CS 4750-001 **Database Systems** - Spring 2011

ENGR (33189)

INSTRUCTORS: **Sherriff, Mark (mss2x)**

Respondents: 62 / Enrollment: 77

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

1. Which topic/lecture in this course was your favorite and why?
~
Question Type: Short Answer
~
contributed by Sherriff, Mark (mss2x)

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Individual Answers
58	*See below for Individual Results*

My Favorite topic was when we learned abou SQL queries in general.

Database design in general. It's really interesting to take a step back from coding and examine the system as a whole

Security. Even though I had heard this lecture before, having it applied to the specific case of databases was interesting and useful.

The section dealing with SQL itself. It has the most practical applications, and could actually be executed to "make stuff happen"

I couldn't tell you a single one that stuck out in my mind. The majority of the lectures were well designed and interesting.

I liked learning about mysql and php. Generally, I enjoyed the lectures about the practical applications of databases and how to interface with them.

Probably the project, I had never really done any web-based work before and the project gave me a nice, required, crash course in web development (and connecting/working with databases from applications)

mysql

SQL and DB Interfacing: I liked getting my hands dirty in some coding and real world stuff.

Forming SQL queries, because I believe that actually knowing how to implement transactions involving SQL queries can be useful in the future.

The advanced SQL. I have had some minor experience with mySQL before, but it was self-taught knowledge. These more advanced techniques were really helpful, and made me realize how convoluted and inefficient my original methods were.

I liked learning the SQL stuff because it was useful and fun to try to come up with ways to perform certain queries.

Just the general database knowledge/advanced database commands were useful

I really enjoyed the methods for relating databases and how to make them simpler.

The security lecture was my favorite, because it was interesting and universally relevant (and funny).

Embedded database, because I found that concept interesting and useful.

I enjoyed avanced SQL because it's a useful thing to know for creating web pages.

Database design as it is extremely practical in industry.

Relational Algebra. I really enjoy the fundamental basics in CS. I find logic interesting.

The information in this document is private and confidential. Please handle accordingly.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	Query optimization and the internal working of the DBMS (B+ trees for indexes, etc) were by far the best part of the course for me. These are the types of knowledge that it is very difficult to acquire from a "Learn DBs in 24 hours" type book or online tutorial. It was interesting to learn how to exploit the internal workings of the DBMS to get good performance in real-world situations.
	ACID. Made me giggle.
	Hardware: My parents won't let me take the computer apart.
	Relational algebra; I like to know the theoretical foundations of practical tools
	XML/JQuery. Super cool stuff. Shows lots of ways to integrate different technologies to gather a use data in incredible ways. Opens up lots of possibilities. Just generally interesting.
	Learning how to write SQL commands to retrieve data. I viewed them as a puzzle to figure out how to get what you want.
	I enjoyed the lectures dedicated to examples (FD and SQL for example) These helped me learn the material the most.
	Database Security, because today it is more important than ever to secure all sorts of data against growing threats from hackers.
	Indexing/hashing
	I liked the first unit when we talked about RA and SQL because I feel that those are valuable tools for the workplace.
	The stuff about jQuery because it is very useful and fun to use.
	ER diagrams, I found them to be extremely useful in planning and creating data bases.
	Good Database Security
	SQL and relational algebra
	Security. I think it was the most important thing we covered.
	I really liked the hardware lectures, mainly RAID and its implementations.
	Advanced SQL - most useful for my career path
	He has a way of making all lectures interesting and engaging.
	all of it was useful and interesting
	the scripting - it was fun working on the problems assigned in lecture. It kept things interesting and engaging.
	Advanced SQL -- I had a basic knowledge of SQL before I took the course, and I enjoyed learning more about the more powerful ways to pull data from the database.
	ACID - going through troubles with ACID pulled a lot of things together
	I love the Hardware lecture (extended including the lecture on hard drives). I have built computers in the past, but hearing about the writing scheme and defragmenting was very interesting.
	Database security was the most interesting to me, but thats because I'm fascinated by the war between hackers and everyone else. I wish more depth had been given to the subject, but thats mostly out of personal interest.
	Learning about Database Design because I had worked with databases before but did not know what made or how to design a good database.
	I enjoyed the more practical topics such as SQL, advanced SQL, PHP & SQL
	functional dependencies - I understood them fairly easily and they were kinda fun
	All of the SQL topics because they introduced me to a new topic.
	Advanced SQL: it was all new to me and useful
	I think that the lecture about hardware was the most interesting, because I learned about the different things that need to be taken into consideration when building a database server. It also provided some historical context, which is also interesting.
	RAIDS---I feel like this material would prove useful to know even outside of the database realm
	SQL lectures because it was very useful to me.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	The lecture building a wedding database on the spot. It set the recipe for me to create my own project.

