Course:Data Structures in Java II
        (CSC-301-501)
Quarter:Winter 13/14
Time: TuTh 13:30 – 15:00
Location: Loop Campus

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. No comment
2. This is one of the better courses at DePaul. I have no major qualms about the course and feel like the actually content of the course (Sorting algorithms and algorithms in general) was this course's strongest aspectThe weakest where this course was, was the teacher at times.This class was supposed to be headed by another teacher but we got someone else. He came into the class expecting everyone to be at a certain level and was uncompromising about adjusting those expectations. (Even when it was clear from the grades there was a significant portion of the class that was just not getting it.) Although to be fair, he did ask us what he should do about that and we said to just "Let them sink." (But keep in mind this group of students who were in class actually had him last quarter while a significant portion that wasn't in class didn't have him.)
3. Obviously smart. Really rude to students. Distinctly unhelpful with questions, or struggling students. Poor organization and teaching pace. Gave a midterm that everyone in the class struggled with and then appeared mystified as to why no one was doing well. Assigned a very very difficult assignment for the first (second?) assignment that he had to extend multiple times and again acted mystified that no one in the class was succeeding. On one occasion (at least), he didn't answer reasonably timed questions on the Piazza board until after was due.
4. Professor Riely knows a lot about programming and is very good at explaining how to code things in a way that makes it easy to understand.
5. Strengths – approachable, very knowledgeable on the subjectWeakness – some ambiguous/vague instructions/explanations of homework/quizzes
6. the major weakness is not explaining the homework before he assigns it. He puts restrictions what functions we can use on homework. we should be able to use whatever functions we want because the book explains it by using them.
7. Very threatening in a way. Made an announcement somewhere along the lines that if you don't understand just get out my class and drop. This class is not for you. Made me feel like I can not approach him to ask questions. Despite having the discussion board.
8. Funny, but his understanding of the material is better than ours and he assumes we understand it as well.
9. Riely is an amazing instructor who supports the students outside the class greatly.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. No comment
2. The content of the course
3. The material was important.
4. Learning the data structures and getting practice with how to code methods.

5. Learning how to deal with data
6. Nothing, he is the worst teacher i have ever had.
7. N/A
8. Understanding BSTs, etc.
9. Learning data structures will surely help in the future.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. No comment
2. Not too much actually, just make sure that the teacher understands the position students are in and adjust your expectations accordingly.
3. I really think that a little thought put into what homework is given when would make a world of difference.
4. Nothing
5. Have smaller homework assignments due in at most a week instead of larger homework assignments due in at least a week. I feel like I'd be more focused on the course work if there were fresh new homework assignments sooner instead of lingering on larger assignments.
6. Actually explain the homework requirements before assigning it. let people use the function that the book uses. write code in class ON THE COMPUTER MORE not on the board.
7. n/a
8. More focus on code rather than how structures work.
9. n/a

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. No comment
2. They were fair.
3. Not reasonable, in my opinion, but I don't think we were appropriately prepared for the exam, by the homework.
4. Grading is slow
5. Sometimes the amount of points deducted from assignments seems too much. Also grading the homework assignments is slow.
6.
7. n/a
8. Grading seems to be fair.
9. The grading is fair. although a one-character typo in a string of >20 characters on d2l results in the answer being wrong despite the intention being obvious.

Other comments?

1. No comment
2. Nope
3.
4.
5. Great pairing of the course with the professor. Maybe try out some of the homework suggestions and see how that goes.

6.
7. n/a
8. Interesting class.
9. Riely is a great instructor.

Course:Data Structures in Java II 　　　　(CSC-301-502) Quarter:Winter 13/14 Time: MW 15:10 – 16:40 Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Extremely bright, knows the material. However, he moves way too quickly and the tests require comprehensive understanding that goes beyond the applications in the course.

2. Strengths was that he clearly knew his stuff. Could explain material very well and you knew he was an expert who could give you valuable information to be used later for career development.Weaknesses – Sometimes homework assignments were a little tough to complete do to the wild west nature of what we were to do. There was little guidance and instruction in the direction we should take our programming assignments. Whether or not this was do to the instructors faith in the students I'm not sure. But it could have been a bit more beneficial to know the full extent of what is required in a assignment, such as methods, certain exception detection, and/or what a method should do.

3. Dr. Riely really knows the material. With that, he sometimes seems to assume the students know more than they do, or that things aren't explained well because they seem easy to him. I also thought we spent too much time on trees. This is obvious because we are now behind. Same thing happened last quarter with Tomuro. This class should be split over three quarters or something.

4. Seemed like he was teaching the course for the first time or a least this was the first time he implemented a lot of new changes without having all the kinks worked out. Assignments were continually updated after I had put in the effort to finish them early so I had to go back and check and occasionally fix things that he was not specific on / changed before the due date. That was very stressful as it made it difficult to get ahead or even stay on track. The professor does bring an enjoyable air to the class where I enjoy learning from him and I enjoy going to class but at the same time I felt the class was more unorganized compared to last quarter.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Assignments, passing
2. Tests mostly, that was the area I needed to improve upon the most, and seemed to give me a bigger grasp on what I actually knew compared to what I thought I knew.
3. The book is excellent and the hw assignments were great.
4. Learning data structures and how they are used in the real world.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. After introducing symbol tables, the course should spend the majority of time writing algorithms over trees and graphs
2. Move some material to the first part of the course, that way to better prepare those for section two.

3. Split it over three quarters. In general, if I didn't have to take so many useless electives (religious dimensions, ethics in tech, history courses), I could take more courses that will benefit my career. There are several courses that I would have liked to have been over another quarter.

4. Be more accepting of student interpretations of assignments. Clarify if necessary but don't punish those that did the assignments early and on time because you made a mistake. It was very stressful going back over homework I thought I had finished to make sure that it fit with all the new additions or clarifications. Providing tests for us would probably solve most of these problems because we can run the tests and know if we are right or wrong. Also having an easier way to use graphviz on Windows would be extremely helpful during the graph sections of the course.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Extremely slow on homeworks. Still don't have a grade for my first assignment in this class.

2. Grading was slow at part. This was probably is in fault to the grader.

3. The midterm was a little too difficult I thought. More insight into what to prepare for would have been good. When studying, I didn't know what to study. The book material I had mastered. I ended up with a grade in the seventies, as did most of the class. I just felt very surprised by the midterm.

4. Felt exam grading was more then fair based on our performance. The exams are very difficult more so than other CSC courses makes it hard to know how one actually did. Grading for homework occasionally seemed unfair, best example is on the KDtree. We were graded using different tests than we were given to test our solutions with. So I got a better grade with the tests we were given but lost points because different tests were used to grade the original kdtree. I think that the tests we were given should be what the first kdtree grade should be based off of.

Other comments?

1.

2. I like this class, it was more difficult then others, but I know that if I can pass this class then I can put my head down, focus, and pass any class.

3.

4.

Course:**Data Structures II** (CSC-403-810) Quarter:**Winter 13/14** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Slow grading of homework, usually getting feedback after the midterm, when it's too late. Also, we should have more questions in the quizzes, not only 2 or 3 questions. Then, if you get 1 wrong, you won't get 50% or 66%.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The homework.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. The grading was very fair. Mid-terms and finals were graded quickly, unlike the homeworks.

Other comments?

1.

Course:Data Structures in Java I
      (CSC-300-401)
Quarter:Autumn 13/14
Time: MW 15:10 - 16:40
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
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Instructor homepage

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Good teacher on a tough subject.
2. Clarity was an issue an times. With a complex language such as Java, it's a little bit of a challenge to fully grasp an assignment. Especially when curve balls may be thrown into an assignment, when you don't fully understand the fundamentals, trying to figure out the curve balls becomes even more difficult.
3. Strengths- Funny- Smart- Knows his stuff- Easy to talk to and always willing to help- Structure in the course was good, kept me focused and always doing work for the class (always learning).Weakness- I felt that using his class as guinea pigs to test new things is not fair unless you also have some flexibility when questions are not correctly worded. Making it easier for later classes does not help learn us now. If a student has a good reason for why they got a question wrong I think that the professor should give them those points. - Teaches very quickly. Hard to follow sometimes.- Should give more test cases/ examples of what programming assignments should do to make sure we do not have holes in the code. Or at least tell us to make sure it works for all types of input and not just what he provides as a test.
4. Major strength: Availability Major weaknesses: Did not thoroughly or precisely explain homework assignments and poor time management
5. Very good explanations of material in class. Is better than most at explaining problems. Is understanding. I was impressed by his exuberance in class; it was high, but not grating.I didn't think his teaching was in anyway sub-par. It was always average to excellent.
6. Strengths: He's confident in his knowledge and you always felt like you would get a reasonable answer if you went to him for help. He's a pretty fun guy and that upbeat attitude went a long way towards stimulating interest in what could very easily be dry. Weaknesses: His homework and quizzes were ambiguous more than once. He does a good job at explaining concepts, but he's bad at explaining the expectations of the course and his expectations of the students. More often than not, I saw myself getting a bad grade on a homework quiz because of ambiguously worded questions or just questions that we haven't even seen before. Another example that comes to mind is that, one homework quiz had us insert code to make a program work. The problem provided us with a test case, and a lot of people inserted the line in a spot which made the program work for the test caseExcept that was wrong, there was ANOTHER test case that wasn't explicitly stated in the problem. Now I understand the logic behind this. One day we will have to come up with our own test cases and debug our own programs. But you've got to understand that many students are coming into this class with just python or a rudimentary understanding of computer science. We ALWAYS were given problems with ALL of the test cases clearly spelled out. To throw this question at us with ALL of the test cases NOT stated was a curve ball that a lot of people fell for.
7. Really excellent email communication, really helped with the course assignments.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.

2. The aspect that it is split into two quarters, gives the student a chance to fully understand the subject, as well as recorded online classes, which allow me to go back and double check a lecture for hints or notes that i missed about a topic/homework assignment.

3. The programming assignments were difficult enough where I had to work hard and think outside of the box to figure them out. I liked that because I felt I was pushing myself and learning. Diagrams and pictures used to explain topics and ideas were always helpful.

4. N/A

5. The homework. Hands down incredibly useful.

6. The homework were by far the best. Hard, but when you got them done you had a clear understanding and felt confident with the concept the homework was trying to teach you.

7. The homework assignments

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.

2. It's on the students to ask questions when they don't understand a subject. That being said, I think we would have less questions if we were to go over in class all aspects of applying a algorithm or class. but this may slow down class speed as it is virtually impossible to cover every take on it. Maybe just cover important problems or ones we may find in the homework?

3. - Be more flexible in grading when testing new quiz approaches/ questions on your class.- Slow down with the lectures.- Use a less 'mathy' book. I feel like I am in a calculus class that uses programming rather then in a programming class that has some math when I read the book.

4. I believe this course would function better provided that the professor can effectively teach the material in a manner that is easier for students to learn and grasp precisely.

5. I found the reading hw/quizzes to be very useless. They did not contribute at all to my understanding of the course material or homework. I would suggest a lab class similar to the labs I've had in my csc241/242 classes. The labs allow for hands on experience learning either simpler versions of the homework or for teaching the students the associated programs used in the homework.The specific draw program for the percolation assignment for instance. It would have been very useful for me, when doing the percolation assignment to know how that worked before I started the assignment. I spent about 10hours on it and only about 1-2 of those hours was spent having a sufficient knowledge of the associated programs. The rest was spent either trying to understand the associated programs, or coming up with solutions that ultimately failed, because I didn't understand. It was frustrating. Or knowing how check invariants worked when doing the node assignment. Knowing specifically what was wrong when a bug arose due to the check invariants would have saved me a ton of time and made the assignment much less frustrating. If not labs, at least a lot more comments on such methods so it's easier to understand what is going on.

6. Having a Lab Day or at least a class room where we could have computers would be phenomenal. Data Structures in General would benefit from a Lab like what Intro to Computer I and II have.

7. The idea of having a lab portion of the class if not possible to have the class in a lab was brought up which I think would have helped a lot. While computers do add the possibility of distractions, for me personally, being able to program in a classroom setting while the professor is showing you how to do it is really helpful. Yea, you can go home and program but you'll likely end up spending more time frustrated trying to figure things out instead of actually understanding what you're doing, and plus it adds the ability to ask questions as soon as they come up and lets the professor see what your thought process is. I don't know, it just feels like if

you're taking a class using programming, you should be able to program in the class.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.
2.   Fair and understandable. Most of it is on the student to remember taking the quizzes before the D2L window closes, which can be an issue for forgetful students (Me). Professor should be assigned a grader so students can see homework grades with in a reasonable time frame.
3.   - Did not always give the most constructive feedback. But the emails regarding assignments were usually very thorough.
4.   N/A
5.   Seemed fair and reasonable. No other comments.
6.   No comments, no concerns. Pretty fair actually.
7.   Took a bit long but that's understandable since we didn't have a grader.

Other comments?

1.
2.   Nah son, that about covers it.
3.   None. I like the professor a lot, he is a great guy I just want to offer constructive feedback so that the course can be improved.
4.   N/A
5.   Aside from the massive time sink each homework was, I thought the class was excellent and so was the teacher. I thought it was very applicable outside of the course, interesting, and at times fun. the MyDeckSort was short, sweet, and fun.
6.   Nope, Good class overall!
7.   Nay

Course:**Data Structures I**
    (CSC-402-701)
Quarter:**Autumn 13/14**
Time: **M 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. +Enthusiastic-Assignments graded much later than needed
2. Strengths:1. Master in the programming language.2. knowing the weakness point of students, at least for me.
3. Strengths: Classes were always entertaining and never boring.Weaknesses: Homework was graded slowly (though our instructor noted that he was expecting a grader to assist him with this but never got one)
4. strengths: very familiar with the materials that he is teaching; homework is well-designed; course pace is appropriate. the concepts are explained in a clear manna.weakness: should communicate with students more carefully.
5. Some material was assumed to be known. Prof made class enjoyable somehow.
6. His strength is that he a wide knowledge in his field . his weakness is that most of his questions are ambiguous and need more explanation . he would be the best if he would take it easy on students and make reasonable exams . better than curving all the time .

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learning data structures
2. Analysis of algorithms.
3. Homeworks were designed so that we could test whether or not the code we wrote was working correctly while working on it
4. career and interview prepare.
5.
6. Coding java

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Faster grading.
2. use an additional - optional- programming language.
3.
4.
5. Choose more useful material. I suggest removing from E-Commerce Technology requirements. And maybe another book.
6. The course is good . also because of the assignment that is given weekly , makes it more interesting to go

through java .

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.   Should have removed the quiz that was not posted on the todo for the week rather than simply removing lowest grade. This was unfair to the students who simply missed the quiz because it wasn't made visible. As result, we lost the benefit of that while other students were able to take advantage of it in real manner.
2.
3.   Time allocated for exam taking wasn't enough. I felt rushed the entire time, thus reducing my performance
4.   should allow more attempts to the quiz
5.   Assignment grading took so long. We should know all our grades 1 week before the final max. The midterm and final grades are not determined yet.
6.   Again the exam was long and hard .

Other comments?

1.
2.
3.
4.   N/A
5.   The prof was a bit disorganized with the assignments and grading. Some things were posted before they're supposed to be done which caused confusion.
6.   This class is good with Professor James he is dedicating himself to teach but also impossible for the level of difficulty of his exams .

Course: **Data Structures I**
    (CSC-402-710)
Quarter: **Autumn 13/14**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths: Super quick response times via email. Has excellent Weaknesses: Very slow grading of homework, which is important when prepping for exam and getting appropriate feedback.
2. In general either I just didn't understand the material or the instructor didn't present it in a way that I followed. Chances are if I took the class again and/or with a different instructor I may understand the material better.
3. I can't think of too many weaknesses. Some would say he would run into snags with programming live in class, but in a roundabout way, it helps show us the process of looking at code at trying to figure out how to fix it. He was very entertaining and knowledgeable on the subject.
4. Strengths: Enthusiastic. Would answer students questions Weakness: He was unable to present examples in class in an understandable manner. Often making mistakes and tries to fix them.
5.
6.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The course was online, which is a huge plus for me, since I can study at my own pace and schedule it according to my current work hours.
2.
3. Learning how to use data structures certainly helped me understand programming much better, especially as a non-CS degree holder.
4. Going over the quizzes that we did in class. It helped me understand where my mistakes were made
5.
6.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Have faster grading and better feedback on my homework and exam.
2.
3. Probably ease up a little on the pacing. It may just be exclusive to me, but there was a time where I was swamped with three projects (from three different courses) all due around the same time. A bit more hands on experience with coding full programs would be nice too. That's when people might learn the most.
4. More feedback on homework for online students. I never know why I got points off. More examples that will help with homework.

5. new course materials with better examples.
6. While it didn't have too much of an impact, it would have been nice to have assignments graded before having to complete the next assignment or midterm/final.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. It's fair.
2.
3. No complaints. You get what you give.
4. Grading too long. I thought homework was graded poorly.
5.
6. Very fair

Other comments?

1. PLEASE record the lectures in mono. It's EXTREMELY annoying to hear the lecture in stereo and to hear the professor phasing in and out of from my left and right side.PLEASE cut out breaks from the video. It's a big waste of time when I'm waiting for the lecture to start/restart. Or make better controls on the iPad so I can actually skip in 10s and 60s intervals.Can we also have synchronized bookmarks in the d2l software? I watch the lectures on my ipad to/from work, and watch the rest on my desktop. It would help tremendously if the bookmarks can be synced between devices.
2.
3. Good tip on the Hancock Tower!
4. It was hard to hear a lot of the lectures online.
5.
6.

Course:Data Structures in Java II (CSC-301-601) Quarter:Spring 12/13 Time: TuTh 11:50 - 13:20 Location: **Loop Campus**	James Riely PhD _____ Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The professor is very knowledgeable about the subject, so that makes learning it much easier, because the professor is able to use real world examples the relate to many students.

2. Professor Riely is clearly very knowledgeable and is able to answer any questions that pertained to the subject. I think this course would have been alot better if Professor Riely spent the time to learn our names especially considering this was a two-parter (even if he says he is bad with names) instead of just pointing to someone and saying 'YOU'.

3. The professor was really willing to put in time to help students when needed. He seemed very knowledgeable about the subject, which ended up being sort of good and sort of bad. It was good because he was able to answer every question, but it was bad because it seemed like he didn't completely understand what it was like to be in a position where one does not grasp programming like he does.

4. Amount of information was impressive.Homework were hard to solve

5. Clearly knowledgeable about the content, presented material well and in an understandable fashion.Perhaps spent more time than necessary reviewing a few areas.

6. Strength = shows why we should be learning this stuffWeakness = repeats stuff over and over (if you ask him a question, he'll repeat the answer 3 different ways even when the first was sufficient).

7. Seemed to assume students knew things that I could tell most students did not. Also took forever to grade homework so we got no feedback on it. I did however, learn a lot by going to class. He is knowledgeable about the subject, and presents it well. He got better about assuming students knew things near the end of the quarter.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The homework assignments, because they are what really made most of the material make sense in the long run.

2. I think the textbook we used is the best textbook i have ever had the pleasure of using.

3. The classes themselves were educational, and I feel like I have grown from them.

4. How to make code run faster

5. Writing the data structures and algorithms from scratch probably gives the best understanding of their workings and their applications.

6. Learning the stuff.

7. Learning how to use eclipse and the debugger, learning how to use data structures and how to implement them.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. To improve this course I'd suggest making the reading matter in some way, whether it be online quiz or in class quiz. Or possibly make the homework be like a quiz, where the student has to provide answers to questions with code snippets.
2. i think it would be nice to have a couple classes in the lab and follow along with the class material.
3. This class was taught at a level that is not appropriate for students without a lot of background experience. The students that have been programming for years all understood the assignments and the exams, but the students that have only been programming for one or two years seemed to really struggle with the class.The teacher once jokingly referred to a group of kids as "slackers," but these were the kids that did not have a long history of coding. In fact, most of these students I knew put in more time than the "non-slacker" students for the class, they just didn't have the background that the other students did. This class needs to be taken down a few notches or at least become more accessible to students without years of experience under their belt. Instead of increasing my appreciation for the subject, this class has actually caused me to completely question whether computer science is something I want to go into because I have struggled that much in this class.
4. Let students do a presentation
5. More coding.
6. More fun.
7. A prerequisite of non-java related computer skills. (Command Prompt use, program structure, learning how to run programs on a computer, etc.)

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. I think the grading procedure for exams was fine, I felt that the lack of feedback on the homework assignment however, wasn't very helpful. I was looking for feedback on the homework to see where I stood with my understanding.
2. We didnt get any kind of feed back on our homework assignments. Tests where graded fairly.
3. Almost none of the assignments have actually been graded with feedback, which makes the class trickier.Complicating the matter is that the professor has opted this quarter for short-answer exams instead of multiple choice like in the past. This first became a problem when the professor told the class only a few days before the midterm that the exams would be different than the exams we had taken in the class prior to this, giving us less time to study. Additionally, because we received no feedback, I had no idea if what I was doing was right. If the professor is going to give the students short-answer problems, then he should give feedback on the homework so that students know what to improve.
4. Very good
5. Grading was fair. Although some partial credit would be nice, on an exam as short as these, one misunderstanding can be pretty damning. While the grading curve certainly mitigates this, being on the right track but with a fatal error shouldn't be equally weighted with a blank answer. Arguably, in a real life application, a quick attempt at compilation would have given someone a chance to fix even entire conceptual errors.
6. We did not have a grader for our programming assignments.
7. Still has not graded any homework.

Other comments?

1.

2.

3.   Often I would attend class and completely understand the material. Then I would get home and not understand the homework at all. I think that there should be more overlap between the class and the homework.

4.

5.   Nope. Great class.

6.

7.   Good, not great teacher. Felt like I had too much homework some weeks and not enough to understand the material other weeks.

Course: Data Structures II (CSC-403-901)	James Riely PhD
Quarter: Spring 12/13	Associate Professor
Time: Tu 17:45 – 21:00	jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Location: Loop Campus	Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.

2.   His classroom management skills exceeded those of my previous instructors. Prof. Riely and Prof. Streeter are among the best professors I've had so far at DePaul. I love that we work through the algorithms together without Java code and then we write the code together. I also love that he even questions the book materials as they are sometimes not right (typos and such). That shows that his head is really there in the classroom and cares about giving us the right information. I really liked getting all of the algorithms from each section of the book organized in the "algs4" folder. This made it extremely easy to search for algorithms for review. He kept class engaged with humor and made us laugh. Learning should be fun, challenging, and enlightening. He made it worth it. I never felt inferior or unwise in his classroom. Thanks for everything! I wish he was the teachers in my other classes.

3.   I thought he was knowledgeable about the subject and kept the material informative, interesting, relevant to today's professional. I needed more code examples for homework and exam prep.

4.   He's very knowledgeable on the material and his energy was definitely a lot of fun in the class. His weakness definitely would be on grading the homework on time, but we would discuss the homework in class in length, so I never felt like I needed a score back in order to see what I'm doing wrong/right.

5.   Excellent explanations of concepts and demonstrations.

6.   Strengths: Very knowledgable, Makes learning the material fun, Excellent communication.Weaknesses: I didn't notice any.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   Doing the readings and lectures were the most helpful.

2.   Google groups is so much better than D2L. I was able to take notes on my computer during the lectures. The biggest light bulb to go off in my head was when we drew 2-3 nodes that corresponded to Red-Black Trees. If I had never been given that assignment to draw these things out, I would have lost out on a valuable tool. I will continue to draw out my algorithms and use that cognitive spatial part of my brain to problem solve like this in the future.

3.   Getting exposure to java and learning the data structures we can create.

4.   The programming assignments, and real-world applications.

5.   Homework assignments.

6.   The material is crucial for furthering programming knowledge and for pursuing a career in software engineering and creation.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. some homework problems that challenge us to apply algorithms to real world problems would be beneficial to understanding.
2. Give us more problems like the last question on the mid-term for homework. Maybe one of those every two weeks.
3. Add more examples to prep for exam and homework.
4. More of the long assignments. The KD tree homework was longer but it was the best assignment all quarter just because there was so much to understand and fix in our programs. I liked that it had a visual result as well, because personally I find it a little hard to figure out some of my errors if I cannot see it visually. So longer, more difficult assignments that have a visual performance test would be good.
5. N/A
6. Some of the material feels extremely dense in scope, and I feel it might be better to slow down the pace a little bit.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.
2. I did well on the mid-term but ended up receiving a better percentage than I first realized. Thanks.
3. Need more clarity and definition around grading procedures. Need a general outline of the potential exam items.
4. Homework was submitted and we were given a grade for attempting the work. We didn't know until the end of the quarter though that they wouldn't be actually "graded". For credit it is okay, but there were a few weeks that I was hoping for some feedback because I may have done things slightly differently. Exams were tough but fair, and definitely having short-answer exams was a lot better than the multiple choice of last quarter.
5. N/A
6. Grading is extremely fair.

Other comments?

1.
2. I think using Java for the language is really clear. It gets rid of all the funky syntax. No void * or memory management. It really gets out of the way so we can concentrate on the algorithm's core rather than these extras in other languages. Also, thanks for meeting outside of class time. I wonder if it could be done on a Google Hangout? Or call? I had one day off that I came down for but if I could eliminate the travel that would be nice. However, I do like face to face conversations better.
3.
4. In general I took a LOT out of this course. I definitely had a tough time with it, which I'm happy with because I'd rather be struggling to learn something than sail through a course and get an easy grade. That's not what I'm paying for. Also, Professor Riely was pretty good about reading my face when I was confused and calling me out for it. Which I liked though, because there were times I was trying to understand something and I wouldn't say anything because I'd be trying to figure it out in my head, so when he'd call me out, I'd be almost "forced" to figure out outloud what it was I didn't understand.In general, definitely happy with this course and would definitely take another course with Riely if I could.
5. N/A

Course:Data Structures II
     (CSC-403-910)
Quarter:Spring 12/13
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD
_____

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Great teacher, terrible at getting homework graded promptly on his own. He needs the help of a grader.
2. Strengths are that he is obviously skilled at his craft. Weakness is that he is not a good communicator and confuses more than helps. I think he knows what he is talking about but he cannot seem to communicate it effectively to others. He doesn't like to answer questions and seems unorganized.
3. Knowledgeable of the subject matter, but basicallly used all the material of another school's Algorithm's class and taught it in a more confusing manner.
4. I've had Prof. Riely twice now. I have greatly enjoyed his classes. Strengths: Understands the material backwards and forwards and explains it very well. Gifted lecturer. He picks assignments that are not exceedingly hard and help with comprehension of the subject matter. Goes above and beyond to answer questions after class and through email.Weaknesses: Not many. Last quarter I found his exams to be monstrously difficult, but this quarter the midterm was just right.
5. Very knowledgeable about all the topics and information presented in the class. Very animated and involved in the material which made it easy to get into. The book was great, but I feel like all of the material we saw in class and in the book was the same so it was hard to get a different perspective on the material when a concept didn't make sense.
6. He was very engaging.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Great course as baseline for other study.
2. Learning about graphs.
3. All of it.
4.
5. The book was one of the biggest assets because of the clarity of its presentation.
6. The whole course has been useful and applicable to my current employment.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Make sure Prof. Riely has a grader to help him grade homework in a timely manner.
2. Have it taught by another instructor.
3. Clearer Lectures, assignments with more instruction (some are vague).
4.
5. More material, homework, or exercises that don't come from just the book.I loved the book but the

homework problems were not very good and often times very confusing.
6. None

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.
2. It is hard to judge because we never get feedback. Dr. Riely doesn't even grade our work. It is 3 weeks from the final and we haven't even got homework 1 graded yet. Only the midterm grades came back. I wish I could get a partial refund for this course.
3. Please grade the homework on time! It's 7 weeks in and I don't have any graded homework
4. Keep the short answer format.
5. Exam was graded very quickly.Homework seemed to not matter and while I understand the problems facing the instructor in grading it we never really received much feedback on it. I think a different homework format next semester, and less problems out of the book might make the homework experience better and more useful.
6. It was fair.

Other comments?

1.
2. Dr. Riely is a brilliant mind in Computer Science. But I sincere believe he should be in research or in the field and not teaching people. He is not very patient, he doesn't answer questions, he doesn't give feedback, and he seems like teaching is more like an after thought. I like the fellow, as he can be entertaining, but he isn't what I would call a top notch instructor.
3.
4.
5. Great instructor, great class, couldn't imagine taking it with any other professor.
6. I'm glad it's over.

Course:Data Structures in Java I
   (CSC-300-501)
Quarter:Winter 12/13
Time: TuTh 15:10 – 16:40
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   The professor is very passionate about the subject, but at times may go to fast over some of the material.
2.   The major strength of this professor is that he is able to teach some material really well. The largest flaw is that I felt he didn't teach the material that would be helpful in regards to doing homework assignments or preparing for exams.
3.   Has a lot of knowledge in the subject but very poorly taught and hard to understand lessons. Homework was also very difficult and did not cover what was learned in class.
4.   He is very knowledgeable and keeps class interesting, but has some trouble explaining things in laymans terms to students who are struggling.
5.   The professor presented material carefully and in a manner that was easily followed.
6.   Ability to explain code very good.Weakness: Jokes.
7.   This instructor knows how to keep the class interesting. He pretty much always has a silly mood in the classroom, which keeps the class from becoming dull. I didn't think that this professor had any weaknesses.
8.   Strengths: were learning about new aspect of java programming.Weaknesses: Listening to lectures about programming, instead of having labs and assignments in class, is a major disadvantage to not understand the lectures
9.   He knows a lot about the subject which is his strength. He seems to be very passionate. But he does not seem to care at all for his students. Whenever I go to him for help he seemed disinterested and acted as if he did not have time for me, even kicking me out of his room when I did not understand the problem, but could not form a proper question to help clear the air. He makes himself seem so open to students, but in reality is impatient and seems to not care at all about helping.
10.   Strength: Clear explanationsWeakness: hard to pay attention some times
11.   I like that he keeps an upbeat paces for something that some people might consider boring.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   The on the board code examples really helped my understanding of the subject.
2.   The most beneficial aspect of this class was learning to work with others in order to finish and understand assignments.
3.   None.
4.   Nearly all of it, I learned very much in the topic
5.   Online assignment submission format.
6.   Office hours
7.   The homework. It really helped me understand how each of the data structures work.

8. Algorithms
9. The tutoring center and other students. I have learned and received more help from those sources than the instructor.
10. The talk about coding standards.
11. I think the textbook does a great job and the fact that the course runs parallel with the textbook is a plus.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I think that some more introductory into Java would be beneficial, since most students come from Python, they may not be familiar with Java.
2. I think the material would be easier to understand if the professor wrote more example code in class so we could see his mindset while conquering problems.
3. Must be taught better.
4. The secondary book seemed unnecessary.
5. None
6.
7. Sometimes students don't catch on to the class material that quickly. Perhaps find a way for students to know what to write down during the class.
8. Labs and Programming in class
9. A professor that is more open to helping students and furthering their knowledge, and to try and create a more interactive class, instead of a boring stand and talk based lecture.
10. There seems to be a large distribution of people with coding experience. Perhaps there should be an accelerated version of this course.
11. I wish we spent a little bit more time in the beginning of the course on java in general considering most of the students in the class had to pick it up. I feel like we went over it just a little too fast. But then again this is a java 'DATA STRUCTURES' class so i do understand.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.
2. Grading was slow at first, but that was not the professor's fault. I always felt as though I received a fair grade for the work I put into assignments and exams.
3. None.
4. Very fair and I felt I received the grades I deserved. Also made very clear how he was grading and where your grade currently was.
5. None
6.
7. Graded fairly and on-time.
8. Grades were fair
9. Exams were graded promptly, but assignments were not.
10. It was fair.
11. I believe he has done a good job grading in a fair way.

Other comments?

1.
2. I think James Riely is an extremely talented programmer and individual, I just don't have faith in his
abilities to teach that material to others who are not at that level yet.
3. None.
4. Many students seemed to struggle... maybe there should be an intermediary class between this and intro
5. None
6.
7.
8.
9. I like the class and subject, but not the professor.
10. This course was a review of the AP CS course I took in high school.
11.

Course:**Data Structures I**
       (CSC-402-801)
Quarter:**Winter 12/13**
Time: **Th 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.
2. Presented the material well and kept us engaged. He is very knowledgeable. I liked the group format to post questions and provide help and get help.
3. Very good at explaining things, and very open and willing to give guidance and advice on class materials.
4. The professor is a really nice guy and very very intelligent. I think he tries to be as available as possible and does his best to answer questions and what not, but some times even his answers are hard to understand. He assumes we (the students) have more coding experience than we actually have so he assigns a lot of homework. The homework though is way too much!!! I can"t sleep at night because this class just takes way too much time. I have a full time job and I can't dedicate all my time not at work to this class. I have tried but I couldn't keep it up for too long.
5. The Instructor explained concepts very well and kept the class engaged.
6. He has fun teaching, consequently, we have fun.
7. He was very accessible and reasonable.
8. Riely is very interested in and excited about the material. He presents topics with enthusiasm.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The google group message board was very beneficial. I would have struggled a lot more without that.
2. Walking through the prior week's homework assignment
3. Access to the professor.
4. I picked up a lot of things in this course in a very short amount of time but none of it was due to the professor. He just went over concepts, more than actual code. I learned a lot through the very challenging homework because most of it was done through the help of the tutors in the tutoring lab. The tutors taught me a lot.
5. The homework assignments.
6. Every aspect.
7. N/A
8. The homework, as it made me internalize the larger concepts.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.
2. More examples. I found the book problems to sometimes not be clear on what is being asked.

3. I don't have any.

4. detailed examples of working with the code before assigning the homework. not just one example but many examples. less homework. some times my job gets very busy, but with this class once you fall behind by a day or two its almost impossible to catch up. I got sick for 3 days and I was freaking out because I was still working and didn't have enough time to do the hw.

5. N/A

6. Don't teach people Python, teach them Java from the get go. I was fine because I'm a programmer, you failed out a bunch of people because of the curriculum's structure.

