

Full Report

Evaluation for 2015 - Term 1 (Fall)

Course Code	Instructor	Response Rate (Respondants/Enrolled)
SFWRENG 4E03 (C01)	Maccio, Vincent	43.10% (25/58)

1. Overall for this course, what is your opinion of the effectiveness of the instructor?

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 10 Excellent)

12 Students (48.00%) said: 10

8 Students (32.00%) said: 9

3 Students (12.00%) said: 8

1 Students (4.00%) said: 6

1 Students (4.00%) said: 7

Median: 9.00	Mean: 9.16	StDev: 1.0677	Variance: 1.1400	Not Responded: 0
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2. The timing and appropriateness of feedback on your progress:

Receiving assignments back in a reasonable time frame, clear explanation of grade

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent)

15 Students (60.00%) said: 5

8 Students (32.00%) said: 4

2 Students (8.00%) said: 3

Median: 5.00	Mean: 4.52	StDev: 0.6532	Variance: 0.4267	Not Responded: 0
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3. Independent critical judgement was encouraged:

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent)

13 Students (52.00%) said: 5

11 Students (44.00%) said: 4

Median: 5.00	Mean: 4.54	StDev: 1.0692	Variance: 1.1431	Not Responded: 1
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4. OVERALL, how do you rate the value of this course compared with others you have taken at McMaster?

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent)

14 Students (56.00%) said: 5

8 Students (32.00%) said: 4

3 Students (12.00%) said: 3

Median: 5.00	Mean: 4.44	StDev: 0.7118	Variance: 0.5067	Not Responded: 0
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5. The organization of this course:

Progression of learning material, resource availability, professor was timely and prepared

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent)

18 Students (72.00%) said: 5

6 Students (24.00%) said: 4

1 Students (4.00%) said: 1

Median: 5.00	Mean: 4.60	StDev: 0.8660	Variance: 0.7500	Not Responded: 0
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6. The instructor's response to students:

Approachability, attitude, availability, well-explained answers

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent)

21 Students (84.00%) said: 5

3 Students (12.00%) said: 4

1 Students (4.00%) said: 3

Median: 5.00	Mean: 4.80	StDev: 0.5000	Variance: 0.2500	Not Responded: 0
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7. The coverage and fairness of tests:

Material coverage, mark distribution, difficulty level

(Scale: 1 Very Poor to 5 Excellent)

14 Students (56.00%) said: 5

9 Students (36.00%) said: 4

1 Students (4.00%) said: 3

1 Students (4.00%) said: 2

Median: 5.00	Mean: 4.44	StDev: 0.7681	Variance: 0.5900	Not Responded: 0
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8. Please comment on the quality of the TA's in this course:

- Andrew was always prepared before tutorial. His lessons enforced those that were learned in class with finer detail and provided us with the tools to do well in the class. He was able to answer any questions I had. He made himself available outside of his office hours for questions.
- Could be improved, but I can't blame the one TA for not getting our marks back fast enough. Maybe allocate more than one TA?
- The TA was very knowledgeable and approachable. He knew the material very well but I think more TAs would be an asset to this course.
- I have not interacted with the TA very often, but I am aware there is only one and I can only imagine the effort that he must put in with so many students taking this course.
- Andrew is a great TA. He does all he can to mark everything and help everyone. The only problem is that there are 100 students for only one TA. There need to be more in order to be effective.
- Andrew did a fantastic job. One TA for a class that size is a lot of work. He explained topics very well in tutorial and was always available. His marking was clear and fair.
- The ta was good. He really tried to help. Made a lot of mistakes in tutorial or would go over explanations too quickly
- TA is trying his best to help us with this course. He is very effective and overall 10/10 TA.

- The one was good, could have been more for the class size
- The ta and instructor worked very well together. I always felt informed and if there were any questions i could ask.
- The TA was helpful and knowledgeable, but there should be more than one because the class size was quite large
- Andrew and Vincent were very effective in their organisation of the material and were clear and patient in breaking down the hard concepts.
- Andrew did a good job at leading tutorials, and he was very capable in answering student questions.
- Andrew was generally well enough prepared for the tutorials. Minor mistakes were often made, but they didn't detract from the overall value of the tutorial.
- Excellent, very helpful. Did an excellent job getting assignments back to us, despite being on his own and having a vast number to mark.
- They were decent.
- TAs consistently made mistakes in tutorials, but flexible enough to allow late submissions to be handed into his office
- TAs are fine
- The TA could be a little more organized and explain himself a little better. Otherwise his marking is fair, and he's always able and willing to help and answer questions.
- Andrew has been a great TA and helps the students with care.

9. Please list aspects of this course that you found valuable and should be continued:

- I enjoyed working with CSIM. I liked that the 2 primary CSIM templates were provided in the beginning and most assignments could be built off of them with very little programming frustrations. Weekly assignments provided ample practice of course material and solutions were provided afterwards for studying later. The material covered on each test was outlined very clearly.
- Everything, very valuable material.
- I think the fact that the instructor didn't use slides made the course more interesting because this instructor interacts with the class more.
- very relaxed lecture style fair Grading very strong teaching technique
- Vince was really good at explaining the material of the course.
- More than anything, Vince made this course what it was. The lessons were engaging and material was always explained well enough that no one was lost. Relating the course content to real life applications was helpful. The evaluations were fair and the assignments covered all the course content while still being manageable.
- That all notes are written on the board. That the professor encourages his students participate. The professor teaches at an excellent pace and really cares about his students.
- Assignments and Tutorials, they save the day.
- weekly assignments
- The layout of assignments and midterms were well weighted and timed. The 2hour lecture is also nice. The amount of examples during lecture explaining the material was also great.
- The instructor was excellent The progression of material was perfectly paced The difficulty of tests/assignments was completely fair
- I liked how the material was well organized and broken down whenever Vince taught. He took the time to explain the ideas and shown a lot of different inclass examples to really get the concept understood.
- The content was covered in a very structured manner. The prof was very good at communicating concepts in lecture. This helped a lot in understanding the material.
- Weekly assignments

