



Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) for Lucy Lai

COGS 109 - Modeling & Data Analysis (Lai, Lucy)
Fall 2025

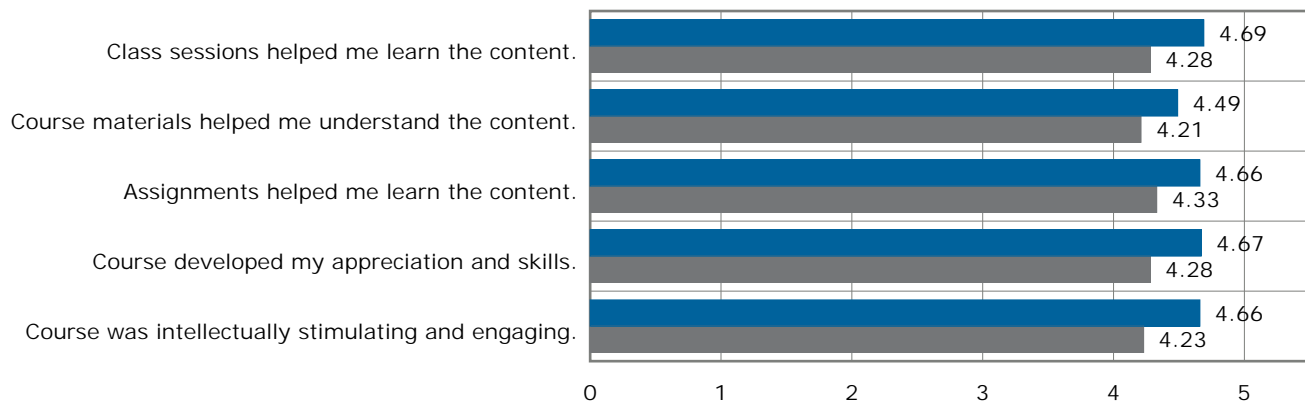
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 86

