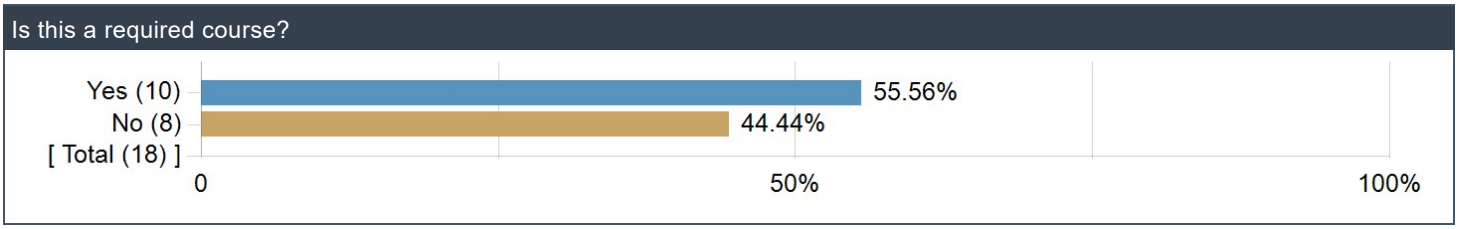
St. Francis Xavier University

Winter 2025 Individual Report for 20251044768-Programming & Data Structures (James Hughes)

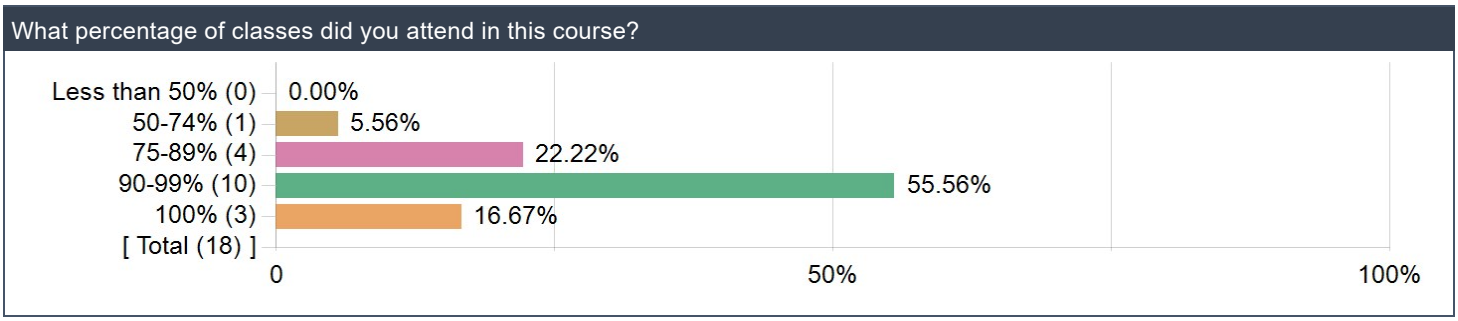
Creation Date: **Thursday, May 15, 2025**

blue®

Is this a required course?

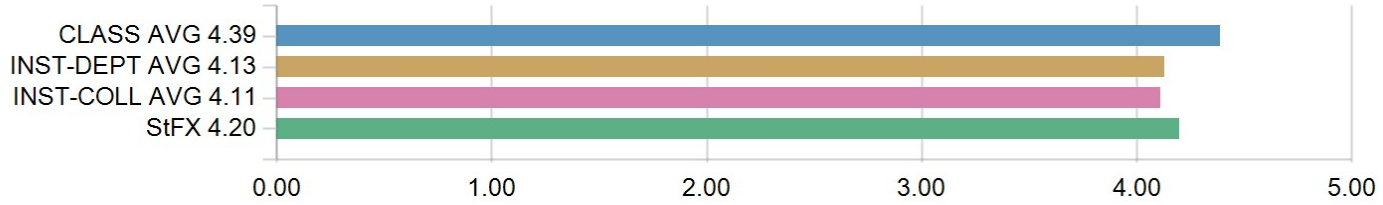


What percentage of classes did you attend in this course?