7. I felt completely unprepared for this course, coming from Python. I was unfamiliar with the language used to teach the course and had great difficulty completing the assignments and exams. I was under the impression that this class was an introduction on how to program using Java, meaning, I would be taught how to use Java, not given assignments in a language I've never learned. I was very disappointed, but Professor Riely is an exceptional instructor, and I fault the structure of the program, not the teacher.

8. TEACH JAVA FIRST. I came into this class with only Python as my prior programming experience, as the coursework dictates. I found myself to be at a great disadvantage for the first 3-4 weeks of classes because I was struggling with the implementation of the algorithms, which meant I couldn't focus on the actual subject matter.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.

2. I believe it to be fair and in line with my prior experiences.

3. Extremely fair and objective. Conducted in a timely manner.

4. the exams are extremely challenging. They are not very straightforward questions. I spent around 9-10 hours over the weekend studying and found that I barely managed to finish the exam on time.

5. Grading and exams were executed as expected. I have no criticisms in this regard.

6.

7. N/A

8. These were fine and expeditious

Other comments?

1.

2. I find James Riely to be tough but I am learning a lot.

3.

4. I would not recommend this class to other students if they have a job and are beginners in java development. The stress and frustration might actually kill you.

5. None.

6.

7. N/A

8. I feel that it is worth mentioning to potential students that this class – for someone with little programming experience – will require a significant amount of time outside of class. Having a full-time job, I have been stretched very thin between the 25-30 hours of homework I had been doing for this class, attending and accomplishing homework for another class, and attending lectures on top of working 40 hours per week. While I have no issue with Riely, it would seem that students with no prior experience should have the option of an intro to Java course. Python is lovely, but it's hard to just pick up Java when you haven't learned how to

teach yourself a programming language.

Course:Data Structures I
    (CSC-402-810)
Quarter:Winter 12/13
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Professor Riely has been GREAT for this very challenging class. He is interesting and funny in lectures, always responds to in-class questions well, and is amazingly responsive via email. He created a Google group for the class that was an invaluable way for all of us to share questions and information.
2. Strengths: Enthusiasm of the subject, preperation of all the materials.Weaknesses: Very late in grading homework for first 4 assignments.
3. Instructor is among one of the most knowledgeable I have had so far.
4. Strengths: Very good at his craft. Intelligent and clever instructor who thinks at a very high level and very quickly.Weaknesses: Seldom answered students questions but brushed them off for "another time." Was prone to making jokes that put students down who he felt didnt perform at a high enough level. Not any particular student but just in general.
5. Strengths: Passionate about the subject, funny
6. Did a good job of presenting material in an entertaining fashion. I thought at times some topics could have used a more discussion, reviewing homework for example. Assignment feedback and grading would be better if performed a bit quicker.
7. strengths – very knowledgeable, bright, articulate, and can teach abstract concepts very well.weakness – Sometimes need to ask exactly what should the output look like when we're given programming assignments. Would like to have it at the beginning so can start thinking earlier how to handle the work.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Challenging material for me, taught very well.
2. The entire course was extremely important in terms of career development.
3.
4. Being challenged every week with new concepts that maximized our understanding of subjects that few self-taught programmers would think or dare to tackle.
5. Program runtime analysis was great.
6.
7. Programming assignments, usage of google groups

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. None.
2. Either less but more relevant homework, or more in class work/participation

3. Ability to take another class before this class in Java that is perhaps more difficult than the intro to programming with python course. The jump between the two classes was a little too much for me with no familiarity in programming.

4. For the instructor to create homework assignments himself instead of using that Algorithms book. That book is terrible at explaining what it expects and the instructor seldom clarified it. Most weeks it was like a shot in the dark turning in work since one was unsure if they even knew exactly what they were supposed to do.

5. Use COL or D2L instead of personal website. It would have made it easier for me to keep track of my other classes if they all used the same interface.

6.

7.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.

2. Grading for homework was slow, otherwise the professor is very fair.

3. Grading of the midterm was lightening fast, homework grading was graded somewhat quickly.

4. Grading was fair considering how wayward the homework assignments were. Midterm grading was very fair and the exam was well thought out and challenging. The instructor did well creating it and would do well to do the same with homework assignments.

5. I thought the midterm was long for the amount of time given.

6. I would have preferred faster feedback on assignments, or at least covering all answers in class.

7. Grading of programming assignments was fair most of the time, although someone else did it. Only took midterm exam up to this point. Very thorough and tough, needed to be prepared.

Other comments?

1.

2.

3.

4. Dr. Riely is an extremely gifted man in his field. His quick thinking and programming savvy are a marvel to watch in lecture. It would be great if every now and then he would allow us students to just pick his brain about subjects and learn from his vast database of information instead of just diverting us for a later time.

5. I look forward to the next sequence

6.

7. Some people never used java before. They took CSC401 – intro to programming, which uses Python. Maybe the intro to programming class should be done in java instead.

Course: **Formal Semantics of Programming Languages**
    (CSC–535–701)
Quarter: **Autumn 12/13**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Riely was very good at helping students with their assignments for this course. We regurally got feedback with in less then 24 hours on any problems with the assignments. Some of the assignments seemed very abstract and I did not always understand how some exercises connect to real life programming (especially the hoare exercise).
2. His interest in the topic was a plus.
3. Good understanding of the area

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. I found the Logic chapter to be most beneficial.
2.
3. The logical way to analyze/proof a problem

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I would love to see an exercise where we prove something about a c/java program. Would help connect the class better back to programming. I would remove the hoare chapter, but maybe that is because I struggled with understanding it.
2. 1 – Clearer explanation of assignments. 2 – Use the native COQ IDE through the local machine. The issues experienced with EMACS and trying to get all that to work was distracting and made following some of the examples difficult. The last night of class with the white board description of what was going on was the best of all the lectures.
3.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. I think that the current pattern of having this class consist entirely of assignments is great, I think this is the best way to teach this class.
2.
3.

Other comments?

1. I liked how the class thought about proves and program provers (coq). I think that it was a great mix.
2. The majority of the class was spent on the application, COQ, being used and not the actual topic of the class. I learned very little about programming semantics which is disappointing.
3.

Course:**Computer Systems I**
     (CSC-373-601)
Quarter:**Spring 11/12**
Time: **TuTh 13:30 – 15:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   **1**   **2**   **3**   **4**   **5**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   The teacher knew ALOT, he KNEW everything about what he was teaching...but sometimes I felt he forgot that we do not...and that this stuff is HARD
2.   The most relevant professor I have ever had. A really great mind and you know he is not exaggerating about his extra-curricular industry knowledge (seriously, I have never learned more intriguing CS history). It is the enthusiasm with which he teaches these things that has really made me appreciate what I'm learning much more than I expected.
3.   One of the major strengths of the instructor is his obvious passion and interest in the subject and in teaching overall. His methods of teaching made a difficult subject to grasp a painless and fun experience.
4.   Fun to watch
5.   Went a little fast. Maybe a lab or 2 during class where we walked through some as a class (assembly).

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   overall everything.
2.   Online group collaboration, really awesome labs, a great and thorough textbook.
3.   I really enjoyed the labs. I am more of a hands on person and having the ability to dive in and challenge myself provides an invaluable opportunity to learn as well as ask questions.
4.   Learning Assembly
5.   Learning useful information about how the computer works and assembly

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.   Lessen the amount of work for these labs.
2.   Could have used a better oral introduction to UNIX in the first week or so. It was hard to adapt and the notes on learning it were even a little daunting.
3.   I really felt that the class was structure very nicely with the lectures made easier to understand that what the book provided. I think the book is a great resource to soak into and supplemented with the instructors lecture allows us to retain a lot of information.
4.   Have more tutors. Course was very difficult
5.   Maybe some classes in the lab where we can walk through it

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Graded REALLY fast!! Graded fairly etc...but just too much WORK!!!
2. Fair grading system for exams (points earned rather than points knocked off).
3. The grading I felt was done fairly and on time. Typically by the next class we would have our quizzes and exams graded.
5. Good

Other comments?

1. Very hard, but very beneficial. I REALLY enjoyed the teacher, he was zany and fun to be in his class. He reminded me of Bill Nigh the Science Guy!!
2. I have a really good time in this class. Thanks.
3. Great instructor and class! I look forward to Computer Systems II.

Course:User Interface Architecture and Development (CSC-360-601) Quarter:Spring 11/12 Time: TuTh 11:50 - 13:20 Location: Loop Campus	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The instructor did a fine job providing relevant material, but didn't really integrate any of it into the homework assignments. He presented useful topic, then left us to figure out what to do with it.
4. The lectures were interesting but the course lacked structure.
5. Teacher was very well versed in the topic. Structure of the course just needs to be reworked.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

4. Presenting assignments in-class and receiving feedback from the students.
5. Presentations of projects and work. The testing by classmates helped to understand both my own project and that of others doing the same work.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I think that the course needs to be more structured.
2. Better definitions of expectations for students. Course began with a focus on visual style of user-centered design. Ended somehow flipped, with a focus on coding styles.
4. More assignment and a more organized course.
5. Already made my suggestions in class.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. Clearer expectations. Part of what I love about CDM classes, is, for the most part, I know when I've done something right. Grades are rarely surprises. I have no idea what my grade will be in this class. Quarter's nearly over and I've never seen a piece of graded work.
3. Grades... As of rigt now, a week before the end of the quarter, there have been no grades for the class. It would be nice to know how I am doing. Also it would be nice to have a more concrete ruberick of what is expected beyond "do good work".
4. Only one assignment was graded.

Other comments?

Course:**Computer Systems I**
(CSC-373-610)
Quarter:**Spring 11/12**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD
Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. I didn't like the book for the class very much, but I thought the professor chose really good and challenging assignments. I feel like I really learned a lot from him.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The labs were very beneficial, and the professor was able to keep the class interesting with his humor as well.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. New book.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Thought everything was fair

Other comments?

Course:**Compiler Design** (CSC-448-801) Quarter:Winter 11/12 Time: W 17:45 – 21:00 Location: **Loop Campus**	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. I think Prof. Riely does a great job explaining some tricky concepts. I also like that we aren't spoon fed everything, since I feel like I learn better when it requires some struggle to get things sorted out.

4. The professor presented well material and assignments, he also give good and detailed exploitations on the subject matter. He could have given a little more specific guidelines along the way of the project.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The small class size allowed us to effectively have a loose discussion based class to work on problems people were having with their compilers. Since we pretty much did the entire thing starting from scratch, this was extremely beneficial.

2. I think that the compiler project was a really interesting and often times fun project to work on. It really made clear the steps that compilers go through and some of the challenges that compilers face. Each step along the way was difficult at first, but once I got the first part down it was easy to continue on.

3. Understanding the different layers of the compiler, building each of these layers on top of one another..

4. By learning about compilers I am now able to better understand how I should code to take advantage of compilers that I am using on daily basis.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. The amount of work on the project was a little heavy. I did enjoy the work (most of the time) and found it rewarding to complete my own compiler, but it was tough to fit it all in to the quarter.

3. As already noted, some sample outputs to make sure things are actually on track in the various stages..

4. It would be good to have better defined intermediate steps of the project, it was hard to program up the muncher for example with out being sure of what it is supposed to output.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. N/A

3. I like that there were no exams (as they don't really make sense with this topic), but some feedback in the middle would be helpful, again to make sure that we are on track.

Other comments?

1. Writing everything from very little code was amazing in being able to figure out how everything fit together and worked on our own. This is important for becoming better at meta-programming and beneficial overall for any development that we may do.
2. Overall, I like classes with projects since it really helps enforce the concepts that are covered. I liked the structure of the course, but the only comment against it is that I felt overwhelmed at times, but it didn't last that long. Prof. Riely was always available to help which was great to get through those tough points.
3. Overall a great challenging course, though I will be happy to put away my compiler for awhile.
4. In overall I thought that this was a great, but very challenging course. I would recommend this course to anyone willing to spent the time necessary to finish a compiler. I think that assembly knowledge should be required or quickly reviewed before this course.

Course: Data Structures and Algorithms in Java
    (CSC-383-801)
Quarter: Winter 11/12
Time: Th 17:45 - 21:00
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Prof. Riely is brilliant, and at the same time does not hesitate to say if there's something he doesn't know.

2. Strength: Makes the course challenging but this way you learn the subject better. Knows the subjects well. Weakness: Had not taught the course in a while. Difficultly gauging student understanding levels. After first exam seems to go over new subjects longer in hopes everyone was truly understanding since the first exam grades were a reflection that not all students were keeping up.

3. Professor Riely is really excited about the material and presents it in a fun and engaging way.

4. James took time to research a good book for this class, since the previous one got bad reviews. He explains the material well and takes time to answer questions during and after class. James doesn't relate the material to real world. For example when one would use a particular data structure and doing a comparison of a Queue we implemented in class vs a Queue provided by Java API.

5. Strengths:-Energy level and interest in the subject matter remained high throughout the entire course.- Excellent level of knowledge.Weakness:-I didn't like the google groups initially because of the high # of emails. I have a job, wife, two kids etc. and the time it took to parse through the emails was debilitating. But I did learn to adapt eventually.

6. I was excited about this class coming in, that changed with the teacher. The teach knows the material. But had unrealistic expectations of the students given the level he teaches at. A lot is implied or left open-ended for the student to decipher. This relates to explanations, as well as homework assignments. Had the difficulty of the assignments been more consistent and straightforward I would still be excited about this class.

7. Seemed extremely disorganized and unprepared. Homework assignments were always ill-defined, with every one requiring something to ask the instructor a question to clarify what was wanted. Course materials were difficult to find since there was no organization whatsoever (simply emails back and forth) and it was very frustrating to try and find anything.Lectures were good, and while the slides were organized, they were never made available to us. It would be nice if the teacher used a system like COL or something to keep track of everything for the class instead of just emails.

8. James hasn't taught this class in a number of years, but he knows the material well. I'm impressed by how well he knows Java. I like his enthusiasm for the topic, and I think his teaching style is effective in conveying the material.

9. He knows exactly what he's talking about and know when the book may be a bit outdated, also knowing when things can be done a bit more efficiently than how the book shows them.

10. A strenght is definitely his passion for the course content which comes accross clearly. He is enthusiastic and energetic. Weakness, while always available to answer questions I feel there was a quick assumption made that all content was equally graspped by all students. The amount of time I spent trying to understand the material so that HW can be accomplished was ridiculous. By a large margin the toughest course I've taken.

11. Strengths: Instructor is well versed in the subject matter and up to very fluent in the language. He was able to help with all questions asked.Weakness: due to the new book and first time in a while that he taught

this course the semester felt pieced together and at times hard to see the connection between parts.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The online discussions were extremely helpful; I wouldn't be able to finish my homework without them!
2. It critical to know the basis for structures used by all programming languages.
3. The lectures and homework assignments combined to reinforce the concepts and practical application of the algorithms and data structures we studied.
4. I found basic understanding of measuring performance useful, although I felt we went overboard when started going into too much detail. I think understanding of queues and stacks is useful. Priority Heaps and Binary trees will most likely come in handy later on in my career.I also found basic collection techniques very useful; implementation of interfaces, using Iterator, Comarable and Comparator interface. Although I wish we would have spent more time on those.
5. I always came out of class feeling like I learned a ton. The homework drove home the topics as well.The textbook was probably one of the best I've used.
6. study of algorithms, order of growth
7. Having a better understanding of data structures.
8. Both the programming and the theory were important to me. I increased my knowledge about Java and Eclipse – and I learned about data structures and algorithms. I just wished there was time to go into more detail – even including the mathematical proofs. As it is, we really are covering less than half the textbook.
9. The use of a Google Group was good for when the questions and their objectives were unclear from what the book stated.
10. The amount of coding in the HW assisgnments forced a certain level of comfort with how i know look at code. The google board was instrumental in sharing ideas or getting direction on hw assignments.
11. I was thrown in to decipher code that is more complicated than anything I have done so far(I am a beginner after all) and there was a lot that I learned through the semester.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Have homework graded in a more timely manner and have the graders provide a bit more detail or suggestions.
2. Please make sure to clearly define all requirements of homework. Do not make requirement changes too close date of submission. Possibly an earlier exam for the instructor to better gauge student understanding of the subjects already taught.
4. 1. Pace of the class picked up towards the end, which is the hardest part of the class. Should be vice versa.2. Homework problems were extreme. I spent on average 20 hours a week on my homework, excluding reading time. I felt that the problems were great, but there were too many of them. On average it would take me 3–4 hours on a single problem and sometimes we had to do two different versions of it. I would definitively say to decrease the amount of homework. By week 7 I was burnt out and I still have 4 more years of school.3. Exercise problems from the book are not very clear. You're never sure of what exactly they want from you. On almost every homework assignment, a student would ask to clarify the problem. I would recommend for James to write the exercise problems himself.4. I like the book, it explains for the most part everything well, it has good site... However, it's lacking in one department. The book abbreviates its variables. For example: – st for Stack – q for Queue – N for size.I would not recommend for James to waste his time formatting the book's code, since he already does a lot. Just a comment that maybe James can send to the book's author's.
5. There were a TON of emails from the google groups i had to go through. But, I also found they added value

at times. It just turned out to take up more time then I expected.

6.   When Homework explanation was literal and straightforward I valued the homework. It was certainly inconsistent, at times I wish assignments had not been tangential to the material. This makes it difficult to truly be comfortable with a topic.

7.   A syllabus should be required for any class. Also, maybe focus on how to make algorithms better. Understanding how sorting works is great, but implementations of these is repetitive and a task that doesn't really help (and has already be solved over and over again). I think giving students poorly optimized algorithms and having them fix them would be better learning and more realistic to the problems that will need to be solved. Also learning more about big O notation instead of the teacher saying 'you don't need to know this'.

8.   I really hate these invidual desk-seats in CDM. Why don't we have tables like in Lewis? I need more space to lay out my textbook, papers, PC.

9.   Maybe create discussions for each of the questions when the homework is assigned so that clarification on any problems people have questions about is organized and easily accessed.

11.   While I learned more.. some times it was challenging and I felt I hit a dead end.. A clearer walk through and possibly more interactive examples and coding together in class could have helped with this.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.   The grading procedures, IMHO, are fine, just the explanations need to be clearer, like how many points each homework assignment is worth, etc. Really wish the mid-term could have been explained a bit more ahead of time in terms of what format it would be, how much code would be required to write, etc.

2.   Maybe too many questions on the first exam for the length of time we had to complete. Better explanation of why points were missed on homework and exams.

4.   1. I disagree with in class exams for programming classes. I think it should be a final project and a take home. If someone wants to waste their time and money to cheat, it's their loss.2. I felt the mid-term was detrimental for this class. We wasted week 6 on a mid-term and half of week 7 on reviewing it. Time could have been better spend on slowing down the pace of this class. I would definitely say to remove the mid-term completely.3. I felt the time given for the mid-term was too short. I wasn't able to finish one of my problems. Also, i felt in a rush the whole time and this was reflected in my grade.4. I felt the mid-term questions were poorly chosen, given the time and format of the tests. The problems utilized data structures we studies. However, the solutions needed time. If James decides to keep the mid-term, he should either give us more time or make sure the problems tests student's ability to use data structures, not figure out how to solve a problem.

5.   Totally fine. Everything was graded in a fair and timely manner.

6.   The curve should say something about inconsistency in the class. The midterm was in my opinion as difficult as a homework assignment, but expected to be done in 2 hours. We usually get a week for homework problems

7.   Grading seemed fair. The exam featured things we did not talk about at all in class (or in any of the reading) which did not seem fair.

8.   I thought the midterm was hard. I do all my programming on the computer in an IDE, which tells me all the stupid things I need to correct. Taking a test where I have to write code without the computer is asking me to jump from the plane without a parachute. It's testing me in a way that I haven't practiced or built up skills on.

9.   I can't really say anything. The grading was always done before the next class; and (at the time of writing) there's only been one exam, and I would've preferred to have taken the final before I talk about how hard the "exams" were overall.

10.   The timed exams resulted in a hurried approach that could have had an impact on the final grade. Not sure what the point of a timed exam is. Sure, the information is either known or not [known]; however, some may work at a slower pace than others time pressure did not seem conducise to determining onces

understanding of the content.

11. They are hard, but teacher has tried to be fair at times which was nice. Just wish that topics specific to the midterm would have been better pointed out so that I would have been a little more prepare.. felt there were a few too many curve balls/tricky questions for us beginning programmers.

Other comments?

1. This is probably the single most difficult course I've ever taken in my life. I don't blame Prof. Riely – he's an excellent instructor; it's the material. If I'm not at work, I'm working on the homework or catching up on the reading. I've even take time off work just to work on homework (and this is the only class I'm taking!).

2. Would take a course with this instructor again because I know I will know the material correctly.

5. I look forward to taking more courses from this instructor. I feel like a learned a lot.

6. I spent a great deal of time outside this class getting homework problems to work/run. essentially just getting up to speed. This makes it difficult to ask a specific question because first I need to have a linked list implemented and working correctly before I can experiment or ask specific questions. to me, this is time spent tinkering and not time spent working with the material LEARNING. I believe this is because of poor explanations, ambigious directions, and inconsistency. This led me to feel as if I was taking the class on my own without help. This is because its difficult to ask a specific question if you cannot get the program to run. This type of issue occurred frequently. Final note, this class would have been difficult but realistic had the tutors in tutor lab assigned to this course been of any help. I know this is not the teachers responsibility, but that was a huge let down. This is difficult material, of 10 attempts to get help with material from this course 0 were helpful. So again at times in this course specifically with homework there is no where to turn for help. This is a terrible feeling and is in my opinion not time well spent.

7. The teacher's lack of organization was appalling. It seemed very unprofessional and I felt like I wasn't getting what I signed up for. The homework (seemingly hastily pulled from the book) always had significant problems that made it insolvable. It would have been nice if the teacher had tried doing the homework before assigning it to us. This was a really disappointing class.

8. I liked that the textbook has a good website, for slides, code examples, errata. The textbook itself was ok, but I don't have a competing textbook to compare it against. For the most part I felt like the textbook conveyed the material well. However, there were times when I wanted to read another author's explanation of something, because I wasn't understanding it from this author.

9. None.

10. Prof. Riely's enthusiasm was infectious – an approach very much appreciated for a course that could have otherwise been much more difficult to sit through. Certainly would seek him out on other courses.

Course:**Compiler Design** (CSC-448-810)	**James Riely** PhD
Quarter:**Winter 11/12** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Professor Riely is awesome.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Provide sample input/output to help students validate their work after each step in the process of creating the compiler.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

Other comments?

1. The book is an excellent reference and is very helpful.

Course:Data Structures and Algorithms in Java
        (CSC-383-810)
Quarter:Winter 11/12
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary 1 2 3 4 5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The instructor was very knowledgeable. I think some things the instructor did poorly were rely on the book for assignments. This caused confusion and many questions over email communication that resulted in clarifications to the problems 3–4 days after it was assigned. For someone who had either already submitted this or was already done and didn't have the time for the rework, this was challenging and frustrating. This happened almost every week. Another example was the problem was assigned and the professor didn't realize the challenge of the problem, sent out solution "suggestions" that didn't work so the homework had to be extended to the following week. This type of preparedness certainly can be improved on.
2. Prof. Riely is a subject matter expert and leader in the computer science discipline.
3. He too a lot of time to answer questions and help students, but the lectures were pretty much just going over the book's prepared slides.
4. Professor Reily is very knowleddable and dedicated to a student's learning. His response both in time and quality of response to inquiries was exceptional. I also enjoyed his candor and personality with lectures. However with teaching this course for the first time in 10 years, coupled with a new textbook, there were a few mistakes with assignments, lecture revisions, etc. that are likely common with early taught courses. Additionally, there was little instruction regarding study prep for the mid term and so far (last week in class) there has been little provided for the final other than mention of a comprehensive exam. With all the material covered in this course, it would be helpful to review key information and or provide study references to help prepare students for exams. Especially because of the heavy impact of exam score on the final grade.
5. Professor Riely is very knowledgeable bout all computer science subjects. I enjoyed his desire to make the students think while they learn, rather than just memorize. The fact that we were encouraged to experiment was really great. My only problem was that on homeworks because I have to work I didn't always have a lot of time to finish all the homework to the point I would have liked.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The course was challenging and made me learn a lot.
2. Distance learning.
4. While the course work was quite heavy at times, the logical progression of exercises that built upon prior concepts and algorithms was helpful with understanding and subject retention.
5. The homeworks, while tough were very helpful to my overall learning. I learn best through doing so that was a big help to me.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. For a distance / on-line learner, I think there needs to be more ease of access. For example, this course was Thurs nights. But the time I could access the lecture and watch it on Fri (after work) I would lose that as a day. Then I would do the homework on the weekends (that was assigned during the lecture) but if I had a question, there was not a lot of ability to communicate. I would lose time just by waiting for lectures to be posted and replies to questions, things others already had access to. I would like to see changes made to help cater to distance learners a little in that manner.
2. As an online student, I feel that this course should be split into two days.
4. take lessons learned from this course such as what worked, common areas of understanding and those areas where students struggled. With this information, consider altering assignments, lecture, etc. to improve course.
5. I don't really know how to change the course to keep it as effective. I guess my only problems were with working and taking another course at the same time. So I would keep a lot of the curriculum the same.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. I thought it took a long time to get grades on homework assignments and the comments were not even a full sentence. I thought the midterm was not what was expected based on what stated in the lecture before the exam was given.
2. Fair and straightforward. He really wants me to learn the material through experience and practice.
4. Not sure about the final as it hasn't been taken, but because I personnally didn't finish the mid term which was both a suprise and concern with 100% homework scoring. This was partially due to the complexity of problems on the mid term, time allotted, test environment (my problem) along with one question that depended on a student's notes for a specific item which was flawed. As an item of consideration for future test formatting, I wonder if tests could be developed that don't require notes, instead relying on student proficiency with subject matter?
5. I don't really have any comments in this section. I believe Professor Riely grades are fair and do show that he cares about his students.

Other comments?

2. Prof. Riely enjoys teaching this course. While I struggled with issues at home, I called Prof. Riely to inquire about my status in the class. I had all but given up; however, he was very understanding and encouraged me to continue working. I have learned much from this course, which will ultimately help me in future studies.
4. Thanks to James for his efforts. I'm confident that he worked many extra hours in this course with personnally completing assignments well in advance of students to insure quality and consistency of material. Also as mentioned previously, his candor and response to online queries was exceptional.
5. Professor Riely is a great professor who does care that his students learn the subject material. I think he deserves a good mark for this course.

Course:**Computer Systems I** **(CSC-373-701)** Quarter:**Autumn 11/12** Time: **Tu 17:45 – 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD _____ Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu **Instructor homepage**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Explains material very well, interesting guy to listen to.
2. Speaks clearly, at a reasonable fast pace and humorously (strengths).
3. Prof. Riely really understands a lot about the subject and Unix. He does well at trying to explain the concepts and provide interesting background information about the topic.
4. Professor Riely is a very smart individual who definitely knows the subject extremely well. However I would not say that his method of teaching is very effective. I just think he went over some of the material too quickly or did an average job of explaining it. I do like how he offers help after class though.
5. –Extremely intelligent–Respects and cares about students–Grading was fair
6. Extremely helpful with homework assignments. He was well aware of what would cause us problems and always help us get on the right track before starting the assignment.
7. Professor Riely moved too quickly through the material for 300 level class
8. The instructor gives very informative and interesting lectures, but he has a tendency to confuse numbers and variables.
9. Material was presented quickly – but that is to be expected. I think he made the course material funny and interesting even though I found the material itself very hard.
10. Very dedicated and extremely intelligent. I look forward to taking a more interesting course with him in the future.
11. Great enthusiasm and energy for what could be a dry subject.
12. He is a genius and knows a ton about the course material.
13. He had good office times. He was always willing to answer questions during office hours and sometimes even after those hours.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. I enjoyed the homework assignments quite a bit, very challenging but also fun and informative.
2. General problem solving
3. Really enjoyed learning how computer systems work.
4. Learning assembly was very interesting.
5. –The section discussing Buffer Overflow
6. As a person that went through the DePaul Computer Career Program ages ago and then worked in the industry for many years, the information presented in this course is exactly what I am looking for in this degree. CCP was an excellent program, but it was not able to provide the broad knowledge base needed to be a top-rate programmer because of time constraints. With courses such as 373 I can see that I will soon gain

exactly what I will need to make giant strides in my programming abilities.
8. The class lectures and quizzes were more beneficial than the homework labs as the labs were
9. The labs
10. Learning how the exploit programs.
11. The later labs (bomblab and buflab)
12. I liked buffer overflow attacks the most because it is sp simple and also so powerful.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Thought it moved a little bit slow.
2. Leave it like this
3. Slides are too complicated and out-dated. Text is too difficult to comprehend ahead of class. Weekly quizzes based on text material is too difficult without going over the material in class. Text goes over topics that are not covered in class so it is even more difficult to prepare for weekly quizes.
4. Dividing the course into sections would be very helpful. There are some things we went over that are just too similar and should be categorized differently.
5. -Have longer office hours. -Focus more on assembly code.
8. Perhaps changing the homework labs so that they are more spread out over the course of the quarter.
9. I think this course HAS to be paired with at least one tutor given the course material.
10. The C book is not used/required and therefore was a waste of money. Any questions could have been found by 'googling' as we are dealing with one of the most popular programming languages of all time.
11. The datalab took a ton of time and I don't feel as if I really learned a lot from it. It was just puzzles that took a long time to figure out and weren't great learning exercises.
12. I think that discrete math (mat140) teachers should tell students to take csc373 right after discrete math. The first part of the course relaid mostly discrete math and taking it a year after taking discrete math makes the first lab very challenging.
13. the first lab. a bit more explanation on that lab would have been very helpful. A tutor for this class would have helped as well.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. Grades as explained in the syllabus.
4. His grading is fair and always goes over the quizzes.
5. Everything was graded quickly and fairly.
8. The grading procedures for homework and exams were straightforward, explained beforehand, and easy to understand.
9. Fair and reasonable
10. They were fair. Past exam's would be helpful in studying for the midterm and final.
11. Grading was fair and tests material was relevant to lectures/reading.
12. Grading was timely. The use of automated grading was good because it gave students an idea of what they would get before the assignment was manually graded.

Other comments?

3. A tutor should be available for this course. The option of extra credit would be nice.

4. Professor Riely is a great person, also very funny. If I had to suggest something I would say he has to break down the subject down to something a little more understandable and build up from there.

5. Thanks for a great quarter!

10. This course should not be a requirement for a graduate student in a software engineering program. Most grad students should have acquired this knowledge in undergrad.

Course:Object–Oriented Software Development (SE–450–701) Quarter:Autumn 11/12 Time: M 17:45 – 21:00 Location: Loop Campus	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Absolutely sensational instructor! One of the best DePaul has to offer. Clear, interesting, very smart, a fantastic presenter and speaker.
4. The instructor is awesome
5. Instructor did not show much enthusiasm for the course material. I believe expectations were a little too high considering the range of talent amongst the class. I think all students understand the course material, however the delivery and clarification in class did not cater to a student's level, instead a seasoned working professional. On the other hand, the instructor did provide a solid understanding of the course material.
6. The lectures are always interesting and the multiple examples help to clarify and solidify the topics well.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Entire course was of high value
3. The course material and the assignments were in a good sync, so I could incrementally apply what I've learned to the project
4. N.A.
5. I found the course material most beneficial to me. Deisgn patterns seem to be very useful in developing good software.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Can't think of anything.
2. Not as easy to connect the design patterns to the code, and worrying about getting code in that I don't know how it fits into the pattern doesn't make it easier.
4. Assignments with a point.
5. I would suggest a slower pace and more enthusiasm/interaction to engage the students.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. No comments. Excellent work all around
4. Fine
5. I think the grading was somewhat unfair. A student who does not have several years of experience in object oriented development may not know all the correct syntax and structure. Instead, I think the student's

expression of concepts learned in class is the important idea.

6. Grading for homework assignments was done quickly. The midterm was difficult but was graded fairly.

Other comments?

1. As part of the assignments, code should be "formatted" for clarity.

4. N.A.

5. Overall, there will always be a wide range of talent in these upper level courses. I think it would be more fair to expect the student to learn the concept and not be tested on exact code structure/syntax.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
      (SE-450-710)
Quarter:**Autumn 11/12**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. He's very animated and keeps your attention well. He cares about the subject, and uses good examples that help you remain focused. He's also good at making the students laugh.
2. the instructor is very knowledgeable, but very disorganized to present the ideas on the board
3. Excellent at explaining concepts and keeping the lecture interesting
4. Instructor is very competent with Java and OO programming concepts. Fails to establish effective minimum prerequisites for the course.
5. none
6. I personally found Professor Riely one of the more engaging and interesting instructors I've had. He knows the material in and out, he obviously wants to share this knowledge and he has fun.
7. strength would be he can speak some real life experience related to the subject we're speaking. the weakness would be

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The course subject is perfect for what I need for work, Designing etc.
2. Most of the course
3. Programming assignments
4. Lots of hand on programming
5. none
6. I learned a great deal about the material and feel this class gives me a solid foundation to take future software engineering classes.
7. the final project was a very good exercise to implement the knowledge we got from the class

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. When he explains the idea on board, sometimes it is too fast and he does not finish to complete the whole structure of the solution. He expects we know about everything, even if we took pre-courses in programming.
4. Someone should examine why so many students regularly fail this course. Inadequate requirements would be my guess. Classes listed as optional are perhaps required? Figure it out yourselves.
5. none
6. Can't think of anything.
7. a better organized lecture notes

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Nice and quick, very appreciated
2. The way that the course is balanced, too much work on home for few points at the end of the course. Two midterms, even these evaluate the knowledge, it can be not real at the moment of the test.
3. Assignments were graded very quickly
4. If the class is designed to accept students who are not properly prepared, is anything about the class fair?
5. none
6. Very good. All assignments and exams were graded very quickly, and I even received my graded mid-term back in the mail. This was a 1st for me at DePaul and thought it was terrific. The professor also provided solutions to the homework to see where we made mistakes and it helped make sure our mistakes did not keep compounding during the course.
7. everything's great

Other comments?

