Student Questionnaire on Courses and Teaching Feedback UGRD 1179 COMPSCI 2120A LEC 001 CODING ESSENTIALS - (Hughes)

SQCT — Fall 2017
Project Audience 82
Responses Received 53
Response Ratio 65%

Report Comments
Dear James,

This is your Student Questionnaire on Courses and Teaching (SQCT) feedback report.

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)

Report Contents:
Section 1: Instructor Ratings Summary
Section 2: Overall Ratings
Section 3: Student Information
Section 4: Response Demographics
Section 5: Instructor Feedback
Section 6: Supplementary Comments for the Instructor
Section 7: Supplementary Comments on the course
Section 8: Instructor Additional Questions

Distribution:
Sections 1, 2, 3, 5 are available to those with a Western username at sqct.uwo.ca/results.
Sections 1-5 and 7 are forwarded to the instructor and the dean (who may share the information with the department chair).
Sections 6 and 8 are forwarded to the instructor only.

Creation Date   Fri, Jan 26, 2018
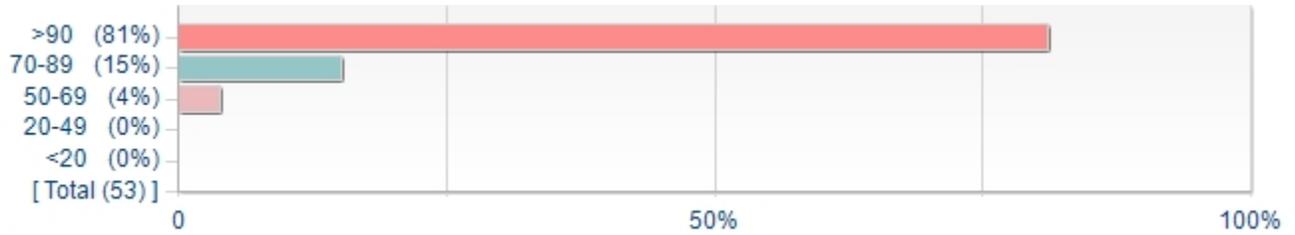
Section 1: Instructor Ratings Summary

(score out of 7)

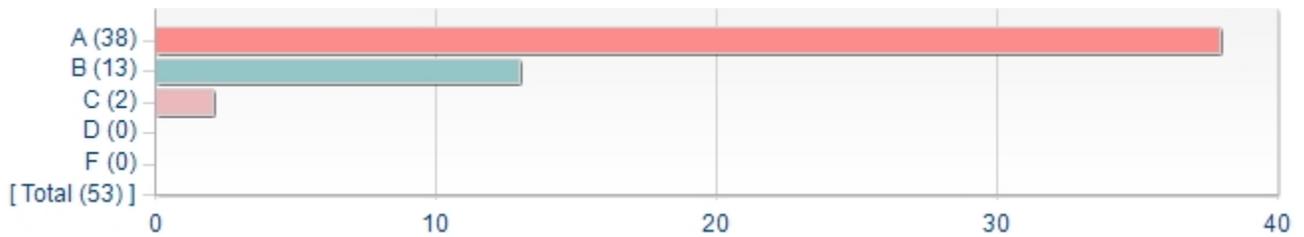| Question	Score			
	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation
1. Displays enthusiasm	6.83	7.00	53	0.47
2. Well organized	6.51	7.00	53	1.03
3. Presents concepts clearly	6.30	7.00	53	1.28
4. Encourages participation	6.79	7.00	53	0.86
5. Responds to questions clearly	6.45	7.00	53	1.07
6. Encourages reflection	6.36	7.00	53	1.23
7. Provides fair evaluation	6.17	7.00	53	1.52
8. Provides helpful feedback	5.87	7.00	53	1.61
9. Good motivator	6.30	7.00	53	1.50
Average of 1-9	6.40	-	-	1.24

