David McKenney (COMP1005B - Introduc to Computer Science I)

You're hilarious and easily approachable. Hope your P.h.D goes well cause you'd make an awesome prof!

You are very nice. The lectures are very clear and helpful. I enjoy this course very much.

Considering it was your first time teaching a class I think you did very well. I thoroughly enjoyed your sense of humour and some of your funny stories (Damn you google!). I feel like you did well in explaining the material to the class and your coding examples were well done. However I felt like the structure of the tutorials could be improved. I understand that solving tutorial problems is beneficial since this class is all about practicing. However I found myself focusing more on the assignment problems during the tutorials because it is essentially an hour of unmarked work (minus attendence quize/ TA check off) where I would prefer to put towards something worth marks. Maybe have 1 or 2 small problems to get the ball rolling and then have some time allocated for assignments or at least TA's going over some commonly asked questions that way they don't get a bunch of people at office hours who are all having the same problem.

I think he just needs to learn to convey the ideas of the course simply and clearly. Most of us are first year students and have no idea what programming is, I think he should be more cautious of that, and solve the exercises slowly.

Dave's hilarious, and it was a pleasure taking his class. Connected really well with us

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Great guy, really funny & nice. Exams are too hard.

I think you did an excellent job this semester. It was clear your confidence teaching increased as the semester progressed. Great job!

I enjoyed the overall set-up of the course and the evacuations (2 midterms, an assignment due every couple weeks, helpful tutorials) and the examples in class (with the Python code posted on cuLearn) were really helpful in studying and doing assignments. I often found myself referencing them when I hit an obstacle in trying to solve a problem and they almost always pointed me in the right direction. I also liked how the recordings for the lectures were posted online, which helped for people who didn't want to go to lectures so they could watch in their own time. I still went to lectures, personally, because I preferred seeing the code being typed out and because I had nothing better to do on a Friday afternoon. Overall though I thought the course work was well-presented with good examples and sufficient explanations, although it seems some people had some problems, based on class averages on the midterms, but I'm not sure how much blame should go on Dave. I had no prior experience in comp sci and I followed the course just fine, but it definitely differs case-to-case, given how quick some people might be in picking up programming and the syntax, for example.

At firsts, Dave's class was reaaaalllly fast paced. He would read the slides only and not really talk about it outside of the slides. It mellowed out after a while though. The assignments reflected the problems/coding we were doing in class, so it was a nice parallel. I liked the programming examples we did, they helped to clarify the content. The midterm outline and practice were very similar to the content on the actual midterm so that was pleasant and helped with understanding what we actually need to know. (The second midterm....). So Dave was/is a down to earth type of person and was easy to approach, o that helped with the vibe of the class, especially when I was going into the class with 0 programming knowledge. I learned quite a bit for someone who came in with just enough knowledge to open/create a folder.

Great professor, he explains very well the materials.

Mr. David has organised the course very well. The assignments are relevant to the course and foster improved programming and problem solving skills. He prepares well for the lectures and is always available and excited to clear doubts. His friendly and supportive approach is very encouraging. I would highly recommend taking his classes!

There are just some things I would suggest... One is that it would be nice to repeat the student's questions in class so everyone can hear, because sometimes their doubts can

be some other student's, but they are too shy to ask.. And maybe try to explain things a little bit slower..

Examples in class are little bit hard than we expected.

The instructor made lectures entertaining with his humor and displaying multiple examples of the material we were examining. He provided good resources for students to achieve success in his course, in the form of midterm preps, active discussion forums for assignments, using a free online textbook, and posting all lecture slides(and video recordings of the lectures) on CU-Learn. I thoroughly enjoyed this course, and felt like I learned quite a bit about the fundamentals of programming. However, one area that could use improvement are the lectures themselves. For example, making it more explicitly stated what students should be doing during the lectures. Should they focus on taking notes of the slides? Trying to copy down example codes and psuedocodes? Or simply attentively listening.

Lots of in class examples which is great for a comp sci class.

The midterms are not easy - the hardest part is the "write code" section. It is difficult to have the same mindset and thought processing of computer programming/coding while being in front of a piece of paper; it doesn't come naturally and makes it harder. Typically when writing code it is normal to come across mistakes; it is normal to work in a "trial and error" way (for a beginners class), but this method is impossible once asked to code/program on paper...

One of the best profs I've ever had. Thank you!

