



**Graduate Course Evaluation for Julian McAuley
Department of Computer Science and Engineering**

CSE 255 - Data Mining & Analytics
Section ID 849886
Section Number A00
Fall 2015

**Number of Evaluations Submitted: 69
Number of Students Enrolled: 130**

1. The Instructor displayed proficient command of the material.

50 (72.5%): Strongly Agree
18 (26.1%): Agree
1 (1.4%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

2. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

46 (67.6%): Strongly Agree
19 (27.9%): Agree
3 (4.4%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1: [No Response]

3. The Instructor's voice was clear and audible.

36 (52.2%): Strongly Agree
22 (31.9%): Agree
6 (8.7%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
5 (7.2%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

4. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

46 (67.6%): Strongly Agree
20 (29.4%): Agree
2 (2.9%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1: [No Response]

5. The Instructor was approachable, courteous and showed interest and concern for students' learning and understanding.

52 (75.4%): Strongly Agree
13 (18.8%): Agree
2 (2.9%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.4%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (1.4%): Not Applicable

6. The Instructor presented material in an intellectually stimulating way that gave students deeper insight into the material.

36 (52.2%): Strongly Agree
26 (37.7%): Agree
5 (7.2%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.4%): Disagree
1 (1.4%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

7. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

37 (53.6%): Strongly Agree
28 (40.6%): Agree
4 (5.8%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

38 (55.9%): Strongly Agree
18 (26.5%): Agree
7 (10.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
5 (7.4%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1: [No Response]

9. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

34 (50.0%): Strongly Agree
18 (26.5%): Agree
14 (20.6%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (2.9%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1: [No Response]

10. The Instructor is actively helpful when students have difficulty with course material.

38 (55.9%): Strongly Agree
23 (33.8%): Agree
4 (5.9%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.5%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
2 (2.9%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

11. The Instructor interacted well with students and treated them with respect and courtesy.

48 (70.6%): Strongly Agree
18 (26.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.5%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (1.5%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

12. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

48 (70.6%): Strongly Agree
18 (26.5%): Agree
1 (1.5%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.5%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1: [No Response]

13. The Instructor was clear about standards for evaluation.

49 (72.1%): Strongly Agree
17 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (2.9%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

14. I would recommend this instructor overall.

45 (66.2%): Strongly Agree
19 (27.9%): Agree
3 (4.4%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.5%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1: [No Response]

15. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

45 (66.2%): Excellent
20 (29.4%): Above Average
3 (4.4%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor
1: [No Response]

16. General comments about the Instructor's performance

- excellent
- Excellent class presence, lively lectures and made the classes fun. Loved attending them!
- good
- Great class. Focuses more on practical stuff .
Amazing support system wrt Homework and assignments.
Podcasts were really helpful
- great guy, very funny in an offhand kind of way that helped with presenting material that would inevitably be dry math sometimes. very knowledgeable in basic machine learning and advanced recommender systems
- Great instructor and who presented course content very well. Dr. McAuley has a good sense of humor, was keen on relevant examples and strived to work with students on a personal level.
- Great, sometimes humorous, the class is fun, but sometimes the pace is too fast.
- His Australian accent is bit heavy, at least for me.
His handwriting is hard to tell.
He is interesting and makes the classes more fun.
- informative and funny class
- Interesting course
- knowledgeable about data mining in many topics!
- Knowledgeable, smart, with a good sense of humor. And most importantly, very responsible and helpful to students.

- Lectures were a bit dry at times, but that may be more of a function of course material
- The course was more hands on than theoretical which made it more interesting.
- The Instructor designed course pretty well such that people without background in Machine Learning would have no difficulty understanding the course.
- The instructor is very approachable and helpful when it comes to explaining the concepts or making decisions for the final project. He tries to teach all the concepts with the help of examples and his approach to teaching is very good. Grading scheme is also very good. It would be better to discuss the approaches for the Kaggle competition in class and what the instructor himself would have done in the class.
- Though this is an "application" oriented course, at times I felt he could have focused a bit more on the theory part.
- Witty and fun to learn from.

17. The course material was intellectually stimulating.

40 (58.8%): Strongly Agree
 22 (32.4%): Agree
 6 (8.8%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
 1: [No Response]

18. The materials for the course (textbooks, handouts, etc.) were useful and well organized.

38 (55.9%): Strongly Agree
 20 (29.4%): Agree
 7 (10.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
 3 (4.4%): Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
 1: [No Response]

19. Grading was constructive and assisted learning.

38 (55.9%): Strongly Agree
 21 (30.9%): Agree
 5 (7.4%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
 4 (5.9%): Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
 1: [No Response]

20. What is your reason for taking this class?

16 (23.5%): Core Course Requirement
19 (27.9%): Subject Area Requirement
7 (10.3%): Elective
26 (38.2%): Interest
1: [No Response]

21. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- -> The homeworks
- -> super cool and helpful instructor
- -> Podcasts FTW
- -> THE KAGGLE CONTEST WAS THE BEST
- Broad coverage of data mining.
- Competitive assignments
- Covered a wide range of material, homework did a good job of solidifying principles
- Extremely problem driven
- Give a overall introduction to many machine learning technique and how and when to use them, pretty helpful.
- Give students a chance to apply the theoretical models they have learned from other courses to real-world problems.
- Interesting assignments and well-written homeworks.
- It helps us deepen our understanding of data mining algorithms.
- Projects, exposure to state-of-art machine learning techniques
- Really focuses on real world problems and uses creative models to solve them.
- Relevant and current examples.

