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

CSE 258R - Recommender Sys&Web Mining
Section ID 260784
Section Number A01
Fall 2023

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 91
Number of Students Enrolled: 333

1. The Instructor displayed proficient command of the material.

71 (80.7%): Strongly Agree
16 (18.2%): Agree
1 (1.1%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
3: [No Response]

2. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

74 (84.1%): Strongly Agree
13 (14.8%): Agree
1 (1.1%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
3: [No Response]

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

71 (80.7%): Strongly Agree
16 (18.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.1%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
3: [No Response]
4. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

70 (79.5%): Strongly Agree  
15 (17.0%): Agree  
3 (3.4%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree  
3: [No Response]

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

72 (81.8%): Strongly Agree  
14 (15.9%): Agree  
1 (1.1%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree  
1 (1.1%): Not Applicable  
3: [No Response]

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

70 (79.5%): Strongly Agree  
15 (17.0%): Agree  
2 (2.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree  
1 (1.1%): Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable  
3: [No Response]

7. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

70 (80.5%): Strongly Agree  
15 (17.2%): Agree  
2 (2.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree  
4: [No Response]
8. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

   66 (75.9%): Strongly Agree
   18 (20.7%): Agree
   2 (2.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
   1 (1.1%): Disagree
   0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
   4: [No Response]

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

   67 (77.0%): Strongly Agree
   18 (20.7%): Agree
   1 (1.1%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
   1 (1.1%): Disagree
   0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
   4: [No Response]

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

    73 (83.9%): Strongly Agree
    11 (12.6%): Agree
    2 (2.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
    0 (0.0%): Disagree
    0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
    1 (1.1%): Not Applicable
    4: [No Response]

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

    71 (82.6%): Strongly Agree
    14 (16.3%): Agree
    1 (1.2%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
    0 (0.0%): Disagree
    0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
    0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
    5: [No Response]

12. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

    73 (83.9%): Strongly Agree
    13 (14.9%): Agree
    0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
    1 (1.1%): Disagree
    0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
    4: [No Response]
13. The Instructor was clear about standards for evaluation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>73 (83.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>13 (14.9%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>1 (1.1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[No Response]</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

14. I would recommend this instructor overall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>74 (81.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>14 (15.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</td>
<td>2 (2.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>1 (1.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

15. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>77 (84.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>11 (12.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>2 (2.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>1 (1.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. General comments about the Instructor's performance

*Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community*

- Careful and patient. The homework is friendly to new learners.
- Clear instruction and the accent even makes it clearer.
- Excellent
- Excellent!
- Focus on useful practice. Quick reply in lecture and on Piazza. Give a lot help to student feel tough with this course.
- Great
- Great Instructor!
- Great Professor
- Instructor did a great job answering questions and making sure things were understood. Very organized and I appreciated the accessibility of course materials.
• Most of the material felt very basic and was presented in a disorganized fashion, annotations on the lecture slides were sloppy, and very little attempt was made to explain the theory behind many of the tools we used. On the other hand, many of the extensions/applications of the content were only briefly introduced as a tangent with little elaboration. Overall, the pacing of the course overall left a lot to be desired and it felt like only half the time was being properly utilized while the rest of the content was just filler to take up the total allocated lecture time each week.

• perfect

• prof

• Professor McAuley is honestly one of the best professors at UCSD. He's a gem. He's an amazing person, VERY kind, and genuinely cares about individual students' well-being and progress.

• Teachers are very knowledgeable about the program and follow the lessons well. The content of each lesson was well presented. Very quick and patient in responding to student questions and answers after class. The curriculum and grading rules are very reasonable.

• The instructor followed a structured approach to delivering the content, making it easier to understand and connect each topic. Also, he was very active in solving the doubts.

• Very informative and helpful

17. The course material was intellectually stimulating.

55 (71.4%):   Strongly Agree
18 (23.4%):   Agree
3 (3.9%):     Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (1.3%):     Disagree
0 (0.0%):     Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):     Not Applicable
14: [No Response]

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

57 (75.0%):   Strongly Agree
16 (21.1%):   Agree
1 (1.3%):     Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (2.6%):     Disagree
0 (0.0%):     Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):     Not Applicable
15: [No Response]
19. Grading was constructive and assisted learning.