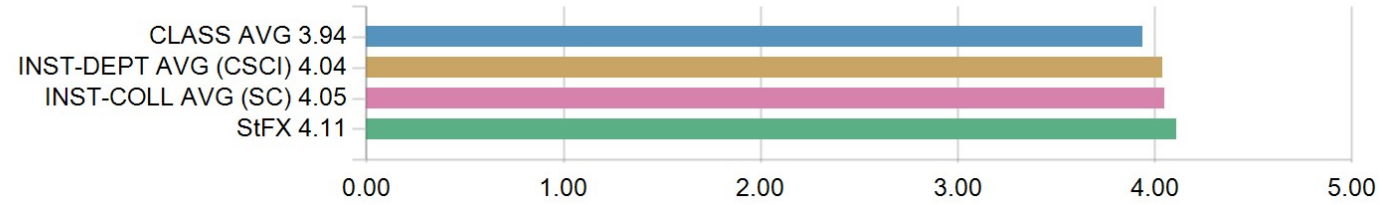


Stimulation and Challenge

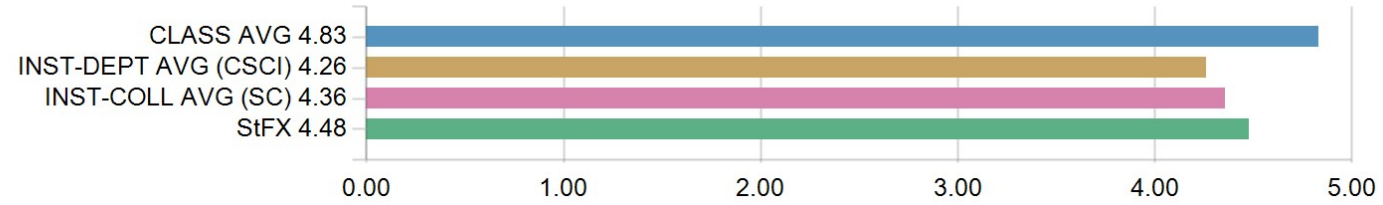
Overall



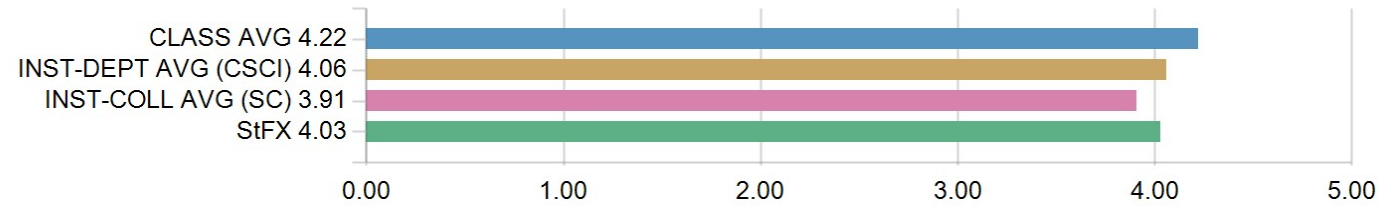
1. The level of intellectual challenge in this course is appropriate.



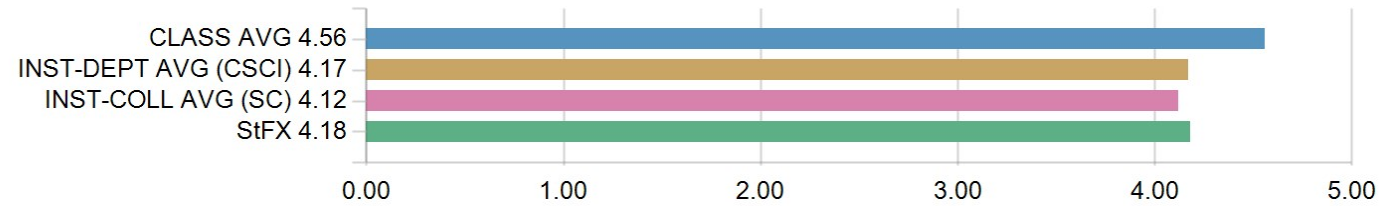
2. The instructor shows interest and enthusiasm in teaching this course.



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



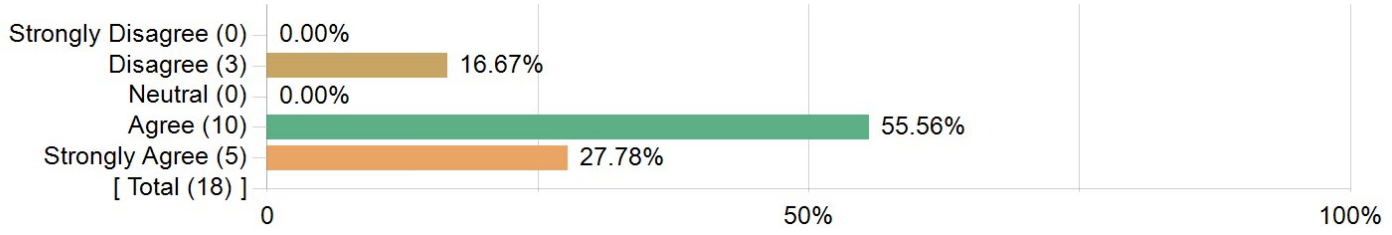
4. I was encouraged to apply my knowledge in different ways (i.e. critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, writing skills)



Stimulation and Challenge

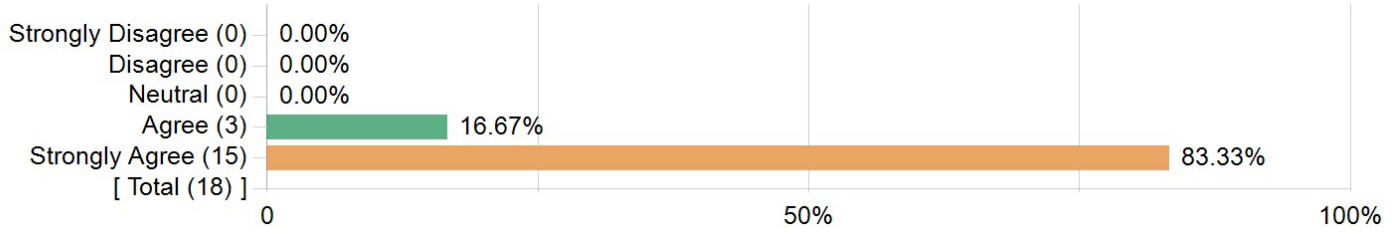
Overall	Value
Mean	4.39
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.85

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



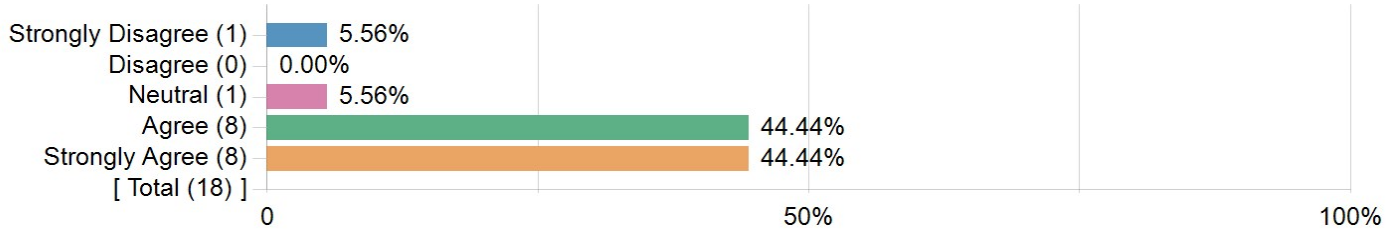
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.94
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

