

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>

This information is provided for students and staff at the University of Edinburgh: **you may not redistribute or reuse it without permission**. If you would like the information in another format or want to use it in your own publication then please contact the Informatics Teaching Organisation at <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/contact>

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?

- Be prepared to work with Chinese and people from arts.
- Choose it, you will learn research methods to do the user research.
- Engage with the lectures and tutorials and ask questions! It is OK to not know something because everyone benefits from the answer
- a thankful prof, speak slowly and clearly if you are a international student
- keep yourself learning about the related references it would be helpful to know things you have not met before

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Being introduced to new research databases & knowing where to look for valuable information.
- I think that the analytical framework laid out by Cockton was a really good framework of analysis and I enjoyed learning about this topic. I also appreciate that we were forced into reading more scientific and academic literature on this course than the modules. I came to the university to challenge myself with reading like that.
- Lecturer's face-to-face tutorial
- Tutor and reading list
- learn to do research in the context
time management to read a lot lot lot lot of papers, which is very helpful
- learning materials and overview of the course

Comments Report

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

- For a course with the words 'case studies' in the title I was surprised that we didn't spend more time critically analysing case studies. I was expecting to be writing essays taking apart some of the concepts discussed, but they were only really used in tutorials which I don't think was maybe the best way to get the most out of everyone. Especially those more timid speakers in class.
- More activities during tutorials
- More case-study focused. I expected an actual case study to be discussed each week, looking at real world examples and companies, but it wasn't formatted that way. I feel as though some class topics were drawn out & could have been covered in one succinct class.
- More specific case analyse and more small tasks before the final group project
- The content of the course was ok, but one thing that could improve the course at a great level is the formation of groups, it should not be by random, and if that was the way, it would be better to make equal pairs of informatics and arts students, for example 1vs1 or 2vs2 , not 1 informatics vs 2 arts. There are also problems with communication and cultural differences that most of the times are impossible to deal, especially when you are the minority and the class is formed by 80% of Chinese student. Overall, I will suggest to give freedom to form groups with people they want.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- I'm not sure if the TA knew the class' abilities. One tutorial that comes to mind was when everyone was confused and it was not clear what she was doing. Someone asked "Are we supposed to know how to do what you're doing exactly on the screen?" and she said "Yes." and moved on, not really explaining. Tutorial times like those did not seem to align with the class structure.
- helpful nice