



Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary Department of Computer Science and Engineering

McAuley, Julian John
CSE 158 - Recommender Sys&Web Mining (B)
Fall Quarter 2021

Number of Students Enrolled: 194
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 55

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your class level is

1 (1.8%):	Freshman
0 (0.0%):	Sophomore
3 (5.5%):	Junior
51 (92.7%):	Senior
0 (0.0%):	Graduate
0 (0.0%):	Extension
0 (0.0%):	Visitor

2. Your reason for taking this class is

42 (84.0%):	Major
3 (6.0%):	Minor
0 (0.0%):	Gen. Ed.
5 (10.0%):	Elective
0 (0.0%):	Interest
5:	[No Response]

3. What grade do you expect in this class?

34 (68.0%):	A
11 (22.0%):	B
5 (10.0%):	C
0 (0.0%):	D
0 (0.0%):	F
0 (0.0%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP
5:	[No Response]

GENERAL QUESTIONS

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
4 (8.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
24 (48.0%):	Agree
21 (42.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
5:	[No Response]

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

0 (0.0%):	0-1
1 (2.0%):	2-3
9 (18.0%):	4-5
13 (26.0%):	6-7
9 (18.0%):	8-9
7 (14.0%):	10-11
6 (12.0%):	12-13
3 (6.0%):	14-15
1 (2.0%):	16-17
0 (0.0%):	18-19
1 (2.0%):	20 or more
5:	[No Response]

6. How often do you attend this course?

4 (8.3%):	Very Rarely
19 (39.6%):	Some of the Time
25 (52.1%):	Most of the Time
7:	[No Response]

COURSE MATERIAL CSE 158

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
3 (6.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
25 (51.0%):	Agree
20 (40.8%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

8. Assignments promote learning.

1 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
3 (6.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
23 (46.9%):	Agree
22 (44.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

9. Required reading is useful.

1 (2.0%): Strongly Disagree
2 (4.1%): Disagree
8 (16.3%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
14 (28.6%): Agree
15 (30.6%): Strongly Agree
9 (18.4%): Not Applicable
6: [No Response]

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
5 (10.4%): Disagree
8 (16.7%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
25 (52.1%): Agree
10 (20.8%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
7: [No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

1 (2.0%): Strongly Disagree
2 (4.1%): Disagree
2 (4.1%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
26 (53.1%): Agree
18 (36.7%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
6: [No Response]

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

47 (94.0%): Yes
3 (6.0%): No
5: [No Response]

13. Course CSE 158:

- CSE 158 was very interesting and well-organized. I thought all the information was very important in the CS career, and it was very thought-provoking.
- The content of the class is good but the professor is bad. Does not know how to teach or how to organise a class. Exams are shit and logistics are very bad.
- A very good course, and very fun. One of the few classes that made me want to do the HW to see what we can find from the data!
- Generally a difficult topic to cover and was a lot of information thrown at us. I feel like the content could've been filtered to accommodate the learning of in depth knowledge.
- I like this class, but I wish assignments were spaced out less at the beginning so there would be more time at the end
- Machine learning class. Somewhat of an intro class, good to have knowledge of the maths and probability. He goes over many models that should do about the same problem.

- Professor is intelligent and thoughtful.
- I had absolutely no idea what this course was about before taking it, but it turned out to be really interesting. The machine learning used in the course is good for your first time learning it, it's not very theoretical and more practical. A lot of the algorithmic stuff and linear algebra in the course is pretty complicated but is boiled down conceptually to make sense.
- Recommender Systems and Machine Learning
- Major requirement. Not easy, but not difficult too. Material very interesting and useful. Only one midterm + 2 assignments + 4 HWs.
- This is a very useful course if you want to learn basic machine learning algorithms and practices to construct recommender systems and predict outcomes.

14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- All the assignments and exams reflected the course content.
- Fair, but you need to understand the professor's logic.
- Exams weren't too hard, more project based assignments
- The exam was not too bad although it was time-consuming and both projects required a lot of work.
- I gotta say that I spent all 7 hours doing the midterm (except for a couple of toilet breaks and some quick drinks). I ate dinner at 12.15/12.30 am that day. It's just long, Assignment 1 and 2 were also time-consuming.
- Kaggle competition was difficult but it was okay. Final paper was also okay.
- Exams and projects are very related to the materials which are very helpful!
- Exams are very representative of the course material. Although very long, I appreciate that there were no surprises on the midterm.
- There was a lot of complaining about the midterm which seemed weird to me, I thought it was difficult but an expected amount of difficulty for the rigor of the course.
- Took too long and the questions were vague and hard to determine the implementation

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

- Better read the book. It's quite hard in the beginning to understand the math symbols, but you get there.
- Not much reading for this course
- Readings are very important as they provide implementation for the theory learned in class.