Mr. McKenney is a phenomenal instructor. He definitely explains the course content in a organized and understandable fashion. He takes the time to prepare for class and to make sure all the resources we need to learn are available. The assignments and tutorials are very relevant to the course material. Although the second midterm grades seemed to fall for the overall class, I did not find it as though it was unfair of a test, maybe just a little to involved in how to solve the problems instead of showing our knowledge of how to code. Thanks for a great intro to computer science class!

Sir, your one of the best professor ive ever met . You never make class boring . Learning with you as a prof is always fun . And the best part is you always help your students thats what makes you an ideal teacher . Thnx alot for evrything .

Great class! I learned a lot and the professor was extremely fast with replying to students out of the class. Thanks :)

Overall, great instructor. Uses technology well to assist learning. Provides all the necessary tools for success in this course. Provides ample examples to learn from. Tests are a bit difficult but relatively fair. I would recommend to people to take this instructors course.

This course has been incredibly difficult and had multiple issues that never seemed to be resolved. I have heard that this specific class has not been as academically straining on other colleges within similar programs, and I hope that it is able to get better with more work.

Sometimes I feel the course moves too fast, I have no background in computer and have trouble understanding some of the concepts immediately.

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good teacher

Very good class, examples are the way to go! Also providing the recordings gives us a chance to go back. Even though this class brought not much new to me, i felt that the course was fairly comprehensive. A small comment... Dave, you sometimes seem so tired or even sad. I don't know, anyway i just wanted to say... Great work! :D

Good prof

I enjoyed this class and despite having no previous coding experience, I think I've really taken a lot away from it! Everything was well organized and classes were pretty fun so overall pretty great!

Dr.Mckenney is one of the best patient teacher in my mind. He helps a lot for me and I love this lecture.

The "Professor" is not a nice guy, he seems uncertain of what he is doing and is unclear most of the time. He gives unclear instructions for the class to follow but ends up complaining when they do what he asked them to do. He is unclear when it comes to answering questions and seems uncertain of what he is talking about. I do not recommend this person at all.

The professor does not make it clear on what it is he wants from the students; he does not teach very well and if he provides certain instructions for students to follow, he will then go back on his word and discourage them from doing so.

You are one of the funniest profs I have ever had! Even though you are obviously an amazing programmer you are still great at teaching the simple stuff. Thank you for inspiring me to continue to learn to code

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I loved this prof, the workload was rough though. But he did recognize the situation. For a FIRST time prof, I give him credit he did rather well because he sincerely seemed to want students to have it easier. But I cannot forget the assignment 4, that was waaayyyyy too hard.

Good prof.

Great sense of humour, and I think that you're teaching style works really well with a computer science course.

As this is an entry level course many of the students have no experience with computer science and it felt like you we teaching for the students who did already have prior knowledge. Possibly narrowing down the slides can help the key points stand out and make then easier to follow. Posting the lectures and code online is helpful.

Didn't get my "Space odyssey 2001" reference.

For your first time ever teaching I was very impressed, you clearly understand the material very well. I appreciate how fast you respond to emails and how you go over examples in class. Review using kahoot was very fun! The only thing that I could say might be to make the slide notes just a bit more detailed or copy and pasting the worked on example code into a final version onto the slides, screenshot idk. It would be a pain to have to reopen notepad++ files just to see syntax. Thanks for a great semester, best wishes :)

Best version of comp1005 taught so far . I like the way you explained concepts in class and kept the assignments simple but challenging enough for people with zero experience in programming

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I discussed the average standards that students were generally not meeting with David once. The problem that I think most people struggled with in this course was trying to understand how and when to apply functions and operators in a semantic and syntactically appropriate way and it did not concern how students understood the logic of the problems that were given. Which has me derive that students probably misunderstood seeing the programming language as a whole new language that requires knowledge of what is syntactic order that concerns the functions used for each. As a result, I would imagine that it would call for a whole new way of teaching the course, one that would require understanding the language before applying the language to produce the output. One of the recent tutorial sessions I had, a TA tried to show me how make a recursive function that performs multiplication. The TA was instructing me how to understand multiplication, which is not only prior knowledge to knowing how to understand the question, and thus would denounce any legitimacy of the initial question I had about it, but it would not answer which functions should be used and why such functions, to produce the output appropriately should be used considering what the output would require as an alternative comprehension. What is specifically meant by the errors in the output? In which ways can I improve the code based on this understanding and why? Furthermore, how does one know that is why, based on the information from the errors?
