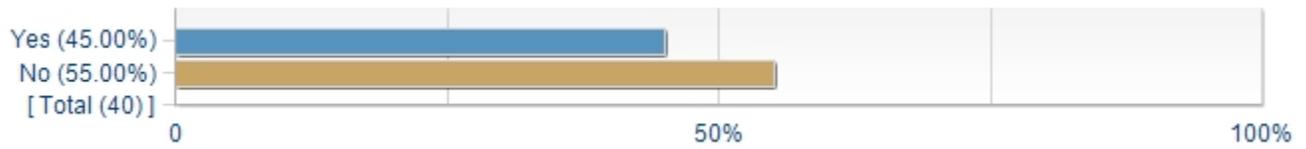# Individual Report Fall 2019 for 20201044866-Intro to Programming (James Hughes)

StFX Student Course Evaluations-FALL 2019
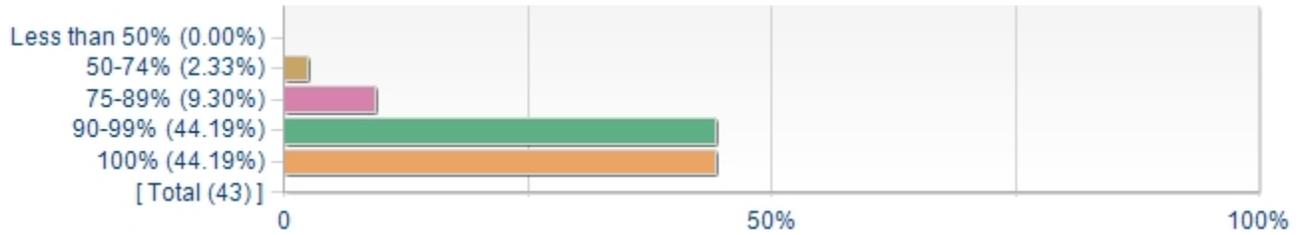
Creation Date   Wed, Jan 15, 2020

Is this a required course?
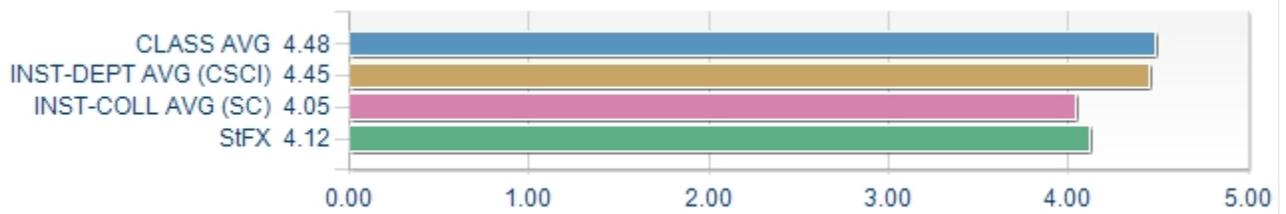
Yes (45.00%)
No (55.00%)
[Total (40)]

0   50%   100%

What percentage of classes did you attend in this course?

Less than 50% (0.00%)
50-74% (2.33%)
75-89% (9.30%)
90-99% (44.19%)
100% (44.19%)
[Total (43)]

0   50%   100%

Stimulation and Challenge

Overall

CLASS AVG 4.48
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.45
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.05
StFX 4.12

1. The level of intellectual challenge in this course is appropriate.

CLASS AVG 4.16
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.18
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 3.98
StFX 4.06

2. The instructor shows interest and enthusiasm in teaching this course.

CLASS AVG 4.79
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.73
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.34
StFX 4.42

3. The instructor stimulated my interest in this subject area.

CLASS AVG 4.44
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.39
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 3.81
StFX 3.93

4. I was encouraged to apply my knowledge in different ways (i.e. critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, writing skills)

