

## What topics did you enjoy/like/get most out of until now?

Q2

- tf-idf  
LSI
- All the linear algebra stuff including the working and importance of eigen decomposition, SVD and LSI
- I found the information about search engines & relevance interesting thus far.
- Everything including prof Rao.
- SVD
- SVDs and LSIs
- Usually unintuitive things like n-dimensional space, how independent terms are allowed to appear together to a certain extent, LSI, scalar clusters.
- I have enjoyed learning about how information retrieval works. I got a lot out of the tf-idf computations, and re-learning my linear algebra. It has been insightful to find out the application of linear algebra in the real world.
- All topics are enjoyable so far, however some of the math parts are still difficult to understand.
- LSI. Anything related to Eigen Value/Vector.
- vector space model and LSI
- Term similarity, checking for spelling errors/general query modification (ie "did you mean this?")
- Tolerant dictionaries were very interesting. The application of data mining techniques to solving grammar errors is neat.
- I like the direction of the course and I think Rao has picked out great relevant information.
- Vector similarity and distance measures, SVD, Hands-on-Matlab
- I'm interested on all of the topics.
- LSI, Vector model
- All the topics have been fun till now. I feel all the classes are full of information. Many times overwhelming. I personally like the classes very much, and look forward to every Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Indexing and tolerant dictionaries was the topic I enjoyed since it was talking about the usual mistakes we make during the search (as I do usually) and to know how search engines tackle these errors was quite interesting. I also enjoyed Vector space ranking and the initial topics as I was able to recollect many of my basic math knowledge.
- PCA
- I was impressed with the connection to linear algebra from information retrieval. In retrospect, it is obvious, but I had no idea what I was coming in to.
- Information retrieval, how we can use IR to detect how similar one document is to another.

### What topics did you hate/got bored/felt-it-was-a-waste-of-time etc?

Q3

- nothing..
- Nothing yet.
- The information retrieval was a bit long.
- LSI was a bit hard to understand,still struggling, but IR is an extremely interesting subject which keeps me from dropping this class.
- None
- None !
- Nothing so far
- I have not been bored in class. I feel like the course goes at a good rate to keep my focus.
- N/A
- Not really, but it's a bit annoying when slides gets too crowded.
- surprisingly nothing
- Anything heavy with linear algebra
- Having already taken Data Mining, the majority of the material preceding the vector space model was all rehashing for me, so, it wasn't particularly interesting. Not to say that I don't like it, but I've already done it before.
- I don't get bored. Sometimes things do get a bit theoretical... I learn best by example and actually seeing the idea implemented and it feels like examples are sparse in this course.
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- up to now, non of them.
- nothing
- Classes of last week (3 classes leaving the Tuesday's class) were quite heavy to digest. It's good that we have recorded lecture, so that we can go through them again and digest the things slowly.
- Latent semantic indexing though an important topic made me feel bored as I was not able to catch up much from the class as it was so dense.
- I like most of the topics
- I have not felt that about anything yet.
- none so far

**Do you have any comments/suggestions on the lectures (are they too slow/too fast/ too boring/too much fun etc..)**

Q4

- too much home work  
but like the lectures
- I think the lectures are fun, I am definitely learning and remembering some things I knew but have forgotten.
- The lectures are not bad, there is only the problem of getting out late that is an issue right now. Some of us have classes away from brickyard after.
- I think lectures are little bit fast,there is few time in between to put everything together and understand the big picture.you have to try hard to catch up.
- Most topics are interesting and useful in research. I really enjoy the class a lot
- The Lectures are really Awesome !.. You are a very good speaker and you can make even a dull subject interesting.
- Too much fun
- I enjoy the lectures. I learn a lot from them, and they go at a good pace for my attention span.
- Some of the math parts go too fast.
- Very fun.
- lectures are very good but sometimes they get too fast  
recorded audio are very useful
- lectures have gone from extremely interesting to a little bit boring. some of the 'flavor' of the earlier slides(real life occurrences of what we are talking about, etc) is now just more numbers/formulas. I still enjoy the lectures, but they have become less interesting.
- I feel like they could go a little faster. It seems like a lot of time is taken to elaborate on the general concepts, but sped through on the technical implementations.
- More examples but otherwise great. One of the best lecturers I've seen.
- The lectures are at the right pace. Only as I have a TA lab right after I always tend to get edgy when we go beyond time.
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- more real world examples would be great.
- I will say they are little fast, but before taking this course I had not expected anything less. So I am fine with the pace.  
I find the preparedness of the lecture to be very impressive. The examples given at appropriate places and little quotes from outside world make the lecture very interesting and motivating.
- Lectures are good though search engines are the only thing we end up with daily for anything we want. I think it would be even more enjoyable if we get more examples on all the topics especially for those that are dense.
- If you can provide video lecture that will be graet help for students.
- You are a fast teacher, but there is also alot of information out there to cover, so that is ok.
- very exiting profesor, but I wish we could go a little bit slower with more examples.

