Direct Instructor Feedback Form Report - CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence, KMA Solaiman

Project Title: **Spring 2024 Student Course Evaluation**

Courses Audience: **40**
Responses Received: **34**
Response Ratio: **85%**

Report Comments

Results of the open-ended Direct Instructor Feedback Form (DIFF's) are included below. These can only be viewed by the instructor teaching the course. Please download and save a copy for your records. DIFF's are only available in BLUE and are removed by the end of the next Fall or Spring semester's evaluation period. For example:

- Spring, prior Fall and Winter semester DIFF's will be removed.
- Fall, prior Spring and Summer semester DIFF's will be removed.

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Student Responses

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - I found the best part of this course to be the hwo the Professor (KMA) is invested in the students and want to see them succeed in this course. The concepts can sometimes be challenging but he will work with you if you put in the effort.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - N/A

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Office hours on a weekly basis

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - N/A

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - N/A

6. **Other Comments.**
   - Overall a very good professor, and wants students to succeed.

Student Responses (continued)

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - Some of the assignments were interesting

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - Give adequate time for the homeworks and more notice.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Giving additional time for students to submit late without penalty

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - I think the homeworks were unnecessarily difficult. If they were slightly less challenging, it would have been easier to learn and understand them rather than spend most of the time stressing about completing them.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - I liked gradescope and campus wire.

6. **Other Comments.**
   - I think overrall, the future students would benefit from there being more correlation between the lectures, homeworks, and exams. That way its easier for students to apply what they learned directly to the exams.

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - During the lecture, the instructor used the board for further explanation, clearing misunderstandings and providing conceptual examples for the slides. I liked the additional explanation. Also, using grade scope for grading was very helpful to get feedback and request a regrade.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I don't have any recommendations.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - [No Response]

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - N/a

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - I enjoyed learning about the various applications of AI and the science behind them.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - Slightly more implementation and walkthrough of code examples in class.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Thoroughly explains topics on the blackboard and will happily review them again if questioned.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - N/A

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - The few online classes were nice. In the future, if it was possible to record the lectures and post them consistently, it would help if I could not attend a day to not miss on the material covered. (Including demonstration and explanation drawings)

6. **Other Comments.**
   - I really enjoy your teaching style!

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - [No Response]

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I would appreciate if there were more concrete examples for specific problems. For example, showing the full mathematical calculation of Variable Elimination would have been useful (although that was not required on the homework, I think it would have helped my understanding more than just having abstract examples).

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - [No Response]

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - [No Response]

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - I appreciated how fast and well the teacher and TAS answered questions that were asked. This helped clear up misunderstandings with the work given.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I would recommend that the graders try and work in some type of partial credit, for example, I spent 6 hours in total working on my homework 2 just for me to get 0 points because I got the answers wrong. They also did not tell me what type of format to put my answers, and for the projects there was no sample output so I had no idea if my answer was correct or not.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Did very will in explaining all the content

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - The lectures were written in a way that prevented us from taking notes, this made it hard to go back and study.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - I felt that the online campuswire we used was effective in letting us ask questions when we were confused.

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - The workload is not too heavy; allows us to absorb more of the content rather than being bombarded by work, not knowing how to apply recently learned concepts into the assignments.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - This class is too slides heavy and requires a better medium.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Easy to access ask questions

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - relatively small classroom, chalkboard was suboptimal (prefer a camera onto a projector while writing)

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - The class feed was nice but office hours should've been held online as well.

6. **Other Comments.**
   - n/a

Student Responses (continued)

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - Doing the programming assignments provided a valuable hands–on learning opportunity to various AI algorithms and approaches.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - In–class prepared code demos would be extremely handy in displaying certain algorithms and would go hand–in–hand with programming assignments.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Does an extremely good job at elaborating on student's questions.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - Slides could be improved to further boost teaching effectiveness. Otherwise the professor teaches well.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - N/A

6. **Other Comments.**
   - N/A

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - Programming assignments, they gave me a deeper appreciation for what was taught.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - Less HWs and more PAs. Also it is a CMSC class I don't think exams are necessary, have us show our knowledge through programming the algorithms we are taught and applying them to a problem space.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - In–class exercises