- The weekly assignments were of great value. Should definitely be continued.
- Vincent was one of the best instructors I have had, and in my opinion he should continue teaching this course.
- Everything was relevant and interesting.
- Prof. Maccio is a really good lecturer, he is very clear and concise and does a good job interacting with the students to ensure we understood the concepts. He also went out of his way to get to know his students, and it was clear that he cared that we understood the course.
- Professor was highly available and was good at explaining concepts one on one in office hours. Tutorials gave insight as to how to approach the assignment. Coding assignments were good way to understand application of material learned in class. Professor held review sessions before evaluations.
- Full explanations for key questions in test prep
- Review sessions before the midterms were invaluable and definitely should be continued. I found that since there weren't answers for every practice problem these became life savers when you tackled a question and got stumped. Writing on the board is something that I appreciated as well. It sucked when you missed class that you couldn't pick up notes from avenue, but by having to follow along with what was written on the board I found that I was more engaged with the material and that the pace of the course was determined more by how well the class understood what was going on rather than by how many slides could be read in an hour.

10. Please list aspects of this course that might be improved:

- Either adopting the same notation as the textbook or finding a book that uses the same notation. Providing more resources to practice (sides, practice problems with solutions).
- Additional TAs
- Instructor needs to be a little slower in explaining the concepts. There is too much being explained at a time and there isn't enough time to understand everything.
- Focusing a little less on proofs, since they are not required for understanding and are rarely part of evaluation. They are more for those who are interested in this field. Also, a potential CSIM replacement may be a worthy investment (if possible). Also, I think assignments should be worth 15%, dropping the midterms to 20% each. Maybe mark 6 or 7 out of 11 as a result.
- The assignments can be a little difficult and should not be due on Mondays. Rather they should be due some day during the week.
- 1st Midterm was kinda hard, but i know Vincent acknowledged it and did his best to make it up later in the course. CSIM on Assignments can be confusing, it would be nice to receive solution to CSIM problems after the due date passed.
- posting the notes would have been helpful the room was not very good for seeing the boards
- I did not know how to use the csim software and stuggled with it.
- The only study resource was lecture notes, the lectures were excellent, but if one was missed there was no way to study what was in that lecture.
- I wish there were premade slides and more of the online resources available if you want to review and learn the material at home.
- Grades for weekly assignments should be posted on avenue.
- Reference sections in the textbook that correspond to the sections being taught in class. It's very helpful for me to have a secondary reference of the material learned.
- Another TA would be very helpful, as there were something like 100 students, and 12 assignments each. As such the single TA had an enormous workload.
- Full answers for all practice problems and maybe upload all notes/formulas online.
- The only thing that would have been nice is if the assignment marks were posted on avenue instead of only being handed back.
- Mandatory submissions on paper. Why can't submissions be electronic? Professor should

explain all units required for each equation.

- Please Please PLEASE have some online lecture slides or other material to help with catching up on missed or misunderstood content
- Would have preferred having three hour long lectures instead of two lectures (1 hour and 2 hours).
- Give corresponding chapter for each lecture.

11. Additional comments:

- Vince was a very good professor. He made an effort to learn everyone's names and constantly interacted with the class for input on the course and test material.
- Vince is an excellent teacher. I think he would do a much better job as a full time professor than a good deal of the professors I have been taught by over the past 3 years.
- Vincent has been one of the best instructors I've had over the last four years because he explains things so well and is very devoted to the class.
- I rarely fill out my course evaluations, and when I do it's for classes that I truly detested. This is the first time I've filled one out for a course / professor that I truly enjoy. Vincent is an amazing instructor that has made a course I was dreading quite enjoyable and I just hope that his overall evaluation reflects that.
- Would love to have seen more instructors like Vince during my time at McMaster. I am heavily disappointed by the instruction in the CAS department as it is, but to encounter such an incredible instructor in my final year is a shame.
- It would be helpful if you could say the words as you are writing on the board
- This course was the best one I have had, besides pop music with Simon Wood, at McMaster and I'm in 6th year so I have taken a lot.
- Make other instructors watch this one and learn how to teach!
- I am really happy with how Vince carried this course. I wish all of our other profs were like him relaxed but stern when needed, willing to discuss the material clearly during class and after lectures. He made two hour lectures not so boring with his time to time jokes to lighten up the mood.
- Vince was a great instructor, was very good at teaching the material and being friendly. Learned everybody's name
- Vince is a great instructor!
- Great work teaching the course Vincent! You should check out <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/ShowRatings.jsp?tid2061342> .Some of your students left some reviews for you :)
- Vincent was an excellent and dedicated instructor, always making sure we were comfortable with the material. He responded quickly to every email, and even put aside portions of his own time to have review sessions for us.
- Very interesting course
- Vincent was a great professor and I don't think I would have done well in this course without his support.
- Vincent has shown a lot of enthusiasm instructing this course and presents great lectures and knowledge when helping students as well as setting up independent review sessions for the students.