



Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) for Lucy Lai

Winter 2026 COGS 9 - Introduction to Data Science (Lai, Lucy)
Section 27709 [A00]

Enrollment: 354

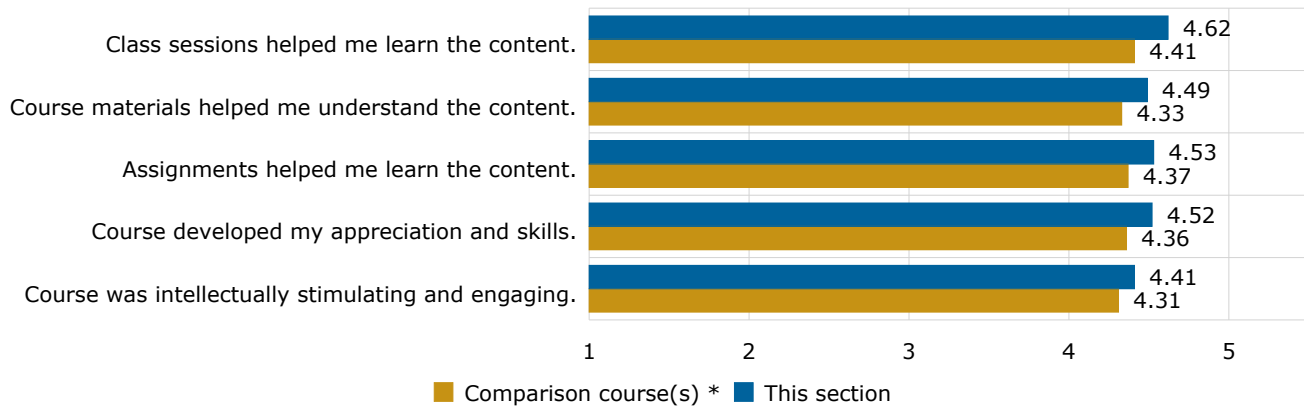
Responses: 277 (78.25% response rate)

SUMMARY RESULTS

* Comparison courses used: All Cognitive Science Winter 2026 LD courses

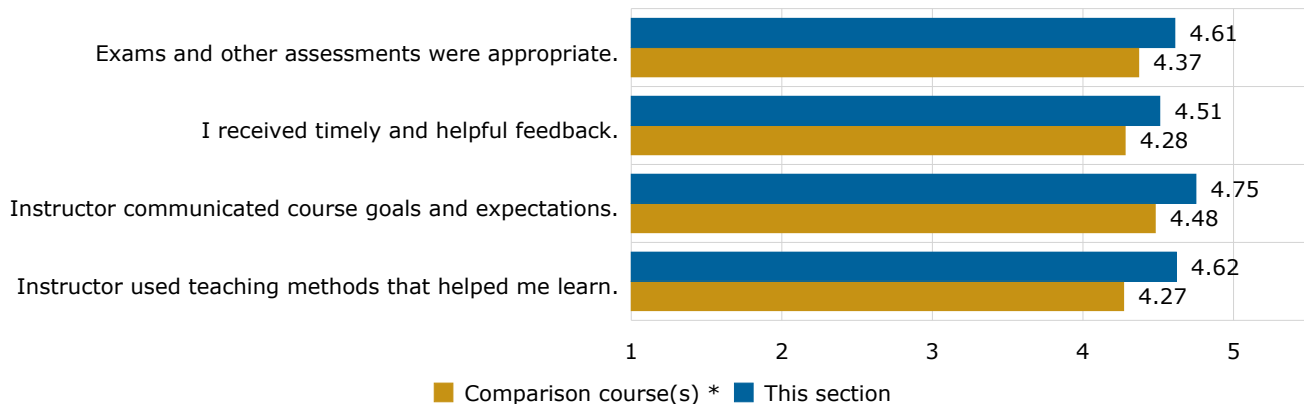
Student Learning

Class Mean: 4.51 (Strongly Agree) **Comparison Mean:** 4.36 (Agree)



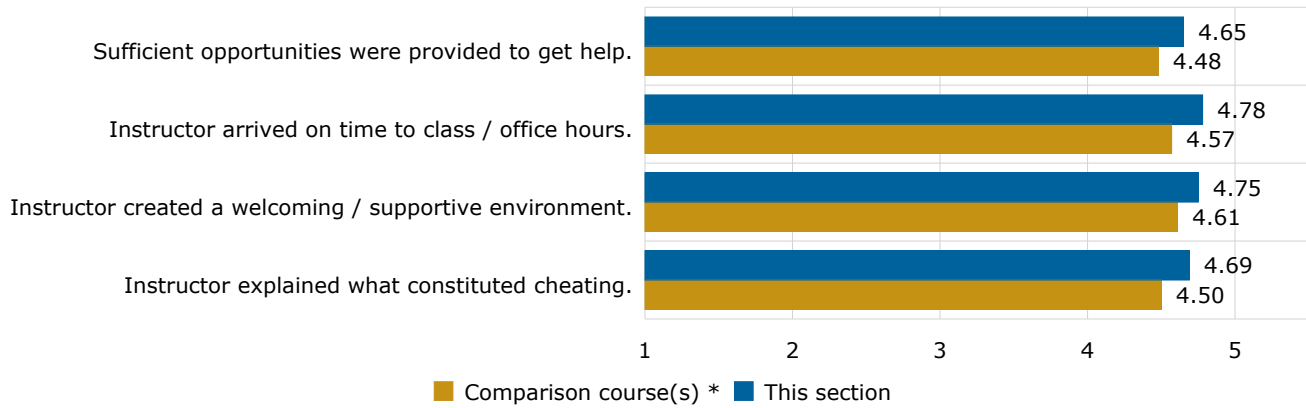
Course Structure

Class Mean: 4.62 (Strongly Agree) **Comparison Mean:** 4.35 (Agree)

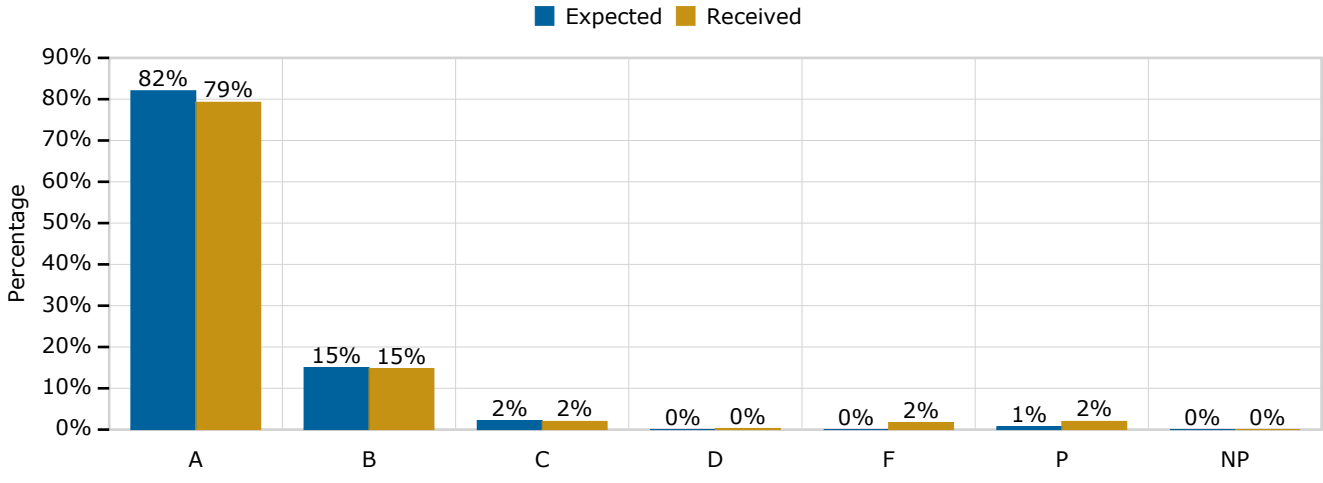


Class Environment

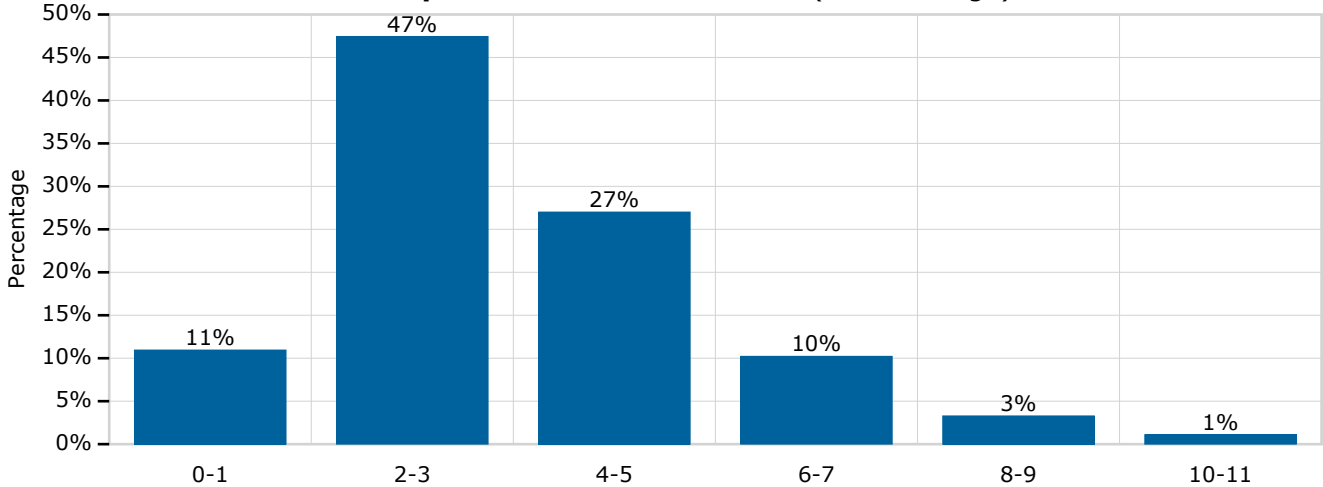
Class Mean: 4.72 (Strongly Agree) Comparison Mean: 4.54 (Strongly Agree)



Expected Grade (A- average, 3.80, SET respondents) vs. Grade Received (A- average, 3.73, all students)



Hours per week outside of class (4.01 average)



DETAILED RESULTS

Note: "% Positive" reflects responses of Strongly Agree or Agree; "% Negative" reflects Strongly Disagree or Disagree responses.

