Student Questionnaire on Courses and Teaching Feedback UGRD 1169 COMPSCI 2120A LEC 001 COMPUTING & INFORMATICS - (Hughes)

Feedback Fall 2016

Project Audience 52
Responses Received 38
Response Ratio 73.08%

Report Comments

Dear James,

This is your Student Questionnaire on Courses and Teaching (SQCT) feedback report. Please note that, although the report has a different look than the paper reports you have received previously, the information contained in this report is the same.

Distribution: Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 are forwarded to the instructor and the dean (who may share the information with the department chair); Sections 2 and 3 will be made available to those with a Western username at a new website linked from yourfeedback.uwo.ca. This will be replacing the site formerly maintained by Institutional Planning & Budgeting; Section 4 (Comments for the Instructor) is forwarded to the instructor only.

Resources to help with interpretation of the ratings and student comments are available here.

If you have any questions about the *Your Feedback* SQCT online system or the feedback results report, please contact feedback@uwo.ca.

Sincerely,

John Doerksen
Vice-Provost (Academic Programs)
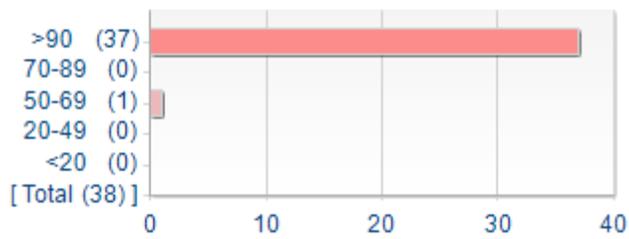
Creation Date   Tue, Jan 24, 2017

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Instructor Ratings Summary

Question		Score		
	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation
1. Displays enthusiasm	6.82	7.00	38	0.46
2. Well organized	6.24	6.00	38	0.82
3. Explains concepts clearly	6.16	6.50	38	1.24
4. Encourages participation	6.45	7.00	38	1.01
5. Responses clear and thorough	6.11	7.00	38	1.23
6. Interesting presentation	6.63	7.00	38	0.63
7. Shows concern	5.79	6.00	38	1.34
8. Available for consultation	6.03	6.00	38	1.20
9. Communicates well	6.05	7.00	38	1.45
10. Adheres to course objectives	6.37	7.00	38	1.22
11. Relates topics well	6.29	7.00	38	0.90
12. Provides fair evaluations	6.32	7.00	38	1.40
13. Grades work promptly	6.11	7.00	38	1.31
14. Good motivator	6.37	7.00	38	1.20
Average of 1-14	6.27	-	-	1.15

Overall Ratings

Question	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation
15. Effective as a university teacher	6.50	7.00	38	1.08
16. Course as a learning experience	6.29	7.00	38	1.04

Section 1: Student Information

## Percentage of classes attended in this course


```
>90    (37)
70-89   (0)
50-69   (1)
20-49   (0)
<20    (0)
[ Total (38) ]
        0     10    20    30    40
```