CLASS AVG 4.53
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.51
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.06
StFX 4.09
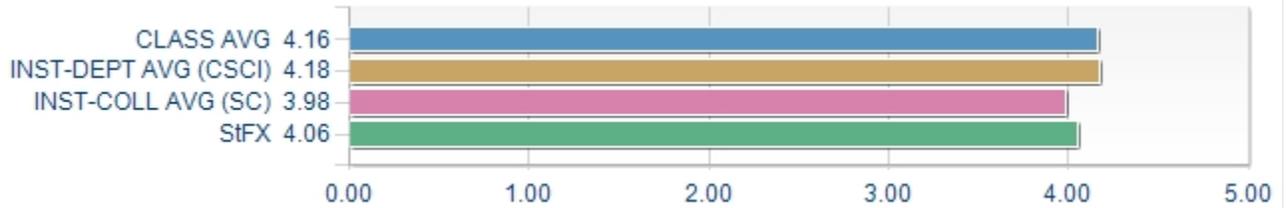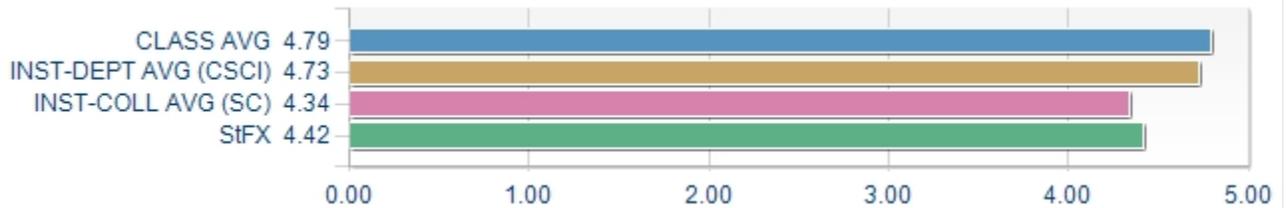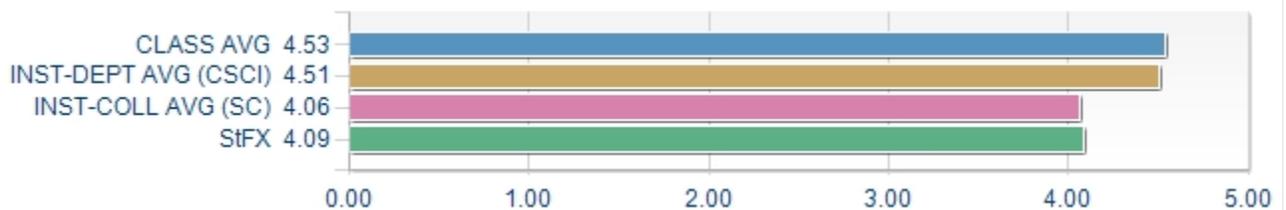
Stimulation and Challenge

Overall	Value
Mean	4.48
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.81

1. The level of intellectual challenge in this course is appropriate.

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.16
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

2. The instructor shows interest and enthusiasm in teaching this course.
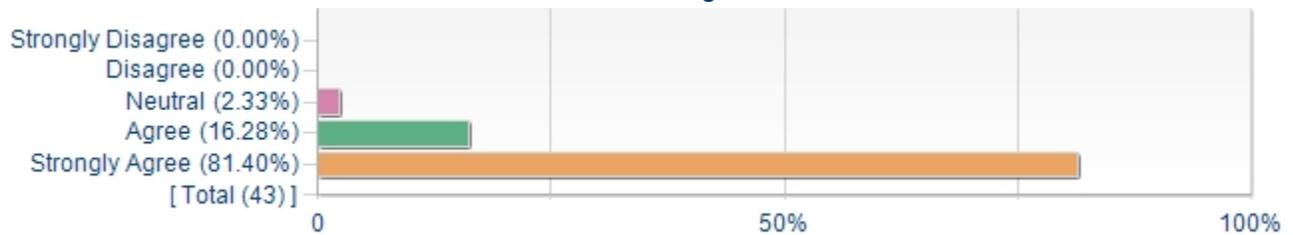
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.79
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.47

Stimulation and Challenge (continued)

3. The instructor stimulated my interest in this subject area.

Strongly Disagree (2.33%)
Disagree (2.33%)
Neutral (9.30%)
Agree (20.93%)
Strongly Agree (65.12%)
[Total (43)]
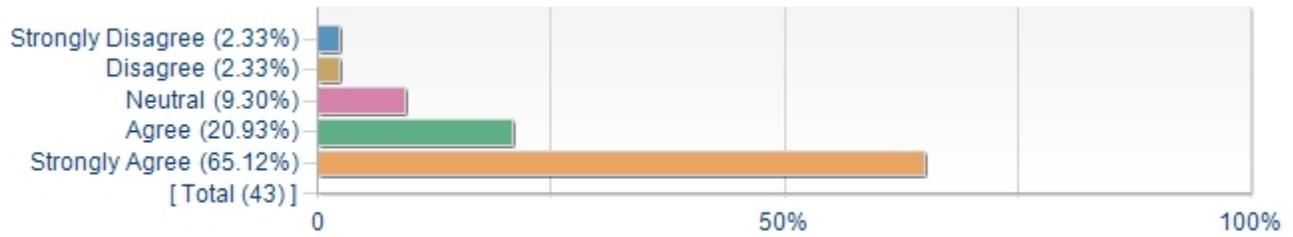
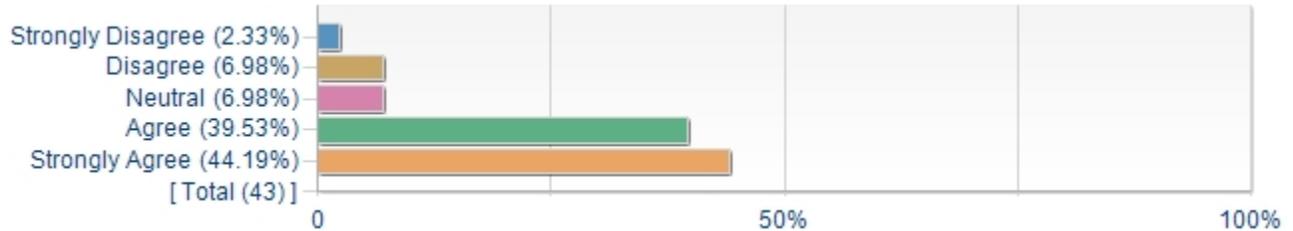| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.44
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.93

