David McKenney (COMP1005A - Introduc to Computer Science I)

The assignments grew in difficulty too quickly. With absolutely no previous knowledge on the course material I found the first two assignments very easy, but struggled with the remaining. Normally I find assignments in my courses equally difficult at the time of doing them, finding early ones easier once I've built more on that information. As it is now, however, the first ones have always been easy and I still don't fully understand the third and fourth assignments. I think word choice in describing the assignments is a part of the problem, as well as the constant inclusion of more complex mathematics without any explanation of how to do that mathematics. I needed to do a lot of additional research on the mathematics alone before I was able to start figuring out how to do the programming itself. Considering it is not a math course, it felt a lot like I was wasting precious study time learning about something unnecessary. In general, David McKenney is a great teacher. Well spoken, charismatic, and professional without being stuffy. I enjoyed attending his lectures, even when I didn't enjoy the material or when I found the material was going too fast. For a summer course, I recommend he pare the course down to the absolute essentials, as the extra information, though likely beneficial in the long run, drowns out the relevant material and makes it harder to grasp. This would be easier to handle in a regular semester with time to look into each new piece of information, but summer courses are so condensed, it moves too quickly. Sorting out the relevant information takes a lot of time, and can be exceedingly stressful given the available time. The labs were also not beneficial. I did the work on my own, so that I could ask questions in the lab when I was uncertain of something, but I only ever had time to ask one question in the labs, as the TAS were constantly busy with other students, many of whom seemed to just want to chat about miscellaneous things, rather than about a particular issue solving a tutorial problem. My time would have been better spent not commuting to and from the school. Perhaps a rule against chatting is needed from the TAs so that this doesn't happen. The tutorials are too big, and the available time to ask questions before things are due is too small to waste time.

Great class. I know you're still a PhD student but you have the potential to become a really, really great prof. Be more confident! :)

Super Dave McKenney. 5/5 for everything.
Hope you get the full time position, you deserve it.

Excellent professor!

Great prof!

Great instructor, and great course!

David has been fantastic thus far - the class is well organized and equally well conducted, which deserves praise given the condensed format of the course. I would definitely enjoy having him as an instructor in the future.

I wrote that comment about not enjoying being taught simpler methods of doing things after we were taught harder ones. The course was actually great though, I can see why it's structured the way it is! You're a great teacher, can't wait for the second term!

Thanks for relating Python to everyday life situations. Makes understanding the content much more accessible and interesting!

I enjoyed it when every now and then you would sidetrack and talk about your life . Especially the beer can chicken story. Very funny

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Hi Professor, I just want to say you did an awesome job with the class given such a short time frame you had!

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cool guy

Wonderful teacher, huge help by e-mail. Offered tons of resources.

Great course!! There were lots of Daves in the examples but hey I don't blame you! It's a good name

GREAT PROF!