



Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary Department of Computer Science and Engineering

McAuley, Julian John
CSE 158 - Recommender Sys&Web Mining (A)
Fall Quarter 2019

Number of Students Enrolled: 384
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 102

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your class level is

0 (0.0%):	Freshman
1 (1.0%):	Sophomore
17 (16.7%):	Junior
75 (73.5%):	Senior
4 (3.9%):	Graduate
5 (4.9%):	Extension
0 (0.0%):	Visitor

2. Your reason for taking this class is

72 (76.6%):	Major
3 (3.2%):	Minor
0 (0.0%):	Gen. Ed.
13 (13.8%):	Elective
6 (6.4%):	Interest
8:	[No Response]

3. What grade do you expect in this class?

46 (49.5%):	A
45 (48.4%):	B
1 (1.1%):	C
1 (1.1%):	D
0 (0.0%):	F
0 (0.0%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP
9:	[No Response]

GENERAL QUESTIONS

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
9 (9.7%):	Disagree
4 (4.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
41 (44.1%):	Agree
38 (40.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

5. How many hours a week do you spend studying outside of class on average?

5 (5.3%):	0-1
8 (8.5%):	2-3
28 (29.8%):	4-5
20 (21.3%):	6-7
16 (17.0%):	8-9
9 (9.6%):	10-11
4 (4.3%):	12-13
3 (3.2%):	14-15
0 (0.0%):	16-17
1 (1.1%):	18-19
0 (0.0%):	20 or more
8:	[No Response]

6. How often do you attend this course?

34 (36.2%):	Very Rarely
24 (25.5%):	Some of the Time
36 (38.3%):	Most of the Time
8:	[No Response]

COURSE MATERIAL CSE 158

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
2 (2.2%):	Disagree
4 (4.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
51 (54.8%):	Agree
35 (37.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

8. Assignments promote learning.

1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
4 (4.3%):	Disagree
6 (6.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
40 (43.0%):	Agree
42 (45.2%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

9. Required reading is useful.

1 (1.1%): Strongly Disagree
2 (2.2%): Disagree
22 (23.7%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
16 (17.2%): Agree
13 (14.0%): Strongly Agree
39 (41.9%): Not Applicable
9: [No Response]

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

3 (3.2%): Strongly Disagree
12 (12.9%): Disagree
29 (31.2%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
36 (38.7%): Agree
13 (14.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
9: [No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
10 (10.9%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
52 (56.5%): Agree
30 (32.6%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
10: [No Response]

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

86 (91.5%): Yes
8 (8.5%): No
8: [No Response]

13. Course CSE 158:

- Recommender system and web mining
- Interesting course material that covers a wide range of concepts.
- The class barely does any recommender systems and ends up being just another intro ML course. All we do is use TF-IDF and recycle Julian's starter code
- I learned a lot in this course and really enjoyed the material taught in this course. This course can be taken without any machine learning prereq and it's totally fine to do that, but I really think having this class after cse 151 helped me a lot to get more out of this course.
- The course material is very interesting, but I would say some of the homework assignments were a pain to deal with because my computer could not handle such large datasets. For example, assignment 1 took 30-40mins to test a single cell in Jupyter Notebooks.
- Amazing class, very straight forward and easy.

- Great class, lots of subject are covered and well presented.
- This is the most applicable course I've ever taken at UCSD. There's less focus on proofs, and more focus on applying the learned material on real world problems. I can't emphasize this enough. As a last quarter senior, this is the first course I've taken at UCSD where I was excited to do the work and go to lectures.
- A lot of homework assignments are not clear in detail, so even professor provide code demons in class, it is still hard to follow and finish homework assignments alone.
- CSE 158 has a lot of interesting content and assignments are also fun to do. They use a lot of content from lecture and are not too difficult.
- Really helpful course to get to know more about machine learning in general. You get good technical practice with the assignments and the midterm tested more theoretical knowledge.
- The class is important in teaching important ideas. It is very interesting but a lot of material to cover
- CSE 158 is a very practical course for beginners interested in machine learning. I appreciated the practical approach to teaching methods for data cleaning and designing a pipeline instead of emphasizing the actually regression part like most classes, which is the most dense and difficult part of the topic. Instead, the class focuses on getting results by being smart about preparing data and I learned a number of methods which will be very useful for projects I undertake in the future.
- Pretty cool course, I just never ever went so it made it kinda hard to enjoy
- This course attempted to cover too much at once, and had to skimp out on depth to accomplish that. It's a weird mix of conceptual/theoretical lecture slides, poorly optimized code in lecture notebooks, and tedious coding tasks on the homeworks, followed by a conceptual/theoretical exam. Because there are so many topics crammed into the course (many of which are not web mining nor recommender systems—though they are very important ML topics nonetheless), the theoretical depth of the course is largely missing. I understand that for many students, this class may have been their first time using sklearn and needing to manage data, but when the bulk of the homeworks are finding a good value of 'C' in logistic regression, I feel like this course has great potential that gets missed out on.