4. I was encouraged to apply my knowledge in different ways (i.e. critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, writing skills)

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (4.65%)
Agree (37.21%)
Strongly Agree (58.14%)
[Total (43)]
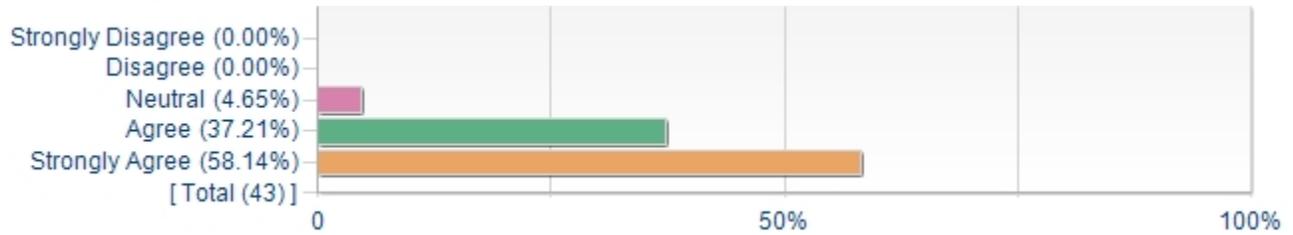
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.53
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.59

Instructor Communication

Overall

CLASS AVG	4.42
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.37
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.05
StFX	4.16

1. The instructor makes students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas.

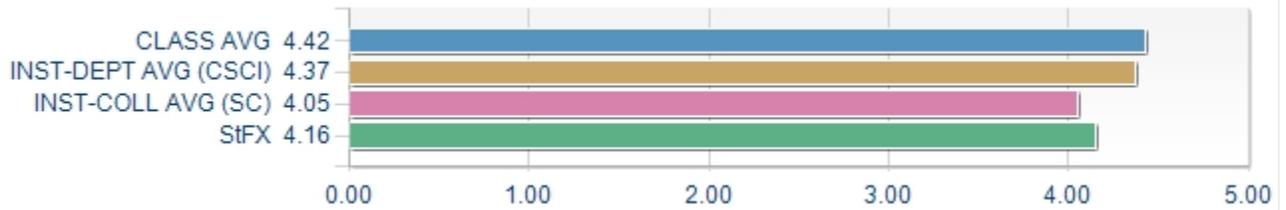|	
CLASS AVG	4.51
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.47
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.17
StFX	4.30

2. The criteria for assessment are clearly communicated to students.

CLASS AVG	4.16
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.16
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	3.94
StFX	4.03

3. The instructor's communication skills (volume, enunciation, speed, tone, vocabulary) are appropriate for the course.

CLASS AVG	4.58
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.53
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.09
StFX	4.20

4. The instructor is effective in organizing and presenting the course materials.

CLASS AVG	4.44
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.33
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.00
StFX	4.10
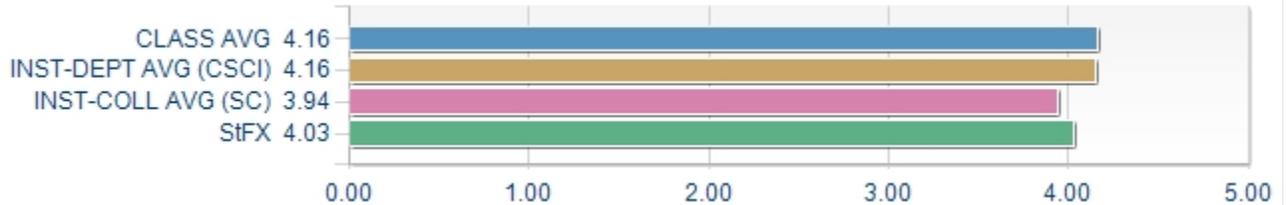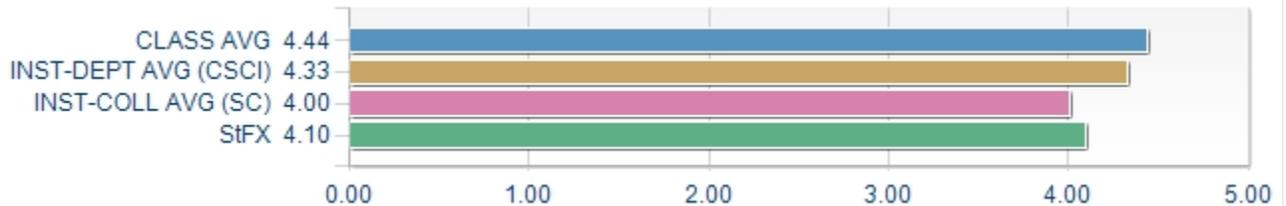
Instructor Communication