Section 2: Overall Ratings

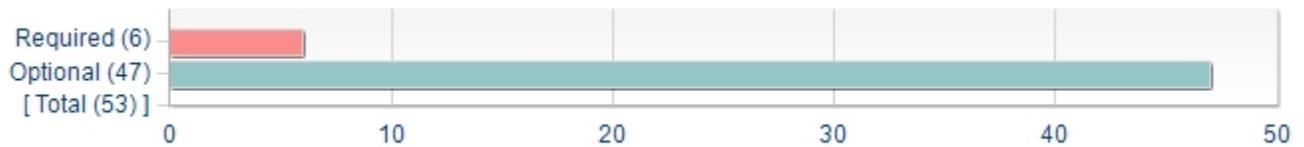| Question	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation
10. Effective as a university teacher	6.58	7.00	53	1.03
11. Course as a learning experience	6.30	7.00	53	1.38

Section 3: Student Information

Percentage of classes attended

>90 (81%)	
70-89 (15%)	
50-69 (4%)	
20-49 (0%)	
<20 (0%)	
[Total (53)]	

Expected Grade

A (38)	
B (13)	
C (2)	
D (0)	
F (0)	
[Total (53)]	

Course Status

Required (6)	
Optional (47)	
[Total (53)]	

Initial Level of Enthusiasm

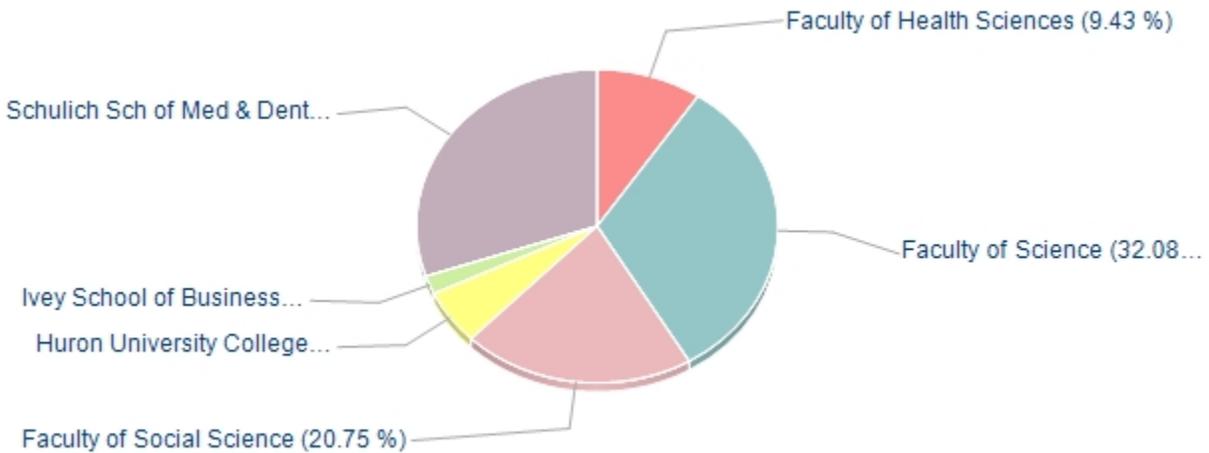|	
High (40)	
Medium (12)	
Low (1)	
[Total (53)]	
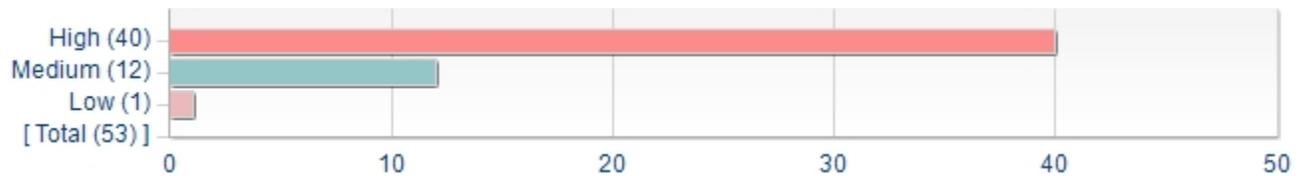
Section 4: Response Demographics
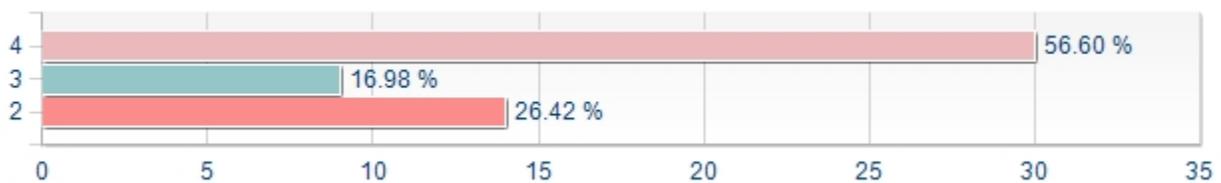
Reliability Assessment

