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

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 not take the course unless it has been improved.

- Don't take it unless you aim to do a PhD in DS. Otherwise it is not worth your time. Take Extreme Computing instead. If you think taking both would be nice, it is not.
Coursework grades based on how well others did.

- The lectures of this course is not recorded.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Graph theory concepts that I did not know
- The practical part of the coursework and some of the lectures.
- There are so many algorithms I learned from this course

Comments Report

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

- I would definitely add tutorials.
The proofs on the slides skip a lot of steps, some hand ins would be useful.
Coursework assumes a solid probability theory knowledge, at parts outside of the material covered at Edinburgh. Lecturer seems to believe we all want PhDs in the field.
There was no information on the exam content, 2 weeks before the exam.
Questions are ignored on piazza.

- Lecture should be recorded. This course has too much with graphs, which should be a topic for the STN course, not this. Two 1-hour lectures per week would be better than the current one 2-hour lecture. Two weeks in a row, the lecture was cancelled without prior notification. Should add some labs to help with coursework.

- Spend more time on the course organisation. If homework is given, please provide solutions or explanations. If you are switching to more theoretical side of DS, then provide appropriate literature, tutorials, etc to learn from. RECORD the lectures! Some people cannot attend them and miss out on a lot just because you don't record them. It is possible to record the things you write on the board, so it should not be used as an excuse.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- No tutorials, workshops or labs for this course.