Olive Franzese

Computer Science II (CSCI 221 S 202303)
No. enrolled = 34
No. of responses = 28

Instructional Delivery Mode = INPR
XList Code (if blank, not cross-listed) =

Survey Results

2. PRELIMINARY / DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS. Mark the most appropriate response.

2.1) Will this course fulfill one of your graduation requirements?

n=28

No	32.1%
Yes	67.9%

2.2) *If yes, which ones?*

n=28

Group	17.9%
Divisional	14.3%
Departmental	50%

2.3) Is this course in your major?

n=28

Yes	60.7%
No	39.3%
Not sure (or not sure about my major)	0%

2.4) Number of college semesters completed, here or elsewhere, including this semester. (Choose one)

n=28

1	3.6%
2	50%
3	14.3%
4	25%
5	0%
6	3.6%
7	3.6%
8	0%

2.5) Overall, how would you describe your performance in this course?

n=28

Excellent	35.7%
Good	53.6%
Adequate	10.7%
Poor	0%
Unsatisfactory	0%
No Idea	0%
Prefer not to answer	0%

2.6) Compared to other Reed courses, the quantity of work required for this course was:

n=28

Excessive	0%
A bit too much	14.3%
About right	82.1%
A bit too little	3.6%
Minimal	0%

3. STUDENT PARTICIPATION MODE

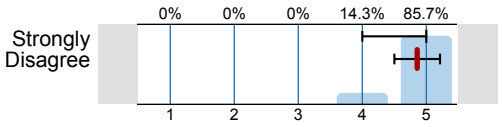
3.1) Please indicate how you participated in this course by choosing the mode that is most relevant to you:

n=28

I participated primarily in person.	100%
I participated primarily online.	0%
I participated fairly equally in-person and online.	0%

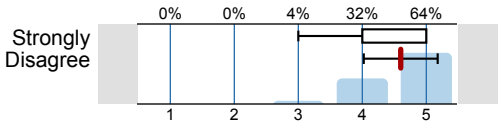
4. EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTOR

4.1) The instructor made the goals of the course clear.



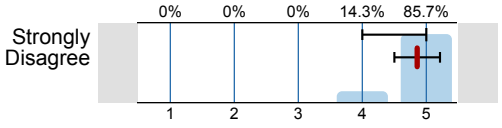
n=28
av.=4.9
dev.=0.4

4.2) The course materials (e.g. assigned readings, audio or video recordings, and/or handouts) were effective given the goals of the course.



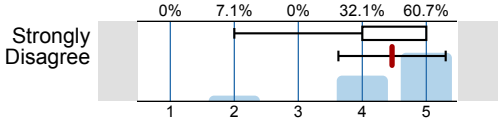
n=25
av.=4.6
dev.=0.6
ab.=3

4.3) The assignments were effective for developing my understanding of the subject.



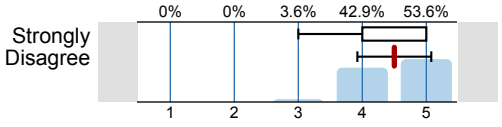
n=28
av.=4.9
dev.=0.4

4.4) Instructor feedback contributed to my understanding of the subject.



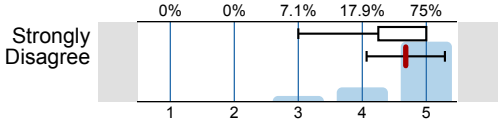
n=28
av.=4.5
dev.=0.8

4.5) The instructor was organized and well prepared for each class.



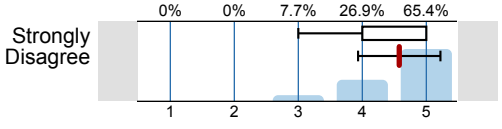
n=28
av.=4.5
dev.=0.6

4.6) The instructor presented the subject matter clearly and effectively responded to questions.



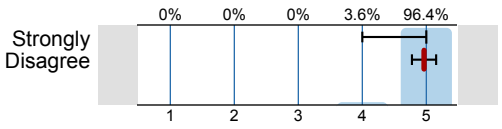
n=28
av.=4.7
dev.=0.6

4.7) The instructor effectively facilitated discussions in conferences, labs, rehearsals, and/or studios.



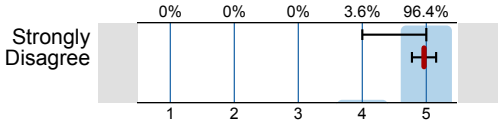
n=26
av.=4.6
dev.=0.6
ab.=2

4.8) The instructor fostered a supportive, respectful, and inclusive classroom environment.