The lecture building a wedding database on the spot. It set the recipe for me to create my own project.

Concurrency control was my favorite because it dealt with a very hard problem often encountered with real systems and the different ways it can be solved.

The implementation of DBMSs. This seems like something more fundamental that I couldn't learn very well via Google, on-the-job.

Properties of good database design, because it is really important, easy to learn with a good professor and actually matters in the real world.

I liked the DB interfacing examples we did, specifically the wedding example.

I thought it was pretty consistent in terms of interestingness (with the exception of the snooze that is functional dependencies). If I had to pick one I guess I would say the SQL lectures, because they seemed the most practically applicable.

Relational algebra; helped me understand the mathematical/formal basis for SQL.

2. Which topic/lecture in this class do you think you will find the most useful in the future?
~
Question Type: Short Answer
~
contributed by Sherriff, Mark (mss2x)

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark	
Total	Individual Answers
59	*See below for Individual Results*

SQL, PHP, XML, General knowledge

Certainly the same; SQL is very effective and utilized in a lot of places professionally.

Either php, or the security

For me, the more practical topics such as SQL, advanced SQL, PHP & SQL

Learning how to build and query databases.

Same as above. My job this summer involves supply chain IT, and thus deals a lot with large databases and queries. I think that the knowledge I learned from this lecture (and others, such as distributed databases) will certainly help quite a bit.

I think that the lecture on XML and jQuery might be the most useful, as it provides alternative ways to display data, and allows one to consider the drawbacks to a database that may need to be looked at when planning a system.

Learning how to connect to databases from PHP and using structured queries.

ER diagrams and breaking up dependencies from spreadsheet-like database tables.

ER-Diagrams/Querying/db manipulation

learning php/sql

Database Design and some of the hardware topics like RAID.

The interfacing examples really helped me get a better feel for how databases should be created.

I thought the most useful was when we formulated sql statments in class using boats and sailors.

I've heard most of it before, but you can never hear the security lecture too many times.

sql

Also the section about SQL. But also the section related to database design itself. Kinda need one for the other.

ER Diagrams and Security

Security

Security. It's important and I didn't have much experience with it.

I doubt I will really use much of this in the future as I am a chemical engineer, but it is nice to understand how databases work.

probably the stuff on SQL

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	Just knowing the basics of databases and things related to them will be helpful in the business world. The project really helped with learning about database interfacing.

The performance/internals lectures were very applicable to building real systems. Also, the detailed coverage of transactions, transaction control, and locking were extremely useful. Again, these are the kinds of things that it's easiest to learn when you have someone who knows what they're talking about answering questions that come up. It's very difficult to learn these types of concepts exclusively from a book.

The entire class was relevant, I couldn't choose just one lecture.

Mostly, I think the topic of creating good databases (especially being in the third form) will help in the future. This is mostly due to the fact that it helped me understand how much planning should go into things like data storage and retrieval.

jQuery because it is incredibly powerful and can be used in a lot of real world situations.

Security/most of it

SQL

SQL

SQL

I think the basic SQL lectures in the beginning will be the most applicable for what I want to do. The basic queries, and using the Sailors example.

mysql

Database Security Levels.

Advanced SQL Functions

Good Database Security

All of it

SQL and DB Interfacing: I'm going to work in software for the next few years, and the skills I picked up from this class will help for times to come.

The practical uses of databases when building frontends and also security practices.

PHP, XML, SQL, AJAX were all very useful and have been covered in recent interviews that I have had.

I'm not sure any specific topic will be more valuable than gaining a thorough understanding of the entire database system design process, from modeling to implementation of a system.

Triggers and constraints. I had a working knowledge of databases before I took this class, but I had no knowledge of triggers. I'm sure that I could have improved the program I wrote at my internship if I had known about triggers beforehand.

