Instructor Evaluation for COMP 326 001 (11825) - DIGITAL LOGIC DESIGN

Term: Fall 2009
Course(s): COMP 326 001 (11825) - DIGITAL LOGIC DESIGN
Cross-list(s): ELEC 326 001 (10361)
Enrolled: 39
Instructor(s): Mohanram, Kartik

Student Numerical Responses

Class Mean: 1.25 Rice Mean: 1.69
Responses: 32

Organization: The instructor's preparation for class was:

Class Mean: 1.34 Rice Mean: 1.89
Responses: 32

Presentation: The instructor's presentation of the material was:

Class Mean: 1.09 Rice Mean: 1.73
Responses: 32

Responsiveness: The instructor's response to student questions and requests for help was:

Class Mean: 1.71 Rice Mean: 1.89
Responses: 32

Classroom Atmosphere: The atmosphere that the instructor created in the classroom relating to respect, support, clarity, and equitable treatment for all members was:

Class Mean: 1.45 Rice Mean: 1.88
Responses: 31

Independence: The instructor's ability to encourage and foster the development of independent thinking and/or creativity was:

Class Mean: 1.41 Rice Mean: 1.89
Responses: 32

Stimulation: The instructor's ability to stimulate intellectual curiosity was:
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Enrolled: 39
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Student Numerical Responses

Class Mean: 1.19 Rice Mean: 1.64
Responses: 32

Knowledge: The instructor's ability to inspire confidence in his/her knowledge of the subject was:

<table>
<thead>
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Class Mean: 1.28 Rice Mean: 1.83
Responses: 32

Effectiveness: Overall, I feel that the instructor's effectiveness as a teacher was:

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<tr>
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<td>Poor</td>
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Class Mean: 1.26 Rice Mean: 1.53
Responses: 31

Responsibility: The instructor attended class, was on time for class, and returned assignments in a reasonable time.

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<td>Strongly Agree</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
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</table>
Kartik basically has solved the problem of teaching this course. The only thing which might need to be tweaked is the textbook. Better yet, just use Kartik's notes as the textbook next year and save everyone some cash, they're better anyway.

(12/29/2009 08:12 P.M.)

Kartik was a fantastic professor. He really went out of his way to make this a great course, he was extremely helpful throughout the semester, and his lectures were interesting and easy to follow. He's one of the best elec professors I've had.

(12/24/2009 03:12 P.M.)

Without doubt, one of the best ECE professors I have had a class with. A gifted teacher, his lectures fly by though the class is an hour and a half, which is something amazing considering the material can easily become dull if taught the wrong way. KmRam is very understanding and accommodating as well. He makes sure that you understand the material, and goes any length to ensure it. His one-on-one viva sessions were a good indicator of this.

(12/20/2009 02:12 A.M.)

Kartik comes across as a solid professor. His lectures can get a little repetitive when he's drilling on a subject, but he provides good resources in the form of notes. The rest is up to the student's own deductive power. I especially enjoy his "viva" sessions, which aren't so much verbal tests as they are guided refreshers on material.

(12/21/2009 10:12 P.M.)

Prof. Mohanram is a great lecturer. With every lecture, even a person who had previous knowledge of the material would learn something new. I've never been bored in any lecture I've attended, and this class is in the minority in that respect.

(12/29/2009 06:12 A.M.)

Kartik's presentation of the material was wonderful, and he always made himself available for questions.

(12/24/2010 03:12 P.M.)

Even though the subject he was teaching tended to be a bit on the boring side, Kartik usually was able to keep it fairly interesting and showed a genuine interest in the subject and his students. If you had problems, he would definitely be understanding and help you out and all that good stuff. Definitely a very good professor.

(12/19/2009 02:12 P.M.)

Everyone always told me Kartik was a great professor. I'd definitely have to agree.

He always makes an effort to make sure the students understand. He requires students to attend 2 "vivas", or oral exams. The purpose of these is to give students a chance to ask questions and understand rather than grade them. I don't think I've had any other professor who goes out of his way to make himself available to his students.

His lectures can become a little boring at times, but that's probably the course material's fault.

Graded work was also returned promptly.

(12/4/2009 12:12 P.M.)

Dr. Mohanram has thought hard about how to teach this class well, and it really comes across in his clear explanations and well-polished lectures. He is a knowledgeable, friendly, and patient instructor who really cares about this class. I very much enjoyed his teaching this semester!

(12/23/2009 07:12 P.M.)

