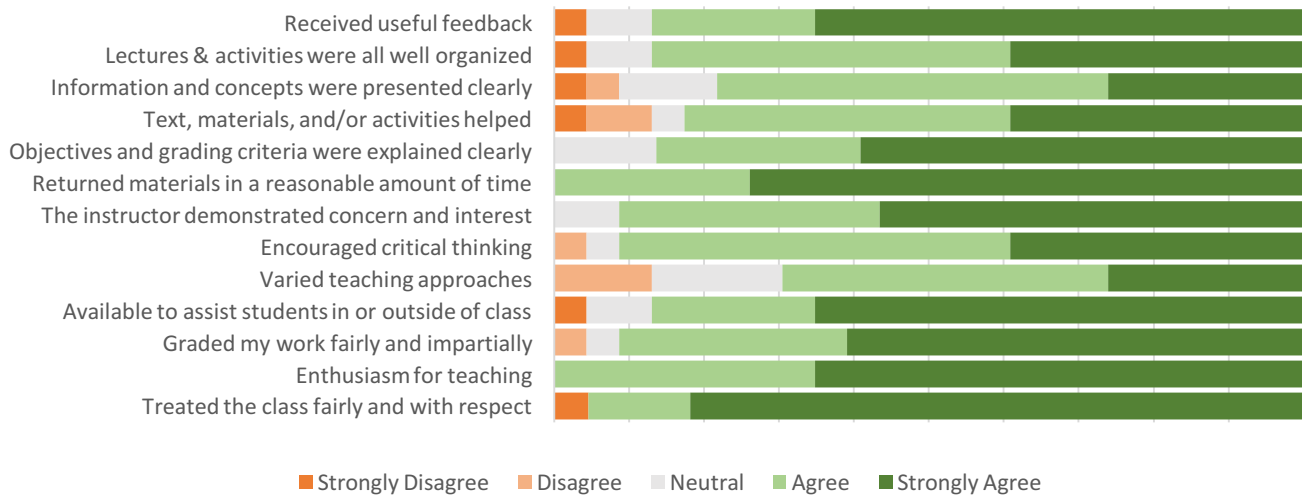
List some things you like about the course

- Good professor, fair grader, course content is interesting, labs are fun to figure out.
- comments on assignments, know who or how you got a question wrong. Fast turnaround time grading, no waiting for weeks to find out what you did wrong and need to work harder on. slides are available to be printed.
- I like how the labs and homework provide a hands-on way to learn about programing. This has greatly helped me understand the course.
- The timely feedback on finishing a test, grading and receiving it back
- I really like how open you are to help us with things we do not understand. As someone that is not a CSCI major, it is really appreciated, since I have background or prior knowledge.
- I like that he helps students outside of the class whenever we need it and he gives examples for some topics.
- The labs are both interesting and useful to understanding the concepts went over during lectures -There are not any "trick questions" on exams, and everything that is went over during the review shows up on the exam.
- I like are up the night before which gives me a chance to review it before going to the class. I like how the homeworks really do help prepare you for the exams.
- I'm learning how to program at a reasonable rate with external motivation and getting credits toward my degree to do it. It's also easier than calc 2.
- I like how involved the teacher is in the education, making sure that everyone succeeds. I really like how fast the grades are updated and posted for me to see.
- I love learning new things and I have no background in computer science and programming so it's all new.
- I enjoy learning about computer programming and how the class is set up with a day to work on the labs so we don't have to try to make it fit in our own time. I like when you utilize the chalkboard to draw it out and show why things are happening, on PowerPoints I don't always fully understand.
- I enjoy working in the lab and on projects. I enjoy class and lectures as well, but I feel there should be a little more interaction and engaging content.
- i like how we use for loops to make pictures and how professor Killian draws out how certain code works like drawing flow charts for multiple method calls or how a computer reads through a for loop.
- I enjoy how the material is presented. The professor makes class interesting, and is rather funny, which helps with the sometimes-dry material.
- I like how it seems to be a slow enough pace to understand but also a fast-enough pace where it doesn't feel like it drags. I think the professor tries to explain it as many ways as he can in order for the max amount of people to understand.