Number of Students Enrolled: 104

Summary Results

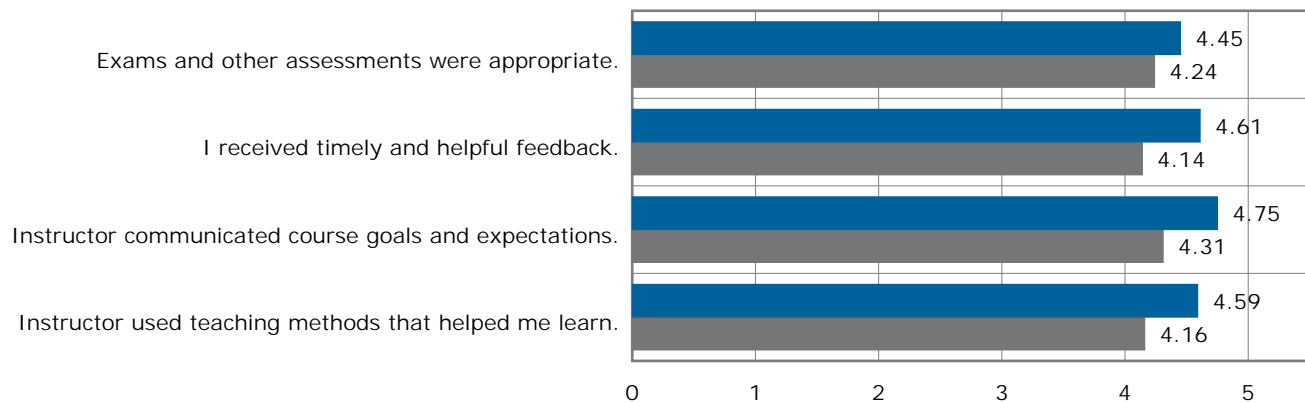
Student Learning

■ Comparison course(s) * ■ This section



Course Structure

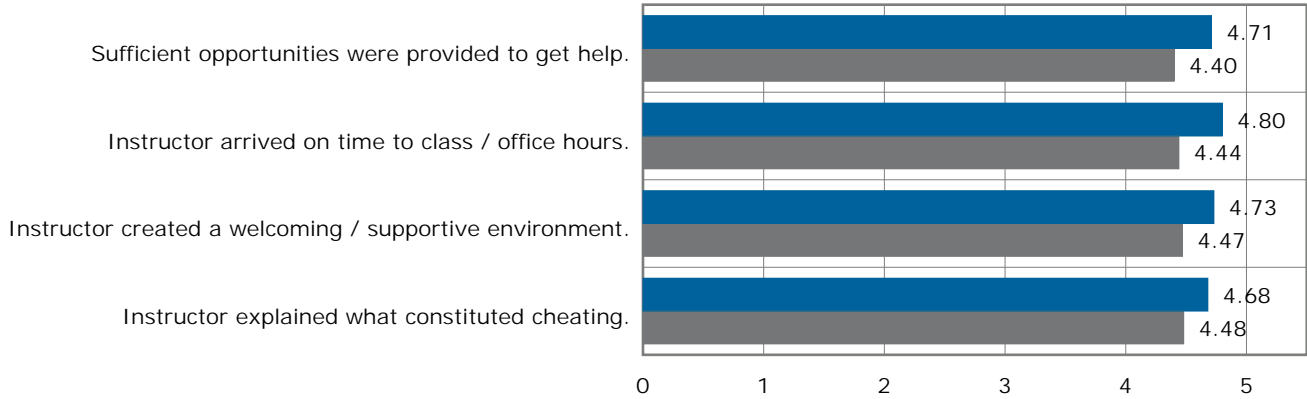
■ Comparison course(s) * ■ This section



* Comparison courses used: All Cognitive Science Fall 2025 UD courses

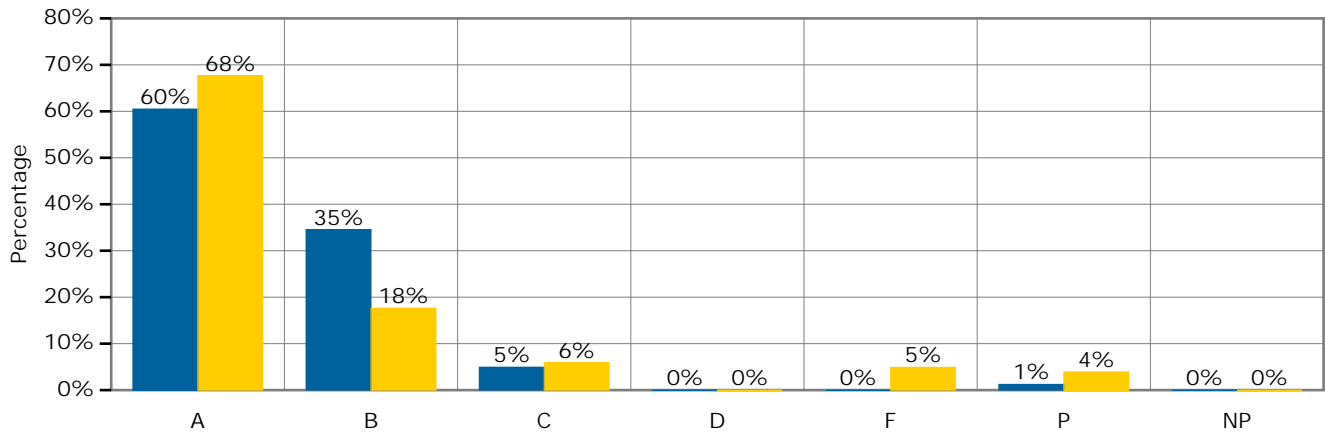
Class Environment

■ Comparison course(s) * ■ This section

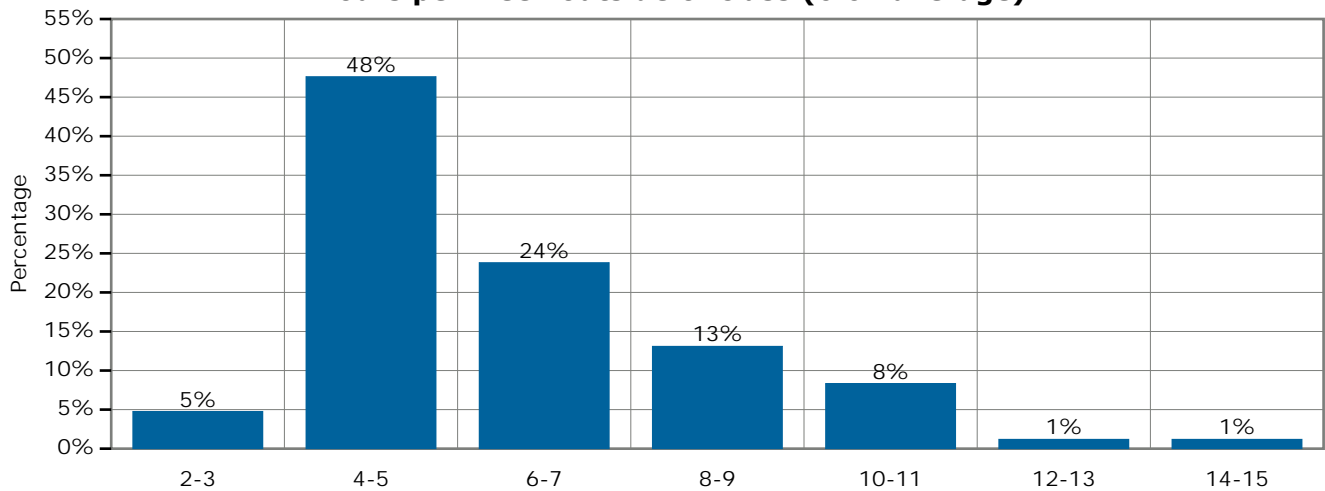


Expected Grade (B+ average, 3.56) vs. Grade Received: (B+ average, 3.46)

■ Expected ■ Received



Hours per week outside of class (6.62 average)



Full Results

Student Learning

1. **Class sessions** helped me learn the course content.