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



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.83
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.38

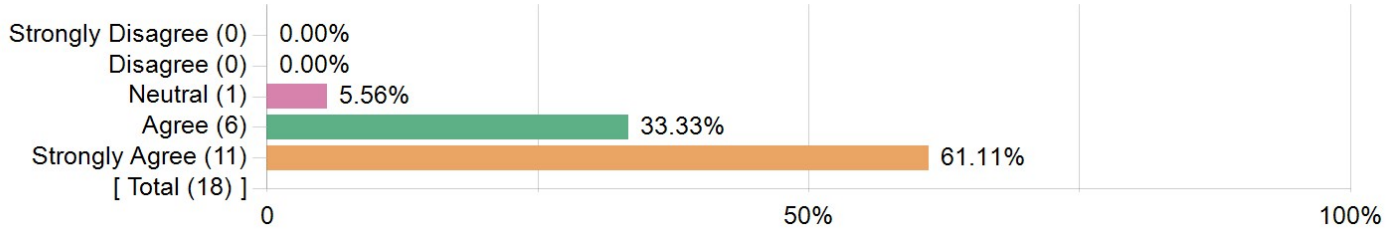
3. The instructor stimulated my interest in this subject area.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

Stimulation and Challenge (continued)

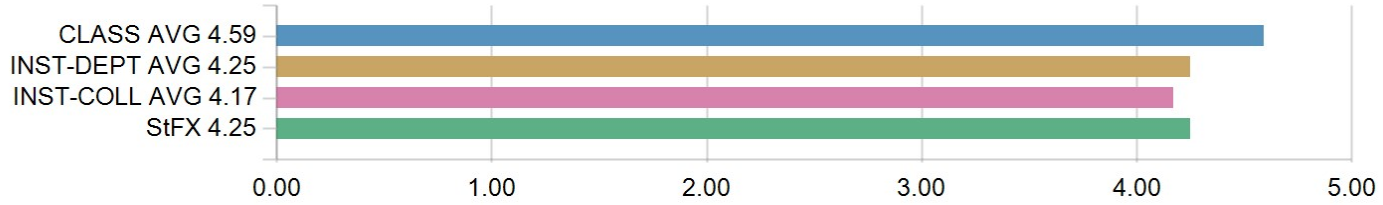
4. I was encouraged to apply my knowledge in different ways (i.e. critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, writing skills)



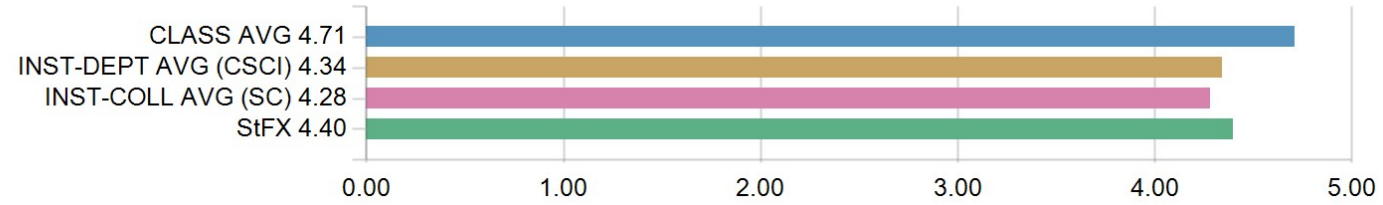
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.62

Instructor Communication

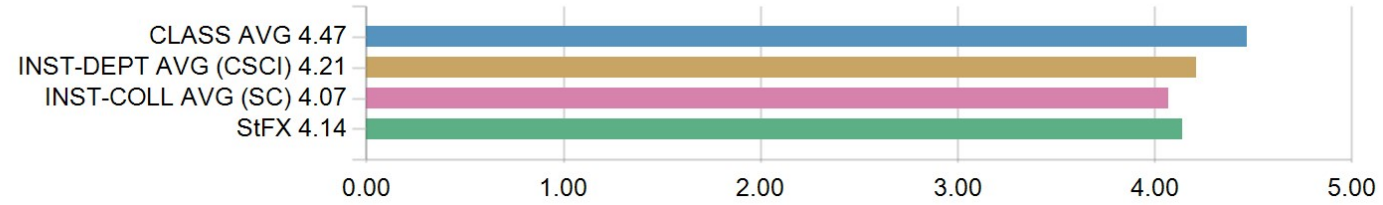
Overall



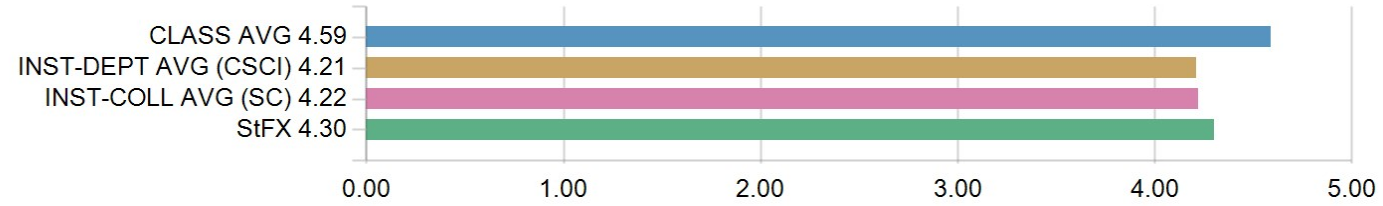
1. The instructor makes students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas.



