

# Western University

## 2015-16 Course and Instructor Evaluations: Fall / Winter

Unit: **Computer Science**  
 Instructor: **Hughes, James Alexander**

Course: **Computer Science 2120A - 001**  
 Session: **1159**

Enrollment: **87**  
 Respondents: **38**

Question	# of Responses	DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSES							Mean	Std.Dev.	Median
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
1. Displays Enthusiasm	38	1	0	0	1	7	11	18	6.1	1.2	6
	%	3	0	0	3	18	29	47			
2. Well Organized	38	2	0	1	5	13	8	9	5.3	1.5	5
	#	5	0	3	13	34	21	24			
3. Explains Concepts Clearly	38	3	2	3	4	9	12	5	4.8	1.7	5
	%	8	5	8	11	24	32	13			
4. Encourages Participation	37	1	0	0	1	9	14	12	5.9	1.2	6
	%	3	0	0	3	24	38	32			
5. Responses Clear and Thorough	38	4	1	3	5	11	8	6	4.7	1.8	5
	%	11	3	8	13	29	21	16			
6. Interesting Presentation	38	1	1	1	3	7	14	11	5.6	1.4	6
	#	3	3	3	8	18	37	29			
7. Shows Concern	36	4	3	1	10	11	3	4	4.3	1.7	4.5
	%	11	8	3	28	31	8	11			
8. Available for Consultation	34	2	0	4	3	9	11	5	5.1	1.6	5
	%	6	0	12	9	26	32	15			
9. Communicates Well	38	2	1	2	11	7	8	7	4.9	1.6	5
	%	5	3	5	29	18	21	18			
10. Adheres to Course Objectives	37	2	3	2	6	7	7	10	5.0	1.8	5
	#	5	8	5	16	19	19	27			
11. Relates Topics Well	38	1	1	4	6	8	11	7	5.1	1.5	5
	%	3	3	11	16	21	29	18			
12. Provides Fair Evaluations	38	3	3	5	6	6	10	5	4.6	1.8	5
	%	8	8	13	16	16	26	13			
13. Grades Work Promptly	36	2	0	3	11	13	7	0	4.5	1.2	5
	%	6	0	8	31	36	19	0			
14. Good Motivator	38	5	1	3	5	6	11	7	4.8	2.0	5
	%	13	3	8	13	16	29	18			
AVERAGE OF 1 TO 14											
15. Overall Effectiveness	38	2	1	5	3	9	12	6	5.0	1.6	5
	%	5	3	13	8	24	32	16			
COURSE AS LEARNING EXPERIENCE	38	2	4	4	4	6	9	9	4.9	1.9	5
	%	5	11	11	11	16	24	24			

STUDENT DATA		
Percentage of classes attended		
>= 90%	%	75.7
70 - 89%	%	21.6
50 - 69%	%	0.0
20 - 49%	%	0.0
<20%	%	2.7
Total	#	37

Expected Grade		
A	%	56.8
B	%	37.8
C	%	5.4
D	%	0.0
F	%	0.0
Total	#	37

Course Status		
Required	%	36.1
Optional	%	63.9
Total	#	36

Initial Level of Enthusiasm		
High	%	64.9
Medium	%	27.0
Low	%	8.1
Total	#	37

2 courses are combined: Computer Science 2120A & Digital Humanities 2220A

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**2015-16 Course and Instructor Evaluations - Fall / Winter**

**Instructor Comments**

Unit: Computer Science  
Instructor: Hughes, James Alexander  
Course: Computer Science 2120A <001>  
Session: 1159

James is very enthusiastic and explains concepts clearly. He makes learning the content enjoyable (since he's pretty funny). Overall, this class was a great learning opportunity that I will recommend to others. Thank you!

Enthusiastic. Enjoyable classes.

Really, really good presenter. Explained concepts very well. Went through examples too quickly at times, though.

You are very energetic and explain concepts very clearly. As a student who knows nothing about programming. I feel you have done very well to teach this as an introductory course.

Consider letting students know what each question is out of while they are writing the practical. It doesn't seem fair to be unaware of how you are being evaluated while answering questions. Overall, great enthusiasm and passion for computer science. Inspiring for a beginning coder!

Class is very interesting, however it would be more helpful if we learn how to apply stuff from class in our assignments a little more.

Does a good job getting students to participate in class. Does a lot of in-class activities and always goes over them in case you didn't get it. Very enthusiastic during lectures and clearly enjoys what he's doing.

Projects are fun and engaging and can connect with relevant topics. FIRST time I've felt like I truly understood multiple-dimension arrays. Class is always fun and I look forward to it. Prof is funny and engages excellently with students.

Explain the basics more. I find you skip over things because you assume everybody knows them. This is a no pre-req course, we don't all know high level math or have programmed before. Appreciate the smile though.

I like how enthusiastic you are. Even though I don't particularly like the material, I enjoy coming to class, because you are good at presenting the material.



Very funny. Seems like a lovely person, but horrible Professor. As an intro course, you cannot teach solely to the level of the experienced programmer in the class. Have had some experience in programming, and you have completely turned me off of computer science. Presents himself as unapproachable when he berates and looks down on those who don't understand the material.