Your expected grade in this course


```
A (29)
B (9)
C (0)
D (0)
F (0)
[ Total (38) ]
      0    5    10   15   20   25   30
```
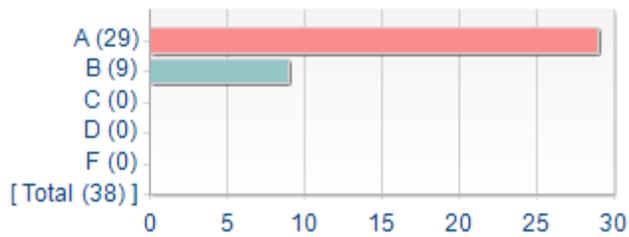
Status of this course for you


```
Required (6)
Optional (32)
[ Total (38) ]
         0    5   10   15   20   25   30   35
```
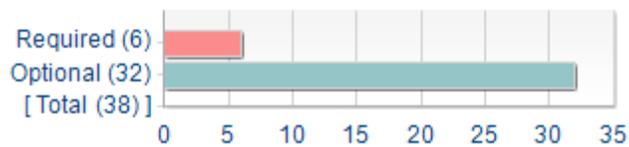
Your level of enthusiasm to take this course, at the time of initial registration


```
High (30)
Medium (8)
Low (0)
[ Total (38) ]
        0    5   10   15   20   25   30   35
```
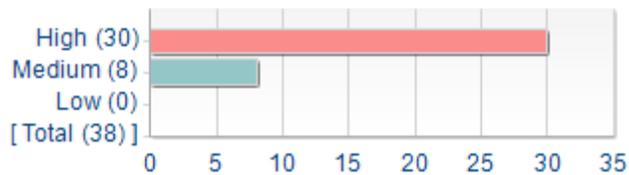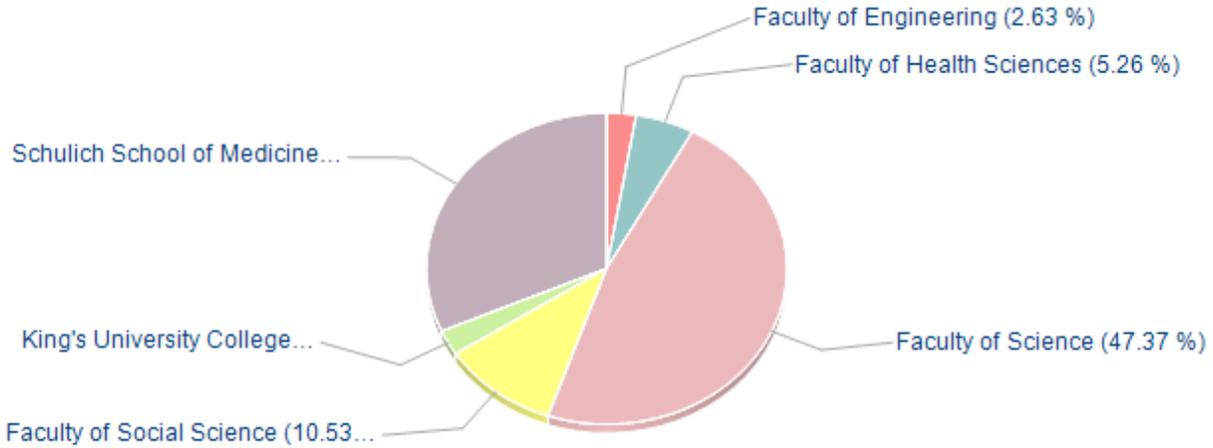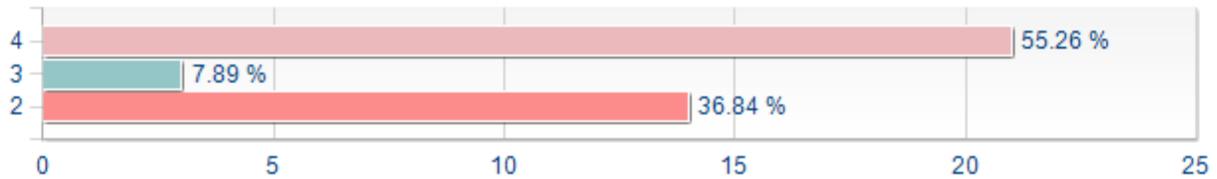
Response Demographics

Reliability Assessment

With 38 responses from a survey population of 52
the data presented in this report is considered to be   **Good**
Number of responses needed to be considered sufficient: 15
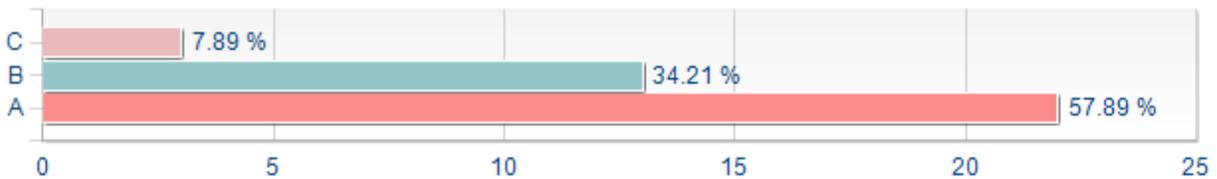Number of responses needed to be considered good: 32