61 (70.9%):	Strongly Agree
24 (27.9%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.2%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion

2. **Course readings and other course materials** helped me learn course content.

48 (55.8%):	Strongly Agree
29 (33.7%):	Agree
7 (8.1%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
2 (2.3%):	No Opinion

3. **Assignments** (homework, projects, etc) helped me learn the course content.

59 (68.6%):	Strongly Agree
25 (29.1%):	Agree
2 (2.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion

4. The course **developed** my **appreciation** of and **skills** for the subject.

60 (69.8%):	Strongly Agree
24 (27.9%):	Agree
2 (2.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion

5. The course was **intellectually stimulating and engaging**.

60 (69.8%):	Strongly Agree
24 (27.9%):	Agree
1 (1.2%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.2%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion

Course Structure

6. The instructor effectively communicated **course goals** , learning **outcomes** , and **expectations**.

67 (78.8%): Strongly Agree
16 (18.8%): Agree
1 (1.2%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.2%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): No Opinion
1: [No Response]

7. **Exams and other assessments** (essays, projects, etc) were an appropriate measure of course learning outcomes.

50 (58.1%): Strongly Agree
28 (32.6%): Agree
6 (7.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.2%): Disagree
1 (1.2%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): No Opinion

8. I received **timely and helpful feedback** in this course.

56 (65.1%): Strongly Agree
25 (29.1%): Agree
4 (4.7%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (1.2%): No Opinion

9. The instructor incorporated **teaching methods** that helped me learn.

54 (64.3%): Strongly Agree
25 (29.8%): Agree
3 (3.6%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.2%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (1.2%): No Opinion
2: [No Response]

Class Environment

10. There were sufficient **opportunities offered for me to get help** when needed (e.g. established office hours, discussion section, discussion board, etc).

62 (73.8%):	Strongly Agree
20 (23.8%):	Agree
2 (2.4%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion
2:	[No Response]

11. The instructor **arrived on time** to class sessions and office hours.

69 (81.2%):	Strongly Agree
15 (17.6%):	Agree
1 (1.2%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion
1:	[No Response]

12. The instructor created a **welcoming and supportive learning environment** that valued and supported students from all backgrounds and identities.

65 (77.4%):	Strongly Agree
17 (20.2%):	Agree
1 (1.2%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (1.2%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion
2:	[No Response]

13. The instructor explained what constituted cheating in this course and emphasized the importance of **academic integrity**.

61 (71.8%):	Strongly Agree
21 (24.7%):	Agree
3 (3.5%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	No Opinion
1:	[No Response]

Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that...

14. Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that particularly helped you to engage with the material, learn the material, and/or develop your own critical perspectives on the material.

- 4 midterm-like exams rather than a final exam helps lessen the stress while keeping me on my toes for the next topic.
- all of in class questions and the quizzes she gave out. her lecture slides were so well detailed but not too cluttered that it was too much. just perfect.
- class participation questions
- Dr. Lucy Lai created a course that simply isn't designed to "get a good grade", but it's a course where a student can get a good grade by exemplifying mastery and practice. Her teaching and grading philosophy sides with the student and gives the student ample opportunities to get a good grade while being able to learn and master the material. The homeworks, although lengthy, are designed to make you understand the content thoroughly, along with her quizzes and weekly reflections. The course design is phenomenal; I feel like a lot of courses here at UCSD should take notes on how this class is structured. 10/10.
- Having weekly quizzes and homework that reflected on the teaching material helped me engage and learn from the material. Her examples in class was relatable and easily understood to where I could develop my own logic and reasoning behind each topic.
- Homework that wasn't graded per answer allowed me to take time and not stress about a specific answers and instead, allowed me to expand in ways that were right for me.
- I appreciated having a quarter-long project so I could get some hand-on experience with at least one of the models. I think I understand how it works better since I had to work with it all quarter
- I found that her real-world examples and demonstrations helped me understand some of the concepts better, e.g. KNN models and bagging.
- I liked the way that the homework was formatted as almost a study guide for the exam. Professor Lai was genuinely interested in how she could make the class better for students and it was very catered toward student success.
- I really like the project and how it wasn't just about the grade that we got and how we got opportunities to actually learn instead of just focusing on the grade.
- I really liked the lectures for being dense and yet easy to follow.
- I really liked the multiple different opportunities to earn points in the course as the "optional" aspect made it much more engaging for everything to come from a choice that I personally make, like going to class was my choice where I could learn the material better, I could learn the material in office hours well, etc.
I also really appreciated the live demos in class !
- i think have low stakes assignments that also help buffer your grade, such as the quizzes and homework being counted for participation only really helped me have time to understand the material without being stressed about my grade. i think it was really fair and made it really easy to go back and study for exams.

