

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

Courses Audience: **10**  
Responses Received: **8**  
Response Ratio: **80%**

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## 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.

## Student Responses

**Courses Name: CMSC 478 04 Intro to Machine Learning**

**Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman**

**1. What was the best part of the course and why?**

- ◊ As the course went on, and especially later in the course, we got to see not just the formulas and equations which fuel machine learning, but got to see the output, see how a bunch of numbers become "intelligence". I like seeing the more tangible and recognizable effects of my work, so that was very engaging.

**2. What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**

- ◊ Adding extra supplemental material may be helpful for some sections of the course. While I appreciate the effort spent trying to explain the material, a lot of it is complex, and I think it would be beneficial for many students to have videos or articles they are pointed to to give a supplementary explanation of some of the ideas.

**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]

## Student Responses (continued)

**Courses Name: CMSC 478 04 Intro to Machine Learning**

**Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman**

**1. What was the best part of the course and why?**

- ◊ I liked the style of homework assignments, I felt like each of them were a mini-project which fit the topics of the course very well.

**2. What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**

- ◊ I feel like the different software e.g. campuswire, gradescope, external website were a bit frustrating to deal with, I feel like it'd be nicer if there was less reliance on these external applications.

**3. What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**

- ◊ I appreciated him posting all his deadlines and schedule and giving engaging assignments.

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

- ◊ I felt like the classrooms swapped a lot at the start of the semester, but that wasn't really his fault.

**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 feel like when an online lecture was required, it was held well and I appreciate the announcement given beforehand.

**6. Other Comments.**

- ◊ I thought he was a good teacher who answered questions properly

## Student Responses (continued)

**Courses Name: CMSC 478 04 Intro to Machine Learning**

**Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman**

**1. What was the best part of the course and why?**

- ◊ I liked that there were no projects, just homework and exams.

**2. What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**

- ◊ He needs to speak slower. He always tries to speed through things because he thinks he's running out of time, but since he explained so fast nobody understood and he needs to repeat things, which contributes to running out of time. If he spoke slower the first time, he would have to repeat himself less.

**3. What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**

- ◊ He showed some outside examples that were helpful. If he can show even more example videos it'd be even better.

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

- ◊ He seems like he's being forced to teach and is unhappy about it. He gets annoyed when people don't understand the first time and there's a lot of sighing and rolling his eyes, which discourages students from speaking up at all in class. He then got mad when nobody asked questions because he figured we just weren't paying attention.

**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 think we should use discord instead of campuswire. It's much easier and everyone would prefer it I think.

**6. Other Comments.**

- ◊ He just needs to be better prepared. It sometimes seems like he's learning the material along with us. It feels like he's winging the entire lesson.

## Student Responses (continued)

**Courses Name: CMSC 478 04 Intro to Machine Learning**

**Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman**

**1. What was the best part of the course and why?**

- ◊ Converting theoretical topics to code was the best part because it allowed me to see the practical aspect of the lesson being taught.

**2. What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**

- ◊ I would not recommend any change because it seems like this is the professor's preferred style of teaching which is to introduce concepts and then spend time making sure everyone has at least understood the basic idea.

**3. What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**

- ◊ The constant checking for understanding was very effective in my opinion because it made me reflect on what I was just taught.

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

- ◊ I cannot think of a classroom approach that hindered the instructor from being effective.

**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.**

- ◊ If the course was online, the constant feedback from student would be very useful during class. Especially because online learning has a lower form of social engagement.

**6. Other Comments.**

- ◊ [No Response]

## Student Responses (continued)

**Courses Name: CMSC 478 04 Intro to Machine Learning**

**Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman**

**1. What was the best part of the course and why?**

- ◊ I actually liked the programming assignments because they familiarized you with the key python libraries and tools used in modern ML scripts. Moreover, I have been able to do my own personal projects and bolstered my GitHub with ML mini-projects because of this course.

**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?**

- ◊ More confidence with lectures. You're covering a lot of dense topics, so students won't immediately understand everything, but that's not because you haven't explained it well. The information just needs to soak into their minds for a bit.

**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 478 04 Intro to Machine Learning**

**Instructors Name: KMA Solaiman**

**1. What was the best part of the course and why?**

- ◊ The slides and the lectures were usually well prepared and allow for deeper conversation if someone asked a good question

**2. What changes would you recommend in the course and why?**

- ◊ Not sure how it would be implemented, but more smaller assignment. For me at least, i learn best by doing and there are very few opportunities outside of class to work with machine learning, so having small coding assignments for students to play around and tinker with.

**3. What classroom approaches or actions make this instructor an effective teacher?**

- ◊ The small classrooms helps make sure we are moving at the right pace, not too fast nor too slow

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

- ◊ There could have been more coding/real examples of the topics near the middle of the class. Like at the beginning there was code for gradient descent.

**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.**

- ◊ Grade scope was easy to use, but i would sometimes forget about campuswire

**6. Other Comments.**

- ◊ [No Response]