

Final Evaluation (CTEF Numeric) (Instructor) for Lathrop, Richard COMPSCI 171 LEC A (34430), Winter Qtr 2012

Responses: 31/32 (96.88%)

A. Please comment on the following areas and be as specific as possible:

1. What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

- Being in-depth with material, going beyond slides.
- Cannot think of any.
- Clear and concise lectures, good examples and informative power points.
- Consistently asks whether we have any questions and is very willing to help explain until we get it. Even the way he conducts the class, is all together a matter of ensuring that the key concepts of the course are learned.
- Covering the material well
- Excellent Speaker. Willing to go over a topic and explain more detail. Funny Computer Science jokes. Gives bonus points for finding errors on the slides.
- Explains concepts clearly. Some concepts are difficult especially towards the end.
- good explainer
- Good material and explanation of the topics.
- Good pacing, clear and concise
- Good presentations that are relevant to the course. The presentations are clear and concise.
- He demonstrates expertise and enthusiasm for the subject matter, and elicits student interest by drawing connections with real world examples.
- He explains topics very clearly and takes the time to ensure that the topics are well explained and understood by the students.
- He is very intelligent. He will make you learn everything from the class material.
- He talks at an understandable pace.
- He was prepared to lecture every day and had a great deal of information from outside of the textbook to share. He also made a great effort to answer questions and clarify any misunderstandings that students had.
- His knowledge of AI is super. The ability to convey hard concept to students in an easy to understand manner.
- I enjoy your enthusiasm and it does make me want to put effort into the class. Most of the concepts were clear.
- Passion in the field of AI and works to pass that on to the students. Provides links and extra with all of his material for students to read at their own leisure. Knowledge of the material was obvious too and he lectures well.
- Professor Lathrop has multiple teaching strengths including the strength to simplify the complex knowledge in order for students to understand in the first step, and then explain it in more complicate level in the next step when needed. The way he has been teaching was fascinating due to his vast experience related to the real world, in which, he could answer most of students' questions satisfactorily.
- Professor Lathrop really puts efforts in to make AI more than just "concepts from a book". Cultural interests are left on the sides of each lecture as "If you want to go further..." types of readings that show real-world applications of AI. He cares about teaching this class, and it shows in how he rewards students who bring extra insight to the table. The use of the midterm as a pedagogical device is something I haven't seen before at UCI either, but I found it an extremely good opportunity to go back and revisit what I did wrong. His exams are of fair difficulty in terms of questions asked, and the project is a good way to empirically force students to test their theoretical knowledge against something real, to apply it. Additionally, he's extremely approachable and very responsive to e-mail as well.

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- Prof Lathrop has lots of experience in the field on AI and his lectures + AI stories are awesome. One of the best Profs I ever had during my 4 years studying CS as UCI. He knows how to explain concept clear and concise. His examples are relevant and easy to understand. He encourages student to think, participate and get interested in AI. Overall, Lathrop is a kickass Prof
- Provides a variety of side topics available to keep students interested in the subject.
- Speaks very clearly, provided great explanations for the topics covered during the quarter.
- Takes his time with all of his explanations, enthusiastic about subject
- Very enthusiastic about the subject and providing helpful examples about key topics. Provides supplemental material for students interesting in the topics to gain more information. Gives a fair learning environment for all students to ask questions.
- 5 blank answer(s).

2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?

- Balance out lecture material instead of over-cramming material just because a powerpoint has x many slides.
- Better planning on the project because the initial project had lots of bugs in it.
- For now, he is the best and I couldn't figure what Professor Lathrop needs to improve more as a teacher.
- His quizzes and exams rely far too much on memorization. In addition, on several questions, he employs a grading scale where getting an answer wrong or leaving it blank deducts from marks earned on other questions in that subset.
- It would be so much better if you could somehow transition away from using powerpoint slides and instead write on the board, although I know that it would be rather difficult.
- More engaging lectures
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- None
- None
- None.
- Nothing really comes to mind - I think he does his part well.
- not sure, very well rounded teacher.
- Offer more office hours.
- Present more news about what is going on about AI all over the world during class.
- Some concepts are explored briefly, mentioned in the presentations, but aren't explained thoroughly. Having a few slides illustrating an algorithm is good, but having 1 or 2 slides illustrating an algorithm will indirectly make the latter not as important (i.e. max/min vs CSP).
- The class website looks slightly jumbled. A little better formatting and possible splitting some of it into separate pages such as the project description, and a separate page for the wordier portions of the syllabus would make it slightly easier to reference through the course while leaving the schedule front and center. This is really just nitpicking as everything else in the course was great.
- The quizzes could be a bit more forgiving; I actually found them much, much more difficult than the midterm. The midterm, while filled with more material, was only approximately five or ten points a question/section of questions. On a quiz, missing three questions could result in 15% of our grade gone – on the midterm, that would have only been about 3 - 9%. The questions themselves are fair, but having so few questions each worth a good portion of the quiz does make it much more difficult than it might seem.

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- The teacher could use more example beside the book to illustrate the abstract meaning of the AI representation.
- 11 blank answer(s).