Overall	Value
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.82

1. The instructor makes students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas.


```
Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (4.65%)
Neutral (2.33%)
Agree (30.23%)
Strongly Agree (62.79%)
[Total (43)]
          0              50%            100%
```

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.51
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.77

2. The criteria for assessment are clearly communicated to students.


```
Strongly Disagree (2.33%)
Disagree (4.65%)
Neutral (6.98%)
Agree (46.51%)
Strongly Agree (39.53%)
[Total (43)]
          0              50%            100%
```

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.16
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.92

3. The instructor's communication skills (volume, enunciation, speed, tone, vocabulary) are appropriate for the course.
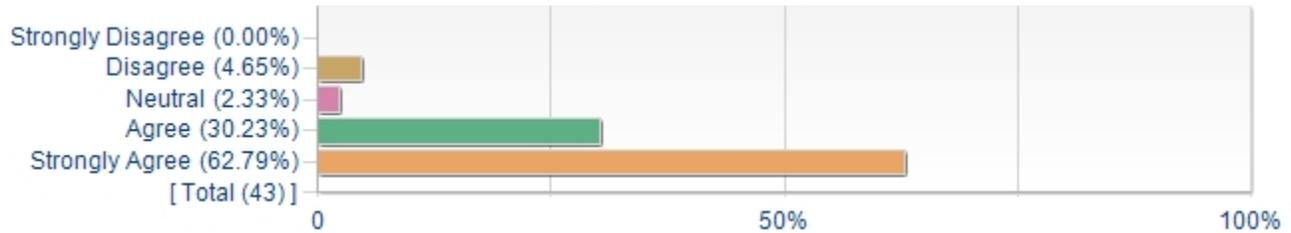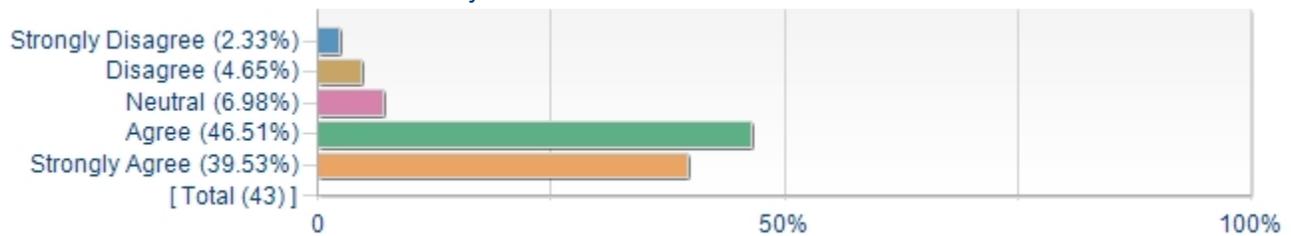


```
Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (6.98%)
Agree (27.91%)
Strongly Agree (65.12%)
[Total (43)]
          0              50%            100%
```
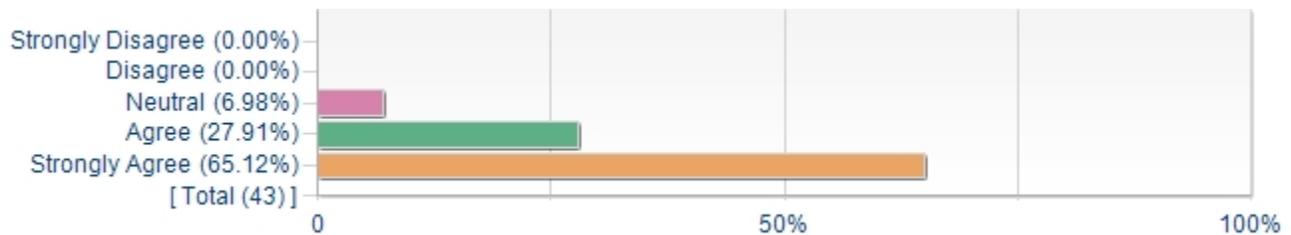
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.63

Instructor Communication (continued)