- You give great feedback and return things sooner than any professor that I have ever had. I really appreciate this as it helps me learn faster as for example, if I was unsure of something on the homework or a lab, I can ask you directly (which you also answer very quickly) or you will give me useful feedback on the assignment once it is turned in. The fact that you take the time to do this means so much and makes me put you on a higher pedestal than most other professors I have ever had. Also, something you did unintentionally I believe, but the fact that you don't print out notes to give to us helps immensely. When professors do that, I feel I get lazy as everything is right there and it makes it very easy to zone out during lectures as you don't need to worry about everything they're saying as it is already there. I much prefer the way you do it as I can focus more on what you are saying and only take notes on what is really important of confusing me, and the rest of the material is available online to use in addition with my notes.
- I like programming :D Pretty much everything about the class I like. Especially the memes.
- the feeling I get when something clicks, especially the labs the labs can be kinda fun when you understand them
- -The labs=> extremely helpful, and gives me a greater explanation of how to do certain things in java -The professor=> always enthusiastic to teach, and explains material in a way that I can understand
- He's always willing to help. He knows that there are people that aren't into computers so he's not expecting us to love it which I find very useful. he asks questions, give examples, a lot of good stuff.
- I like how willing he is to help students if they don't understand what is going on. He also puts memes in his lectures which makes it more entertaining.
- I like the structure of having two consecutive lectures followed the lab

List some things you don't like about the course

- When the student raised their hand, you would not come and help them out quickly you would have them waiting for you to see them for a very long time and when you came and they said they really don't know how to do a certain part you would just stand and just talk about it rather than sitting down with them and showing them exactly what to do and then let them apply the next step and see if they get it then just leave and you know they look very uncertain on how to do a certain part. *[There are approximately 23 students (on average) in the lab at a time. If you don't raise your hand high or come over to me if I'm sitting down, I may not notice. I'm sorry. Regarding the material in the lab, we extensively went over several examples in the classroom on the board with pen and paper (e.g. drawing tables and writing loops based off the tables). I saw no such work being completed when I spoke to this individual. I wanted the student to be successful by practicing and applying the methods we'd done in lecture rather than me sit down and just explain how to program. I want students to be good **problem solvers** first, and good programmers second.]*
- I get more confused when the teacher starts drawing and explaining things on the board, the way its explained I get confused, I wish there was a way to explain things slower and on a level that does not go over everyone's head. I also did not like how the review sheet was set up for the test, I feel that it did not help to prepare me for what was going to be on the test. For example, the list of keywords on the review sheet that I thoroughly studied were not on the test *[Over 10% of the exam was term definitions]*, and that the what to know section did not help because I feel if there were some examples or some problems on their (similar to the homework) with a answer sheet at the end would have helped me to better understand what I am supposed to do and help me as a student learn better. *[The homework problems, problems in the back of each chapter's sections, examples in the lecture, and examples on the PowerPoint presentations were more than enough]*

Course Pace and Confusion
- I feel like the course is at a very fast pace for someone like me who has no experience in the subject and the concepts seem foggy to me. *[I'll work on improving clarity]*
- It's not that I don't like the course, it's just that some things make more sense than others and a lot of things get crammed into 50 minutes and sometimes it's too much for me to handle mentally. *[That's understandable. I can work on making concepts clearer]*
- I wish that he go over the topics and do some practice before we do exams and labs. I feel like he does too quickly and it ends up with people being unable to grasp the material correctly. *[I had an entire class dedicated to review where students could ask me to go over anything]*

- Sometimes questions in class I feel aren't answered in fully or that they are explained in a way that could be further simplified for the asker so it makes more sense.
- I feel that the lectures can sometimes be confusing and I do have trouble completing the labs in the time given. *[You are not always expected of completing the lab in the two-hour period]*
- sometimes bland/boring and hard to follow *[I can only make computer science so fun]*
- This isn't more of his problem it's more of me not understand 'computer talk'

Labs
- I feel like sometimes there aren't enough instructions for the labs
- What I don't like about the course is that there is a lab every Thursday, even though i do know that it make sense from a teacher and a course work point of view but for me especially seem to never be able to figure out the lab; which is stress every week for me. *[If you face difficulty, my office door is always open]*
- 80 points of the lab are strictly based on the EXACT output. simply not knowing a space was in the original not just the margin of the page can cause a student to fail a lab even if they receive an additional full 20 points on top of the 40 given by auto grader resulting in only a 60. *[This is patently false. I never had a lab based entirely on output specification]*

Examples
- I do think more hands-on examples of concepts during class would help (outside of the examples on slides), but know that class time limits make it difficult
- Provide a little more examples for each topic. *[I can try to add some more examples]*

Other
- The textbook=> I don't find it very useful.
- It's at 8 in the morning. I really don't like that part.
- Nothing so far
- Nothing. I really enjoy this course.
- Nothing.
- Nothing :)
- There is nothing that i don't particularly dislike about the course.

What could you change, if anything, about the lectures?

Positive Notes:
- I think the lectures are great. Your visual demonstrations and models on the board help me understand things so much more.
- I would want everyone to be more awake. Really though, I wouldn't change anything. The lectures are presented in a style that, while mirroring the book to make homework and labs easier, are still personalized to professor Killian.
- Nothing
- nothing.
- Nothing really, however it could be stated that Professor Killian is a little stressed during lectures, putting a lot of pressure on himself.
- Nothing, the lectures are to the point, and easy to understand
- nothing,
- More memes.

