Winter 2019 Instructor Report With Comments of EECS 481-001: Software Engin for Westley Weimer

Project Title: **Winter 2019 Teaching Evaluation**

Course Audience: **116**
Responses Received: **25**
Response Ratio: **21.6%**

Report Comments

This report is a summary that tabulates all quantitative ratings on a single page. Results from the open-ended questions appear at the end of this report. Ratings are from the Winter 2019 teaching evaluations of EECS 481-001: Software Engin.

Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	15	9	0	0	0	1	4.7	4.5	4.4
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	15	7	2	0	0	1	4.7	4.2	4.1
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	13	9	2	0	0	1	4.6	4.5	4.3
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	15	6	3	0	0	1	4.7	4.2	4.1
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	10	8	4	1	0	1	4.3	4.0	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was... (SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier)	2	5	13	4	0	1	3.1	3.0	2.9

Responses to the University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Westley Weimer was an excellent teacher.	22	2	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.5	4.3
Westley Weimer seemed well prepared for class meetings.	22	2	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.8	4.6
Westley Weimer explained material clearly.	23	1	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.6	4.4
Westley Weimer treated students with respect.	23	1	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.8	4.7

Responses to additional questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Prerequisites provided adequate preparation for this course. (Q61)	15	8	1	0	0	1	4.7	4.3
The textbook made a valuable contribution to the course. (Q340)	6	3	1	2	1	12	4.3	3.6
I developed confidence in my abilities as an engineer.	17	3	4	0	0	1	4.8	4.0
I developed the ability to solve real world engineering problems.	17	7	0	0	0	1	4.8	4.0
The discussion section was a valuable part of this course.	9	8	3	2	1	1	4.2	3.9

The medians are calculated from Winter 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 75 or greater in College of Engineering.

Written Comments

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Wes is great at delivering information in a clear and concise way. The response time on piazza and the detail of the responses is the best I have seen of any instructor at the university.
The lectures were phenomenal. High student engagement and room for questions helped make the material easier to grasp
Great professor, interesting and unique subject matter, relevant assignments.
Very reflective of the actual work of a software engineer.
Can we consider Wes Weimer as a strength? He is a strong speaker, explains topics well, and makes his students not only better engineers but also better people.
Westley Weimer is a wonderful instructor. His energy makes me more interested in the material and his passion in engaging in topics (even those not relevant to the course) is unparalleled.
Wes Weimer, all of the projects (expecially HW6!), lectures, everything basically!
This course teaches many methodologies and software engineering skills in the real world.
– Fun, engaging lectures
The lectures were awesome and engaging, the trivia slides in the middle of each lecture were fun, and the projects were both fun to do and taught me a lot.
Homeworks were interesting and useful, lectures were excellent.
I would give Wes a 10/10. He should be the example of what a professor should be in a classroom. Also the HW for this course was very interesting (except for HW 4) and advanced me knowledge greatly.
Many of the lessons involved are applicable to real world coding beyond school.

What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)

Comments
I feel like something with the reading quizzes needs to change but I'm not quite sure what. Also a lot of people would come to class and leave after the 1st minute when it was obvious there was no reading quiz. Maybe have them at the end of class every once in a while.
Spend some time summarizing the readings in discussion
Make requirements more clear for assignments, a little too open–ended.
Hand candy rather than throwing them across the room.
I would have liked for there to be more proffice hours as the only professor based offices hours were during a different course I was taking. Also the reading quizes could be moved to discussion section to both increase discussion attendance and not detract from lecture.
Should integrate readings more in discussion.
Nothing that I can think of.
Please no quizzes.
– Make the exams a bit less stressful and more straight forward. I studied very hard for the midterm but still thought the exam was very difficult. – I thought project 4 was a bit too repetitive (do the same thing on 3 different programs) and was not that interesting. I think you should trim it down or eliminate it and make the open source contribution worth more and be over a longer period of time than 3 weeks.
Don't have project deadlines coincide with exam deadlines. It only happened once but it was painful.
If possible, allocate more time for Homework 6.
I would drop HW4 for more time in HW6. I would also remove static analysis. seemed out of place how much we needed to know for the course.
None, quality course.

Comment on the quality of instruction in this class.

Comments
Some of the feedback given to me on one of the homework assignments was kind of rude.
The quality of instruction was amazing.
Great instructors, but the piazza response rate of GSIs is terrible. This is the slowest class when it comes to getting instructor feedback.
Course content was converted very effectively.
I mentioned Professor Weimer as a strength of the course already and without going full fanboy I will leave it at the fact that for my next semester I looked at what he was teaching before choosing my classes, should I bomb the final in an attempt to get to retake 481 next year? It's unclear. Then we have the Godsend James coming in at the GSI position. He is entertaining, helpful, and willing to go the extra mile by extending his office hours and helping with projects outside the scope of the class.
Amazing.
Wes is the best! One of my favorite teachers of all time. Loved the enthusiasm and the humor. Very sharp guy, and always has something to teach, software engineering related or not!
– Wes you are awesome but the projects and exams could still use some tweaking.
It was brilliant – Wes is probably one of my favorite instructors.
Fantastic! Lectures were great, discussion was helpful!
Wes was a fantastic professor. I have never seen a professor care so much about a class.
Great instructor, funny and comprehensible.

Among the courses you have already taken, which proved the most (or least) effective in preparing you for this course, and why? (Q1098)

Comments
I think this class is really unique in the CS curriculum so nothing really prepares you for this course. If I had to pick one I would say 485 because having some small experience with bash scripts and python was useful for getting some of the 481 assignments underway.
EECS 280 and EECS 376 were highly relevant in this class (design, algorithmic analysis)
Nothing really prepared me for this class, but it was a great learning experience.
EECS398 (C4CS). Knowing how to write bash scripts etc. are covered in this class, which is proved useful in some of the course assignments.
There is nothing that can really prepare a student for this course. The closest thing for me was Rome300 as we had extensive reading assignments. What is needed for the class is an open mind and a strong work ethic.
EECS 485– This was my first intro to software engineering concepts. Also coded in new languages including python, javascript, sql which helped me to learn new languages. Read a lot of docs as well. EECS 388– security elements showed up in this course, and also 388 exposed me to lots of different languages. Read lots of docs here too
Nearly none of them. This course is special.
They were all effective – this class makes mention so many other topics. In this way, even though they're not necessary prerequisites (thank goodness), they're all incorporated into the material, which is cool.
Compilers (EECS 483), since many topics were revisited in this class (for example, dataflow analysis and ASTs)
494 had some overlapping concepts when it came to development process.