4. The instructor is effective in organizing and presenting the course materials.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (6.98%)
Neutral (6.98%)
Agree (20.93%)
Strongly Agree (65.12%)
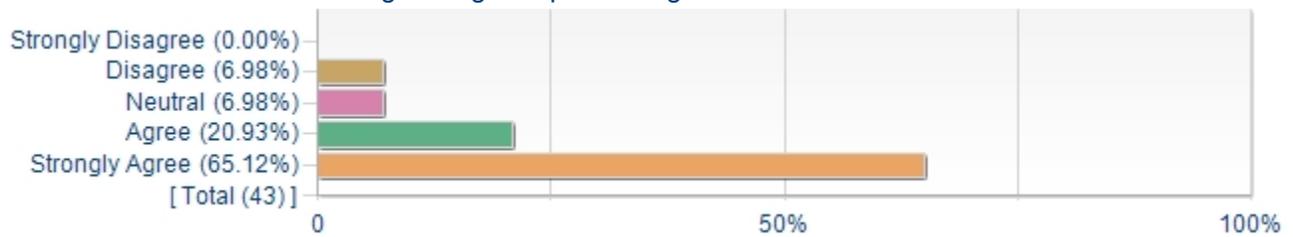[Total (43)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.44
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.91

Knowledge and Expertise

CLASS AVG 4.67
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.63
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.54
StFX 4.59

Knowledge and Expertise

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (2.33%)
Neutral (4.65%)
Agree (16.28%)
Strongly Agree (76.74%)
[Total (43)]
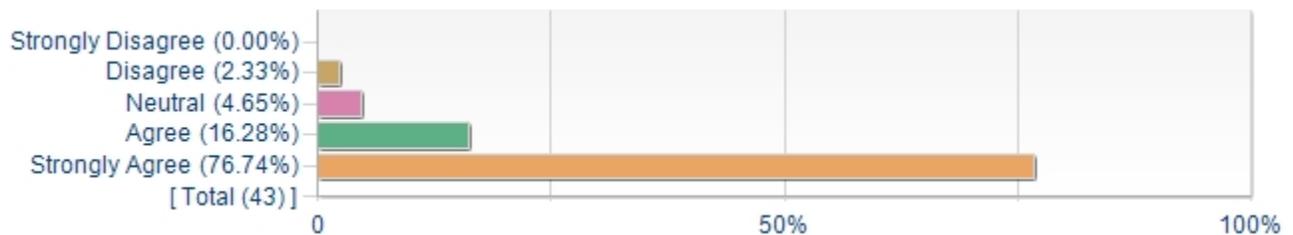
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.68

Course Organization
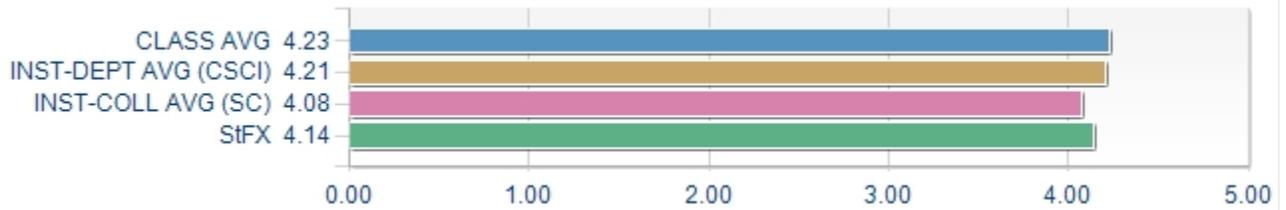
Overall

CLASS AVG	4.23	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.21	
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.08	
StFX	4.14	

1. Assignments and tests are returned to the students within a reasonable time.

CLASS AVG	3.84	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	3.90	
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.14	
StFX	4.16	

2. The instructor adheres to the criteria for assessment and evaluation as described in the course outline.

CLASS AVG	4.28	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.27	
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.22	
StFX	4.25	

3. The course material is well organized.

CLASS AVG	4.51	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.43	
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.04	
StFX	4.10	

4. The instructor is available for consultation outside of class

CLASS AVG	4.40	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.34	
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	4.19	
StFX	4.28	

5. I would recommend this course to fellow students.

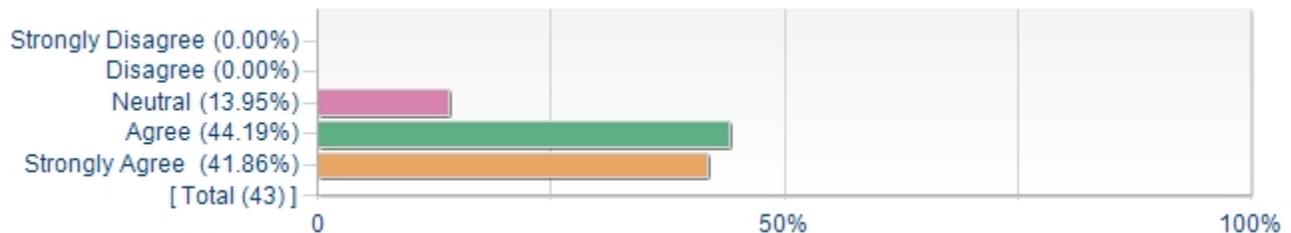|		
CLASS AVG	4.12	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	4.08	
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	3.80	
StFX	3.93	