- I think the weekly homeworks were extremely engaging and gave a refresher on that week's work. They were considerably long but did help a lot with learning
- I think this lesson explains many theoretical details very clearly, and it provides a solid understanding of the distinctions between different models, as well as model evaluation metrics and model selection methods.
- Lectures are very helpful and clear for me to understand the content, also the weekly quizzes summarizes the topics in the week and review for the exam.
- Lectures were very interactive and engaging, with clicker questions and chances to collaborate.
- Lectures, clicker questions, and weekly quizzes were super helpful for keeping up with class content. Lecture slides are clear and easy to follow.
- Lectures, homework, discussions really helped with developing my perspective on the material. It constantly tested what I learned and reinforced it into my memory. The class was very structured and it was easy to follow the schedule of the course.
- Lucy is very kind and welcome to questions and feedback. She responds really quick on Piazza to any questions and actually incorporates feedback into adjusting the course material or homework to help us learn better and also manage our time better.
- Multiple tries during quizzes and homework sets. The grading philosophy was also useful for encouraging learning through allowing for giving leeway for failure.
- Opportunity for flexible point system was very helpful for navigating the course.
- PCA
- She has a great course structure of learning better.
- She often would have real-life student volunteer examples or online videos to aid in the explanation of the topics she introduced, which helped me engage with the material in a way that I had never done before. She always made sure to ask if we had any questions or went over topics of confusion when they arose.
- She used webclickers, lecture slides, podcasts, and many other resources to help her students.
- The "completion + mastery" grading system and the 115-point scale were incredibly helpful for my learning. This approach significantly reduced my stress levels by allowing me to focus on truly understanding the material without the constant fear of a single bad assignment ruining my grade. It created a supportive environment where I felt encouraged to take intellectual risks and learn from my mistakes, which ultimately helped me find my own learning pace and engage more deeply with the course content.
- The course was really well structured, and the instructor always explained concepts in a clear, intuitive way. I especially liked how complex ideas were broken down step-by-step instead of just presenting formulas.
- The examples given in the lectures, homework, and webclicker questions particularly helped you to engage with the material, learn the material, and/or develop your own critical perspectives on the material."
- The homework and especially the coding portion helped me understand the material deeper and how the concepts learn in class can be applied to real world dataset. The group project also allowed me to dive deeper into specific model types, understand how they work, and learn some concepts not covered in the material.

- The homework and lecture slides
- The homework assignments were useful for reviewing and applying the content, and I also thought the quizzes were very helpful for preparing for the exam.
- The in-class walkthroughs and coding demos made complex concepts feel approachable and helped me deeply understand how the algorithms work in practice.
- The in-class webclicker questions helped me with practicing recall and application of the content during lecture, ensuring that I was not passively learning the material as it was being presented. The discussion sections allowed me to gain deeper understanding of the materials by providing more opportunities for active recall, content review, and deeper explanations of the material from the TAs. The consistent structure of the homeworks allowed me to gain a deep conceptual and technical understanding of the course content, allowing me to interpret each concept and apply it to a coding environment to conduct data analysis with the models we learned each week. The metacognitive reflection in the homeworks allowed me to reflect on what I was learning, how well I mastered the content, and attainable steps I needed to take towards my goals in the course. The structure and difficulty of the quizzes prepared me for the exams, which both kept me engaged and kept up with the material periodically. The group project provided me with a good perspective of my strengths and areas of growth in applying and combining concepts and technical skills learned from all the course aspects to a collaborative, real-world application.
- The instructor are so well prepared for us to learn the material and prepare for the exam and projects. Prof. Lai also send warm emails regarding exam score, grading status. She's very helpful and warm to students. She's so great!!
- The lectures (specifically the webclicker questions) were very helpful in testing my immediate understanding of the concept at hand and helped me note down maybe a topic that I needed to review after. The group project additionally helped me review the course material because I had to actively go back into my notes and review each model and decide whether the model would be appropriate for the question at hand and it was just a very informative learning experience through doing the project.
- The lectures and lecture slides were very informative and easy to understand. There were a lot of visualization that also helped explain concepts as well as in class demonstrations. The class structure was very flexible, which I liked because the quarter system is very fast paced and some weeks are easier than others. It was nice to have options to do certain assignments without having my grade suffer. I also like her grading rubric as the possible points were 100% up to the student if they wanted to strive for an A or not. All the assignments and quizzes were extremely fair and your grade only shows the students effort.
- The lectures and style of teaching was very easily interpretable especially as someone who struggles with focusing and grasping conceptsz
- The lectures were very helpful and engaging with the clicker questions.
- The readings
- The structure of having four exams actually helped me more than I expected. Even though I did not fully master every detail after each exam, the process allowed me to clearly see what I had learned and which topics I needed to review. The extra points also reduced a lot of pressure. Because I felt that my grade was still recoverable, I could focus more on understanding the content instead of worrying about every single point. This made the learning experience much healthier and helped me study with my best effort.
- The structure of the course, moving from basic ideas to more complex applications made it easier for me to build intuition and connect different topics together.