14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- The Exam felt difficult because it was open ended but overall its not too bad. The Assignments were difficult but we did have a lot of time to prepare for it. Students with more experience had a big advantage in this regard
- 1 midterm exam, 4 homework and 2 assignments.
- The midterm was appropriate given the material provided and was reasonable in difficulty.
- Exam was fair. It was very conceptual though and I thought it was not very representative of the homework assignments.
- I thought they were fair and promoted learning better than any other course at UCSD.
- The midterm was very close to content covered in lecture and the homework assignments. It was not too difficult and it helped to have a lot of practice material.

15. Reading [title(s) and comments]:

- Recommended reading selection was excellent and really let people interested in diving deeper learn more without the entire class deviating to learn it.
- Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning (Bishop)

INSTRUCTOR Julian McAuley

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
24 (25.8%):	Agree
66 (71.0%):	Strongly Agree
1 (1.1%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Disagree
8 (8.6%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
23 (24.7%):	Agree
60 (64.5%):	Strongly Agree
1 (1.1%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Disagree
6 (6.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
27 (29.3%):	Agree
57 (62.0%):	Strongly Agree
1 (1.1%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
2 (2.2%):	Disagree
8 (8.6%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
32 (34.4%):	Agree
50 (53.8%):	Strongly Agree
1 (1.1%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

20. Lectures hold your attention.

4 (4.3%):	Strongly Disagree
12 (12.9%):	Disagree
20 (21.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
32 (34.4%):	Agree
23 (24.7%):	Strongly Agree
2 (2.2%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

21. Instructor's lecture style facilitates note-taking.

4 (4.3%):	Strongly Disagree
8 (8.6%):	Disagree
17 (18.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
30 (32.3%):	Agree
30 (32.3%):	Strongly Agree
4 (4.3%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
2 (2.2%):	Disagree
8 (8.7%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
42 (45.7%):	Agree
40 (43.5%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
5 (5.4%):	Disagree
17 (18.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
33 (35.5%):	Agree
34 (36.6%):	Strongly Agree
4 (4.3%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Disagree
9 (9.7%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
32 (34.4%):	Agree
40 (43.0%):	Strongly Agree
11 (11.8%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Disagree
6 (6.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
30 (32.6%):	Agree
52 (56.5%):	Strongly Agree
3 (3.3%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Disagree
7 (7.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
37 (39.8%):	Agree
42 (45.2%):	Strongly Agree
5 (5.4%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

27. The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity.

1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
13 (14.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
33 (36.3%):	Agree
36 (39.6%):	Strongly Agree
8 (8.8%):	Not Applicable
11:	[No Response]

28. Instructor Julian McAuley:

- Expects you to know a lot of stuff beforehand, so some lectures were confusing.
- Fun assignments, thanks for no final!
- He is a very knowledgeable man who understands the material very well. Sometimes the pacing can be a little slow and it can be hard to pay attention to the material or the material. A few concepts are still difficult and were not explained very well like for example building latent factor models
- really reasonable with respect to grades and really helpful and accessible outside of class with assignments. Also funny!
- Wonderful guy. Very approachable and an accomplished professor. I just wish he didn't spend so much time live coding during lectures and instead used pre-written code and just explained it. Also, please use vectorization libraries like pandas and numpy. The pure python for loops triggered my OCD haha.
- Professor McAuley is very clear during lecture and has a strong command of the material but is monotonic, and sometimes it gets boring to listen to lecture, easy to not pay attention.
- I hope he can at least setup DI for 158, the homeworks are not clear
- Nice

- One of the best professors I have seen. Saw him in the office hours once, gave me a hint that solved a problem I was having for 2 days on a PA. Very clear, concise and calculated with the lectures.
- Amazing professor. Even more amazing accent :)))
- I learned a lot from his class, not just course material and coding, but problem solving skills and how to approach problems is the most that I get from this class.
- I like that he takes time to personally respond to Piazza posts. Not many instructors do that. He's very strict with deadlines, which is understandable but sometimes I wish there was more flexibility when there are many students stressed out.
- Very good teacher, the class is well prepared. The explanation are clear and he uses a lot of examples to illustrates the theory so that the class understands well.
- Good!
- The best teaching style and assignment grading (competitive)
- Good professor! He is a great teacher; I learned a lot in his class. He is clearly very knowledgeable about the subject.
- Professor McAuley is certainly knowledgeable about the subject but because the course slides are available online, the lecture is podcasted, and because his way of going over the slides is slower and not particularly interesting, I stopped attending lectures in exchange for watching the podcasts on 1.5x speed.
- Professor McAuley is a treat. He both understands the material well and also understands how to convey it in a way that makes things seem easy. He doesn't try to make things more difficult than they have to be, and instead focuses on getting people to understand why a technique is useful and how to apply it to appropriate data. Very refreshing from some courses which seem to dive deeper into theory than necessary; students can walk away from his class having learned something while not feeling they have to bang their heads against a wall to learn it.

29. Do you recommend this professor overall?

90 (96.8%): Yes
 3 (3.2%): No
 9: [No Response]

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.