Course Organization

Overall	Value
Mean	4.23
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.91

1. Assignments and tests are returned to the students within a reasonable time.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (9.30%)
Neutral (23.26%)
Agree (41.86%)
Strongly Agree (25.58%)
[Total (43)]
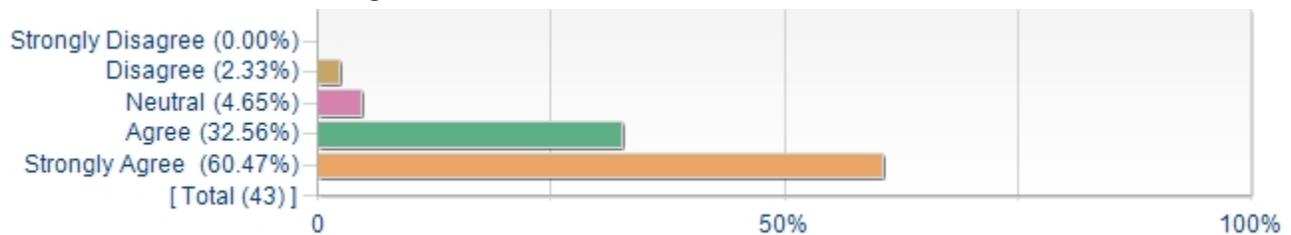
0   50%   100%

Statistics	Value
Mean	3.84
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.92

2. The instructor adheres to the criteria for assessment and evaluation as described in the course outline.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (13.95%)
Agree (44.19%)
Strongly Agree (41.86%)
[Total (43)]

0   50%   100%

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.28
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.70

3. The course material is well organized.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (2.33%)
Neutral (4.65%)
Agree (32.56%)
Strongly Agree (60.47%)
[Total (43)]

0   50%   100%

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.51
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.70

Course Organization (continued)

4. The instructor is available for consultation outside of class
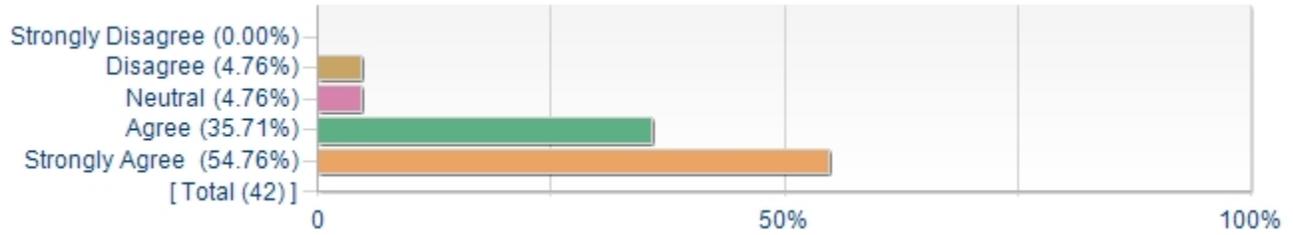
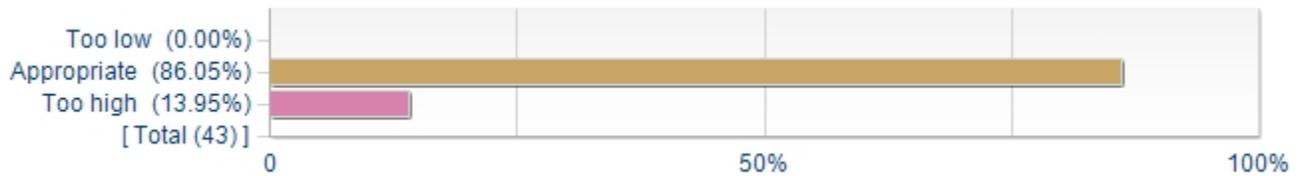| Statistics	Value
Mean	4.40
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.80

5. I would recommend this course to fellow students.
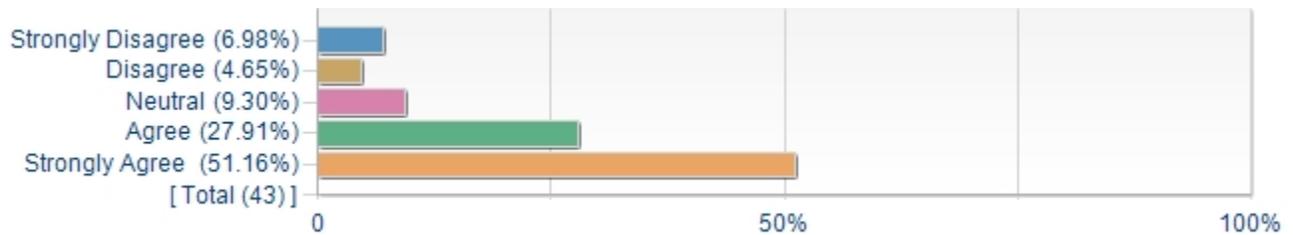
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.12
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.20