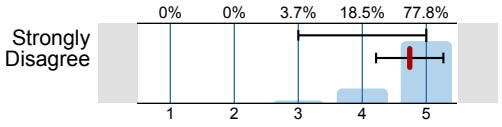
n=28
av.=5
dev.=0.2

4.9) The instructor was available to answer my questions outside of class.



n=28
av.=5
dev.=0.2

4.10) The course encouraged me to think creatively, critically and/or deeply about the subject.



n=27
av.=4.7
dev.=0.5
ab.=1

Comments Report

5. COMMENTS TO THE INSTRUCTOR

5.1) What did you *like best* about the course? Which aspects of the course would you like to see retained?
HUM 110 only: What did you *like best* about your conference leader's teaching? Which aspects would you like to see retained?

- Efficiently covered multiple coding languages and connected each of them with fundamental computer science concepts. The problems in labs and assignments were interesting and had a good level of difficulty.
- I'm glad that I took this course this year. The thing I like best about the course is the instructor themselves and the way they support students in class and convey the knowledge. Olive was a super supportive instructor who has a sense of humor in presenting his lectures, making the lecture less boring and more fun. They dedicated their time to helping students who fall behind in class, making sure that everyone understands things thoroughly. Although they are a new instructor at Reed College, I believe that their efforts and their knowledge in the field surpass everyone's expectations. I really hope to see them teaching other courses in Computer Science next year here at Reed College.
- I don't know exactly what I liked best, it was just a good course.
- I do not love computer science and I was scared for this class but Olive made the class an enjoyable experience and was super open to feedback. I really enjoyed some of the homework and really didn't like some but it was relatively balanced. I also really loved the support of the drop in tutoring.
- I found the course was very good for thinking about the deep underworkings of the computer in comparison to higher level programming languages, and in that sense it helped me better understand all myprevious work I've done in CompSci.

  Overall, Olive is a truly wonderful teacher. Olive was passionate about the subject matter at hand and presented it in a way that was understandable. She clearly puts a lot of work into preparing for the lectures and presentations and her experience as a Reed alumnus herself was relatable. Her teaching was especially good for those who aren't even in the CompSci major such as myself, and it kept me engaged even if I'd rather do a different subject.
- I liked how a lot of the course functioned outside strict "coding" - bitwise operators and assembly work was really great for giving me more depth of understanding.
- I liked Olive's teaching style! She was always super prepared, organized, cheerful, and engaged during lectures and labs. The policy of going and and offering help unsolicited during labs was very helpful for folks such as I who struggle asking for help for any reason ever. Asking questions unsolicited during lecture helped for this exact same reason, it never felt like being singled out or stressful as the answer "I don't know" was never punished. It was clear that she cares, not just whether the students learned the material, but also whether we generally mentally well. I felt respected and appreciated every day I showed up to class, and though I've stopped going out of my way to give a 110 percent in college, this class was the one exception.
- I liked Olive’s engagement with the students and the efforts she put in to connecting with us and making sure we all felt like we could come to her for help.
- I liked that the course covered a variety of languages and taught abstract concepts through concrete excersises.
- I liked the assembly unit the most.
- I liked the material covered, and I thought that there was a positive atmosphere about the class which was supportive and beneficial to my learning.
- I liked the way Olive did lab were it technically wasn't mandatory giving us the opportunity to use the lab time to work on assignments but with the the teacher and ta present or to do the lab assignment which was designed to help us figure out what we were doing on the homework.
- I liked the working on problems in the lab and collaborating with my peers on them. It helped my understanding of the subject to work through those problems while also being able to ask for help at any point in the process. Olive was very adept at identifying the problems with my work, and then asking questions to lead me to the answer rather than simply explaining the process to me.
- I loved the deeper dive into the lower level workings of how coding and computer science works. It seems like it will give me a good basis for future learning and courses in CS. Also, it was just genuinely super interesting.
- I loved the energy of the lectures and the learning environment, the professor’s enthusiasm in providing help in lab, and the effectiveness of the assignment material at both closely matching the subjects discussed in lecture while providing sufficient practice to reinforce learning. The midterm exam was also extremely well-designed and well-structured - in fact, it felt like one of the most accurately balanced exams I have taken at Reed. I would retain the majority of the course structure and policies - I feel that the course accomplished exactly what it is meant to, with the appropriate scope at all steps of the process, and with effective measures in place to ensure students have a good experience.
- I really enjoyed Olive's teaching style. She was accommodating, didn't take herself too seriously, but also was incredibly informative. It's refreshing, especially in a field where people can be arrogant at times. And to add, as a student relatively new to the field, this teaching

style was incredibly welcoming and encouraging!