With 53 responses from a survey population of 82
the data presented in this report is considered to be   **Good**
Number of responses needed to be considered sufficient: 16
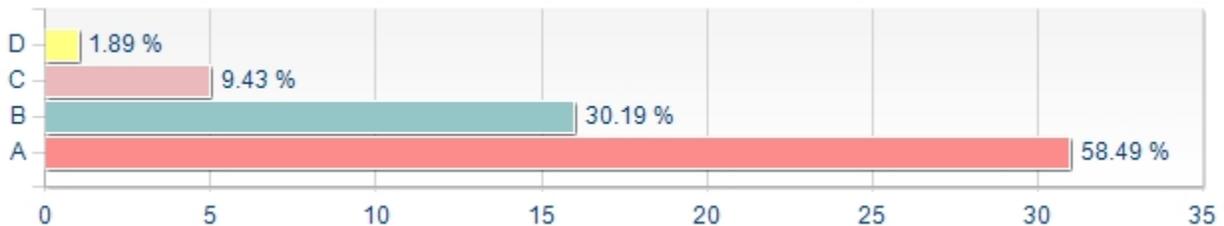Number of responses needed to be considered good: 40
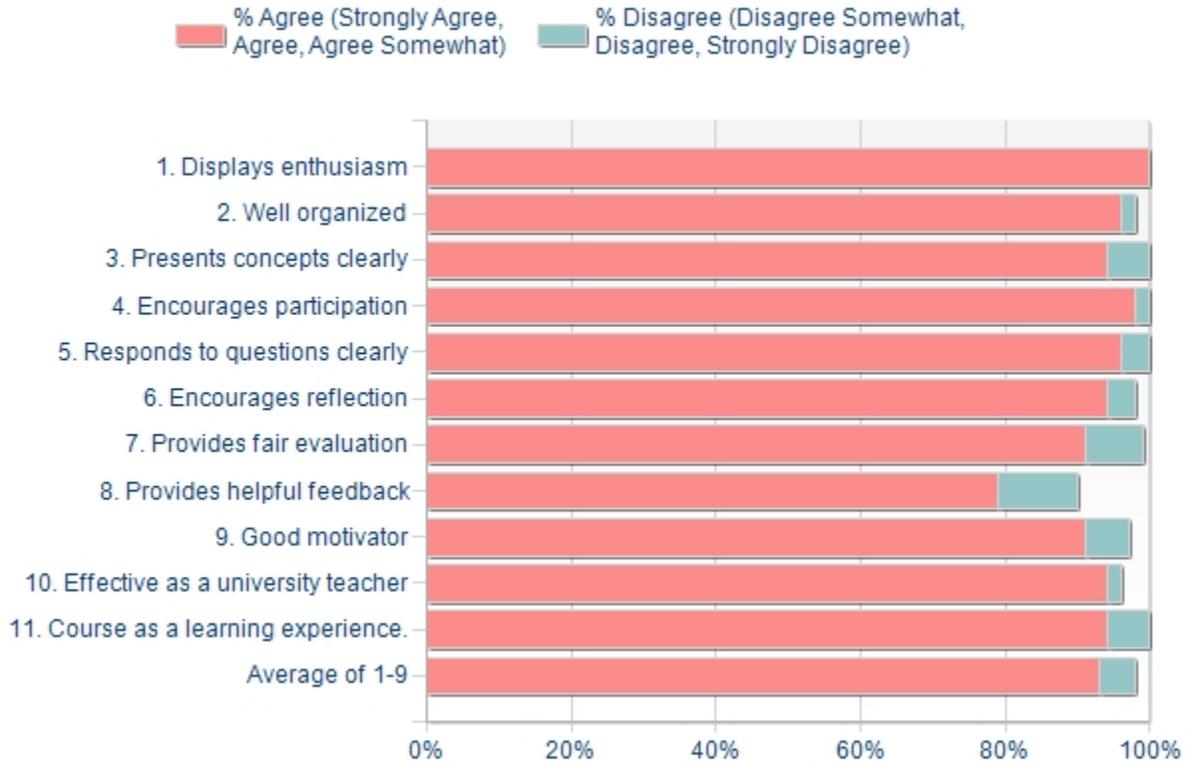
Respondents by Students' Home Faculty