I think I will probably use the basic SQL queries and optimizations we learned in the future.

SQL and RA. But also the project and the application techniques we learned by doing the project.

Advanced SQL - most useful for my career path

The levels of database security.

SQL. I feel like this gave me tools to use in the future.

mysql commands

None, really. Not because none of it is useful for anyone; I just don't see a lot of database work in my future.

The lecture on XML and key/value databases.

Advanced SQL stuff, ER Diagrams, Transactions

SQL lectures because it was very useful to me.

The actual coding of sql - mainly for the main project. That to me seemed the most beneficial. The assignments (particularly with regard to the relational algebra) sometimes seemed too academic for the course.

SQL queries and database design (ER diagrams especially).

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

Database design

Database design - getting used to thinking about how to construct a larger system, figuring out everything necessary and the best way to make it function I think will be really helpful.

Creating ER-diagrams and converting them into tables correctly.

SQL

ER diagrams probably. Very helpful in defining and designing large database systems. Will probably be useful in the career I will be going into.

3. What lecture/topic(s) in this class "did not work" or were not seen as useful in the long run?
~
Question Type: Short Answer
~
contributed by Sherriff, Mark (mss2x)

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Individual Answers
53	*See below for Individual Results*

the proofs for 3NF is one thing I really don't see any use for.

Sadly, I think the hardware lecture wasn't really useful in the long run. While I enjoyed it immensely during the lecture itself, I don't think it really presented much long-term useful knowledge. I wish that the hardware lecture had come after the performance/internal-workings lectures so that we could discuss optimal distribution of log files to different drives from data files, etc. I also wish that more depth had been included on SANs. A huge number of production environments use SANs and it would be interesting to discuss how they impact database performance.

Because we only brushed on how the stuff was stored, the indexes and B+ trees didn't feel very useful. Perhaps either cut it back to just discussing indexes from a software engineering "when to use what" perspective, or focus more on it. Except don't do that second one, because it would be boring.

Indexing and hashing

Normal Forms and Proofs: I realize that stuff is fundamental, but I do feel like we spent an inordinate amount of time on that.

None really. I thought the class was pretty useful.

Too much time on SQL, though I have experience with it already

Discussing distributed databases.

I'm not crazy about the relational algebra stuff

The relational algebra hasn't really stayed in my memory. It just seems outdated.

3-NF, BCNF, F+, Fc lectures were confusing

I really enjoyed all of the lectures. I can't think of any lecture that would not be useful, either in use or in studying how the databases work.

Normal forms didn't seem particularly useful. This may just be because we were using fairly simple/trivial systems. Some real-world examples where normal forms aren't trivial would be helpful.

There were some lectures that were repeats from other classes but thats to be expected when classes overlap.

wedding database thing was useless

not really

The one where we spent 20 minutes debating what constituted Fc of an arbitrary set of functional requirements

I would like to spend less time on relational algebra. It is important and is the basis of early databases, but it isn't relevant anymore.

Didn't get much out of the embedded databases lecture other than "a database, but embedded!"