3. Any other comments about this course?

- A great introductory course in Artificial Intelligence
- Can be pretty easy to get confused if one isn't paying attention.
- Excellent course. Very interesting material. Best professor I ever had so far.
- Fun course. The additional resources for each lecture is great. Propositional + Predicate Logic was dry. I liked the Watson + chat box videos. DOES ANYONE else feel like we scratch the surface of a topic and then move on? I would say force us to code 5x more.
- Fun course and I can guarantee that you will learn the core concepts of the class.
- He is the best professor.
- I enjoyed the amount of time between quizzes, therefore allowing adequate studying time and the amount of time given to complete the Project for the class.
- In all my time at UCI, I've never had a professor who intentionally let their TA take a lecture for the purpose of giving them practice in teaching/lecturing for a class. Most professors who have their TA's take their place for a day are more or less using their TA as a last-minute substitute, but I admire Professor Lathrop for actually being present and also paying attention to Andrew's lecture. I think this is a valuable experience to give to a TA, and I hold Professor Lathrop in a much higher regard for his role as a teacher (as opposed to just 'the instructor') for doing something like this.
- Interesting material - demanding in that the student will be in trouble if he or she doesn't keep up.
- I think this course brings a hope to students that they would be able to apply AI to the real world as professor Lathrop already did in the past in a company, in which, he was a co-founder.
- I would love to have more time to learn about AI and in depth beside just scratching on the surface. And getting into more of AI working beside learning or focus too much about the term and definitions.
- Knowledgeable course.
- Let me take a moment to talk about the TA. He seems like he is a sharp guy, but whenever he was talking, he would do a lot of talking and not a lot of speaking. In other words, he always had a long-winded explanation for something where it could be said more succinctly.
- N/A
- N/A
- None.
- Relatively difficult. Book is difficult to understand in the later chapters.
- The project seems irrelevant to the course. We're to study AI not the algorithms used to implement them. There are algorithm courses specifically for this purpose, namely, CS 161.
- 13 blank answer(s).

B. Please choose the appropriate rating:

If you have no opinion on the question asked or if it does not apply, please select "Not Applicable."

4. The course instructor shows enthusiasm for and is interested in the subject.

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20	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
9	8	Value: 8
1	7	Value: 7
0	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.63	Mean	
9.00	Median	
0.55	Std Dev	

5. The course instructor stimulates your interest in the subject.

16	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
5	8	Value: 8
5	7	Value: 7
3	6 (Good)	Value: 6
1	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.07	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.18	Std Dev	

6. The course instructor meets stated objectives of the course.

22	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
4	8	Value: 8
3	7	Value: 7
1	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.57	Mean	
9.00	Median	
0.80	Std Dev	

7. The course instructor is accessible and responsive.

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18	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
3	8	Value: 8
5	7	Value: 7
2	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
1	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.07	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.66	Std Dev	

8. The course instructor creates an open and fair learning environment.

22	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
3	8	Value: 8
4	7	Value: 7
0	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
1	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.33	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.70	Std Dev	

9. The course instructor encourages students to think in this course.

19	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
5	8	Value: 8
4	7	Value: 7
0	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
1	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.34	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.24	Std Dev	

10. The course instructor's presentations and explanations of concepts were clear.

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14	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
6	8	Value: 8
8	7	Value: 7
0	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
1	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.03	Mean	
8.00	Median	
1.27	Std Dev	

11. Assignments and exams covered important aspects of the course.

21	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
1	8	Value: 8
6	7	Value: 7
1	6 (Good)	Value: 6
1	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.33	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.11	Std Dev	

12. What overall evaluation would you give this instructor?

16	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
9	8	Value: 8
3	7	Value: 7
0	6 (Good)	Value: 6
0	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
0	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
1	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.17	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.68	Std Dev	

13. What overall evaluation would you give this course?

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15	9 (Excellent)	Value: 9
8	8	Value: 8
3	7	Value: 7
0	6 (Good)	Value: 6
2	5	Value: 5
0	4	Value: 4
1	3 (Fair)	Value: 3
0	2	Value: 2
0	1 (Barely Satisfactory)	Value: 1
0	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Value: 0
0	Not Applicable	No Value
8.03	Mean	
9.00	Median	
1.45	Std Dev	

C. Please answer:

14. Based on completed assignments thus far, what is your current course grade or approximate standing?

13	A	Value: 4
9	B	Value: 3
5	C	Value: 2
1	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
2	NA	No Value
3.21	Mean	
3.00	Median	
0.86	Std Dev	

15. How much academic dishonesty seemed to occur in this course? If applicable, please describe the type of academic dishonesty that occurred (not the particular students involved).

1.

0	A lot
1	Some
0	A little
29	None I could discern

2. Examples:

- 31 blank answer(s).

16. How helpful were the textbooks and/or readings to your overall learning experience?

7	Very
10	Adequately
9	Somewhat
4	Not at all

17. How challenging was this course?

11	Very
16	Adequately
3	Somewhat
0	Not at all