IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

To: Alexander Stoytchev
Personal and Confidential

HCI Student Ratings of Teaching Results for 2023 Spring

Alexander Stoytchev,

In the attachment you will find the student ratings of teaching results of the survey S2023-HCI-575-1 [Alexander Stoytchev (alexs)] (Lecture).

If you have questions or comments contact your HCI Student Ratings of Teaching Administrator or email student-ratings-of-teaching@iastate.edu

- ISU HCI Student Ratings of Teaching Administrator

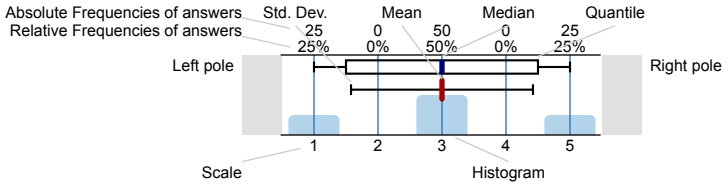
Alexander Stoytchev

S2023-HCI-575-1 [Alexander Stoytchev (alexs)] (Lecture), AY23-ISU
No. of course participants = 31
No. of responses = 10
Response Rate: 32.26%

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Legend

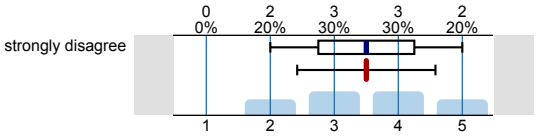
Question text



n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
md=Median
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

1. Student Feedback for S2023-HCI-575-1 [Alexander Stoytchev (alexs)] (Lecture)

1.1) The instructor provided feedback on my academic work that was helpful to my learning.



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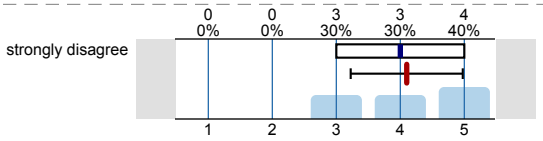
md=3.5
dev.=1.08

1.2) The instructor assisted me when I had questions regarding course content during the semester.



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av.=4.1
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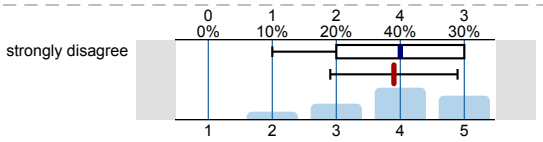
1.3) The instructor established an environment that was conducive to learning.



n=10
av.=3.9
md=4
dev.=0.99

1.4) What helped your learning the most in this course?

- Assignment and video lectures
- Dr. Stoytchev does a great job of explaining complex topics in a much more understandable way. His creative use of analogies, visual aids, and examples, mixed with humor to keep things engaging, makes him an excellent lecturer.
- Good examples in lecture to work through for homework
- Googling concepts. The video lectures do not entirely represent the concept, and accomplishing tasks on homework becomes difficult.
- Recorded video lectures
- The assignments were extremely well designed and really complemented the lectures well. The lectures were fantastic too, with well designed slides. Dr. Stoytchev has a great grasp of the material and is able to disseminate it in a way that even people such as myself with minimal background knowledge grasp the material quite effectively. The fourier transform in particular was explained really well in a really intuitive way.
- The lectures were the most useful as well as the online resources. The homeworks also helped a lot to fully understand each topic.
- The material provided and the homework assignments thoroughly covered many topics and allowed the students to form a good understanding of them.

1.5) What changes could have been made to enhance your learning in this course?

- Don't just repost old lectures. Post homework information in one place on canvas, not piecemeal over several emails and canvas posts that need to be pieced together to figure out what to do for the assignment. If the class needs to be online, have it be synchronous so questions can be answered during lecture.
- Faster feedback on homework assignments is always nice, although it isn't too much of an issue due to the topics changing between assignments. I'm also usually not very fond of asynchronous lectures, but it was manageable for this class.

