

CSE 571 Fall 2010

Class Survey Results

Q1 Are you able to follow the lectures or are you feeling inundated with information?

- Able to follow most of it, but sometimes you do make big leaps. [Background info: I haven't taken your CSE 471]
- except for couple for lectures, i was able to follow the rest of the course
- For the most part, I'm able to follow the lectures fairly well. There is a lot of information, that's true, but when it's explained in class it makes sense to me.
- I am able to follow the lectures.
- In general I am able to follow the lectures fairly well. I would prefer a somewhat slower style that involved careful discussion of the underlying definitions and theoretical intuitions and frameworks involved.
- Lecture pace is just fine.
- A little inundated as I didn't attend your CSE471 and was not really familiar with planning.
- I feel that I am able to follow the lectures for the most part. They tend to jump around a little more than I like, but overall they convey the information.
- I can follow them well.
- I am not 100% abreast of whats been taught, but its not very bad.
- I can follow the lectures but sometimes miss some things as I have not taken an AI course before so I have to look up certain terms discussed in the class in the book or from cse 471 material to get clearer understanding.

Q2 Do you find the lectures engaging enough or repeating what you already know?

- Sometimes the lectures paint the broad picture without filling in enough of the details.
- lectures are quite engaging
- Definitely engaging. There has been very little repetition thus far.
- They have been engaging.
- The lectures are fairly engaging. It is easy to get bogged down in the details of an algorithm trace however, and I would enjoy a greater exploration of the theoretical underpinnings.
- Lectures cover some old information (from undergrad AI) but there is enough new or deeper information.
- engaging enough.
- The lectures tend to go further than the readings and so remain engaging.
- They provide a good balance of new material & old.
- They are engaging.
- the lectures are engaging

Q3 Are you able to connect your readings to the lectures?

- Yes.
- yes
- Yes. Some of the readings (specifically, the first landmark paper and the quadratic planning graph paper) are fairly dense, but they are grounded in what we talk about in class.
- Yes.
- For the most part.
- Yes, lecture follows readings just fine.
- some yes.
- Yes. The lectures touch on the readings emphasizing different features, updating what was in the reading, or providing a deeper level of background.
- Yes
- Not a lot so far.
- yes

Q4 Do you want more sanity assessments like the Graphplan/Quadratic PG assignment?

- Yes, yes, yes. I haven't taken your CSE 471, so my study hours are spent going through your CSE 471 assignments & working over them step by step. The textbook doesn't have many of this type!!
- yes
- Yes, definitely. I would prefer more time to work on them, though - I have a very tight schedule, and I had a difficult time completing the assignment because of time constraints.
- I think the sanity assessment was good. I understood the concepts at a high level but actually trying it made me get down to the specifics.
- I would prefer to have more time to do a sanity assessment. It takes me time to read and digest a paper and it felt like the assignment was rushed on my end.
- Yes, I liked the assignment for the Graphplan but the QPG was somewhat ambiguous.
- yes. small but useful assignments please.
- While I do feel such assignments are a good pedagogical tool, it did not enhance my understanding of the Graphplan anymore than after thinking about it while reading. It did help on the Quadratic PG, but that could be because except for a brief mention in class it was the first introduction to that material.
- That particular assessment had too many lines (^_^), but otherwise either assessments or the lack thereof would be fine.
- Yes please.
- yes

Q5 How many hours/week are you spending on this course right now?

- 2.5 hrs in class
- At least 7 hours working out problems & reading textbook & online materials, some amount spent coding simple algorithms like Backtracking
 - 5
- On average, 3 - 4.
- I'd estimate around 10-12 hours per week.
- I've unfortunately spent only at most about ten hours on the course per week.
 - 3-4
- 2~3 besides lecture time.
- It depends on the week, but I would average about 4-5.
- 5-ish?
- 4 hours
 - 10

Q6 Have you made progress towards identifying your semester project topic?

- Yes, I have figured out some interesting topics, though am not 100% clear
- no
- Not much, yet.
- Yes. I'm narrowing in on some ideas. It would be nice to hear some of the expectations for the project. The deadline for when we are supposed to have a topic selected is also unclear to me.
- I have some ideas, but would like some time outside of class to discuss them.
- Not yet, I am hoping to get an idea from (directly or indirectly) from the suggested topics
- not yet.
- Yes. I hope to have my topic finalized by the end of this week.
- Not much
- No
- still deciding

Q7 Do you have any suggestions for improving your course experience? If so, list them below.

- 1. Please do keep Office Hours at a different time - say evening after 4 pm! 8-9 is TOO early.
- 2. Please do give a handful of drill problems - need not grade them, but we do get experience-with sample answers. I have been doing your CSE 471 exercises (CSP & Planning) and would really appreciate it if you would share the answers.
- 3. And please don't discourage seemingly silly questions from those with a non-CSE-471 background.
- the transition from a normal lecture to a heavy one was quite steep. it would be better if we are informed of additional, related background readings required for these lectures.
- See comment on sanity check assignments above: I would prefer more assignments, but also more time to do them.
- I have difficulty reading the handwriting that appears on the slides (this hasn't been a serious problem because the slides are discussed).
- I would like a slower pace to the lectures and greater coverage of the theoretical foundations.
- Not yet
- speak a little bit slower during lecture. If possible, please write it down to blackboard every time you want to introduce a concept/term that you thought we know but we actually don't.
- I think it might be nice to move a little quicker, but I also think that I may regret that request.
- I found some of the slides a little too busy. A few had enough interesting information as to be distracting from what you were saying.
-
- Theoretical/formal notations or way of presenting solution become clearer to me when expressed in the form of examples which make it easier for me to understand.

Q8 Do you feel comfortable about the fact that your grade depends on participation, paper reviews and project? Would you prefer that additional means of assessment should be used?

- It's hard to see how you grade paper reviews. I feel uncomfortable that there are no simple, drill, rote problems that form the course's core. Without mastering these somehow, I'll only get a broad idea and won't be able to solve concrete problems. I am having a hard enough time with some of your CSE 471 & Textbook problems & will feel happy only when I'm totally at ease with them.
Even if I don't know the bleeding edge ideas like Quadratic Graphs or whatever, I *do* want to be able to solve simple planning problems in my head, just like I write binary tree search or SQL Queries.
- i hope the midterm/final exams are still on. having more sanity assessments/hw and counting them towards grading would be nice
- It's somewhat unsettling, because I haven't taken a course before which uses these methods of assessment, but I believe it is appropriate for a graduate class.
- I'm comfortable with that. It would be nice to know how we are doing in each of those areas so that any necessary corrections could be made.
- I am very comfortable with participation and having my course grade be based off of that as well as paper reviews and a project.
- This is a fine class format for me.
- yes.
- I am comfortable with whatever grading assessments you wish to use.
- While I would prefer additional assessment, the stated plan is reasonable.
- Not very. I would prefer sanity check questions to also count towards the grade.
- I am comfortable with the existing grade methodology.