Respondents by Students' Home Faculty

Respondents by Students' Academic Year

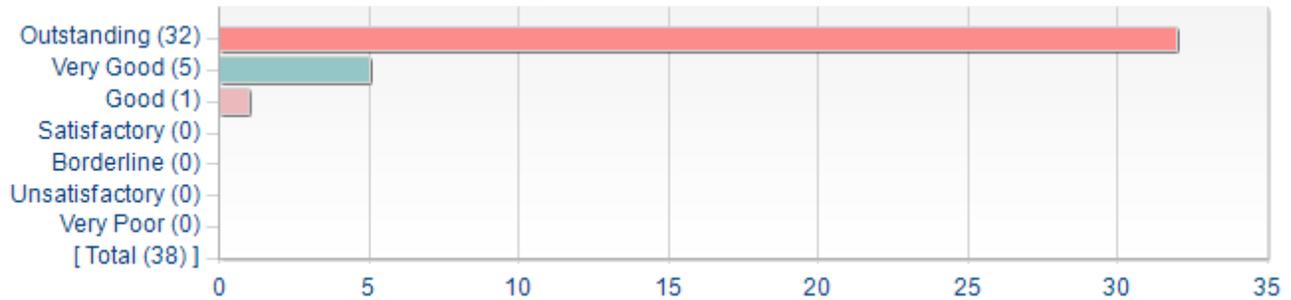## Respondents by Students' Cumulative Average

Section 2: Instructor Feedback
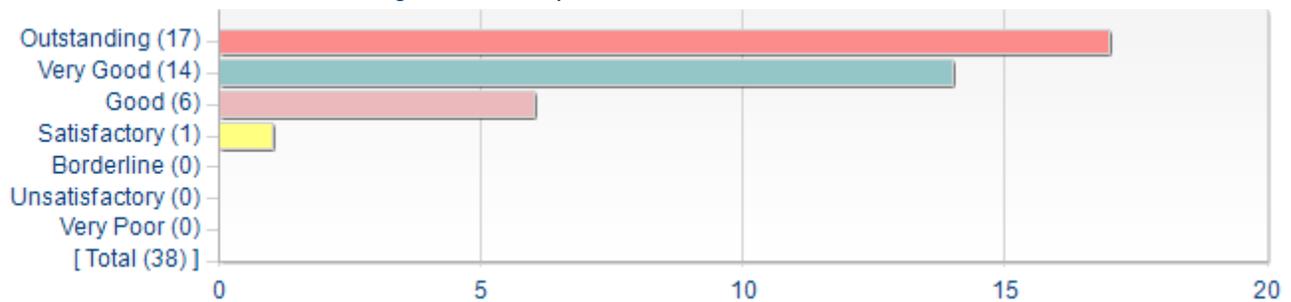
Frequencies for instructor feedback
James Hughes

1. Display enthusiasm and energy in conducting class sessions

2. Conducts class sessions in an organized, well planned manner

3. Explains concepts clearly and understandably
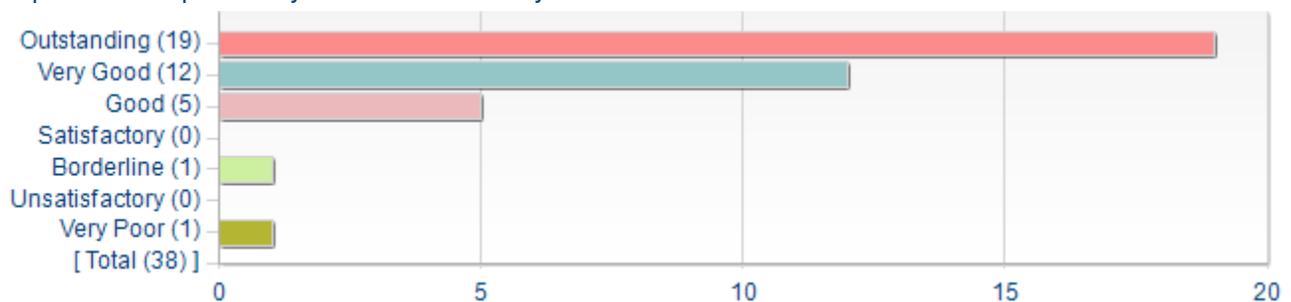
4. Encourages student participation and independent thinking through class activities
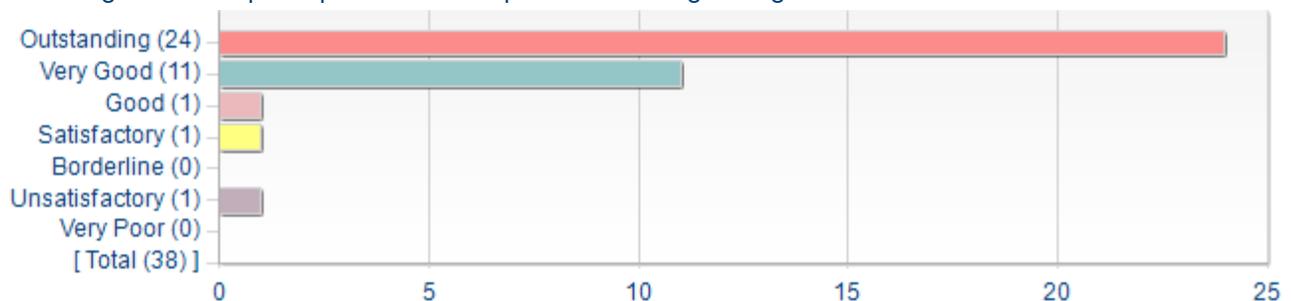
5. Responds to student questions clearly and thoroughly