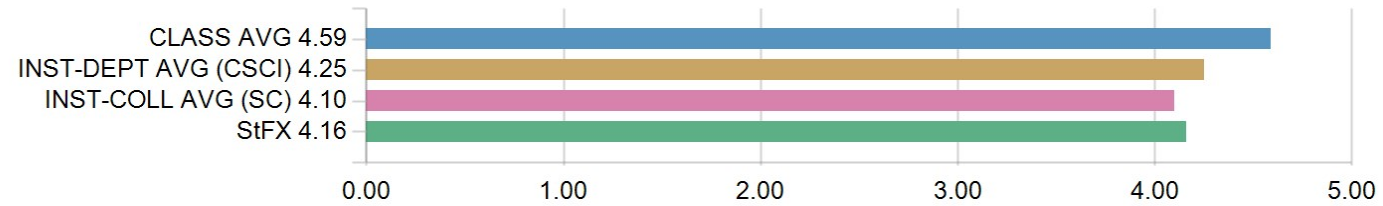
2. The criteria for assessment are clearly communicated to students.



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



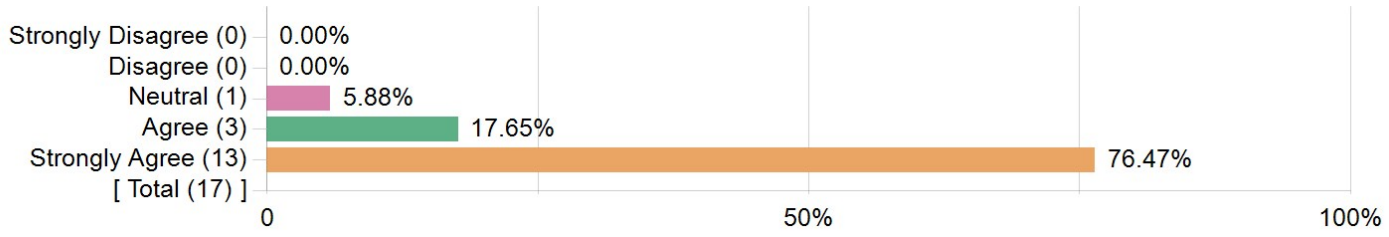
4. The instructor is effective in organizing and presenting the course materials.



Instructor Communication

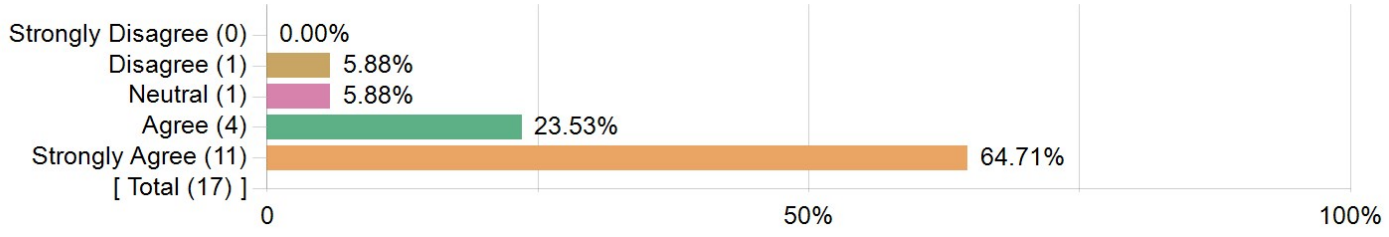
Overall	Value
Mean	4.59
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.67

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



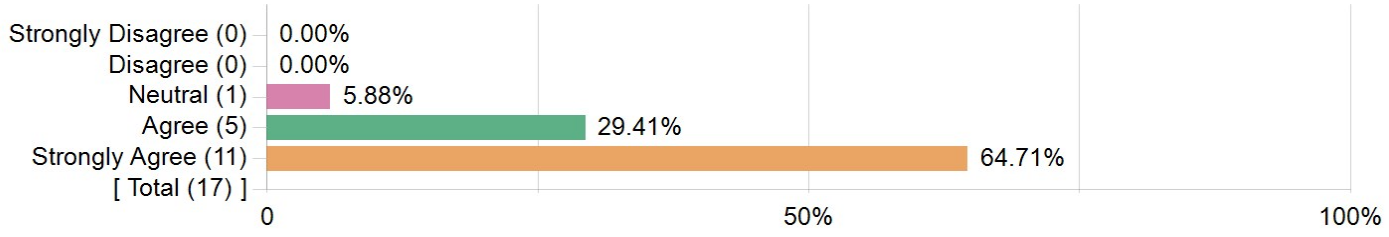
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.71
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.59

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



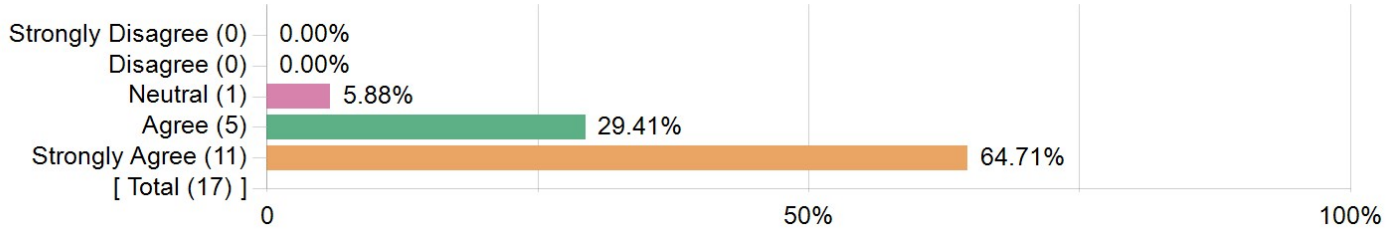
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.47
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.87

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



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.59
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.62