- In person lecture would be much better
- It would be nice to make this a synchronous course again. Sometimes the recorded lectures from 2021 were out of sync with the homework and project timelines and emails. It was confusing at the start of the semester to hear live questions and comments about office hours after lecture because it wasn't initially clear that the recordings were being reused. I also did not feel that I got much value out of the group project; there are plenty of opportunities to work on research and writing skills in other classes. It seems that most of the teams used machine learning models for their project, rather than building on the topics we learned about during class, making it feel more like an independent study on top of the lecture series and homeworks.

  My low rating for the instructor providing feedback on my academic work is because grades were generally posted late, and we only received feedback on our project proposals from other students (and they still have not been graded). I do not get the sense that the professor is very engaged with this semester's students.
- More open office hours, use Canvas to post homework/assignments instead of emailing as this allows keeping everything in a single place instead of looking at ten different venues for the material.
- Note: I wish there were a better scale/more open-ended response type for the course and professor ratings. I wouldn't say the course is so bad as to be rated poor, but there were some aspects that really didn't work well for me.

  Although I definitely think the material is valuable and the professor was friendly and fair, the course was very fast-paced for the amount of depth it covered. I would only recommend this course to people who fulfill 2 conditions: they are *deeply* interested in human computer perception and they have a *very* rigorous mathematical and programming background. The content was covered in depth (which I appreciate but felt overwhelmed at times), and the assignments took more time and effort beyond even what I expected compared to other graduate level courses. The professor did give a heads up about the course difficulty at the beginning of the semester, but if I'd known then what I know now (instead of assuming he was joking) I would've dropped and taken a different one.

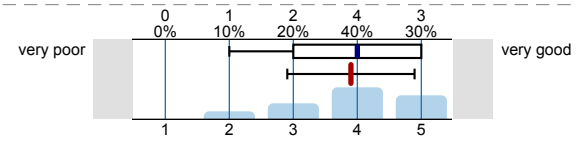
  I did reach out to TAs and attend office hours a few times, but since I also work full time and have another class/personal life obligations, I didn't make full use of this resource. Unfortunately, in some cases the TAs were unable to offer specific advice on my software related questions. However, I don't fault the TAs for this, because everyone has different OS and it's unreasonable for the TAs to know how to resolve the issues for every combination of OS/software. Although the professor provided lectures on how to set up Matlab and opencv (especially since there are many ways to set up opencv), I didn't find them to be as helpful as I would've liked. I also felt that I didn't get a good grasp on either language, since the coursework switched from using Matlab to opencv after a point (although we were allowed to return to Matlab for some of our assignments). I understand that each language has its pros and cons, but it may have been better to pick one and focus on it, since the semester goes by pretty fast.

  As for the assignment due dates- although the assignments were posted within a reasonable timeframe, I think both the students and professor underestimated how much time it'd take to complete them. In some cases, the professor would give a last-minute extension, but then there wouldn't be much time until the due date for the next assignment. A lot of the students would struggle to complete the next assignment (especially if they had to install different software/learn a new language for it) within the remaining amount of time. This caused a significant amount of stress until the professor granted another last-minute extension... which would then leave less time for the assignment after that.

  In summary, the content is good, the professor definitely knows the field (and is open to giving extensions when issues happen), and the grading is fair. However, the course organization and overall difficulty make it hard for me to recommend this class to other HCI students. Course organization wise, it may be more helpful to focus on one language and spend more time at the beginning of the semester getting students properly set up for it. Once that's out of the way, the students can focus on learning the language without continuing to struggle with installation/set-up issues.

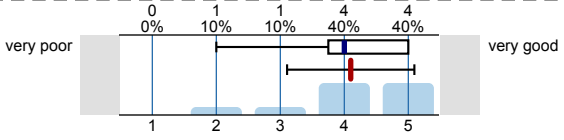
  Final note: good luck to anyone who takes this course, because they will need it.
- Nothing
- One small change I would suggest is that face to face lectures (along with released online video content) would have been better. It would've been nice to get to know more of my classmates in this class.
- The lecture slides could be posted in PDF format, otherwise everything was clear.

