Software Engineering Large Practical: Mid-semester feedback

Stephen Gilmore
(Stephen.Gilmore@ed.ac.uk)
School of Informatics

October 26, 2016
Contents

- Results of the mid-semester survey from last week
- Implementing some changes
- Android Studio demo
Keep doing this!

- Great idea for project; exact kind of thing I’ve been wanting to do on the course (three times).
- Good description of the coursework.
- I like that we are very free on how our app should look like.
- Lectures and lecture slides are good and useful (six times).
- Lectures are up-to-date.
- Examples and code snippets on the slides (eight times).
- Explaining Android concepts, showing how to get started (two times).
- Mentioning websites and resources for further info during lectures (three times).
- Video tutorial suggestions on the course webpage (two times).
- Answering our questions fast (on Piazza).
- Office hours and the possibility to come ask a question.
Start doing this! (1/2)

- Open Android Studio during the lecture to show us where things go (five times).
- Having a lab or tutorial for this course (four times).
- Two lectures a week (three times).
- I would like to know more (sooner) about what the design and implementation stages of coursework will look like (three times).
- More links to online tutorials and useful reading materials (two times).
- Setting benchmarks so people know at what stage their app should be at (two times).
- Recommending additional/alternative resources with each lecture (two times).
Start doing this! (2/2)

- I’ve have preferred more broad content lectures and been left to research Android nuts and bolts myself.
- More detailed instructions and examples of how to implement various Android things.
- More examples on mapping data.
- Complement slides with complementary knowledge.
- Showing how to build things up from bits of code seen so far.
- Upload slides the day before the lecture.
- Focussing more on the requirements of the coursework in the lecture.
- Allow more time for questions to be asked by students.
Stop doing this!

- Re-iterating slides.
- Not spending time in Android Studio.
- Don’t show YouTube tutorials during the class.
- Less technical talk in the lecture.
How can you improve your own learning?

- Starting to actually work on the app.
- Reading/watching more Android tutorials and documentation (eight times).
- Work harder. Deal with stress.
- Ask more questions; work more each week on the assignment.
- Following course concepts in more depth, trying various things on my own.
- Try to build several smaller apps to get accustomed with the environment.
- Do research on Android development as I still don’t feel confident enough to execute this project (two times).
- Refresh my Java skills.
- Spend more hours on the course (two times).
- Spend more time working in Android Studio.
Which statement best describes how you feel?

- I would prefer a more challenging course.
  - (2)
- I am happy with the level of challenge in this course.
  - (19)
- I would prefer a slightly less challenging course.
  - (6)
- I have found this course much too challenging for me.
  - (3)

---

Received 30 responses (out of a class of 69).
Implementing some changes

- Starting tomorrow, we will have an *optional drop-in lab session for SELP* in Room 1.B31 in Forrest Hill every Thursday from 15:10–16:00.
  - Attendance is completely optional. Just come along if you have questions/concerns.

- Starting next Tuesday, my *office hour for SELP* will move to Tuesdays from 15:10–16:00 in my office (Room 3.47 of the Informatics Forum).
  - Attendance is also optional. Just come along if you have questions/concerns.

- Starting now, using Android Studio in the lectures.
  - Live demo. Expect segmentation faults.
Links

- https://codelabs.developers.google.com/codelabs/material-design-style/