- I really enjoyed the the conversational aspect of the lectures. Additionally, the lab problems were well designed so that they addressed pretty much any issues one might have with the homework that week while being distinct from said homework.
- I really liked how in depth we went for every topic in this class! I feel like I understand what is happening at the low-level, and that is very cool to me. I think the homeworks were a great length because they made me actually think about the subject without being tedious.
- I really liked the lab section, as it allowed me to cover what I missed in lecture, as well as work with classmates on problems relevant to homework.
- I really liked the way that each lab not only allowed us to work with new material with help immediately available, but were also clearly structured to lead us into the next homework.
- I think Olive was a good professor :) thumbs up. Good environment, engaging, and well prepared materials.
- I think that each homework assignment was fun, and helped me understand the content better. The homework did a good job of making me apply what I learned in the lecture and deepen my understanding of the topics that were covered. I also think that Olive did a great job at one-on-one help, especially during labs. I also liked that Olive always had slides prepared and allowed the students to have general freedom when it came to attendance (offering slides and lectures on Moodle to those who might have missed class).
- I thought lecture went well, and homeworks were effective at developing a working understanding of C, C++, and MIPS.
- I thought that Olive was a very good professor. I liked the assignment in which students had to create their own CPU model.
- It is hard to pick what I liked best about the course because there was a lot that I enjoyed and learned. I think most if not all of the course material should be retained.
- Thank you so much for this class! I really liked the focus on understanding things on a lower level — I had a moment when we started C++ when I realized that I was suspicious of the new stuff we were learning because I didn't know how it actually worked on the inside, which made me realize how much I've learned in that regard. I feel like the work level was pretty good, and from what I hear of other 221 classes this class was a lot more reasonable in terms of expectations, so thank you for that. Also you've been super helpful and responsive by email or otherwise outside of class with questions I have (both class-related and outside of the scope of class), which I really appreciate and has lead me to find other things that are interesting (for example I'm taking a class next semester on the design of programming languages, partly because of the email you sent me).
- The material was relevant and felt like it built well
- The professor was very personable and I felt like I could freely talk to her if I was having issues without feeling like I was wasting time.

5.2) What did you *like least* about the course? Which aspects of the course would you like to see changed?
HUM 110 only: What did you *like least* about your conference leader's teaching? Which aspects would you like to see changed?

- A bit preferential but I think we spend more time on C than might be appropriate(?) Maybe not, but C++ is so much more commonly used that it seemed almost anachronistic at times
- BIO 19 is the sleepiest god damn room I've ever been in, please teach it somewhere else.
- Homework instructions were sometimes unclear, leading to misunderstandings and more time spent than necessary.
- Honestly I can't think of any aspects of the course that should be changed. The course was structured well.
- I did rely heavily on the drop in tutors, and I found a hard time learning how to code from lectures. but I made it work by getting help from tutors and Olive.
- I don't have many complaints about this course, I think really the only complaint I have is completely separate from anything Olive did, and it was just that 80 minute lectures are a long time for me to sit still in one place, so I would have liked it to be like 3 50 minute periods rather than the 2 80 minute periods.
- I felt like some of the topics covered did not really appear on the homeworks, which made it hard to grasp them entirely. It is difficult to cover everything though.
- I found the assembly unit to be confusing, and though the professor tried their best, they are very new to teaching so it was at times a little unclear. Otherwise an awesome course and I hope to take more classes with this professor!
- I least liked that sometimes the homework was unclear, or we would receive homework before having the full information for how to complete it in lecture. Eventually we would have what we needed to understand it, it just could have been a little bit more clear from the beginning.
- I probably enjoyed generics the least because of how much of a pain they can be. I certainly don't think they should be removed from the curriculum and I don't think they were taught poorly, it's just the nature of the language that they're tricky.
- I think deadlines should have been midnight.