The amount of material covered in this course is:

Response	Percentage
Too low	(0.00%)
Appropriate	(86.05%)
Too high	(13.95%)
[Total (43)]	

I would describe this course as:

Category	Value
CLASS AVG	3.84
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	3.78
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	3.42
StFX	3.55

I would describe this course as:

Response	Percentage
1 Poor	(4.65%)
2 Fair	(11.63%)
3 Good	(13.95%)
4 Very Good	(34.88%)
5 Excellent	(34.88%)
[Total (43)]	
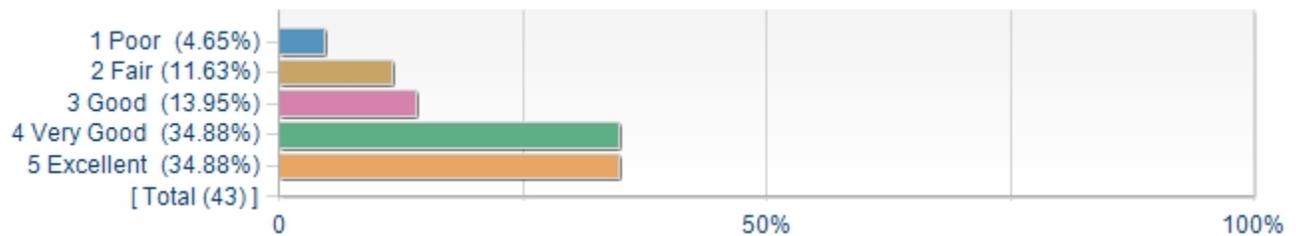
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.84
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.17

What were the best aspects of this course and/or instructor?

Comments
A very nice guy. Is very willing to help in office hours.
Dr. Hughes is an excellent professor, the best I have had at StFX. Very engaging in class, and extremely helpful outside class. The assignments are hard but fair, and the intellectual stimulation in the course is very high. In my 2 years of university so far, this course was the first that I actually excited to do the assignments.
in class times, he is clear with what he is saying.
Instructor
James is an amazing prof, and really got me interested in the course material
Learning to program in general was great and really interesting but the professor also does an amazing job at presenting the material and making it interesting and engaging. My favourite part of the course would probably be how the professor teaches. He makes things very easy to understand and again makes sure it all stays interesting throughout the course.
James is by far my favourite professor. His teaching abilities go far beyond the VAST majority of uninspired, dull, unhelpful professors I have found at StFX. Pay this man more.
More opportunities to apply what we learn in class with other aspects of the course. I.e labs, assignments
So enthusiastic, fantastic prof!
James is always very interactive in his teaching, which I find very beneficial, and it is clear he is very passionate about the subject and what he is teaching. This can be seen whether he is lecturing in front of the class or simply asked a question in a lab which further engages me in the material.
I enjoyed the way the class was taught with a more hands on learning experience.
I found the Corse very interesting and James Hughes to be very enthusiastic about the material.
Learning about the programs
the professor was always enthusiastic, therefore boosting my interest in what we were learning.
The class was engaged at all time and encouraged to discuss the material. It wasn't like a traditional lecture and never felt boring.
James is very enthusiastic in his teaching. Despite knowing mostly everything for the first half or so of the class I still felt engaged in what he was saying.
How engaging the lectures are
The best part about this course was the enthusiasm with which Dr Hughes taught it. No lecture was ever boring because of a lack of energy on his part. The course material was very interesting for me and was unlike anything I'd ever done before which is also one of my favourite parts about it. Another great part about Dr Hughes was that he is very willing to teach above what a student's question was. I've asked him a simple question in lab and he will answer it, and then elaborate further with interesting or useful information surrounding the question. He is also very willing to give his time to student's to discuss computer science outside of the course context. I went to his office hours to discuss the possibility of continuing on in computer science and he talked to me for 45 minutes about it. He showed me where it would lead, interesting aspects of it and was very supportive. His passion for computer science and his willingness to share that with students is his strongest quality as a professor and greatly impoves the quality of the course.
Lectures were very engaging.
Professor Hughes is very enthusiastic and you can really tell he cares about us as students. The course material moved at a really good pace and our instructor did everything he could to make sure we understood the material before moving on.
The instructor does a very good job at explaining the material in a way that we understand and remember. He also is enthusiastic about his subject which really help inspire his students to share that interest.
How well James knew the content and how he seemed excited to teach it every single class. It definitely makes a hard class like this easier to comprehend when the person teaching it seems happy to be there.
– lots of examples
The instructor made everyone feel very comfortable and encouraged students to ask questions in class. He made the class very interesting and interactive, making it easy to grasp the concepts.