Respondents by Students' Academic Year

Respondents by Students' Cumulative Average

Section 5: Instructor Feedback

	Resp	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	Median	SD
1. Displays enthusiasm	53	0	0	0	0	2	5	46	6.83	7.00	0.47
2. Well organized	53	1	0	0	1	3	11	37	6.51	7.00	1.03
3. Presents concepts clearly	53	1	1	1	0	6	10	34	6.30	7.00	1.28
4. Encourages participation	53	1	0	0	0	0	5	47	6.79	7.00	0.86
5. Responds to questions clearly	53	0	1	1	0	7	6	38	6.45	7.00	1.07
6. Encourages reflection	53	1	1	0	1	5	10	35	6.36	7.00	1.23
7. Provides fair evaluation	53	3	0	1	1	2	15	31	6.17	7.00	1.52
8. Provides helpful feedback	53	1	2	3	5	3	11	28	5.87	7.00	1.61
9. Good motivator	53	3	0	0	2	2	9	37	6.30	7.00	1.50
10. Effective as a university teacher	53	1	0	0	2	0	10	40	6.58	7.00	1.03
11. Course as a learning experience.	53	2	1	0	0	4	12	34	6.30	7.00	1.38

SCALE: 7=Strongly Agree, 6=Agree, 5=Agree Somewhat, 4=Neither Agree nor Disagree, 3=Disagree Somewhat, 2=Disagree, 1=Strongly Disagree

Section 6: Supplementary Comments for the Instructor

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.

Comments
Great class design. Very effective way of teaching the material.
Dr. Hughes genuinely cares about his students and ensures that help is available to his students. Not only does he display interest and enthusiasm in all his lectures, but he also goes above and beyond outside the classroom. He offers assistance at office hours and took the time to create a Youtube channel that aligns with lectures really well. These videos have been a great supplement to my learning and have helped me understand the content better. In addition to this, Dr. Hughes presents course content clearly and effectively and shows what we learn in a larger context. He helps students appreciate what they're learning and how it is applicable to the real-world.
I thought you were overall a very good teacher, your class activities and discussions keep the class engaging and make it easy to attend even the two hour lecture while maintaining our attention. You show enthusiasm and make the activities we do way more interesting.
time restraints on class activities are stressful!
I appreciate your enthusiasm in teaching this course, it makes it easy to pay attention and feel engaged. Your interactive class activities really helped me understand a lot of concepts that I would have otherwise struggled with.
Conducts class with enthusiasm. Very nice and down to Earth.
James is the most interesting that I have met in my one and a half' years studying in Western. His lectures are well-organized and are presented in a humorous way. Taking his course encourages me to dig deeper into python, and try to know more about computer science.
Super nice prof, love the enthusiasm.
Love the enthusiasm and passion when teaching, it makes everyone excited about computer science. Sometimes, a little awkward about asking simple/dumb questions, not the most approachable about those questions. The movement from coding to computer science/algorithms is a BIG jump, it moves very quickly at that point, very confusing. Youtube videos and the genuine attempt to really make this course an interactive, semi-flipped classroom is great - learned tons, one of my favourite courses
It is my first time to take CS course, and the course contents and the way that the instructor teaches really arouse my interest in further my study in CS.
Excellent professor really enthusiastic (infectiously so) and comes up with great analogies and demonstrations to help explain concepts I like how you try to encourage class participation
Great teacher, love the teaching style. You can tell he is very knowledgeable in his field and has a great interest in it.
I'm in third year and you were the greatest professor I've ever had. Please continue to enlighten and motivate the youth of our generation to learn computer science. Your enthusiasm for the field and your energy are unparalleled. You are so young yet you teach like someone that's taught for decades. You understand how to communicate with the millenial generation. You do everything hands on and live in lectures. Continue to do just that. You give us insights into how the real computer science field works. Practical knowledge not just theory. I'm not even in Comp Sci but you're the best overall professor I've ever had. James continue being awesome!
You are extremely enthusiastic and passionate about coding--this made it exciting to come to class every day. I also appreciate the time and effort you put into creating YouTube videos.
Great enthusiasm, YouTube channel is a huge help. Tries very hard to engage class and does not give up. Only thing would be to think through the examples you are going to give before you give them, sometimes bad examples confuse the class more.
Great instructor, explains and addresses all of our questions. Assignments not too demanding, and gives plenty of time to work on them.
The in-class activities added pressure. Some students spent the entire class just worrying about the activity rather than paying attention to your teaching

