

Informatics Student Course Feedback 2020/21

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/surveys/2020-21>

This report contains feedback from students about a course taught in the School of Informatics during the 2020/21 academic year, in response to the following questions:

- What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?
- 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, tutorials or labs on this course
- Please add any other comments you have about the presentation of course materials online and their accessibility
- Reflecting on your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course, what has worked well for you?
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course that would help us improve our approach?

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

1. The Human Factor: Working with Users [INFR11141_20-21_SV1_SEM2_ONLINE_CACORE19] -

1.7) What did you find most valuable about the course?

- As one of the few courses in UI available for MInf students I found the course refreshing and interesting.
- I liked interactive elements during lecture that didn't include talking -- polls, questions to answer in chat, etc.
- I've learned a lot about human-computer interaction. This helps me to please my users.
- Interesting deep-dive in HCI, works well as a compliment to the HCI course
- It challenged me to think about things I normally would not. Great teaching team and program. The tutorials were very helpful.
- It is challenging and it partly broadens my vision in the User Experience study. I get to know more specific and professional terms in the HCI area as well as the Informatics.
- Maria is a very helpful professor she response very quickly I really appreciate that.
- The content
- The course materials are good. Tutorials are helpful.
- The data vis stuff was interesting and practical
- The lecturers were very well organized and helpful. The topics were interesting and well presented.
- The tutorial activities are quite interactive.
There are a lot of reading materials for students.
- Visualization part of the course. Tutorials were useful
- excellent all
- learned different partterns of data visualization, and theories of human-centred design
- the pre recorded lectures by benjamin bach were very interesting and well organised. same for maria wolter's powerpoints, they have clear concise information and it is very easy to follow and understand them
- working with users

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

- As an international student, I feel stressed when realizing there are massive reading materials within the course. And under the pandemic, I do it all alone. I hope there are workshops or other activities that allow students who comes from the same cultural background to share and discuss their ideas about the study materials. To have more academic communication with each other...
- I found it hard to engage with the readings. I think it would be better if there were discussions in the tutorials about the readings rather than making a Piazza post about them. Also I wish the page numbers were listed as I am much more likely to do the readings if I know they are short, than if they are all an unknown amount of pages. Stating that there will be a max of X (20? 30?) pages per week would also make me more likely to do them
- I found it very theoretical, adding practical components would be useful. There were too many readings which I didn't find interconnected and directing to single goal. Although Visualization part was interesting I didn't feel it somehow connected with the second part of the course
- I found the lecture style to be hard to follow in that the pace was way too slow, particularly in the latter part of the course. I think the main reason why people chose to keep their cameras off (in addition to the camera anxiety that we briefly talked about in class) was that the lecture was too slow and failed to engage our attention, so people would feel the need to do other things while listening (clean, look at other websites, etc), which would come across as rude on camera. Ways of improving in that respect could include using more interactive elements like polls and questions asking for people's own experiences, but most importantly trying to speak faster with less silence between sentences/talking points. In general I feel that students these days are used to having a lot of information thrown at them, and this pressure is partly what keeps them paying attention so as not to miss anything, but in these lectures the amount of important information shared seemed to arrive at such a slow pace that there was no need to actively pay attention.
- Ironically, the course fails to organise its materials in a intuitive way. Content for the course is distributed on 3 different platforms, which should be 2 at most. The dates, deadlines, information about the courseworks are difficult get hold of. Please, only use teams as channel for contacts, and to hold tutorials, in every other way please use Learn.
- Maybe focus more in the coursework preparation in the tutorials.
- None.
- Online class was hard to processed during pandemic especially if you are not in the same country. I am not sure if they could do better I know they did what they could I just hope I was able to go to the live class so I can feel more involved.
- The test was absolutely not acceptable. It didn't test the actual knowledge about the subject at all, it was just about how fast a student could read the questions. Very unfair for slow readers or people where English is not their native language. ü
- The visualization part, while interesting, wasn't very exciting, and half a semester on "beware of bad visualizations" was too long. This part of the course felt more like a first or second year undergrad course
- no

2. The Human Factor: Working with Users -

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

- Definitely worth taking if interested.
- Do the readings if you want to go deeper with your understanding of the material, but this is not needed to do well in the course. Tutorials are also not needed except if you need specific help with certain topics. You can do well by only reading the study guides/slides, but on a personal level you might be frustrated that these only give you surface-level, "common sense"-type information about visualization/user experience.
- Don't forget to write comments/questions every week.
- Follow the learning steps and you'll learn a lot
- Follow the lectures and attend tutorial sessions
- Good course, take it.
- Have fun with it
- I personally liked the data visualisation part much better than the HCI part. If a student is unfamiliar with basic HCI concepts then the course is very interesting, otherwise a different course might be more interesting.
- It's a great course for the student who wants to fully deep into the HCI area.
- This course is not as easy as it seems. It requires you to keep looking at things around you, find things that are flawed, and work on improving them. It's an interesting course, and you'll learn a lot about interacting with people that you didn't get to do as an undergraduate.
- a good course worth its credits

3. The Human Factor: Working with Users -

3.1) Please add any other comments you have about the presentation of course materials online and their accessibility.

- I found it a bit awkward to have to use Teams to find course material, use Zoom for lectures, and use both Teams and Piazza to talk about course content. I feel that it would be better to use Piazza for discussion, use Zoom for lectures, and have an external website with all the course content. This would be easier to access/navigate between different weeks' content than having to work with Team's clunky file system.
- I think pre-recording help me a lot than release the recording after the live because I have work during day time and the time different with UK and USA was not help to get things done on time since UK is 8 hours ahead of me.
- I think they are great.
- Ironically, the course fails to organise its materials in a intuitive way. Content for the course is distributed on 3 different platforms, which should be 2 at most. The dates, deadlines, information about the courseworks are difficult get hold of. Please, only use teams as channel for contacts, and to hold tutorials, in every other way please use Learn.
- None.
- The materials was through Team and Tutorial, Lectures through Zoom, assignment submission through Learn. I think that wasn't effective, would be better to concentrate in one platform. Although Learn has some issues, the courses where we used only Learn was better organized.
- Using teams rather than Learn worked well

6. The Human Factor: Working with Users -

6.1) Reflecting on your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course, what has worked well for you?

- I like using Zoom to meet with my tutors, it's very stable.
And I enjoy finding everything on Microsoft Teams
- I liked weekly live lectures, it provided a good structure in the week.
- I think Zoom is a lot more appropriate for lectures than Teams or blackboard
- It has no negative effect on the quality of study.
- Teams was used well and I was glad to not have to go to LEARN
- The courseware is very good.
- The university did not try to make any courses hybrid, it was just online learning.
- This was an online course, not hybrid teaching.
- remote uni has worked very well for me

- 6.2) Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course that would help us improve our approach?
- But it's easier to find what you're looking for if you add a title to the end of your weekly document. For example, use 'week 1 - topic' is better than 'week 1'.
 - Don't lie to students.
 - I found it difficult to find the zoom lecture link every week. I could never remember where it was posted at the start of the semester
 - It's good, I just don't like staring at the screen for a very long time for reading.
 - Look at this course as an example of how to use Teams well

9. Thank you -

9.1)

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your response and comments will be fully considered.

Please provide any additional comments you may have about the course, the teaching on the course or the resources that support it in the box below.

- Great teachers!
- Thank you, Maria and Ben, it was a memorable period in my lifetime, I really enjoy it.