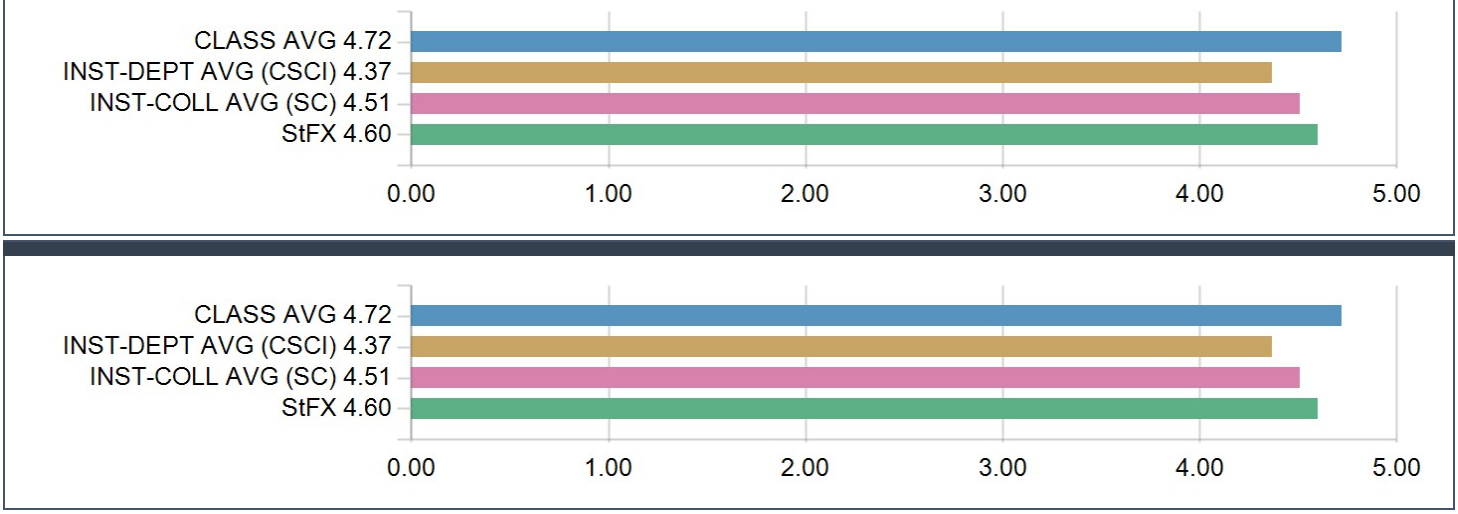
4. The instructor is effective in organizing and presenting the course materials.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.59
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.62

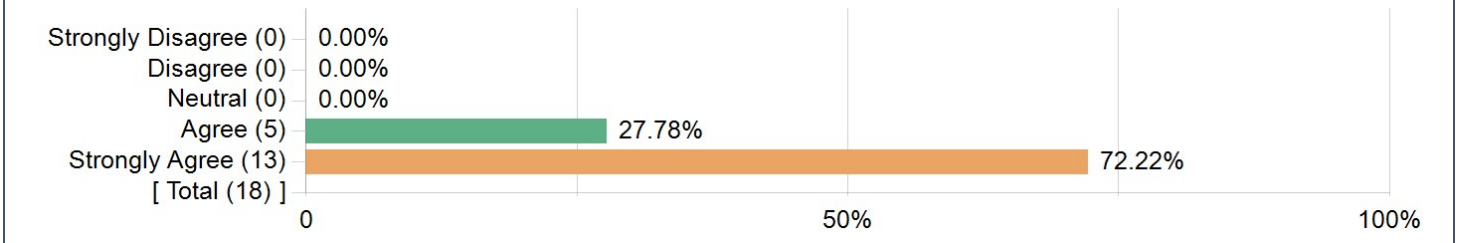
Knowledge and Expertise

Overall



Knowledge and Expertise

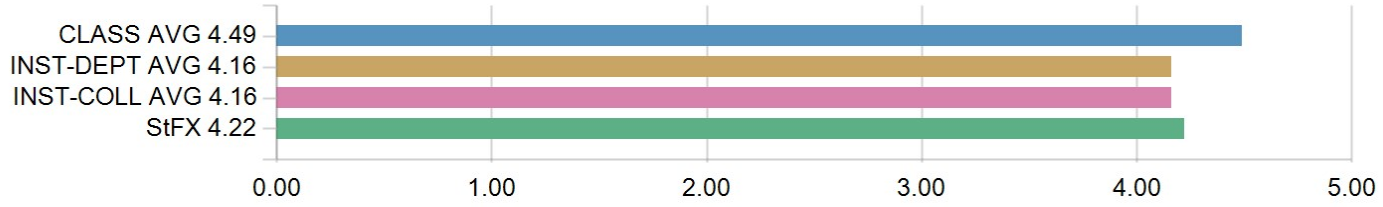
The instructor displays suitable knowledge in the subject area.



