

C S 330-001 Fall 2010 - Comments

Responses: 6 Total

I thought Jay was a good teacher, but I didn't really like the structure of his class. I think his some of his homework assignments were more difficult than he realized and I didn't feel like I got very good feedback on the assignments.

Sometimes it was hard for me to know how I was doing in the class and how I could do better.

Jay is awesome. Harsh but just in grading, very accessible for any form of help. Subject matter for the course was the most I'd learned in the CS major in years.

Professor McCarthy is highly intelligent, I just wish he had done a better job of bridging the gap between what he found easy and simple, and what the students found easy and simple. He is quite condescending (without meaning to be, I'm sure), but I feel that he should be aware that his attitude can be a turn of to students that don't respond well to negative feedback and slightly veiled condescension

Great course!

Please be verbose when naming things (variables, functions)--it helps students keep things straight easier.

I don't know any teachers that are as available as Jay is--that's a huge plus. For example: responding to an email about an assignment on a Friday night after 9:00pm. Most teachers are far past caring at that time.

Sometimes quirks of Racket get in the way of learning. Please make sure to explain any little things we may not be used to but that can hold us back when doing the assignments.

Thanks

My complaint is that the assignments were very challenging and confusing. The assignments were looking for very specific answers, but gave little direction. There was little to no feedback as to what was the correct solution after receiving a grade. I found though, that Jay was very willing to help out and was very available. That helped. I believe that Jay has genuine interest in his students, but it wasn't always apparent (which is probably more the students fault). I learned the most when Jay lectured and used the board (garbage collection, types, etc), and less from the Racket lectures.

C S 330-002 Fall 2010 - Comments

Responses: 8 Total

I really enjoyed CS 330 with Jay. I felt like the first assignments were busy work at first, but after starting into the real assignments for the course I better appreciate what we had to do in the beginning. I think that it would have been more productive if we were given an overview of what we would learn in the course at the beginning of the course, that way we would have better appreciated the first Racket learning programming assignments.

I think that all of the assignments were useful in helping me better understand the concepts of the course and be able to apply them. Jay is very quick to respond to student's questions sent via email, however, simple and to the point questions will receive better answers. Jay seemed to have an "uninterested"/"put off" attitude when I would seek help in-person, but he was very responsive and helpful when I was with someone else.

I liked the fact that Jay started having students explain things in their own words after the midcourse evaluation, however, I think that he could do that more. The policy for not accepting homework late gave students the incentive to get things done on time. His strict format requirements still seem too stringent. We are in the class to learn how to design programming languages, so to not get credit for our work just because we haven't formatted the email correctly doesn't seem fair to me. I would have liked that we get a second chance on the garbage collectors assignment rather than the type inference assignment, especially since we got in-person feedback from Jay for that assignment.

I really enjoyed the concepts of programming language design that we discussed. I think that the principles I learned will be valuable throughout my career. I liked the fact that we were encouraged to design tests before actually writing the implementation.

Jay McCarthy is very passionate about the subject. It seems like he expects us to be as smart as he is. Sometimes it's a little scary to ask him questions in front of everyone because he might make you feel stupid. Good class overall.

The codewalk was a good thing on the garbage collection assignment, but it would have been nice to have one of those earlier in the semester so I knew better what you're looking for.

I learned a lot in this class and actually enjoyed it. It was a little rough starting out but as soon as I figured out the style of the class and what was expected things started to improve. Jay is a good teacher that is very passionate about the subject material and I learned a lot.

This class had a lot of interesting topics, but sometimes I was pretty confused. It could have just been me, but I think that it would have helped if things could be explained a little simpler. However, Jay was able to help fairly often, so there was always help when needed.

Jay is pretty approachable. Be sure you have paid your price to learn before you go to him, though. Nice that you don't have to buy any books for the class as they are available online. Sometimes Jay can be condescending when you ask questions as he prefers to do a lot of emailing instead of face to face and it's obvious he gets frustrated with students that don't see the world through the same perspective as he does. However, he makes himself available almost 24/7 it seems through email or google chat.

The topics taught were very interesting, but sometimes I could not understand the lectures because Jay sometimes teaches faster than I can understand. The text book was usually helpful when I didn't understand the lecture. I felt like the assignments was good for learning the principles of programming languages. The assignment turn in policy seems stricter than it needs to be. Even if people usually turn in assignment correctly, it would be nice to know we won't lose all the credit on an assignment for making a small typo in the turn in email. Also, this class was overall very time consuming.

Jay is a wonderful professor. His policies are shocking because they are quite different from what we have come to expect in the CS department. I think he has good policies overall though.

The grading is a bit confusing. I like to be able to see exactly where I got points and why. A key of the grading on the website would be very helpful. Also putting how each assignment will be graded at the beginning of it would be helpful.

Despite Jay's unwaivering belief that TAs should not be used, a TA would be very helpful. I see the mailing list as a form of public humiliation and tried not to use it. (That's not a problem that many people struggled with but it would be worse with larger classes.) Jay was very helpful during his office hours but I had to take off work to see him. A TA could offer more flexibility to students who need help at inconvenient hours.

Jay is the most intelligent professor I've ever had. I'm glad I got to take his class.
