

CRN: 10868

CS 250, Discrete Structures I

2008 Fall Evaluation Comments

Instructor: Sergio Antoy

A. What do you like most about this class?

The instructor – he is entertaining and knows the subject matter.

Instructor took a sincere interest in learning

The instructor

Online video stream

Conceptual presentation of CS topics. Positive learning environment – friendly teacher. Integration of a very high level language like Maple.

The instructor was knowledgeable and had a good grasp of material.

This has been most interesting subject in CS so far. Professor eager to discuss material.

That it is recorded.

Maple is interesting to learn

I can understand it this time!

The professor presents the material in an interesting way.

That it is almost over.

Antoy is a very interesting speaker who knows a lot about the subject.

I liked that the material is related back to Computer Science.

I liked the subject matter a lot, and really appreciated the connections made to real computing. I also enjoyed lectures, homework, and reading the book, and found all of these to be very effective tools.

Prof. Antoy's explanations about how the material is used in different obscure programming languages. Hints at language theory.

B. What do you like least about this class?

Even near the end of the course, I am still unclear as to what is expected to be turned in for homework, even after asking several times. I also thought that more than 1:15 was needed for the exams.

The theory; I wanted to see more applications of these concepts.

Lack of connection with general programming practice. Perhaps this could be explored further. How does this subject relate to daily programming tasks and problems? Application of algorithms to real world problems would be useful.

While I understand the usefulness of this class in relation to C.S., I feel it would be better to teach the class more like a physics class and less like a math class. That is, while proofs are useful for instruction proving mathematical concepts should be left to math classes. So, more practical, and less theory needed.

Does not post lecture notes. This would be nice as the stream is slow to load. Blackboard would also be nice so students can converse on material.

I would love to see some real world examples of these concepts implemented in a real compileable language. So as to not distract from the material, the code would be provided. But it would be good to see.

The test were much harder than anything in the labs or homework, also too early hard to pay attention with this subject.

Maple does take a lot of time to learn on our own, though.

That it is an "online distance learning class" yet homework is due at 8 am on Mondays in person. So it is not really a distance learning course. Also tests were not really in line w/the text.

The tests seemed overly difficult. Class average exam 1 58%

In depth mathematical proofs. The book.

The content, pace, & difficulty of the course. It feels like a fairly brutal struggle for not only myself but my classmates too. This course is full of foreign and abstract concepts given at a pace far too fast for us to learn.

General course content ☺

There are classes in the math department like MTH 344 which teaches much of this course's material more thoroughly. So it is a drag to re-hash watered down material.

C. Additional Comments:

Some basic Maple syntax introduction of the class would have been very helpful. We covered some functions, but the syntax of how to build your own functions & make if/then statements would have been helpful.

I really enjoyed the course, and enjoyed professor Antoy's flexibility, energy, and availability (by email). Thanks for a great class!

The book has several errors. I know about the Eratta but I felt like I have to cross-reference the text book and the Eratta. Also, I found mistakes not covered in the Eratta – this makes studying frustrating and far less efficient.

Dislike the textbook, some examples not well explained.

Suggest spending a moment discussing proofs since we are asked to do proofs on tests. More time teaching Maple if used in the future.

I think is lecturer would be easier to follow if professor could use chalkboard.