2. Sometimes I feel that instructor wants to knock out the entire course.
3. A great course overall. The Google Group discussion forum is a good idea and I wish more courses used it.
4. Why would DePaul continue to allow students to enroll in this class without more stringent screening or guidance? Profit? The problem seems systemic.I doubt I am the first to point this out.
5. none
6. I really enjoyed the class and Professor Riely. I would take other classes with him in an instant, and I do hope he's teaching other classes I need to take.

Course:User Interface Architecture and Development
       (CSC-360-601)
Quarter:Spring 10/11
Time: TuTh 11:50 – 13:20
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD
_____

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Riely is one of the best teachers here.
3. enthusiastic professor, made the class go faster.
4. Friendly, approachable, and constructive. Do not let him leave DePaul.
5. The instructor explained the material clearly. He could have posted grades more quickly.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

3. UI aspects as far as java goes.
4. Learning about user interfaces – what makes good ones and what makes bad ones was incredibly beneficial. It made me realize how sort of sad my final project looked with respect to the great user interfaces out there.
5. The final project. It made me do my own research.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. I feel that this course needs to be more structured. The class should concentrate on either building apps in Netbeans or JQuery, not both. Also, the teacher needs to do more API lecturing if he chooses Netbeans.
3. Would like to see more project based course, more SE 350 format where one long project through out the quarter (same project for the entire class); but project is grades more on UI rather than implementation.
4. I liked the open ended final project. I thought that was great. I grew pretty attached to my application towards the end even though it wasn't completely finished. I think to improve the course we should focus on possibly patterns or techniques to manage the complexity of GUI apps. Pretty much everyone's final was radically different looking than the next persons, and I think this is mostly because of the gui editor – or possibly not knowing much about the framework. I had about 1000 lines of code generated by netbeans – and stuff was all over the place in my main AppWindow class. I just wasn't sure where to put things. That might all be on me though. I think I had a hard time with separating application logic and UI code because the GUI editor almost encourages you to mesh things together. It would also be great to see possible solutions to homeworks. I struggled a lot with homework three where we had to make a JTree, and a JTable work together, and a nice solution to look at after the due date would have been educational for me personally. I left the class aware of ALL the problems in my final project's UI – which I think was in line with the course goals. With my inexperience in my chosen GUI framework(swing) I wasn't sure how to fix all of them without considerable time spent reading the API docs/tutorials. I spent a LOT of time outside of class studying sometimes weird examples on the oracle site and being generally confused about some things in swing. Other than that A+

5. Create a more clear guideline for the final project.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. n/a
4. no tests, just projects. This is the way it should be in a programming-centric class.
5. Grading was fair.

Other comments?

3. n/a
4. I enjoyed doing the final project, though with the assignment I chose I focused more on what happened behind the scenes than creating an amazing user interface. It took me a long time to really get a hang of swing, and I still feel not completely confident using it – but at a minimum I am much more comfortable with it than I was. The GUI builder in netbeans was a great help. JQuery is incredibly hard to read if you have never dabbled in javascript, so some of the demos were sort of tough to follow – but accessible intuitively.

| Course:Object-Oriented Software Development
(SE-450-901)
Quarter:Spring 10/11
Time: Th 17:45 – 21:00
Location: **Loop Campus** | James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage |

Select a Page:

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. He can communicate ideas very effectively, concisely and in a fun and entertaining manner. One of the best professors I've had at DePaul, hands down.
2. NA
3. He seems to really enjoy teaching
4. Prof. Reilly does a great job of presenting the material in a constructive and engaging way. I really enjoyed his lectures.
5. The instructor keeps students interested all the time, he can explain difficult topics in very simple way. He is demanding, but also very helpful. The only weakness is he's always late :)
6. Keeps the students interested and engaged. His presentation and interaction with the class is unique.
7. Instructor is very good at presenting the material – definitely one of the more interesting professors I've had
9. The professor does a good job of explaining concepts in a way that people can understand. He also does a good job of not letting the students get the class off topic. He will take irrelevant (or wrong) statements/questions by students offline. However, I felt that sometimes he spent more time on topics than should be required.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. A great introduction to the concept of design patterns
2. NA
3. Class time
4. The homework assignments were very beneficial. They provided the right amount of challenge in order to learn the various software pattern ideas.
5. I improved my programming skills and changed my way of thinking about it.
6. the home work.
7. Design patterns
8. Learning how to be a more professional developer and write better code.
9. As a professional Java programmer, I was already very familiar with many of the OO concepts taught in the class, however I was never formally introduced to any of the design patterns, so the discussion of the different design patterns was very beneficial.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. No much, it's great.
2. NA
4. Nothing, I thought the course was great.
5. -
6. I would strongly suggest "re working" the first three assignments with better more structured code. The code is in a poor state and the subtle differences between the assignments makes the task more difficult than necessary. If the code was "good" with good design pattern used, then we would be exposed to the "right way" to do things from the beginning and that would help reenforce the class concepts. I agree that sometimes (most often?) we will run into bad code in the field, but there's a time and place for learning to deal with that and I don't believe this class is the right place.
8. I don't know. This was a hard class for me.
9. I felt that some of the final project contained too many implementation details.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. NA
5. Grading system is fair.
6. none.
7. Exams definitely reflected what was presented in class and were reasonable for what would be expected from a graduate class
9. Grading was fair and prompt. The professor did a good job of explaining the solutions.

Other comments?

2. NA
3. Bringing a guest lecturer was a good experience.
5. That course is definitely worth taking!
6. Originally I was going to "skip" this class by taking a class that utilizes SE 450 as a prerequisite. I would say that I'm more than a little glad I didn't skip it.
8. He warned us this class was hard and will take a lot of time. He was very right. 10 weeks is not enough time for me to learn all the material in this class. I am going to continue to study patterns after this class ends because I want to internalize that knowledge so I can think in patterns. I was not able to get to that level in the 10 weeks of the class. It was too much info for me.
9. This is only my second class to take at DePaul and the previous class and professor was great, so my rating of this class and professor as average is compared to a high standard, but based upon my experience at DePaul as the question asked.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
     (SE-450-910)
Quarter:**Spring 10/11**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD
_____
Associate Professor
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Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Dr. Riely, is a fantastic teacher and presents the subject in a very easy to understand way.
2. Strength .. he presented the material in a fun way that made me want to keep focused.
3. Very helpful, and well organized. Dr. Riely is always willing to help and willing to answer questions. However, I feel that his lectures are not as relevant to the assigned material as it could be. I would like to see more discussion in class about code and less discussion about theory. This is the type of class where the concepts are easy, but implementing them gets tricky, so I would like to see more discussion dedicated to code.
4. Top notch instructor.
5. Very well organized! Up-to-date and relevant! Expectations were generally clear, although they deviated from what was documented at times. Too much time spent in class trying to fix problems in Eclipse. Just let it go...
6. He is very energetic and enthusiastic about the topic, and it helps keep things interesting.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. All aspects were beneficial. Being a web developer, my everyday programming does not require object oriented patterns. Professor Riley met with me and discussed an exam that was dismal at best. He gave me encouragement and explained a few things that slipped my mind on the exam.
3. Direct work with code and Dr. Riely's help outside of class.
4. Learning design patterns, test driven/agile development.
5. Howework assignments were great exercises – very appropriate.
6. All of the example code given helped to solidify the concepts in my mind.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

3. The homework for this course is way too long and not specific enough. I don't feel the homework really helped my understanding because I spent more time trying to figure out what I was supposed to do as opposed to why I was doing it. The homework needs to have more specific objectives. In addition, the assignments take way too long. I don't have 10+ hours a week to spend on homework for one class.
4. Get a new primary text book. I didn't really like Horstman and don't feel that I learned much from the few chapters I read. Learned more from the lectures, extra readings, and supplemental books: GOF and Headfirst. Although difficult, I think GOF is more appropriate for a masters level class.
5. Other than noted elsewhere... beer?

6. I think the homework came with too much pre-canned code – I would have preferred more freedom/play time with my own code instead.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. It was helpful that we got our midterm exam back. I was able to see what I did wrong.
3. I felt the grading was fair and appropriate, and Dr. Riely did a nice job explaining his rationale for grading.
4. Fair
5. It all seemed to work fine. I would have liked more emphasis on homework grades. The points for the class are VERY end-of-term heavy.

Other comments?

2. I hope to take Riley again .... he is the best instructor I've had thus far. I've liked just about all of the instructors, but Riley really kept the topic interesting by keeping it fun.
4. Very well organized and instructional course. Professor Reily is excellent.
5. The guest lecture was OK, I guess, but the recording format was not nearly as helpful as the regular class. Next time do the recording in a classroom that has full COL recording capability.

Course:**Computer Systems I**
(CSC-373-801)
Quarter:**Winter 10/11**
Time: **Tu 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

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Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Experience
5. This instructor made a very difficult class fun and engaging. I felt like the instructor was good at taking an interest in the subject. One huge strength was talking with the instructor after class.
7. At the start of the quarter, the instructor was excellent at explaining the course material and helping students to understand the material. I did not have as great of an experience during the second half of the quarter. Things started going downhill with the binary bomb and by the end of the buff lab, I found myself dreading having to approach the instructor. As an example, I asked a question about something he had just presented. In answer, he repeated, in a louder voice, what he previously said without elaborating. During the break I spoke to one of my classmates who was able to explain the answer in 30 seconds. When the instructor did explain things his answers tended to become more technical and "math-y". While, it's a technical class there are instances in which trivial examples can be used to explain concepts. For instance, during the section involving boolean algebra he presented the material using an 8bit example. Someone asked a question and he answered using a 32 bit word and discussing things in terms of "all instances of 0". While probably more accurate, the concept could have been explained using the 8 bit word. Having said the above, the instructor was good about reviewing course material and I believe he was initially interested in making sure people understood the material. It's a shame he seemed to become less approachable and helpful at the end of the quarter. One other thing, James was very quick at replying to messages (both in email and on the board). However, it seemed in his effort to respond quickly he didn't take time to figure out what the student was asking. I stopped asking questions because it became frustrating at having to ask for clarification if his first answer was quick, off the cuff, and not relevant to what I was really asking.
9. Teacher is clearly brilliant. Very tough course with very tough material. Teacher could address just about any question thrown at him. Teacher warned about falling behind but it seems inevitable with this much material.Sometimes teacher appeared confused with his own slide which didn't help my already growing confusion.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Hands On Homework
4. The labs were great. Felt like I learned more from them than assignments in most other classes.
5. Speaking with the instructor after class and walkign through the first part of each assignment to get a good start on it.
6. The labs.
7. The material was all very interesting.

9. The labs were by far the best experience. Definite sense of accomplishment.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. More Assignments
3. Roll back on some of the homework a bit. Some of that stuff was absolutely soul-crushing. The quizzes/exams were great through.
5. More hands on practical tutorial style instruction would be very beneficial
7. As mentioned above, more consideration should be given to those who are not naturally technically adept by occasionally using a trivial example rather than becoming more technical. For example, doing my homework for the Boolean algebra, even though we used 32 bit words I found I could run various tests on paper using 8 bit words.
8. It took me a while to "get" how the stack is laid out. Was probably not helped by the fact that the GDB session was taped, so no questions could be asked.
9. More forced group interaction. I would have liked to have the teacher set aside time to discuss material inside (or outside) of class to have a 1-on-1 with another student. Felt like more students were lost and didn't feel comfortable saying so.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. fine
5. Grading procedures seemed to be fair and were very quick. The exams were very challenging
7. He seems concerned about making sure people are graded fairly.
9. Material is extremely tough so exams should be as well. Wish material was easier for me but it wasn't. Teacher was very fair in grading assignments and quizzes.

Other comments?

2. This course was fucking hard.
7. I found the material to be quite challenging and I was very interested in it. At the start of the quarter I found myself thinking about how what we were learning related to my professional experience. However, by the end of the quarter, I was so put off by the instructor that I found myself just happy for it all to be over. I have a friend who is a lecturer at community colleges and she has told me stories about how sometimes she gets a class full of students that she just doesn't like. At the end of the quarter it felt like we were the class of students that James didn't like. It wasn't anything overt that he did, but just his tone and how he presented himself.

Course:**Compiler Design**
(CSC-448-801)
Quarter:**Winter 10/11**
Time: **W 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

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Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Good level of engagement with the students. Not afraid to admit when he is mistaken on occasion. He did a good job of stimulating interest in what is quite a dry subject.
2. A tendency to get derailed from the subject matter on to SE 450 matters – admittedly, the drawbacks of the book made it difficult to do otherwise. I also got an impression that the instructor was a not fully engaged in teaching the course. It could well simply have been a matter of style, however.I personally found the pace to be a little slow, and found myself regularly wanting the presented material to fly a bit higher over the basics than it often did.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. I gained a much better understanding of how program languages are compiled, which gave me a better understanding of compilation errors.
2. Learning how automata can be used to comprehend complex input. What logical components a compiler can be broken down into. How some peculiar bits of syntax in languages can be understood as a convenience for the compiler writer's sanity. How to move from an AST to code generation (this is not yet achieved; if it is achieved I think it will be significant to me).

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. A better text book.
2. A better book and more coverage of advanced topics (implying faster pacing). I found the preparation of CSC 447 and SE 450 to be quite sufficient to fly through the basic topics, and am still looking for a bit more.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Very fair. The take home mid–term did a good job of covering the material we had covered to date. He took a while to mark the assignments, but then did them all very promptly.

Other comments?

1. One homework assignment was excessive in the amount of work required. It was eventually split up into

two assignments, which was fairer. The rest of the assignments were of a reasonable length, and well designed, although the author of the book was not great at implementing the solutions. He is probably one of the most entertaining and engaging lecturers I have had, and gave a good review of the subject material.

2. I really appreciated having some choice in the matter of a final project.

3. I like cytron. I hope I can understand them much more and it will be better if we can have time to did some lab (i mean real lab)

Course:**Compiler Design**
     (CSC-448-810)
Quarter:**Winter 10/11**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

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Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Professor Reily is a great teacher. I was planning on taking this quarter off until I saw that he was teaching this class. He has a deep understanding of his subjects, and communicates in a relaxed and accessible style. He makes class fun. His one weak area is in getting assignments graded and back to students in a timely manner.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Knowing how the code I write gets transformed into what gets executed by the computer completes my view of what I do. Prior to taking this course, I had a firm grasp of programming, software engineering, and how the code actually executes on the machine. Now I have concrete knowledge of how the code I write *becomes* what gets executed on the computer, and how what I write affects what gets executed. This class should be required for any undergrad or graduate degree in CS.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. The book is fine, and I think it makes a good basis for the class. Given the time constraints of a 10-week quarter, I think the concept of a framework for building a compiler is a good idea. It allows the students to work on the parts they need to learn without having to worry about building the entire system. However, the framework needs to align more closely with the material presented in the book. If it did, I think the students could probably build more of the system themselves, and would definitely suffer far fewer headaches.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading took far too long, unreasonably so. But this seems to be the standard at DePaul, unfortunately. Where is the department->professor oversight on this issue??
2. Grading was fine, but really slow.

Other comments?

Course:**Computer Systems I**
(CSC-373-810)
Quarter:**Winter 10/11**
Time: ::: - :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The major problem was his lecture style which was a little disorganized and sometimes involved reading off of powerpoint slides. The best part of his instruction was when he was walking through a program example
2. I have no complaints with the instructor. I have been struggling significantly in this course, but it is not his fault.
3. Awesome at explaining difficult materialVery engaging speakerNo weaknesses
4. Skilled at clear explanations with a great deal of enthusiasm for the material.
5. Strengths: Very knowledgeable, he teaches in a way that keeps you interested.Weaknesses: Can be a little sloppy with examples which makes them hard to follow. Should also brush up on C if you're going to explain concepts with C.
6. He's truly enthusiastic and knows the subject very, very well. Sometimes he moves pretty quick, but as an OL student, I can't stop to ask a question. To make up for it though, Riely is incredibly easy to reach through email.
7. He's truly enthusiastic and knows the subject very, very well. Sometimes he moves pretty quick, but as an OL student, I can't stop to ask a question. To make up for it though, Riely is incredibly easy to reach through email.
8. Extremely enthusiastic. His passion for the subject is evident. He knows his stuff very well and always answers my emails and questions in a quick and complete manner.
9. Was very strong in aswering questions inside and outside of class as well as helping with homework.
11. Strengths: very personable, mixes in right amount of humor to keep class from being mundane yet not to the point of being distracting, very knowledgeable about the subject matterAreas for improvement: pace of lectures is too fast - especially during computer demonstrations. It would be a good idea to remember that the students are seeing the material for the first time (even when they come prepared having read the material) and thus are still getting used to the presented concepts. Although a fast pace may be needed in a class that covers a large amount of material, it wasn't the case in this class and it is often counter productive because the instructor ends up having to repeat a lot of the information that had been presented, because it was just too fast to keep up with.Also the computer demonstrations were very fast. Having seen the material many times before, the instructor was very familiar with it. However, when a student sees something for the first time, it takes time, just to find the correct area on the screen that the instructor is referring to, while the instructor's eyes, naturally go to that point. It would be beneficial for the instructor to try to put himself in the students' shoes and remember what it was like when he first learned the material.
12. The instructor was very animated and passionate about the material.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The learning of assembly language was great. The assignments to go along with it were really fun and rewarding
2. I am a graduate student in the Game Development program, and this is a prerequisite. Because of my inability to complete the course requirements, I will be using my knowledge obtained here to pass that exam
3. The labs – practical applications of what we were learningThe lectures – these were great for expanding my understanding of the basic operations of a computer. I'm a better programmer and person now.
4. The labs were fun and engaging while supporting the learning material.
5. Learning how C is translated to assembly and how seemingly little details can affect the performance (and security) of your code.
6. A responsive, enthusiastic professor with challenging homework assignments and a solid book. The Google Groups we used to discuss aspects of the course was also VERY helpful. I approve!
7. A responsive, enthusiastic professor with challenging homework assignments and a solid book. The Google Groups we used to discuss aspects of the course was also VERY helpful. I approve!
8. The walk throughs of lab preparation during lecture were the most effective for me. The labs were certainly effective but as far as efficiency went, I could be stuck for hours on a lab accomplishing little but there was always a good pace when the professor walked us through.
9. I'm not sure. I liked the book. I am not sure how the homework applies to the book and how those skills will be used later.
10. The labs were fun, and challenging.
11. The material was very interesting and very pertinent to my studies. I really enjoyed learning about it.
12. The labs were interesting, but I wish there was a baby step between the problems in the textbook and the labs. It sometimes felt like it was missing a link.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. More programming
2. I Don't like the datalab, it was tedious and frustrating, I feel that the operations contained in the lab should be core material, rather than a homework assignment. I could not understand these processes until after they were explained in class. I suspect that there are many who would disagree with my assessment
3. Nothing I think it's one of the best classes evar.
5. I wouldn't change anything. The material is good and the labs are interesting/challenging to do (so far).
6. Keep up the great work!
7. Keep up the great work!
8. I found the main text to be overwhelming. As a prerequisite student, I did not have the match background at all to grasp the subject.
9. More/better preparation for the homework, especially the later stages. I was not sure of what I was doing or why at some stages.
10. The labs were challenging and helpful. However for the time that was spent working on them I felt they should have been worth more of my grade.
11. Instructor should come to class more preparedUse positive reinforcement to motivate students. Telling students that the material is extremely challenging and that they will fail the exam if they get behind is not very motivational and can have the opposite of the intended effect. Students become paralyzed with fear, may find the material harder than it is because that's what they were led to believe and are more likely to procrastinate because of the fear of failure instilled in them. A more motivating statement would be – students who do the assigned reading and the practice problem do extremely well in the class without stating the

contrapositive.
12.   The textbook and its provided slides can be a little difficult to understand.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.   the exams were difficult but graded fairly
2.   I don't believe there are any issues with the grading system of the course
3.   Seemed fair and expediently graded.
5.   No comments – except I'm a DL student and I was supposed to get my exam mailed and I still haven't gotten it (been about 3 weeks now).
6.   Seems fair enough so far.
7.   Seems fair enough so far.
8.   The exam I have taken thusfar was fair. The grading system is fair.
11.   Very fair
12.   Everything seemed to be graded fairly.

Other comments?

1.   the first half of the class was completely a mystery to me – I never understood a word the professor said in class.
2.   This class was very difficult, it was extremely foolish of me to try and learn this online. I feel that I would have performed significantly better had I attended the class in person (to his credit, the instructor indicated that would have permitted this). but, due to unrelated personal difficulties, I fell behind. I am thankful to have the course materials, however, as Professor Riely is an excellent instructor and his lectures will be the basis of my study when taking the GAE in future months
3.   Dude give this prof a raise asap.
4.   The best course i've had at DePaul thus far. Very well taught. I had a blast in this class and always looked forward to doing my work. Excellent job!
6.   Riely is da' best!
7.   Riely is a rock star!
9.   I don't know about the totally open email list. I was afraid of asking questions sometimes because I didn't want to look like a doofus and a reply would include all students.I'm not sure of the application of the homework in my later classes. How will all of this be used?
12.   I really enjoyed Dr. Reily.

Course:**Computer Systems I**
    (CSC-373-701)
Quarter:**Autumn 10/11**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

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Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   Incredible instructor! Clear, excellent communication, timely grading. Everything about him is wonderful
2.   Very knowledgable and always available to help. Presents the material in an engaging fashion.
4.   Professor Reily was a great professor who clearly knew what he was talking about. Sometimes it seemed like he hard trouble teaching the information at our level, but that is also strongly due to the difficulty of the content.
5.   Great instructor.
6.   Prof. Riely is very good at presenting information and making lectures more enjoyable. I honestly can't imagine taking this class with someone boring. I think that it's some of the most bland/boring material but he comes in with a smile all the time and manages to keep me awake during class.
8.   strength: presenting a tough topic with a enthusiastic and humorous manner. Quick responses for help. lecture notes are very helpful since the book is difficultweakness: go over some topics too quick and skipping some content
9.   n/a
10.   He stimulated interest in the subject by presenting the material in an enthusiastic manner. Was willing to spend a time answering student questions, even on material already covered, which was helpful. A little more student participation could have been encouraged.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   entire course was very valuable to me.
2.   The labs were very helpful for me to learn this fairly abstract material.
3.   Learning about machine level language, and how things work in the memory, register, and stack.
4.   Homework and quizzes
6.   The labs were really helpful, although also very challenging. I feel like this class would be better if taught over a semester's time, just one unfortunate thing about the quarter system.
8.   labs
9.   the knowledge of the basic framework of computing
10.   The homework labs helped with the concepts that we were learning in class.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.   all is near perfect. may be revisit some slides for more clarity

2. None.
4. More time going over the homework.
5. Make the class meet more than once a week. Add a lab where a TA is available.
6. I don't know, I feel like it's a lot of information to learn in a short amount of time. I'm not sure if the first part of the class, before the assembly language, is really even necessary. I covered a lot of that in Discrete Math. I didn't think it contributed in my knowledge of the later portions of the class.
8. of the two book required for this course. we really only used one of them. i havent touch the other book at all and was never discussed. recommend not requiring this book since i paid so much for it and never used it.
9. n/a
10. Perhaps a little more student participation at times during the lecture, or more in class exercises similar to the quizzes.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. all FAR above average
2. None.
4. Good
6. I think the grades are done pretty fairly. I'm probably around the middle of the class in terms of grades but I feel that it's done in a fair manner.
8. fair
9. fair and balanced
10. Excellent

Other comments?

1. fantastic professor, awesome class
2. I've really enjoyed each class, Prof. Riely presents the material in a very engaging way.
3. Dr Riely is one of the first CS professors I've had that has a personality. He's not some stuffy stereotypical CS prof, and to me it made it easier to listen to him because it didnt seem like he was being condescending the whole time.
4. Great professor, but hard class.
7. I like this course and the instructor was really goodBut i think it has a lot of information that can be seperated in two courses to spend a good time on them
8. hard but great class!
9. n/a
10. Really enjoyed the course, thank you!

Course:**Formal Semantics of Programming Languages**
     (CSC-535-701)
Quarter:**Autumn 10/11**
Time: **Tu 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

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Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Riely oscillates between being completely on top of the game and being a mediocre lecturer.When he's up, he's cracking jokes and explaining the material in an energetic way that made the relatively dry material easier to enjoy.When he's down, the dryness of the material *shines* as it seems to drag down the whole class. I think using Coq for the majority of the class time hurt certain lectures.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. The ides of program correctness has really stuck with me, as has the concept of building a logic system from scratch.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I'm not quite sure what the goal of the class was. It is a very interesting topic, and if the course was renamed (and the description changed), there might be interest and potentially a cross-listing with the math department's new applied concentration.
2. I think we spent too much time on learning Coq and it's particularities (roughly the first half of the course). If we could skim over all of the different proof tactics and get to the higher level concepts earlier, I think the course would have been a lot more beneficial.I doubt I will ever use Coq again, though many of the equivalence proofs and invariance rules will surely come up again and again.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. Seemed fine enough, though it would have been nicer to get homework back quickly.

Other comments?

2. This was an interesting course, but not at all what I expected. We covered a lot of theory, which I really appreciated. I really do wish we didn't have to spend so much time on the semantics of Coq, though.

Course:Computer Systems I
(CSC-373-710)
Quarter:Autumn 10/11
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

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Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
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What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. although he tried to explain the course, it was not enthusiastic , it needed to be more where it caught my attention and made me want to come back for more.
2. Good pace of lecturing, sense of humor, good knowledge of the subject matter and tools with no fumbling around during demos.
3. he was very engaged in the process...and he let people know that in order to learn and do well you had to work and spend time
4. The instructor was always ready to start and always showed knowledge and interest on the subject and made it more enjoyable to be in class.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. really none
2. It covered tools I haven't used before like assemblers, objdump, etc.
3. the lectures
4. I ready liked the bomb homework assignments. It made me read multiple times the book sections on assembly.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. make it worth waiting for, where you look for what will happen at the next class
2. I enjoyed the assignments– they were fun and humorous. But I wish there was time to write fully working assembly programs instead of just tinkering with existing code. Even just writing assembly routines and calling them from C code would be good. Maybe that comes in 374 though.
3. 1) text book is okay, but I don't feel it is great 2) it seems that the lab assignments were written by someone else, other than the instructor, so when it came time to do them, we didn't always have all of the information necessary, without contacting the instructor outside of the class.
4. n/a

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. the exams were hard , the grading was fine

4. grading was always done fast and any questions about our grades were always answered.

Other comments?

3. we were told we could work in groups, which I feel put some people at at an advantage; however, if you could not find a group to join, you were on your own. I almost feel like everyone that wanted to work in a group, should be assigned a group to work in. you could of course opt out, but at least it would your choice.
4. n/a

Course:**Formal Semantics of Programming Languages**
     (CSC-535-710)
Quarter:**Autumn 10/11**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. It was cool using a proof assistant to learn this material because you could work until you got it and then you knew you got it... or didn't. A little more theory would have been good though.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

Other comments?

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
      (SE-450-711)
Quarter:**Autumn 10/11**
Time: ::: - :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Grading was structured in such a way that you were punished for the same thing twice. Weights on grading of questions were inappropriate according to student effort and class instruction. Exam instructions were confusing and incorrect. Professor was stiff and inconsiderate of issues raised.
2. Professor Riely is an outstanding instructor. He is casual and funny, able to break down complex programming patterns into digestible chunks. One of the best teachers I've ever had, period.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The project and the homeworks were a little too much, but if lowered the quantity and increased the quality the project was the best thing for the course.
2. Almost everything...it was a completely new and interesting way to look at and think about programming. Totally fascinating. The final project was terrific. I feel like a much, much better programmer for having taken the class.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Have less homeworks and more time for the project. Have the exams weigh a little less and the homework more. Add ability to accept late assignments, one hour late is not the same as 3 days left. Also, online students should not have the same dead line for in class students since there was a day difference in time lectures are published. Other classes respect this difference which is very important for weekly homework. Also, if extensions are offered, give the students who submitted on time, extra credit because an A late is not the same as a A on time.
2. The only thing I might suggest is that 'less is more'. On some lectures, after the fourth or fifth complicated pattern had been introduced, I sometimes went cross-eyed as it all blurred together. It is a lot of information to absorb.Would it be possible to make it a 'greatest hits' of patterns? There are so many that seem extremely similar. That said, I am sure the material is pared down. I wonder if I would have gotten more out of the class if there were actually slightly less on the menu.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Very unfair in my opinion. Students concerned were not addressed, and a stiff arm approach was employed to respond to questions. Grades were not explained. Just getting points minus will not improve student's

learning. If you take points off, explain why and what is the right answer.
2. Very fair. The midterm exam was tough, but interesting. The project was terrific.

Other comments?

1. Overall disappointed with the class, caused undue stress, and did not learn much.
2. Nope.

<table>
<tr><td>

Course:**Computer Systems I**

     (CSC-373-601)

Quarter:**Spring 09/10**

Time: **W 13:30 - 16:45**

Location: **Loop Campus**

</td><td>

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor

jriely@cs.depaul.edu

Instructor homepage

</td></tr>
</table>

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   Energetic during lectures.Quick to answer questions in the group online.
2.   Loved the enthusiasm in Prof Riely's voice everyday. Great to learn from someone like that. Very intelligent and shows he cares about the students.
3.   Strengths: Excellent communication with students. Good at explaining concepts.Weaknesses: No large ones.
4.   James Riely was a fantastic instructor, he is definitely one of the very best instructors I've had at depaul. Riely teaches with great energy and enthusiasm, and for me, that is always one of the best and most important things you can hope to have in an instructor. His knowledge on everything he taught was also tremendous.
5.   He is very knowledgeable and personable. He is also very available for help outside of the class.
6.   Fun and interesting
7.   Professor Riely was a very good professor. He did an excellent job explaining the material, even though it was really difficult. I think that he should edit and simplify the powerpoint slides for future classes, however.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

3.   The homework assignments were very informative.
5.   His lectures made the readings, which were incredibly challenging, a lot more understandable.
6.   The topic in general
7.   I thought that the online discussion board was a really great idea. I wish people had used it more though! I also liked the weekly quizzes, not because I actually LIKED taking them, but because they kept me accountable for the material.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2.   Nada.
3.   Find a different textbook. "Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective" is full of confusing wording and unclear diagrams.
4.   Perhaps slow it down JUST A TAD, its very rigorous, but also very rewarding.
5.   I felt that it was really difficult for an undergrad level class, so perhaps it should be split up into two classes to spread out the work and give people more time to get a hang on the concepts.
6.   More frequent and shorter classes

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. THE fastest grading ever.
5. The grades were very fair.
6. Fair

Other comments?

2. Great course, great teacher. Grade A.
5. It was an interesting, but extremely challenging course.
6. No
7. This class was great, and I enjoyed attending, even if the homework was really difficult!

Course: **Computer Systems I** (CSC-373-610) Quarter: **Spring 09/10** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. seemed to engage more with the students who had previous knowledge in subject area.Needed to be better prepared before class, know the programs he would be having student use to complete assignments.
2. Really good about clearing the whiteboard for the online students.Good at explaining things so they make sense and pausing for questions.Everything was very well organized with a class web site and mailing list.Talked a little past the ending of the recording a few times.
3. He's got a vast knowledge which is a definite plus. Sometimes I felt that he had so much information that he wanted to share, and he's so passionate about it that he talks himself into a circle.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. with only one previous computer class, I did not benefit from this class.
2. Learning to use the debugger (I believe) will be very helpful in the future.Also learning assembly language and getter a better grasp on binary and hex should be helpful in the future.
3. I liked the buffer overflow attacks, it was pretty interesting. I don't feel like I learned a whole lot about the actually language of C though. I wouldn't be comfortable trying to write a program like I could at the end of CSC 211.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Make 2 or more computer languages a requirement to take this class. Learning C, Linus, compilers, binary logic and VI or Nano is too much for one 12 week class.
2. The text book is good if you use it correctly. It's much more understandable if you go through the practice problems versus trying to read it like a standard text book. Might be helpful if the instructor would clue the students in to that at the beginning of the course.
3. It was a little slow to begin with as far as picking up the material. I wouldn't say extend the bitwise stuff out another week, because it's already a good chunk of time. But that stuff was tough to grasp with just having taken CSC 211 previously. It didn't seem necessary to even have that knowledge.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading procedures and exams were norm.
2. No comment – everything was as expected.

3. It was straight-forward. There's deadlines, and people not meeting the deadlines shouldn't be rewarded with the same grades as others with time management skills.

Other comments?

1. Offer a couple of programming languages as pre-req for the masters program.
3. I imagine there's disgruntled people with this class, but I can be almost certain it's the ones that want to be carried through material. I don't feel I had to spend an especially vast amount of time beyond what would be required of me in other classes. I feel that there's a lot of information to know and people need to suck it up and learn it. Dr Riely stated up front it was going to be hard. I guess people thought that was a joke.

| Course: **Object-Oriented Software Development** **(SE-450-901)** Quarter: **Spring 09/10** Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus** | **James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage |

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

3. Professor Riely had the most organized course I've taken so far. His online and printed supplemental readings were considerable. He made all code examples accessible online which allowed students to experiment with the code. He supplied online reference materials. The course project reinforced topics taught in class and brought them all together in one final project.The only weakness of Professor Riely was not engaging students one on one.
4. Good teaching and communication skill

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

3. The project.
4. Design pattern really helpfull for my future.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I'd like the professor to talk more about the advantage and disadvantage of the design patterns. In other words, give some comparison if we use a pattern or not. So that we know why it's good to use those patterns.
3. If possible, slow the pace down or offer online/tutor lead supplemental instruction. The class had a wide range of Java experience. Those with well experienced in Java programming had an advantage over others. For them the pace probably felt too slow while for others new to Java the pace was overwhelming.In all fairness, the Professor strongly stated the prerequisites for the course.
4. It is the best.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. The grading and exams were fair.
4. Good.

Other comments?