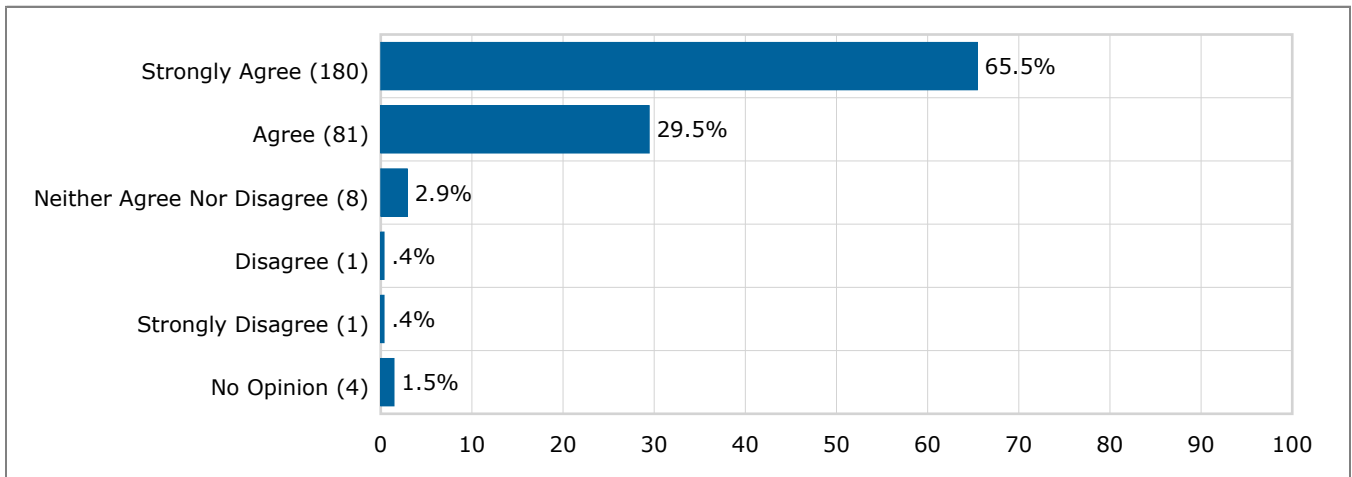
Scoring Methodology

A numerical value is assigned to each response in the standard Likert Scale used for evaluations: Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Neither Agree Nor Disagree (3), Disagree (2), Strongly Disagree (1). Responses marked "No Opinion/Not Applicable" are excluded from mean calculations.

Student Learning

1. Class sessions helped me learn the course content.

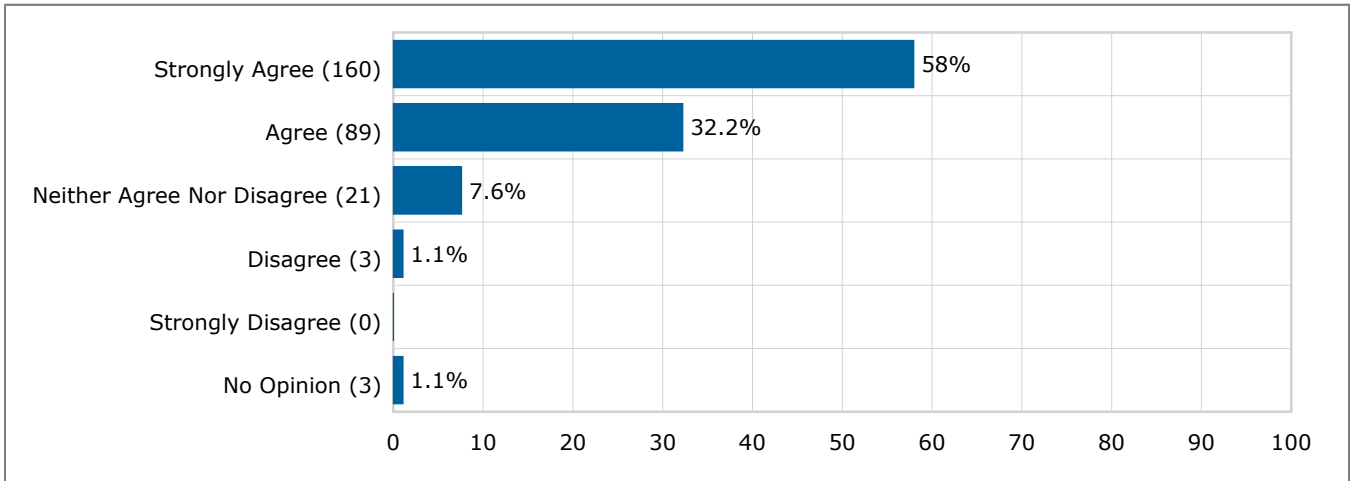
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
94.9% Positive 0.7% Negative	4.62 ± 0.60 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	275 (99.28%)



No Response: 2

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

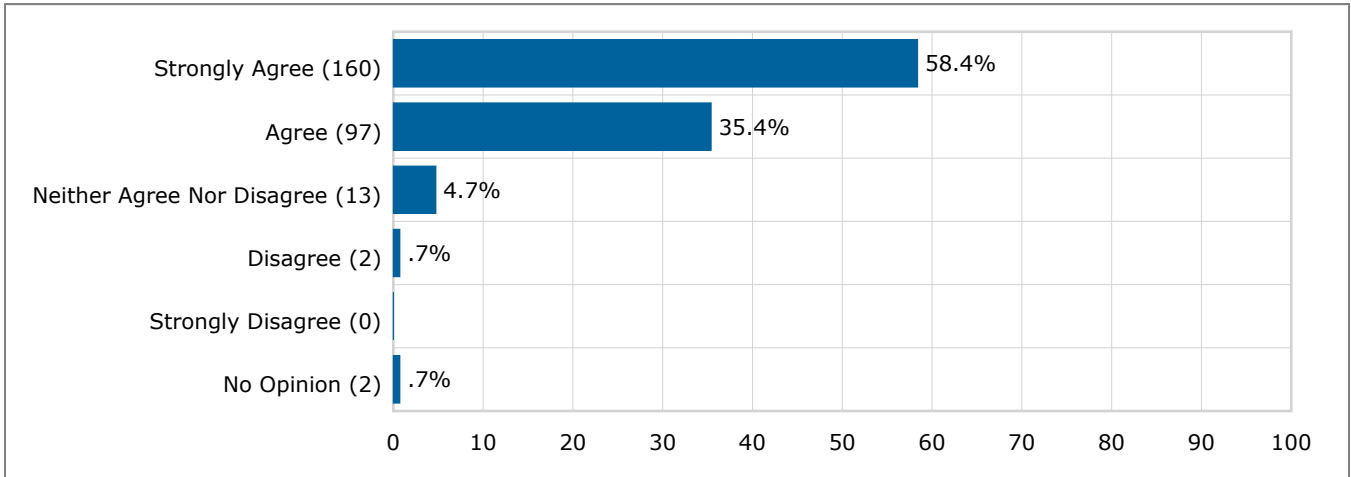
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
90.2% Positive 1.1% Negative	4.49 ± 0.69 (Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	276 (99.64%)



No Response: 1

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

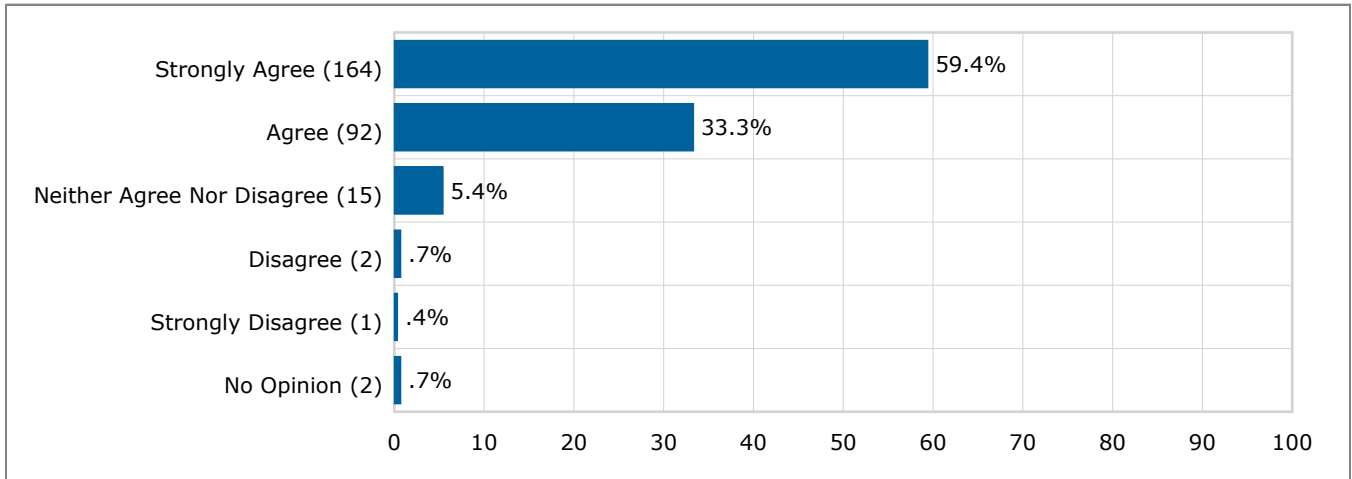
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
93.8% Positive 0.7% Negative	4.53 ± 0.62 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	274 (98.92%)



