

Spring 2015 Comment Report

JOHN HOMER

Course Sections

A CS 130 (01): Programming II: Data Struct

B CS 352 (01): Programming Languages

C CS 365 (GS): Theory of Computation

Comments -

- A**
- Dr. Homer is an exceptional instructor who teaches his this course very well. I would recommend this course to anyone who is interested in learning more about programming.
 - Kept class interesting and engaged with students well
 - Despite what I consider my borderline failing grade, and first one in college like this, I really enjoyed this class. I just think that their was not much time spent on Abstract Data Types as a whole, but more so towards the end when we never got to play with Graphs. I think the projects were given a fair amount of time to work on them, but I don't think it considers people with 18 hours of classes that have their own projects, and constant stream of heavy homework load.
 - I think the topic for this course is very hard to visual. It is really hard to connect how to solve the question on paper with how to solve it by using computer language. I think if we can take out a few assignments and combine them together (like tree) will be more helpful for student to build the ability of deal with bigger project in the future.
 - This class is essentially a weed out class for those who aren't suitable for more difficult programming classes later on. The student's failures are their own fault, as the professor makes expressly clear. I have only myself to blame for having failed so utterly to have measured up to a satisfactory standard and would probably be considering a change of major if I weren't already committed to this field of study. I will likely have to retake the class, and I would likely deserve to be required to. I honestly hate myself for this failure. As for improvements to the class, I think the disconnect between the largely practical nature of the coursework and the largely on paper test is a problem. Spreading the tests out more over the course of the semester may help better gauge students' grasp of the material over the entire course rather than loading it up into a couple all or nothing major grades. Either that, or give something like paper assignments to engage them on that front since there seems to be a clear disconnect between the standard the professor expects and the amount that the students grasp from their lectures and practical assignments. The homework assignments were fairly reasonable, and the solutions posted after assignments helped mend understanding after the fact (if not the grade). The major assignments are reasonable if one takes them on early. Maybe more substantial checkpoints for the more difficult projects could be useful for the sake of prompting students to start and work through the problems encountered therein earlier to help establish that behavior, but this is a college level course so that might just be considered coddling.
 - You are awesome. Thank You for teaching me.
- B**
- Dr. Homer, your class really taught me about the heart and soul of programming languages. This is my second time so I dived deeper into the concepts you taught us and the short quizzes and homework you gave me is what got me to learn the most because I'm actually doing the problems. You should use short quizzes often as they force other students to learn more frequently.
 - I am very thankful for all of Dr Homer's help in this class. I also appreciate that he always makes class fun and easy to look forward to even though it was really hard and I struggled with the content.
 - Dr. Homer is an exceptional instructor! His classes are difficult and he has high expectations, but he encourages us (students) to keep going even though we often feel like our brains will explode...and, in the end, we become stronger programmers. I think this hard-earned knowledge (and the confidence that comes with it) is the greatest gift a teacher can give his students...this, in a nutshell, is what Dr. Homer does in every class I've taken from him.

What specific actions and attitudes did you notice from your instructor that demonstrated his/her Christ-like character and conduct? -

A

- He was understanding most of the time.
- Helping student to further their knowledge.
- Dr. Homer was always willing to help his students and was an excellent example of a strong professor whose roots are in God.

B

- Understanding
- His patience and encouragement.
- There were several times this semester when I did not think I was going to make it through and Dr Homer was always there to talk to and to offer support. He clearly cares a lot about his students and I'm thankful to have him as a professor.