2. Very well organized in the beginning, then less and less so throughout the quarter
3. I would have liked the course content available on CD for reference material. This was an excellent course

and I would like to be able to refer to the course documentation long after the course is over.
4. Nothing

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
      (SE-450-910)
Quarter:**Spring 09/10**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Major strength: Organization of coursework and preparedness for it unlike most instructors who go away on summer or winter vacations and then return in time for next quarter without any coursework plan.Weakness: The posted course material contained material and/or web links that were outdated and thus confused me.
2. N/A

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Discussion and practical application of design patterns.
2. N/A

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. A bit less course material to read would really improve the course. I think the professor posted on the course website a bit too much material to read.
2. N/A

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Excellent!
2. N/A

Other comments?

2. N/A

Course: **Introduction to Compiler Design**
 (CSC-348-801)
Quarter:**Winter 09/10**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. It is clear that he had taught the course before and assumed that he would remember what he was teaching. A few times there were moments when he either got lost and had to review old material or the examples did not work because they had not been tested in a year.
2. Strength: Helpful and understanding. Willing to go over details.Weakness: Sometimes hard to follow along in lectures. Examples are perhaps too abstract at times.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learning more about the compiler design process.
2. Learning Flex and CUP, and how to create a compiler.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. A little more direction on the homeworks. A set of tests that we need to pass would be nice to have for each assignment.
2. More details about compilers. What are the major compilers out there, how are they built, techniques involved, and such.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. Seemed fine.

Other comments?

1. I would have liked it to be more hands on developing the compiler. Much of the course seemed like it was just copy and pasting already written code.

Course:**Compiler Design**
        (CSC-448-801)
Quarter:**Winter 09/10**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. I don't think the instructor spent enough time preparing the lecture.
2. Professor Reily is very upbeat and animated when he teaches which makes it easier to pay attention in class. He does many examples which helps me understand the material. When he writes on the board and does many examples, it makes it much easier to follow the material. The one weakness is that sometimes he jumps around a bit in the notes which makes it harder to follow along.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Learning about how compilers work and how languages check wellformedness and typechecking.
3. homework, discussion forum

What do you suggest to improve this course?

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

Other comments?

Course:**Computer Systems I**
     (CSC-373-801)
Quarter:**Winter 09/10**
Time: **Tu 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   **2**   **3**   **4**   **5**   **6**   **7**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The prof is very smart but the teaching method I found to be not as effective as I would like. Granted the material is hard and weighs in here but I felt like I struggled almost every class and on homework and labs.

2. Out of all my professor in my academic career, Professor Riely stands out as the worst. He is a prof that is only there to do research and has no teaching ability to new students. He is terrible and should not be teaching undergraduates. He doesn't allow questions from students.

3. strengths were his enthusiasm and his weaknesses were the homework assignments

5. The instructor was not able to see questions from the student's aspect.

6. The professor knows his stuff. The only issue is that he sometimes does not explain the homework well enough.

7. The instructor was very fast paced. He did not seem like he enjoyed answering questions, and was worried more about getting through the material than making sure students understand it.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learning this valuable material is great for my IT career.

2. Nothing. Professor Riely is terrible. He cuts off students. He doesn't take questions and instead choose to rush through the material.

3. the homeworks

5. The debugging aspect was the most beneficial to me.

7. The entire thing. Bits and bytes were great to learn, and so what the buffer overflow.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Make sure everybody understands what is going on before moving on, if they don't then it might not be the most effective teaching methods.

2. Hire another professor to teach this class.

3. nothing

4. Little more explaination of things/topics using practical (labs etc) approach will make it more better in understanding things

5. More time for homework and more inclass exercises.

6. The course is fine, I just believe the professor should do better with explaining the given assignments. Well, on second thought. Probably will never happen, but I think a course like this needs at-least another week

or two extension.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading and exams were all fair and standard.
2. His lab assignments were unnecessary and offered almost no benefit.
3. good
6. Grading and exams were fine. Challenging as they should be. Exams I mean.
7. Grading was fair, and on time.

Other comments?

1. Prof Riely is very bright but he should explain some things a little more instead of diving right in to them at a quick pace. The course material is very difficult to many people.
2. Professor Riely is terrible and shouldn't be teaching at DePaul. By far, he is the worst professor I've ever had.
3. nope
6. The professor is very nice though. He's corny sometimes. Ha.
7. I really enjoyed the homework assignments. Among the most valuable and helpful homework I have come across.

Course:**Compiler Design**
      (CSC-448-810)
Quarter:**Winter 09/10**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strenghts: One of the best teachers I"ve had at DePaul
2. Strengths: good communication skills, high energy kept me interested most of the time.
3. The instructor is excellent at answering questions in class as well as on the webpage and brings a high level of energy to the class. The only negative aspects would relate to the lateness of assinging grades/comments to early homework because each assignment built on a previous one.
4. Prof. Riely was completely unable to actually teach anything. I felt the course was completely unorganized and the homework was completely unguided. Much of the book noted that the framework we used was created contradictory to standards and practices.
5. Strengths -- very knowledgeable; assignments were excellent teaching tools, really got a lot out of doing them; great online availability for instructor. Weaknesses -- homeworks not graded in reasonable time, so no ongoing feedback; one or 2 of the lectures seemed disorganized/ill-prepared.
7. Prof. Riely appears to be passionate about the subject material taught in this class, and his enthusiasm was clearly evident. He also appeared to make himself available outside of class more than any other instructor I've seen at DePaul.
8. I have had this instructor in a previous course and really enjoyed him. He has a very casual method to teaching which I find enjoyable.Unfortunately, in this course I was disappointed with the amount of instruction that was provided with respect to homework assignments. I felt they were not well explained and left too much to interpretation and discovery of objectives through trial and error.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learning about the different parts of the compiling process
3. Working with assembly was helpful.
4. Exposure to compilers.
5. assignments, group list, and info. presented in lecture
7. I did find the material taught in this class to be interesting and I feel it did enhance my understanding of programming languages.I would have to say this was a worth while class to take.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. N/A
2. Allow distance students to participate in real time with class.
3. More assemebly.

4. Change the teacher to someone who is more structured and put together.

5. better documentation of some of the assignments; posting more info online for dl students (e.g., some assigments were made in class but not posted anywhere or posted 3 days later, a real disadvantage to a dl student who may not have an opportunity to view the lecture immediately or may miss a detail given that transmission is just not the same as sitting in the actual classroom.

6. Please consider making course objectives and assignments more clear.

7. Grade assignments in a timely manor! Otherwise, I thought Prof Riely did a good job of teaching this course.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. The fact that the course relied on homework and projects as opposed to exams was accommodating to my schedule since I am not in the Chicago area and have had difficulty finding a reliable proctor. The homeworks were graded somewhat slowly. It would have been nice to have a more timely feedback loop so I knew better how I was progressing.

3. Grading was slow (but fair) and would not have been a problem if the assignments where independent.

4. Fair and impartial.

5. seemed fair, would have appreciated feedback within 2 weeks of submitting assignments, especially in a class where each assignment built on the previous one.

7. It took too long for homework to be graded. No reasonable excuse was given for the long delay in obtaing homework grades. Considering the huge amount of money we are paying for these courses, we should expect to receive graded homework within a reasonable amount of time.

8. Grading ran a little behind.

Other comments?

5. less dl friendly than other courses I've taken.Great discussions on the group list.

8. Despite my issues with the homework assignments, I would take another course from this instructor.

Course: **Computer Systems I** (CSC-373-810) Quarter: **Winter 09/10** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu **Instructor homepage**

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. strength: patienceweakness: periodically references material not required as prerequisite to explain concepts
2. I felt as if the instructor had taught the course so often that he was on auto pilot most of the time. It was difficult to get the sense that he was excited about the material. That being said, he was amazingly responsive to e-mail queries.
3. Dr. Riely is very helpful and easily accessible. I appreciated his flexibility in due dates as well as his help with homework assignments and clarification questions.Sometimes Dr. Riely will go off on tangents in class that, while relevant, are difficult to follow if you do not have the code in question in front of you. I would like to see Dr. Riely be more structured in this regard.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. labs
2. The lab assignments were among the best assignments I have ever had to do outside of class. They are fun and force you to engage with the material.
3. The labs were the most beneficial because they were very challenging and I finished each of them with a solid understanding of the course material.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. 1: improve slides2: require CSC212 as minimum prerequisite
2. I would add a lab assignment at the end of the course to encompass the material learned in the final 2 chapters. It does seem that after the buflab assignments the other material gets the short end of the stick.
3. I do feel the labs were extremely beneficial, but the labs were WAY too long and involved. I would spend hours and hours a week on the labs, to the detriment of the class lectures and readings. It got to the point that the labs took the place of other course work for the class. Luckily I was only taking one course; if I were taking two, there's no way I would've been able to complete the labs. Again, the labs are great practice, and I enjoyed the challenge, but I feel that they could be shorter for class purposes.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. fair

2. The grading was a little slow for my taste. Even though the grading server automatically grades the lab submissions, it would have been nice to see a formal note from the prof that you received X on a particular assignment.
3. I felt the exams were appropriate and Dr. Riely graded very fairly.

Other comments?

2. I am happy with this class and would recommend it to others.
3. I enjoyed the class, and I thought Dr. Riely was very helpful and understanding, and wanted to make sure that we knew what we were doing. Again, I'd like to see shorter labs, and perhaps class discussions that were more succinct, but overall, I thought both the class and instructor were good

Course:**Computer Systems I**
(CSC-373-701)
Quarter:**Autumn 09/10**
Time: **Tu 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   having had to do the bomblab live and being deducted points every time it exploded it was horrible. it made it much more stressful, less fun, and less of a learning experience, especially given that i learn through my mistakes.
2.   He stimulated interest almost all the time with his high energy & comedic aura ... but I did not understand very much of the material. It's almost like he would introduce something, and it would be foreign to me.
3.   Instructor has a great sense of humor and generates excitement about the material.Even though the material was very difficult he broke it down well and took the time to answer questions and explain the details.I would definitely like to take a course with him again.
4.   Instructor is very active on the course mailing list, treats students fairly, and is very knowledgeable about the subject matter being presented.
5.   strengths - he knows a lot about the subject material, he presents it in an interesting/fun wayweaknesses - he moves on too quickly sometimes without allowing students to ask questions
7.   strengths: ability to teach a hard subject to the classweaknesses: moving too fast, a lot of assumption with what students may or may not know

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

5.   gaining a practical understanding of how computer systems work
6.   I learned some awesome stuff bout computer systems!!!!!
7.   labs

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.   allow the students to run the bomblab on their home pc, or at least remove the explosion penalty.
2.   I'm an IA & SE major. There needs to be a soft "Intro to Assembly" course, OR something geared specifically for Security & Networking majors. I felt that this was more so for Computer Science majors.
3.   Fewer homework assignments.
5.   a TA or tutor for the class - there are a lot of subjects students are expected to "figure out" very quickly (C programming language, Linux, remote access, etc.)
7.   slowing down the pace of the course

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. He was fair on the grading.
3. Exams and assignments were never busy work. They did a great job of testing actual understanding of the material.
5. tough exams, but graded leniently
7. fair

Other comments?

2. Great professor, but it seems like half the class 'got it' & the other half were lost.
7. out of my 4 years at depaul, I would say this has been the toughest class I have taken yet.

Course:**Computer Systems I** **(CSC-373-710)** Quarter:**Autumn 09/10** Time: ::: - ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu **Instructor homepage**

Select a Page:
Summary   1   **2**   **3**   **4**   **5**   **6**   **7**   **8**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   Professor Riely is a highly knowledgeable instructor and clearly an expert in his field. He could answer student questions very effectively and his answers revealed a lot of very important information about the topic.The general problem was that the material was not presented in an effective and organized fashion. There were many unused slides during presentations that would just fly on the screen. And there were also slides that would jump straight to a difficult example, before introducing the topic through simpler examples and finger exercises. This resulted in lectures with too much information to absorb and made deciphering what is important and what is not quite difficult.The book was of no help in this matter either, since it presents concept in a rather hard to absorb manner, instead of staring off from simple examples and building on.Hence the students were left pretty much on their own to figure things out and distill what is important, which made the course much harder than it has to be.An approach starting from "Hello world" would have been much more fruitful since it's the first systems class that most students take.

2.   Professor Riely is obviously a very intelligent man and a great computer scientist. However, I feel he is not a very good teacher. He is not able to properly judge his student's understanding of a topic and cover what is important. He spends too much time reviewing the obvious, and not enough explaining what we really need to learn. I felt like I was thrown into each homework assignment blind, even after sitting through the lecture, re-watching it, and reading the textbook several times. He does not prepare his lectures before class, so on several occasions we sat and waited while he figured out what his demos were supposed to show us, then he rushed through the demonstration.

3.   This is a hard topic to grasp. The instructor is experienced with this topic and was able to anticipate the average students choke points of knowledge and present helpful hints along the way.

5.   He is positive and seems interested in subject. He has a strong and varied academic and career background.

6.   The instructor is very knowledgeable, a very nice guy and tried to help the students whenever they had questions. Clearly, he knows everything about the topics. But unfortunately, he could not present the material in a proper way. Even the easiest topic took many many hours for us to figure out what it really was about. Everyone got lost most of the time and spent too many hours outside of the class to understand what the lecture was about. Some watched the lectures over and over again, some read the book over and over again. The book was a disaster, since it did not explain anything. The course was not difficult, but the way the material was presented made it look like it was among the most difficult. The lectures were fun though :)

7.   weaknesses: presents a little too fast, assumes students understand materialstrengths: knowledgeable, intelligent, enthusiastic, gives students kick-starts on homework assignments

8.   As an online student, it is sometimes difficult to focus on the lecture. I thought his presentation was lively and his sense of humour added to the lecture.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The labs were excellent. They were challenging for sure but certainly brought the concepts to live. Having a class mailing list was a very good idea too and it was very kind of the instructor to promptly respond to any emails send to him or to the list. The hints that came were very helpful.
2. The "bomb lab" which covers debugging/assembly.
3. The labs were of the most benefit.
5. The course became more meaningful the further I got into it. Maybe it was the moving from the abstract to the concrete that made sense to me.
7. everything. its all critical for a CS major

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. It's a great course in terms of content, and it certainly gives you a deeper understanding of how computers work. If the material gets organized and presented more efficiently, I think it will be an excellent course.
2. What this class really needs is more time to cover important topics. A supplemental learning group would be extremely helpful.
3. A student guide that breaks down some of the more difficult parts into plain speak and walk us through. The book expects some level of understanding that isn't there for most. Due to the very odd topics this course covers, we could use a bridge between the book and the instructor notes to allow the student to cover the details of the most difficult parts of the course at our pace of understanding without dragging the rest of the class down.
4. It needs to be slowed down, or more homework than the labs given to allow a better understanding of the concepts.
5. This was a hard course for me to grasp at the beginning. I didn't know if it was a course in C, or Assembler, or Unix, or what? I assume it will prepare me for csc 374 though.
7. i wish the whole computer systems topic were 3 quarters instead of 2. not much else needed to improve

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. The midterm was very fair. The labs were challenging but certainly very beneficial.
2. I felt the midterm was held too early, and was unnecessarily difficult. Also, since it was only three questions, if you were stumped by one, you automatically failed the exam. The first question, which was supposed to be the "easy" question was unnecessarily tricky by asking us to work with 6 bits, when we had only ever worked with 8. It's not a big deal now, but only having the concept introduced 3 weeks prior, I was not comfortable with the material enough to make that transition, especially during an exam. Also, for how much time and effort the home works take, they constitute very little of the final grade (data lab 8%, bomb lab 12%, buffer lab 10%). I have gotten A's on all of the home works thus far, but since I did poorly on the midterm there is no way I can get an A in the class. I don't think this is very fair at all, especially since my I am working extremely hard outside of class. I don't feel my final grade will be an adequate representation of my effort nor my understanding of the material.
3. None
5. Seemed slow. Also, there was a disparity between online and in class regarding the taking of quizzes.
7. all fair and impartial

Other comments?

3. None
7. thanks for a good class prof. Riely :]

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development** **(SE-450-701)** Quarter:**Autumn 09/10** Time: **W 17:45 - 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. everything is good.
2. strength is that everything is very clear.weakness is too much java.
3. Prof. Riely is an excellent lecturer. He has the unique ability to explain complex topics using real world examples while keeping class lively and entertaining.
4. Amazing energy. Kept the class entertaining while informative.
5. Very knowledgeable, has an answer to every question, goes great lengths to make sure we understand the material. He presents the material in a fun manner that is very enjoyable and great to learn from.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. everything
2. pattern
3. Programming exercises and project was necessary for my technical advancement.
4. The final project was brutal, but a great experience. I honestly felt like I learned alot. Even if most of it was learning what I still need to learn.
5. Learning the design patterns and how they are applicable to the programs we create.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. no
2. more pattern application in real large cases.
4. The video assignment could be brushed up a little. To the teachers admission the code is written somewhat poorly. His reasoning was that we should see bad design. Trust me when I say I see plenty of bad desgins; it's kinda what I do. What I want to see is ideal designs that I can learn from. Let me handle writing the bad stuff.
5. none

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. everything is good.
2. good
4. A little light on explanation, but timely.

5. Very fair.

Other comments?

1. no
2. no.
4. Great course. I forward to other courses with this Prof.
5. Quite possibly the best instructor at DePaul.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
 (SE-450-710)
Quarter:**Autumn 09/10**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Strengths – high energy, enthusiastic, positive attitudeWeaknesses – lack of ability or desire to present course material in an organised, structured manner
3. While the course has been challenging, this professor has been the best I've had at DePaul so far. The instructor was exceptionally organized, graded homeworks/exams quickly, explained things properly. I will endevour to take courses with this professor again in the future.
5. Easy to understand and very accessable through google groups. Knowlegable about quite a few programming languiages and drew parallels often between them.
6. the teacher is very passionate about the subject
7. Knowledgable and clear. Made class entertaining.
9. Presented the material in a way which I actually stayed awake. Great and prompt answers to all my questions. The only problem I had was sometimes it was really hard to read what was written on the whiteboard and then I would have a difficult time understanding what was being taught. Sometimes the whole whiteboard would erase when it wasn't supposed to.
10. Engaging speaker.
11. The instructor is an energetic lecturer, which helps to maintain interest.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. the programming projects
3. Homeworks were very relevant and taught me a great deal.
5. Exposure to the course material allowed me to rethink my current design approaches.
6. I think we should have more programs that we start from scratch instead adding on pre-established program
7. This class probably contributed to one of the greatest increases of my skill in development.
10. Exposure to design patterns.
11. The final project gave me additional experience with Java.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Early assignments should stress structures not testing. Structures came into the the course too slow.
2. Unfortunately, most of the time i spent on the programming projects was in trying to figure out the instructor's code, rather than thinking about applying what i had learned about design patterns and object

oriented programming. It might have been more beneficial to make the projects simpler, but have little to no starter code provided by the instructor.

3. While I hate to say this as I'm dooming future students, but I would say more homework.

4. I feel that with the large project done in this course, the final is overkill. The final takes time away from learning the practical uses that is learned in the project.

5. Final project was very time consuming. Try to find small, clearly defined steps to complete. Graphics part (supplied by instructor) had dependancies which required changes based on student's decisions.

7. The amount of time required for the final project may have been a bit much. With a full time job and taking multiple courses this would've been near imposible.

8. Make this and many other courses at DePaul 12-13 or even 15 weeks instead of 10 weeks.

10. Don't give such a strong endorsement to the O'reilly patterns book, or at least make sure you give the warning along with it before the first lecture. While I do feel it did a pretty good job of explaining the patterns, and maybe I'll even remember them better for it, their target audience seemed to be about 13. Its hard to read a book you want to throw.

11. The content of the course seemed to be more at an undergraduate level. I think better coverage of patterns and real-world examples of where they have been used would be a helpful addition.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. satisfactory
3. Grading was quick, and seemed very fair.
5. Good.
7. Fair
10. Very fast turnaround. This is very helpful for learning from mistakes.
11. There were delays of several weeks to a month in getting grades for preliminary project submissions. I would have liked to have grades sooner in order to have feedback on my work.

Other comments?

2. We were told to purchase two textbooks for the class. However, we rarely ever discussed anything directly from the textbooks and did not follow the topics contained within them in a structured manner.
5. Best instruction I've had so far. I look forward to taking other classes with this instructor.

Course: **Computer Systems I**
        (CSC-373-601)
Quarter: **Spring 08/09**
Time: **W 13:30 – 16:45**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Very Knowledgeable, sometimes moved too quickly through certain topics but still incredibly enlightening.
2. very knowledgeable, able to make the topic more interesting
3. He's pretty exciting teacher, made the class really good. But three hours of class is really tiring, even if it is exciting.
4. The instructor was available to students outside of class more than other professors I have had in the past. Very knowledgeable about subject. The in-class demonstrations of the lab assignments were sometimes unorganized and confusing.
5. Effective and interesting lectures
6. knows the material like the back of his hand!easy to get a hold of!
7. He was able to explain the material pretty well. Has a good sense of humor.
8. Professor Riely is among the most knowledgable instructors at DePaul. He is an excellent speaker and his courses are highly organized.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. All.
2. the labs were difficult but really shown you learned something when you completed them.
3. The material.
4. I hated taking the quizzes each week but they did contribute to my overall learning.
5. Homework
7. Learning assembly language seemed useful. Understanding how the stack works in microprocessors helped make me a better programmer.
8. Virtual memory, and cache management was relatively beneficial.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Slow down at certain points
2. Not try to cram so much material in this one course.
3. The first lab, many of the puzzles were not really beneficial to understanding bits or their manipulation.
4. Some in-class lab time
5. Reduce the pace, make expectations about what needs to be learned a little clearer.
6. different text?
7. Having more explanation of how to use the gdb debugger would be helpful.

8. The book is dry and does not effectively explain the concepts well.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fair
2. The midterm was extremely hard, it covered a lot of tricky material which we never focused much on during class. Some of the quizzes were hard to do well on, either you get it correct or completely wrong.
3. The automatic grading is cool.
4. Midterm was difficult and too long. A review sheet would have been helpful.Extremely fair in grading procedures.
5. fair
7. Fair and impartial.

Other comments?

2. —
3. // This is a comment
6. should take discrete math as a prereq for this class!!
7. I thought the labs were challenging, but interesting.
8. The assignments were unbearably long. This coupled with the reading caused me to have to spend an unreasonably large amount of time on the subject. The labs and the quizzes were probably enough work for the whole course. The mid term was too difficult and somewhat deceptive. The level of difficulty in the mid term took a large leap from that of the quizzes. There were some weeks where I spent nearly 20 hours on this class and I believe that many other students also did the same. It seems like we attempted to cover too much material in too short of a period of time.

Course:**Computer Systems I**
(CSC-373-610)
Quarter:**Spring 08/09**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The professor sometimes makes it difficult to understand what exactly is important that we know and what is not.
2. THe teacher was well organized and presented the material in an extremely interesting way. He took the time to construct a website and server with which we were taught numerous systems.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Assembly language... I've always wanted to learn it.
2. Exposure to UNIX, gnu, refamiliarizing myself with assembly all helped me

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Better video and audio for COL.
2. A creative coding assignment, as opposed to, or in addition to, the destructive ones (I did find the destructive ones interesting and educational)

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. The material on the midterm seemed to come out of the blue. After hearing the professor say time and time again that we wouldn't have to know much regarding floating point, it came as a shock that most of the midterm revolved around floating point.
2. Fairly graded

Other comments?

1. Overall I enjoyed the class.
2. Great course. Great preparation.

Course: **Object-Oriented Software Development**
        (SE-450-901)
Quarter: **Spring 08/09**
Time: **W 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. strengths - enthusiastic, very organized lectures and homework assignmentsweakness - sometimes too wordy in lectures
3. Strengths: very into the subject, funny, passionate and knowledgable. Going to class was really fun. FANTASTIC notes, I'm going to get back to them often in the future - they're so well done and store so many important hints. Supplementary reading he provides is very interesting, when the text is too long prof. Riely will even tell you which pages/section to read and which ones you can skip. He really knows this stuff.Weaknesses: sometimes he get's a little bit disorganized, switches between screens and computers (but I had to try hard to come up with that).

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. design patterns
3. Looking at code written in a bad way and then refactoring it in iterations to introduce patterns and enhancements. Showing step by step how to arrive at 'best' solution.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. - more homework assignments directed around patterns: ie give code and ask to refactor using design patterns
3. In the first part I felt like we did little work in class. We spent too much time going over the homework that was due and explaining what's due next class. It's important to go over that, but it could be done quicker - especially as there were very few questions from students or discussions. The last couple of lectures were much better, and I really felt like I learned something new when I was leaving this class.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. have material on exam, homework, and lectures be the same.
3. HW was graded fairly. Midterm was graded leniently. Final is still ahead.

Other comments?

2. very very very good teacher. thank you professor.
3. Lot's of work, lot's of fun and lot's of knowledge to gain – that's all I'm seeking at DePaul. My favorite course so far.

Course:Object–Oriented Software Development (SE-450-910) Quarter:Spring 08/09 Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
10   11   12

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strenghts: Teaches well, gives good feedbacks, grades on time.Weaknesses: well the course is a difficult course and that doesn't depend on the Professor that is just how the course is. The midterm exam was a little too difficult , and the midterm practice didn't prepare me to do well for the midterm.

2. He's great.

3. Strengths:Is uptodate in his knowledgeWeakness:Cannot effectively transfer knowledge to students. Students are unsure of what to do in the project.

4. Great attitude, engaging

5. Homework and exam grading time was quicker than average.

6. Sometimes a little too fast in explaining. Choice of words could be simpler than abstract. I did like how the instructor could relate object oriented concepts to real life matters.

7. The instructor clearly has mastered the subject matter and was able to convey that clearly and in a very structured way. I could tell right away this was going to be a great course given how well everything was prepared.

8. The instuctor was very good at getting the students to think and interact during the class time (and on the website)

9. Clearly, the instructor seems like a very-knowledgeable/experienced expert in his field. The lectures were interesting and informative. However, I didn't feel like he dedicated nearly enough time to managing this course outside of the lectures. I never had any instructor feedback on my homeworks, not a single word of comments. Same for the exam -- there were check-marks and X's, not a single written word on the entire exam! If there were comments like "good" or "I gave you the points, but you kind of missed the point of the question", I would have known where to allocate the amount of time I had to give to this class and I feel like I would have gotten more out of it. There was also at least one instance where I emailed the instructor a homework-related question about 24-hours ahead of the homework due date and did not receive a reply until after the homework was due/already-submitted.

10. Knowledgeable on the topics, however, there is a lot of ambiguity in the course...it was difficult to determine what "good" is since it seemed to be somewhat subjective.

11. Very Knowledgeable of the material but sometimes went over a subject a little to fast. Very good instructor.

12. Strengths: articulate, good humor, thoroughIf an ideal instructor is indexed at 100, this instructor was a 94.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. I learned object oriented programming in more details that other java courses that I've taken.
2. It's all good.
3. none. I found myself frustrated during this course, spending more than 18 hours per week on this course.
4. Real world applications
5. I found this class extremely difficult and I don't think I absorbed that much of it.
6. Amount of programming I was able to explore.
7. I found the discussions on Design Patterns to be very informative. The project, while time consuming, required students to really dig in and learn and internalize the material. I am definitely a better programmer because of this course.
8. It was very helpful have the homework which built on earlier homeworks.
9. The lectures were informative and interesting. The covered topics spanned a good spectrum in the sense that I didn't feel like anything was beyond my grasp, but I still had to work to pick up/retain some of the concepts that were new to me.
10. It was all beneficial. It is a good course overall.
11. The design patterns and the project I wished we would of spent more time on them. I like the JUnit test. I learned a lot about this important feature.
12. The presentation of OOP in this course was top-notch. I could not imagine the instruction in this topic being better.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I don't know, the class was hard and I don't think it can get any easier.
3. Get someone who can transfer knowledge effectively and when the project is assigned, provide insight into it. Here we were given the project first, and then were told that we had to complete it within 3 weeks with no hint whatsoever. A full week went by, after which guidance was given. That is a week wasted, in my opinion.
4. Pretty solid course, I can't say I'd change anything
5. Slow down and keep lectures more focused. The professor speaks very quickly while going off on side thoughts. For DL, he points to the board, but this can't be seen online.
6. I think deep cloning and type casting were fine subjects to cover. Type casting seemed to be quite specific to Java, though.
8. More written work with UML and product design.
9. See above comments about the professor not dedicating enough time to this class -- a.k.a. complete lack of individual feedback.
10. Try to make things clearer in terms of what is expected, esp for the project. As a DL student, we're not able to ask questions after class.
11. the three homework assignments at the beginning of the class should be done from scratch. The portion that was give gave to much of the design pattern away. You could get the homework done and not understand the Pattern it was trying to teach.
12. De-emphasize the exams. Use those only as a quality control. Evaluation of students should be based on programming. If there's going to be a 4-week long project, there should be an interim evaluation of our progress before the final version is due.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading was pretty fair even though the exam was very difficult because there were some surprise questions that I don't think many students did well on.
4. Fine
5. Exam grading isn't clear, there's occasionally points marked off, and that's not the case for all of the points deducted yet alone what's incorrect.
6. Quicker turn around would be preferred for regular assignments.
7. I felt the grading was fair. The exams while challenging were not a surprise.
8. Everything was very fair.
9. See above comments about the professor not dedicating enough time to this class -- a.k.a. complete lack of individual feedback.
10. none.
11. Grading was fair.
12. Instructors, in this and call courses, MUST provide a higher level of personalized feedback on assignments and tests. Understading what we did wrong is crucial. DL students can't just make an appt or talk to the instructor during a class break.

Other comments?

1. I hope I can get a passing grade so I can move on and not to have to worry about taking this class over again.
2. Love the Head First Design Patterns.
5. I spent 20 to 40 hours a week on this class and I don't know if I'll pass the course.
6. Update assignment descriptions and requirements on the class website, as some of the items were outdated. It was particularly confusing when some things did not need to be done.
10. The amount of work on the project was very high. It was beneficial, but difficult to manage with work.
11. Instructor was very accessible through email, really wanted to help the students learn.

Course:**Compiler Design** **(CSC-448-801)** Quarter:**Winter 08/09** Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD ————————————— Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Very engaging presenter, but sometimes goes off on tangents that can be hard to follow
2. Knowledge of the subject matter is a strength.
3. Knowledge of subject material, ability to understand and respond to student's questions.
4. Very good at presenting lecture material and engaging class.Was unfamiliar with some of the material presented, which sometimes confused things in class.Expects too much time from students time – approx. 200 hours including lectures, assignments, reading, exams. For many students this it is unrealistic or perhaps impossible to spend 20 hours a week on one course.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. I knew very little about compilers, so the whole topic was very interesting. I think I learned the most by doing homework #3

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I know the project is a big part of this course, but I think I'd rather have more homework assignments than a big project for a course like this.
2. Call assignments assignments (hw #1, hw #2, the midterm) and projects projects (hw #3, final project). Break the projects down into smaller pieces to more evenly distribute the work. Spending 30+ hours on hw#3 left me little time to read the dragon book.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading was fair. I thought some of the midterm questions were a little vague
2. Grading was always fair and impartial.

Other comments?

3. I felt like the material on compiler optimization could have been presented more effectively.

Course:**Introduction to Compiler Design**
      (CSC-348-801)
Quarter:**Winter 08/09**
Time: **W 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   **1**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths = NULL (non existent). Weakness the homework assignments were not explained clearly, the tests were ambiguous, and they were very hard. The material was presented very fast and the professor did not care that I did not understand it. The professor was short tempered with me when I complained about this. He was dismissive in office hours. He was unclear in his explanations and told us "review the notes if you did not understand". If I did not understand the notes and did not understand the lesson then I will not understand the notes by "going over them again."

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. None: I should have not taken this class. I wish I could go back in time and stop myself.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. New professor, better organization, better textbook, better office hours, better grading system. The fact is that this course sucked.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Unfairly graded and were ambiguous and open ended in nature. The questions were from snip bits of class that were not emphasized at all or only talked about partially.

Other comments?

1. I want my money back: unfair grading, unclear homework, and too fast paced lessons all made this class a horrible experience.

Course:**Compiler Design** (CSC-448-810) Quarter:**Winter 08/09** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu **Instructor homepage**

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Weakness – expectations were/are not clearly defined and often changed. Course material relevant to homework was, on several occasions, provided hours before the homework was due.

3. Prof. Riely is an excellent professor. Sometimes though, he can get sidetracked. In and of itself its usually relevant topics but sometimes does not get back to the original point in full detail.

4. While he does answer questions on the message board quickly, he disappeared for 10 days between when he taught a concept needed for the project and when the project was due. People were so confused he pushed the assignment due date back a week. However, that was announced after the original due date. He seems unprepared for the class. We still don't know what weight our assignments will have. He may understand the concepts of compilers, but I don't think he is teaching in an ineffective manner.

6. Very knowledgeable. Class moved a wee bit fast.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

3. Its just an interesting topic overall and his great knowledge of it opened up quite a few new ideas to me.

4. Additional exposure to Java code and general programming concepts.

6. Compilers.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Less work.

3. Maybe some more information on the Clogs compiler up front. This way less time can be spent grinding on getting up to speed and more time can be spend doing cool things.

4. Start by teaching the concepts instead of jumping right into garbled compiler code.

5. A compiler that is less messy than Clogs would be helpful.

6. –

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. No complaints.

4. At this point, we don't have the grades for our large assignment, so I can't make a fair call.

6. –

Other comments?