Comments

He is really passionate and always willing to take some time to ensure everyone has a good grasp of the material

Are there any aspects of this course or of the instruction that could be improved? If so, please explain.

Comments
The professor doesn't actually show you or help you understand where to use the code he teaches you
Nothing could really be improved by much.
he's a good guy. nothing is wrong with the way he teaches the material. in labs, he should not give us complicated code to solve. I am a beginner of this course and i feel that he should break down the code contents to figure out.
Assignments are too hard
The professor only has one hour a day of office hours and the office hours are in the morning when most people have classes so it's a bit difficult to go seek help after class but otherwise it was an amazing course.
Some parts of the course certainly had a spike in difficulty. Whereas other parts felt too easy.
No
I think spending more time on topics would be useful.
turn in not available early enough
Only thing I would mention is that the two TA's who are assigned to correct the assignments do so very differently. I noticed they weren't consistent with each other which gave me drastically different grades.
The teacher
material was a lot and to fast, just needed to be moved through slower.
I wish that the assignments were handed back a little more fast. The grading on them is also not always clear and can be difficult to understand why you lost points on them.
Some people aren't trying to be computer scientists/ it's not a required course. Could be more respective to their abilities
The course is well laid out in terms of structure and organization. My only complaints about it would be with the lack of compassion or understanding that Dr Hughes shows his students. For example, on the first day of class, Dr Hughes spoke for about 5 minutes about how much he likes to catch cheaters and how we will catch cheaters in this class. He was very aggressive in his speech and it was incredibly offputting to me as a student. Had I not been in second year and this was not one of my first classes, I would have been terrified. It is offensive and unfair to group all students into the class of cheaters and it shows that Dr Hughes is jaded and doesn't offer the student's the benefit of the doubt. Another example would be that he won't accept late assignments for grading. Most professors have a decreasing marking scheme for late assignments but regardless of the excuse, Dr Hughes says he won't accept them. On his website, he says "Moodle was totally broken, it's not my fault it's late." Then he responds "Nice try.". Sometimes moodle is actually broken, or sometimes a computer will crash, or sometimes the internet patches out. His response to many problems such as late assignments and missed labs is too harsh and is unfair to students who genuinely have a problem beyond their control. I believe the course and its students would benefit from Dr Hughes being more understanding and being more willing to give the student's the benefit of the doubt. We are not all lazy, cheating, lying scum who re–submit their friend's assignments, but his policies and the way he speaks to the class shows that he assumes we are. Yes, there will always be students who take advantage of more forgiving professors but I would expect a greater level of understanding and humanity from a professor teaching a first–year intro course.
The instructor doesn't seem helpful when answering questions. Whenever a student asked a question about their code the answer was usually to just "play with it until you figure it out". He really needs to take a chill pill when it comes to academic dishonestly. He would go into rants in the middle of class about how much he hated cheaters and how he enjoyed pursuing them. It didn't do anything but throw us all off and waste class time. This is a beginning level class so the fact that we don't know another way to code something and end up with similar code as another student does not mean we are cheating. Overall I felt that the course moved too quickly and covered concepts that seemed far beyond the scope of our entry level coding class.
Hard material to grasp, assignments were challenging.
I find the instructor very intimidating.
I don't believe that there are any improvements to be made.
The assignments often feel more difficult than the other work we do for this class

Do you have any other comments about the course and/or the instructor?

Comments
Keep doing this course this way, it really works.
should need longer office hours.
No
Really enjoyed the course and instructor in general and I'm excited to take CSCI 162 with him next term.
I will be actively looking for more of this Prof's courses in the future! It's clear he's not just at the school for research like many of the prof's I've had
Great professor, very knowledgeable although gets a little sassy
This was by far my favorite course and made my first semester of university bearable, thank you.
I felt that the assignments were too challenging for an intro to computer science course. They were quite difficult and as it is only an introductory course where many students had no prior experience with computer science, I felt that they were a little unreasonable. Also, I felt like I was not welcome to come to office hours with the way the the instructor spoke about them.
Amazing prof! Really challenging in a good way. Only class that kept me attentive.
Assignments are ridiculously hard
Despite what I said above, I really enjoyed this course and learned a lot from Dr Hughes. It's great to learn from a professor who is so enthusiastic and willing to teach. I took this course because I was curious about computer science and I wanted to learn about it. I've loved the class and will probably do a joint major or at the very least, a minor in it. Thank you for your time this semester, I appreciate everything you've taught me!
Great instructor
Overall I loved this course. Great Job!
James is a great professor who is highly organized. He challenges the class but also gives reasonable amounts of time to complete assignments and such.
Sick guy super nice made me want to major in comp sci