Slides

- Put the answers to the example on the next slide or somewhere containing the answer *[No, I won't do this. This forces students to write notes and show up to class]*
- I would make it so that the power points have less on them at times, so its clearer and easier to see what is happening especially with code. Also, if the code was broken down and explained a bit more that would help. Plus, more examples of code and its output
- Make things more understanding not just everything on the PowerPoint show the student step by step on how to do the project exactly not just give them something to do without the good knowledge and understanding to do the work.
- Post the slides prior to class so students can have time to print them out and follow along rather than trying to copy the board and if their handwriting is like mine the written notes take a trained professional to decode and translate. having the slides allows me to be able to make notes in the margins and highlight or star information such as proper syntax and examples. *[I do post the slides prior to class]*

Engagement, Methodologies

- I think that the lecture can get lackluster. A student's attention span is about 10 minutes, and I think that breaking every ten minutes with a riddle or a joke could keep the attention of students. *[I do try to keep engagement up with active participation]*
- I would say something more engaging. I enjoy them a lot but sometimes I enjoying getting up and writing on the board or maybe going to the lab and doing it step by step with the instructor. *[I would do this, but it does take away a lot more time from lecture]*
- Professor Killian did go quickly through comparative operators like the greater-than, less-than, etc, and I felt that some of the class might have been confused with that. but otherwise, the layout and description for each of the topics was helpful to me at least.

Participation and Examples

- Have the class participate more rather than just a lecture so that we can test our own knowledge as we go.
- If it would be possible to have more chalkboard examples throughout the lecture, that would be nice.
- Have more practice problems and discuss more.
- Providing more examples maybe. Otherwise I think it is fine.
- I would like to do more work through examples of how to write code and more examples of what finished code would look like and the output.
- I would do more practice problem (not just homework) in class and make sure everyone understands.
- *I'm not sure I can include more examples in class, but I can make extra resources available for consumption outside of class. I also encourage coming to office hours or scheduling times to meet with me.*

List any additional comments

- Beginning of class sometimes meanders due to you being late, getting your lecture set up on the computer, and constantly recapping how to find things on D2L or your website. It often feels like I could be 10 minutes late each day and never miss anything. *[I can address a tardy start. Sometimes technology doesn't work and causes delays. And I will continue to remind people how to access material. The lecture on Friday and Monday started at most 2 minutes delayed, so I respectfully disagree r.e. 10 minutes late and never miss anything]*
- I wish you would have tutoring with 1 on 1 with people rather than just a group thing many people understand way better 1 on 1 with the professor and be more helpful then just stand and not actually show and help them, please help us more when we need it because we are the future who will have some effect on your future life and we paid a lot to be here so more help would be very appreciated *[This is not the role of a professor. If you want individual tutoring, you must go to learning services. If you have questions you want to ask me, you can also show up to office hours or schedule a time to meet with me. It is, however, out of my duties and responsibilities as a professor to provide individual tutoring outside of class]*

- I think talking about the next lab in the lecture time would be beneficial to soak students who seem to struggle with the labs like me. I think just reviewing what we covered in the lecture and what will be in the lab that are similar would even help even though i know that might not be enough critical thinking for the students. *[That's fair. I will try to address lab solutions after the lab is due]*
- I think it would help studying if maybe there were a few suggested problems or sections from the book, either included in the review, or in the Power Point for each lecture. "For further clarification, check pages 135-140", "look at problems 14&16", etc... There is a lot of material in the textbook, and if someone is having trouble but can't make office hours, this may help. *[Noted, also, students can schedule any time to meet with me]*
- I really enjoy little how the professor makes tries to make the class funny. I really hate morning classes but the professor makes it better.
- I might be wrong, but personally i feel that if-statements should be taught before loops (which is the way i learned) because loops are pretty complex and they consist of a test which is like a repeated if-statement so starting off with if-statements would help other students get more experience before they dive into for-loops (and nested for-loops). *[The book orders it in this way and I don't want to jump around the book]*
- Best of luck with grad school and try to get more sleep.
- You're doing great. Thanks for all the help and millions of questions I've asked regarding labs and hw.
- I think you are doing a fantastic job. Coming from a music background, this stuff is normally smoke and mirrors for me, but in your lectures, you break things down into super manageable and efficient ways to understand that make it easy to digest the information.
- You are better than half of the professors I've had. Thanks for doing such a great job. Keep up the good work!!
- Keep it up! And don't stress so much! You're a great professor and everyone loves you. Relax a little more during lectures.
- None, the professor is doing a great job and I truly enjoy the course.
- You're a fun teacher to have.
- NA all said above
- Nothing
- More memes please...maybe an old vine compilation or fun joke too