No Response: 3

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

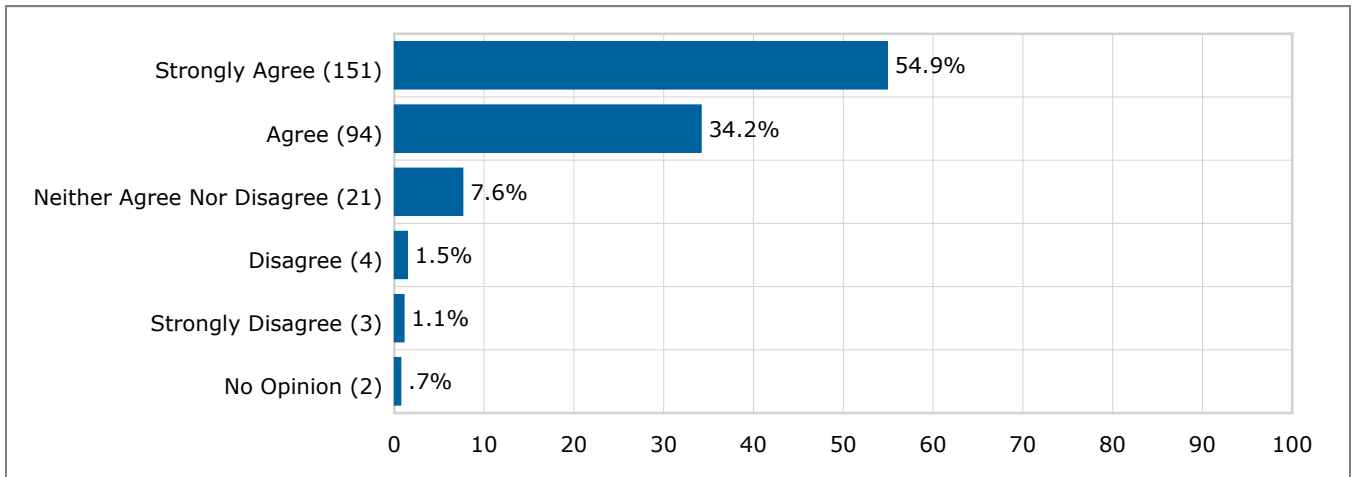
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
92.8% Positive 1.1% Negative	4.52 ± 0.67 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	276 (99.64%)



No Response: 1

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

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
89.1% Positive 2.5% Negative	4.41 ± 0.78 (Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	275 (99.28%)

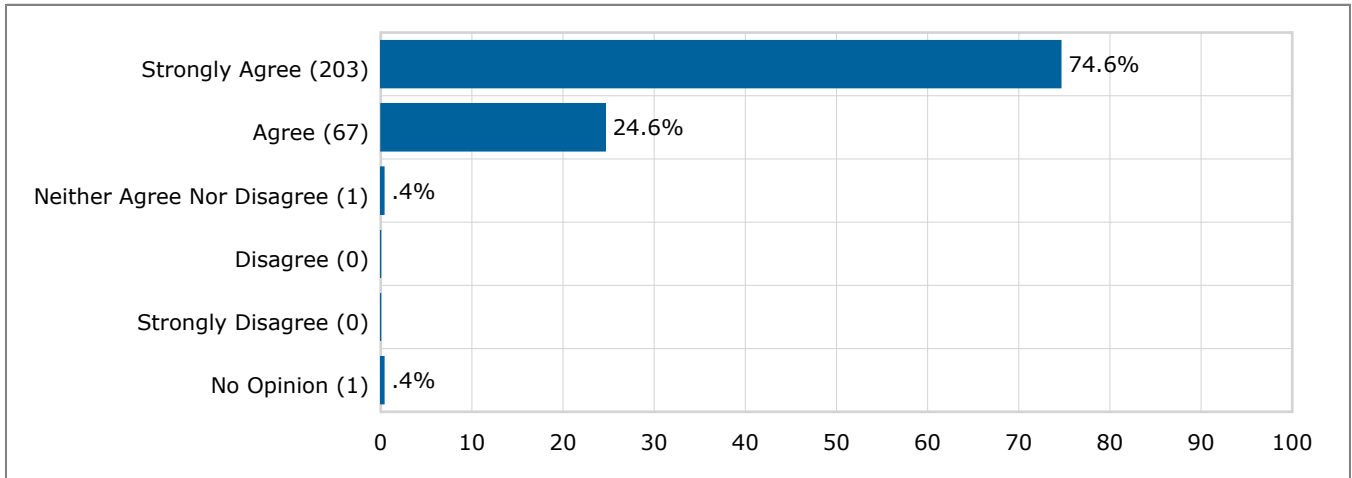


No Response: 2

Course Structure

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

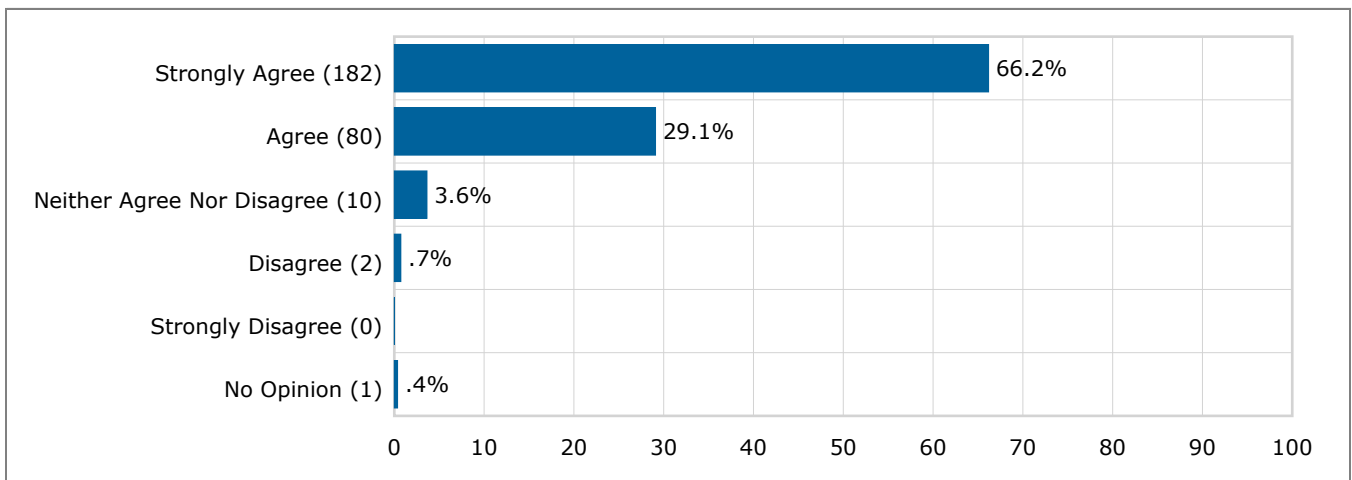
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
99.3% Positive	4.75 ± 0.44 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	272 (98.19%)



No Response: 5

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

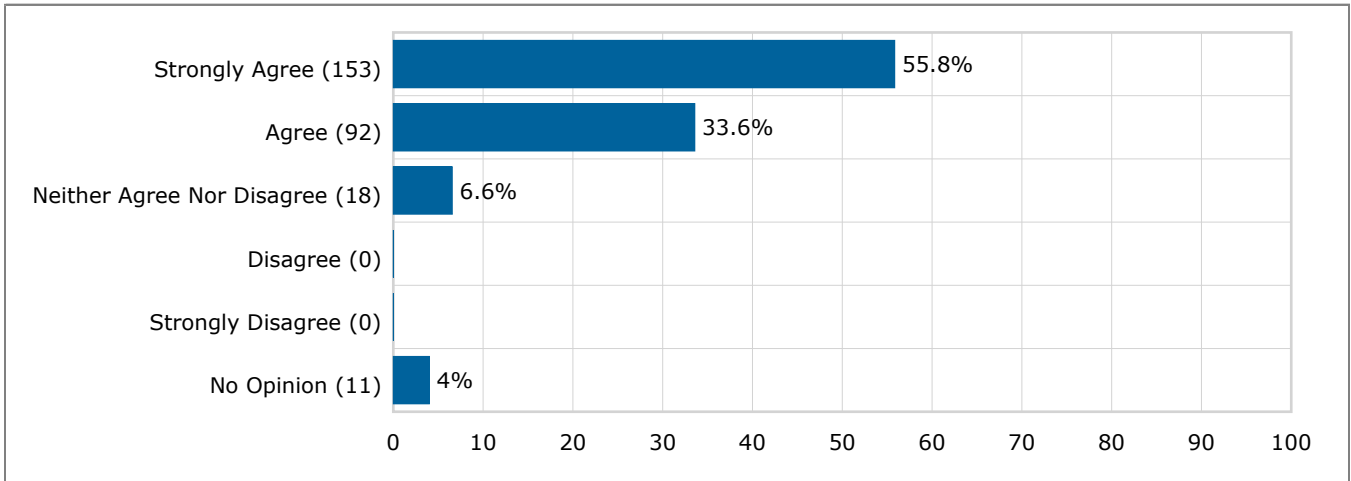
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
95.3% Positive 0.7% Negative	4.61 ± 0.59 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	275 (99.28%)



No Response: 2

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

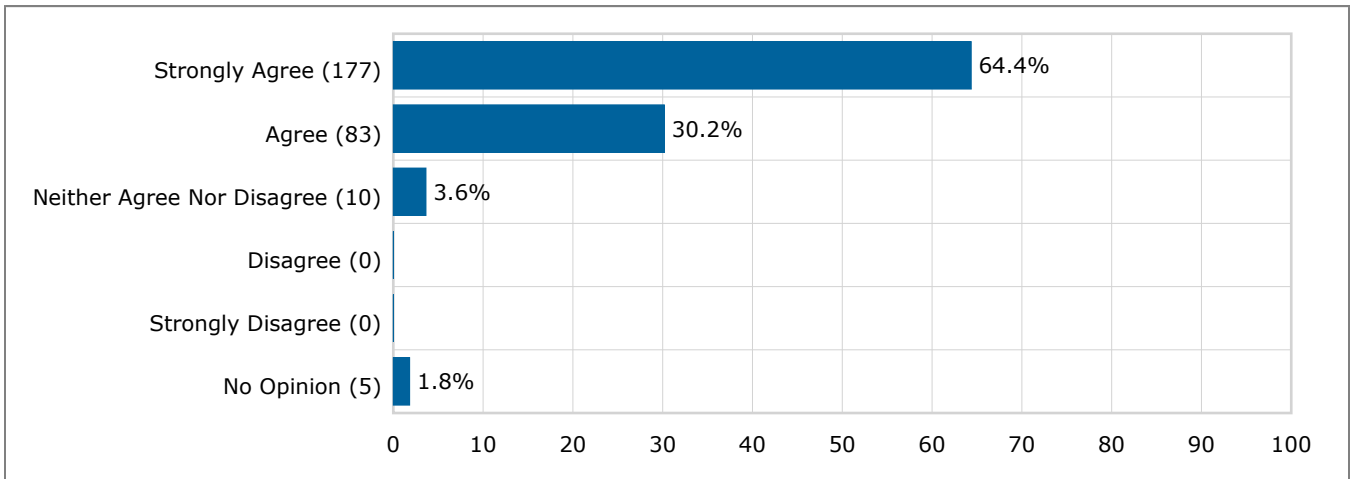
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
89.4% Positive	4.51 ± 0.62 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	274 (98.92%)