BCNF is stupid. I don't like it.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	I didn't like functional dependencies and 3NF/BCNF because they are outdated, and no longer really used. None None Normal Forms - They suck! You taught them well but they are almost not helpful when you design a database ahead of time. Relational Algebra Relational Algebra Relational Algebra The concurrency stuff was really dry and we didn't ever get quizzed on that material. This stuff is already covered in OS, and I wish it would stay there. While normal forms are very important in dependency preserving and maximizing reductions, I feel as if they shouldn't be stressed as much. Sure you'd like to prove your tables are efficient, but for the most part most students don't initially create horrendously designed relations. One lecture should be sufficient, just to get the point across. The hardware lecture. Everything in it is repeated from architecture, OS, parallel, and a probably a few other courses. If someone is in a 4000-level CS course and doesn't know the "How Stuff Works" book version of the inside of a hard disk, he or she is probably too apathetic to absorb it this time around. The RAID levels are a bit more esoteric, but not by much; I'd seen that two or three times already. Relational queries I strongly dislike trees, including B+ trees. I've never found learning about trees to be useful for much outside of classes that study them (this is a totally biased answer). All topics that were not seen as important were discussed for a minimal amount of time, although relational algebra has a relatively minimal use, but is necessary as a foundation for SQL. I'm not sure why we spent a lecture on how the different database types store files. everything was applicable on some level Can't think of any bad lectures probably the 3NF and BCNF portions, I seriously doubt I will ever hear those terms again. I had trouble with the Normal Forms part of the course, as even with practice and extra help I still had difficulty identifying if a database schema was in a specific normal form. While this does not mean the professor did not do a good job with the topic, I might have had a hard time understanding what was going on. The wedding planning I'm not sure - I wasn't super thrilled about the RA but i know it serves as an underpinning of a lot of the work behind databases, so... the hardware...but I understand that we had to cover it... This is a hard question, I don't really have an answer for it. Didn't really think any were not working. Storage and File Structure. I still don't understand normal forms, specifically how to get 3NF and BCNF. You could afford to spend a little more time on those, considering they're pretty important to understand. distributed db P3P and XML? Functional dependencies were interesting, but proving BCNF/3NF was practically useless given the fact that relations were already in at least 3NF usually. Normal Forms; I just don't see myself using them in the future. all was great I didn't get a lot out of the DB interfacing lectures/wedding database example, or out of the AJAX lecture. Useful topics, to be sure, but I don't think those classes "worked."

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

4. Do you have any suggestions/comments that we should take into account for future projects for this course?

~

Question Type: Short Answer

~

contributed by Sherriff, Mark (mss2x)

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark	
Total	Individual Answers
46	*See below for Individual Results*

Having a couple more concrete items/demos due during the project would help keep people keep on track with the project.

Projects where you can choose the material are awesome, yet normal forms were trivial and useless because we implored good DB design

None that I could think of.

Start the project earlier so that the students have more time to work on it

more deadlines / guidance for proj maybe more advice what platform/languages to use do 3nf lecture before students start proj so that they can make sure in 3nf before put tables in phpmyadmin

I feel like we could have done more "hands-on" activities with queries. For example, you could setup multiple databases of various size, and show the importance of indexing, normal forms, etc. Additionally, you could create interactive assignments to have students design queries to output a pre-determined data set. I found that simply writing SQL on paper was of little benefit. Often times I would be on my laptop, playing around with phpmyadmin, getting my queries to work.

I like that you gave us a ton of leeway on what we could work on, but you might we want to be even more specific on your requirements and more strict on the checkpoints. As you noticed on the project demo day, so many people we were waiting until the last minute to get everything done.

More guidance

Explain the scope of the project better, I felt like it was very hard to choose what to do not really understanding what you were looking for as a finished project. Present some you thought went well from a previous semester to give an idea of what ours should be doing. Have check points (real ones) through out the semester to make sure we are on track of a successful project inline with your vision.

None

No, I really enjoyed the course. Sherriff rocks.

Have checks as you go to force students to better pace themselves.

Perhaps quickly show an example of how to use templates to format your website. I'd never done anything like that before and everyone else's website looked a lot more professional than mine.   I would also suggest having more rigorous checkpoints throughout the semester. A lot of us put it off till the end of the semester, and it would have been better if we were on top of it throughout the course instead. Especially as we are learning the topics (e.g. check our ER diagram when we learn about ER diagrams, have us come up with sample queries when we do SQL).

Force them to work on the project earlier (have presentations two weeks before end of class?).

It would be nice if more activities with the computers could be done.

No

Clearer outline of requirements and grading.

I think if you had a few more assignments (ideally, smaller demonstrations for the major project - such as a working frontend with no database stuff), it'd help. In particular, I had a hard time convincing my partner to work until a day or two before the due date - forcing incremental updates (not just a suggested timeline) would help that sort of thing be avoided. Also, I just learn better through doing, and I think a few more actual SQL type of assignments would be nice.

It is sort of a pain to have a final project and final exam within a week of each other (on top of every other class's finals). I'm sure you aren't a fan of this either since you have to somehow grade both before grades are due). I REALLY like CS projects but 90% of the difficulty was with PHP, Javascript, AJAX problems and only 10% had to do with databases. If possible, could you do two exams, no final, and a project so things are spread out a bit more.

