

Randomized Algorithms (Fall 2018)

Instructor: **Pemmaraju, Sriram**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5360 0001**
Course ID: **CS:5360:0001**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **13**
Responses Incl Declines: **13**
Declines: **0**

Computer Science (15 comments)

Q: What did you like best about this course?

- 1 A variety of topics related to the role of randomization in computer science were covered in a manner that was engaging and thought provoking
- 2 Very interactive class
- 3 The topic is challenging and techniques are useful
- 4 Examples in various randomized algorithms
- 5 The professor tried to explain new concepts as clearly as possible until all the students in the class understood.
- 6 I am glad that I learned more about probability and bounds. I also liked the algorithms themselves.
- 7 The professor was incredibly clear. Probably the best lecturer I've had during my time at Iowa.
- 8 Being the scribe for a week made me understand that week's material better, and helped me learn LaTeX which I never knew existed until this semester.
- 9 Professor Pemmaraju's teaching style is one of the best teaching style's I have encountered at the University of Iowa. His enthusiasm and understanding of the topics discussed is palpable and makes learning that much easier and more enjoyable.

Q: What did you like least about this course?

- 1 There were some opportunities to cover more advanced topics which I believe weren't fully capitalized on. But this would be my only criticism.
- 2 More time and efforts are required to study it well
- 3 Some method is hard to prove and it is hard for me to understand why to prove in that way.
- 4 The homework was not very evenly distributed, it fell mostly at the beginning of the course.
- 5 nothing
- 6 I would have preferred to continue with homework assignments instead of the project.

Written Comments (6 comments)

Q: Additional comments

- 1 This is a very nice course for someone who is good at probability and wants to know what one can do with randomness in the field of Algorithms.
- 2 Overall I like the passion the professor passed to us during the class.
- 3 It was hard to find motivation to put time into the final project early in the semester. Also, a 5-page-max requirement makes it difficult to do very much substantial work.
- 4 I found the homework very helpful, it required enough thought to force one to understand the material. I wish it was more evenly distributed however. All the homework was on the beginning material and as a side effect I feel like I understood the material towards the end less than I could have.

On the whole it was a very enjoyable and enlightening course.

- 5 I think writing down a recap of the previous class in detail takes a lot of time. Many times it involves reminding the class of the last 15 minutes of the last class, which takes away a lot of time from each class. If it has to be done, then using projector for recap might save a lot of time.
- 6 Professor Pemmaraju is very understanding and easy to work with when extenuating circumstances arise, which is really nice.