No Response: 3

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

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
94.5% Positive	4.62 ± 0.56 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	275 (99.28%)

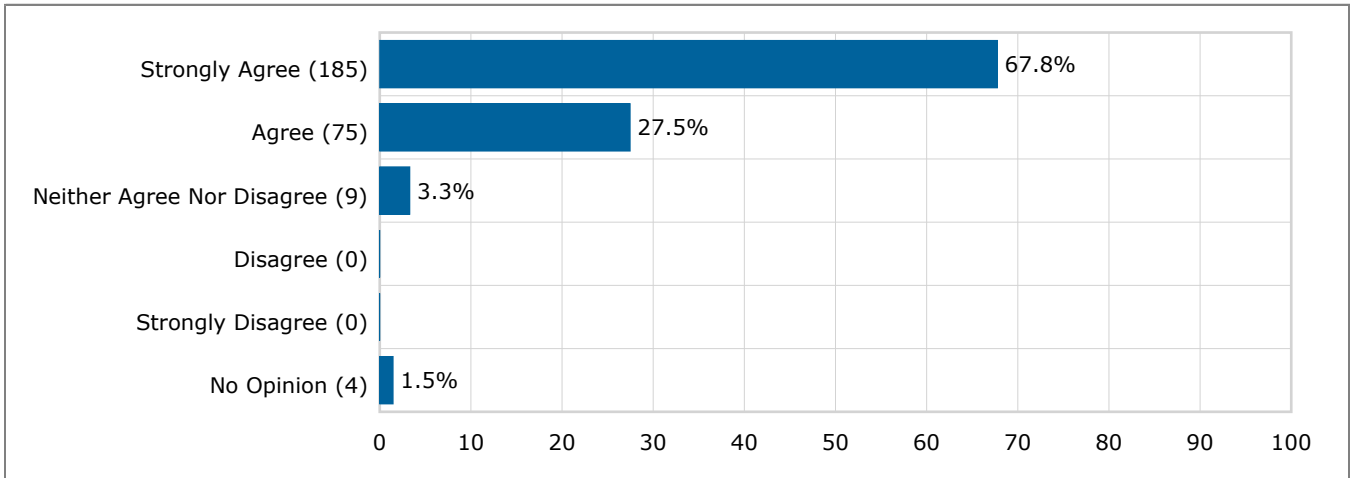


No Response: 2

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).

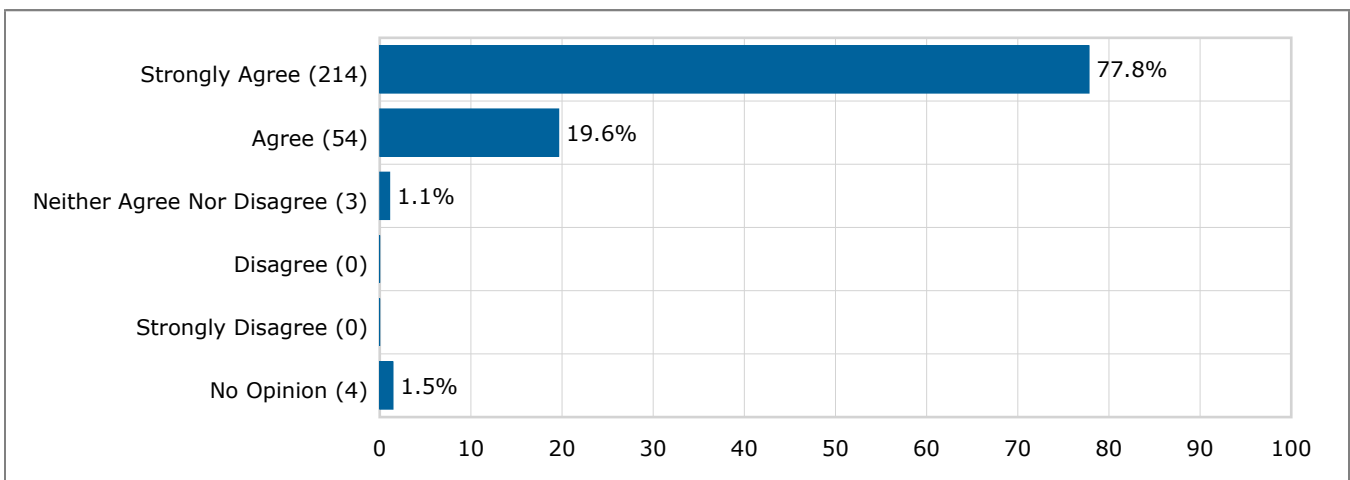
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
95.2% Positive	4.65 ± 0.54 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	273 (98.56%)



No Response: 4

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

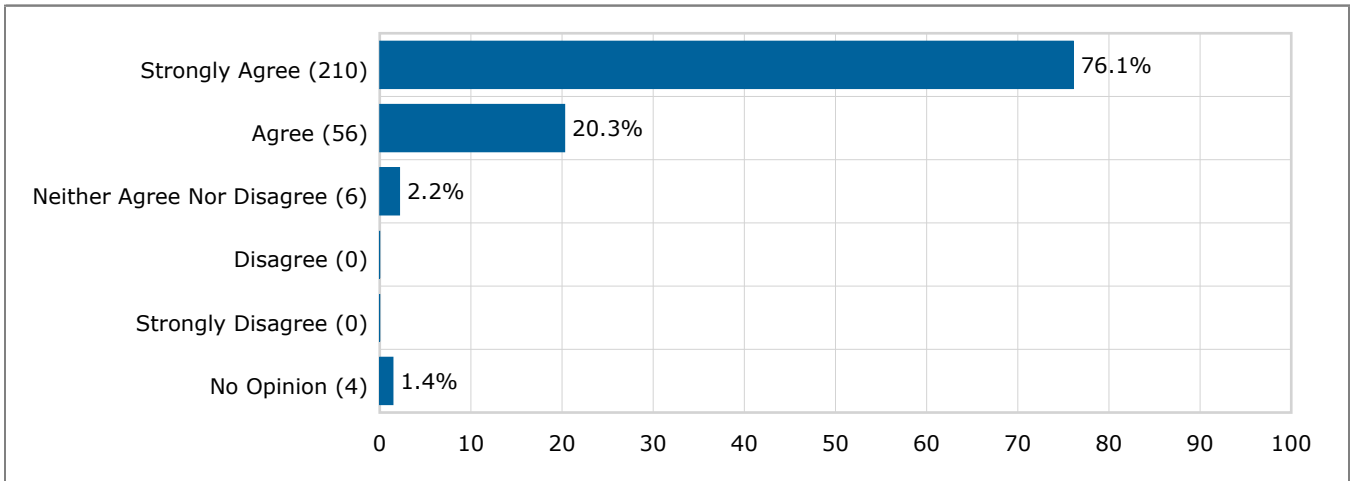
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
97.5% Positive	4.78 ± 0.44 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	275 (99.28%)



No Response: 2

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

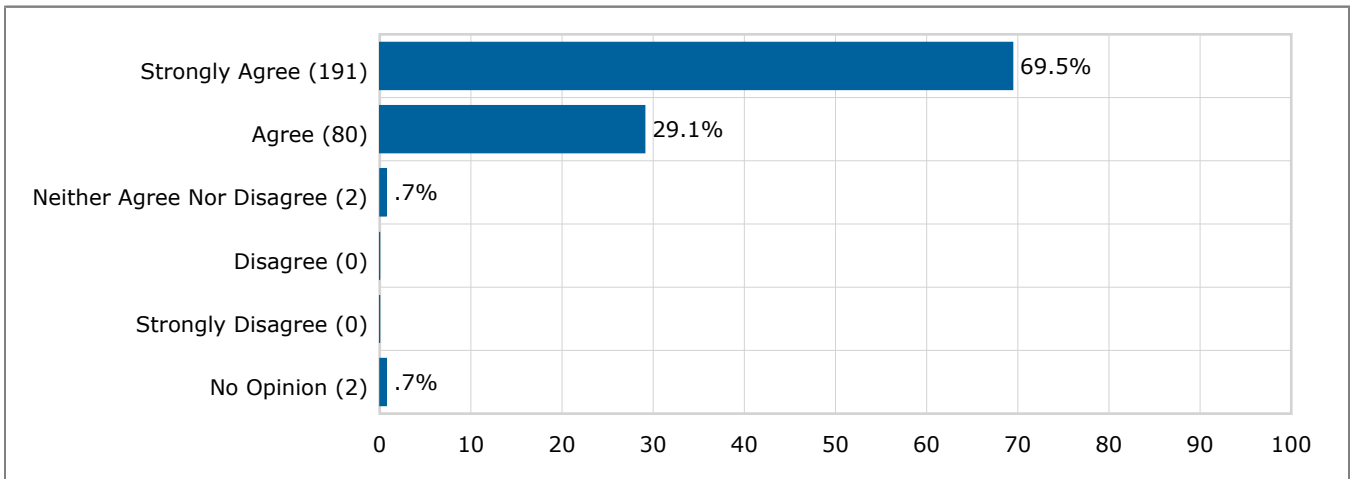
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
96.4% Positive	4.75 ± 0.48 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	276 (99.64%)



No Response: 1

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

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
98.5% Positive	4.69 ± 0.48 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	275 (99.28%)



No Response: 2

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.

Allowing is to share and discuss with our peers during lecture really helped me engage with the material and gain new insights.

Amazing lecturer. Not only well spoken but fun as well.

Aside from the lecture, the weekly reading and reading quizzes helped understand the material even more. The assignments also helped by implementing what we learned in the course.

Attending all the lectures and reviewing lecture slides before exams

Clear material, organised. A simple course, however, made so interesting through readings and content and assignments and the project

clicker questions and assignments

Clicker questions and walking around the room to get answers from students directly.

COGS 9 encouraged thoughtful discussion and helped develop critical thinking about cognitive science topics.

Could tell when students were confused and made it a point to make sure students grasped all concepts, even the basics.

Definitely the clear instructions and calendar. Everything was laid out super clearly, and expectations all articulated well!