2. I've never given a rating of 1 before.
3. Great class, Prof. Riely needs a raise so he doesn't leave.
4. This is easily the worst class I've had a DePaul. The professor is also among the worst.
6. –

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
    (SE-450-701)
Quarter:**Autumn 08/09**
Time: **W 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Professor has lots of knowledge on the subject, but we need more insight on subject and more examples to understand the subject better
2. Strengths: very enthusiastic and energetic teaching style, excellent homework assignmentsWeakness: sometimes class feels rushed and the material feels "crammed" in
3. He kept changing what he was speaking about while he was speaking so he was very hard to follow. If you haven't been in this field for a long time, it was hard to follow since he made a lot of assumptions about our initial knowledge.
4. Strengths:Always willing to helpunderstands the problem
5. The example codes are very good. And the assignments are very successful.
6. The instructor demonstrate this course very clear and cohesive. And the material he prepared for this course is valuable.
7. Strengths: The instructor is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the subject.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Got to learn about different design concepts
3. Learning about patterns, that is, if I actually felt like I was really learning it.
4. got a start in java learned not only theoratical but also practical approcah to things
5. From the course I learn a lot of knowledge about the design patten which is very useful in the projects.
6. The contents in this course is useful for me as it's practical.
7. Pretty much all of it. I never realized how poorly I write code until I took this class.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Better guidance and better approach
3. Teach it in order instead of jumping all over the place.
4. include better books and more theoritical approach to things
5. Maybe in the assignment part, the instructor can assign a project to a group to finish it. Then students can discuss and learn each other.
6. I hope to learn more patterns.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Good
3. The homeworks were graded pretty harshly. If you had one of your Junit tests fail, then you'd fail the assignment. The exams were graded fairly.
4. grading was good except a tiny mistake in assigment caused many marks to be deducted
5. Exams is very good. because it tests the ability of writing code.
6. I'm satisfied with current grading.
7. Grading was fair. The instructor took into account any questions that may have been ambiguous when grading exams.

Other comments?

1. None
3. The professor was only available for office hours once a week which really isn't enough. I think there were probably other courses that should've been prerequisites, but there weren't really any.
5. NONA
7. This is one of the first classes I've taken in the graduate program at DePaul that actually had a direct correlation to the real world.

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development (SE-450-710) Quarter:Autumn 08/09 Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

3. The instructor clearly has a solid knowledge of course concepts.

5. Thought provoking. Interesting to listen to. Felt like I easily related to him.

6. Be careful to not skip steps. You are very smart, but sometimes it is hard to follow your logic. I like it when you would right important things on the board

7. Strengths: the course material was interesting, well taught, and timely. The homeworks were well done. The instructor was easy to understand and very knowledgeable. In fact, I enjoyed everything about the class except...Weakness: the project was a monster. It was not that I didn't enjoy having a larger project instead of a bunch of homeworks, however it was just too much. By that I mean, the traffic simulation was just too difficult to get working. I felt that I spent a disproportionate amount of time trying to make the program functional, which left much less time than I would have liked to focus on what the class was all about, which was patterns and good object-oriented design. And it was certainly not like I was "slacking off" and should have spent more time on the thing...I spent over 60 hours total. So to end on a positive note, I think if the there were a way that the professor could have laid out the design of the simulation in a little more detail (i.e., a clearer description of "what" and "how" all the pieces of the model fit together, such as how a car object should move, how traffic lights, intersections, etc. should act), then the implementation of the program might progress more quickly and smoothly, and allow for more focus on the object-oriented implementation of the design.

8. Strength – VERY enthusiastic & energetic, encouraged discussing on the web board, encouraged questions during class, answered questions promptly.Very thorough knowledge of subject, and a clear interest in getting us enthusiastic about it also.

9. Terrible terrible hand writing. I can only hope that the new administration passes a law banning this instructor from ever again wielding a white board marker.

10. Weaknessesâ€¢ It may help for the less accomplished students for things to be more structured, e.g., more concrete goals for final project check points and making sure everyone is keeping up. That's partly our responsibility, but a little more support for, and monitoring of, progress may be helpful.â€¢ Handwriting on white board is almost illegible at times.â€¢ Like many profs, points to and talks about things on display screen that DL students can't see.Strengthsâ€¢ Knows the material well.â€¢ Set up a discussion group online, and has been very active and helpful in it.â€¢ Has engaging personality that makes lectures easier to follow and stay involved in.â€¢ Is genuinely interested in and enthusiastic about the subjectâ€¢ Cares whether we're learning

11. Very engaged with the students. Replies on discussion boards usually within minutes. Presenting some of the patterns seemed a little disorganized. I remember one student making the comment that he didn't realize that this class was a design patterns class until a few weeks into the course.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

3. The design pattern concepts were most beneficial.
5. Clear expectations. Homeworks, projects for the entire quarter were viewable before the quarter started.
6. This was a very good course. I found it extreamly challenging and very beneficial to understanding better programing techniques.
8. The patterns! – and having a chance to see examples, and to write my own.The UML – I never worked with this before & can see that it'll be a good design tool.
9. Good programming / design skills and knowledge.
10. Immersion in programming through our work and the presented code.
11. Tons of programming experience. Definitely helped take my programming skills to the next level.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

3. It would be helpful if there were a C# version of this course for those who are more familiar / used to working with this language as opposed to java.
4. The homework is challenging but mainly because you do not know what the instructor wants as an answer. I understand that you are suppose to figure out what is expected from the course material but when you are too bussy deciphering the proffesor's code then you really do not pay attention so much to what the homework is trying to teach but just trying to finish the homework. I think that if the material from the course is suppose to be carried on to the homework then there are other more practical ways of doing it through other types of homeworks. I learned good things from this course but not so much from the homework but from one of the books that was recommended as a substitute. I enjoyed the course but don't think that the homework was appropriate as I finished the homework without even learning what was meant to teach me.
6. When you write on the board, slow down and write clearer, it is very difficult to see the words sometimes. In this class, design wasn't part of this, but in real world development, there would have been more plans. It would be good to use UML that would have come out of a design phase passed out as part of the problem description.
8. Could use feedback re. UML designs – perhaps submitting UML & discussing what works & what doesn't.
9. While the final project was interesting, it was not the best vehicle to teach these patterns. I believe that one small to moderate assignment each week that focuses on one or two specific patterns, then build on each other would have a better way to lean this information.
10. Lots of stuff thrown at us, difficult to assimilate it all (for some). Maybe having more opportunities to do smaller projects to build some ability and comprehension would help. I was so intimidated by the final project, but had it been more systematically broken down, that may have helped. A lot of stuff gets thrown at us in this class, I wonder if it would be better if it were 2 classes. At this point I feel as if there's so much stuff, I can't see the forest for the trees. Even trying to crystallize and articulate my sense of the course at this point is difficult. A textbook that covers everything in the course would help; supplementary reading was in so many different places that there's no continuity. Much of the course material, e.g., what's presented in class, doesn't have adequate written exposition behind it, because so much of that is just what the prof. said while presenting it. Would it be possible to transcribe lectures and add those transcripts to the notes the prof. uses in class and posts online, which now mostly consist of code? I think I'd like more explanatory written material. Even if most doesn't get read, having it available when needed helps.
11. A little more structure to presenting the material

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. no complaints.
5. Results returned quite quickly which was appreciated and helpful.
6. So far, so good.
8. Would like more points on project, less on exam. Exam adds complications because a) it's handwritten, and b) we're writing code without the chance to let the compiler help with syntax.
11. Grading was done quickly and fairly

Other comments?

1. This course has arguably too much work, but Dr. Reily's material discloses expectations and assignments allowing students the opportunity to keep up. Rather than too much for one course, I consider this course higher VALUE than most 4 credit offerings.
2. White board (hand writing) difficult to read.
5. Great job, I learned tons and hope to take this instructor again!
7. I really enjoyed the material of this course, and thought the professor did a fine job of teaching the material as well.
8. I loved this course!
10. Make these survey boxes bigger! :)Ask me again about this class in a month or two. I think I've learned something, but my head is still swimming!
11. One of the most useful classes that I've taken at DePaul. A lot of work, but all well worth it.

Course:**Computer Systems I**
   (CSC–373–601)
Quarter:**Spring 07/08**
Time: **W 13:30 – 16:45**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths -- smart, somewhat humorous.Weaknesses -- assumed too much from students, blamed students for poor test results when it was an obvious reflection on the poor teaching from the instructor. Zero A's on the midterm with a 41 pt curve means you are doing something wrong.
2. Pros- presented material in an interesting way- explained well, in a short concise manner- energetic and enthusiastic
4. Can be funny sometimes in class which helps raise awareness, however, continue through material in class when it is obvious that students do not understand.
5. The instructor mentioned several times that he had neither taught this course before, nor taught any undergraduate course in some time, and felt out of practice. I think he relied to heavily on the prescribed curriculum, using slides book and assignments from a prepackaged set. It's not that the material was bad, but I would have preferred hearing the instructor describe and explain on his own, without trying to stick to the given slides, which were not always very clear. The instructor was always ready and willing to help out with any questions, and set up a message board for the class which he replied to frequently, offering detailed explanations for any questions, which was very helpful. He also strongly encouraged class participation both in and out of class, though he seemed frustrated by a lack of response much of the time.
6. great depth of knowledge and really into it, possibly too much because he gets rolling too much and leaves some of us behind

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Nothing.
2. – using gdb– understanding assembly language– buffer overrides
4. The physically layout of the logical process of the computer and the assembly behind it were most interesting.
5. Despite the difficulty of the assignments, I did learn a fair amount from working through the debugger, following the execution of programs while looking for specific values. I did not learn as much as I had hoped to from this class, but what I did learn was certainly valuable.
6. some assembly and C

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Tailor the class to the students instead of following the CMU course to a T. We were struggling and you continued not to change anything. Require C programming.

4. Be more forgiving on the homework and understand that everyone has different experience with programming.

5. I felt ill-prepared for nearly all of the homework assignments, which were very challenging. The textbook is written in a style that suggests the authors were intending the book to be read either by math professors, or people already well versed in the subject. There is frustratingly little in terms of explanation in the book, and many "practice questions" requiring information that simply isn't present in the book. In my mind, there should have been far more in-class instruction before any of the homeworks were assigned.

6. Slow it down! Not all of us have taken C or C++ and even those that have haven't learned some of the depth needed here. Taking all the material from CMU is a problem because their program is quite different from DePaul's. Most importantly, this class is a requirement for majors other than computer science so some of us do not have the same background or basis for this class.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. RETARDED.
2. - fair and impartial- exams and homeworks were graded promptly- feedback was useful and timely
4. The midterm was curved, however, I found it unusual that the curve was such that no one got an A.
5. I think the grading was fair, although it was confusing when a curve was applied to the midterm. I'm still not sure how it was determined. I do think the grading of everything was fair and appropriate though.
6. Seemed fair.

Other comments?

1. Worst class I have ever had. Ever. Please never teach this class again, or at least talk to somebody who has before you have to teach this again.
3. Homework takes too much time.
5. This class was much harder than I had anticipated, and I did not learn from it much of what I expected. I think it would have been better if the instructor had prepared his own material, and gone into greater detail on most topics. The instructor clearly knows the subject, but often seems to be holding himself back in order to stick with the plan he has been given. I would be very curious to see how he handles a graduate level class where he is more comfortable.
6. Felt too much like a grad-level class

Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages**
         (CSC-447-901)
Quarter:**Spring 07/08**
Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD
_____
Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Major Strength invovles deep knowledge of different programming language and explanning them effectively.
3. Dr. Riely is one of the smartest instructors I have had in the M.S. program (this is my 12th course). But, he is barely average as a teacher. He has consistenly failed to grade and review assignments. This is the 9th week of class and he has not gone over the midterm after repeated requests. He declines to answer questions in class about assignments preferring to take questions by emails.
5. He has a very thorough knowledge of the material, and it shows in his lectures. I am very fond of his classes because of this trait.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learning about the details aspects of different languages corresponding to pratical applications.
2. homeworks
3. Dr. Riely is a charming and witty person.
5. The parsing of language, as well as the structure of programming languages help me to see the similarities between the various languages.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. The course was well organized for a quarter studies. The course can improve on comparative studies with diffent types of languages.
3. This class is required, but seems to duplicate much of the material in csc444 which is often chosen to fulfill the M.S. requirement for a foundations class. Drop one requirement or the other.
4. Update the lecture notes.
5. It seems like every homework has one problem that just takes hours to complete. This is very annoying and time-consuming. Can he separate these into projects or something worth more points? The cost-benefit of doing a lot of work for homework credit just isn't there.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. I personally feel that grading was done very tightly but it was fine.
3. Im not sure how fair Dr. Riely grades because we have yet to go over any assignments including the

midterm.

4. Grading was more than fair.

Other comments?

1. Good to have James Reily as my first quarter Instuctor at Depaul.

3. Even Dr. Riely said he did not like the textbook. It only lightly supported what we did in class and did not help with the homework at all. It was a waste of money and time.

4. Could have been a bit more organized – post notes & homework a bit earlier. Questions on the message board were always answered promptly.

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Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages**
      (CSC-447-910)
Quarter:**Spring 07/08**
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

</td><td>

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

</td></tr>
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Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The instructor is animated and keep class and the material interesting.
2. He through a lot of material at us but I don't think he related it. I think he views this as a "weed-out" course to get rid of inadequate students.
3. The instructor is knowledgeable on the subject but I did not like the way the notes were structured. It would be nice if all the information was in one central location without having to click on other items for more info.
4. Very knowledgeable about the material, and effectively presents information. More examples would be great. Really, especially of automata.
5. I think he is extremely intelligent and likeable. However he is also kind of all over the place when it comes to the code.
7. The instructor communicates very clearly. this is especially useful for remote students, me. To me, it appears that Prof Riely is very passionate about the subject, which I really enjoy and appreciate, but sometimes goes off on tangents and runs out of time for the planned lecture. Perhaps we need to have several more lectures to cover everything. To summarize, Prof Riely is a very good instructor. this is the third consecutive class I've taken of his. I would most definitely appreciate his that much more if I were there in person. One criticism, might be more a remark on the technology than the instructors, is that it's hard to follow when the instructor is tracing through notes on the WBs or monitors. Perhaps some kind of laser pointer that's saved on the recording would help with this.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. The instructor is knowledgable.
3. This class is a good base for computer science majors. It helped reinforce core concepts that programmers should know.
4. Functional programming languages, higher order languages, regular expressions, all were items which helped strengthen my know knowledge of C#, especially since Microsoft seems to be focused on this at this time with lambda expressions, anonymous functions, etc.
5. The realm of knowledge was not something I had much exposure to before.
7. all the topics discussed thusfar have been beneficial to me. I would've have liked to spend more time on SML or perhaps Scala, whichever is picking up steam on the outside.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Update the lecture notes and material. The notes were from a year ago so the dates were off.
2. Better room, it was inadequately mic'd. I had to use very expensive boosting headphones in order to hear the instructor.
4. Again, the beginning was rough for me, not really sure if the class should be improved. More examples are better than less.
5. If teaching ML, need many more real world examples of actual syntax being used.
6. Less concept, more useful stuff
7. Eventhough we had weekly assignments I feel that I would've benefitted from my examples.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Test feedback not received in a timely manner, or at all.
2. Exam was a "memory-tester" many different concepts with one page of notes. I think the instructor views this course as a "weed-out". Keep the already knowledgable students and "weed-out" the rest.
3. Grading was fair and impartial. The instructor took the entire class's performance into consideration.
4. Fair
5. No complaints.
7. the grading thusfar has been fair.

Other comments?

2. The instructor was enthustistic but presented a lot of material at a lightening-fast pace.
4. Funny, professor, kept me interested in the class.
5. Learned a lot and liked the class a lot.
7. I would most definitely take this professor's class again.

| Course: **Computer Systems I** (CSC-373-911) Quarter: **Spring 07/08** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning** | James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage |

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. disorganized, lack of flow to lectures, was obviously the first time teaching the classsome assignments took upwards of 12 hours to complete, readings to on average 5–7 hours a week if you wanted to do the exercises, I spent an avg of 20 hours a week on this course. VERY DIFFICULT TO DO IF YOU WORK FULLTIME

3. The major strengths is that he knew what he spoke of, being quite helpful in knowing how to track problems when we did have them on Assignments. However, I didn't like that the material wasn't his own when he taught us. He pretty much tried to fit Carnegie-Mellon's Slides(coming from the author's website of the textbook assigned to our class) into his own style of teaching and lecture, and instead of being effective, he ended up being very confusing. I think that if he would've created his own slides of what he wanted to focus on, instead of relying on another teachers', I would have learned more.

4. I liked the type of homework and the levels to which it challenged the student. But I think there could have been better resources to help understand the material covered (the text book could be a little confusing at times).

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. the subjects covered in the course were very important to know for a person in the comp sci field

3. I learned about computer systems and how they work, as well as the assembly language and how to interpret. Also, I have a better focus on reading hex, binary, decimal, and ASCII values, and converting between them.

4. The homework helped me build a familiarity with some important programming tools such as GDB.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. from an online perspective the use of the dry boards was horrible, the instructor did not use the markers correctly, even after several emails pointing out the problem

3. Have the teachers use their own slides to say what they want to say – not somebody else's material!

4. More homework assignments which are a little simpler to help understand the concepts of the Larger homework assignments.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. State your late policy in the syllabus so students are not surprised

2. homeworks took hours and hours to complete because of a lack of what was presented in class versus what the homework covered, they did not correlate well would be better to work on teams, but that does not work well with online students, especially those who work fulltimehe is probably used to other undergrad classes where students are on campus more

3. N/A

4. Some auto graded homework could not giver partial credit if the student had made his/her way through part of a section but not completed it.

Other comments?

2. last assignment required the software to be downloaded four times, the server we worked on was down on occasion, fortunately the instructor was up at late hours to fix things,the instructor is very knowledgeable but I don't think he connected well in imparting that knowledge to the class. the extremely poor grades on the midterm were a clear indication that what was being presented was not being comprehended by the class.The instructor might be better with a class that meets 3 times a weeks versus one 3 hours 15 min lecture per week. He is definitely someone I will not recommend for online classes.

Course:**Compiler Design** (CSC-448-801) Quarter:**Winter 07/08** Time: **M 17:45 – 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD ————————————— Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu **Instructor homepage**

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths: enthusiasm and knowledge about subjectWeaknesses: Not being as familiar with Corin's code as though it were his own.
2. Strengths: Definite enthusiasm about the subject and deep knowledge. Lectures were well organized, and good balance between practical and theoretical aspects of the subject matter. Level of formality seemed to be appropriate for this course: formal treatment of many topics, but definitely enough focus on practical implementation issues as well. Weaknesses: Since it was the instructor's first time teaching the class, some aspects of the class examples and homework assignments didn't "work" perfectly at all times, and this caused a bit of frustration especially as I worked through the homework projects, but this didn't deter significantly from the overall learning that took place in the class.
3. This instructor presents the material in a very clear and efficient way. He is extremely prepared in the subject. No weakness.
4. No real weaknesses. Definitely keeps the course moving and interesting without confusing students.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The homework (Clogs project) and the project
2. Although I don't intend to pursue advanced research in computer science or compilers, the knowledge of compilers and parsing will definitely benefit my career as a software developer. This course gave great insight into the workings of a compiler, and deepened my understanding of development languages and programming as a whole.
3. Every aspect. If you like this kind of topics the course was full of great things to learn. It has definitely improved my knowledge in the subject and opened a huge amount new prospectives.
4. Getting into the lower level aspects of how languages go from a "spec" to an actual programming language.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. More detail in the areas of parsing and target machine code-generation, less emphasis on optimizations
2. In the later weeks of the course, the instructor focused on optimization issues, parsing, and other interesting and relevant topics. However, I think there should have been some minor homework assignments to cover those topics and solidify our knowledge. Since the entire focus of the second half of the class was our final project, the students were not accountable for anything that was taught in the last few weeks. Although I attended every class and tried to participate, I know my learning would have been deeper if I was responsible

for completing some assignment based on the last few weeks of presentation. I do understand that the instructor didn't want to distract us from the final project, but I think a simple homework could have been devised to balance the importance of the final project versus the need to have some accountability for the later topics in the course.

3.   I would have more homeworks. Maybe smaller than the one we had, but something which would allow us to verify and understand what we covered in the lecture.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.   Fine.

2.   Grading has been fair so far, and I appreciated that the class was given the opportunity to make a second submission for the most difficult homework assignment. It has taken a bit longer than expected to receive grades for a number of homework assignments that we've turned in, but so far I think grading has been fair.

3.   Fair and impartial.

Other comments?

1.   none.

3.   The final project is very good idea. It's a very good way to learn something new and challenging.

Course:**Compiler Design**
    (CSC-448-810)
Quarter:**Winter 07/08**
Time: ::: - :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. clear teacher, fun
2. instructor has a broad knowledge but it seemed that he had not taught this class before and was teaching it from someone else's material so he was learning it along with us. instructor has only graded one assignment so far and has not followed syllabus regarding posting of other grades. he seems to be unorganized when it comes to grading and posting assignment submissions.
3. Definitely one of the top instructors for his general knowledge, experience, oration, presentation / organization / availability etc.
4. +Knows and is interested in the subjects+Easy to communicate+Good code and build environments+Interesting examples-It takes to long to get all the programs graded

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. coding
2. the compiler itself was interesting and the homeworks 1-3 were interesting and helped understand what goes into a compiler. the lectures have been average as far as explaining how things work. i have learned more on my own with the book and with the source than from class lectures.
3. The project..
4. Exploring and extending a simple compiler of a familiar language was a good exercise.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. more examples of homework in class
2. it might be better next time since he will know the material better the first time around.
3. Get rid of the CLOGs code base or at least clean it up and document it - its an undocumented mess thats almost impossible to make any sense out of without substantial use - needs to be simplified with clear examples.. or better yet toss is out and write in a language like ruby where you can present the ideas without all the clutter. besides, yet another class being taught in java is getting boring / tedious - heres a chance to expose new languages to people.
4. I think there should be more assignments or an midterm or final exam.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. graded really slowly, no exams
2. what grading procedures? still only have one graded assignment after submitting 4 assignments. for the first homework grading seemed fair, can't comment any further. no exams in this course due to project, so that does not apply
3. The first couple clogs HWs were pretty straightforward but the third was brutal – mostly because we had no clue how the code base worked and no documentation / reference to use – granted we could ask the forum but the level of help needed was unreasonable for a forum.
4. The grading could have been done more promptly.

Other comments?

1. should have either hw or exam over last material
2. good teacher and knowledgeable, just seems very unorganized with respect to assignments and following through on what he says will be done regarding timelines.
3. Coping with the CLOGs mess really was painful – it was like a really bad maintenance programming job that you inherited and dread each day going to.. and not like the fairly stimulating subject that it is – fortunately the project is turning out to be a good learning experience..

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development

(SE-450-801)

Quarter:Winter 07/08

Time: Tu 17:45 - 21:00

Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor

jriely@cs.depaul.edu

Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   He knows programming like no other. I like the examples he uses and how he is willing to go through multiple examples of how to do things.

3.   – I felt the instructor just assumed that most students were experienced professionals. Not much attention was paid towards explaining the tools used during the course.– I also felt that often times the instructor just breezed through the course material. The textbook(s) were not that helpful either.– I didn't feel that the instructor was very approachable after class.

4.   Strengths: Organization, presentation, and dissemination of relevant material.Weaknesses: Too much work to cover in one quarter.

5.   The pace at which the class moved was quick enough to keep everyone interested, but also left time for in depth looks at issues that were confusing or important.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   The UML modeling and code correspondence is a nice new level of understanding for me. I like to see code in a picture form.

3.   – I liked the more practical application of most of the concepts we have been learning so far -- especially data strs in java.– It was also interesting learning about the s/w patterns – the final project provided ample opportunity to apply these concepts.

4.   Course Content

5.   The subject material as a whole is very beneficial and has already come into play in my job.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.   nothing.

3.   – I feel the progress on the final project should be closely monitored by the professor.– The course could be structured a little better. We were expected to apply new concepts directly to the project (which was not very closely monitored) before using them in hw assignments.

4.   Split work across two quarters – maybe have homework and exams in the first course and work on the project in the second course.

5.   Nothing.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Good stuff. Could have been a bit more prompt.

3. The grading procedures were fine. There was too much packed into a period of 10 weeks with two exams and a huge project.

5. Grading seems weighted a little heavily towards the midterm and final. I agree that the project should be a big chunk though, since that is where the bulk of the time is spent working. It should be more important than the final though.

Other comments?

1. This course makes me want to take so many other courses relating to the subject. I'm really glad I had this course.

2. Question #12. The assignments for this course was:is poor English – I would have lost an entire letter grade in my undergrad English class for this. It should read Assignments – Where not Assignments... was

Course:Object–Oriented Software Development
    (SE–450–810)
Quarter:Winter 07/08
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. presentation – easy to sit through a 3 hour classexplained material wellreplied to emails quickly and with detail
2. Very concise informative information given in the course. This instructors style pertains to my method of learning. Filtered information with exploration under taken by the student, while the professor is available for questions if needed.
3. Very knowledgeable and teaches well.
4. I don't have much to comment on here. The instructor is very knowledgeable and answers questions very quickly to help everyone.
5. He's extremely knowledgeable of the material, but I found the code examples difficult to follow because of stylistics.
6. Teacher presents information clearly. The material is not hard once you understand it, but obtaining that understanding is not easy.
7. Instructor is very knowledgeable and well–organized. I really appreciate the availability of the code, and the way actual code is worked into the lectures, including documentation. That sets a great example for us going forward. I also appreciate the instructor's knowledge of languages, which helps in explaining the idiosyncrasies of coding patterns in Java.I do appreciate the instructor's desire to keep questions relevant to the topic at hand. There's nothing worse than a lesson getting hijacked by irrelevant questions. The instructor sometimes pre–emptively cut off questions in class that seemed like they might be relevant, though. I think that kind of stifles the question-asking...
8. Dr. Riley always participated in discussions and answered questions about class lectures and assignments very quickly. All material was challenging and was well suited to this course.
9. great teacher. I liked his tone during class. Never seemed boring. made watching the lecture esay
10. Dr. Riely was really animated and that released some of the tension of picking up the material.
11. A little too enthusiastic at times, but nonetheless influential.
12. Enthusiastic about the subject, and clearly knowledgeable. Being able to talk about how C# implements concepts helped me, since C# is my primary programming language.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. technical challenges, being hands on in a large project
2. Particularly the actual implementation of a system using the techniques discussed in class.
3. Design Patterns
4. This final project is most beneficial. It's always fun to ground up a project.

5. The refresher of design patterns. There are several patterns that I am very fond of and some that I rarely use. I was reminded of some useful patterns that I should be relying on more heavily.

6. The patterns. The demonstrations of how code should be structured.

7. Learning design patternsEmphasis on testingHomework & projectWorking with other people's code (instructor's)

8. The whole course was very beneficial. It has helped improve my coding and design capabilities already and with practice will only serve to make me a better software engineer.

9. the homework and the fact he expected a lot out of us.

10. It gave a really good handle on how Java development should be done.

11. Review of design patterns.

12. Developing the "muscle memory" for using patterns is probably what will stick with me most. I feel like I got more than just the conceptual understanding of the patterns – I can actually "see" them now.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. na

2. Better documentation for the intial homeworks, though reading through code wasn't so bad.

3. Maybe expects too much for first few assignments. Not exactly clear what needed to be done.

4. Not much. It's pretty good.

5. As a required course, I'm not sure you can do more.

6. Try not to focus too much on the wrong way to do things. Sometimes you like to talk about what is wrong with a piece of code for so long that you start to forget that it is the "wrong" way to do something.

7. At the moment, I'm so bogged down in troubleshooting the bolt-on visualization package that I don't feel like I'm focusing on and experimenting with the design patterns we're studying. I do recognize the value of working with an existing codebase, and adapting it to suit my current needs. However, I wonder if there's some way to mitigate the pain.

8. No suggestions. This course is fine as is.

9. announce the final project early and possibly work in partners.

11. Weight the homeworks higher to increase motivation level.

12. Reliance on whiteboard during lectures, while understandable, makes it more difficult for me as a distance student a) because the COL technology makes it hard to read, and b) I primarily listen to the podcast and follow along with the printed lecture slides. Sometimes I can follow along in my mind with what's being written on the whiteboard, but it's often a challenge.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. very fair

2. Fair and on target

3. Very fair.

4. These were extremely fair.

5. The grading was timely and the assessments were an effective guage of my knowledge.

6. Grading is not bad, I still have had a hard time getting my exam back though as I am a DL student.

7. very fair and appropriate. I liked the fact that the midterm used the same code for most of the questions. That was a first for me, and very effective, I thought. I feel like that makes it much easier to focus on the meat of the questions and less on the noise of grokking new code.

8. Grading was very fair and thorough.

9. fine

11. Grading was fair – but, as mentioned above, the work itself was not sufficiently motivating.

12. I philosophically disagree with the idea of testing with paper & pen when it comes to code. I think the project and homeworks are sufficient to test achievement in code and tests are overkill, or should be changed to be conceptual – maybe give a description of a problem and then ask for how to solve the problem (which patterns used, how they interact, and why the approach was taken). Or conceptual refactoring of an existing design.

Other comments?

1. na

2. none

3. Great teacher.

5. I have taught Object-Oriented Programming courses before. Were this class not required, I would not have taken it. That being said, I think Prof. Riely did a wonderful job. I have given this course some lower marks, which should not be a reflection on Prof. Riely, per se. I think that I have an abnormally large amount of knowledge about this subject. Should there be a way to test out of these required courses?

6. Fun class! Great work.

8. I would definitely take other courses by Dr. Riley if they are as well put together as taught in much the same manner as this one. Excellent job and one of the best learning experiences I've had at any institution.

9. Professor needs to eat a bag of potato chips. :) Great class, learned a lot. I feel more comfortable with programming than I did before

10. I attempted this class previously and had to drop because of it difficultly. I think the designed classed fit perfectly with what I needed. Last time I didn't heed your first lecture warning and I paid for it, literately. This time I did the same and again made the mistake of not listening. I took your course along with another difficult class and now I have undue stress. I did need the extra time to fully understand the concept but instead I just lost a lot sleep. Ultimately, I never thought I would able to do the final project but it actually was quite fun. I am, however, glad that it is almost over.

12. I spent by far more time on homework/project/studying for this class than any other class to date. While I'll take a lot away from this class, it just seemed way too much work for a single class.I'd prefer to see this class taught in C#. Java feels like an old language compared to a successor language like C#. And setting up the Java environment on my dev machine was a PITA (hopefully it's the last time I'll ever have to set a CLASSPATH).

| Course:Formal Semantics of Programming Languages (CSC-535-701) Quarter:Autumn 07/08 Time: W 17:45 – 21:00 Location: **Loop Campus** | James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage |

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. strengths ::= knowledge of and enthusiasm for subject area | abitity to translate heavier topics presented in the text into more tangible conceptsweaknesses ::=

3. He is truly an amazing instructor. Appears to have mastered all the areas that anyone could complain about – from writing down on the board key comments he makes, to using different colored markers(this helps DL students), to repeating the questions, to responding to every question no matter how simple, to being available and letting us know ahead of time when he wasn't. His enthusiasm and liveliness in going over the material keeps our attention.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. exposure and introduction into formal semantics, seeing applications/consequences of PL theory in languauge implementation and practice

3. The exercise of thinking about hard things I'd never thought about before.

4. It presented another way of thinking about programming languages.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. This class should require a formal mathematics pre-requisite.

2. Go in to more depth when looking at the implementations of the type-checkers, are just scrap the implementations altogether

4. Start the final paper/projects earlier. Too much hand waving, not enough math.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. No issues

Other comments?

1. The material in this class is really hard.

2. It is unfortunate that most (all?) CTI course sections are cross listed as in-class and DL sections. I think in-class students would learn much more and have a higher quality learning experience if classes could be more

seminar based. Combining in-class and DL section seem quite limiting (for the students, but even moreso for the instructor.)

3.   This is the first class where I felt so totally on the left side of the curve relative to my classmates as far as prior knowledge was concerned. At times I felt I was slowing down the class, but I easily met the prerequisites.It is great to have high-powered professors who challenge us and raise the bar, but perhaps their classes could be graded on an honor's scale where an A = 5 points instead of the usual 4 points. Some how note the level of the class in the course schedule. I'm pretty sure if I had taken the prerequisite with this professor, I would have been better prepared.

Course:**Formal Semantics of Programming Languages** **(CSC-535-710)** Quarter:**Autumn 07/08** Time: ::: − ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Very well organized and knowledgeable.
2. Dr. Riely has an exception teaching style and a deep and rich understanding of the material.
4. This is his research area, so its all strength when it comes to the material presented.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Theory of programming languages.
2. Reducing programming languages to their mathematical foundations provided excellent perspective on languages in general. Building up a simple OO language (for example, Featherweight Java) was also very valuable.
4. Going deep about typing formalizations, and operational semantics of programming languates, it is not easy to graps, much practice and going over is needed, sometimes years need to be spent just to get a hang of this field. Not for the faint hearted

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. The pace of the course can be slowed down a bit. Instructor could probably assign shorter assignments instead of many lengthy assignments .
2. Possibly cut out the OCaml at the beginning of the course. It's an extremely challenging course, and the OCaml adds to that challenge. The midterm needs the full amount of time alloted to it (at least 2 hours as opposed to 1.5 hours).
3. I think the applicability of this course towards actual real world work was not made clear right away. I would be more inspired to understand and plug away if a real world example of when you would use the knowledge from this course would be presented as an example on day 1.
4. The text books, are notoriously difficult when it comes to theory of programming languages. although this text book was the most practical , it was still disjoint at points, and glossed over subjects that are pretty hard, in two sentences.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fair.
2. Seems very fair.

4. Grading was fair

Other comments?

2. This is my third Riely class, and it was every bit as good as the other two. I've learned an incredible amount from him. He's an exceptional teacher.

4. Great professor, he is full of humor, which is needed when taking a deeply theoritical course. Without it you will fall asleep and never wake up.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
(SE-450-701)
Quarter:Autumn 07/08
Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2.   Prof. Riely knows the subject that he is teaching and is very passionate about it. He is accessible whenever needed through email or other. I have no weaknesses to comment on about him.

3.   The instructors homework assignments were well organized and successfully got across the point. The website for the course was exceptionally well put together.

4.   He is really smart and funny.

5.   extremely knowledgeable of the material. Respectful of all questions posed.