Force more people to work in teams

Give more structure about the semester-long project and how to go about certain project tasks (i.e. Assertions, Checks).

The information in this document is private and confidential. Please handle accordingly.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	I'm partial to the following: implementing a (very) simple DBMS (maybe only storing integers, for instance) in C and a corresponding client program to send queries and receive data. Students would implement a simple query language, a B+ tree, etc., reaching a very solid understanding of how DBs work. I would have found this much more interesting, enlightening that making a web application, most of the effort for which is learning PHP, html, and other things not specifically related to databases.

I think that students should see examples of projects from years past to get an idea of the expectations.

Assign default projects that people can work on

i like the checkpoint...maybe earlier?

I think the project was structured well, and of an appropriate difficulty level for the course. Regular check-ins to keep people on track are a good thing.

I liked it!

Maybe a few optional review-type sessions for PHP and online work. I ended up relying on my group member teaching me about these which probably would not have worked if we were not roommates.

no

I REALLY enjoyed this class...like no joke. This is the BEST CS class that I have ever taken through my 4 years of undergrad.

More about how to use SQL/databases with languages other than PHP might be helpful.

More help with coming up with ideas at the start.

I would highly encourage the students to start earlier. The hardest part of the project wasn't the SQL or database side, it was the user interface. I had to learn JQuery and some javascript to get the functionality that I wanted for the site, which wasted hours.

I wish that I partnered up with someone. I think I could have done this better with a partner - large groups aren't feasible but its harder to get a project done by yourself.

the project was good how it was. kin of inconvenient due to my schedule

The details for the project were well-defined and overall was a good project to assign.

I do not have any comments. Sorry.

I believe that some of the group projects had some of the most creativity, partly because there was more than one person working on that. However, I don't think that it should be required that groups be formed to work on the project.

May I suggest strict weekly checkoffs so that students can't wait till the last few days to finish the entire project like I did :-)

Go back to progress reports and updates. I had my thesis to write and I kept pushing back the database project. Obviously, I ended up with a disappointing result. I would prefer to have the constant demos that we need to submit (like have insert working in two weeks, then export, then something cool, etc.). The small deadlines force me to work on stuff right away, that I would potentially push back. Many people agreed with me on this.

Having check-in deadlines for the project was good, because it actually made me work on it earlier. But they should probably have been earlier, maybe even in line with the very optimistic estimates on the website.

Maybe do a little bit of PHP in class; although the learning curve isn't very steep, it would have helped a little for those in the class who have never used PHP before.

No, the project was well-suited. Although, I wish we had more practice with special commands (triggers, constraints) before we did the project.

Nope, deadlines were good and made sure projects were moving along. Homeworks were helpful, reviews for the exams helped allot. Overall it was a good class.

The one this semester was pretty appropriate and taught us a lot. Perhaps in the future the project shouldn't focus so much on building the application. I learned more about php from the project than I did about databases.

I understand the limitation to MySQL for the course, but it would be really interesting if we were allowed to use other DBMSes. One of my potential project ideas was entirely centered around using an embedded database for local, network-less data collection which then synchronized with a full DBMS for long term data persistence. I would have to write my own database synchronization service for this to be viable, which is unrealistic given the scope of the project. Also, this doesn't really belong here, but I'd really like to see more coverage of when denormalization is appropriate and how information should be denormalized for application domains where data warehousing and complex data aggregation is a priority. |

The information in this document is private and confidential. Please handle accordingly.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

5. The subject matter was challenging.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
62	3.90	0.74	8 (12.90%)	44 (70.97%)	8 (12.90%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (3.23%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1439	3.98	0.89	410 (28.49%)	706 (49.06%)	214 (14.87%)	80 (5.56%)	22 (1.53%)	7 (0.49%)

6. The objectives of the course were clearly stated and accomplished.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
61	4.59	0.56	38 (62.30%)	21 (34.43%)	2 (3.28%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1441	4.13	0.91	556 (38.58%)	623 (43.23%)	162 (11.24%)	67 (4.65%)	24 (1.67%)	9 (0.62%)

7. There was a reasonable level of effort expected for the credit hours received.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
62	4.40	0.59	27 (43.55%)	34 (54.84%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.61%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1433	4.15	0.82	498 (34.75%)	722 (50.38%)	132 (9.21%)	55 (3.84%)	15 (1.05%)	11 (0.77%)