1.6) My overall rating of this course is:



n=10
av.=3.9
md=4
dev.=0.99

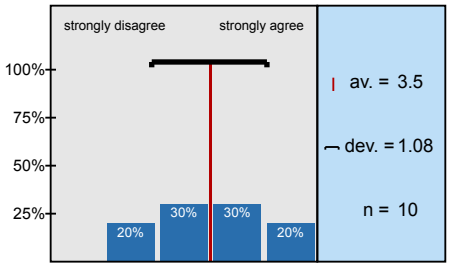
1.7) My overall rating of the instructor is:



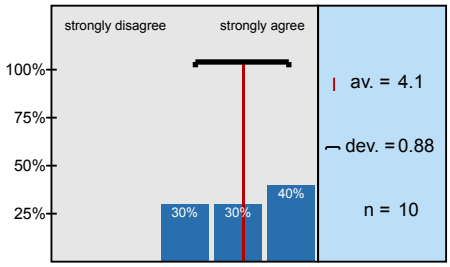
n=10
av.=4.1
md=4
dev.=0.99

Histogram for scaled questions

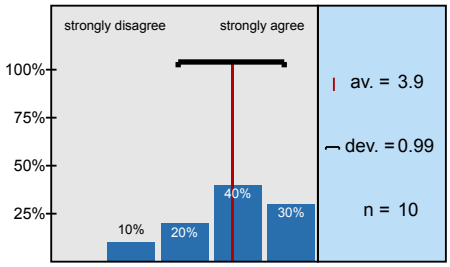
The instructor provided feedback on my academic work that was helpful to my learning.



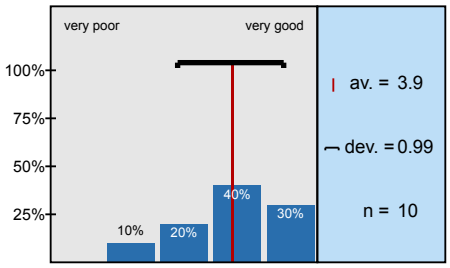
The instructor assisted me when I had questions regarding course content during the semester.



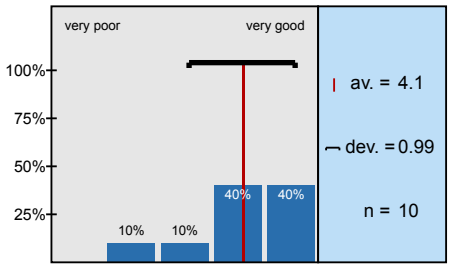
The instructor established an environment that was conducive to learning.



My overall rating of this course is:



My overall rating of the instructor is:

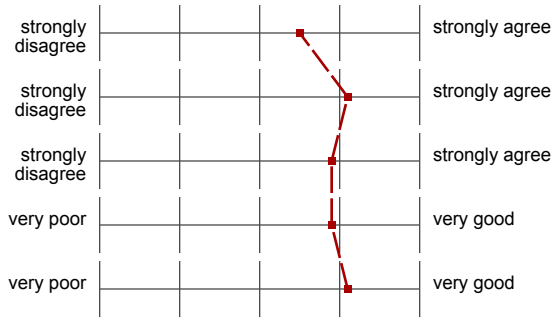


Profile

Subunit: HCI
Name of the instructor: Alexander Stoytchev
Name of the course: (Name of the survey) S2023-HCI-575-1 [Alexander Stoytchev (alexs)] (Lecture)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

1. Student Feedback for S2023-HCI-575-1 [Alexander Stoytchev (alexs)] (Lecture)



1.1)	The instructor provided feedback on my academic work that was helpful to my learning.	n=10	av.=3.50	md=3.50	dev.=1.08	
1.2)	The instructor assisted me when I had questions regarding course content during the semester.	n=10	av.=4.10	md=4.00	dev.=0.88	
1.3)	The instructor established an environment that was conducive to learning.	n=10	av.=3.90	md=4.00	dev.=0.99	
1.6)	My overall rating of this course is:	n=10	av.=3.90	md=4.00	dev.=0.99	
1.7)	My overall rating of the instructor is:	n=10	av.=4.10	md=4.00	dev.=0.99	