INSTRUCTOR Julian McAuley

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
15 (30.6%):	Agree
34 (69.4%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
15 (30.6%):	Agree
33 (67.3%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
18 (36.7%):	Agree
30 (61.2%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

1 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
3 (6.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
18 (36.7%):	Agree
26 (53.1%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

20. Lectures hold your attention.

2 (4.1%):	Strongly Disagree
6 (12.2%):	Disagree
5 (10.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
16 (32.7%):	Agree
20 (40.8%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

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

1 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
4 (8.2%):	Disagree
4 (8.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
21 (42.9%):	Agree
17 (34.7%):	Strongly Agree
2 (4.1%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

1 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
4 (8.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
21 (42.9%):	Agree
22 (44.9%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

1 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
3 (6.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
20 (40.8%):	Agree
23 (46.9%):	Strongly Agree
1 (2.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
4 (8.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
20 (40.8%):	Agree
24 (49.0%):	Strongly Agree
1 (2.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (2.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
21 (42.9%):	Agree
27 (55.1%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
5 (10.2%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
20 (40.8%): Agree
24 (49.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
6: [No Response]

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

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (2.1%): Disagree
5 (10.4%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
17 (35.4%): Agree
24 (50.0%): Strongly Agree
1 (2.1%): Not Applicable
7: [No Response]

28. Instructor Julian McAuley:

- He seems very knowledgeable about his domain. He chooses to stick firmly with his assignment deadlines (but sometimes, he's flexible if many people ask for extensions). I have to say that the provided codes in the workbook are useful. (Side note: Dear Professor McAuley, your daughter is so so cute :D. I had to watch that recording multiple times just to see her saying "he-lo". I hope your family, especially your baby, will be doing well in the future.)
- Nice and intelligent.
- Professor McAuley is very knowledgeable about the material. I liked how he provided sample code in lectures.
I had mixed feelings about the ranking aspect of assignment. It was really frustrating to me, as a student who likes to start and finish assignments earlier, that I had to continuously check the leaderboard and try to improve my solution based on how my rank was changing. This made the last few hours before the assignment was due very stressful, as a lot of other students worked on it last minute. It also made me feel like I couldn't stop working on it for about 5 days straight which was a big time sink since I was doing grad apps and work from other classes at the same time. Also, it was very frustrating that a 0.01 difference in accuracy could cause a difference of about 200 ranks. I thought that was unfair since a 0.01 difference is practically nothing, and you could have the same solution as someone else, but by chance, your accuracy is slightly worse. This was also reflected in the hidden data. If ranking is going to be a larger portion of the grade, I would suggest making a task more similar to task 2 where the variability in MSE's was much higher than the accuracy variability in task 1.
- Great professor! A tier.
- Prof McAuley taught the course extremely well. I understood the course material because the professor makes the class interesting. He's also funny.
- Professor McAuley has an exceptional passion for computer science and teaches students with this same vigor. He pays attention to student concerns about the course and responds to and resolves issues quickly. He is very thoughtful in the way he goes about academic instruction.
- great guy. love his lecture style and homework styles. very helpful and accessible.

- I really didn't understand a lot of the formulas displayed in lecture, but the way he explained what they mean made it make sense to me. Was very honest about feedback from previous classes and tried to implement ways to fix what other students complained about in the past. At the same time he didn't cave and make the class less interesting or too easy just because that's what people want.
- The professor is really funny and accessible.
- A great professor. Out of all my professors this quarter, he was the best in terms of the audio and video (screen sharing) for the material. He streams on Twitch, and while many say that it is distracting, the audio is still good and as long as there's mods in the chat, it's still the same as zoom (the only thing distracting I would say is people looking at their followed streamers). I feel like he's definitely good at explaining the concepts, but it feels as if there should be more prerequisite knowledge for this course even though I do the assignments just fine.
- Great professor, could try to make the lecture more intriguing though
- Professor McAuley created a great learning environment. Everything required to do well in the course was clear. He was accessible along with all the information from lecture readily available.
- Is knowledgeable but lacks In effective teaching strategies

29. Do you recommend this professor overall?

47 (94.0%): Yes
 3 (6.0%): No
 5: [No Response]

Custom Question 5

30. Please provide examples of the ways the instructor did or did not create a learning environment that welcomed, challenged, and supported all students.

- He did not accommodate to the needs of many students in terms of allowing for greater time on assignments or on creating resources that would help us on those assignments
- I caught Covid towards the end of the quarter and he was by far the most accommodating professor and made it easier for me to focus on recovering for the time I was sick.

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.