Western University Canada

Comments
Your classes were amazing! I loved your enthusiasm and you did a great job of explaining the basics to someone like me who had never taken a computer science course before. Sometimes I think you could go a bit slower when explaining the details of how the code works and spend less time on the big picture. The big picture concepts are often easier to understand, and it's the code that's harder to follow.
Love how you put in your own free time to make YouTube videos. They are very helpful and I can tell you love computer science which is very admirable. You seem very excited in explaining concepts which translate to student excitement.
James, your enthusiasm for computer science is great. But you often seem to forget this is a entry-level course with no prerequisites. You move through content WAY to fast for most people to keep up, and quite honestly I think the level of difficulty on assignments and activities is too hard for what the course actually is. I know you like the way the course is set up, and its fine, but honestly just go slower and reduce the total amount of content.
ASSIGNMENTS ARE TOO DIFFICULT FOR LEARNER WITHOUT PRIOR PROGRAMMING KNOWLEDGE
Good guy, great youtube channel, even better hand gestures. Thanks for all of the interesting classes - you're the man.
Sometimes in class examples with student volunteers can get redundant, though that's better than rushing through it.
It would be very helpful if more feedback concerning how to do things is provided during class. We understand that google is a resource but a lot of the explanations given on google are for upper-year computer science students who already have a basic understanding. Google might be able to provide an answer but whether we know how the code works or how we apply that code is extremely confusing for someone who is new to computer science.
As a student who has almost no precious background, I was expecting to learn more fundametal knowledge since you said it doesnt require prerequisite. However, I felt the assignments were way too difficult and what I learned from the lectures werent that helpful. You told the class to put effort and keep trying to come up with solutions but I could not even do that because I didnt know almost anything about computer science. It was same as I had to learn new language in order to write an ariticle.
– great prof, super enthusiastic about lecture material and explains concepts thoroughly
The lecture is fairly understandable. However the assignments were too hard compare what we learned in class. Like way to hard. Professor should have use fair level of assignment to evaluate students like the concepts we learned in class. However, the assignment has too much what we didn't learned at all.
James Hughes is probably the best teacher I have had in the last 4 years of my degree. He makes the material ridiculously accessible, in that it is feasible for students with absolutely no background in computer science to understand and learn coding. His class is the only I have taken in post secondary that truly challenges its students with regular problem-solving problems and assignments (but this is done in a wholly encouraging environment that makes people feel unafraid of mistakes and more open to the possibilities of their solutions). This is all thanks to how James has chosen to conduct this course, and I think that's excellent. I always looked forward to this class and it was my favourite of the semester. I even had a fun (actual fun!) doing the assignments. They were hard and challenging in a good way.
I like the in depth explanations of harder concepts. I can really tell that you really want us to learn and that you care.
Great overall. Of note, great enthusiasm and interesting assignments. In class assignments are however a bit stressful to work through in the allocated time.
Thank you for your constant enthusiasm and commitment to making sure we understand course content. I think that it's the instructors who make classes great more so then the content and you've made this course an enjoyable and informative experience.
You're an amazing professor, the passion and enthusiasm you display in your teaching rubs off on the students and encourages them to show a similar amount of passion for what they're learning about.
James is great, enthusiastic and makes class fun and i feel like i learned better as a result of his effort 10/10

Section 7: Supplementary Comments on the Course

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.