Kartik is a great lecturer! This class is by far my favorite of the "big 4" (301, 303, 305, 326).

(12/2/2009 07:12 P.M.)

Kartik is great. The vivas are excellent and he always includes information is his lecture relevant to the history of technological development. He also occasionally tells hilarious anecdotes about India and going to IIT.

(12/18/2009 12:12 P.M.)

Honestly, the best professor I have had at Rice. He puts a lot of effort in this course and makes sure that everyone knows the stuff. I really enjoyed this class only because of the professor.

(12/4/2009 11:12 P.M.)

Lectures were interesting and he is very open to feedback. His vivas are always helpful too.

(12/16/2009 02:12 A.M.)

Kartik is a great prof, who is approachable and is always willing to help. Teaches the coarse in a very enjoyable way.

(12/19/2009 02:12 P.M.)
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Cross-list(s): ELEC 326 001 (10361)  
Enrolled: 39  
Instructor(s): Mohanram, Kartik

Student Comments

Total Comments: 20

Everything was fantastic, enjoyed the course. However when we got to clocking I felt unsecure. It was on the final and we didn't have enough homework or help with the material. The book isn't helpful. There is mixture of notation between the book and his notes for clocking. Other than that everything is great.  
(12/19/2009 08:12 P.M.)

Fantastic teacher, very welcoming of any questions whether in person or by email. I don't think I'm the only one who sees that Professor Kartik is dedicated toward his students.  
(12/16/2009 09:12 P.M.)

One of the most effective professor's I've had so far.  
(12/15/2009 05:12 P.M.)

Kartik is by far the most involved professor I have ever had. He attends homework sessions, holds test reviews, talks about the material in a way that almost fascinates, actively asks for feedback, and even requires a couple of one-on-one sessions that turn out to be really instructive and pleasant to attend. He responds to all questions very patiently, with understanding, and promptly. He does believe in challenging the students, which obviously means the tests and problem sets he writes turn out to be pretty hard, but he is fair and that is always appreciated.  
(12/17/2009 02:12 P.M.)

I think the professor handle pretty well considering the property of the course-lots of information and knowledge  
(12/19/2009 09:12 A.M.)

Very effective professor, extremely knowledgeable of course, and taught the class very clearly, little to no ambiguity about anything. Sometimes I felt the professor moved at a fast pace, but that was early in the course, after a bit everything smoothed out.  
(12/18/2009 12:12 A.M.)
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Cross-list(s): ELEC 326 001 (10361)
Enrolled: 39
Instructor(s): Mohanram, Kartik

Student Numerical Responses

Class Mean: 1.47 Rice Mean: 1.91
Responses: 32

Organization: The course organization was:

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Class Mean: 1.41 Rice Mean: 1.95
Responses: 32

Assignments: The contribution that the graded work (exams, assignments, studio, or lab work) made to the learning experience was:

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<tr>
<th></th>
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Class Mean: 1.38 Rice Mean: 1.93
Responses: 32

Overall, I would rate the quality of this course as:

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Class Mean: 1.34 Rice Mean: 1.85
Responses: 32

Challenges: I was challenged to extend my capabilities or to develop new ones.

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<tr>
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Class Mean: 3.25 Rice Mean: 3.01
Responses: 32

Workload: The workload for this course compared to others at Rice was:

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Class Mean: 2.16 Rice Mean: 2.45
Responses: 32

I am taking this course because it satisfies:

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Enrolled: 39
Instructor(s): Mohanram, Kartik

Student Numerical Responses

Class Mean: 1.77 Rice Mean: 1.43
Responses: 31

My expected grade in this course is: (Answer only if you are taking this course for a letter grade.)

Class Mean: 5.00 Rice Mean: 3.80
Responses: 7

My expected grade in this course is: (Answer only if you are taking this course Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.)
The exams were very hard and quite challenging. The homeworks were somewhat useful preparation, but we probably could have used a bit more pre-exam training. Lectures are very, very efficient and well organized. The class is clearly optimized for Rice-level intelligence and discipline, students at weaker universities would be utterly ruined. A very, very solid course.

(12/29/2009 08:12 P.M.)

I really enjoyed this class. It was challenging, interesting, and very well organized.

(12/24/2009 03:12 P.M.)

One of the best core elec classes ECE offers. Elec 220 gives you an appreciation for computers and programming at the smallest level, but Elec 326 teaches you the more useful things like verilog. The world makes sense after this class.

