

CS 675: Spring 2020 informal course evaluation

Mason has canceled student evaluations this semester. I think that's unfortunate. If ever there was a semester where feedback on instruction is important, this is it. To that end, I am asking you on your opinions on how the course went. This is NOT the traditional GMU survey form, although I am borrowing questions. This is anonymous and not for credit.

Consider the class BEFORE spring break: What went well?

In-class discussion, assignments, presentation, readings were all effective. Focus questions for the readings were helpful.

Consider the class BEFORE spring break: What could be improved?

Maybe before each reading assignment, spend 10-15 minutes in the previous class to review high-level main points of the articles and what problems the article is trying to solve. That way, when reading the article, it will give more context to what we're reading, and more might sink in more rapidly.

Consider the class AFTER spring break: What went well?

Nearly seamless transition to online learning (all things considered). Presentations and real-time editing came through fine, and class discussion was good. Review of assignments using screen sharing continued to be doable. Although I didn't use them, having the recordings of the lectures (in case people have connectivity issues DURING the actual lecture) is invaluable.

Consider the class AFTER spring break: What could be improved?

Sometimes there is a lot of static on the sametime meetings when certain individuals are speaking, but that is likely uncontrollable and due to connection issues for specific people. Any improvements to real-time collaboration would be good.
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Consider the transition to online in your OTHER classes: What went well?

n/a
.....

Consider the transition to online in your OTHER classes: What could be improved?

n/a
.....

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Consider the class BEFORE spring break: What went well?

Lecture and programming in Go

Consider the class BEFORE spring break: What could be improved?

Not sure I would change anything

Consider the class AFTER spring break: What went well?

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Consider the class AFTER spring break: What could be improved?

.....

Consider the transition to online in your OTHER classes: What went well?

Turning on the webcams to see everyone. Professor's being able to mark the slides was helpful.

Consider the transition to online in your OTHER classes: What could be improved?

It was hard to find the right links to webex sometimes.

Communication on Piazza stopped completely and talking to others helps me do better in class.

Doing proposals while making progress on the final project was challenging. I would've preferred to focus on improving my project and submitting less formal proposals.

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Consider the class BEFORE spring break: What went well?

- + Prof Cheng was very well prepared for every class.
 - + Slide presentations were very good, and seemed to reflect a lot of work.
 - + Good encouragement of class participation.
 - + Prof Cheng gave out programming assignments early. That is something I like personally.
 - + Giving out project ideas was done reasonably early.
 - + I thought picking Go for the class programming language was a good choice.
 - + I really liked that an early version of the class web page was up already by December 2019 (I think.) I found it with Google, and it gave me a chance to read a Go programming book before class started.
 - + Grading was quick.
 - + Throughout the class Prof Cheng was engaged on the projects and answered questions, made suggestions etc.
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Consider the class BEFORE spring break: What could be improved?

- + The programming assignments were good, but could have been a little more challenging. That being said, I've been doing *nix system programming in Python/Perl/C++ for a long time, so I have an advantage over other students. So I don't think making assignments for my level of experience would be fair to less experienced students would be fair either.
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Consider the class AFTER spring break: What went well?

- + Mostly everything from before spring break was the same.
- + Prof Cheng continued to deliver excellent and informative lectures.
- + I think having the questions to answer about the papers is a really good idea.
- + We got about as much time as possible to work on our projects and do our take home finals.

Consider the class AFTER spring break: What could be improved?

- + Well, there were problems with the A/V systems, but that's not the teacher's fault.
- + I don't think we got grades for lab 2 (but I didn't bother to ask about it either, because I knew I'd done well.) Maybe I just missed something.

Consider the transition to online in your OTHER classes: What went well?

This was my only class.

Consider the transition to online in your OTHER classes: What could be improved?

This was my only class.

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