6.   He is full of passion. His way of teaching is proper to me that I can understand what he taught most time.

7.   Prof Riely is very knowledgeable and articulate.

8.   Keeps class interesting and lively. Pushes students to learn. Accessible via email. Technically proficient.

9.   – Has good knowledge in field and is always ready to answer questions in class– Need to organize projects better

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2.   Everything. I was opened up to many new aspects of programming.

3.   The homework assignments were the most beneficial part of the course. They supplemented the lecture and reading material very well.

4.   Learn not just reuse the code but the ideas.

5.   homework – pretty hard for me and took a long time – i'm not the quickest study – but it help bring cohesiveness to the lectures. By the end of the course – I think I'll get most of it.

6.   Programming thought and programming ability.

8.   It has made me a better programmer – caused me to see code differently. Is directly applicable to my work.

9.   – Class lectures and supplemental reading materials

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2.   Nothing.

5.   wish there was a bit more discussion on in the discussion group.

6.   Encourage participation from the students

8.   Cover more patterns.

9.   – Need to add more structure to projects. The intent may have been to leave it a bit open ended so as to encourage creativity, but felt it was left too open and at times felt lost

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. Recieving grades a bit soon would be beneficial, but everyone is busy occasionally. This was still not a problem.
6. Good.
8. Extremely fair grading. No surprises on exam – exactly what was covered.
9. Fair and impartial

Other comments?

1. I feel like a better name for the course would be "Patterns and Advanced Java". While the teaching style was great, the information seemed more like a vocabulary list style memorization exercise, at least at first.
2. Great course. Challenged me thoughout the course from week 1.
6. Of course, I will take this instructor for another course. He is the first instructor for me in DePaul and he is very impressive to me.
7. I think the hardest part of the course was the final project. It required extensive work.
8. I'm very happy with this class overall.
9. I believe Prof. Reily is a very knowledgeable person and has great interest in the field. I also feel his lectures are quite stimulating and informative, however, as stated earlier, may need improvement in the "hands -on" or practical teaching methods.

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development
   (SE-450-710)
Quarter:Autumn 07/08
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
10   11   12   13

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. strengths: passionate about his work.weaknesses: somewhat disorganized thinker
2. He explains concepts very well
4. Very accessible and helpful.
5. Dr. Riely seems to be excited about the course material which helps the students be interested in it as well.
6. The instructor was just exceptionally well-prepared. He always had notes up ahead of time (in multiple formats) and appropriate readings. He is a good presenter, easy to understand, and has valuable opinions about the material.
7. The instructor communicated the course material in a very effective manner. As a distance student, it's very difficult ordeal to watch the video lectures, sometimes long and arduous. He made the lectures very enjoyable. He didn't hand feed us information which made parts of the course challenging and enjoyable.
8. Good teacher w/ lots of OO experience, recommended other interesting courses frequently.
10. Strengths – explained the material well
11. He knows his stuff, explains it well, and is organized. Requirements are pretty clear.
12. The instructor is very well organized and prepared. The lecture notes are excellent. The instructor is also very knowledgeable about the subject, which is great for our own insight into these problems.The biggest weakness of the instructor is he looks funny. Just kidding.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. learning about design patterns. This course has solidified a lot of what I knew before.
2. The content of this course is exactly what I have done professionally for the last 8 yeas, so it has been mainly review. Therefore, not terribly beneficial... but beneficial in obtaining my masters degree!
5. The in-depth pattern discussions.
6. Patterns and their practical application. The test-based programming methodology was good too. (Although I think I have a higher opinion of debuggers than the professor does.)
7. the project so far has been challenging but I'm only benefiting from it. the material has helped me quite a bit in my full time job.
8. Forcing you to use patterns and real OO methods, not procedural code hidden in an OO decorator.
10. Design Patterns
11. All
12. Solid, in depth examination of the popular design patterns.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. There should be no 3-hour long exams in any classes that involve things like writing programs by hand. It is a poor way of running a univerity. Programming, by nature involves testing and thought-- not pen and paper.
5. I think the final project was interesting but lacked organization.
6. The one negative experience I had was when I posted my answers to the practice midterm on the mailing list. I tried to do it early because I work full time & am teaching a class part time this semester and scheduling is tight. When I posted the answers the professor said they were correct, but then a day or two before the exam, other students discovered they were wrong. Normally it is very difficult to psyche me out on an exam, but my confidence was really shaken.
7. one class a week, three hours in that day is not ideal. it's hard to concentrate for the full three hours (I feel it impacts the instructor too). two 1.5 hour classes a week would help. I'd like to have more several more lectures to really delve into the material.
8. The project consumed a lot of time ~ 40 hrs at week 3. I work for myself and have family committments. It is fun, however.
11. None
12. Warn about the length of the final project. It is long..........
13. the final project was very hard. I would recommend to allow students to work on this project during the entire quarter.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fair.
3. I'd like to see assignments returned more quickly. I made a stupid mistake in HW1, which was repeated in HW2 because we didn't get HW1 graded and returned to us until after HW2 was due.
5. the grading was fair.
6. Seemed fair.
7. so far, the grading has been fair. As a distance student, it's hard for me to get valuable feedback on assignments and exams due to the distance thing. I'd like to have more detailed and comprehensive comments posted on COL or sent to me in an email describing my work.
8. It was nice to get a copy of the graded DL midterm back. This is the first course of six where this has happened.
11. Good
12. Good.

Other comments?

4. Cheating was a major problem in this course. There were a group of 5-6 students who were passing their midterms back and forth and talking in the middle of the test. This was really distracting as I sat right behind them.
7. the instructor has been great and I will look to take him in future courses. you should get him to teach more course:) hopefully his feelings are mutual and will give me an A in the course (I'm sure I deserve it).
8. It would be a great improvement to be able to view the course at a higher/lower speed, WITH SOUND and synchronized whiteboard/computer monitor.It is possible w/ WMP 11, but the whiteboard/monitor is missing. This is a great time saver, especially for slow speaking instructors (not a problem with this instructor)

9.   Awesome!

12.   This has been a great course and I've learned a ton. Well worth the time and effort for me! Why don't they teach classes like this to undergrads? All I learned about was Polymorphism.

<table>
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Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages**
    (CSC-447-901)
Quarter:**Spring 06/07**
Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

</td><td>

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

</td></tr>
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Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Detail oriented.
3. Strengths::>knowledge of material, interest in subject, inclusion of side info in lecturesWeakness::>sometimes late for class
5. The Instructor's vast knowledge and ability to explain are among the best.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Fulfilled graduation requirement.
3. Exposure to functional languages, discussions of language design versus implementation

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. we had quite few issues the withe blackboard – professor would write something on the board, but it wouldn't go into online system; pens he used to write would fail.
2. Allow late homework
3. Less coverage on topics already covered in prerequisite courses (e.g. stack discipline, memory models, etc)
4. In terms of difficulty, this course was seriously lacking. A policy of teaching to the least intelligent student might be appropriate in a grammar school but it is completely out of place at the graduate level. One might reasonably expect a core course to weed out a number of students who are unwilling or unable to perform at a sufficiently high level.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. No problems

Other comments?

2. Good teacher, interesting speaker, not boring
3. Great class

Course: **Concepts of Programming Languages** (CSC-447-910) Quarter: **Spring 06/07** Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. seemed to lose track at times in assigning homeworks and making sure there was a submission page on the COL site. also assigned a homework during exam week, but forgot to post it until after the exam so it was a bit of a time crunch, although the assignment was scaled back.

2. Dr.Riely really understood the material and gave insightful comments about the progression of programming languages that augment the objectives of the week.

3. Very clearly communicates, answers the course list very well, teaches well, gives homework that is just about right, very upbeat, joyful and positive. Kind of loses track of posting homeworks, homework solutions, didn't go over the midterm in class.

4. very aticulate and does well in explaning the material.

5. The professor seemed to be in his own world half the time. He seemed to really care less about the interests of his students, and does not make any effort to put a spin on the subject in such a way that would interest and engage students through the study of an area that interests them (as it applies to programming languages. I felt the professor is a very intelligent man, he is just unaware of how to relate the material to the student.

6. Strengths: very good material presentation, clear explanationWeakness: first half of the course instructor was behind on answering emails (took him 2-3 days, sometimes longer), homework was posted late on sevearl ocasions, some lectures were not "DL-friendly" – ex. using pen on the board that didn't show up on whiteboard, pointing with the hand on the screen where DL students couldn't see ... That improved in the second half of the class.Also, a lot of times the hardest/new material was covered at the very end of the lecture when everyone is tired.Overall though, very good instructor, just little "organization" things that need improvement

7. Dr. Riely is an erudite professor in his field, possessing an eclectic knowledge of theory and application. Very enjoyable course.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. all of it was beneficial, things were tied together nicely and the homeworks were a good match for in class discussion and coverage.

2. Automata theory was great.

3. ML is something I've never done before.

4. broadening my knowledge of other programing languages

5. Activation records. This gave me an understanding of what actually goes on behind the scenes when I write a program. This was very interesting to me. The two weeks of true functional programming was fun, however I did not enjoy the attempt to program functionally in Java.

7. This course is extremely applicable to a broad range of disciplines in the computational field, and lays an excellent foundation for building many technical skills.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. its pretty good as it is
2. One factor that did make this course more challenging was COL player not working for one reason or another. As well as Dr.Riely using whiteboard markers that did not work correctly for COL recording Though he did correct this by checking more often). The technical support for COL was very poor, one example is the long response time with very little detail in troubleshooting through emails. I would suggest a better support system for COL.
4. not much because i do think he did a good job
5. Jump into functional programming more quickly. It took too long to really get into the topics of the course that I was interested in. I was really hoping for more out of this course.
7. Only in regard to graded materials (see below)

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. they were good.
2. no
3. One of the midterm questions had 5 parts, but the parts were weighted differently because some of them had a second part to them and others didn't. So if you missed the first question, you were for sure to miss the second. Therefore weighting it more heavily if you missed it, and not giving any free points.
4. good but more can be done to assignments if graded by a course grader
5. Hardly any constructive comments regarding the solutions I proposed that were marked as wrong were provided. It also took longer then normal to actually get the assignments back to us. I also felt the grading of both the homeworks and the exams were rather harsh, and gave little effort to crediting the student for partial work. If the program didn't return correct output, I would get a grade of 25% and a note that says "invalid output". Did the grader even look at the code?
7. Cannot comment on grading of exams and homework since graded materials were never received. As a student, this made self-improvement on course material more difficult. Comments on homeworks from the grader were sometimes posted via the new COL interface, however, technical limitations in the formatting and display of comments limited their usefulness in regard to the original work, and somewhat lacked the organic feel of having the original graded material. Also, any comments on the impartiality of grading cannot be made due to the limitations mentioned above.

Other comments?

2. no
5. I am very disappointed in the outcome of this class as I expected much more out of a masters level programming languages course. Much of the topics were covered on the same level in my undergrad course on programming languages. Quite honestly, when my grade suffers, that usually illustrates that I am getting bored with the material (thus exerting less effort into the assignments). I was hoping that functional languages and functional programming would be covered on a deeper level. I was considering taking semantics of programming languages, but I do not think I enjoy the teaching style of the professor. If a different professor

was teaching the course, I would consider taking it.

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development (SE-450-901) Quarter:Spring 06/07 Time: W 17:45 – 21:00 Location: Loop Campus	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary 1 2 3 4 5 6

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths: Instructor has good knowledge about the subjectWeekness: Examples give in the lecture slides were quite confusing, explainations about some of the design patterns were hard to understand.
3. strength: ability to answer questions in depthweakness: covered too much material
4. He thinks that all the studen has 3 years experiance.
5. strengths of this instructor was that he was knowlegeable about the subject and weakness was he needs to be better organized for classes.
6. enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable on the subject.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learned a lot of intricacies about the Java programming language. Got used to looking at a lot of java code and trying to figure out what it does, which is probably how it is going to be in a real work-environment.
3. coding the assignments
5. the aspect of this course that was most benefical was the design patterns.
6. learning the patterns and how to apply them in theory

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Use of meaningful examples in the lecture slides, instead of classes like A, B, Num, Expr. will be really helpful.For eg, the problems on the midterm (Apple-Macintosh, Org chart) were much easier to understand.
2. This was a wonderful course, I would not suggest making changes to it. Students with a lot of experience will find that much of the material is not new. However, it was evident from the google group messages and class discussion that pace of the course and topics covered were at an appropriate level for many of the students and more challenging for less experienced students. Even so, an experienced software developer will still find this course worthwhile.
3. shrink the topics and slow down the course
4. make it more easy by providing many example relating to the topic or homework
5. i suggest to provide more helpful information for the final project.
6. the first half of the course was more like filling in the blanks and did not fully prepare for the second half of the course (although we were warned). make the early homeworks more challenging in order to prepare better for the second half

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. fair
3. fair
5. the grading on exams and homeworks was fair.

Other comments?

1. none
6. tough class

cross-listed with:
Object-Oriented Software Development (SE 450)

James Riely PhD

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
         (SE-350-901)
Quarter:**Spring 06/07**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Terrible, incredibly hard subject matter with very vague instruction, waste of money and gonna probably fail
3. Did not simplify the complex subject matter adequately.
4. The major strengths of the instructors were giving us more homework, and making this class experience as an realworld.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. None
3. –
4. OO Principles, Design-patterns, coding to interface and not implementation, lots of java coding. Unit testing for the program, and couple more things....

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Project is too hard! (The visualization part especially)
2. New teacher
3. break it down into multiple courses
4. It is good the way it is.......

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

4. They were graded fairly and imparitial

Other comments?

2. Terrible TERRIBLE class!
4. Doing good job Instrucor, it my help to present more some class diagram for the project, and spending

some time on design...but that's just a suggestion...... I had to worked very hard... However, I enjoyed this course. Thanks Prof Riley.

Course: Object-Oriented Software Development
        (SE-450-910)
Quarter: **Spring 06/07**
Time: ::: - :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Very clear and ethusiastic. Knowedgeable.
2. Strengths: Very clear instruction, Makes topic very interesting
3. strength: He can connect with the students and make us interested in the topic.weakness: not following standard UML notation.
4. Good knowledge base of technology; Weakness in tie back to reference material; White board was often illegible and/or confusing. Presentations did not give both problem and solutions in the examples; I watch every class on COL, but use the presentations as review material.
5. Instructor is very upbeat and excited. However, the notes on the "chalkboard" could be written a little bit more clearly.
6. Lots of hand waving and incomplete examples made some concepts very confusing. It may seem simple to the instructor, but it's new to me so I would prefer complete explanations. AND IF the instructor is too busy to answer email and respond to questions in a timely fashion, he should decide which of his pursuits are most important. He is obviously spreading himself too thin at the expense of the students.
7. Dr. Riely is an exceptional teacher. He has an extremely broad and deep knowledge base, and most importantly, a very effective teaching style. This is the second class I've taken with Dr. Riely, and I will eagerly seek out more.
8. Very motivated and knowledgeable. The only weakness I'd say is on occaision the lecture gets sidetracked explaining something.
9. The instructor's expert knowledge of the topic allows him to go well beyond a textbook treatise of the material and interject an informed opinion about the usefulness of particular OO techniques and how well or poorly it has been implemented in Java.
10. He has a good attitude and interesting examples. He is not boring.
12. Strenths: Instructor,Instructor,InstructorWeakness: Waaaaayy overkill on the last week deliverables. Why is it useful to be required to complete a 4-week final project(in addition to homework asignments), coupled with a comprehensive Final paper, coupled with a detailed time log, IN ADDITION to a comprehensive(!) 3hr final exam? As a working professional, the time and effort neceessary to complete these often redundant tasks is prohibitively burdensome, and I really think it is overkill.
13. Professor Riely is extremely knowledgeable regarding the course material, however I believe that he sometimes forgets that his students aren't as familiar with the materials as he. Sometimes he presents concepts at a high level (little detail) when a lower level of presentation would be more effective. He also sometimes seems to rush through a topic in order to maintain a schedule. Although he makes himself available to students outside of class, if the detail isn't presented there are times when we, as students, are not aware that we may have missed something.Even though Prof. Riely is a "tough" instructor, I enjoy his classes and would take another.
14. He knows his material and it is a joy to learn from him. He makes learning enjoyable and has a great

sense of humor.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Being able to use Desgin patterns and have a condensed format to apply them. Learning Ant and Junit.
2. Learning the design patterns and how to apply them were the most beneficial. I was able to apply them to my job almost imediately.
3. Patterns and how to use them
4. Interesting perspective on design patterns.
5. UML / Actual programming.
6. Interesting topic. Useful information if it had been presented in appropriate depth with reasonable clarity.
7. The coverage of Design Patterns is very applicable to my role as a Software Engineer. This class very much delivered on this front.
8. Almost all aspects of the course were beneficial. From the principals of patterns, the specific patterns we studied, the UML, and the language specifics like nested classes. All were beneficial.
9. I can't point to a particular thing, but I found the course to be very instructive and interesting.
12. Instructor delivery, pattern development discussions.
13. This course required much coding and implementation of design patterns. I can safely say that this course caused me to re-evaluate some long-time coding habits and make changes for the better based upon Dr. Riely's instruction.
14. The refactoring, it was different than the traditional, "lets extend this class", and reusability, rhetoric you get from other software engineering courses, that have no benefit in the real world

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Nothing. I like it. Don't reduce the the amount of work, it helps you learn more. Not sure if it's a good idea but maybe have a seperate course on Java project particulars, Junit, Ant, builds packaging, distrubtions. This might allow more time to focus on design patterns? But then alot of Java particalrs can be learned at work, etc.
2. None
3. Use standard UML notation for examples and tests
4. More structure to a text that would allow for more structured self study.
5. Better "chalkboard".
6. Use the COL tools. This would help to prevent the assignments "leaking" to corporate code companies. It also makes communication and collaboration easier for the students. Everything is about the instructor and how to make things best for him, it is NOT about the students. It's an exercise in vanity. He finds something he does not like about the col tools and refuses to use them. I think he is an EXCELLENT candidate for the development team working on the COL project. Being a software engineering expert should make revising the software easy for him so he could become a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem.I would also highly recommend that he learns how to use a presentation tool (power point, impress, keynote) and a diagramming tool (Visio, kivio, omnigraffle) so that diagrams are clear. When combining whiteboard writing of varying clarity with poor ASCII diagrams, the art of creating SE450 UML diagrams is clear as mud.When he puts together notes, he should go through everything. Because his pseudo code in the examples is just that (pseudo code that often does not compile without serious revision) he NEEDS to go through everything.
7. There is so much information, and it's all so important. I would suggest splitting it into two courses. Especially on a quarter system, it's difficult to cover everything that deserves covering.
8. Possibly a little less emphasis on UML, but not much.

9. I would open up the project and/or course to allow the use of C#.

10. Provide us with one or two textbooks to use as refrences. The books did not follow the class very well.

11. Need more time for final project. Reduce the scope of the material a bit.

12. REFACTOR–REDUCE–RETHINK the purpose and usefulness of the whole Final Project–Paper–Exam thing – its total overkill!

13. This course attempts to cover a lot of material -- perhaps too much. I believe that there is not enough time in class to cover all of the objectives in the level of detail that they deserve. I would humbly suggest re-examining the breadth of material that is covered to allow it to be presented in the alloted time and with the level of detail it deserves.

14. I know its hard, but I wish there was just one great text book out there, instead of so many ways and books to do one thing. However that will never happen, as is evident.

16. C and C++ are still valid languages in today's environment. It would be nice to see application of the patterns in this course as expressed in other languages without moral judgements on the fitness of the languages. As a coder who has worked from the machine level up, there are still efficiency reasons to be in those more primitive languages where you can get closer to the machine than JAVA allows. These patterns in this course fully apply and provide a significant safety net. The compromises made in those languages were generally made for good reasons.

17. Provide a followup course... that discuses more design patterns.. and maybe a semester long project on the design patterns discussed in this class.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fine. Except maybe find a way to grade the first three HWs sooner and with more feedback. Might be hard to do with 50+ students though. Would rather have Professor interation for questions instead of grading.

2. Grading was fair, and exam grades were given quickly.

3. Have not seen my exam. I have no ability to comment on the grading procedure.

4. Homework and exams returned late. Frustration when exam question types are not reflected in practice materials.

5. Very good.

6. The reading assignments and class discussions were nebulous enough so that it was unclear as to what would be covered on the examinations."Subjective grading" of a programming assignment is ridiculous. If he likes you then you can have an A, and if he hates you then you can fail?

7. All fair and impartial as I can tell. No complaints.

10. Improvement can be made on grading homework in a timely fashion.

12. Grading was fair

13. Professor Riely's exams are difficult. It's not that the material is that difficult -- rather, it's the amount of work required to answer the questions in the level of detail that he requires. (Prof. Riely has a knack for asking small, short questions requring huge, long answers).This is not the first class that I've taken from Professor Riely and in all cases, I've found myself nearly out of time and rushing to complete the last question or two of the exams. Hand-writing pages of code accurately is very time-consuming. Also, I believe that at times the grading on the exams can be picayune, but that is the perogative of the Professor.Homework grading is extremely fair bordering on generous.

14. Very fair and imparital.

15. not just on exams, but a out-of-point-basis on homework assignments so we dont assume a grade of "10" is out of 10 or a grade of "20" is out of 20. I'm not a mind reader.

Other comments?

2. I really liked this course. If I could I'd take all of my classes with Dr. Riely.

3. Getting exams back for DL students were confusing and extremely slow.

5. Thank you very much for your excitement on this subject matter and methods of teaching. I enjoy your classes very much.

6. The magnitude of the final project was too broad to be covered in one term as an individual student. It needs to be something that one can accomplish reasonably in 5 weeks. The instructor is too busy to respond to emails or chat board posts in a timely fashion and doesn't need to write a line of code. Think about those of us who are full time students or who have full time jobs? I doubt many people in the class are independently wealthy enough to take one course at a time with no other responsibilities. Give me a break.

7. At the risk of sounding effusive, Dr. Riely has "sold" DePaul's graduate program to me. I really feel like I'm getting a quality education in Computer Science, and it is largely due to him. (This is not a slight against the other faculty -- I've enjoyed all of my classes).

12. REFACTOR-REDUCE-RETHINK the purpose and usefulness of the whole Final Project-Paper-Exam thing!

13. Professor Rieley's homework assignments are very valuable but also very time-consuming -- as if they're designed for an on-campus single student with a lot of time, whereas I'm an off-campus 50-hour-per-week-job professional with a family. Even though I budget a generous amount of time per week for my studies, I frequently find myself sacrificing sleep and family time in order to complete some of the homework assignments.On the positive side, though, all the extra work does help in the understanding of the material.I would humbly suggest that the Professor take into account the fact that not everyone can commit the amount of time that a full-time student can. I would also humbly suggest that the course syllabus include the amount of time per week that the average student can expect to spend on outside reading and assignments.

14. Great course.

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development
     (SE-450-950)
Quarter:Spring 06/07
Time: ::: – :::
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. strengths:1)technicnal information very helpful and up-to-date2)the teaching method is funny and encouraging.weakness:1)assignments were very much time consuming and and the challange became in programming not in the main issue(design patterns)
3. the Strengths of the instructor is the way of putting the material of course

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. design patternsjava programming techniques
3. the way of undestand the material and subjects in cource

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. make a prerequisite course that concern in advanced java programming

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. no comment

Other comments?

1. special thanks for DR riely upon his efforts
2. rhis course is very hard and Among the most challenging courses i recomend to try to make it kind of easy if u please

Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages**
    (CSC-447-801)
Quarter:**Winter 06/07**
Time: **M 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. The major strength was that I have learnt some new things about programming.
2. this instructor needs to change the text book because it is not that much benefit to us and the text book is not that much intrested.
3. Very thorogh with the material, excellent presentation skills
4. Strengths: Outstanding knowledge of the subject, enthusiasm for the material, high energy level, and reliable.Weaknesses: Nothing major. Often glosses over code too fast.
5. He really knows the subject well, which is impressive since it's basically ALL programming languages. Enthusiasm, sense of humor.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. with this subject i understood how to implements new method for designing the new language .
4. Exposure to programming languages and different design issues in terms of type safety. This course filled in the gaps I've had from programming in different languages. Overall, I am a better computer scientist because of this course.
5. Understanding how code actual runs was very helpful. I was less happy with the more theoretical aspects.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I belive the course was well organized, therefore I don't see point to improve this course with this instructor.
2. change the text book
3. Too short of a time to cover so much material. This course should be broken down into 2 courses.
4. Nothing. Very well designed.
5. The lecture/homework/exam are all closely related, but only loosely connected to the book. Both are excellent, but the course would benefit from a little tighter integration.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. The grades were appropriate to my knowledge.
2. it is excellent and need to use not only java but also c & c++
4. Challenging, fair, and accurate.

5. The exam could have covered anything we discussed, but it was only similar to previous homework questions. Fair enough.

Other comments?

1. Great instructor. Very possitive attitude with braod knwoledge.
2. finally, i just wants to tell that we need to change the text book.
4. Professor Riely is a true professional. He's knowledgeable, enthusiastic, helpful, and natural in the classroom. He is absolutely one of the best professors at DePaul. Most importantly, he was very challenging both in terms of course difficulty and the amount of work. I'm very happy about this since there is no better way to learn than to be challenged. I would recommend Professor Riely without question!

Course:Concepts of Programming Languages (CSC-447-810) Quarter:Winter 06/07 Time: ::: – ::: Location: **Distance Learning**	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

10   11   12   13   14

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   Obviously very bright and knowledgeable on the subject. He has a great excitement for the material which is inspiring. A joy to learn from.

3.   The only reason why some of the instructor's marks were a lower was that there were multiple times when the instructor would spend significant class time (15+ minutes) explaining something only to have to go over it again after break. This is not wholly bad though, because I felt GREAT that the professor could realize something was off and generally it wasn't an issue if I felt comfortable with the topic. The only time it bothered me was when I didn't fully understand a topic and he had to backtrack significantly.

4.   Knowledge of material.Sloppy lecturer.

5.   clear, concisemistakes in one or two of the homework assignments

6.   Good knowledge of subject.

7.   I really really liked the enthusiasm about the subject!!

8.   Strength: Obvious interest and enthusiasm for the subjectWeakness: Refusal to use COL message board. It is a nice forum for DL students... you get stranded and feel alone... nobody to talk to about the material. The email list is okay... but I like the message board better.

9.   Strength: Strong knowledge of the subject material, friendly, personable, good communicator.Weakness: Sometimes makes the assumption that students have a higher level of familiarity with the subject material than they really do, and sometimes moves faster through certain areas than is desirable.

11.   Great understanding of programming languagesOrganized and thought out lectures

12.   He knew his subject. Someties he was unorginized but he made up for it quickly.

13.   I've never had an instructor that thought it was ok to have his cell phone ring repeatedly during class. That is rude and unprofessional, and I'M THE ONE PAYING FOR THE CLASS. I think I pay enough to not have to listen to his cell phone. He was dismissive to students questsions during class, very unorganized and had a very awkward presentation. Over all, I've had excellent faculty at DePaul, but this was by far the worst instructor that I have encountered. I'm assuming he is tenured.

14.   Dr. Riely's greatest strength is his sense of humor. The subject matter is rather dry and his enthusiasm and humor make it palatable. I can't really determine a major weakness.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   The lectures were very informative.

2.   I really enjoy the link between conceptual design of programming languages all the way down to the compiler and hardware interaction.

3.   The book was WONDERFUL (although a little wordy). Lectures were adequate, but I am sure that my opinion

is due to seeing/hearing via the internet. Assignments were the best part. I truely never recieved bad grades on homework that I thought I understood or vica versa, which reinforced my knowledge/helped me to really understand that which I didn't understand.

4.   Helped me be a better programmer.
5.   argument passing, static and dynamic links
6.   Broader knowledge of Programming languages.
7.   Comparisons and contrasts of the various different languages.
8.   Comparing various programming language paradigms. Practicing similar functions in different languages.
9.   Grammars
12.   All aspects basically.
14.   The most beneficial aspect to me was to broadened understanding of programming languages and how they work.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1.   The homework was a bit much. Either scale back the workload of each individual assignment, or have fewer assignments overall.

3.   A BIG help would be if the instructor told us up front what the focuses of reading would be, especially in chapters of this book that are long. I am not normally a student who wants to know "what's going to be on the test" but there have been times where over 100 pages of reading would be assigned and only 40 pages would have been relevant. Due to the condensed (quarterly) nature of the class, this would be very helpful.Also, while the instructor did an good job of sculpting this course to be ideal for both in class and DL students, I feel that this can be a departmental weakness and would like to see continued improvement.

4.   The instructor should be more careful about errors in the lecture notes and the bungled presentation of certain topics.

6.   Class on-line presentations should have both example questions AND answers provided. DL students need this. Whiteboard writing should be larger, it does not show well for DL students.HW assignment examples should be checked to make sure they are error free. As a working professional, my limited time allows me to do one course a semester, it is hard when the examples do not compile and/or incorrect.

7.   Maybe choose a different book.

8.   Don't use the light green pen. Introduce the lecture with a brief review of the homework to emphasize the key point each question was looking for/why it was important (what key topic it solidifies for us).

9.   I have no suggestions.

12.   A bit more up to dateness on the notes presented in class

13.   Why did I get cleared (during my PPA) for the Undergrad version of this class, and then have to take the graduate version. It would make sense IF THEY WEEREN"T THE SAME CLASS, TAUGHT BY THE SAME INSTRUCTOR WITH THE SAME REQUIREMENTS, HOMEWORK, ETC.... I was cleared and then not cleared for it....

14.   I would explain at the beginning why the course is structured the way it is. Going from automata to parsers to ML feels like the course is designed to be an entry-level course of theory that gives students a glimpse of the several different aspects of CS they can pursue as opposed to a "course", as it were.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1.   It all seems very fair. In general I don't agree with "you have to pass the midterm and final to pass the class" type policies. Too much pressure on one test. The overall average should dictate a pass/fail.

2.   The initial grading of homeworks by the TA was incredibly slow. This was resolved with the hiring of a new

TA.

3. Grading speed has improved greatly throughout the quarter, but comments by the course grader are sometimes cryptic and nonspecific. This is not the instructor's fault, just something that needs to be fixed system-wide.

4. Fair.

5. too early to tell

6. Should be open book exam, although the book does not help much.

7. Very understandable and fair.

8. I liked having my exam mailed back to me because I finally saw how something was graded. There is a place on the DL "grades" portion for comments. It would be nice to have some indication of where we went wrong. Not all questions had answers posted on the web...

9. I have no comments.

11. Homework grading was slow

12. Was very fair and impartial

14. Fair and impartial based on what I know.

Other comments?

1. Great instructor. I look forward to taking future classes with him.

3. Professor Riely seems to have a true love/interest in both the subject and conveying the subject. While some of the marks above may not have been ideal, I have to believe that a majority of the cause is the undesirable aspect of viewing lectures strictly through the internet. I think that I would truely enjoy interacting with him in person and regret the fact that I will not have that opprotunity.

7. -

8. Point values on homework assignments when we get them would be handy...Invite off-topic guy to discussion after class. I feel like I'm being held back every time he speaks.

9. The only other comment that I have is to ask for recognition that students have a life and career outside of this class and to ask for homework assignments that don't require investing several days of effort to accomplish.

10. Disappointed with DL effectiveness. Encountered numerous techical problems with the lectures online.

12. Over all I liked the Instructor, he brought a nice sense of humor to an otherwise mundane course, I have had other instructors teach a course like this for under graduate studies and it can get boring very quickly, but he lightened up the material and explained it with a nice humorous style that was effective.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
       (SE-450-801)
Quarter:**Winter 06/07**
Time: **Tu 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD
_____
Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. That's the most clever instructor in DePaul, and sometimes this is also his weakness because he is not easily understandable

2. Strengths: Very knowledgable, thinks on the fly and improvises and makes the evolves the course with the students. Related material to other languages for those who are not primarily Java. Mailing list for class was beneficial and website he developed also was easy to use, easily understandable, well designed, and provided great links to supplemental material.Weaknesses: Sometimes seemed like he was 1 week ahead of the class. The hw's and class requirements were often poorly worded and vague.

3. The instructor was quite good at presenting the material and managed to make it somewhat interesting even though I was already familiar with most of it.

5. Great attidue and sense of humor, which helped to be better listener during lecture. Very good knowledge about course.

6. Very knowledgable about the course material and able to answer all questions.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Design pattern and code examples

2. Design patterns, overall architecture of programs. Re-aquaint myself with Java & with interfaces, uml, subclassing, polymorphism, and other higher level programming concepts.

3. Without question, the project was the most beneficial part of the course. Actually applying patterns when designing a system was infinitely more useful than merely implementing a couple of methods and writing a few unit tests as we did in the first three homework assignments.

4. Improving my Programming skills.

5. I have actually learnt better programming.

6. Learning how to apply the design patterns to various situations. Homework gave good examples for how and when to apply objectives learned.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. Just work on making requirements clearer and organizing a little more up front.

3. To say that the amount of time spent covering the Java programming language was excessive would be a severe understatement. The fundamentals of Java would seem better suited to some prerequisite course as opposed to a four hundred level software engineering course. For example, did we really need to spend time

going over variables and functions?

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. OK
3. I take issue with being expected to submit a homework assignment which builds on the previous homework assignment without receiving any kind of feedback on my previous submission.

Other comments?

cross-listed with:
Object-Oriented Software Development (SE 450)

James Riely PhD

Course: **Object-Oriented Software Development**
       (SE-350-801)
Quarter: **Winter 06/07**
Time: **Tu 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. He knows his stuff.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Design Patterns.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. Smaller project at the end, maybe no final if they're going to give such a time consuming project. I have a job and other things to do besdies just this one project.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. A little tough on the grading of exams, I thought it somewhat unfair, but I will go and see the insturctor about it so I will not say anything either way.

Other comments?

1. I had trouble figuring out what I was supposed to do on the 3 homeworks and they didn't seem very helpful, to me.
2. Instructor needs to stop complaining about using windows or any microsoft products, it's not relevant to any of the goals of the course, he should keep his opinions to himself.