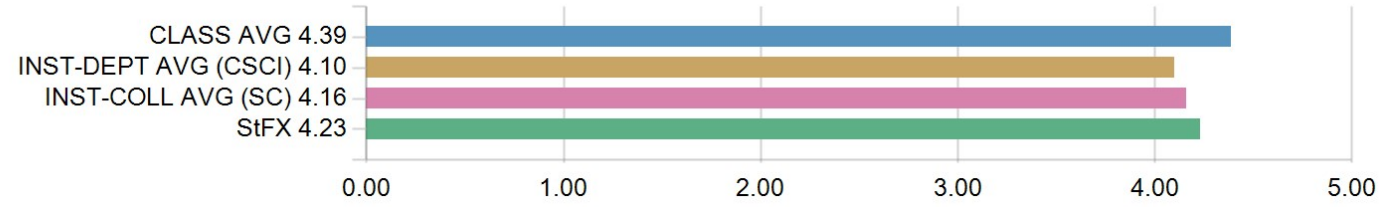
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.72
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.46

Course Organization

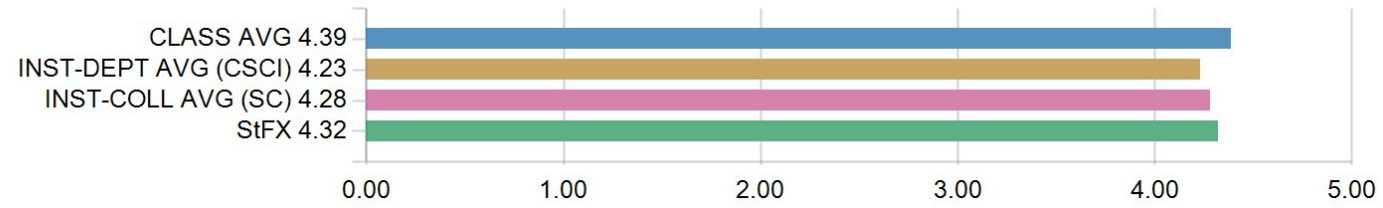
Overall



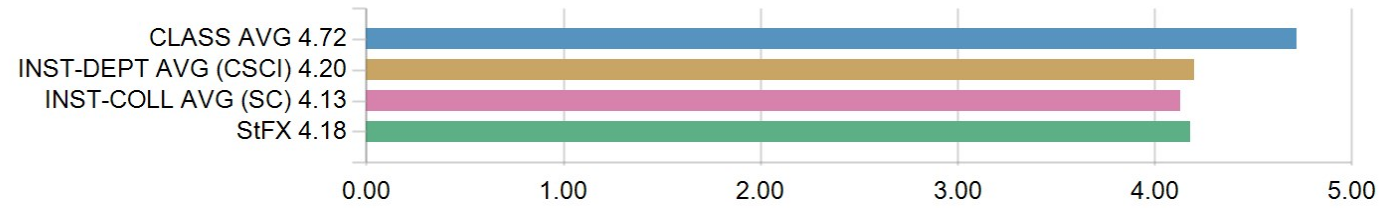
1. Assignments and tests are returned to the students within a reasonable time.



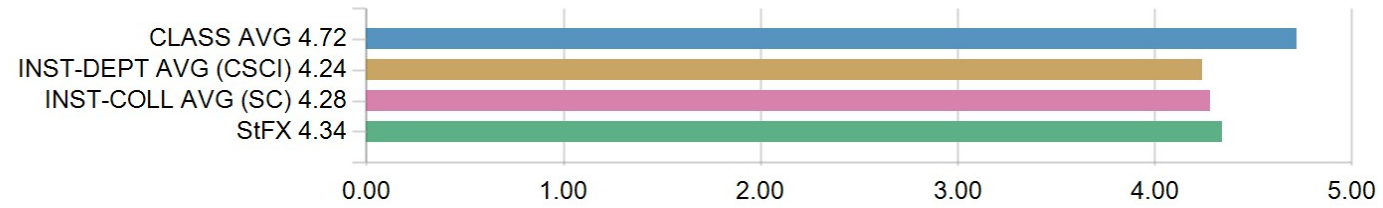
2. The instructor adheres to the criteria for assessment and evaluation as described in the course outline.



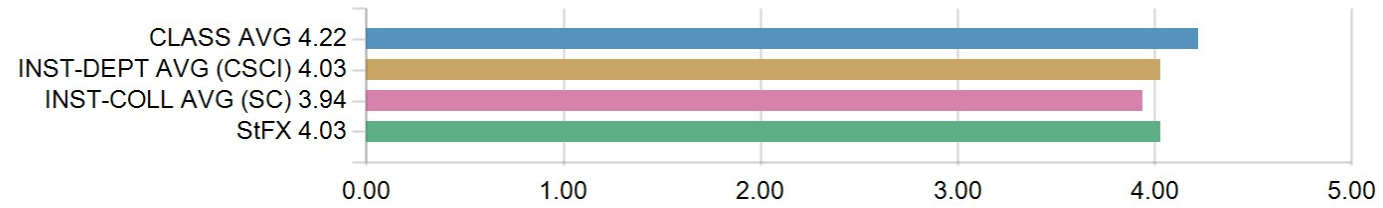
3. The course material is well organized.



4. The instructor is available for consultation outside of class



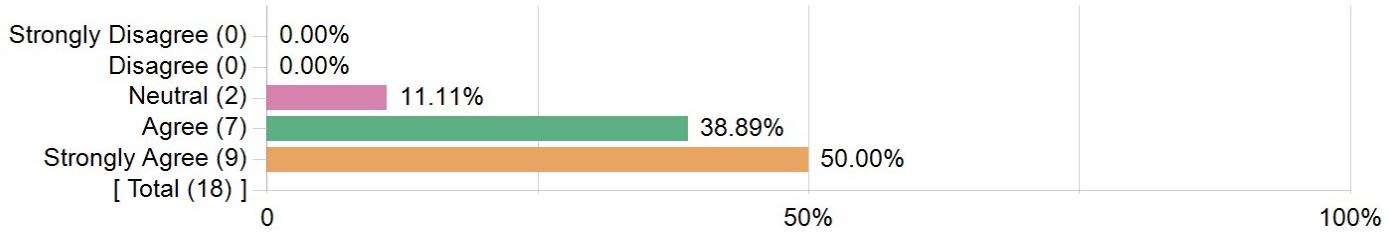
5. I would recommend this course to fellow students.