Outstanding (25)
Very Good (8)
Good (2)
Satisfactory (2)
Borderline (0)
Unsatisfactory (0)
Very Poor (1)
[Total (38)]

Frequencies for instructor feedback
James Hughes (continued)

Section 3: Course Feedback

Course feedback for: UGRD 1169 COMPSCI 2120A LEC 001 COMPUTING & INFORMATICS

Outstanding (27)
Very Good (8)
Good (2)
Satisfactory (0)

Outstanding (20)
Very Good (14)
Good (1)
Satisfactory (1)
Borderline (2)
Unsatisfactory (0)
Very Poor (0)
[Total (38)]

0   5   10   15   20   25
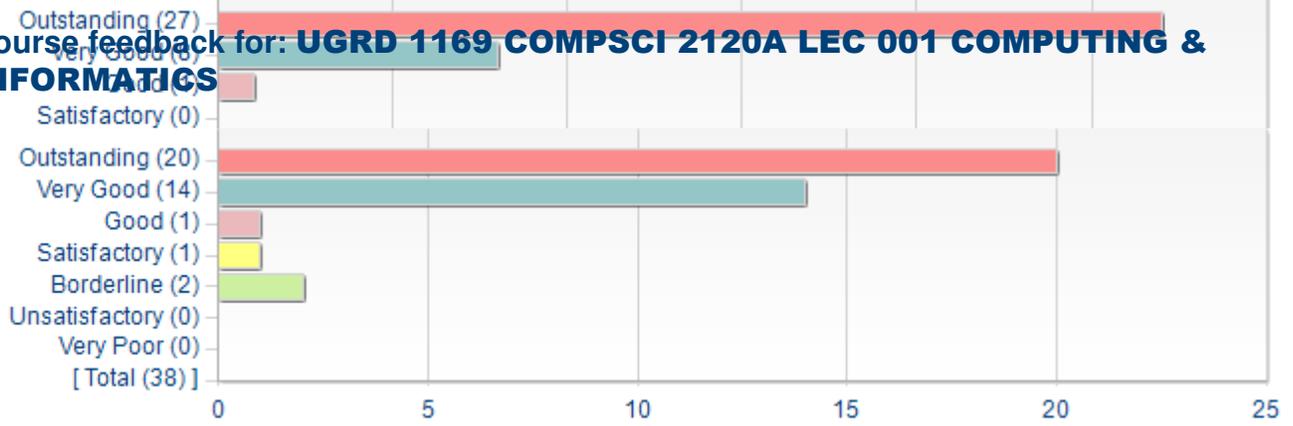
Section 4: Supplementary Comments for the Instructor

Comments for James Hughes:

Notes: Final grades must be submitted to the Registrar prior to reviewing comments. Students are reminded that their comments for the instructor should be fair, constructive, useful and relevant. Minimum reporting threshold is five comments.

Comment

Keep on doing what you're doing: keeps class engaging

very good teacher, good explanations and enthusiasm, he is just very busy so he has limited office hours but its ok because of the TA available

A large portion of evaluation for this course was dated after the final course drop date, including two assignments worth 10%, a practical worth 25%, which form 70% of the course mark when combined with the final. This does not give students a good projection for their mark before they can drop the course, which could very likely be the case for a student with no coding experience such as myself, who is taking this "introductory" programming course. In addition, the date for the practical was not announced until very late on, making it harder for students to plan out their term, and late evaluations just before finals season, including the assignment due as late as December 7th definitely did not help. I am interested in programming, however this course has made it really difficult to learn from a beginner level, as this course is introduced on the academic calendar as well as the course website, and it has been made unnessecarily difficult to do well in this course. There is definitely lots of room for improvement to this course, starting with not offering it as a beginner course.

