

Report for CS 4810 - 001 Intro to Computer Graphics Luther Tychonievich

Project Title: 2021 Fall Course Evaluation

Course Audience: **65** Responses Received: **24** Response Ratio: **36.92%**

Report Comments

Fall 2021 Individual Instructor Report by Section.

Final Report

Course Name: CS 4810 - 001 Intro to Computer Graphics Instructor Name: Luther Tychonievich

Evaluation Start Date: Nov 30 2021 12:00AM Evaluation End Date: Dec 10 2021 12:00AM



Creation Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Fall 2021 Questionnaire

Course Preparation:

- 1. The average number of hours (per week) that I spent outside of class preparing for CS 4810 001 Intro to Computer Graphics :
- Less than 1
- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10 or more

Course Questions:

Answer the following questions based on your experience in CS 4810 - 001 Intro to Computer Graphics. (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree)

1)The course increased my enthusiasm for the topic.

2)Through this course I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

3)I had access to the course materials I needed to learn, including access to required textbooks, course readings, technology tools, and other materials required for class assignments and projects.

* If the above question generates a negative response, a branching question will be generated:

3-A) You disagreed or strongly disagreed that you did not have access to the course materials you needed to learn. Please review the options below and select any of the reasons that may better describe what affected your access to course materials.

- Internet speed and reliability
- Internet connectivity
- It was difficult to obtain hand-on materials needed for the course
- I didn't have the funds to purchase the course materials
- The instructor didn't provide the course materials needed to learn
- Other: Please Specify

Learning Activities Question:

To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning? (A Lot, A Moderate Amount, A Little, Not At All)

- Real-time lecture
- Recorded lectures
- Recorded video demonstrations
- Hands-on activities
- Real-time, whole-class discussion
- Real-time small-group discussion
- Online discussion boards
- Office hours

Open Comment Questions (Course):

1) Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.

2) What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Instructor Questions:

Answer the following questions based on your experience with Luther Tychonievich. Your constructive feedback will help your instructor identify what went well and ways to improve the course in the future. *(Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree)*

1) The instructor clearly communicated the course schedule and expectations for participation (e.g., readings, discussions).

2) The instructor clearly communicated the course learning objectives.

3) The instructor implemented learning activities and assignments that allowed me to demonstrate understanding of the course material.

4) The instructor provided me prompt and useful feedback on my learning.

5) The instructor provided opportunities for my active participation.

6) The instructor was available to help support my learning.

7) The instructor fostered an environment where I felt valued as an individual and that I belonged in the class.

8) Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.

9) The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

* A positive or negative response to the above question will generate a follow-up comment question.

9A) You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how Luther Tychonievich created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

9B) You selected "DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISAGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how Luther Tychonievich did not create an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

Open Comment Question (Instructor):

Your response to the open-ended question below will be shared only with Luther Tychonievich. If this course was taught by multiple instructors, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback to each. Please avoid using instructors' names in your responses to ensure confidentiality.

1) What constructive suggestions do you have to help Luther Tychonievich improve this course for future students?

Student Preparation

The average number class preparing for C	· · ·	,		
1 Less than 1 (0) 2 1-3 (1) 3 4-6 (9) 4 7-9 (10) 5 10 or more (3) [Total (23)]	0.00% 4.35% 13.0	4%	.13% I3.48% 0%	100%
Statistics				Value
Response Count				23
Mean				3.65
Median				4.00
Standard Deviation				0.78

Course Questions

Mean values are displayed below.

Scale 1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

Question	Course (CS 001)		Departmen	it (CS)	School (El	NGR)	Instituti (Universi Virginia	ty of
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
The course increased my enthusiasm for the topic.	23	4.57	3572	3.75	9497	3.81	61004	3.97
Through this course I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.	23	4.78	3556	4.17	9460	4.18	60686	4.32
I had access to the course materials I needed to learn, including access to required textbooks, course readings, technology tools, and other materials required for class assignments and projects.	23	4.74	3569	4.31	9488	4.35	60969	4.49