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - [No Response]

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Student Responses (continued)

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
    - He was funny and understanding when it cam to understanding course work

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
    - The website is a good idea but sometimes things where not always uploaded on time, but he got better at it towards the end

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
    - friendly and undrstanding

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
    - videos would not show work at the board so hard to follow during those sections when reviewing

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
    - videos would not show work at the board so hard to follow during those sections when reviewing

6. **Other Comments.**
    - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - The due dates for the homeworks were actually lenient.
     The professor is very humorous.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I would recommend that when the professor is explaining things to the students (like when a question is asked) to slow down his cadence of speech to allow the students to better digest the concepts being conveyed.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - The humor that the professor has makes grasping the difficult concepts more bearable.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - I believe that the classroom environment that we all were allocated to was a large disadvantage to the professor's ability to teach.
     To be more specific, the classroom had a chalkboard which made illustrating concepts much more inconvenient for the professor.
     This is in contrast with other professors that I've seen who are able to use an iPad and Apple pencil as a digital whiteboard to be displayed on a larger screen, for example.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - N/A

6. **Other Comments.**
   - None.

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - The simulations really cleared up my confusion and so did coming to office hours.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I am not sure if I could contribute to this, he seems to know what he needs to get done.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - Everything is straight forward and there for you to use, you just need to do your part.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - I think the classroom itself needed redoing. It is an old building and oddly shaped if you ask me.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - Recordings of the lectures were great when I didn't have the time to be in the rare online meetings.

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Student Responses (continued)

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - [No Response]

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - [No Response]

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - He seems to get genuinely frustrated when students don't understand (often) which is kind of uncomfortable.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - For me this was Imposter Syndrome: The Class so I was pretty afraid to ask any questions when things went over my head (often)

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - This class needs more examples, less theory.

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - [No Response]

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - [No Response]

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - I liked when he went through examples on the blackboard using chalk, applying the concepts that are in the lecture to solve a real example

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - [No Response]

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - I liked the use of gradescope and campuswire. Gradescope made it easy to view how assignments were graded and easily view feedback on assignments.

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Student Responses (continued)

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - Most of the assignments were instructive, the lectures were solid.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - [No Response]

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - I think building class participation into the lectures would be helpful. It's a little unclear when we should raise our hands to answer and when we should just call out the answer. More class discussion in general would improve the class.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - [No Response]

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - The homeworks were mostly simple enough and well graded.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - Use less powerpoints in the class and more engaging lectures.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - He seemed passionate about AI and was a good grader.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - Reading off of slides during lectures made the lectures slow.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - learning about the different models and the math that takes behind its functions was really interesting

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I would change the slides and add more videos of how things worked

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - He is good at explanaing concept

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - The slides become redundnat and hard to keep interest in

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - We only had two online classes were it was lecture slides he went over

6. **Other Comments.**
   - none

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

34/35

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - I think he taught the class well and I think his lectures were the best.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I recommend that he give more assignments that are frequent. If there were more assignments we could practice what we learn more.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - I don't know probably teach more enthusiastically.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - Not really.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]

Courses Name: CMSC 471 01 Artificial Intelligence
Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman

1. **What was the best part of the course and why?**
   - The course website was quite helpful and easy to use, so I would say it was the best part of the course since it was a very useful resource.

2. **What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**
   - I would recommend updating your slides and reviewing the course material, mostly in the second half so that you don't have to go back and forth between neural networks and logic.

3. **What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**
   - This instructor made sure students understood the material by answering questions and trying to carefully explain material that students struggled with.

4. **Were there any classroom approaches or actions that hinder this instructor from being an effective teacher? If so, what?**
   - There were some times when the lectures were hard to follow for note taking, as the pacing was inconsistent and/or the slides that were focused on weren't good for taking notes.

5. **If this course had an online component, please provide feedback to the instructor about what you feel was effective as well as suggestions for future improvements.**
   - [No Response]

6. **Other Comments.**
   - [No Response]