Course Organization

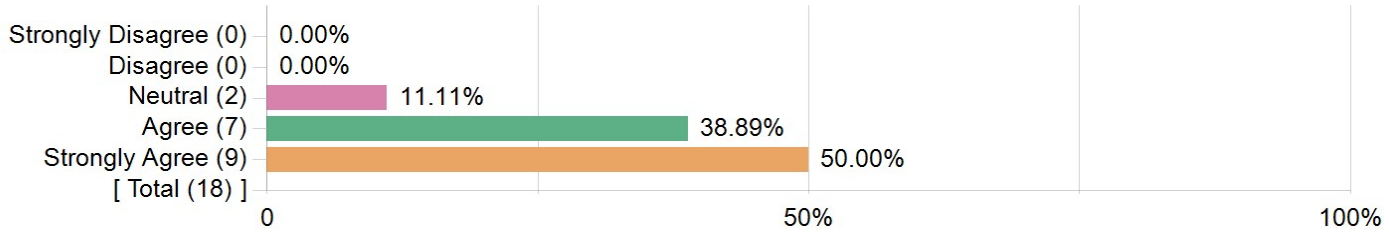
Overall	Value
Mean	4.49
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.75

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



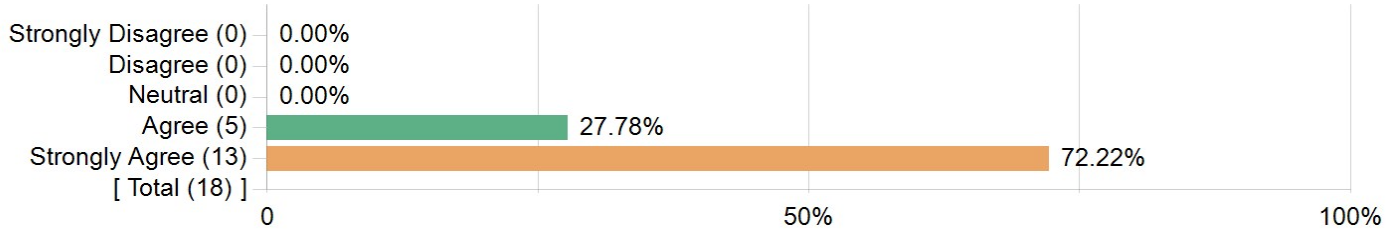
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.39
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.70

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



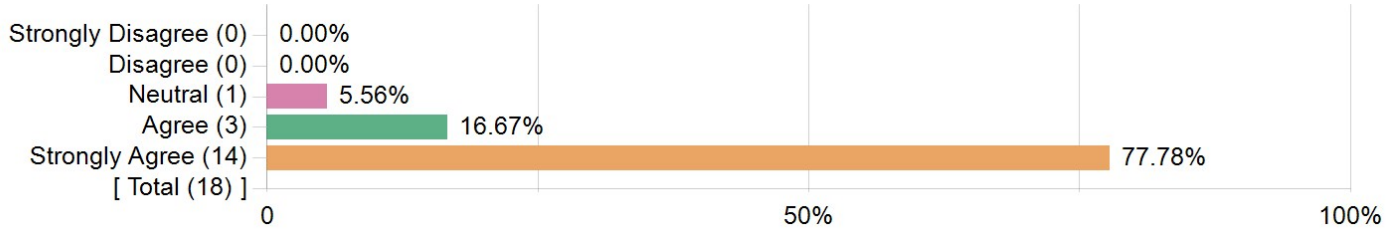
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.39
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.70

3. The course material is well organized.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.72
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.46

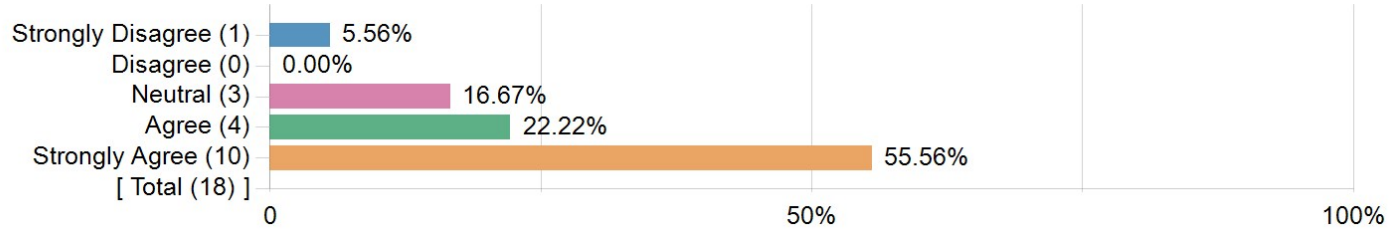
4. The instructor is available for consultation outside of class



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.72
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.57

Course Organization (continued)

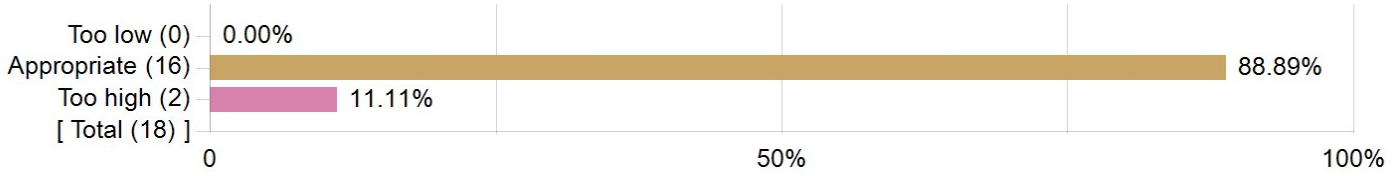
5. I would recommend this course to fellow students.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.11