Don't change! Honestly, one of my favourite professors at Western University.

Your enthusiasm keeps me engaged in class and you're incredibly down to earth and funny. Haven't missed a class because I actually have fun and enjoy learning Python from you.

You make attending your lectures fun because of your enthusiasm for the course and your inherent ability to entertain us with the implications of what we may able to do with a deeper and more advanced understanding of computer science. However, it would be greatly appreciated if you could elaborate more on what the final exam entails next time.

You were an excellent instructor and you demonstrated the concepts in a very understandable way. Class was always fun, but sometimes it was frustrating asking you questions. I understand the concept that CS is huge and that you can get any answer by googling it, but at some points your responses were straight up condescending and would discourage people from participating in the future.

very passionate instructor; explains concepts very clearly, always enthusiastic

Great Prof. Very passionate and connects with his audience. Takes the time to address difficult course concepts in an understandable way.
My suggestion would be to set tutorials/labs within computer rooms so the students can familiarize themselves with coding during TA hours. This will be incredibly for the practical exam as well.
Also, I understand the Prof can be very busy, but it would be helpful to have an extra hour of office time during the week, just in case students have scheduling conflicts on one day.
Thanks for teaching the course. I learned a lot.

Was great at explaining concepts and was very easy and fun to listen to. He was very animated and passionate about the subject.

It is clear that the instructor was very knowledgeable and passionate about this course. Really improved learning environment of the class.

Possibly shorten in-class examples a little when using students to demonstrate things like sorting. Otherwise, great teaching!

Overall i appreciated how passionate the professor was about the course i also really enjoyed learning about data manipulation. Since i took this course an elective i was hoping to learn the basics of programming but i ended up learning some advanced tools that i know i will find useful the future. I find that i ask google more questions these day i wonder why.

YOU'RE DOPE MY GUY

also you look pretty diesed... good stuff bro, keep lifting and praying to the swole gods.

I greatly appreciate your enthusiasm for teaching this course; it has inspired me to pay attention and participate. I very much enjoyed this class and I have no criticisms.

Good course - you're a little vague about the assignments sometimes.

Why did you give us the same practical questions as last year....worked so hard on the other ones :(

Maybe give clearer instructions for assignments 3 and 4.

I would say to spend more time on the more difficult concepts that are taught instead of simply brushing over them. It would help students to get a better grasp on the subject matter at hand and would mean spending less time on easier concepts

You are super enthusiastic and it real makes the class more enjoyable! For someone with no CS background it was quite a challenge but overall a great learning experience.

Thank you for so much enthusiasm and interesting classes.

Overall, a very enthusiastic professor who employs various methods to aid in study. There are moments when the examples drag on a bit too long, and the initial point is lost or not clearly stated.

James is quite possibly the best professor I had this term. Super engaged, relates well to students, and tries to keep you paying attention in class given that everyone has a computer in front of them and could be on facebook if they wanted.

Pleas provide a better basis of explanation for what content is on the final and in what form. Comments like 'study everything' are funny but not useful.

awesome instructor! Made me excited to learn more, and I felt like I gained valuable skills.

Loved the course, learned a lot, and I realized how useful comp sci will be in the future

J-Hughes is a doooooooooooooooopppeeeeeeee teacher and solid dude!!!

Great prof all around, I don't think it could have been anyone better
I love the enthusiasm and energy, so don't ever lose that

great enthusiasm and energy, but assessments of knowledge (take home practical and especially a *written* final) are completely unreasonable and make no sense for assessing our understanding of what eve have learned about computer science. I think more assignments and JUST a practicel (no paper written) exam makes much more sense

Section 5: Supplementary Comments on the Course

Comments for UGRD 1169 COMPSCI 2120A LEC 001 COMPUTING & INFORMATICS.

Notes: Final grades must be submitted to the Registrar prior to reviewing comments. Students are reminded that their comments about the course should be fair, constructive, useful and relevant. Minimum reporting threshold is five comments.

Comment

Everyone should be required to take this course.

A large portion of evaluation for this course was dated after the final course drop date, including two assignments worth 10%, a practical worth 25%, which form 70% of the course mark when combined with the final. This does not give students a good projection for their mark before they can drop the course, which could very likely be the case for a student with no coding experience such as myself, who is taking this "introductory" programming course. In addition, the date for the practical was not announced until very late on, making it harder for students to plan out their term, and late evaluations just before finals season, including the assignment due as late as December 7th definitely did not help. I am interested in programming, however this course has made it really difficult to learn from a beginner level, as this course is introduced on the academic calendar as well as the course website, and it has been made unnessecarily difficult to do well in this course. There is definitely lots of room for improvement to this course, starting with not offering it as a beginner course.