(12/20/2009 02:12 A.M.)

Elec 326 is appealing and interesting to systems- and design-focused Elecs. Of all the Elec courses, this one arguably demands the most creativity, as there are (like in real life) some problems that require a solution that can't just be worked out via process and requires a bit of imagination and problem-solving. What the class can teach you is how to simplify things and get as close as possible to that magic solution, and it does an excellent job. This course is required, but it's still rather enjoyable.

(12/21/2009 10:12 P.M.)

This course picks up right where ELEC 220 left off, and then goes farther into the abstractions necessary to understand modern digital logic. The pacing of the syllabus is good, and the material is interesting.

(12/29/2009 06:12 A.M.)

It was a well run class; most of the subject material was not terribly difficult, although the homeworks and exams had a tendency to suddenly have significantly harder problems than we'd seen in the past, and so the exams could be a bit challenging. The workload overall, though, was pretty light, featuring only a problem set ~every other week

(12/19/2009 02:12 P.M.)

I took this class as a Comp Sci major because I enjoyed the material in ELEC 220. I didn't find the material in this course quite as interesting though. The work is really challenging. I found the problem sets near impossible to do without TA sessions. The tests are very similar to the problem sets and are also difficult. The lab projects are rather straightforward. Overall, this is a good, but challenging course.

(12/04/2009 12:12 P.M.)

This class is really hard, but it is also really well-taught. It is probably best described as being an more in-depth look at what you learned in the first half or so of ELEC 220 (e.g., transistors, Karnaugh maps, Boolean equations, etc.). While many of the concepts come straight from ELEC 220, ELEC 326 kicks the difficulty up several notches. Homework assignments and exams are challenging and contain hard problems that require careful thought. (One thing you will learn from this class is that the problem of logic minimization / optimization is _very_ difficult!!) Nevertheless, the workload is not very heavy because you typically have two weeks to complete an assignment (a good thing), and the course assistants in the homework sessions are very helpful. (The graduate student TA for this class, Mihir Choudhury, was particularly good.) I found the class project very helpful in improving my understanding of Verilog (one of the things that is new to this class from ELEC 220). The pre-exam vivas (oral interviews with the instructor) were useful for helping me pinpoint my weaknesses so that I could direct my studying more effectively.

(12/23/2009 07:12 P.M.)

This course was a lot of fun! It was taught well, organized well, and had biweekly problem sets... everything an ELEC could wish for.

(12/02/2009 07:12 P.M.)

This course did not cover as much material as I expected. Instead it went very in depth with the material it did cover. The problem sets and exams were very reasonable.

(12/18/2009 12:12 P.M.)

BEST CLASS EVER!!!

(12/16/2009 05:12 P.M.)

It's a great continuation of the information you learn in 220. The 3 projects are manageable and build on what you learn in lecture in a very practical way.

(12/16/2009 02:12 A.M.)

Great class, whole reason I want to be a CompE. Very interesting class that really trains your mind to solve problems. Homeworks were like fun puzzles, great support system for the class. Highly Recommended.

(12/19/2009 02:12 P.M.)

Although we didn't have a lot of homework, each homework taught you a lot. The material couldn't be learned outside the class, which was hard when looking for practice problems.

(12/19/2009 08:12 P.M.)
If quality is analogized with cleanliness, this course is simply immaculate. Professor Kartik showed great dedication in helping us and making the flow of the course as smooth as possible. The professor was quite accommodating when we used a different scheme for our last lab. As a lot of the materials are covered more in handouts rather than the textbook, it is optimal to attend class, but the lectures are not at all unpleasant. The "viva" discussion sessions gave opportunity to clarify concepts. Hands down my best class this semester.

(12/16/2009 09:12 P.M.)

This course is an extension of the first four chapters of 220. There are only six problem sets, of which the four best are graded, and there are several very helpful homework help sessions the weeks they are due. A very practical and well-organized final project is completed over the course of several weeks; there are TAs available to help with this too, which is nice since Verilog seems a bit foreign when you're just starting out. Anyway, this course was challenging, fair, and lecture was really well done. The professor for this course does an amazing job and only praise can be given to it.

(12/17/2009 01:12 P.M.)

This is a challenging course but you can learn a lot

(12/19/2009 09:12 A.M.)

Quality of the course was not bad. Saw somethings I had seen before but in a new light, with more applications. Very challenging homework sets that require you to extend thinking.

(12/18/2009 12:12 A.M.)