8. The homework assignments helped me learn the subject matter.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
61	4.39	0.71	29 (47.54%)	29 (47.54%)	2 (3.28%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.64%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1434	3.92	1.05	413 (28.80%)	546 (38.08%)	171 (11.92%)	96 (6.69%)	51 (3.56%)	157 (10.95%)

9. The textbook increased my understanding of the material.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
62	3.88	0.83	15 (24.19%)	25 (40.32%)	18 (29.03%)	2 (3.23%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (3.23%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1435	3.76	1.08	233 (16.24%)	337 (23.48%)	191 (13.31%)	63 (4.39%)	42 (2.93%)	569 (39.65%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

10. The course material was well organized and developed.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
60	4.65	0.52	40 (66.67%)	19 (31.67%)	1 (1.67%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1575	4.08	1.01	638 (40.51%)	591 (37.52%)	177 (11.24%)	108 (6.86%)	38 (2.41%)	23 (1.46%)

11. The instructor was knowledgeable about the subject matter.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
61	4.77	0.42	47 (77.05%)	14 (22.95%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1572	4.54	0.69	977 (62.15%)	488 (31.04%)	66 (4.20%)	23 (1.46%)	7 (0.45%)	11 (0.70%)

12. The instructor was well prepared for class.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
62	4.77	0.42	48 (77.42%)	14 (22.58%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1579	4.32	0.82	764 (48.39%)	591 (37.43%)	127 (8.04%)	52 (3.29%)	11 (0.70%)	34 (2.15%)

13. The instructor (not Teaching Assistants) was accessible for individual assistance.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
60	4.62	0.65	39 (65.00%)	14 (23.33%)	2 (3.33%)	1 (1.67%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (6.67%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1569	4.31	0.83	718 (45.76%)	522 (33.27%)	165 (10.52%)	33 (2.10%)	14 (0.89%)	117 (7.46%)

14. The grading policy was fair.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
62	4.56	0.74	41 (66.13%)	17 (27.42%)	3 (4.84%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.61%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1571	4.20	0.86	623 (39.66%)	628 (39.97%)	164 (10.44%)	52 (3.31%)	17 (1.08%)	87 (5.54%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

15. The instructor responded adequately to in-class questions.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
61	4.69	0.50	43 (70.49%)	17 (27.87%)	1 (1.64%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1572	4.37	0.78	773 (49.17%)	604 (38.42%)	97 (6.17%)	45 (2.86%)	9 (0.57%)	44 (2.80%)

16. As a teacher, this instructor was better than most others in this School.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
61	4.69	0.59	45 (73.77%)	14 (22.95%)	1 (1.64%)	1 (1.64%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Not Applicable (NA)
1572	3.96	1.09	615 (39.12%)	478 (30.41%)	286 (18.19%)	117 (7.44%)	53 (3.37%)	23 (1.46%)

17. The average number of hours per week I spent outside of class preparing for this course was:
~
Question Type: Multiple Choice
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Less than 1 (NA)	1 - 3 (NA)	4 - 6 (NA)	7 - 9 (NA)	10 or more (NA)
62	2 (3.23%)	25 (40.32%)	27 (43.55%)	6 (9.68%)	2 (3.23%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Less than 1 (NA)	1 - 3 (NA)	4 - 6 (NA)	7 - 9 (NA)	10 or more (NA)
1438	70 (4.87%)	611 (42.49%)	527 (36.65%)	132 (9.18%)	98 (6.82%)

18. I learned a great deal in this course.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
62	4.40	0.66	30 (48.39%)	28 (45.16%)	3 (4.84%)	1 (1.61%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1431	4.06	1.00	547 (38.23%)	594 (41.51%)	169 (11.81%)	76 (5.31%)	45 (3.14%)

19. Overall, this was a worthwhile course.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
61	4.59	0.50	36 (59.02%)	25 (40.98%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1435	4.13	1.01	624 (43.48%)	544 (37.91%)	144 (10.03%)	75 (5.23%)	48 (3.34%)