I understand that you start the course off slow because it is an introductory course, but maybe a bit faster so you can pace out the more difficult concepts later in the course.

It's a very fun course, but as computer science is one of those subjects where either you get it or you don't (some people may argue that line of thought, however research does not). So maybe in order to give an idea of the course and what type of skills it entails upload a mock assignment testing a student's ability to self-learn and understand computer science a week before the course starts or better yet on the course description itself website itself so students get an idea of whether they would like to pursue the subject further or not.

Excellent course, has definitely motivated me to continue my CS studies. I thought the evaluations were amazing; they helped solidify the concepts, they weren't too difficult, and it was actually fun to see the projects coming together. I thought the in class evaluations were useless, it was literally just copying code we wrote in class.

Favourite Course this semester

good distribtion of marks, from assignments to exams

integrating this course into different disciplines by applying python to their course contents could be very useful. Could increase computer literacy within different faculties

Compared to other introductory python courses that my friends have taken at different universities, this course was not taught in the best way for people who have never taken comp sci before. The concepts and activities in class seemed really simple and the assignments and final practical were at a completely different level. I understand that the exams are supposed to be difficult but i feel like a lot of what i learned in this class was self-taught . I also feel like this class missed some important fundamental concepts and went into detail on things that were too advanced or unimportant. I had a background in science, stats, and math but I feel like people who didn't have that background would have really struggled.

Overall successful course.

The professor is doing a great job teaching this class was a repeat for me and i found the class much more organized in terms of grading and how the material was weighted. I can honestly say this professor cares and is actively trying to help his students while still challenging them. Good job James keep up the great work!

this course is like preeee sick overall

I believe this course is laid out in an appropriate manner. I would appreciate enrolling in a course that takes off where this one finished. The amount of statistical exercises was a bit exhausting without any previous understanding of statistical concepts (mostly graphs and correlations)

Great course overall
Good mark distribution on assignments/pratical/participation/exam
I love how everything (course notes) is online

Pretty good.

For the course itself, I say that the assignments should be due on weekends instead of Friday, that way people get more time to work on the. As for the practical itself, I think if it it held a little later in the semester, it would be better. This way, students can have a better grasp of the material that's going to be on the practical and as such, show a better understanding of such material on the practical.

This course was not easy for me as a person with no background in programming. The first two assignments were extremely difficult and some of the Practical questions took me way more time than you are supposed to spend on one of your five courses.
I think that maybe assignments would be a little bit easier if the material they require you to know was taught ahead of time.
Overall, I really, liked the course, it was a completely new field for me, and I learned a lot..
Thank you

As an introductory computer science class, I wish the course professors and TAs provided more aid during assignments.

This course is RIDICULOSLY hard for people who might be in the Digital Humanities version. Science requires a Grade 12 Math credit to get admission but that's not the case for some in FIMS. I had to help a student understand histogram, radians, probability models, correlation coefficients, matrices and more while the only prerequisite knowledge she was expected to have was a Grade 11 math credit. This course should not be mixing science and arts students together as we come from different prerequisite backgrounds. Otherwise, make mathematics a prerequisite in first year (at least 1228 and 1229).

The practical should be graded as a midterm, with marks returned as soon as they are graded. Withholding the marks only provides more stress on the students, as it is difficult to gauge how one should proceed towards the final.

Additionally, during the practical it was very distracting, stressful and offensive to hear the professor talking during the examination. In such a small computer lab, it was difficult to tune out while trying to focus. The topic being discussed was very offensive to hear. The professor talked to the TA about previous 'funny' stories of students who came for help after doing poorly on the exam and laughed about the poor attempts of students in completing exams in previous years. He also drew a graph on the board at one point to illustrate to the TA how his "asshole-ness" is correlated with students liking him more over the years along with how little he cares about the students.
Overall, this behavior was highly unprofessional for a professor in any situation, especially in an examination.

Great course, really nice introduction to Python.

Well organized. Loved it.

10/10 would recommend

Python's a bit difficult for me, even with James explaining it, but it was overall a positive experience and I would recommend anyone looking to take a programming course to take this one

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