Course:

    (SE-547-901)

Quarter:**Spring 05/06**

Location:

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor

jriely@cs.depaul.edu

Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. He is very upto date and aware of what is going on in both: theoretical and technical fields. Also a very nice guy indeed. He is a "Professor".
5. The instructor did an excelent job with presenting the material for the class.
7. great knowledge

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The variety and coverage of the topics presented was a huge plus. Also, having talks by students makes it even more intersting.
7. knowing different aspects of viewing security

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Having a concrete set of material. Totally depending on papers is great, but it has its downside of being a little bit hard to follow and to get a better understanding of the basics of the issues in hand.
2. having little homework would not be bad, both theory and programming.
4. In regards to the lack of homework, I think it worked out fine. Given that the students came from diverse backgrounds it would be difficult to make assigments that would be appropriate for everyone. Perhaps one or two short assignments as a sanity check in the first half of the course would have been OK. Otherwise you could make a first draft of the paper due at around week 6 or 7 just to keep people involved.
5. Two things. One, require homework. Most of the topics covered in class, although interesting, were not enforced with some form of required action by the students. Two, improve the course description. I think that myself and many others expected a more implementation based class instead of a theoretical one. Althought it was interesting, given the option to take it again, I would not have.
7. nothing

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

7. nothing
8. At this point, the day of the last class, before finals start I have no idea where I stand in terms of grading.

Other comments?

3. For me, I am absolutely fine in terms of having the grade being made up entirely of the project/presentation. If you choose to continue to go this route in the future, I might suggest adding more "checkups" along the way. For instance, every two weeks, you might require the students to show you what they have, so that if they are going completely the wrong way, you can correct them before it's too late.However, if you wanted to add more to the grade other than the project, you may want to consider adding a take-home midterm, and make the grade distributed as 50% midterm, 50% final project. This would give the students something other than the project upon which to be graded, so that one's "eggs aren't all in one basket", so to speak.Good course.

6. Well, this course is very interesting.The professor did a good job to cover the broad area of security. Not having assignment, midterm or final is appropriate because we haven't got into each topic deep enough and we don't need to fully understand all those topics. A possible way for assignment is to let students choose one or two topics they like to do quiz assignments, besides the final paper.

8. I would have liked homework assignment to go along with the lecture. It would help re-enforce the material covered as well as take some of the pressure off of the presentation/paper grade which I am still worried about.

cross-listed with:
Object-Oriented Software Development (SE 450)

James Riely PhD

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
        (SE-350-901)
Quarter:**Spring 05/06**
Time: **W 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. I am certain that you have read countless number of positive reviews of Dr. Riely... and I'm in kind of a hurry, hehe. He is a great teacher, my absolute favorite.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Lectures were soooo interesting and useful. He taught me so many IMPORTANT things every single class session.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Assignments too extreme for undergrad required course. CS Major, but hardware/network focus, I hate Java, much prefer C++, still hate to program, this was harder than my Capstone, I took an hour every day, and I still did poorly on the midterm.
2. It's perfect.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Too difficult in comparison to the lectures
2. Extremely fair.

Other comments?

2. Please give this man a raise... he is driving a really crappy car.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
        (SE-450-901)
Quarter:**Spring 05/06**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. the instructor is knowledgeable of material but the course is not focused. Every class seams like a discusion.

2. Did a great job explaining important concepts and providing examples as to why these concepts result in better designs. I really enjoyed the lectures.

4. Like his energy, clarity, reviews material presented. Can tell that he is doing what he wants to be doing, which makes the topic easier to enjoy than it could be without the enthusiasm.Weeknesses – not many I could tell – maybe did not update website often enough with current schedule.

5. Very good at the communication with students outside of course. I think the maillist is very helpful.

6. Strength–knows his material. While he wants his students to do well, he controls your access to him if he feels it is unnecessary.

7. Intructor is very up to date.Communicates with student excellently.But should encourage inclass exercise to know if the students understand what they are being taught.

8. Professorâ€™s knowledge of OO Programming, Programming Languages and Software Engineering in general is one of his major strengths.Ability to relate the material is another very important strength of Prof. Riely.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Explanation of design patterns and other development/design tips that make for better solutions

3. design patterns

4. This was the first course I have taken in OO design and I think it would have been better if I would have taken another design course first before jumping into this course, since I believe this course is more about improving designs.

6. Like the simulation programming, it was fun to have a place to try ideas.

7. Got to know about design principle and software best practices.

8. Basics!

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. give code examples or make code examples available

2. Allow for one additional week of project work on final project.

3. more assignements

4. The core of assignments were not closely related to the exam. There could be several assignments just

with UML diagrams so we get practice for the exam. Comments on the style of the exams, including that written code would be needed.

6. It was hard to know what you needed to know to a certain degree.

7. The teaching method should be graduated from less tough to tough ones as the class progresses.More time should also be assigned for this course probably two quarter.One for lecture and Exams and the other for the project.

8. This course is in two levels. Connection between the abstract level and low level is where most students get stuck, myself included.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

4. I would prefer more distribution (more chances to do well than a big final project/mid-term/final exam.

6. He tried to help the students. Glad there was flex grading with midterm and final percentages depending on how you do. He is a very technical person, accuracy down to the letter, though a person may know the intent, he wanted exact answers.

7. Fair and impartial

Other comments?

4. Altough I seem to be able to understand the material when it's being presented, I do not have the experience to be apply it quickly and independantly in code. My first graduate class, so I need to get used to more indepentant work..

6. Good course, worth taking.

7. Lecturer is very current and up to date.

8. I wish there was another course that would extend on this course, which would cover the same material in more depth, but only if taught by Dr. Riely.

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2. Very knowledgable. Clearly knows the material to a very high degree.Does not follow class notes, and is sometimes hard to follow.He asks if everyone is with him, can see that a lot of students are not quite following, but then keep going anyway without interacting with students to see where he can clarify.

3. Very good at explaining material. Very conceptual, and clear.

4. The instructor is knowledgeable and energetic, however, he has the burden of presenting a lot of material in a very short amount of time. He should try to refine his notes and reading lists a little to cut down on what I would assume is "scope creep" in his course.

5. The professor is quite knowledgeable about his field. In fact, his attitudes and interests are leading me to change my specialization. He is very good at explaining the "hype" of the industry and is not afraid to share his opinions on the good and the bad. Weakness wise, I have very little to say. Perhaps overly wordy at times and doesn't stick to plan?

6. VERY STRONG TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, BUT DIDN'T WORK HARD ENOUGH TO CONVEY THAT KNOWLEDGE TO STUDENTS

8. Instructor is very knowledgable in the area. I like his teaching style, the notes, the email to the groups are extremely helpful. I would recommend instructor monitor the writing on the white board from time to time to make it easier to read for DL student.

9. good presentation of complex material

10. He is able to present concepts in a manner students can grasp. Not only that, he does not blindly proceed through additional material without checking students' understanding of current material.

11. Subject knowledge, ability to listen and answer questions. Staying up to date on student questions. Grading in a timely fashion.

12. He's very good, and knows his stuff. However he's a hard instructor. With him I have to watch lectures more than once to fully understand the material.

14. All around very good.

16. Very knowledgeable.. presented material well. Sometimes didn't really prepare the class well for us to understand what we needed to understand at the macro level. Example, it took a while before we really got that we were learning about all these patterns and that the patterns were the primary focus. I and other students thought they were mostly secondary until someone asked and he clarified.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. Seeing that there are better ways to organize software. (Patterns)Doing the homework using existing code was very helpful.

3. Everything. It was like a course about the structure of Java, which I didn't realizeuntil course started. A great way to Learn Java, which Data structures somehow didn't do.

4. Learning the design patterns is extremely beneficial for designing software. In addition, the project gives students the opportunity to practice what they have learned.

5. Since I am a systems software engineer (compiler engineer), learning design patterns has been a good exercise. More importantly, Iâ€™ve now got the understanding of different patterns that Iâ€™ve used (much to the chagrin of many at work who claim â€œOO knowledgeâ€ and are surprised when I point out their mistakes in OO practices). Improving my Java knowledge is also an added benefit, especially since Iâ€™m learning it without all of the Java-elitism that exists.

6. OO DESIGN IS CRITICAL TO MY SUCCESS BUT I HAVEN'T HAD TOO MUCH EXPOSURE TO IT - THIS CLASS COVERED IT IN DETAIL

7. I learned some new things about the Java language. Other than that, everything taught in this course was thouroughly covered in undergrad (did not go to DePaul), except this course is taught in Java instead of C++.

8. Good programming practices and design patterns.

9. Lecture presentation

11. Reading instructor provided code to figure out how to complete my part of the homework. Actually studying design patterns and trying to implement them.

14. All - this is fundamental stuff

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. Simplify the class notes, and follow them. There is a lot of extraneous material presented that clouds the main points we are trying to learn.(I did enjoy the supplemental reading available through the course website. If I had the time, I would definitely read through the vast array of knowledge the instructor has placed at our fingertips.)

3. Nothing. Just fine.

4. a refined reading list, I find myself sorting through webpages, GOF, Head First, etc. I think we can all agree this is too much material to absorb in 8 weeks. Perhaps pick the sections or each that are necessary and trim the fat to a "if you want to know more" list. This would save me the time (lazy programmer) of trying to determine what is more applicable to the class. The instructor could do this "once and only once" instead of each student doing it.

5. The best way to improve this course is to require everyone to work on the same final project and to setup a general forum for the students to interact with each other in solving problems. Actively pushing the students to solve their problems amongst themselves first would be a better learning experience.

6. SLOW DOWN AND FOCUS ON COMPREHENSION

7. Remove it? (See previous comment.)

9. Use the head first books

11. Clearer writing on the whiteboards. As a distance student, it was difficult or impossible to read some of the board writing. Though, through readings and conversation, it wasn't too hard to figure out what was going on.

14. Give the prof fewer students or a/another TA.

15. I believe the course may have accomplished much more had we not ended up a week behind.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. Grading seems fair, but the midterm was too difficult given the material that was presented in class. (I

think this is the case, because we are assumed to be experienced programmers coming into this class, which I am not.)

3. OK. Open book and notes is always a goodpolicy, because it is hard to remember material in a 10 week semester.

4. Seem fair to date. I really appreciate having the test mailed back to me (distance) with marks. Prehaps some comments? I know that is asking a lot for 100 papers.

5. Although I knew the material quite well, I find the handwritten nature of the exams to be a hindrance. After 20 years typing on a computer, my brain cannot think correctly with paper and pencil! I spend more time erasing what Iâ€™ve written and always run out of time. Perhaps having timed online testing would help.This hindrance with paper and pencil, in addition to my ADHD, is getting me thinking that I need to setup special testing with the disability testing center.

6. FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TO THE MOST PART - TOO MANY ASSIGNMENTS - NEED 2 WEEKS TO PERFORM MANY OF THE ASSIGNMENTS, BUT WAS ONLY GIVEN 1

9. seemed fine

11. No complaints.

14. Fair

Other comments?

1. I don't like paying for a course to hear some instructorsâ€™ political views. This instructor made only my two minor comments, but in general I would like all instructors at DePaul to leave there political bias at home and stick to teaching the subject they are paid to do.

2. This is one course evaluation that would be more valuable to fill out after the course is over. At this point, I am not sure of the value I am getting out of this course.

4. All in all, a good class and positive experience

6. INSTRUCTOR IS VERY LIKEABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE, IF A BIT SNOBBISH

11. Repeat student questions in class. As a distance learning student, I could not hear in class student questions. Through your answers, it was possible to get a good idea of the question, but repetitiion of the question would have been useful (though likely annoying to the in class students)

12. very hard class, the most difficult so far.

13. I feel that the schedule of the course was affected on the first day of the quarter and we never really recover at least for the first few weeks. The last few weeks of the quarter had a better pace but I wish we had spent more time looking at patterns in a little more detail. Overall, it was a good, interesting class. Although, it could have been better.

14. Thank you.

Course:**Formal Semantics of Programming Languages**
        (CSC-535-801)
Quarter:**Winter 05/06**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. strength:depth of knowledgeweakness:don't know, he did pretty good

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. overall beneficial

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. the homework should be practice and preparation for the exams. the exam coverage, and depth, should be reviewed beforehand.
2. the text book seems just a bit like undergrad books, it tries too hard

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. don't know the grading procedures

Other comments?

1. maybe these evaluations should be done directly after the final? maybe the day after?

Course: **Object-Oriented Software Development**
        (SE-450-801)
Quarter: **Winter 05/06**
Time: **Tu 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. He is probably the best instructor I have ever met. Lectures have never been boring. One could actually see his passion for teaching.
2. The instructor really doesn't pay a great amount of detail to the material that is assigned in the homeworks in lecture. His sense of humor seems to charm his audience.
3. I think the instructor was very interested in a pretty dry topic which at least kept us awake.
4. Really knows the material that he is teaching and has a genuine interest in the subject that he passes on to his students. One of the best instructors I have had at DePaul.
5. Possibly one of the best instructors I've ever had. Plus, even though you never said it, I can tell you're pro-open source. I respect you for that, very much.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Course has been very practical. Let me realize that there is so much about programming that I was not aware of.
2. Learning design patterns has improved my abilities as a programmer significantly.
3. Learning the different patterns was interesting. Definitely a lot has changed in the past 10 years.
6. Everything, from the very first day, very first homework, simply everything. I would take it again.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. It was perfect.
2. A SOLID COURSE BOOK! I learn best from studying independantly. Lacking of a GOOD book for this course that covers the material in a clear manner would have greatly improved my understanding of the material. Also, there needs to be more emphasis on the UML. We drew a few diagrams up in class, then abandoned the ideas in the homework. The programming aspect of the homeworks was fine, but also make students draw out the UML diagrams for the programs they write, in every homework. This will provide a clear image to them as to what their programs are really doing, what design patterns are integrated in the program, and how to use the UML to illustrate the important concepts of a program.
3. I'm still not sure why the instructor can't have use the online postings rather than the email. I can't read the email ones. I would think he could check the postings each day.Also, am not sure why there were no solutions to the practice midterm. It would have been nice also.
5. The homework assignments were a bit long...
6. Create following course with even more advanced programming that would be as a second part built on

this course.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Exams were challenging which made them interesting. Grading was fair and prompt.
2. This was fine, but such heavy emphasis on the UML in exams is unfair when the homeworks never called for us to use the UML.
3. Seemed fair.

Other comments?

2. James is a very intellegent man. His knowledge is very broad, and I enjoyed how he kept a more "computer science" feel to the course and never got lost in design. I feel that there could have been some improvements made, such as a good book(s) for the course, and more emphasis on the UML. There seems to be some confusion as to what the good balance between programming and design is. I like the idea of extreme programming. I like the concept of using JUnit. I just feel that if this is going to be an SE course (which should be more about designing programs rather than implementing them), there should be at least 30% of the coursework (including homeworks) emphasizing the UML.
6. The Best programming class I ever taken!!!!This class is worth for ANY grade!!!

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development** **(SE-450-803)** Quarter:**Winter 05/06** Time: **01:00 - 01:00** Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths: knowledge of topic; keeps students interested;Weaknesses: none
2. Organized, prepared, emails a lot to class list.
3. Strengths -> Very intelligent, experienced, and passionate about the material.Weaknesses -> Sometimes too abstract. I would prefer more concrete examples of each pattern, instead of the one or two examples done in class. I would also like small assignments where I can learn the patterns hands-on instead of just listening and reading about them.
4. Difficult to understand the concepts.
5. This is the most solid professor I have enountered at DePaul thus far, and I am nearing the end of my program. I am a DL student, and I actually looked forward to the lectures.
6. The instructor knew the information well.
7. He was really knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and wanted us to learn. Wanted us to learn was also a bit of a weakness because we had a tendancy to get bogged down in details. For example we have spent a lot of time dealing with subtleties in Java and C# instead of dealing with "design patterns, application frameworks, architectural design, and the applications in the software development process to improve the extensibility, maintainability, and reliability of software systems" (from course description).
8. Interesting, well laid out lectures.Good explanations of abstract concepts.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Lectures and lecture notes are excellent. They include plenty of sample code that the students can experiment with in order to understand the material to a greater depth.
2. The hw assignments and final project
3. The design patterns will help me in my career greatly.
4. I really think patterns are important, I just wish they were better explained.
6. Learning programming techniques I didn't know before.
7. The why part of 'why on design is more advantageous' the the other.
9. homework assignments

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Make the Personal Softare Process a larger component of the course/project.
2. have homework that will be like the midterm & final. Not programming homework, but small written homework assignments

3. There was only one practice exam with no answer sheet to prepare for the midterm. The homework only applied to the midterm in an abstract way. I didn't think it was fair to be tested on material that we had very little chance to work with. Sure, there was homework, but it was not related at all to the exam in terms of structure and format.Please provide either an answer sheet to the practice exam, or some homework that is similar to the midterm.

4. Feedback on the project as we're progressing. Are we on the right track?

5. A lot less homework. I spent the majority of my first 4 weeks doing homework, instead of studying the design patterns and other material in the course. I found doing some of the examples from head first design patterns and some of the class examples very helpful, but honestly there is only so much time and homework sucked it up. So I would say either reduce the homework, or keep it at the same level but make it much more focused on each of the design patterns. The next point is my fault for inattention, but it was a little annoying to spend that amount of time on the homeworks and then realize that the homework was only 10% of the course grade. All that said, this class was excellent, and the professor is a good teacher. This is the first course I have taken at depaul where I felt that the difficulty of the material in the course was actually graduate level.

6. For distance learning this class was especially difficult because the white board didn't show up readable most of the time, the question for the class were missed, and the instructor went too quickly over most things and left me to figure everything out on my own.

7. Spend more time discussing the 'whys' of patterns in class. I could read them on my own without taking this class.

8. I would have liked more time to select a project. Maybe lay out the project parameters at the beginning.

9. follow some text book. Seemed like we were all over the place.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fine.

2. tells you how it's going to be graded. Maybe not enough feedback on homework programming, as you always get full credit (if it works)

3. I thought he was very fair on the grading. My concerns about the exams versus the homeworks are tempered by the fact that the professor graded based on his determination of the students understanding rather than exact answers.

6. Studying for exams was hard since the topics covered were vague. Some of the topics covered in the exams were only brushed over in class.

7. Fair.

8. OK

9. grading was fine. Test too hard

Other comments?

1. None.

3. Thanks!

6. This has been one of the more frustrating classes I have taken at Depaul due to the difficultly with the distance learning and grasping the concepts taught in class. I feel I could have just read the books and saved the couple of thousands of dollars I spent on tuition.

7. Despite being somewhat critical of the focus of this course, this has been the best class I have taken as a graduate student.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**
     (se-450-801)
Quarter:**Winter 05/06**
Time: **Tu 17:45 - 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. He is probably the best instructor I have ever met. Lectures have never been boring. One could actually see his passion for teaching.
2. The instructor really doesn't pay a great amount of detail to the material that is assigned in the homeworks in lecture. His sense of humor seems to charm his audience.
3. I think the instructor was very interested in a pretty dry topic which at least kept us awake.
4. Really knows the material that he is teaching and has a genuine interest in the subject that he passes on to his students. One of the best instructors I have had at DePaul.
5. Possibly one of the best instructors I've ever had. Plus, even though you never said it, I can tell you're pro-open source. I respect you for that, very much.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

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3. Learning the different patterns was interesting. Definitely a lot has changed in the past 10 years.
6. Everything, from the very first day, very first homework, simply everything. I would take it again.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. It was perfect.
2. A SOLID COURSE BOOK! I learn best from studying independantly. Lacking of a GOOD book for this course that covers the material in a clear manner would have greatly improved my understanding of the material. Also, there needs to be more emphasis on the UML. We drew a few diagrams up in class, then abandoned the ideas in the homework. The programming aspect of the homeworks was fine, but also make students draw out the UML diagrams for the programs they write, in every homework. This will provide a clear image to them as to what their programs are really doing, what design patterns are integrated in the program, and how to use the UML to illustrate the important concepts of a program.
3. I'm still not sure why the instructor can't have use the online postings rather than the email. I can't read the email ones. I would think he could check the postings each day.Also, am not sure why there were no solutions to the practice midterm. It would have been nice also.
5. The homework assignments were a bit long...
6. Create following course with even more advanced programming that would be as a second part built on

this course.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Exams were challenging which made them interesting. Grading was fair and prompt.
2. This was fine, but such heavy emphasis on the UML in exams is unfair when the homeworks never called for us to use the UML.
3. Seemed fair.

Other comments?

2. James is a very intellegent man. His knowledge is very broad, and I enjoyed how he kept a more "computer science" feel to the course and never got lost in design. I feel that there could have been some improvements made, such as a good book(s) for the course, and more emphasis on the UML. There seems to be some confusion as to what the good balance between programming and design is. I like the idea of extreme programming. I like the concept of using JUnit. I just feel that if this is going to be an SE course (which should be more about designing programs rather than implementing them), there should be at least 30% of the coursework (including homeworks) emphasizing the UML.
6. The Best programming class I ever taken!!!!This class is worth for ANY grade!!!

Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages**	**James Riely** PhD
(CSC-447-701)	
Quarter:**Autumn 05/06**	Associate Professor
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**	jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Location: **Loop Campus**	Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
10   11

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   He is absolutely brilliant in terms of knowledge he has for the Course. Weaknesses are none.
2.   Dr. Riely is an excellent professor. He is a natural lecturer and seems to genuinely care about the progress of his students. He presents difficult material in a very accessible way, but at the same time provides challenging work appropriate for the graduate level.
3.   The instructor was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject.
4.   Stregths: He is an excellent professor.He has alot of knowledge and intelligence in CS and he really helps you understand things clearly.He replys to almost all your emails(questions).(I dont consider this as a weakness) You can't expect alot from him, you have to do alot on your own . He teaches excellent but little fast.
5.   Major strenghts :was technically sound.weakness:i dont find any.
7.   Strengths: Explanation of the concepts and how these concepts are applicable in modern programming languages. Explains it really well goes indepth to explain the concept
8.   strengths are that he is very knowledgable of the material, and very enthusiastic about teaching to students. lectures were well structured, and very informative.
9.   HIS WAY OF TECHING,ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS
10.   C language

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1.   All.
2.   CSC447 is fundamental stuff. I wish I had this course a long time ago. With only a few weeks into the class I was looking at programming languages in a new light. If you are serious about programming you need this class.
3.   Going through activation records was extremely helpful and interesting.
4.   Almost everything was beneficial.
5.   the programming part in c,c++,java
7.   The last lectures regarding SML and topics on parameter passing and scoping rules
8.   the homeworks were very beneficial because they covered all the important material, and were good preparation for the exams.
9.   SCRIPTING CONCEPTS
10.   Confusing

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Keep the same professor every time.
2. Not sure.
3. It would be nice to discuss theory and then have in depth programming assignments relating the theory. It would've been nice to get more experience with programming languages such as perl or c. Or even small programs we could go through to see stack traces or memory dumps.
4. To spend little less time and not to have alot of homework, that will make the student prevent from doing other homeworks.
5. more examples on the home work prolems
7. More lectures on SML could be added as the last homework(HW#8) was a tough one. More questions should be solved in class.
8. I didn't really understand the purpose of learning all the different languages, i suppose there are benefits to understanding the theory of the different languages, but i had trouble finding the overall benefit of this course. maybe make it more clear why this is a required course would help make students be more interested in the material.
9. BY ADDING MORE CONCEPTS
10. I need a lot and a lot of examples.
11. More examples of ASTs and the other concepts in the beginning would have helped a lot. It was really frustrating to have extremely simple examples in class and for homework when the problems on the midterm were orders of magnitude higher. Also, I think the teacher should spend 5 seconds or so explicitly mentioning that for converting between infix-postfix-prefix, the order of the operations is extremely important. For instance, (5 + 4) * 2 * 3 is not equal to (5 + 4) * 3 * 2 because the first operation is 5 + 4, then * 2, then * 3. I was under the impression that mixing the equation as long as it was logically equivalent and gets the same answer is good enough, but it wasn't and I got the whole problem wrong.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Need to be a liitle more liberal in grading of the homework.
2. Grading seems fair. Assignments are challenging but not impossible. The midterm was more difficult for me than I had expected and I felt well prepared, but that is not necessarily a complaint - only that maybe it would have been better if I had more study problems to work with than the homework assignments and lecture notes. Working more problems before the exam would have helped with tackling the exam itself.
3. The grading was fair, the assignments were somewhat trivial at times. A couple of the questions on the exam weren't really reflective of the homework. Such as the question regarding specifics of JAVA or C.
4. Very precise in grading.
5. fair
7. I am certainly not satisfied with the grading. For some questions there is not ONE definate answer so he doesnt give full marks even if the answer is correct. It also seems like the grader of the assignments applies the same rule
8. very fair, exams were a good representation of the material covered in class.
9. ITS REALLY GOOD

Other comments?

2. I really didn't know what to expect from this class. I suppose a lot of students consider this class to be one

of those things that they would rather skip if they could– but I am really glad to have taken it. I think this class will make a lasting impact on my coding skills.

3. It was a good class. Some of the topics were a bit dry, but it would've been nice to go more in depth about some of the concepts and where we can see the concepts in programming languages.

4. If a student grasp knowledge quickly and has enough knowledge of programming languages, then he/she can take this subject.

5. n/a

6. I felt that the NoSe assignment, although fun, wasn't particularly helpful in understanding the course material.

9. NONE

10. There are some new programs we have to learn in this class, but I think there are not enough examples for me to get use to new program. It is very hard to follow! Sometime, I don't even know how to start my homework.

Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages**	**James Riely** PhD
(CSC-447-703)	
Quarter:**Autumn 05/06**	Associate Professor
Time: **01:00 – 01:00**	jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Location: **Distance Learning**	Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Strengths: Energetic, very interested in the material, knowledgableWeaknesses: no obvious ones
2. Professor Riely has a positive attitude, but he is disorganized, failed to cover pertinent material before assigning problems in our homework, and put questions on the midterm that we had not covered at any point in class. I feel that he needs to pay attention to what he is doing and make sure that he covers everything he is supposed to cover, and pay attention when making up tests and assignments to insure that he when over all pertinent material.
5. Learn a lot from this class.
6. No complaints about the instructor, but for many lectures it was impossible to read what was written on the board over COL.
7. Strengths understands the material presented and able to give a well rounded lecture on the subject material.
8. Very knowledgeable instructor but assumed too much knowledge in students.
9. Quite strong. Able to present relevent ad-hoc material. Only improvement would be to concisely publish all of the answers to questions posed in the lecture material and solved in class. ML programs in class were extremely helpful, but I had to repeatedly start-stop COL to work through the examples on my own.
10. The instructor seems to make a lot of mistakes during the in class examples. He seems to have quite a bit of mistyped examples on the lecture notes as well. This is very confusing during lectures as well as studying at home. Also the professor tends to interupt students when they ask questions. He often answers that we will get to that later or when interupting, guides the question to an answer he knows. Also, it seems that some of the examples on the lecture notes include non working examples... this is not beneficial when studing from them. For example he will have a variable or type that is not defined and this can be misleading... misleading lecture notes do not help students.
11. The instructor was always available for help and he treated me very well.
12. My initial feeling about this subject was most uninteresting course in the curriculum. But Prof. Riely made it very interesting. Indeed it was outstanding. I very glad I took this class with him.
13. Excellect communication and presentation skills

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. I wanted and received a better understanding of the underlying aspects of programming languages.
6. I found functional programming to be a fairly interesting topic.
7. BNF Grammar
9. Exposure to non-imperative languages

10. Getting into a few programming languages and actually using them.
12. Comparison to various Languages
13. · The Text book, Notes

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Better main text book (Sebesta). The one we used had WAY too few examples. Entire topics are explained with little or no charts\graphs\code\examples. I was very unhappy with the main book.Was the book "inappropriate and dull" like question 5 above? No. But was it a book I thought could use improvement. Resoundingly, YES.
3. Review of whiteboard as notes are written down
6. I found the HW to be a bit too easy—so easy that I could finish them without even viewing the lecture or doing any reading aside from skimming of the lecture notes.
7. Little lest time spent on ML although it is a great language for experimentation. 99.9% of us will not ever use it. Do something else TCL, Perl, Python, Assembler
8. Your instructors would benefit from taking some education classes on presenting material in ways that promote learning. Its not enough to know the material yourself
10. better examples that are not confusing and can get the point across. less typos in lecture notes.
12. Hiring qualified Professor like Prof. Riely makes the course very interesting. Likewise removing lectures like Andre Berthiaume from the faculty. I recommend Prof. Riely's photo should be placed at the CTI website instead of the proudest + sadist like Andre Berthiaume. Whenever I visit the CTI website I see Andre Berthiaume's photo and that make me sick (puke).
13. The revival of the course contents

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fair and well done. The homeworks were fun and challenging.
6. It would be nice to get exam comments emailed or posted on COL instead of by snail mail.
7. Grading was fair. Exam question may be a little unclear. I spent many a minute rereading the same question trying to determine what was really being asked.
9. Fine
10. I felt that the exams included instructions that were either too limited to be helpful and or confusing. This presents distance learning students with a big problem... we can't ask for clarity. I find that some of the questions on the exam are tricky.
11. I was very pleased with the grading.
12. Prof. Riely's grading is outstanding.
13. Fair and Impartial

Other comments?

1. Get a new book. Other than that I really enjoyed the class and thought it was informative and usefull.
4. There were problems with the COL recording. The marker often did not work correctly. This is a major problem for DL students.
9. Best of my 7 lecturers to date (Dahbur was pretty strong as well)

12. Prof. Riely treated all the students very fairly and without any prejudice.

Course:**Object-Oriented Software Development**	**James Riely** PhD
(SE-450-701)	Associate Professor
Quarter:**Autumn 05/06**	jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00**	Instructor homepage
Location: **Loop Campus**	

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10

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Knowledgable and stays excited about the material he presents
2. Strengths:Upbeat, Makes learning subject matter fun
3. Nice guy, funny, obviously knowledgable. Problem is that he has a bit of a superiour attitude, which is reflected in his lectures, homoework and exams.
4. Approachable, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and interesting.
5. He is able to explain complex concepts simply and concisely. He has a good sense of humor, is able to keep class momentum moving forward and keep students interested.
6. He's very good and keeping up communication with students.
7. Explained material well. Very knowledgeable in subject.
8. The instructor did a good job of teaching the subject in class. The instructor did a poor job of getting back to students in a timely fashion before the midterm...the availability improved after the midterm. Also, the instructor should mandate a standard final project instead of leaving it open-ended. With the project being open-ended caused a ton of confusion and a lot of re-work.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. the concepts
4. Learning UML and patterns and improving my OOD skills.
5. Homework assignments and the final project have been most beneficial. The layout of material in the class is also beneficial, allowing for many opportunities to practice concepts which were presented in first half of class.
6. The entire concept of Design Patterns is intriguing and will hopefully prove useful.
7. This whole course was extremely beneficial to me. My career is pretty much based on this course.
8. Learning the different design patterns and how to apply them is the benefit I received.
10. the actual design patterns were extremely important and should be taught sooner.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

4. This course teaches object, class, and sequence diagramming. Before the class started I was unfamiliar with any of these diagramming techniques. Admittedly during class 1 through 3, I was really confused during the diagramming lectures. I think my issue was that the object and class diagrams look very similar if you are unfamiliar with them and to me there were a lot of details that I wasnâ€™t picking up on â€" dashed lines vs.

solid lines etc. During the high level review for the midterm, Prof. Riely went over the different kinds of diagrams and which arrows/lines/symbols were valid for each diagram and what each meant. After I had the summary, I went back over my notes and things started to click. It would have been helpful for me if I had this summary before we started learning about each kind of diagram. I think it would have made more sense during the lectures. During weeks 1-3 I did try to read some UML books so I could maybe make sense of it on my own but I found inconsistencies between diagramming techniques from one source to the other so that wasnâ€™t too helpful.

6. I feel that the homework could be tied into the actual course material much better. As is, it feels very detached and doesn't compliment the course that well.

7. Maybe a little less complicated code examples.

8. I would suggest a structured final project. Remove the open-ended final project.

10. have homework questions on UML. Although the teacher says there will be UML questions on the test, the concepts don't really sink in until we actually do homework on it.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. The exam taken so far was very difficult and I didn't feel it tested my knowledge of the topic by my mastery of the topic which I will admit I didn't have by the midterm.

3. Exams were much too difficult and contained material much too tangential to core software engineering concepts. My impression is that the instructor spent time wrapping every question on the exam with some sort of complicated algorithm or procedure that was unrelated to the core concepts in the class, just to make things more difficult. I felt that the material in the exam was distantly related to the core concepts of the course.

4. N/A

6. The grading procedures were fine. The exams don't even begin to reflect homework assignments, so they're difficult to prepare for properly, with only prior exams and notes to go off of.

7. Fair

8. The midterm was much harder than expected. If the instructor comments that the midterm is relatively difficult...I would think he would make it a little easier. We're trying to learn the subject. I felt like I failed when I left the room after the midterm

Other comments?

4. I loved this class. I learned all that I set out to learn. Prof. Riely is a fabulous teacher. Thanks!

5. Professor Riely is an excellent instructor.

7. N/A

8. I believe the instructor is very knowledgable about the subject. However, he needs to work on mending the readings in with the homework and in-class discussions.Again, I need to stress to have one standard final project subject.

9. granted the class was large, but it would have been helpful to have some feedback on the final project before the final release was due.

cross-listed with:
Object-Oriented Software Development (SE 450)

Course: **Object-Oriented Software Development**
(SE-350-701)
Quarter: **Autumn 05/06**
Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Doesn't present the fundamentals without injecting opinions. I am not interested in opinions. You cannot expect to use design patterns without first examining the motivation.
2. Feedback from homework was a bit slow, however the instructor was extremely well organized, and enegetic.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Introduction to software design and engineering.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Present a problem first and stop spoon feeding Java. The students should know Java well enough to get by. Also, we should be discussing engineering concepts used for software not just reviewing patterns. Engineering is about solving problems. Discuss the problem and present solution using different patterns. He starts with the pattern, then critiques Java, and then never discusses the problem we are trying to solve.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading was fair. I don't want to just point the negative about the professor. He is very likeable and approachable and seems to have a strong understanding of the subject matter. No doubt.

