

Fall 2015 Comment Report

JOHN HOMER

Course Sections

- A** CS 120 (01): Programming I
- B** CS 120 (02): Programming I
- C** CS 130 (01): Programming II: Data Struct
- D** CS 332 (01): Design & Analysis of Algorithm

Comments -

- A**
 - Modules blended well with in class discussions. Homework was good test of knowledge. I didn't need to use any of of homework hints but i was glad they were there. I have been stuck trying to figure out solutions to exercises in the past, usually in the middle of the night, and would have loved something like this to point me in the right direction.
 - It was a good first impression on me. I came into the year not knowing anything about programming and now I feel well educated.
 - Thank you!
 - I think Dr. Homer did a good job teaching this course, however, I found he did not spend as much time helping people who did not understand the material in class. For my learning style, it would have been helpful for Dr. Homer to work through more problems in class and allow me to have my computer out to take notes. I cannot write as quickly as he types, so it was hard to keep handwritten notes, which was a problem when I was trying to do homework later on.
 - I found it difficult to take notes without being able to use my laptop. I tried to write notes but by the time I could write things down Dr. Homer had already typed over it. I had trouble following the lecture when this happened. I also found that getting my program shared with the class without discretion was intimidating and hindered my motivation to learn.
- B**
 - Thank you for a good semester and helping me solidify my decision to be a CS major!
 - This course was an amazing intro to the world of programming. The professor also does an amazing job of maintaining control of the class as well as keeping participation up and helping students any time. The course itself is challenging, yet not ridiculous and is enjoyable at the same time. 5/5 stars
 - I Literally came from zero to real knowledge in this class. thank you for your help.
 - Amazing Teacher.
 - All the resources are there for students to succeed. It took me a week to understand how to do the most simple "hello world" program because of a lack of prior programming experience, but the reading/video modules are extremely helpful. Professor Homer is always willing to answer specific questions to help students understand how to do an assignment, but the problem is many students simply don't seek help. I went to tutoring often, and the TA, Jaymie, was always both very knowledgeable and willing to help.
- C**
 - Awesome teacher that really pushed me to learn the stuff instead of just enough to do the assignment.
 - I enjoyed this class a lot, the only problem that I had in general was some of the project deadlines came up faster than I could work on them. Usually he would shift the dates to accommodate, since this was the case with most students.
 - There will not be an easy A from this class, your grade definitely has to earned. Dr. Homer is very helpful and recognizes people that take initiative to learn and become better programmers.
 - Very fun and engaging course. I learned a lot from the course not only in terms of a new programming language, but data structures, how memory in a computer works, and many other things I wouldn't have otherwise learned.
 - Dear Dr. Homer, I sincerely enjoyed your course, and believe that you are an exceptional teacher! I do believe that allowing students to engage with concepts from future courses, such as "Object Oriented Programming" would benefit them tremendously, even if students are still required to avoid them in the present course. A vague familiarity with foreign concepts would make their

Comments -

introduction less jarring in the future, and would encourage students to learn at their own pace, even while conforming to course-expectations. I deeply enjoyed this semester, and look forward to taking your classes in the future!

D

- I wasn't very diligent during the first two-thirds of the course. We both know this, and we both know that that's on me. Knowing that, I really appreciated receiving those emails telling me how much I had let myself fall behind. That's not something I expected, and to be honest, I probably wouldn't have gotten out of my slump without it. While I wish I had that sooner, I'm honestly surprised to have gotten it at all. Regardless of weather or not I do well enough on the final to get a C, I am grateful that you sent me those words of encouragement; they helped more than you realize, even if they didn't seem like much at all. Regarding the actual course, all I can think of is those times you ask us to talk with our tables. Someone has to have an idea to start the conversation with. In the future, try to guide the start of those conversations a little more than simply asking a vague question such as "what does X have to do with Y?" In that situation, either someone figures it out, tells the group, and no conversation occurs, or, nobody figures it out and no conversation occurs because we aren't going to say things we know to be wrong. I noticed that we spent a lot of class time on these discussions and they really only yielded results at the start of the course when things were new and we were less likely to know we were wrong.
- While this course was very difficult, this course taught me so much, and it was an enjoyable class as well. Very well done. Dr. Homer is so enthusiastic every day and his humor just adds to every course he teaches.
- Great course. I liked the way that the course was structured around assignments instead of tests. It was much easier to learn the course material and made the course enjoyable instead of stressful as many other courses are.
- This class challenged me to go further and work harder than I have for any other class in college so far - but in a way that has allowed me to grow significantly, especially in my confidence in my own ability to solve problems and find answers even when something initially seems impossible. Dr. Homer is always extremely helpful, available, reasonable, and fair, and I have so much respect for the way he teaches his classes - even though they are always very difficult. Even though this class was a fairly constant struggle and I haven't always scored as well on things as I would have liked, I consider this class to be extremely successful in that I will take so much away from it and have learned a lot not only about the course content but also about myself. I'm thankful for Dr. Homer's commitment to expecting nothing less than excellence because it has made me a better student.

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

- This was a computer science class. I don't think it gets very Christian.
- Teachers responses demonstrated well thought out answers, usually pointing out soon of the existing nuances as well.

B

- He is always very patient with everyone despite past experiences with them and doesn't judge anyone or ever imply that a question is a stupid question, even if it is a simple question about something that was just covered or assumed everyone should know. He likes leaving a little food for thought and hints to show how things relate to the big picture of life and God, too.
- The way he conducted himself in class.
- Professor Homer does an amazing job of including everyone and caring about the success of everyone in the class. He tried at certain points throughout the semester to point out ways in which the work we do as programmers relates to the image God has for us. He is a man of good character and is also great at getting ideas across clearly in a way which rookies and novices alike can understand.
- He let me take a test early in order for me to go home to my family, even though it was inconvenient for him.

C

- Always an uplifting and happy person to be around. I looked forward to coming to this particular class everyday because my professor made it an enjoyable experience.
- Dr. Homer often leads sitc break out chapels.
- Dr. Homer was merciful with deadlines, often making accommodations when students had extracurricular interferences or if the whole class struggled with a particular subject. He also appointed class-time for students to work on particularly difficult questions. Finally, he encouraged students to stop by his office if we had questions we couldn't resolve otherwise.
- Patience and grace

D

- The instructor made efforts to protect his students from the horrible, evil "real" world.

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

- Dr. Homer is kind, he clearly cares about his students and their learning, he is reasonable and he consistently makes his classes a comfortable atmosphere that is enjoyable and beneficial to students.