Comments

Western University Canada

Comments

I felt that as a class that requires no prior computer science knowledge, the class moved a little too fast. Also, many of the assignments incorporated elements of coding that we hadn't discussed yet, and it was difficult to complete them without knowing what to do. Overall, I enjoyed the class, but I found it to be more advanced than just an introductory course.

I enjoyed the interactive class experience. Coming from someone who had 0 computer science background before taking this class constantly practicing in class while learning the material really helped me to not fall behind in class. I really enjoyed the lecture style and I actually wish more of my science classes were also like this.

Great experience. Well organized.

The course was extremely well organized, and the lectures were easy to follow. I really appreciated the enthusiasm with which this course was taught.

Goes from 0-100 too fast

COMPSCI 2120A is an interesting course and is presented in a way that is way different from other traditional courses. Taking this course encourages me to learn more about python and computer science. And I wish 2121 could be lectured in the same way.

Youtube videos explaining concepts were great, and the genuine attempt to really make this course an interactive, semi-flipped classroom is great - learned tons, one of my favourite courses. Professor is very passionate and enthusiastic, relatable.

The course contents and the way that the instructor teaches are really attractive and make the course easy to understand.

Perhaps a little of a hard jump from the rest of the course material and machine learning, but was done fairly and well and was a good introduction.

I liked this course, although I think it could be made more challenging
It would be ok to go faster through the content so we have time to go more in depth, or get to harder examples

Keep the same teaching format 2210, it was very effective

James is extremely enthusiastic and passionate about coding--this made it exciting to come to class every day. I also appreciated the time and effort he put into creating YouTube videos for many of the activities. He is an excellent, absolutely phenomenal professor.

Update to newer version of Python. Methods taught in this course are becoming outdated.

Great instructor, explains and addresses all of our questions. Assignments not too demanding, and gives plenty of time to work on them.

I really like the "partially flipped" lecture style. It's a much more effective way of learning than a traditional lecture. The one complaint I have is that I think this course needs a midterm. I'm really not sure what to expect going into the exam. Although I understand that the exam is textbook questions I still feel like I don't know how well I understand the material going into the exam.

It is a pretty heavy loaded course with the assignments but I learn so much from each one. If I could make one suggestion is for the assignments to not be as dense. Maybe it is because I am an amateur, but it takes me around 10hrs to complete each assignment and I don't have much time to look over the online textbook additionally.

course layout is poor. Way too much content and most of it is really not covered in class. assignments are very hard and ask a lot about concepts that we never learned or talked about in class. This bugged me a lot because asking us to be graded on something we didn't learn yet seems crazy unfair and results in the students just teaching themselves with no point for the professor to be there. Would not recommend this course.

Everyone should take this course. It should be mandatory for everyone.

Very good course and James' current teaching format is very effective.

The assignments should be worth more, and the exam worth a little less. More time was spent on the assignments.

I think the students need some kind of prerequisite in order to follow thr lectures. Without any knowledge, It would be dismal.

– this course is really well laid out, such that someone with no coding experience can easily follow along
- lectures are interactive, which gives students a chance to engage and fully understand course material
- great course, can't wait for 2121!

Please use faily level of assignment to evaluate student. As a no prerequisite class, it's actually tooooooooo hard for student with no previous knowledge about computer science. Without my friends help. It would be realllyyyyyyyyy tough

Comments
for me.
This class is one of the best I have ever taken. In my opinion, no changes need to be made. The professor is the best he could be, the tutorials were well-attended (even though they were optional!) and the TAs were perfectly helpful, and the evaluations were challenging and hard, but fair and fun to do.
The interactive and hands-on course format with James is a great way for students to learn and should be incorporated in all courses where possible. It's dynamic and engaging - more effective than typical lecture formats.
The best introductory compsci course out there.

Section 8: Instructor Additional Questions

No instructor additional questions selected.

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