Other comments?

1. Professor has a great attitude. I think he has really good intentionsWasn't worth the $1,500. Do you guys really use these evaluations.

Course:**Concepts of Programming Languages** **(csc-447-701)** Quarter:**Autumn 05/06** Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
10   11

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. He is absolutely brilliant in terms of knowledge he has for the Course. Weaknesses are none.
2. Dr. Riely is an excellent professor. He is a natural lecturer and seems to genuinely care about the progress of his students. He presents difficult material in a very accessible way, but at the same time provides challenging work appropriate for the graduate level.
3. The instructor was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject.
4. Stregths: He is an excellent professor.He has alot of knowledge and intelligence in CS and he really helps you understand things clearly.He replys to almost all your emails(questions).(I dont consider this as a weakness) You can't expect alot from him, you have to do alot on your own . He teaches excellent but little fast.
5. Major strenghts :was technically sound.weakness:i dont find any.
7. Strengths: Explanation of the concepts and how these concepts are applicable in modern programming languages. Explains it really well goes indepth to explain the concept
8. strengths are that he is very knowledgable of the material, and very enthusiastic about teaching to students. lectures were well structured, and very informative.
9. HIS WAY OF TECHING,ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS
10. C language

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. All.
2. CSC447 is fundamental stuff. I wish I had this course a long time ago. With only a few weeks into the class I was looking at programming languages in a new light. If you are serious about programming you need this class.
3. Going through activation records was extremely helpful and interesting.
4. Almost everything was beneficial.
5. the programming part in c,c++,java
7. The last lectures regarding SML and topics on parameter passing and scoping rules
8. the homeworks were very beneficial because they covered all the important material, and were good preparation for the exams.
9. SCRIPTING CONCEPTS
10. Confusing

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Keep the same professor every time.
2. Not sure.
3. It would be nice to discuss theory and then have in depth programming assignments relating the theory. It would've been nice to get more experience with programming languages such as perl or c. Or even small programs we could go through to see stack traces or memory dumps.
4. To spend little less time and not to have alot of homework, that will make the student prevent from doing other homeworks.
5. more examples on the home work prolems
7. More lectures on SML could be added as the last homework(HW#8) was a tough one. More questions should be solved in class.
8. I didn't really understand the purpose of learning all the different languages, i suppose there are benefits to understanding the theory of the different languages, but i had trouble finding the overall benefit of this course. maybe make it more clear why this is a required course would help make students be more interested in the material.
9. BY ADDING MORE CONCEPTS
10. I need a lot and a lot of examples.
11. More examples of ASTs and the other concepts in the beginning would have helped a lot. It was really frustrating to have extremely simple examples in class and for homework when the problems on the midterm were orders of magnitude higher. Also, I think the teacher should spend 5 seconds or so explicitly mentioning that for converting between infix-postfix-prefix, the order of the operations is extremely important. For instance, (5 + 4) * 2 * 3 is not equal to (5 + 4) * 3 * 2 because the first operation is 5 + 4, then * 2, then * 3. I was under the impression that mixing the equation as long as it was logically equivalent and gets the same answer is good enough, but it wasn't and I got the whole problem wrong.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Need to be a liitle more liberal in grading of the homework.
2. Grading seems fair. Assignments are challenging but not impossible. The midterm was more difficult for me than I had expected and I felt well prepared, but that is not necessarily a complaint – only that maybe it would have been better if I had more study problems to work with than the homework assignments and lecture notes. Working more problems before the exam would have helped with tackling the exam itself.
3. The grading was fair, the assignments were somewhat trivial at times. A couple of the questions on the exam weren't really reflective of the homework. Such as the question regarding specifics of JAVA or C.
4. Very precise in grading.
5. fair
7. I am certainly not satisfied with the grading. For some questions there is not ONE definate answer so he doesnt give full marks even if the answer is correct. It also seems like the grader of the assignments applies the same rule
8. very fair, exams were a good representation of the material covered in class.
9. ITS REALLY GOOD

Other comments?

2. I really didn't know what to expect from this class. I suppose a lot of students consider this class to be one

of those things that they would rather skip if they could– but I am really glad to have taken it. I think this class will make a lasting impact on my coding skills.

3.   It was a good class. Some of the topics were a bit dry, but it would've been nice to go more in depth about some of the concepts and where we can see the concepts in programming languages.

4.   If a student grasp knowledge quickly and has enough knowledge of programming languages, then he/she can take this subject.

5.   n/a

6.   I felt that the NoSe assignment, although fun, wasn't particularly helpful in understanding the course material.

9.   NONE

10.   There are some new programs we have to learn in this class, but I think there are not enough examples for me to get use to new program. It is very hard to follow! Sometime, I don't even know how to start my homework.

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development (SE-450-701) Quarter:Autumn 05/06 Time: Th 17:45 – 21:00 Location: **Loop Campus**	James Riely PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
10

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Knowledgable and stays excited about the material he presents
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3. Nice guy, funny, obviously knowledgable. Problem is that he has a bit of a superiour attitude, which is reflected in his lectures, homoework and exams.
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8. The instructor did a good job of teaching the subject in class. The instructor did a poor job of getting back to students in a timely fashion before the midterm...the availability improved after the midterm. Also, the instructor should mandate a standard final project instead of leaving it open-ended. With the project being open-ended caused a ton of confusion and a lot of re-work.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. the concepts
4. Learning UML and patterns and improving my OOD skills.
5. Homework assignments and the final project have been most beneficial. The layout of material in the class is also beneficial, allowing for many opportunities to practice concepts which were presented in first half of class.
6. The entire concept of Design Patterns is intriguing and will hopefully prove useful.
7. This whole course was extremely beneficial to me. My career is pretty much based on this course.
8. Learning the different design patterns and how to apply them is the benefit I received.
10. the actual design patterns were extremely important and should be taught sooner.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

4. This course teaches object, class, and sequence diagramming. Before the class started I was unfamiliar with any of these diagramming techniques. Admittedly during class 1 through 3, I was really confused during the diagramming lectures. I think my issue was that the object and class diagrams look very similar if you are unfamiliar with them and to me there were a lot of details that I wasnâ€™t picking up on â€" dashed lines vs.

solid lines etc. During the high level review for the midterm, Prof. Riely went over the different kinds of diagrams and which arrows/lines/symbols were valid for each diagram and what each meant. After I had the summary, I went back over my notes and things started to click. It would have been helpful for me if I had this summary before we started learning about each kind of diagram. I think it would have made more sense during the lectures. During weeks 1-3 I did try to read some UML books so I could maybe make sense of it on my own but I found inconsistencies between diagramming techniques from one source to the other so that wasnâ€™t too helpful.

6. I feel that the homework could be tied into the actual course material much better. As is, it feels very detached and doesn't compliment the course that well.

7. Maybe a little less complicated code examples.

8. I would suggest a structured final project. Remove the open-ended final project.

10. have homework questions on UML. Although the teacher says there will be UML questions on the test, the concepts don't really sink in until we actually do homework on it.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. The exam taken so far was very difficult and I didn't feel it tested my knowledge of the topic by my mastery of the topic which I will admit I didn't have by the midterm.

3. Exams were much too difficult and contained material much too tangential to core software engineering concepts. My impression is that the instructor spent time wrapping every question on the exam with some sort of complicated algorithm or procedure that was unrelated to the core concepts in the class, just to make things more difficult. I felt that the material in the exam was distantly related to the core concepts of the course.

4. N/A

6. The grading procedures were fine. The exams don't even begin to reflect homework assignments, so they're difficult to prepare for properly, with only prior exams and notes to go off of.

7. Fair

8. The midterm was much harder than expected. If the instructor comments that the midterm is relatively difficult...I would think he would make it a little easier. We're trying to learn the subject. I felt like I failed when I left the room after the midterm

Other comments?

4. I loved this class. I learned all that I set out to learn. Prof. Riely is a fabulous teacher. Thanks!

5. Professor Riely is an excellent instructor.

7. N/A

8. I believe the instructor is very knowledgable about the subject. However, he needs to work on mending the readings in with the homework and in-class discussions.Again, I need to stress to have one standard final project subject.

9. granted the class was large, but it would have been helpful to have some feedback on the final project before the final release was due.

Course:Formal Semantics of Programming Languages
      (CSC-535-901)
Quarter:Spring 04/05
Time: Tu 17:45 - 21:00
Location: Loop Campus

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Is way to smart :).

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. Learning the theory of how typing is done, cool stuff, really hard though.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Give alot more examples, I am totally lost becuase there is no real good examples.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Fair.

Other comments?

1. This classes needs more examples to really get it. It might be my, but I saw the curve, everyone needs help (80%)

Course: **Formal Semantics of Programming Languages**
(CSC-535-902)
Quarter: **Spring 04/05**
Time: **01:00 – 01:00**
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. I felt like the homework problems were too hard. I think that it is very intimidating to have most of the homework answers and still not know what is going on. I really thought if we would have worked on reasonable problems like those on the midterm exam I would have grasped this better.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

Other comments?

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development   James Riely PhD
    (SE-450-901)

Associate Professor

Quarter:Spring 04/05   jriely@cs.depaul.edu

Time: W 17:45 - 21:00   Instructor homepage

Location: **Loop Campus**

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. I have had Riely before and I enjoy taking his classes because he actusally makes you think. The homework and test are not just regeneration of class work but the application of the ideas/methods discusses. He actually allows you learn how and why to do things correctly.
3. Strengths: Has command of the material. Is very organized. Has clearly taught this material before, and is comfortable with it.Weaknesses: Sometimes appears more interested in appearing smart than being helpful. He clearly does not believe the adage 'There is no such thing as a stupid question'. I found myself wondering whether I should ask about things I didn't understand.
4. His major strength is his ability to make lectures interesting.
5. Tons to learn, but without a book, and concrete examples, it makes the class more difficult.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. This class seems to be to be a fundimental class for anyone who is doing any sort of programming. Having take the CS BA program, this seemed like a class that should of been required for any programming concentrations. I have see too many people just not understnad simple programing techniques which were explained in this class.
3. The most beneficial thing in this course was exposure to the Professor's coding style and use of patterns. My code is markedly improved now from the start of class. I have become a firm believer in the value of patterns.
4. This class has made me think differently about how to construct programs. I believe my development skills have improved because of this class.
5. Breakdown of patterns, code examples, and homework assignments.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Force more people to take this. It should follow right after the algothms class.
2. don't send emails to all students regarding a question one stundent has if this is nesscary use a bulint broad
3. The expectations of this course didn't tie in very well with my previous courses. Either the prerequisite classes need to be toned up a bit, or this one should be toned down. After completing all the prerequisites I found myself poorly prepared for this course.
5. More, hands on examples of the patterns.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. Everything seems fine.
5. Fair.

Other comments?

1. One of the most useful classes taken in CTI
3. This has been a very valuable class because it has exposed me to patterns and professional coding standards. I am surprised at my reluctance to recommend it.
5. None.

Course:

    (SE-547-801)

Quarter:Winter 04/05

Location:

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor

jriely@cs.depaul.edu

Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   **1**   **2**   **3**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Did not prepare for this class. Was to busy with a research project/publication.
2. He had a broad theoretical knowledge base in this area.
3. Strengths – good at explaining abstract conceptsWeakness – a little disorganized at times

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. The personal research project exposes us to research and papers from the phD world. The freedom to learn on one's own is a gift. There weren't many regular homeworks, but there was one large paper. The professor was extremely understanding about our workloads and was very flexible with us.
3. The reading

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2. For the benefits of others, this professor should either continue to teach this course or the research paper requirement should remain. It really helps one to have a love for the theoretical security world. In my opinion, it is really hard to obtain this without a paper.
3. One of two thing: either follow the Alan Jeffrey model of lecture, homework every week and two exams, or turn it into a writing seminar. Have the students do short essays on the reading material every week for the first 5 weeks, and give feedback on their writing. Then have them write a big paper.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. no comment as a research paper is the final.
3. I would have liked more feedback, more direction.

Other comments?

2. none
3. I learned a greaat deal in this course. I'm glad I took it. Thanks!!

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development
     (SE-450-802)
Quarter:Winter 04/05
Time: W 17:45 – 21:00
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. I believe the instructor organized the class in a somewhat biased fashion and I would have had a greater understanding, had the course been organized in a different fashion
2. He is a very knowledgeable person with regards to the subject, but he makes the course way too difficut than it is. He expects a lot from students. He expects that the students be at par with him, which is not possible. Overall he makes it look a lot more difficult than it is.
3. Well organized. Knowledgeable. Presents the material in captivating manner.
4. Knows his material. Goes too fast over it.
5. Strengths: providing examples for the situations
6. Prof Riely managed to present a great deal of material in a short amount time, yet efficient.
7. Excelent knowledge, entertaining lectures.
8. To me, the major weakness of this course was over complication of the material to be presented. From the beginning there was an intimidation factor that simply didn't need to be there. Also, the grading did not start until nearly mid-term which does make it difficult to get a feel for your understanding of the material.Presentation materials are possibly unnecessarily abstract. Why use Class names like A, B, C? Easy yes, but also potentially confusing.Parts of this course are breathtakingly difficult, so I don't understand all of the upfront warnings. It's hard, but required for the program. I'd just prefer to see more encouragement.Major strengths: James is very enthusiastic about his subject. His classes were always a joy to attend.There is a TON of work in this class though, I wonder if it can be structured any differently. I know that he warned us not to take this class if we had anything else going on, but in what world does that exist? Those of us who are working full-time plus are never going to have that luxury.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The course material is very informative as to programming style.
2. The design patterns were very helpful. This could help one generate a code that is well up to the standards.
3. Homework assignments and the final project.
4. I think the material is useful in day to day coding. I wish I had a better grasp of it.
5. The project is important. Perhaps change the 3 hws to 2 hws and allow the students to start doing their projects earlier.
7. Apply and looking at examples of applying design patterns. Test driven development.
8. Design, design, design!! Not only for me, but for all of the students. In my job, I frequently hire developers and I can count on the fingers of one hand how many people stumble during the pattern part of the interview. So few developers have any idea of them. This class made me happy because the design teaching was so solid

and so superb. It was GREAT!Also, I LOVED learning JUnit!

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Starting with Template method, something that is familiar to everyone and moving on to the more unfamiliar patterns, so students can get a feel for patterns before diving into unfamiliar territory.

2. Programming should also be allowed in other OOP laguages like C++, VB.NET, C#. I found this course very difficult beacuse I am not much of a Java programmer. As far I know Java is not the only OOP language out there in the market. Would really like it if students are given the liberty to choose their own programming language.

4. It's not helpful for the professor to make the exam questions so tricky that it stumbles the student. Straight forward questions can test just the same. The fact that the professor takes pride in coming up with these is disturbing. Would be helpful to go over what makes up a pattersn (the clues that define it) and to summarize them.

5. Suggest having a global cooperation of working on the hw together. Using the depaul's bullertin board instead of the listserve.

8. As I mentioned earlier, some relief in the workload and possibly more concrete examples. I know we must constantly be challenged to think in the abstract, but a toehold might help. Try to apply something to business application development instead of a card game or a geometry pattern.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Grading seems fair. However, I was not properly taught to use a tool that we used in homework, and not havig full knowledge of the tool which does not reflect upon my knowledge of course material may very well end up costing me. I am still waiting to hear back from a grader after I made my argument.

3. Exams were challenging and therefore beneficial.

4. Too difficult.

5. The exam are too long.

6. Would be helpful for grades to be posted earlier.

8. As is usually the case in a DePaul class, grading was abysmal, slow and late. There truly seems to be a problem across every class I've taken at this school. Graders are not assigned until we are 2-3 weeks into the term. In a 10 week term, this is really late. Grading done by graders is also typically poor and inconsistent.Exams in this class were a tremendous challenge. They were very difficult, but the grading of them seems fair in general. James does seem to love a trick question though. I think the material is challenging enough without resorting to that.

Other comments?

8. It is a good class, very interesting, but the amount of work required has me at the brink of dropping out of the program.When I review courses that are required for my degree, I do not consider the topic of recommending the course to another student. Everbody in SE must take it. It is far too much work to recommend it to anybody else.

9. Remembering Liskov

Course:Object-Oriented Software Development (SE-450-804) Quarter:Winter 04/05 Time: 01:00 – 01:00 Location: **Distance Learning**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
10   11   12   13   14

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1.   The instructor was absolutely brilliant. His organizational skills were grade A. His ability to communicate the concepts and clarify any confusion was superior. The only weakness (which I dont perceive to be his fault) is the assumption of the level of knowledge of the students taking the course.

2.   I dont know if it was a major weakness of instructor or its the course contents he has choosen. Software engineering, courses is not about coding. Its more about software paradims, myths, strategies, methedologies etc. While in this class we learnt java, j2ee, and some coding related patterns. This is not what software engineering is.

3.   It was great to take this course from Dr. Riley. I have never seen as much participation both in and outside of class as with this one.

4.   Great lecturing style, well-organized.

6.   Extremely knowledgable / great orator /wit.

7.   Stengths: –clear and concise instructor –explains difficult concepts clearlyWeaknesses: –since I was a distance learning student, I would say the use of the whiteboard for so many of the UML was difficult, at times. Perhaps some UML drawings could be constructed in pieces ahead of time, using a graphics tool, and then displayed in class using the screen. Makes it a little easier to see what's happening. –exams can be a little tricky in parts that are really unrelated to the topics of the class. While I understand that this class relies on the student having a strong foundation of Java skills, those skills should not be tested during exams. Rather, they can be expected on homework and projects. Exams, however, should be straightforward when it comes to the programming techniques.

8.   The instructor did present the material well. This course was mainly based on making code more readable. Although it is important, I dont think this should be a required class, unless a student believes he/she will be using java extensively when they graduate.

9.   Professor has very good knowledge and teaching approach. Only thing he is expecting too much from student.

10.   Kept class interesting with lots of examples. The instructor adapted well to the direction of the discussion in class and was ussually able to work through questions on the white board. Kept great communication with students through the Mailling List. This was especially helpful to me since I am a DL student.

11.   1. Excellent communcation and presentation skills.2. Have good knowledge of what he taught in the class.3. Very responsive I am a DL student and rely heavily on email and he had been very quick in responding.4. I find him very helpful to the students

13.   I thought that he didn't really explain his purpose very well. This made it difficult to understand what I was supposed to be learning. He didn't really make it clear what he was getting at all the time. Especially with answers to questions he posed in his notes that he used to teach – he would leave the question with no answer or a vague answer too frequently.

14. strengths:great command of the subject matter

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. nothing.

3. The homework was challenging but at the right level. It made you think about the concepts being taught. The project was the best part because it made you apply what you were learning. I feel I am a much better programmer because of this course

4. Discussion of individual design patterns.

6. Discussion about design patterns / programming assignments

7. -design patterns were clearly explained -project was very fun. Flexibility to choose my own topic was great!

8. I believe the further exposure to java was beneficial. The many coding assignments also made me more familiar with the language and coding styles.

10. I had never even heard of patterns before this course. I leave this class with a better understanding of OO Programming and how to write more maintainable software.

11. The amount of work was relatively high and demanding but its good since it certainly sharpened and revived my programming skills. Helped me improve the design skills. But then I guess it's even less than three months and this topic so vast that we still couldn't have covered it all in a semester based system.

13. The overall idea of the class, while executed poorly in my opinion, was somewhat beneficial in that it gave me an idea of ways that I could manage code more effectively.

14. the programming

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. Personally, I feel like the classes (java and data structures) taken prior to this one did not sufficiently prepare myself (and I believe many other students) to be successful. It seemed to me that the students who were very well versed in Java did well and those who werent did not. Thus, even though the class is not a Java course, I felt like even understanding the conepts taught in the class did one no good if they were not intimately familiar with coding in Java. I am not sure how to improve this so that students are not so overwhelmed, but I thought it prudent to at least state my opinion on the matter.

2. by changing the course contents (if they are chosen by university) or ask the instructor to really teach software engineering.

3. I highly recommend the text Head First Design Patterns. Dr. Riley includes a link to one of the chapters in the book and because I found it so informative I bought the whole book and think it explains things very clearly--better than the other recommended texts.

4. More design patterns, less Java. Require more Java expertise coming in. I know how to use constructors, references, etc. Presentation of the clone method was interesting, however.

5. The exams were to difficult

6. Focus more on realizing / implementing design patterns and less on writing supporting code.

7. -perhaps more use of the screen shots of UML, rather than creating on the whiteboard. Just for clarity. -a little more straightforwardness in the exam questions. Test the new material from the course, not tricky ways to write functions.

8. I wouldn't suggest anything to improve the course but I strongly believe this should not be a required class for those pursuing their masters in CS.

9. Make it little bit easy.

11. I feel that instead of focusing on Java language and Java programming latest topics on the subjects should be brought into the syllabus. I started the course wanting to know about the software design and development methodologies, when and when not to use them and what are the pros and cons involved and I still do not know.

13. Less busy work. Make the homework more focused on the objective. I spent a good deal of time doing code that had nothing to do with patterns or anything else in the class. Also, there should have been at least 1 homework assignment in which there was no programming, but it asked whether you could identify patterns. If that is a main goal of the course, you should assess that more often than just 2 questions on the midterm and whatever is coming on the final. If I completely miss those questions on the final, did I fail to meet the objectives for the course? Becuase I had no chance prior to now to practice the concept of identifying patterns in other people's code.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. Homework was not graded in a very timely manner and it often left you wondering how you were doing in the class. I love the project, but found it unclear how we would be evaluated.

4. Slow early on, but caught up. Fair, gave students plenty of material to prepare.

6. Mid term questions were much harder than examples presented in class.

7. -grading was extremely fair and impartial

8. Fair.

9. Make it little bit easy.

11. So far the midterm was slightly lengthy for 2-1/2 hours and that's what we got.

12. Some exam questions were not as clear as they should have been for this class.

13. The midterm exam was difficult, but fair. I thought it was a very hard test, but it was the same for everyone and the grading was done as it should have been. Homework grades were done fairly as well.

Other comments?

1. Professor Riely is an outstanding teacher and certainly knows the material backwards and forwards. Even with this fact, I think that the class, in comparison with many other classes, takes an extrodinary amount of time to try and comprehend and complete. With work, other classes, and family obligations this created a very hard enviroment in which to succeed. Since I am not in the Software Development track (as I am in the Database track) this seemed to be an unnecessary stress to overcome.

3. This was a great class by a great instructor and I hope I have the opportunity to take another class from him in the future

4. Overall, excellent. Best course I've had at Depaul.

6. none

7. -Prof. Riely is an OUTSTANDING instructor, and I hope to take another class of his soon. - I wish more CTI professors could communicate tough topics as clearly as he.

11. Overall he is a good instructor but I feel the course objective that I had before starting the course had not met.

13. The biggest suggestion I have for the course is that there should be more of an assessment of people's ability to recognize patterns in code. It was a stated objective for the course, yet the only times it was assessed were the midterm and the final. If there were an earlier method of finding out people's abilities in this area, you would have a better idea of how well the course is being taught. Also, it makes the tests more difficult that you haven't seen anything similar to what will be on them before hand, as all the homeworks were

programming assignments.

Course:**Automata Theory and Formal Grammars**
      (CSC-344-701)
Quarter:**Autumn 04/05**
Time: **W 17:45 – 21:00**
Location: **Loop Campus**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. This was one of the best-organized classes I've taken in CTI. In particular, the lecture notes were extremely well-structured (despite a few typos), and the presentation of the material was clear and rigorous.Moreover, I found the instructor's "meta-comments" – that is to say, comments ABOUT the process of constructing formalisms, doing proofs, etc. – to be very illuminating. My ability to translate between intuitive "pictures" and mathematical formalisms has greatly improved as a result of having taken this class.Finally, the difficulty level was just right. The fact that every single term used in the course was defined from the ground up (right down to basic set-theoretic notions) meant the entire course was, more or less, self-contained, putting everyone with basic mathematical knowledge on a level playing field.Overall, this was an outstanding course. I look forward to taking the semantics class in the Spring term.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

What do you suggest to improve this course?

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

Other comments?

| Course:Automata Theory and Formal Grammars (CSC-444-701) Quarter:Autumn 04/05 Time: W 17:45 – 21:00 Location: **Loop Campus** | **James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage |

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. takes the time to make sure students understand
2. The instructor is personable, however at times is confused and confusing. I also didn't appreciate the instructor bring his political views into the class. It wasn't often, but every once in a while he would make a comment during the course of the lecture that clearly stated his political viewpoint.
3. His major strengths are that he is able to relate the material to students well and is very responsive to student's educational needs and issues.
4. The course webpage was helpful, he was very personable and easy to talk to.
5. The instructor was very interested in creating an environment that fostered the exchange of information between students and himself. He really tried to foster the idea that this is the way a graduate course should be and he was very successful with this goal. He was genuinely concerned about making sure that he communicated with the students and he has excellent skills interacting with the class, so the lectures were interesting.
6. Good teacher, but exams are very tough -- he said they'd be just like the homework but they weren't at all, so many students did poorly on the midterm.
7. Active and entertaining in class, which maintains student interest.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2. I believe the text was very good, one of the best I've read.
3. The deeper knowledge of formal grammars will help me in maby aspects of my career as a software engineer.
4. Homework was helpful, homework review was beneficial.
5. The most valuable aspects of the course were the overview of basic theorectical concepts, the instructor's suggestions about how these concepts are used, and incorporation of research in the area through supplemental topics.
7. The supplementary tools, eg, JFLAP.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

3. When building theoretical machines in class, use a program such as JFlap so that the machine can more easily be viewed online. Also, it is possible to save a distribute the machines talked about in class.
4. none
5. The lectures on new material were generally good – they could be improved with more sample problems

that explore different nuances of the topic. They also could be improved by pacing them better. For example, since we did not review all the homework problems, the ones gone over in class should have choosen for specific teaching reasons --to highlight a difficult concept rather than the class just wanting the answer. Sometimes we spent to much time on a side issue when we could have focused on more central concepts. In summary, more example problems, pacing the course based on the importance of concepts, and centralized focus for homework review would help the course.

7. Unsure.

8. Make notes a little less mathematical so they are easier to follow. Not everybody in the class is a math major or is an expert in mathematical principles.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. the mid-term was quite a bit more challenging than expected based on instructor comments before the exam. However, i believe the instructor took this into consideration in grading the exam, so in the end it was fair.

2. The instructor modified the grading scale "because there isn't a grader for this class", so homework would only count 10% of your grade and the mid-term and final would count 90%, which I feel put way to much weight on the tests and not enough on homework.

3. To DePaul: Please hire graders next year. It is beyond ridiculous that a University not hire graders.

4. none

5. The instructor was not entirely accurate in his characterization of the midterm and this create some issues for the course. It would be a good idea to post a sample exam, and to allow more that enough time for the exam. If these two issues were addressed at the start much of the exam controversy could have been eliminated. Also, the instructor needs to raise the bar on the homework problems -- it is OK to give difficult homework -- when it helps prepare students for their exams. Finally, if the course is not going to have a grader to provide specific comments on the homework,and the class does not have time to go over the all the problems in lecture, and the problems form the basis of the exams, the instructor needs to post the answers (or possible answers) in their entirety and in a timely fashion. Without the answers, there is no way to check if the homework is correct and that students are prepared for the exam. It is unrealistic not to keep in mind that the exams and course grade are an underlying motivation for the class in addition to learning the material.

7. I'd really like homework to be graded instead of simply checked off as existing. There is little incentive to do it well if it is an almost guaranteed 100. It would also mean that points for the course are more spread out, so that a single question on the midterm or final doesn't become such a large portion of the overall grade.

8. - Midterm was too long and

Other comments?

2. I have one class remaining before I complete my degree. This is the first time I have given this bad of a review to a professor. Maybe it was just a difference in my learning style and the professor's teaching style. Generally I have been very satisfied with the Professors at DePaul CTI.

3. Professor Riely is a very good and interesting professor. I have taken two courses taught by him and have learned a great deal.

5. I think the book by Hopcroft would have better match the aims of the instructor rather than the Sipser book. Although the Sipser book was very readable.

8. - the notes were too complicated and hard to follow. Too much mathematical notation.- Midterm was too

long and too hard.- The textbook was surpisingly better than other courses.

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Course:**Automata Theory and Formal Grammars**
    (CSC-444-702)
Quarter:**Autumn 04/05**
Time: **01:00 - 01:00**
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

Select a Page:
Summary   1   2   3

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Major complaint is not being prepared for class. Often fumbles at proof steps and back-tracks multiple steps, confusing the student who has spent time trying to understand the steps that were just nullified. Instructor can obviously understand the proofs, so I believe that he simply needs to review the proofs before teaching them to avoid this situation.

2. The instructor is very friendly and knowledgeable however, his teaching methods along with the fact that none of our homework was graded left me feeling like I had to teach myself. I found the most beneficial information on the Internet.

3. weaknesses - perhaps assumes too much about students understanding of subjectstrengths - knowledge of subject

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

3. helping me decide what I don't want to do in the future

What do you suggest to improve this course?

3. more structured (maybe one class) on proof concepts, what's expected of the student?

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

1. Midterm exam was very long. Major complaint was the 'busy' work involved. One could ask a question with a short answer where only the student who understands the concepts could get it right (appropriately testing the material), but I feel that some questions on the midterm were tedious and extremely long where a much shorter question could have tested the same knowledge.

2. Grade the homework.

3. no comment

Other comments?

Course:**Object–Oriented Software Development** (SE–450–702) Quarter:**Autumn 04/05** Time: **Th 17:45 – 21:00** Location: **Loop Campus**	**James Riely** PhD Associate Professor jriely@cs.depaul.edu Instructor homepage

Select a Page:

Summary   1   **2**   **3**   **4**   **5**   **6**   **7**

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

1. Very confident with subject material. Overall, one of the best courses I've taken.
2. The instructor's sence of humor made every lecture interesting and enjoyable. That was very motivating.The examples given at class were very helpful.
3. fun, approachable, easy to work with.
4. The lectures are always interesting and lively
5. Strengths , he was good at converting a real world examples into Class Models. I mean to say very gooda t Designing and futher how to Implement the Degsign...!
6. Very energetic and enthusiastic about the material, as well as knowledgable.
7. Nice personality

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

1. The homework and project was extremely well designed.
2. The project was fun but a lot of work. The reading assignments in Xiaoping and Shalloway were pointless, while the other reading assignments (esp Effecitive Java and the Essential Java tutorials) were extremely helpful.
3. pattern development, applying to real world coding (business world)
4. I feel I have a much better understanding of how to produce quality software
5. Different Design patterns and then refactoring, assignments which wwere given,Mid term and the Project.
6. Good intro to design patterns and using better coding practices
7. Way of refactoring

What do you suggest to improve this course?

1. More feedback on homework completed throughout the course.
2. I would recommend to buy the GoF book and Effective Java instead of OO Software Development using Java and Design Patterns Explained. I liked neither of them. All other reading assignments were extremely interesting.
3. whew. there's a whole lot of stuff crammed into a very short amount of time. this course could probably be split into two and both halves covered a bit more thoroughly.
4. The homework in the first part of the class didn't really require much understanding of how to refactor and utilize design patterns. That made the midterm (and everything after) more difficult.
5. students should do group discussion.

6. Nothing
7. Spend more time on examples

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

3. first half and mid-term appear to be very fair. we just started the second half...
5. Perfect
6. Grading was very fair and returned a reasonable amount of time
7. More explainations would be appreciated

Other comments?

2. One of the best classes I have ever taken!
5. It was really great to take a lecture under professor James Reily
7. Liked the way teacher presented the material. Very "alive".

Course: **Object-Oriented Software Development**
       (SE-450-704)
Quarter: **Autumn 04/05**
Time: 01:00 - 01:00
Location: **Distance Learning**

James Riely PhD

Associate Professor
jriely@cs.depaul.edu
Instructor homepage

What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?

2.   He is skilled in presentation, he is interesting and tries to present the material in an interesting way. He has a very solid mathematical background. He teaches through example, this is very helpful for a visual learning student such as myself.

4.   strength-seems to know material wellweakness-teaches "iteratively", which means he showed us a way of doing something, but then says, that's crap, and shows us the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th ways, each of which are progressively better implementations. While this was good, for example, to explain the Observer pattern as Sun has implemented it in Java, the rest of the time it was highly annoying to erase or scratch out notes as we were going through lecture. If you don't, then it's confusing as to which is the better implementation when you look at your notes during the test.weakness-exams are far too long. 2.5 hours for a mid-term is alright, but there should be a little time in the 2.5 hrs to go back over the work, for instance. It was a mad dash to finish.weakness-the amount of homework. Usually I think a lot of homework is fine, but here there was superfluous work that took too much of the time we could've been devoting to design and coding. For instance, I will mention the defect tracking log and the time recording log. Neither are greatly useful except as metrics for the teacher later, but they certainly take time for the student to fill out. Also, while writing unit tests is valuable, I absolutely thought there wasn't enough time to give them much thought. I was way too busy completing the designing and coding tasks at hand.

What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?

2.   Design patterns are to object oriented programming as bees are to flowers... essential. Taking the time to work through, understand, and implement design patterns in Java is the most important aspect of this class in my opinion.

What do you suggest to improve this course?

2.   Assignments of smaller programs that are to be done each week that make the student program design patterns that were learned that week.

3.   Lower the work load. Unfortunatley, there is not enough time to incorporate an incremental software project using PSP.

Comment on the grading procedures and exams

2. I felt like this professor was very fair in grading the course work and exams. I am happy as well as impressed that the professor admitted to a single question on an exam that was not worded correctly and actually corrected his mistake by adjusting grades. I also believe that grading on a curve is superior to the hard coded grades... exams change from year to year in difficulty, so the grading scale should be flexable by a few points.

Other comments?

1. This should be taken in a classroom.
2. I really enjoyed this course... even though the homework was pretty difficult.