The accessibility of the course material through the online podcasts and annotated slides make a significant impact on effectively learning of the material and provide a consistent, solid foundation for further in-depth research a particular data mining subjects.

- Teaching with the help of examples, offering several different explanations to different topics, discussing with students the possible explanations of things taught in class, engagement level of class. Awesome Course!
- The classes were quite interesting, very interactive.
- The course is more "hands on"
- The course structure and grading pattern.
- The project based structure of the course helped learning.
- this is a good breadth course

- Two projects
- widespread applications

22. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- ->Midterm was not required
->We could have had more homeworks (that focused on the advanced topics covered) as after week 5-6 the material covered was never tested.
-> We could maybe have had access to EC2 or some other powerful server so that we could mine massive data sets
- Address audio on podcasts issues.
- Even though a hands-on approach is good, some maths behind initial 4 weeks of topics is required for stronger concept building. I would suggest cutting down the discussion of some topics to better build the framework of the required concepts.
- Examinations have to be timed properly. The concept of "equal time for everyone" and "relative grades" do not always work out in expected ways.
- Having an end term will motivate students to learn more.
- Including an assignment on feature modelling and also some content on how to choose features would be very helpful.
- make the homeworks more difficult
- More challenging problems for homework.
- More time for final Assignment
- My only misgiving was that I didn't take the midterm seriously, which resulted in poor performance and lead to unnecessary anxiety for the rest of the term. I hadn't taken the midterm as seriously as I should have because of my misinterpretation of how to approach the midterm: I had thought the midterm would have been simpler than it had been. Providing this term's grad-level midterm to the next grad-level course's students may help avoid instances of my misinterpretation.
- Need a structure of the course
- please consider writing more legibly..
podcast is not useful if they are not reliable...
- Provide more practice for better understanding the materials.
- The handwritten words can be neater, sometimes I can hardly recognize them.
- The midterm could be better. Some questions are baffling. Way too much calculation. Usually this amount of calculation requires quite much exercise beforehand, otherwise it's simply measuring speed instead of understanding of the course materials.
- The projects felt rather rushed
- There is only 1 mid-term and no compulsory homework after the mid-term. I feel that for the second half of the course, many students don't study as hard as for the materials of the first

part. Fewer students come to attend the class, even they do, they don't pay 100% attention. So, I would suggest adding more marks in the total grade for the materials after mid-term.

- there should be a lecture where Julian just does standup comedy the whole hour
- There were a couple of topics/derivations that could have been taught in more detail. Not having a final exam, and having an optional assignment would mean people may not learn the final few lectures well. I think either a final exam or a compulsory assignment would do the trick.
- Too many topics are covered in this course. The instructor could cut down some topics and give more depth to other topics.

23. I would recommend this course overall.

47 (70.1%):	Strongly Agree
15 (22.4%):	Agree
5 (7.5%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
2:	[No Response]

24. What is your overall rating of this course?

46 (67.6%):	Excellent
18 (26.5%):	Above Average
4 (5.9%):	Average
0 (0.0%):	Below Average
0 (0.0%):	Poor
1:	[No Response]

25. What are the most important concepts that you learned in this class that you expect will be useful in the long term?

- A bunch of classification and regression models, the way to analyze social networks
- Basically everything
- classifier, regressor, hidden variable
- Community power laws
- Data mining concepts: Regression, Clustering, Classification, Recommendation systems
- Developed a good base to understand data mining
- Everything I learnt was new, and important. With Big Data booming, all the concepts taught in the class would be of great use.
- learning
- linear regression

- Practical application of almost all data mining concepts that I would use for a long time in my life.
- Predictive Tasks
- Python. Basic data mining skills.
- Recommender systems, Regression, Classification, Dimensionality reduction , Network Analysis
- Regression, Classification, Social Networks and many more
- regression, latent factor models, using python libraries for mining, text mining, regularization, feature selection, dimensionality reduction
- The ability to find appropriate features about a dataset is really vital.
- The Practice
- Which data mining tools to apply in the data mining circumstances covered in the course and how to appropriately engineer features.

26. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please provide any additional constructive comments

- Awesome course for practical applications. Awesome and funny professor!
- Excellent course. One of the best courses at UCSD.
- Good class. Recommend it!
- I know, having best 3 out of 4 assignments really help with the grades, and not having a final exam would reduce pressure, but IMO having them will enhance the learning process, drive(push) people towards learning all the topics.
- Loved the way the course was designed. Assignments really helped learn the concepts taught in class.
If possible, please include an assignment towards the end to cover the last part on which there is no exam and no assignment.
- One of the best classes that I've taken simply because of the teaching style and the interesting examples and methods used in lectures
- Please continue making the effort to publish your course material online. It is a significant differentiator between your course and others and will remain a resource for me with the projects to come.
- The course structure should be changed so that students get an incentive to attend the last 5 sessions so as to make the best out of the course.
- There are too many things to cover for this course but too little time, which made everything the professor taught not deep enough. I would suggest adding more time per week for this course.
- There were many students in class that had their own conversations during lecture and it was very distracting. It would have helped if the Professor made a general announcement about common etiquette.

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Computer Science and Engineering, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express his or her opinion.