Discussion section helped me deepen my understanding of the lecture

Doing example questions in class and discussing with class.

during the lecture using web clicker for interactive participation helped me to retain the knowledge

easy access to course materials, very organized class structure

Encouraged discussions about topics with our peers during lecture time as well as used webclicker questions to foster engagement and critical thinking about the material.

Engaging lectures that allowed for discussions about the content. Homework assignments allow for engagement in real world examples of the relevant material.

enthusiasm in lecture

Every lecture was engaging and always related to the exam material. Every PowerPoint was interesting and straight to the point.

Examples and readings

Excellent presentation skills and a refreshing energy that all UCSD professors should have.

explains content well and is interactive with students during lecture

give content related assignments and readings.

Giving us biweekly homework

Good

Good attitude and clear explanations

great class

Group projects

Guest lectures helped me engage in the material and understand the field better.

Guest lectures helped me get real world experience

Guest lectures were very interesting and slides were easy to understand.

Guest speakers

having everything organized on the website was very helpful

Having questions in lecture, talking amongst ourselves in groups

Her lectures kept me engaged

Her lectures were very clear and effective in helping me understand and engage with the material at a high level.

Her slides is really easy to follow and understand. She also plays music at the start of the class and cheer us out during the class session. She is so much energy

I enjoyed the instructors welcoming attitude as it made engaging with the class more exciting and thus easier.

I enjoyed the webclickers, recap slides and study materials given

I found it extremely helpful that our professor connected class topics with the real world and brought guest speakers to broaden our perspectives on Data Science.

I found that the reading material helped me a lot, as well as the web clicker questions.

I liked how clear the lectures were and how the prof made us really think critically about the content.

I liked how she gave us the reading guide it helped alot with the readings we had to do and the assignments were super fun as well!

I liked that she brought in guest lecturers to give us real world perspectives on the material! The lectures were also pretty straightforward about what they were teaching and easy to follow.

I liked that the lectures were interesting and not monotone with many real life examples included. I also liked that there were guest lectures so that we could see how data science can be applied in the real world. Additionally, I liked that a group coffee chat was offered so that we could meet the professor and TAs, and other students in the class outside of class time.

I liked the guest lecture, giving me unpredicted contents and lessons.

I liked the involvement that we were allowed on the lectures. Also gave good opportunities for students to discuss the topics in the class.

I liked the readings and section, they helped me learn the most, lectures were kind of boring but still very useful.

I liked the web clicker and small group discussion questions. I think it helped everyone make sure they are following along correctly.

I loved how engaging, friendly and fun professor Lai was, it was very refreshing when compared to my other professors

I really appreciated the in-class peer discussions and the WebClicker questions! The study guides and practice materials were all very helpful as well. I didn't know about the guest speakers prior to the class, so that was also a warm surprise!

I really appreciated the study guide that was made to organize the lecture content from EDA to statistical learning, it really helped to keep the memories. I also appreciated the in-depth explanations into the web-clicker answers, as they were good practice with answering similar questions on the test.

I really enjoyed how active she was and how she encouraged us to speak and participate. Though the lectures were long, she made them enjoyable. I also appreciate the collection of exam prep and everything she had to get us ready for these exams.

I really liked the layout of the project. I also really enjoyed doing the assignments (1,2,3).

I think assignments were a great way to engage with the material and further understand it.

I think she is a super cool person and she is really engaging in class. She's really easy to learn from because she is a genuinely cool and intelligent person.

I think the assignments were pretty helpful when they came with engaging with the material. They gave me a place to apply what we had been learning in class. I also really enjoyed the WebClicker questions because they helped when it came to preparing for the exam and finding holes in my knowledge. The learning sheets that she made for the second exam were also extremely helpful in engaging with the material again as a refresher. I think the overall structure of the classes, as in the sequence in which we learned topics, helped me develop my own critical perspectives. It gave me a strong foundation from which I could gain and create critical perspectives. The readings also helped me develop my own critical perspectives on the material because they gave me new perspectives that I could learn from.

I think the lectures, discussions, and readings help me to be engaged with the material. The lectures were interesting and professor encourage us to talk the topics with our peers. Furthermore the readings were very interesting. This make me to be more interest on data science and AI.

I think the readings and the reading guides were particularly helpful for me, as well as the non-group assignments. These allows me to really engage with the materials and the topics on my own.

I thought that the group project was very fun and informative

In class web clicker questions

In this course, I especially enjoyed doing the projects and assignments. Unlike other courses that simply test your knowledge, these assessments allowed the student to act as a Data Scientist by going through all the steps they would when starting a project. Additionally, most of the assignments were very interactive and used data relevant to the modern world (which connected it to our day-to-day lives).

Interacted with the class to answer problems, and always gave examples of the concept rather than just explaining

Lecture slides

Lecture slides are easy to understand. Our instructor would answer students' questions in class and provide additional examples. In the slides, there are summary slides about each topic overall, this helps me to learn better and prepare for exams.

We also have a lot of practices (during lecture, sections, and additional practice for independent study). Additionally, we also have great guest speakers invited by our instructor!

Lectures

Lectures are very well structured and did reflect content on exams

Lectures were engaging and interesting

Lots of resources published online and incredibly flexible teaching practices. Really allowed the student to choose how to approach their class while giving them ample options depending on knowledge prior to the class.

Mrs. Lay seems that is passionate for her field and also for teaching. She provided many resources so we could excel in her class and also adapted many teaching resources that made her class engaging.

Prof Lai was super passionate, kind, and approachable which always made me feel welcome in class. She was also a very clear and understandable lecturer.

Prof. Lai is one of the finest educators in the CogSci Department. She makes sure that her students have ample opportunities to address their doubts and concerns. Her lectures are super engaging, and the webclicker questions go above and beyond to engage students with the lecture content. Her thoughtful examples and case studies are relevant and relatable to the students.

Professor Lai includes a lot of real world examples of applications of aspects of data science and components of asking scientific questions. Especially having guest speakers in the field.

Professor Lai is a really passionate teacher and tries to engage the class in lecture.

Professor lai is a really patient and kind teacher. Even she is teaching her first class in UCSD, she did it very good!

Professor Lai made the lectures interesting, which really helped me learn the material easily, and she also gave us time to discuss the material with each other in class. In my opinion, that really made the class more engaging.

Professor Lai was very engaging with her classes, especially when she included time for discussion for questions about the topic being taught, and when she provided examples of statistical representation using the class's survey data. I also really enjoyed the guest lectures that were a part of the course too!

Professor Lucy used various teaching methods that makes students involved and communicate during lectures.

Reading Guide

Reading guides, practice exams, very helpful

Readings and guest lectures

She asked a lot of questions during class and engaged with students.

She clearly explains how cogs can be used in the real world and what jobs/roles we can use it after the course.

She gave examples in class using collected student data which made it really fun. She made fun data science jokes here and there which made the class really entertaining.

She is friendly ,mild ,easygoing

She is passionate about what she is teaching and she is super chill and kind

She lectures extremely well and has a bubbly personality making it extremely engaging to follow along with being able to explain the subject in a fun entertaining way for us to digest.

She very cares about her students and TAs!!. She helped us think critically about ML and AI. Her content was super easy to understand because she uses her own way to teach instead of resources from internet.

Skill tests were a good way to develop thinking on certain topics.

Slides and webclickers were interactive and challenged the mind to think

Some practices that Professor Lai implemented that helped were Webclickers, which allowed us to test our knowledge based on the topics mentioned during the lectures. It helped reinforce my knowledge as well as tested to see if I retained any information from the lectures.

study sheet and practice before exam.

super energetic

Talked about concepts like machine learning models and data visualization in a simple way that makes sense

The assignment help me to apply our knowledge in real problems

The assignments and projects were useful since they helped me do some hands on work to learn and interact with the material.

The clicker questions during the lecture helped me engage with the material the best because it would be directly after learning a full section of material and essentially serves as review for the section and practice for future exam questions.

The clicker questions were useful in ensuring my understanding of the topic

The course was very well organized and engaging. The instructor explained concepts clearly and created a space where questions were encouraged

The discussions

The guest lectures and coffee with a professor were extremely helpful!

The guest lectures helped provide example of real-world applications of Data Science.

The guest lectures were interesting and engaging, to get perspectives other than the professor herself is refreshing. The assignments also takes us on websites and discovery to ultimately come to understanding a particular aspect of the world which was pretty cool. Such as polarization of media from data. Data doesn't lie, but humans twist it in their own ways.

The in class webclicker assignments were great.

The instructor used several teaching practices that helped me engage with and understand the course material. One aspect that was particularly helpful was the use of clear explanations during lectures and step-by-step examples when introducing new concepts. Breaking down complex ideas into smaller parts made it easier to follow the logic and apply the concepts on assignments. In addition, opportunities to ask questions during class and receive clarification helped reinforce the material and allowed students to stay engaged with the learning process. Assignments also helped strengthen understanding because they gave us a chance to apply what we learned and think more critically about the concepts.

The instructor was very engaging in class towards all the students. She also used real-world examples throughout which made the class more interesting.

The interactive portions of our assignments were really helpful in teaching me the material. They included little widgets sometimes that let me play around with the idea that was meant to be taught.

The lecture, review sessions, and group projects are really helpful and I love them!

The lectures and discussions were interactive and had real world case studies and examples ensuring content was relevant

The lectures are clearly delivered. The special guest lectures are really helpful.

The lectures were really good in the sense that it covered every topic while explaining what concepts to study for the exams.

The lectures were very engaging and related to the material. It was clear that she knew what she was talking about and had experience teaching before.

The lectures were very well organized, which made the material easy to follow and understand. The instructor explained concepts clearly and used real-world examples that helped me see how the ideas connect to real situations. The instructor also encouraged students to think about their future and what we could do with what we are learning. Because the explanations were clear, even difficult topics felt understandable.

The professor engaged students in active discussion, which helped us think for ourselves rather than just learn the basic theories. Furthermore, having WebClicker questions in the lecture was helpful to revise and apply the contents, therefore improving my understanding of the topic.

I also liked having guest lecturers, providing an opportunity to hear about real-life career/research experience.

The professor engages with the students a lot, and the daily webclicker questions help me to understand the material

The professor explicitly stated key details that were not mentioned in the lecture slides.

The professor is funny and engaging even though the course material is boring.

The professor's enthusiasm for the subject matter.

The projects/ reading checks

The reading guides were so helpful, and I can really see how much effort Professor Lai put into this course. Also, 3 speakers she invited were all very successful people in different fields of data science. Those lectures opened my eyes that data science could exist and apply to various fields.