- The weekly homework really helped me engage with the material, especially the coding sections—they gave me the chance to actually get hands-on experience. I also think everything in the course was structured very clearly: the homework made us more proficient with the class content, the sections helped me review the main concepts, the projects allowed me to explore a real-world problem, and the weekly quizzes and exams helped me check my understanding as we went.
- The whole course structure was designed in a way that, as a fourth-year data science major, actually helped me learn. And I am super surprised to say that, because this quarter I was working two jobs, taking four classes, commuting half the year, and applying to graduate school! Somehow, I still ended up learning

My initial motive was to take this course for an easy A. However, the slides are literally amazing (best slides I have seen in my life), the homework actually taught me something, and the quizzes ENCOURAGED learning!!! I was a huge fan of how we were given unlimited retries for the quiz, leniency for homework submitted late, and tons of extra credit.

I cant really put my finger on it, but damn this course is structured well!

- There were a lot of different presentations of key concepts. Lectures, readings, and the homework assignments all presented the information well and thoroughly and helped me review content.
- This class felt incredibly fun and engaging. The teaching method felt refreshing and increased my engagement with the course material. The lectures were amazing and held my attention the whole time. I felt it gave me enough information such that I could apply it to my current internship and other classes. The exams, quizzes, and webclicker questions all built on each other and directly mirrored the the course content, so we could actually see our learning/fill the gaps as needed. The homework also didn't feel tedious, it allowed us to apply and understand we were actually learning. The professor was also incredibly supportive and worked with everyone to provide a better learning environment. The grading system is incredibly fair and really reinforces her core tenets of wanting students to not stress about grades, instead focusing on actually learning the material.
- Using in class examples and giving is iclicker questions that we used to prepare us for quizzes and exams.
- webclicker questions during lecture, weekly quizzes, and homework was helpful in understanding concepts and putting them into practice.
- Within the lectures, the material presented had really good visuals to make learning effective. The professor's way of explaining the concept was well-articulated and well paced, where I feel like even a First or Second year student would understand. We had multiple ways of reflecting those teachings as well, with homework being in depth in not only having us remember the concept, but also think outside the box for it as well.
- Yes

15. Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that were less helpful for your learning. Optionally you may offer constructive suggestions that might improve their effectiveness.

- confusing variants.

- Discussion section because we didn't review as much content from class. Having more time during discussion to see more questions would be a good use of the time.
- For me it is more helpful if I can remove text(after I've read it) so I can better focus on/process the questions on the homework, but I understand that we couldn't change the documents because it makes easier for the T.A.s to grade.
- Helpful homework problems and quiz. Maybe shorten the homework.
- Homeworks were a bit too long and everyweek too
- Homeworks were often more of a chore/repeated information from lecture than engaging and effective for learning.
- Honestly, I think everything was great. Each component helped me learn from a different perspective, so I don't feel like anything was ineffective or unnecessary.
- However, I think the excessive number of course components makes the overall workload extremely heavy, and I still do not understand why a course focused on theory and coding requires a project that is presented in the form of a presentation. In addition, the presentation requirements are overly extensive, and the allotted time is hardly enough to complete them. The exam also contains many misleading multiple-choice questions, which is not an effective way to assess a student's understanding of a model. As a data science major, I have already studied much of this material in other courses, yet the exam still included many confusing items. This approach does not help students learn the models or the associated data analysis skills; instead, it forces them to focus on distinguishing tricky answer choices. Furthermore, this course did not meet my expectations. As a continuation of 108, it does not actually place much emphasis on coding, and the project's overly complicated requirements prevent meaningful exploration of model robustness (for example, how to improve accuracy). It also does not align with the description provided in the course catalog, I did not see any clear connection to cognitive science.
- I didn't like how the exams were every 2 weeks because then I had exams every week of the quarter and it became extremely stressful.
- I found almost everything she did necessary for the course. Whether it was for our learning beyond what was on the exams she held or for it, the material felt relevant.
- I found it difficult that homeworks were due on Fridays, especially when content that wasn't covered until Friday's lecture was part of the assignment. It made it stressful to try and get stuff done the same day we covered it in lecture, and I think I would have spent more time actually engaging with the material if it were due on Sunday instead.
- I have nothing negative to say about this class. It's refreshing to have an understanding and caring professor at UCSD.
- I think everything in the course was helpful for my learning. However, I do feel like the workload is a lot for this course. I think only having 3 exams would've been better than having 4 because it gets really stressful near the end of the quarter due to the group project.
- I think the coursework load (including the midterms) was a bit overwhelming at times.
- i think the discussion sections felt flakey.
- I think the quizzes could be more challenging in the sense that they should sort of be open notes and the question be more research based perhaps on the textbook. I feel like the quizzes were the least helpful aspect of the course, I never really reviewed them.
- I was pretty satisfied with all aspects of this course.