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~

20. The course's goals and requirements were defined and adhered to by the instructor.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
61	4.66	0.48	40 (65.57%)	21 (34.43%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1557	4.21	0.80	620 (39.82%)	719 (46.18%)	160 (10.28%)	48 (3.08%)	10 (0.64%)

21. The instructor was approachable and made himself/herself available to students outside the classroom.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
61	4.57	0.62	38 (62.30%)	21 (34.43%)	1 (1.64%)	1 (1.64%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1569	4.26	0.82	723 (46.08%)	595 (37.92%)	206 (13.13%)	33 (2.10%)	12 (0.76%)

22. Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.
~
Question Type: Likert
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001, Sherriff, Mark

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
62	4.66	0.51	42 (67.74%)	19 (30.65%)	1 (1.61%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Results for SEAS, 4000-level courses

Total	Mean	Std Dev	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1573	4.18	0.95	703 (44.69%)	593 (37.70%)	173 (11.00%)	71 (4.51%)	33 (2.10%)

23. Please make any overall comments or observations about this course:
~
Question Type: Short Answer
~
contributed by Office of the Provost

Results for CS-4750-001

Total	Individual Answers
36	*See below for Individual Results*

I am always glad to take a class with Professor Sherriff he consistently presents material in a straight-forward manner and is extremely approachable.

the class is so early, find it hard to wake up for it especially when i have a ton of work due that day that I worked all night on

sherriff rocks

He is one of the best instructors in the computer science department. Other instructors should take lessons from both him and Horton.

As I have said for all of Prof. Sherriff's courses, he is a great professor. He is so talented in the way that he lectured that I managed to stay alert in this 9:30 am class! As well he structures his course so that you take away important and non-extraneous things. As well, for the project and homeworks, you feel that you WANT to work on it because you enjoy it. I have never had a professor that has made me enjoy the topic I was studying.

Once again Sherriff came through with teaching a great class by making the topics understandable in a way that a student can relate to them. Good Job!

The information in this document is private and confidential. Please handle accordingly.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	I'm not a fan of project-based learning where most of the effort goes into things unrelated to the course material. "But those things are still important!" you might object. So is physical fitness, but we're not going running and doing push-ups for homework... The scope of the class is databases, not web design, not software engineering. We should be learning about databases! The same thing happened in the CS3240 project; so much effort went into the specifics of the project, such as snapping Lego blocks together, that ideas like requirements analysis and rigorous testing -- the actual course material -- became a secondary hassle. In CS4750, reasoning about databases was only a tiny part of the project... that means something is wrong! Even the things we did learn about databases were often superficial and vocational. We should be focusing on the internals of the DBMS before worrying about specifics of SQL. Maybe people in industry are asking for graduates that know SQL, but, as Dijkstra said "it is the task of the first-class University to tell industry what it does not want to hear" (EWD 1165). Google can teach me about tools. University should teach me the fundamentals.

Prof. Sherriff is one of my favorite teachers at UVA, and easily one of the top teachers in the CS department. His lectures are lively and entertaining, even at 9:30 in the morning. He is clearly knowledgable of the subject material and frequently makes connections to real-world applications, which is very helpful. Of all the other classes I've taken in the department, I find that I pay the most attention to his. His passion for the subject is infectious, and I hope to take more classes of his in the future.

Professor Sherriff's courses are always great and this one was no exception.

I think Professor Sherriff made this course very interesting and fun. I did not miss a single lecture because I really liked coming to class and learning about databases. Moreover, Professor Sherriff's style of teaching is great! He kept me interested even during the boring topics. He's the reason this class was a huge success for me.

Very useful class. Should be offered every semester from now on. Professor Sherriff is awesome !

Thanks for another awesome course Sherriff. I hope I get to take another one before I graduate.

A great teacher and a very important subject. Should be a required course.

You don't smile anymore. I don't know why, but I find it intimidating. Also, I am uncomfortable with your favorites. I understand that you know some students better (from ACM, programming competition, etc.), but it feels like an exclusive club that I am not allowed to join. A couple of times this semester, I wanted to talk to you after class, but I didn't feel comfortable interrupting.

Professor Sherriff's an awesome guy, I wish he taught all my classes. There has never been a lecture where I zone out because of the professor's droning on. Not only did I learn how to become an excellent database developer, I also learned many things about social implications of bad design.