The readings

The readings guys were really helpful for the complicated and long readings. Lectures were clear and simple

The readings outside of class helped widen my understanding of the material and the guest lecturers helped me understand how to apply the things I was learning to the outside world.

The short questions and practice exams offered for studying

The slides

The slides and weblickers were super helpful

The slides included real-world examples and applications of knowledge we used in other classes.

The slides were very detailed

The solo assignments were great they were interesting not super tedious and required you to do them it was genuinely great work .

The study guides were very helpful along with the assignments.

the way of teaching was very engaging and interesting

The way the professor presented all the information about the course was very engaging and kept me interested throughout the quarter

The web-clickers during class kept me engaged during lectures. The weekly quizzes were helpful to stay on track with readings.

The webclicker and interactive discussion were very helpful for me to learn.

The WebClicker questions

The webclicker questions during class were useful

The webclicker questions were really helpful in helping us reflect on lecture content and evaluate our understanding. The discussion sections were really helpful for exam prep.

The Webclickers during lectures were helpful and engaging and the guest lectures provided great insight on how what we learned was applied in the real world

The WebClickers were particularly helpful.

The weblicker questions were always good ways to engage me.

This course brought in 3 guest speakers who helped understand the data science industry and the path each took to break into it.

Understand the logic behind simple things that i assumed

Using the webclicker during class and going over the readings briefly in class

Very informative lectures! I was skeptical about this class because there's no coding, however I was very pleasantly surprised! This class was extremely helpful and it simplified complex topics into understandable ideas that will help me further down my career path.

Was helpful and reminded me to schedule accommodated exams through the TTC so they didn't fill up.

Was very lively during lectures, rather than monotone. Lectures had live surveys to keep students engaged, and professor valued the students' responses by talking about them in class. Talking about ethics made me think a lot about Data Science as a business and changed my view on it.

We would have assignments that related to the material that we had been learning. The assignments were interactive, where we would apply the methods that we had learned and apply them to assignment, engaging with the material and learning how it can be used and applied.

webclicker and also reading quiz

webclicker questions are helpful for paying attention in class

Webclicker questions helped me a lot with learning and understanding the material

WebClicker questions helped me engage with the material! I especially enjoyed how if we reviewed slides/readings, it was enough to prepare yourself for the exam.

Weekly Assignment (eg. Reading quizzes & assignment); group project is open topic, fun.

Weekly quizzes and sometimes assignments.

Well made syllabus and all content available on website

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.

//

All aspects of the class was helpful for learning, however one slight suggestion would be to make the discussion sections more interactive.

All were helpful

Almost no.

assignments were less helpful

At times I was kind of wondering what the overall focus of the class was because every lecture seemed to be focussing on something different.

Cant think of anything

Clicker questions

Discussions

Discussions:

-They are substantially weighted at 9% of your grade (but I never came away from them feeling like I couldn't have better used that time studying by myself).

Everything is great!

Good

great class

Honestly I didn't learn much from the sections when they overlapped with lecture material, because the lectures already gave me a good understanding of the topics. However, I found the sections useful for reviewing for tests and readings.

I didn't feel as if I learned a lot from the group project.

I didn't notice any things that were less helpful for our learning.

I do not have any suggestions for improvement. The course was very well structured and helpful for learning. It reminded me that strong fundamentals are important, and I feel that what I learned in this class will be useful for my future.

I don't particularly enjoy group projects. I understand that group work is important for first year students, but as a upper-div student who is trying to learn new skills in a new field, group work is not particularly helpful to me for learning those skills.

I feel like the group project was slightly less helpful for my learning. I think the idea of an overarching project is good it's just that group projects aren't the best generally. It takes a lot of effort to work with groups, especially when only some are willing to put in effort. I think a good alternative to the final group project would be some type of final portfolio where you can put in the assignments you did throughout the quarter. For example, I could use assignments 1 and 3 and put that in the final portfolio and then write some type of reflection or use them together to create something new. I could synthesize them to create something similar to the final project so it could still give students a place to apply what they learned and showcase their knowledge without the hassle of a group project.

I have nothing to say to this question.

I liked the readings although i felt like some of them werent that useful towards the overall goals of the course

I personally was not the biggest fan of the reading quizzes but that partially has to do with the fact that I spent quite a lot of time reading, understanding, and "applying" them.

I think I would have liked to have more homework assignments and more readings.

I think it is the discussion

I think some of assignments didn't contribute much to the learning. I am a 3rd year data science major so a lot of the assignments were just review to me but even then, some homework like the artist/unique words assignment felt like busy work.

I think too much of the assignments are about bias.

I think webclickers are great for tracking attendance, but they are not particularly engaging. I also don't think the group discussions are particularly engaging either.

I wish the class were not at 9.30 in the morning; I wish there were another option where we could start later in the day.

In class discussions may be able to be more effective if we typed what we were discussing in a Slido or on Webclicker, but I still found them helpful as is.

Lectures definitely couldve been more interesting I found that I only showed up to do webclicker and thats it.

less readings, more interactive stuff

more challenging topic and learn the actual skills

Most discussions were short and didn't really feel worth attending sometimes as they were mostly for review. I don't feel as if the weight the syllabus has on these discussions is reflective of its actual impact for success in this course.

Most of this content is taught in other courses, so most of the information to me felt repetitive, especially at the beginning of the quarter.

The group project, if you don't have any friends or people you know in the class could go poorly since there is a range of levels of interest among students. Definitely find people to work with early, or alternatively propose the idea of an individual project for students who feel more comfortable working alone.

n/a I think her teaching style is great

N/A, I felt that all aspects of the class were relevant and very useful for learning the material.

never

No opinion

Not having practice questions on the readings in the practice exams.

Not much.

Nothing comes to mind.

Nothing was not helpful in my opinion I feel like the teacher was really engaged with the class and material and covered everything that we were supposed to know

Nothing! I felt all components of class were necessary for my learning.

One aspect that was slightly less helpful for my learning was when some topics moved quickly before I fully understood the previous concept. Because many topics in the course build on earlier ones, moving too fast sometimes made it harder to keep up. A possible improvement would be including a brief review of key ideas from the previous lecture or providing a few additional practice examples before moving on to more advanced material. This could help reinforce understanding and give students more confidence when applying new concepts.

Reading assignments

Reading could be shorter, but it does give an insight into what I am learning

readings - took a lot of time

Select All That Apply questions felt extremely challenging on the tests because of the inability to simply use process-of-elimination, so I wish that that there were more opportunities in quizzes or practice questions to use those types of questions so the expectations for what a select-all-that-apply question can be established earlier.

Some of the readings and discussion posts were less helpful for my learning, since they sometimes felt repetitive or loosely connected to the main lecture topics. It might help to more clearly tie them to specific concepts from lecture or include more practical examples to reinforce the material.

Some of the readings felt needlessly complex and dense for the points we were actually supposed to take away from them. However, the reading guides really alleviated that feeling.

Some of the readings we had to do were very dense and often times hard to truly get into.

Sometimes lectures felt repetitive, but I am also taking this course after already having taken a lot of DSC courses.

The assignments

The assignments were a little confusing. The wording for some questions were just a little vague in my opinion, so being a little more specific would help.

The classroom has little leg room so that is uncomfortable. Its also troublesome that going to the restroom can cause me to lose lecture credit because of the minimum number of required weblicker responses.

The course is perfect as is.

The course is pretty straightforward and has all the materials needed, lots of practice for the exams.

The discussion sessions were not that helpful

The discussions

The discussions because they were essentially just review and if you study and go to lectures beforehand you basically already know everything.

The discussions were not really that useful or informative

The group discussions did not do much for me, I would honestly suggest just more web clicker questions.

The group project, I do not see it as useful

The lectures were a long but that's not her fault I just can't pay attention.

The midterm review Webliker's questions weren't very accurate to the format of the midterm

The multiple choice exam seems a bit less helpful to me

The only thing I did not like was that big of a deal was the lecture attendance. Although it was only 3.5 points, I do wish there was a way of joining on Zoom and still getting credit.

The reading is too much, I believe they should reduce some of them to let students really read.

the readings

The readings about the theory of data science (the readings given the first five weeks)

the readings can be long and dense, and, besides the practice questions given and some important slides, it was hard to study for exams.

I also wish to review my exams and answers through gradescope, but only the bubble sheet is provided.

The speaking with partners was less helpful, this is just a personal thing.

There was not much that was less helpful. I could only think of one part of confusion in "Assignment 1".

There was some content that was repetitive or unnecessary.

There were no instances where she was less helpful.

There were some really technical readings that I read through but realized in the end did not need all the details of.

Two midterms felt excessive

While the course overall was very effective, some of the assignments felt a bit repetitive or less engaging

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.

..

Although I did not personally connect with the content of the course, Prof Lai was a very kind and engaging lecturer. Her positive energy and genuine passion for the subject and teaching was evident and this helped make the lecture hall feel more supportive and comfortable.

Always came to class with a positive attitude.

always felt comfortable to discuss with my peers.

Created a welcoming environment from her energy and class engagement. She is amazing.

Created a welcoming learning environment, where we didn't feel pressured by our grade. The course set up offered many points, as we were taking the course the priority was learning the material not getting a good grade which made the class and learning about data science easier without the academic pressure.

Discussion sections

discussion during class

during the first class, emphasized inclusiveness

Encouraging lots of group discussions

Everyone was encouraged and treated evenly to participate. Choosing a participant is all optional, and mostly based on birthdays and not other metrics.

Everyone was pretty welcoming! I appreciate all the work put into the slides/lectures, and the energy shown in class even though it always started at 9:30AM!

Everything the prof did was amazing in terms of feeling welcomed within the learning environment, no complaints from me.

Good

Good learning environment that supports different opinions on various data science/ai topics.

great class

Guest lectures

Her class has a good atmosphere, and she is giving vivid lectures. Also for those guest lectures, they really widen my horizon of data science field.

Her warm personality

I didn't notice any things that interfered with the learning environment.

I didn't really perceive anything from the course as creating nor interfering with a welcoming learning environment supporting different identities and backgrounds. The fact that the class was no code made it a lot more accessible for many students.

I felt welcome throughout the entire course. Everything from the TA's to the teacher to the sections was easy to approach.

i like how she puts music in the beginning of class before everyone comes and how she interacts with the students and let them speak about their opinions on specific subjects in class

I liked that there was a 5% grade buffer which really alleviated the pressure of grades in the class and allowed us to purely just learn the content.