- I wish the homework is due in the weekend because the last lecture is on Friday but the homework is also due on Friday. Due to this, I never get to fully understand Friday's content when I was doing the homework because I felt rushed.
- I would say practice exam could be helpful for students.
- i would say the homeworks sometimes were a lot with the coding however when we were in the part where we didn't have to code it helped understand more because before i was just trying to code it and not understand.
- One thing I always wonder is: "if I was a cogs major, would I be able to learn this?..."

As a cogs major, learning all of these ML methods, especially during the later half of the course, could be a lot for someone with no experience.

- One thing I disagree with, and more due to my own circumstances, is that points for attendance always feels somewhat biased. Some people have the support system to not worry about things outside of school, and while I do understand at the end of the day this is a university, I feel one way to work around this issue is to have multiple grading scales. For example one scale includes attendance while another distributes those attendance points to exams, and then the higher grade is the final grade for the student.
- Reading the textbook
- Since this course is mainly about understanding concepts, the coding portions felt a bit less helpful compared to the conceptual explanations. I think having a short section every two weeks to review and organize the key ideas would improve the learning experience. The quarter system is fast-paced, so sometimes it felt like we were moving through many concepts quickly.

Other than that, the assignments, lectures, and quiz structure were all very clear and well-designed. I truly appreciated the organization of the course.

- Some of the longer weekly reflections felt repetitive, and shortening them or focusing them more on key takeaways might make them more impactful.
- The discussion sections were less helpful for your learning. Optionally you may offer constructive suggestions that might improve teaching effectiveness.
- The exam
- the exams made sense and were not extremely penalizing, but having them every other week felt a little overwhelming at times especially with other classes. they were not super easy and for me at least took a decent amount of time to study for (i am not a good test taker).
- The exit tickets were less helpful for my learning. Since we did them when class was over, it felt rushed and I rarely had time to provide in-depth thoughts.
- The four-exam structure was very unstable and fast for a 10-week course, I much prefer a classic midterm and final model.
- the in class exams had too few questions, getting just 1-2 wrong on a test of 11 is brutal! I would much prefer if we could have 50-100 pt exams where the weightage is still the same of 11% so that students are not just penalized for silly mistakes.
- The reflection part of the homework was less helpful for my learning and instead could be replaced with a question to dive deeply into one of the concepts for the week.
- The slides were a bit vague when read thru during class

- While I appreciated having the opportunity to work with the model we were learning that week in the homeworks, I think the amount of time listed consistently underestimated how long it would take. In general, I found the coding section and questions to be more helpful, so maybe just condense the questions from lecture a bit?(I thought the questions were helpful for the last week about neural networks, but otherwise, they seemed a bit redundant)
- wordy questions on the hw and exams
- Yes

16. Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that created or interfered with a welcoming learning environment that valued and supported students from all backgrounds and identities.

- Always showed up to class with a smile and was quite uplifting for a 9 am lecturer. She was always very understanding of whether you had any issues and was willing to accommodate them.
- Class activities and class discussions really helped us all get to know each other better.
- Class discussions, sections, and group projects all helped me interact with classmates and really supported a welcoming environment. I felt like these activities encouraged collaboration and made it easy for students from different backgrounds to participate and learn together.
- Course-long group project created or interfered with a welcoming learning environment and actively caused underlying stress in an otherwise great class. I think the project could be better tailored to have an individual option for those who do not want to carry the burden of an unreliable group.
- created was just her personality. always bubbly but with direction you could say? she was always so happy and ready to teach so that helped me be in that same mindset.
- Dr. Lucy Lai and her teaching staff have been incredibly useful and kind. They're very quick in answering questions and concerns of the students and address issues rather quickly. They have been amazing.
- I appreciate Professor Lai for being super approachable, where students are welcomed to attend office hours to just chat about anything.
- I felt the learning environment was very welcoming. The instructor was approachable, encouraged questions, and explained things without making anyone feel uncomfortable.
- I really enjoyed how Professor Lai made lectures engaging and encouraged class participation, and it made the class feel like more of a community
- Nothing
- Office hours and lectures were very welcoming. I attended her office hours before and it meant a lot that she actually knew my name. Also from her lectures, you can tell that she's a great professor that cares.
- Open class discussion fostered a welcoming and engaging learning environment. Flexibility in being able to choose how we earn our points also supports a more inclusive and positive learning environment.

