Informatics Student Course Feedback 2017/18

http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/surveys/2017-18

This report contains feedback from students about a course taught in the School of Informatics during the 2017/18 academic year, in response to the following questions:

- What would you say to students interested in taking this course?
- What did you find most valuable about the course?
- What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?
- Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

Each course organiser receives this report as well as statistics on multiple-choice responses. All these reports, together with student feedback about individual members of teaching staff, are collected and sent to the Director of Learning and Teaching.

Please note that these are personal responses from individual students: some courses only have a few responses and a small sample can be unrepresentative.

Stereotyping and bias, especially unconscious bias, is a serious concern in any survey gathering personal responses. All students received the rubric below before completing the surveys, and you can read a brief introduction to issues of unconscious bias on the university web pages at http://edin.ac/2iypZBv

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Rubric given to all students taking the end-of-course feedback survey

We value your opinions on the courses you take here at the University, as they allow us to shape future delivery and development. We welcome constructive comments about your courses, whether positive or negative, and ask you to give details about any issues in order to help the course organiser to understand and address them.

We encourage you to be aware of the potential for bias in the completion of these questionnaires, so we have developed resources which may be helpful to you:

- Equality, Diversity and Unconscious Bias (http://edin.ac/2iypZBv)

You also have a responsibility to provide feedback in a manner which does not breach the University's Dignity and Respect Policy:

- University of Edinburgh Dignity and Respect Policy (http://edin.ac/1Cq0VZY)

The results of the questionnaires will never be analysed in a way that seeks to identify individual students from their responses. However, should you wish to remain anonymous, please do not identify yourself in your answers to the survey questionnaire implicitly or explicitly.

Comments Report

What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?

- Do the individual reading.

- Get ready for hours and hours of learning to understand errors from cpp gnu compiler and qemu. Expect the questions on the exam to be not really about OS but about ideas and fundamentals like scheduling in a weird essay formatted question, which if you are not native speaker have to read a few times to actually understand what it is after.

- Go for it, both the lectures and the coursework are quite enjoyable. Make sure you read the coursework assignments while well rested. It is somewhat difficult to understand at first but once you do, the implementation is reasonably straightforward.

- It's easy to follow and understand.

- Quite interesting and very good lecturers!

- Recommended.

- Start the assignments early.

- Get started on the coursework early, as C++ and pointers can be quite confusing to wrap your head around! Also, make sure to use an IDE that will highlight pointer assignment inconsistencies :-)

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Interesting coursework, good lecturer

- The coursework assignments were challenging and gave me an idea of techniques of memory management, scheduling and file systems.

- The coursework in which included coding was the most valuable.

- The coursework was very challenging but helped give an idea on Operating Systems and their complexity.

- The courseworks were released from the start. The lectures were delivered very well.

- The lectures were really good at explaining the subject.

- The coursework is challenging and it's quite exciting to work on features that underlie the functioning of a system.

Comments Report

What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- Add some tutorials, maybe once every two weeks.

- I am not pleased that we didn't receive feedback from CW2 before submitting CW3. They are similar and I don't want to repeat stupid mistakes, for example if the marker wants me to comment or log more.

- I know it's probably hard to do it the proper way, but after doing the coursework assignments I didn't feel like that I, even partly, know how to do such a task because much of the complexity was abstracted away, either by the lecturer's provided code or by simplifying the task too much

- Provide more information for tasks to be completed in the coursework. Add tutorials and or workshops to practice exam questions in a group, practice c++ to train for coursework since c++ was never taught and that makes it difficult to do the coursework. Provide an environment where we can actually debug and test our code, the current system of writing and then getting compiler errors for error checking and searching through internet on how to fix some stuff just because it's c++ and qemu. An eclipse project with a configuration which runs the emulator and can debug the code is really helpful. Do this for next year students. Poor us.

- Recordings! There were NO recordings and I could not make it to most of them due to personal issues so I'm basically having to study everything without lectures.

- The code for the coursework is a bit of a mess in places. I would work on that a bit.

- The coursework was hard to get started on, as there was no help given regarding C++. Also, the lecturer speaks very fast.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- No tutorials, workshops or labs for this course.