I personally liked the inclusion of real machine-bias occurring because of biased data gathering in the US that brings out proxies through race and gender.

I think having discussion with partners helped create a welcoming environment.

Included all backgrounds in analysis.

Interacted with the class, very energetic, great teacher.

Interactive class as students could use webclicker to answer questions in class.

learning environment was welcoming and supportive

lecture and discussion created a welcoming learning environment because we have chances to engage with one another.

Lecture discussion questions

Lots of open opportunities to talk to TA's, guest speakers, and the professor. Very open to communication and you could tell.

Lucy created

Made it very clear about the office hours opportunities as well as coffee chats.

Many opportunities to improve knowledge of topics.

No opinion

Not applicable.

Nothing interfered with a welcoming learning environment. The professor created a very welcoming learning environment through her availability and willingness to answer questions.

Nothing really interfered with the learning environment

Nothing really interfered, but the professor created an inviting and engaging office hour space.

Nothing really interfered.

Nothing super nice bubbly teacher helped a lot of students and super approachable.

Offered flexible office hours, adding an extra day for students who were unable to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I also liked how students can choose between in-person or zoom. Office hours felt very casual and easy to go to. Instructor also checked on me in class after I didn't attend or engage for a while.

openness to questions

Overall, the instructor created a respectful and welcoming learning environment. Students were encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions, which made the class feel supportive and inclusive. The instructor treated students respectfully and created a space where different perspectives and backgrounds were valued. This helped make the classroom environment comfortable for learning and participation.

playing music at the beginning of each class

Prof Lai has a really warm, inviting personality, and she is super knowledgeable. Even a casual conversation with her will leave you learning something new. I can't wait to take more classes with her!

Prof. Lai brought so much energy to the classroom and I really appreciated how excited she was to teach and that she really wanted all of her students to succeed.

Professor Lai

Professor Lai created a very welcoming learning environment by constantly including us in her lectures and providing us with career opportunities throughout the course. Additionally, she took some time to address and celebrate certain religious and cultural holidays (like Chinese Lunar New Year and Ramadan) that came up during the quarter, making me feel seen even in such a big class. I especially liked how she had a diverse set of guest lecturers from different backgrounds. I looked forward to going to her lectures every day.

Professor Lai really wants everyone to enjoy the class; she made it so that everyone could learn equally.

Section was amazing and helped me expand my learning group

She always encouraged everyone to participate through the WebClicker, which was a magnificent decision so everyone can be engaged with the topics considering the amount of students we were on her class.

She always tried interacting with students during lectures. She had very energetic and welcoming energy.

She created a support background for everybody!!

She definitely did!

she frequently asked for volunteers in class and tried to call on different people

She is a very welcoming professor and took everyone's input into consideration.

She is friendly

She made sure to ask for and validated all students perspectives in class.

She made sure to include everyone in discussions and never left anyone out.

She touched upon the gender difference in our field.

She was always willing to talk if you went to office hours for help or just to chat.

She was extremely welcoming to us as transfers and ensured everyone felt welcomed and unafraid to speak to her. Extremely approachable and fun. First day she had Kpop playing as we entered and her class and lectures is just very enjoyable to be in.

She was very engaging and energetic with what she wanted to teach as well interaction with the students in lecture

super nice

super open to questions and always tried to keep things interesting.

Teacher was passionate about the topic which helped create a more welcoming environment.

The assigned group projects

the class vibe

The constant discussion and positive attitude brought to class

The course generally created a welcoming learning environment and encouraged respectful discussion among students from different backgrounds and perspectives.

The data gathered on the class was fun to see and interact with.

The guest lecturers and the way that I felt included in the discussion

The instructor created a respectful and comfortable classroom environment. Students felt encouraged to participate and share their thoughts. Discussions were respectful, and it felt like everyone's ideas were welcomed.

The instructor created a very welcoming and inclusive learning environment

The instructor did a great job here. No specifics but her choice of guest lectures often came from diverse backgrounds which overall helped that sense of welcoming.

The instructor encouraging us to discuss with the people around us and the group project really helped me connect and felt welcome in this environment

the interaction during lecture created a welcoming learning environment

The lecture itself is a very welcoming learning environment. Professor Lucy interacts often with all students from different backgrounds and identities.

the professor

The professor is really friendly and energetic which helps create a welcoming learning environment where students feel comfortable participating and asking questions.

The professor is very welcoming of the question. She is willing to answer any questions from every single student.

The professor was very friendly and was open about how our learning was first priority not grading, very generous with how your grade is calculated and ensured that we were engaged at all times.

The professor was very inclusive of every background. Everything the professor said and did was inclusive towards everyone.

The professors enthusiasm created a welcoming learning environment! She was always excited to be there and to answer a question.

The teacher prompted other students in the class to raise their own opinions on the subject matter.

The use of

The use of multiple kinds of examples for whatever we were talking about at a specific time really helped because it involved stories/examples from around the world and I don't think anyone ever felt left out.

Tone and respect for students.

Was interactive

Welcoming music

Yes she made the class very comfortable without it being too serious or confusing mixing lectures with videos and class participation.

Yes very welcoming environment

Yes!

Yes, especially the lectures and the guest lectures

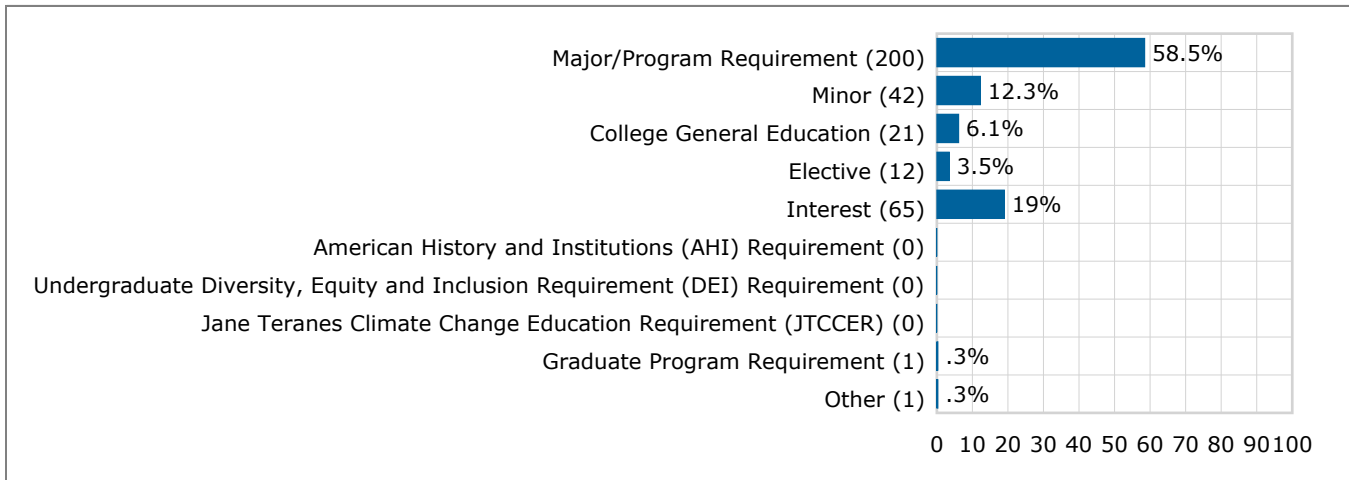
Yes, she did create a welcoming learning environment. She frequently asked students to talk and discuss with neighbors, helping student to get know to each others.

Yes, she was always very welcoming and she selected a diverse group of guest speakers.

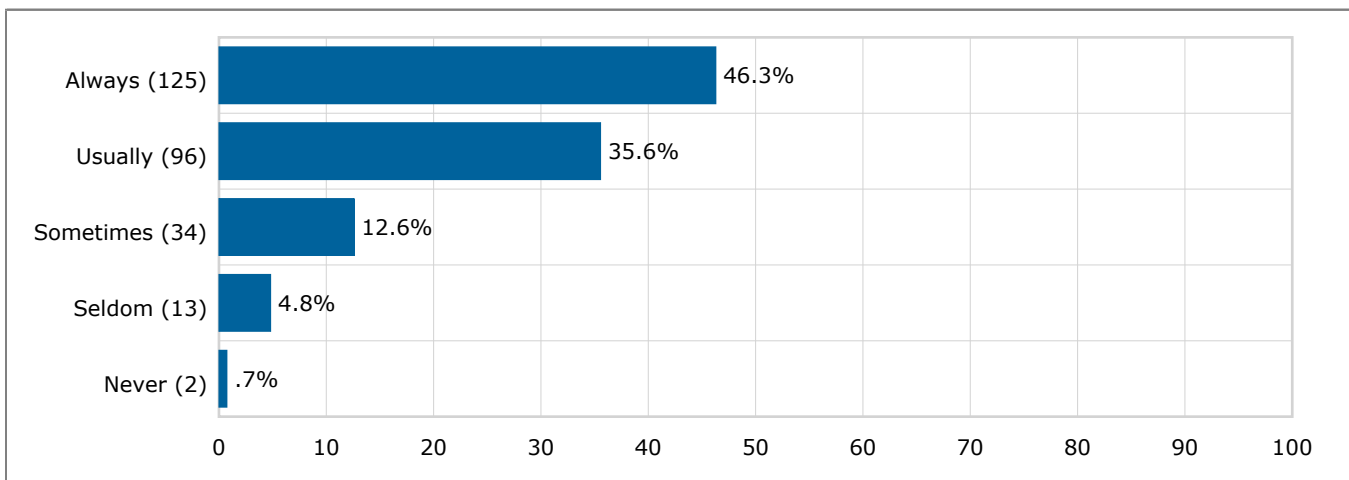
yes.

