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

CSE 258R - Recommender Sys&Web Mining
Section ID 90131
Section Number A01
Fall 2022

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 117
Number of Students Enrolled: 319

1. The Instructor displayed proficient command of the material.

97 (85.8%):	Strongly Agree
15 (13.3%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
4:	[No Response]

2. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

92 (82.9%):	Strongly Agree
18 (16.2%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
6:	[No Response]

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

95 (85.6%):	Strongly Agree
15 (13.5%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
6:	[No Response]

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

87 (79.8%):   Strongly Agree
18 (16.5%):   Agree
3 (2.8%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree
8:     [No Response]

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

90 (84.1%):   Strongly Agree
16 (15.0%):   Agree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable
10:     [No Response]

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

90 (84.1%):   Strongly Agree
13 (12.1%):   Agree
2 (1.9%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable
10:     [No Response]

7. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

90 (84.1%):   Strongly Agree
14 (13.1%):   Agree
2 (1.9%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Strongly Disagree
10:     [No Response]

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

85 (79.4%):	Strongly Agree
20 (18.7%):	Agree
1 (0.9%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
10:	[No Response]

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

81 (76.4%):	Strongly Agree
16 (15.1%):	Agree
7 (6.6%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (1.9%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
11:	[No Response]

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

89 (84.0%):	Strongly Agree
15 (14.2%):	Agree
1 (0.9%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
11:	[No Response]

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

93 (86.9%):	Strongly Agree
12 (11.2%):	Agree
1 (0.9%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

12. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

91 (84.3%):	Strongly Agree
15 (13.9%):	Agree
1 (0.9%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
9:	[No Response]

13. The Instructor was clear about standards for evaluation.

92 (85.2%):   Strongly Agree
13 (12.0%):   Agree
1 (0.9%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable
9:              [No Response]

14. I would recommend this instructor overall.

98 (83.8%):   Strongly Agree
18 (15.4%):   Agree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

15. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

101 (86.3%):   Excellent
15 (12.8%):   Above Average
0 (0.0%):   Average
0 (0.0%):   Below Average
1 (0.9%):   Poor

16. General comments about the Instructor's performance
Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Absolutely loved the course and the instruction methodology used by the Professor.

- During the lecture professor McAuley would always try to address every single question that came up in the chat and he was also super responsive on Piazza. Whenever I (or any other students) posted a question on Piazza, I would get a reply back in less than a day (mostly within couple hours).

- Great teaching. Thanks

- He is an excellent and kind instructor. He often gives extensions to students, especially during strikes.

- I wish the professor focused on the code aspect as much as he did on the theoretical and math behind it. Overall, he's very knowledgeable.

- Julian is amazing. He's very kind and the most promptly available instructor I've ever had. He's super responsive on the chat, and he'll explain things like a million times for you to get it. He's very reasonable and level-headed. He also obviously knows a great deal about the topics he's teaching and condenses things down well for us.

- one of the best profs I've had at UCSD

- Performers well

- Please dont entertain doubts from twich... A lot of students just keep spamming and you tend to sway away from the topic of repeat things multiple times... Its easier to have TAs to answer queries and only take genuine queries. Textbook is really good

- Professor McAuley is very knowledgeable and clearly passionate about the field of recommender systems. I really enjoyed learning about the concepts he taught in class. If there was one thing I would have preferred was that he could have gone deeper into the intuitions behind the different models taught. A lot of the times, I feel like he gave an overview of a recommender system, instead of a deeper dive

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- The instructor is nice and well-prepared.

- This course is great! STRONGLY recommend!

17. The course material was intellectually stimulating.

75 (75.8%):	Strongly Agree
22 (22.2%):	Agree
1 (1.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (1.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
18:	[No Response]

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

73 (76.8%):	Strongly Agree
20 (21.1%):	Agree
1 (1.1%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
22:	[No Response]

19. Grading was constructive and assisted learning.

70 (73.7%):	Strongly Agree
18 (18.9%):	Agree
4 (4.2%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (2.1%):	Disagree
1 (1.1%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
22:	[No Response]

20. What is your reason for taking this class?

33 (34.7%):   Core Course Requirement
11 (11.6%):   Subject Area Requirement
24 (25.3%):   Elective
27 (28.4%):   Interest
22:              [No Response]

21. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- Course material and relevance to real-world applications

- Helpful and patient

- Highly accessible course material. Served as a good foundation of machine learning

- Hybrid format, podcasting, Julian makes it very enjoyable, everything was an appropriate rigor and the coursework very reasonable.

- I liked how the focus of the class was not about getting good scores on the assignments but rather understanding different concepts and models of recommender systems. If we had a good understanding of the material, it wasn't difficult to get good grades on the homeworks and assignments as long as we gave it a try. The professor and the TAs were very responsive. Twitch lectures are enjoyable to watch especially with the engagement of the students in the chat.

- Popular topic. Hands-on homework and assignement. Flexibility of taking the course remotely.

- Practical applications, autograder was a really nice thing.

- Remote option, Useful knowledge such as Python.

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- The course gave students a wide range to explore for the final project. So students not only learn the course material from lectures but also learn from real-world practice.

- The provided notebooks

- Topic

- Very applicable and close to realistic scenarios of programming

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

- Clear grading rubrics, example codes and previous year's lecture material helps students learn by themselves and reinforce learning.

- Could have provided more mathematical intuition behind the models taught in class.

- Focusing on code as well, not just theory.

- I think sometimes having the autograder was even too generous because we could resubmit as often as we wanted.

- Nice as it is

- Nothing in particular...

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- Taking less questions from online forums and focus on people within the lecture hall.

- The professor could add Jupiter notebook sessions for the last topics after the midterm.

- We can make graduate and undergraduate students taking course seperately. I think most graduate students already learned some machine learning basics so we can go through the first 2 weeks content faster.

23. I would recommend this course overall.

90 (76.9%):   Strongly Agree
25 (21.4%):   Agree
1 (0.9%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
1 (0.9%):   Strongly Disagree

24. What is your overall rating of this course?

95 (81.2%):   Excellent
19 (16.2%):   Above Average
2 (1.7%):   Average
0 (0.0%):   Below Average
1 (0.9%):   Poor

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

- Building Recommender Systems

- heuristic and ML based approaches to deal with

- I guess how latent feature models actually work, as I had heard of them before but never in detail or implemented them.

- Popular Recommendation system approach

- Prediction models

- Principles of recommender systems

- Programming skills and certain libraries

- recommender system

- Recommender System, Python

- Recommender systems

- regression, classification, bag-of-words, TF-IDF, and different model-based recommendation approaches

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- text mining basics

- text mining, recommendation systems

26. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?
Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- I have never seen such a large lecture run anywhere near as well!

- Many CSE courses would be so much more enjoyable if Julian was teaching them.

- S

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.