

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 not take this course, you will not learn anything here, your time is much better spent elsewhere. I guess the only reason you would want to take this course would be for doing basically nothing and getting good grades, but be smarter and don't do it/
- Do not take this course.
- Doing reading in advance.
- Good course, if you attend HCI first, it would be better
- I took the HCI course which helped me to better understand the content of The Human Factor.
- If you want a laid back course, with a lot of initial reading - go for it. But it is a lot of effort and the class is not as engaging as I had hoped.
- Just take this course as it's extremely helpful, even for software engineers
- Only take this course if you haven't already taken the Human-computer Interaction course.
- The content is not difficult and the lecturer is extremely clear in her teaching methods, but I struggled to see how the content of the different classes linked together.
- This course has a small workload and actually interesting material, but you have to dedicate time to do the readings if you want to get some value from this course.
- This is a flipped classroom so you spend most of the two hours in the lecture not doing a lot or playing with cat apps. It is very self-explanatory and you would do better doing all of the readings and not going to the lectures.
- This is an interesting class which is relevant for understanding how technology needs to be developed while keeping in mind all sort of people. It does covers some very useful concepts. The lectures though are not too interesting as they cover the material which needed to be read for the lecture and don't go farther.
- Take it!

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Getting knowledge of human factor.
- I know how to design attractive UI.
- I liked the variety of assessments and how you got to pick your own case study and usability report topics.
- Learned how to do usability study
- The 10 credits I got for completing it. Apart from that I learned absolutely nothing I hadn't already seen in the Human-computer Interaction course.
- The content is really interesting but somehow not the focus of the course at all.
- The content was relatively interesting. The assessment is not difficult.
- The course covers an interesting topic which is extremely useful for the future of our society as technology is more and more common and needs to be developed for more people to use it even people which might have disabilities, etc.
- The field class was interesting.
- The field trips
- The museum exercises were interesting.
- The teacher is very nice and engaged; I can see she is making an effort, even though the material does not really interest me.
- We could carry a series of self-study by learn.
- Well organised content, information always in place and on time, interesting techniques of delivering the course, great mix of theory and practice
- absolutely nothing

Comments Report

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

- - A better structure to the course webpage
 - Do not call it a flipped classroom - it's not a flipped classroom (reading before the course does not make it a flipped classroom). Or actually make it a flipped classroom - that might be nice.
 - Maybe some interesting discussions, instead of answering questions that are mostly answered by common sense alone.
 - More practical, perhaps work on designing something real. Most of the readings are just empty words without any real examples.
 - The whole course format was extremely confusing and there are far too many means of communication (to find out when quizzes are due, I have to check learn, the blog, and my emails). The website was especially difficult. I like the idea of a blog but information was really hard to find, and a lot of the website content is repetitive.
 - The lectures were designed to be interactive but the class was so big that this was impossible -- given that the content was so interesting, I would have much rather had 'real' lectures (regardless of class size).
 - The schedule was poorly organised, moving rooms every week and often to rooms that were inappropriate (lectures in Appleton Tower labs were awful). Weekly submissions were often not available or the due dates were moved.
 - Instead of interactive lectures, make the coursework a paired/group project. Interaction would be a great component of this course (as long as the material is actually taught as well)
 - Coursework feedback was minimal and didn't seem to explain the actual grades.
- Completely revamp the course material and design to complement the Human-computer Interaction course. Replace the lecturer.
- I cannot reasonably assess this course as I was deprived of most of the contact time, and thereby content, by the strike. Though I do not believe this to be in any way the fault of Dr Wolters, it is nonetheless difficult for me to feedback on a course in which, for a large part, I did not get to partake.
- I would rewrite the whole course from scratch. It's unclear how any topics that we studied relate to each other and/or app/tech design. All the activities we did in class reminded me of things we would do in kinder-garden. The quality of teaching was absolutely unacceptable for a university course.
- More practice.
 - None, it was just perfect.
 - The course material could be better organized. It is hard to find as she did not prepare one set of slides per lecture but expects you to do so for her. That makes learning harder and also the content each week does not have much link to each other, making it hard for students to see the big picture
 - The lecturer often covered topics in a two hour lecture which: 1) could have been covered in 20 minutes, and 2) we had to read about in advance anyways. The assignments were interesting but I think that having a group assignments might be more useful for this specific course. Also, maybe have tutorial lead classes to discuss the material would be better than lecture styles. The problem here might be the enormous number of students that enrolled this year. But breaking up the course into a 1 hour weekly lecture and a 1 hour biweekly tutorial session would be beneficial.
 - The methodology in HCI should be introduced more.
 - The venue of the course.
 - There is no clarity to the course, it seems to be that the main goal is just to ask questions of the students that they are already able to answer for themselves. A lot of the material taught in the course was common sense. It was the start of an interesting course but I feel that all of the content covered could have been done in one lecture and then subsequent lectures could have been spent delving deeper into the material.
 - There was a lot of conflicting information and the course website is extremely nested and difficult to navigate. I found it very hard to find information on what I needed to do for a given week, what the assessment was, what the assessments were worth, etc. I think we were given WAY too much information in an attempt to make everything clear and it just made it far more confusing. I think it was ridiculous that the venue changed every single week for this course throughout the semester and while I understand it can be difficult to estimate the amount of students taking a course at the beginning of the semester, it should have been sorted after a week or two. Alternating locations and the lack of teaching equipment seriously impacted my ability to learn and really made the whole course seem like a bit of a mess. We got way too many emails/notifications/reminders.
 - This course is not well organised - which is ironic given the course's aims. Maria tries to be informative, but sends too many confusing emails and the website is very poorly organised with too many sections that have different information for the same topics and its conflicting.
 - Timetabling screwed up big time which meant teaching was hard generally. This course needs a lecture theatre for teaching.
 - make the release and deadline of quiz and question & comments more clear, I have missed many of them at the beginning
 - the lecture format was very unstructured and sometimes I think I would have learnt more if there was a set lecture structure

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- No tutorials, workshops or labs for this course.