Could explain activities more thoroughly and slowly when we take them up, because concepts are often new and the people who contributed the answers are the rare ones who understand. Seems to teach in a way geared towards individuals with a background in computer science or programming, when the course is supposed to be introductory. Can come off as unapproachable when talking about not understanding basic concepts. I enjoyed the personal touches during lectures (i.e. the Blue Jays).

Excellent, engaging, and funny teacher but is not clear on assignment requirements.

It doesn't feel like James is familiar with the content he's trying to teach. Seems unprepared, but often condescending to students in any case (i.e. answering student questions by telling them to just Google it for all questions).

Very energetic and enthusiastic. I enjoy coming to class.

Good Prof but sometimes I feel like you rush topics and don't give enough practice. I wish you would give more examples and teach us step-by-step since it is an intro course.

**2015-16 Course and Instructor Evaluations - Fall / Winter**

**Course Comments**

Unit: Computer Science  
Instructor: Hughes, James Alexander  
Course: Computer Science 2120A <001>  
Session: 1159

- The assignments cover a lot of material not taught in class.
- Assignments don't seem to be a good reflection of what we learned and not marked fairly. People who put lots of effort have much better written code and get no added benefit.
- \* The course would be a lot better with smaller quizzes to make sure you don't fall behind/pin-point areas of weakness.
- Only complaint is the practical. It happened during midterms, which left very little time to work on it. I would suggest giving the questions out at the beginning of the year or having it later in the course.
- Does not seem like an introductory course at all, considering students taking the course have never done coding before.
- Practical preparation took a very long time for me to practice all 9 when only three were asked at the examination. I would have preferred to have 5 or 6 to work on.
- Assignments and practical were very challenging for people with no programming background.
- Fair course with rapidly escalating difficulty. Very logic based course that requires little studying.
- Assignments are far more difficult than activities done in class.
- Lectures were not preparative enough, each element is barely mentioned/covered before moving on to the next. Needs to be more guiding in terms of what we need to learn.
- For students new to Python, projects might be overwhelming. However, lots of help is available through tutorials and office hours, so any complaining is more due to a lack of prep work on the students' part, IMO.
- Assignments should be explained more. Practical and assignment 3 in the same week was nuts. I like how the course is interactive. Not boring. Thank you for the course, James.
- Although the assignments are a fair assessment of our abilities, I didn't feel that the practical exam was an accurate reflection of our skills. I felt like it was testing our ability to regurgitate code that we had already written, rather than our understanding of the concepts we learned. I do like the in-class collaboration to work on activities though, I think that has really helped.
- This course is supposed to be an intro course. The Professor should not teach solely to the experienced graduate students who have already got computer knowledge. The layout of the course is awful and unorganized. The material and knowledge needed to complete the assignments are taught the day the assignment is due.
- Course is for people with little to no background in computer science. Material and Professor should teach basic concepts. Less information and material to allow for a more thorough and complete understanding of the fundamentals of computer science. Material/knowledge required for the assignments was taught the day before/the week before the assignments were due.
- Amazing course. Maybe needs a bit more "computer science" as opposed to programming.
- Course focuses so much on basics and then rushes through important data structures. It's not sufficient to provide a ball for the activities demanded in the course. Pick up the pace for initial, intuitive concepts and focus more on the larger concepts.
- Interesting content. Practical content. Exactly what I was hoping for in the course. Fun, challenging assignments.
- Consider most of the class has experience in Matlab or some programming courses, it could be good to have optional assignments that are completion based and quite challenging.
- Course has too much happening for an intro course. I wish they would cut out content and focus a lot on key things.

Big complaints about content  
↳ covers a lot  
↳ "Not intro"

Assignments not tied to lecture material well

# Western University

## 2015-16 Course and Instructor Evaluations: Fall / Winter

Unit: **Computer Science**  
 Instructor: **Hughes, James Alexander**

Course: **Computer Science 9642A - 001**  
 Session: **1158**

Enrollment: **10**  
 Respondents: **6**

Question	# of Responses	COURSE and INSTRUCTOR DATA										Mean	Std.Dev.	Median
		Distribution of Responses												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	7				
1. Displays Enthusiasm	6	#	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	4				
		%	0	0	0	0	0	33	67	67				
2. Well Organized	6	#	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	2				
		%	0	0	17	17	0	33	33	33				
3. Explains Concepts Clearly	6	#	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2				
		%	0	0	0	17	17	33	33	33				
4. Encourages Participation	6	#	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2				
		%	0	0	0	0	0	67	33	33				
5. Responses Clear and Thorough	6	#	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1				
		%	0	0	0	33	33	17	17	17				
6. Interesting Presentation	6	#	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	1				
		%	0	0	0	0	17	67	17	17				
7. Shows Concern	6	#	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	1				
		%	17	0	0	17	33	17	17	17				
8. Available for Consultation	6	#	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	2				
		%	17	0	0	17	0	33	33	33				
9. Communicates Well	6	#	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2				
		%	0	17	0	17	17	17	33	33				
10. Adheres to Course Objectives	6	#	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	2				
		%	0	0	0	0	50	17	33	33				
11. Relates Topics Well	6	#	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1				
		%	0	0	0	17	17	50	17	17				
12. Provides Fair Evaluations	6	#	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	1				
		%	0	0	17	0	33	33	17	17				
13. Grades Work Promptly	6	#	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1				
		%	0	17	0	33	17	17	17	17				
14. Good Motivator	5	#	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1				
		%	0	0	0	20	20	40	20	20				
AVERAGE OF 1 TO 14														
15. Overall Effectiveness	6	#	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1				
		%	0	0	0	17	17	50	17	17				
COURSE AS LEARNING EXPERIENCE	6	#	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0				
		%	0	0	0	17	33	50	0	0				