**Do you have any suggestions on homeworks and projects? (give us more of them/give us fewer of them/make them more challenging/make them easy etc)**

Q5

- give us fewer of them
- Project description was not very clear. I had many concerns about the index and the way we were supposed to use it.
- I think the amount is good but the difficulty for the project was higher than expected. Maybe a little more guidance or hints would help.
- 1)Homeworks and Projects should never have deadlines in proximity.Then you tend to focus more on one thing and ultimately both of them don't work out.  
2)I don't mind getting too many questions on the assignments as long as there is a plenty of time to do it.atleast 14 days :| .They should be uploaded well in advance so you can relate to the questions when you are actually covering the topics in class and try to figure out the solutions.I think assignments are very well taylored.Although you have to work a bit hard but ultimately it makes you understand the actual concept.
- So far, it is fine. I usually need 1 to 2 hours to finish all the assignment.
- None
- Good as it is
- The last project was a little hard to understand. It was hard to know what was required of the final product. I think an example of what the output should be like would help clear up a lot of issues for me. Also maybe a list of a few of the classes from Lucene to focus on, I got lost searching through the API for answers.
- N/A
- Maybe a bit more flexibility in the tool for implimentation. (I don't mind learning Java but it'd be more efficient if I can do it in Matlab.)
- homeworks/projects are fine as long as not more than one is due in same week
- Please don't have a project and homework due on the same day or very close(ie, homework due on Thursday after project was turned in today). More in-depth solutions presented to the homework after they are due, ie: show the formula/steps used to reach the answers given.
- More projects are always a good thing. I know it takes longer to grade them, but I'd rather have more project work than assignment work, since then I actually have something to show for it at the end of the day. Plus, the application of these techniques, rather than just using them on paper, is one of the best ways to learn how they really work.
- I thought the project was great. When I ran into hard parts the TA was very very helpful. Seriously that guy deserves a raise. I liked actually implementing things we talked about, and would like that to continue.
- As much as I hate projects/ homeworks, I think I understand concepts best when I apply them in a problem. So more projects/ "thinking-cap" HWs works well for me, as long as they're not too time-consuming (computing SVD for a 2x2 matrix is ok- larger matrices becomes very time consuming).  
(I hope my comment can stay anonymous, so I don't incur the wrath of the rest of the class)
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- I just want respected prof. to go through the projects/HWs( through email /in class) and explain briefly what 'exactly' has to be done,not that I want everything to be served on a plate, but atleast want to be sure I am taking the right approach.
- Till not it was good. For me personally, the second homework would have been too much if the deadline was Thursday (considering the other courses we have taken and the heaviness of

the topics covered in last few classes.). Now it is certainly achievable.

- As of now we I have completed only homework 1 and the first phase of the project which pretty covered all the topics that we learnt in the initial classes. I hope the rest of the homeworks and the project will cover all the other topics we learn in the class.
- Ya I like your strategy for making homework but for projet you are not good in the way of assigning the project. You never discuss any algo and logic that can be helpful for student. Your startegy for homework and project is same. But as in practicle life you should adopt a different strategy for homework and project.  
As you put homework in the same way you put project. After that you never try to make project more interesting.  
Make eduaction interesting instead of making pressure. Trt to visualize each student capability and productivity instead of making your course more productive. Good professor is one who can understand the student not one who can be understood. As each student is having different capability but you are focusing only on the productivity.  
I dont say you are bad professor but I wanna say you can be better than this.
- I know personally I would greatly benefit if one of the low homework grades were dropped. I was confused by which was question 1 and which was homework 1 and ended up not doing the other questions. I would benefit if the homeworks were put into a single document instead of spread out and having different numbers in each document. Also, the project guidelines were not as clear as they could be, and more instructions would have been helpful.
- Please explain with full detail similar projects so that we can better understand code that was not written by us.

**Do you have any suggestions/concerns on the help you are getting outside the class room (through TA/through instructor office hours/through the blog discussions etc)**

Q6

- it would be good if we can choose our project that can potentially be used to submit a paper - rather than just some standard exercises.
- The project should definitely be more clear in the future and maybe the TA should be more accessible.
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- none
- I can't find TA.
- None
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- No.
- N/A
- TA is quite helpful. I have sent e-mail to the professor but haven't got reply timely.
- no
- It would be nice if there were a discussion board set up to discuss problems people are having and what the solutions(or tips) are. I think the blog is supposed to partly have this role, but no one wants to post a big 'I need help' display right below an instructor's topic. I realize that some of my suggestions, particularly homework solutions, could be resolved by attending office hours or simply requesting the needed information through e-mail, but its just something that would be nice. I now see you extended the due date for the next homework. Thank you! This has been a challenging course so far, I hope to keep up.
- Loving the blog and posted lecture notes and recordings. Really do appreciate you putting these up. (I work an odd schedule, so I can't always make it to ASU in time for class, but I diligently listen to the recorded lectures. Thank you!).
- I'm concerned that studying for tests in this course will be a colossal effort. We don't have a text book so getting examples will take all kinds of searching online and even then the structure of the information isn't... super concrete. Mostly because the text for the most part is powerpoint slides and not a text book you can read to fill in the gaps. I'm really worried about getting ready for any tests.
- The TA is great! He's very helpful!
- I'd like your teaching method and in my point of view it's the best among all of the teachers I had in ASU.
- I can never make it to TA hours because I have classes on wednesdays.
- Linear Algebra session was helpful. I find that overall its going on pretty well.
- I have no concerns with the TA or the instructor. I got immediate response from the TA when I had some doubts in the project.
- On blog you are slow in answering and making it more interactive.
- I like the steady stream of additional helpful links that I can utilize if I need them.