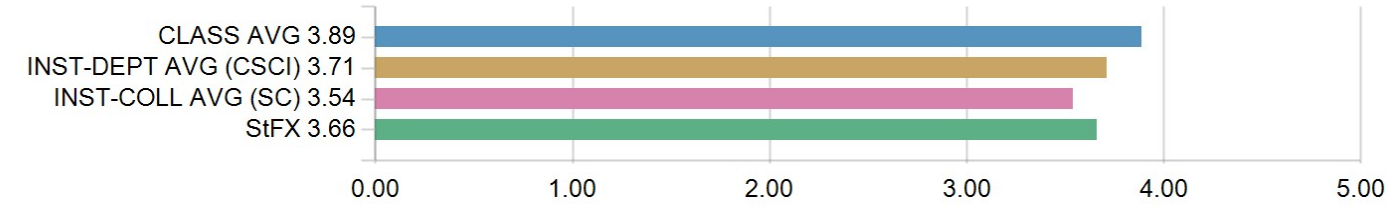
The amount of material covered in this course is:

The amount of material covered in this course is:



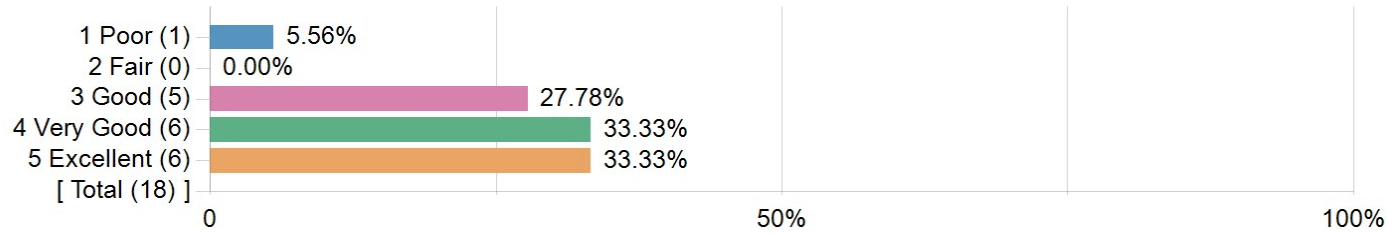
I would describe this course as:

Overall



I would describe this course as:

I would describe this course as:



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.89
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.08

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

Comments
Very knowledgeable professor
The engaging system run by the instructor
this course is good on brainstorming since our subjects are covering data structure we have to think more deeply about algorithms.
Students–teacher interactions. The course website is well organized and has a lot of helpful information about the subject. The instructor records his lectures so I can always catch up when I have to miss classes. The "small tangents" he goes on are helpful in adding more context to the subject, and are fun!
Well organized and instructor has done a good job.
Learning about coding is fun even though I'm not very good at it and Dr Hughes seems like he is really trying to teach it in a fun and engaging way
He describes things well and differently to make the students understand it better
The labs really help to make sure you understand the material and how to implement it.
Dr. Hughes is very enthusiastic about the material, and runs a very engaging lecture. The assignments are all designed really well, and pose interesting challenges to solve.
Instructor provides many sources for students looking for extra help (office hours, emailing, websites, recorded lectures).
the expectations that professor Hughes has for his students to do well in his class are abundantly clear. this makes it really easy to know exactly what you need to do to succeed on his tests. the information is laid out in a very digestible manner on his website, something that isn't always the case with other professors. the material aswell as the timeline for when you need to know that material is basically spoon fed to students.
I really love the enthusiasm and teaching style of this course. It is very hands on and I always feel like the instructor is happy to answer questions and help.
Enthousiasm, interesting
All course notes were available online, and all lectures were recorded and uploaded to youtube
,
The labs were perfect practice for students to learn and get a deeper understanding of the material, which helps to prepare for midterm and final exams.
The layout of the material covered and the accessibility of course material
The best part of the course is that it gives a working understanding of a wide variety of topics that all affect how you think about computer science problems. The assessments are fair, and returned quickly. Dr. Hughes is always available during his office hours, which makes it convenient to ask questions.

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

Comments
Jump in difficulty from 161 to 162 was way to high.
No thoughts, moving to one midterm over 2 was a good decision
A cheat sheet on exams maybe, for the most commonly used methods and such. Akin to what we have in real life when we code.
Include more information about what to expect for midterm tests.
with this course specifically there wasn't a lot of things in class where we had to try out coding as part of the lecture unlike 161 so maybe more stuff like that?
Description on the assignments, some things on assignments we do not have the knowledge to do and it is alot of research to find what we are looking for
Not that I know of.
It is a little challenging, but I wouldn't necessarily change it. Not a lot of collaboration between peers, but I think that it more on the students than the instructor.
I don't think there is a more stream lined way to learn this material.
The course load is very high with a frankly insane amount of content we cover. If you fall behind even a bit you will be left behind. The teaching methods is not for everyone and it takes a certain kinda mind to fully appreciate this course. I wish it was more accessible, as in if the course methods work for you, you will do amazing and it is the perfect for you if not you will fail.
Often when doing the labs, the material needed for the lab had not yet been covered in class. In other words it felt like we were always a lecture behind.
have 2 midterms, not have every single lab ahead of lecture material.
A more detailed explanation of topics not taught in class in assignments instead of self learning them.
I think that the pacing at the start of the course, learning the transition to java from python, could be a little bit quicker.

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

Comments
Professor only teaches to the top end of the class, making it hard to follow lectures if you're not a 95–100 student. Comes of as arrogant and a bit judgemental
hopefully more people show up to the office hours cause nobody does
No.
The university needs to promote the computer science program more so that more people end up taking this class
Great class!
More time spent on each topic and less topics in general. The shift from python to Java is a bit brutal and I fully believe the course would be better if it was in the same language as 161., either Java or Python not both.
.
Dr. Hughes is a great prof, and provides an encouraging environment, while pushing you to solve problems more independently. He marks faster than any other prof, and is always willing to offer direction or support when needed.