

Computer Science (28 comments)

Q: What did you like best about this course?

- 1 Professor Pemmaraju clearly cares that the students learn and understand the course material. He is very transparent with what he expects students to learn.
- 2 The lectures for this course are excellent and I was happy to attend every one. In class examples relate to the real world and further student interest. Pemmaraju is the best CS instructor I have ever had. He is as passionate about student learning as he is about algorithms.
- 3 The professor is one of the best professors I've had in college. He cares deeply about the subject and about the students learning that subject.
- 4 Very interesting material
- 5 It's very flexible and meaningful.
- 6 Lectures are excellent. I really enjoy Prof. Pemmaraju in lecture, I think that points are well laid out and information is explained clearly.
- 7 The instructor, Professor Pemmaraju is incredibly smart and great at explaining difficult concepts and make them make sense
- 8 Professor Pemmaraju's lectures are great, incredibly clear and concise, and he is always available at office hours to provide additional help.
- 9 - It was great that algorithms was based on previous classes; we did not review that much material and got straight to
- Algorithms showed how math tricks and the approach to problems helped the runtime and efficiency of the solution.
- 10 The lecture portion of the course is really really good. You do a great job of breaking down complex topics and of including students in on the discussion even when they may be reluctant to. You also did a good job of being encouraging of students who were struggling to answer difficult questions and getting the most out of people.
- 11 There was a lot of help outside of class and an individual approach to learning.
- 12 I enjoyed the material and learning new things about Computer Science concepts. The way you presented the material was very helpful and I could understand/follow your ideas.
- 13 The professor
- 14 The instructor tries to explain concepts in multiple ways during office hours to enhance student understanding.
- 15 learning about the different classes of problems in the computer science world.

Q: What did you like least about this course?

- 1 The exams were graded very harshly. One small mistake could cause a snowball effect to occur making the student lose an excessive amount of points.
- 2 About 75% of the homework problems were worthwhile - the rest being a little too difficult for the amount of time given.
- 3 homework problems can be long and unclear at times. It would be nice to clarify what is needed from a question
- 4 One thing I would change about this course is to make the exams and quizzes more do-able in the given time. I feel that I could better demonstrate my knowledge on the subject if I had a little more time to complete the exams/quizzes.
- 5 The first exam was too hard! Insane. Quizzes were given at the end of class making it really hard to complete them on time, adding stress and were very difficult.
Homeworks were super challenging, maybe a little too challenging, not enough time to complete them.
- 6 The exams are very difficult. I understand the goal is to cultivate algorithmic thinking in students, and the exams are written with that goal in mind, but the two hours to take them feels to short and there is this ambiguity after finishing an exam where you think, "Do I understand any of this?" even though you've studied and done well on the homework.
- 7 - The presented algorithms/solutions sometimes did not factor in software design/layout.
- 8 The exams are quite difficult. I know this is by design, but still. The homework can be quite hard as well, and sometimes I felt as though they took more time than the points they're worth.

- 9 The exams did not reflect what was indicated in review and often the primary elements of the exams were not what was emphasized in class. Also the programming homeworks were not that connected to what we were learning in class and took too much time getting a program to run rather than learning the algorithms
- 10 There were concepts presented in class the day of the exam that would be on the exam that night. It seems like you rushed to squeeze in exam material right before the exam and that didn't give us enough time to think about it more/ask questions. Also, I always felt rushed during the exams and think they should be 30 minutes longer. I was able to do them but not comfortably (no time to go back and double check answers).
- 11 I didn't like how we learned the basics and then had to apply them in code. I was not ready to code some of these and wish we had talked more about coding during class than just theory of a general application. Just a little more talk on coding wouldve been helpful.
- 12 Exams are very difficult.
It would be good if correct answers for Homework are posted.
- 13 dynamic programming

Written Comments (6 comments)

Q: Additional comments

- 1 Professor Pemmaraju creates a great learning environment in lectures. However, I believe that if we had practice exams with solutions as resources on the course website, then the class may have had performed better overall.
- 2 Overall good class. The lecture portion is really really good. If one attends lecture, one will learn.
- 3 Great course to develop a CS mindset! Pemmaraju changed the way I approach problems and think critically.
- 4 Your own written homework problems are more helpful than the ones assigned from the textbook because they give us a better preparation for the exam. Those problems are more interesting and challenging but require more time for 1) figuring out what I'm supposed to do 2) devising a solution.
I also suggest having older grad students TA this class. Many students are upperclassmen, the same age as the TAs, and may be good friends with them, which can make it awkward to ask for help. Because of this, I never went to TA office hours or asked them questions during exams. So, you should stay the entire time during exams so students can ask you questions and not feel like there's a social implication (eg. I don't want to ask because my friend/TA might think I'm dumb or others might think I'm getting special help from my friend/TA)
- 5 overall I feel like I learned a lot but I wish it was easier. I enjoyed the topics covered in class and all the new things I learned but I didn't enjoy failing quizzes and exams and not having enough time to finish homeworks.
- 6 Class is really well taught and I feel like I learned a lot.