57 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
18 (23.7%): Agree
1 (1.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
15: [No Response]

20. What is your reason for taking this class?

17 (22.7%): Core Course Requirement
6 (8.0%): Subject Area Requirement
27 (36.0%): Elective
25 (33.3%): Interest
16: [No Response]

21. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- A remote course, and completely focus on practice (I mean Python programming to do data analysis or predicting).
- Help us to go into ML when we don't have much basics.
- I learned the recommendation system
- I really learned a lot!!!
- I thought that he used interesting and easy-to-understand datasets. The lecture notes and textbook were useful and well-organized.
- Interesting
- Interesting material. I liked the project focus that allowed people to focus on their own areas of interest with tools learned in class.
- Provide useful knowledge for usage of python and recommend system
- The course touched upon the basics before diving into the advanced topics which acted as a refresher for certain concepts. And, the assessment structure of the course allows one to get a hands-on experience of the course content. One of the assignments involved a live leaderboard aspect which made it fun to solve, encouraging you to explore the course content beyond the classroom.
- The homework and assignments are helpful!
- The homework really helps understanding the course material and its application to a real-world problem.
- This course helped me get started with recommender systems and web mining. It's a great introduction for beginners, and an in-depth course for students with a basic knowledge of recommender systems and web mining.
• Useful and have lots of example.
• useful and interesting

22. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?
• Easier Assignment 1.
• Hope ranking in assignment 1 weighs less.
• I think it's pretty good so far.
• it felt very impersonal, but that comes with the large size.
• It's not right to have the last assignment is fully peer graded. It has the highest weightage, yet fell in the hands of peers (who themselves are being graded), instead of instructors.
• more coding videos
• More time devoted to fleshing out the mathematical foundations behind the models discussed; for discussions on recent advancements / related literature, either choose between spending enough time discussing them to provide students with useful insights or skipping them in favor of more elaboration on core material.
• nothing
• Reorganize the slide. It can be seen that even the professor himself has been unsatisfied with his slides sometimes. Delete some parts not that useful or don't want that been discussed anymore, and include some useful annotations into slides maybe better. And each slide is too long (100+ pages), so maybe it can be divided into more accurate parts, so that it will be easier to find information (formula or key to coding) when doing homeworks.
• The instructor was knowledgeable, but somehow I felt behind during the entire course.

23. I would recommend this course overall.

73 (80.2%): Strongly Agree
16 (17.6%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (2.2%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

24. What is your overall rating of this course?

74 (81.3%): Excellent
12 (13.2%): Above Average
3 (3.3%): Average
2 (2.2%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor
25. What are the most important concepts that you learned in this class that you expect will be useful in the long term?

- Combining relationship data into a predictor. My research deals with systems and data relationships
- I am more confident about AI or ML
- I learned about implementation of major concepts such as classification, regression, recommendation and basics of natural language processing under different scenarios. These will help me understand better and build more robust recommendation systems in future.

- Recommend system
- Recommend system with sets "userpergame, gameperuser"
- Recommendation - user feature construction
- Recommendation System
- Recommender System, Predict Models
- Recommender Systems
- Recommender systems in general
- Sometimes easy approach (algorithm) can lead to an acceptable results.
- The most basic recommendation system logic and so on.
- the project of recommendation
- When adjusting variable making little difference, just try new method. (learning from assignment 1

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

- During the first class, the professor said it was an introductory course but the rapid pace of this class made it inaccessible to students who had never learned machine learning. I felt like there was too much information for me to fully digest the course material. I would not say this was an introductory course.
- I think the grading difficulty overcorrected from previous iterations of the course.
- It's not right to have the last assignment is fully peer graded. It has the highest weightage, yet fell in the hands of peers (who themselves are being graded), instead of instructors.
- Loved the class. The material was very accessible with how it was presented.
- No, it's a very good class.
- nothing
- Perfect
• thank you for everything you have done
• The professor is very nice and you can have a discuss with him for your problems.

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.