- Prof Lai. created or interfered with a welcoming learning environment that valued and supported students from all backgrounds and identities.
- Professor Lai made sure that everyone was welcomed in the classroom as well as in her office hours. I felt supported by her especially when she made it clear we can come to her with any concern about the course.
- Professor Lai was very high energy and fun during lectures making it easily to pay attention to when the class was at 9 in the morning. She made the class more enjoyable with her personality.
- She kept office hours, coffee chats, was open to discussion all around.
- she was super sweet throughout the time
- She was very engaging and enthusiastic and class. Compared to other classes, it was much easier to be focused and interested. She explained everything well and consistently. She gave very good explanations and made sure to always include important details when explaining things.
- She was very open to all feedback and wanted to include everyone as well as always reminding us that her office hours are open whether we need her for class related help or help in general.
- Teaching style and welcoming and understanding attitude. Makes students want to actually learn and try
- The grading philosophy and completion/mastery grades helped create a welcoming learning environment by allowing for flexibility based on a student's learning preferences.
- The grading philosophy supports students by providing multiple opportunities for success. There are multiple paths for students to choose to receive a good grade in the course, and those who put in the effort to participate in and master (or even just understand and improve in) the course aspects will be rewarded with a good grade, since the course is graded by a mix of completion and mastery. The late policy combined with multiple opportunities to gain extra points is structured well to support students who need the extra day, while simultaneously preventing students from relying too much on the policy and encouraging them to get back on track with the course timeline. The professor requires students who score below a certain threshold on exams to meet with her to figure out where the learning gap is coming from, and to discuss strategies to succeed in the course. I have not personally experienced this, but I think that this is a valuable and important aspect of the course that demonstrates the professor's commitment to value all students and support them to succeed to their best potential.
- The instructor consistently created an inclusive, supportive environment by encouraging questions, validating different perspectives, and making everyone feel comfortable participating.
- The instructor created one of the most welcoming learning environments I have experienced. The class atmosphere was positive, and the instructor was very approachable. I felt comfortable asking questions, and the instructor always responded with kindness and respect. Small moments—like wearing a Halloween costume to connect with students—made the class feel friendly and open.

There was no favoritism or bias of any kind. The instructor also reached out to students who scored below 60% on exams, which showed a strong commitment to supporting everyone and making sure no one fell behind. I truly appreciate the instructor's effort and teaching style. This class allowed me to focus on learning instead of stress, and I am very grateful for that.

- The instructor's use of engaging in-class interactions and personalized feedback during discussion sections was really helpful in creating a welcoming and supportive learning

environment. This sense of support significantly boosted my confidence and motivation, encouraging me to participate more actively in my learning. Moreover, I also want to highlight how Professor Lai's inherently kind and humorous personality fostered a positive and inclusive classroom. Her warmth made her approachable, and her humor made complex topics less daunting. This made me feel personally seen and cared for, which in turn created a learning environment where I felt comfortable participating and making mistakes.

- The lecturer
- The professor created a very welcoming learning environment. She told anecdotes about her academic journey and continued to encourage students throughout the quarter, even if the quiz grades weren't the best overall. She acknowledged the different learning styles and tried to incorporate all of them to best help the class overall.
- The professor was incredibly accommodating and worked around student issues. She also shared personal anecdotes that helped us to relate and encouraged us beyond the scope of the class.
- The professor's cheery vibe creates a very welcoming atmosphere. She clearly communicates her goals with us for this class and what she expects from all of us, regardless of our identities and backgrounds. She's very inclusive, allowing anyone to participate in her open-ended discussions mid-lecture. This is heavily reflected when you go to her office-hours, where the environment is just as positive as in lecture.
- The teacher providing study guides
- very lovely professor and easy to talk to. seemed to be very aware of what was happening as a student
- Wasn't very nice compared to other professors.
- Webclicker questions and opportunity to ask questions openly (environment created by the professor)
- Yes
- Yes. She and her teaching staff definitely did

Student Participation

17. What was/were your reason(s) for taking this course?

71 (54.2%):	Major/Program Requirement
8 (6.1%):	Minor
3 (2.3%):	College General Education
29 (22.1%):	Elective
19 (14.5%):	Interest
0 (0.0%):	American History and Institutions (AHI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Undergraduate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Requirement (DEI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement (JTCCER)
0 (0.0%):	Graduate Program Requirement
1 (0.8%):	Other

18. How often did you attend class and/or engage with course materials?

29 (34.5%):	Always
41 (48.8%):	Usually
11 (13.1%):	Sometimes
3 (3.6%):	Seldom
0 (0.0%):	Never
2:	[No Response]

19. Hours per week of work outside of class

0 (0.0%):	0-1
4 (4.8%):	2-3
40 (47.6%):	4-5
20 (23.8%):	6-7
11 (13.1%):	8-9
7 (8.3%):	10-11
1 (1.2%):	12-13
1 (1.2%):	14-15
0 (0.0%):	16-17
0 (0.0%):	18-19
0 (0.0%):	20 or more
2:	[No Response]

20. Expected grade in the course

49 (59.8%):	A
28 (34.1%):	B
4 (4.9%):	C
0 (0.0%):	D
0 (0.0%):	F
1 (1.2%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP
4:	[No Response]

Additional Feedback

21. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in the course?