- I was disappointed that the course didn't include more long-term projects like CS 121 did. I would have liked to see more hands on projects with extensive time to work on practical goals, rather than just weekly homeworks.
- I wish we did some projects. I do think the amount of work assigned was about right, but I wish did something to extend upon the concepts we kind of breeze over.
- MIPS. evil.
- Sometimes homeworks felt a little unnecessarily slow, although this could have been just me. Problems that took sort of brute forcing until it worked were a bit unsatisfying.
- Sometimes I felt like what we were being taught in the lecture wasn't explained as clearly as it could be explained.
- Sometimes the homework seems a little hard for me. Besides that, I have no complaints about this class.
- The course slides being posted is nice, but they can be unclear or missing content, as some of the content is only explained in class and not written on the slides.
- The homeworks weren't graded quickly enough so we weren't getting feedback until it was maybe too late. Also Assembly is annoying to write code in.
  And, the homeworks felt like they contained excessive/repetitive work, particularly with the header files and README's.
- The only considerations I have for something that could be improved would be the length of the homework or the homework grading/ feedback process. I noticed that the homeworks sometimes felt a bit long given my busy schedule, but upon further reflection it seems to me that they were of the minimal length required to still cover all the class material thoroughly and effectively. I think given the existence of grace days and the availability of office hours, the length of assignments is reasonable.
  The only other feedback on something I would see changed would be more frequent homework feedback. The professor already acknowledged this, but I thought I would reiterate as it is the only item I feel I can fairly state could be improved since everything else was pretty much great in this course. Once again, I have not been able to think of any other policies I would change - I think the course did everything it was supposed to in order to make success in learning the material readily possible for students.
- The pacing was very slow, lots of topics felt overly drawn out
- The part about this course that I liked the least was that the grading was incredibly slow. By the time I got feedback back from my homework, I had mostly forgotten about those questions.
- There were a few things (especially at the start) which I felt were left somewhat unclear or unexplained, little details like what `constexpr` is that just showed up in slides without being discussed. The other thing is the READMEs for the homework: I never know what exactly they're supposed to look like and I feel like I'm just repeating what the assignment says a lot of the time. I'm not saying that READMEs aren't valuable to ever have, but clearer explanations/expectataions around that part of the homework would be great.
- The worst part about the class was the actual coding, but that has more to do with personal biases than the quality of the class itself. For what it was worth, Olive taught the class the best she could
- This course has a lot of work, I really wasn't able to have a life outside of keeping up.
- Towards the end of the semester, primarily after starting on C++, there was a significant spike in the density of the content in the lectures which made them more difficult to follow.

5.3) Do you have any further comments, suggestions, or observations about your instructor's teaching or other aspects of the course?
HUM 110 only: Do you have any further comments, suggestions, or observations about any aspect of this course?

- Great teacher who really cared about the class!
- I really enjoyed this course!
- I really liked Olive!! She made me feel very comfortable in the course and she was very funny but still informative and a good professor.
- I think that Olive will continue to become an even better professor and overall they did a great job at teaching. I think that their care for their students and motivation makes them distinctly great as a teacher.
- I think that while Olive was clearly still learning how to teach as she went, (ie figuring out the right size for assignments, etc.) she still did a great job and was always helpful and accesable.
- I think there was a very good balance of the practical side of actually writing in the languages and the theoretical side of understanding why things are the way they are in the languages and what is happening in the machine.
- It was fun and cool
- Just plan more for grading systems and other teaching logistics. The lectures and slides were good, my professor brought great energy and enthusiasm to every class and was helpful during labs.
- Keep it up and good luck in grad school :) you'll be missed

- N/A (2 Counts)
- Not really, it's just been great to take this class! I'd be interested to see how much of the course (material) was yours and how much you inherited from previous instructors (Charlie?), not for anything significant but I think it'd be cool to compare the class taught by different people. Have a good summer, and whatever you end up doing I hope you have a great time.
- Olive is great and should be kept on if possible. From what I understand it is not possible. This saddens me.
- Olive was incredibly helpful and supportive in this class. She was more than willing to help me by answering any questions I had, even ones that pushed outside of the scope of this course. :)
- Once again reiterating that Olive is a fantastic teacher.
- Overall a lovely course, I hope Olive comes back here at some point before I've graduated. I'd love to have her as a prof again!
- Thanks for teaching, it was a great class - one of my favorites of the semester. I wish you the best in any future teaching endeavors!
- Thank you so much Olive! I had a blast taking your course!
- The introduction of more long term projects would be great, but other than that I loved the course!
- This course could've been the worst thing I've ever experienced with the amount of work it requires. But it was one of my favorites and only enhanced my love of computer science. That's all due to professor Olive.
- When doing board work, especially on longer problems (like translating loops or recursion into MIPS), remembering to ask students for the next step is important! Olive did a pretty good job at this most of the time, but sometimes seemed to get lost in the board work.