Databases was a well designed and implemented class. Sherriff answered questions promptly (with an oddly fast turn around time for emails) and competently. The work was challenging enough to maintain focus yet not too hard as to disuade students. The only thing I had to complain about was sometimes the class moved slowly through certain lectures (ACID for example) but it was to ensure every one was on the same page.

As usual, a great class taught by Sherriff.

This class is a must-take due to its wide applicability. Per usual, it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience taking a class taught by Professor Sherriff.

It is so easy to learn with a professor like Sherriff.

Great job!

This is a fun and useful class to take. The project is very fun to work on. I think the should start a little earlier in the course to allow students more time to work on it. Most of the lectures are kind of interesting.

Probably the best elective I've taken - learned a lot from it but at the same time it didn't seem like an unreasonable amount of work.

One of the best classes I've taken at UVa, which says a lot for a CS class. Professor Sherriff is awesome; I loved his 201 class also. Keep up the good work!

Great course. Extremely informative and interesting with tons of hands-on experience. Anything that wasn't explicitly covered in class was introduced through the project. Should be offered every year. Hopefully every CS student will get a chance to take this class. Sherriff was an engaging and genuinely interested instructor. Excellent pairing for this class.

Fantastic course in databases. Should really be required for a CS degree. Absolutely essential material. Professor Sherriff presents complex material in a manner that is easy to understand and apply to real-world situations. That said, I would appreciate a few less "breadth" type lectures which were essentially broad surveys of general technology. This type of material can be easily found on wikipedia, etc. The lectures were very interesting, but didn't actually teach much material that I couldn't have learned independently. However, there weren't terribly many of these "breadth" lectures. Most of the material was covered very thoroughly and I particularly appreciated the lectures on the internal workings of database and how to tune performance. Professor Sherriff tells a solid cohesive story in all his lectures and it truly works.

~ QUESTIONS AND DETAILS ~	~ ANSWER MATRICES ~
	Some of the attempts at "group interaction" with respect to implementing basic code examples and designs in class did not feel particularly interesting, and sometimes felt unnecessary. I didn't care for the textbook, especially the homework questions. The information required to do the problems was not explained clearly in the text. Also, we never actually used the textbook for anything other than the first homework. I wish grading would have been a little (lot) faster. What was the deal with the Wedding DB project?! Bad idea, I'm glad we gave that up quickly. Professor Sherriff is the man, and it shows. The course is well-taught, he goes to great lengths to bring variety to the material, and he does a great job of taking the course in different directions for maximum exposure to the information. If I had some Cheerwine I'd drink a liter and pour the rest out in his honor. Having one large project was nice, but it would have been helpful for it to be more structured. Maybe have some smaller "programming" assignments to make sure people were started earlier into the class. Mark Sherriff, you are probably my favorite teacher in the E-School. I never feel unduly burdened in your class, but I always learn - and thats something I can't thank you for enough. The most captivating course I've taken here. Maybe spend some more time on different DB techs, such as Oracle. I got asked in some interviews if I had exposure to Oracle for corporate settings. Overall, I really enjoy the classes where we do a lot of applied work and skills that will help us later on. I have taken several classes with Prof. Sherriff, and I continue to be impressed with the caliber of his teaching. I hope the CS department realizes what an incredible asset he is to students as an enthusiastic, accessible, and effective teacher. Prof. Sherriff - thank you for four great years in CS. Sherriff you know this class inside out and you have designed it such that it combines the awesome radiation of a double-rainbow and blossoming goodness of old spice. I hope you never stop learning/bringing new material into the class, that is what makes everyone want to take your class! love sherriff! Prof Sherriff has favorites in the class, students whom he has known the longest, are TA's for him, are in clubs with him. It is fine that he has favorites but it should not be so apparent. I find it discouraging, like I am not "in" the circle, and I didn't feel like I could go to him with questions. I in fact felt as if because I was not as knowledgeable as his chosen few, that he did not like me. I didn't feel comfortable going to office hours or even asking questions in class. It is fine for Sherriff to be friends with his students but that should be left at the door when class begins. I am sure, knowing Sherriff that no one was treated any differently in regards to the course and grades. But the attitude I felt just discouraged me, because again, I am not one of the students he likes.

The information in this document is private and confidential. Please handle accordingly.