- I attended her office hours often and interacted with her a lot one-on-one. Machine learning and coding doesn't come naturally to me but her uplifting attitude about learning made this class engaging and made me want to keep coming regardless.
- I feel like the questions properly evaluated the professor's ability to support students and engage them with learning.
- I genuinely loved this class and really appreciated the way the professor taught the material. The structure, the pacing, and the clarity of the explanations made the course both engaging and enjoyable. I always felt supported, and the environment encouraged me to participate and learn. Overall, one of my favorite classes at UCSD!
- I like professor lucy a lot.
- I liked how the grade policy was arranged, where we could choose how we wanted to earn the points with a bit of leeway in case we didn't do as well on an exam or couldn't go to lecture sometimes. I appreciated that the midterms were not cumulative since it allowed us to get more specific than if everything was tested at once.
- I really enjoyed Professor Lai's teaching style and I appreciate how much she genuinely cares about her students. I hope I get to take more classes with her in the future
- I really love this course and Prof. Lai :) :) :)
- I really loved the way she taught this class. She was engaged and open to feedback which helped me stay engaged in this class as well. I would take her classes again for 180 and 118D.
- I was genuinely sad when I saw the final announcement for this class. Out of all the courses I have experienced, the course structure and how the professor delivers the material were one of, or the best, I ever felt. It was an experience and I'm happy to be taking another course with her next quarter.
- It was really fun.
- Lectures were fantastic, and professor gave plenty of opportunity to receive feedback, interacted with students, offered help outside of class, etc.
- My favorite professor at UCSD so far, love the teaching style!
- My feedback is not directed at you personally, but at the course itself. I appreciate you teaching this class, but I feel there is still significant room for improvement in both the content and the format.
- Nice to see a professor who enjoys teaching for once.
- Not only did I enjoy the course, but Lucy was one of my favorite instructors I have had here at UCSD, and this is my third year here. She is uniquely engaging, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and approachable.
- Overall a very good course, but the course-long group project element and 4 exams in a 10-week block was suffocating. I think a two-exam model and an option to do the project individually would greatly improve the class.
- Pretty good prof. Excited to see what she can do for the COGS department.

- Professor Lai fostered a super fun and engaging learning environment. She presented material in a way that was easy to digest and you could really tell she cares about her students. Overall really enjoyed the class!
- she is great and she needs to keep teaching this course because it'll introduce many people to data modeling in an interpretable way unlike other professors here. she's amazing.
- The course has helped me solidify a lot of machine learning and data science concepts that required some more mastery. The structure and organization of the course made it easy to learn and master the content. With that being said, I commend Dr. Lucy Lai and her teaching team revamping this course. Dr. Lucy Lai has been without a doubt one of the best and most understanding professors I've ever had here at UCSD. I was surprised at her technical and organizational ability despite her being a new professor, when in reality it seems like she's been doing this for a while! Props to her. I hope she gets tenure in the future!!!
- The exams were hard.
- the most understanding professor that i've ever had. the way the class is set up encourages learning the material over grades and is so generous. it is a good balance of being generous and strict - the grade that you get is definitely a result of the work you put into the course. really good class design and if i ever become a teacher i'll steal it
- The professor made the course really enjoyable and flexible. The grading philosophy was really helpful and allowed me to focus more on understanding the concepts without worry so much about the grade I was getting.
- The professor was overall amazing! No notes and nothing negative to say.
Thank you professor
- This class is structured really well
- This course honestly one of the best COGS courses and professors I've taken in the COGS department
- This course was one of the most positive learning experiences I have had at UCSD. I appreciated how organized, fair, and student-centered the class was. The structure helped me focus on learning rather than stress, and I felt consistently supported throughout the quarter. Thank you for creating such a meaningful and welcoming environment.
- This was one of the best structured, organized, and most engaging courses I have ever taken at UCSD! The professor genuinely cares about her students, and I enjoy showing up to class and engaging with the course material despite struggling with it sometimes, because I know that I can get the help that I need. This course sets up students for success, both in course engagement and mastery of concepts. Usually COGS upper division courses related to Data Analysis feel confusing and difficult to navigate, but this course helped tie all of the concepts together and helped me understand them in a clear, concise way. I highly recommend this course, and Prof. Lai!
- What made Professor Lai's class truly special was that she taught us more than just the textbook. She often expanded on inspiring ideas that were helpful for life, encouraging us to dare to try what we want to do. Her advice to not fear math because of stereotypes and that it's never too late to start was especially encouraging. I feel very lucky to have been her student.

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