STUDENT DATA		
Percentage of classes attended		
>= 90%	%	83.3
70 - 89%	%	16.7
50 - 69%	%	0.0
20 - 49%	%	0.0
<20%	%	0.0
Total	#	6

Expected Grade		
A	%	83.3
B	%	16.7
C	%	0.0
D	%	0.0
F	%	0.0
Total	#	6

Course Status		
Required	%	16.7
Optional	%	83.3
Total	#	6

Initial Level of Enthusiasm		
High	%	100.0
Medium	%	0.0
Low	%	0.0
Total	#	6

Western University

**2015-16 Course and Instructor Evaluations - Fall / Winter**

**Instructor Comments**

Unit: Computer Science  
Instructor: Hughes, James Alexander  
Course: Computer Science 9642A <001>  
Session: 1158

I still hope all the materials can be taught during the lecture.

Use "Google it" less as a response to questions (not that big of a problem).

 Class master is far too easy and not useful to assignments. Working on a similar program in class would be more helpful than unrelated activities. Telling everyone to "just Google it" is not teaching. Maybe Google "how to teach". Making fun of students' emails is also not encouraging students to ask for help. Classes are fun at least, and good interaction with students. Classes have been enjoyable. Not all bad things here. Just improvements necessary. Suggesting to another student that you can kick me out is impolite.?

Very enthusiastic. Goes off topic very often, making it hard to want to pay attention. I know you're joking, but some things you say (such as "Matlab is stupid") are very ignorant (and not appreciated).

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**2015-16 Course and Instructor Evaluations - Fall / Winter**

**Course Comments**

Unit: Computer Science  
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Course: Computer Science 9642A <001>  
Session: 1158

Assignments exponentially increase in difficulty. The workload should be much more evenly distributed. This is very key.  
Miserable: practical exam way too close to due date of assignment 3.

Fun course, learned a lot of things. Course is very slow at the beginning, but picks up way too fast. Course is not spaced evenly.

DO NOT MARK IN THIS AREA

12 empty boxes for marking

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Instructor and Course

SECTION 1- STUDENT INFORMATION

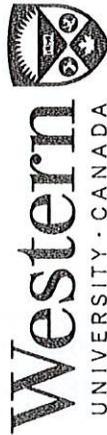
Percentage of classes attended in this course

Your expected grade in this course

Status of this course for you

Your level of enthusiasm to take this course, at the time of initial registration

Grading scale: 70-89, 50-69, 20-49, <20. Status: Required, Optional. Enthusiasm: High, Medium, Low.



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Instructor and Course Evaluation

Your answers to the following questions will be used as feedback to the instructor and as one of several sources of information considered in decisions regarding promotion and tenure. Please consider your responses carefully. Statistical summaries of this survey will not be released to the instructor until final grades have been submitted to the Registrar.

We also ask that any written comments you provide are fair, constructive, useful and relevant.

INSTRUCTIONS



- DO NOT USE A RED PENCIL OR PEN
FILL RESPONSE POSITION COMPLETELY
ERASE COMPLETELY TO CHANGE
CORRECT
INCORRECT



SECTION 2- INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

- 1. Displays enthusiasm and energy in conducting class sessions
2. Conducts class sessions in an organized, well planned manner
3. Explains concepts clearly and understandably
4. Encourages student participation and independent thinking through class activities
5. Responds to student questions clearly and thoroughly
6. Presents course materials in an interesting way, considering inherent limitations of the subject matter
7. Shows concern for student progress and offers to help students with problems
8. Considering class size, is available for individual consultation with students
9. Communicates course objectives and requirements clearly and explicitly
10. Maintains close agreement between stated course objectives and what is actually taught
11. Makes it clear how each topic fits into the course as a whole
12. Uses methods of evaluation (e.g., quizzes, assignments, papers, exams) that reflect important aspects of the subject matter and provide a fair evaluation of student learning
13. Grades student work promptly, considering the size of the class, and provides helpful comments and feedback where appropriate
14. Has motivated me to increase my knowledge and competence in the area of study of this course
15. All things considered, is effective as a university teacher

SECTION 3- COURSE EVALUATION

Overall, how would you rate this course as a learning experience?

Table with 10 columns (outstanding to not applicable) and 15 rows of evaluation data.

