

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?

- Attend all the lectures
- No idea how the exam is going to be, but the course was really fun! It was the most interesting coursework for me.
- Plan enough time for the coursework and meet the lecturer in his office to talk about your project. The descriptions are too vague and too open.
- This course is about graphs and networks; not social networking, not Facebook.
- attendance to all the lectures and read them and the extra material after the lecture in order that you can follow the topics
- Be prepared for the project, pick the topic wisely.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- I found that the content was very relevant and inspiring. Provides a good perspective how people/things connect. This is very useful.
- It's actually a very interesting topic, with a lot of real world applications. Real fun to learn about epidemics and influence in a network.
- Project was interesting.
- The assigned project.
- I learned many new and interesting concepts
- The course contents are mostly very interesting, I like it when I can learn the cutting-edge knowledge.

Comments Report

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

- Lecture recordings and more structured slides. I don't have the lecture recordings on learn and reading the slides it's like reading a bag of words thrown there.
Coursework fun, but a bit more guidance related to working in a team would be nice (i.e. set clear boundaries on what is accepted to be shared and what not)
- Maybe the lectures can be recorded
- More mathematical formulation and algorithms.
- Too few guidance for project, eg the expected level of difficulty, etc
- There should be labs or tutorials to go over implementations of the algorithms mentioned in the lecture. Without that, the coursework was a struggle as I have never implemented some of the algorithms before.
- add more material of examples in real problems

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- No tutorials, workshops or labs for this course.