Student Participation

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

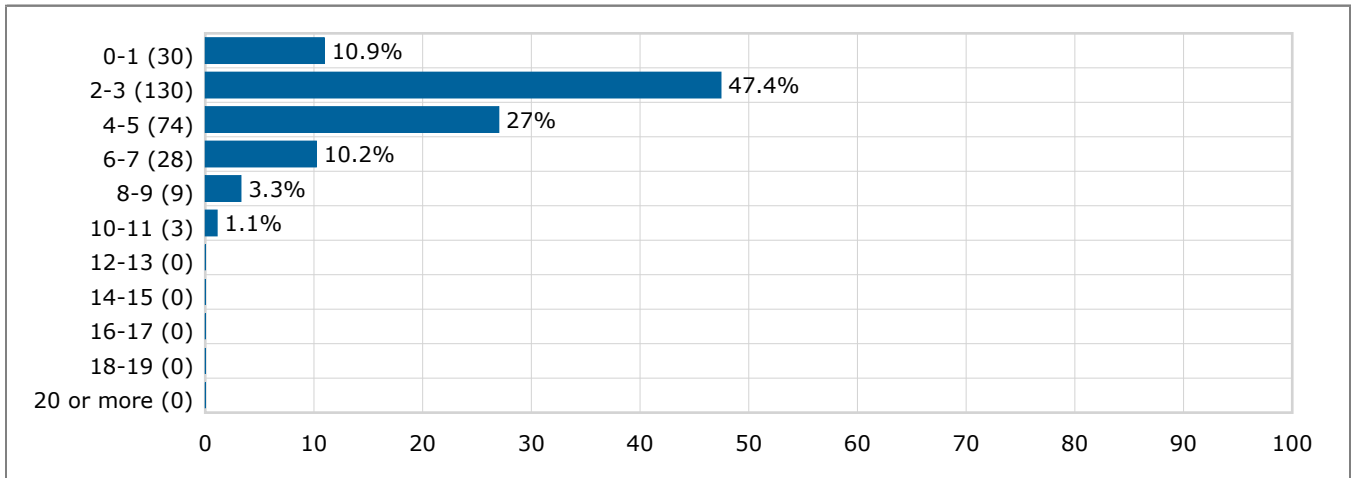


18. How often did you attend class and/or engage with course materials?



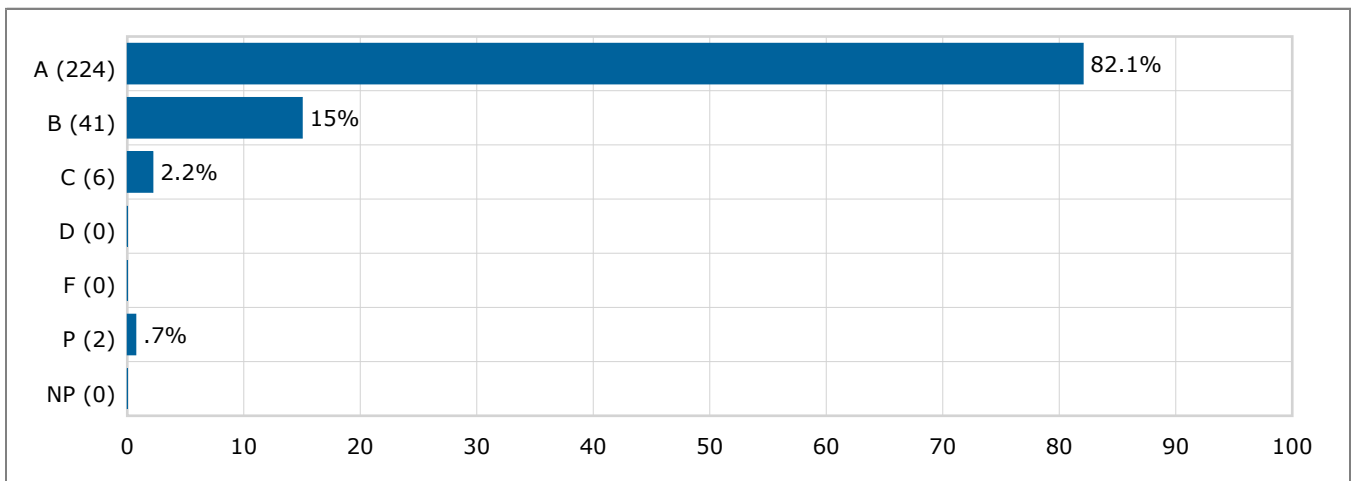
No Response: 7

19. Hours per week of work outside of class



No Response: 3

20. Expected grade in the course



No Response: 4

Additional Feedback

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

Amazing class! Would recommend it to my friends to take.

amazing professor and very enjoyable class

Best class this quarter! Love Prof Lai

BEST PROFESSOR EVER!!!! Cannot fall asleep in this class because the professor is so good at engaging students and "storytelling". I wish all my professors are this great.

Brought good enthusiasm during the lectures, and was fair about lecture attendance.

Good

great class

Great class overall!

Great class!

Great course great teacher

Great passionate professor

Great professor

Great professor, hope to take again if I ever have the chance.

Great professor.

Great teacher would recommend instantly

I don't know why this is a requirement for data science, it is like the 4th rendition of classes that I have already taken.

I found that attendance was my biggest issue but my understanding of the material was fine.

I had a great time! Thanks for a wonderful course experience!

I honestly had a really good time taking this course. Prof. Lai was very engaging and made a consistent effort to really help us understand the content which felt especially relevant as a Data Science major.

I liked it! I would recommend others interested in the subject to take it (although only helpful for beginners).

I love Lucy she is the cutest person ever

I love the style of Professor Lucy teach us, which makes me very engaged and makes it easy to understand various topics in data science.

I really appreciate the energy Lucy brings to class, and also, that she gave us a starter guide to find real-world opportunities. I know that right now I don't have the skills yet I still need internship opportunities or others to successfully find a job later, and Lucy pointed out that you can start by finding jobs and looking at the requirements. This also reminded me of on the first day of class, she asked everyone at which point will we start considering ourselves data scientists. All of the speakers are really inspiring, and they give me hope that if I keep trying, I will get there.

I really appreciated the passion and enthusiasm you brought to each lecture! It made lectures very engaging. Honestly, you're one of my favorite lecturers.

I really enjoyed the guest lectures and how material was presented!

I really like Professor Lai and would recommend her to anyone taking this course. I hope to get more classes where she is the professor

I think cogs 9 is a fairly irrelevant course for data science students. I can confidently say that I have learned everything in the course from other major required courses that I have already taken. We have entire courses for learning about every concept except for ethics, and I think the major could benefit from replacing cogs 9 with an entire course on ethics that not only covers the higher level "what is algorithmic bias" and "how do we ethically gather data" but also covers how to approach that technically. I just don't see how the course does anything but add another course to delay graduation. The teachers did a great job with what they were given. I think everyone involved was amazing. Its just the course feels like a waste of time.

I think Lucy is a great professor, had the opportunity to have a coffee chat with her and she is just as kind and nice outside of the classroom giving me great industry/career advice. Probably one of the most enjoyable classes/professors I've had since transferring to UCSD. She is very open with everyone, made the lectures very enjoyable to listen to, and ensured everyone understood the topic well. One of my favorite Professors for sure.

I took two quarters with this instructor, and both classes were very helpful and enjoyable. The lectures were very well organized, which made the material easy to follow and understand. The instructor not only explained the concepts clearly, but also showed how they could be applied in real life and gave examples of where they are used. I also appreciated how the instructor encouraged students to think about their future and how they could use what they learned beyond this class. Overall, I really valued the support and encouragement in this class, and I would definitely take another course with this instructor if I had the chance. This instructor is one of the best professors I have had at UCSD.

It was a fun course

It was an engaging, useful course to anyone starting DS

It was such a pleasure to have Professor Lucy as my COGS9 professor! Thank you so much!

It was the wonderful course for introduction to data science. Professor Lai explain important concept and knowledge in very understandable way, really helps me to understand the course. Moreover, the reading assignment guides were very helpful for the long readings, it helps me from lost the idea what I was supposed to looking for.

Its awesome

Keep this class! I'll recommend my other friends to take it!

Keep up the great work!

Lai Lucy is amazing, I would take her class again!

Lucy was great. Love coming to her class.

Ms. Lai is a very kind and enthusiastic professor, and her classes are very funny.

n/a, you were awesome and i loved the website! thank you!

No opinion

No, thank you!

Nope!

Not at the moment.

Not particularly.

Not you

OK class, Prof. Lai feels like she understands and likes the topic she is teaching. The experience with her was fun. Weekly quizzes + mandatory (sort of, for points) attendance for both discussion and lecture.

One of the best professors I've had the honor of taking a class with here at UCSD! The course was the perfect amount of challenging, even coming from a non-COGS/data science major.

Overall, a great class, would definitely recommend other students to take this course.

Overall, the course was interesting and covered a lot of thought-provoking topics in cognitive science. The lectures and discussions helped introduce different perspectives on how the mind works, and the class environment felt engaging. Adding more real-world examples or interactive elements could make some of the concepts even easier to connect with.

Professor Lai did a good job of making the course well-paced and easy to digest for people new to the data science process and AI terminology. I appreciate how she included connections to important real-world events such as ethics concerns in top companies and the use of AI in current wars.

Professor Lai is very helpful and kind! I had a wonderful time in all of her classes. Thank you so much!

Really awesome prof! Love the grading scheme and she really cares for the students and their success beyond just the scope of the course. Would highly recommend!!

Really excellent grading system very clear and easy to understand my progress in the course.

She's very good at teacher cogs 9!! I think she's one of the best professor at UCSD.

thak you

Thank you for an amazing quarter! I wish there were more professors like Professor Lai!

That is all

The course materials were very helpful for understanding more about data science. I had a very positive experience in this class, and the instructor was very dedicated to teaching and making sure students understood the material.

The course was very informative and overall a great experience.

The guest lectures were great! They were extremely insightful and gave me a better picture of the job market and what skills I need to succeed

The professor really puts in the work and attention to the coarse and it shows.

The professor was super nice and responded to emails very quickly. Getting an A is definitely not impossible, and every lecture can help a lot with the course content. You learn how we can use data science in many fields (such as politics and the medical field). The group project also connected me to new friends whom I spent time with outside of class. Overall one of the best classes I have taken so far (even though I'm just a freshman in 2nd quarter). Would 10/10 recommend.

There were few reasons why I stopped attending the lecture. One of them was making students discuss with each other bit too much. I do understand the importance of communication and cooperation but the experience I had was pointless since discussion part during the lecture felt like it wasn't necessary. Of course this could be wrong and I do agree that in certain part of the lecture, discussion sometimes actually helps. Group project was bit frustrating since if you don't choose someone you know students get match with randoms and is mandatory. I do understand many other courses do this too but I do disagree sometimes it does make the experience worse.

Very useful class for my major and in general!

You were so sweet and I loved how flexible and stress-free the class was!

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