1. The course increased my enthu	siasm for	the topi	c.	 Through this course I gained a c subject matter. 	deeper ur	nderstand	ding of the
Strongly Disagree (0.00%) Disagree (4.35%) Neutral (4.35%) Agree (21.74%) Strongly Agree (69.57%) [Total (23)]		50%	100%	Strongly Disagree (0.00%) Disagree (0.00%) Neutral (0.00%) Agree (21.74%) Strongly Agree (78.26%) [Total (23)]		50%	100%
	0				0		
Options	Score		Percentage	Options	Score		Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	4.35%	Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	4.35%	Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	5	21.74%	Agree	4	5	21.74%
Strongly Agree	5	16	69.57%	Strongly Agree	5	18	78.26%
Statistics			Value	Statistics			Value
Mean			4.57	Mean			4.78
Median			5.00	Median			5.00
Standard Deviation 3. I had access to the course mate ncluding access to required textbo echnology tools, and other materi	ooks, cou	rse read	lings,	Standard Deviation			0.42
Standard Deviation 3. I had access to the course mate including access to required textbo technology tools, and other materi assignments and projects. Strongly Disagree (0.00%) - Disagree (0.00%) - Neutral (0.00%) - Agree (26.09%) - Strongly Agree (73.91%) -	ooks, cou	rse read	earn, lings,	Standard Deviation			0.42
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Standard Deviation 3. I had access to the course material including access to required textbo technology tools, and other material assignments and projects. Strongly Disagree (0.00%) Disagree (0.00%) Neutral (0.00%) Agree (26.09%) Strongly Agree (73.91%) [Total (23)] O Options Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree Strongly Agree Statistics	ooks, cou als requir Score 1 2 3 4	rse read ed for cl 50% Count 0 0 0 6	earn, lings, ass 100% Percentage 0.00% 0.00% 0.00% 26.09% 73.91% Value	Standard Deviation			0.42

University of Virginia



Learning Activities

Mean values are displayed below.

Scale: 1 = Not at All 2 = A Little 3 = A Moderate Amount 4 = A Lot

Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?

Question	Course (CS 001)		Departmen	it (CS)	School (El	NGR)	Instituti (Universi Virginia	ty of
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
Real-time lecture	23	3.78	3092	3.25	8641	3.36	54515	3.56
Recorded lectures	23	3.70	2620	3.19	6124	3.04	28249	2.93
Recorded video demonstrations	7	3.14	1735	2.94	4149	2.85	23073	2.84
Hands-on activities	18	3.72	2880	3.45	6888	3.41	40174	3.37
Real-time, whole-class discussion	15	3.00	1960	2.75	6287	2.97	45140	3.29
Real-time small-group discussion	11	2.73	2196	3.01	6260	3.13	42228	3.31
Online discussion boards	15	2.73	2456	2.92	5292	2.74	26305	2.70
Office hours	18	3.11	2652	3.00	6695	2.91	36534	2.87

Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?



University of Virginia



Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?

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University of Virginia
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1. Real-time lecture				2. Recorded lectures			
Not At All (0.00% A Little (4.35% A Moderate Amount (13.04% A Lot (82.61% [Total (23)	b) - b) -	50%	100%	Not At All (0.00 A Little (8.70 A Moderate Amount (13.04 A Lot (78.26 [Total (2	0%)- 4%)- 6%)-	50%	100%
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Not At All	1	0	0.00%	Not At All	1	0	0.00%
A Little	2	1	4.35%	A Little	2	2	8.70%
A Moderate Amount	3	3	13.04%	A Moderate Amount	3	3	13.04%
A Lot	4	19	82.61%	A Lot	4	18	78.26%
Statistics			Value	Statistics			Value
Mean			3.78	Mean			3.70
Median			4.00	Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			0.52	Standard Deviation			0.63
3. Recorded video demonstration	าร			4. Hands-on activities			
3. Recorded video demonstration Not At All (0.00% A Little (14.29% A Moderate Amount (57.14% A Lot (28.57% [Total (7)	b) -	50%	100%	4. Hands-on activities Not At All (0.00 A Little (0.00 A Moderate Amount (27.78 A Lot (72.22 [Total (1	0%)- 8%)- 2%)-	50%	100%
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5. Real-time, whole-class dis Not At All (6.6 A Little (13.3 A Moderate Amount (53.3 A Lot (26.6 [Total (57%) - 33%) - 33%) - 57%) -			6. Real-time small-group discu Not At All (9.09 A Little (18.18 A Moderate Amount (63.64 A Lot (9.09 [Total (1	9%) - 9%) - 9%) - 9%) -		
L	0	50%	100%		0	50%	100%
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Not At All	1	1	6.67%	Not At All	1	1	9.09%
A Little	2	2	13.33%	A Little	2	2	18.18%
A Moderate Amount	3	8	53.33%	A Moderate Amount	3	7	63.64%
A Lot	4	4	26.67%	A Lot	4	1	9.09%
Statistics			Value	Statistics			Value
Mean			3.00	Mean			2.73
Median			3.00	Median			3.00
Standard Deviation			0.85	Standard Deviation			0.79
7. Online discussion boards				8. Office hours			
7. Online discussion boards Not At All (6.6 A Little (33.3 A Moderate Amount (40.0 A Lot (20.0 [Total (33%) 00%) 00%)	50%	100%		3%) - 2%) - 1%) -	50%	100%
Not At All (6.6 A Little (33.3 A Moderate Amount (40.0 A Lot (20.0	33%) 00%) 00%) 15)]	50% Count	100% Percentage	8. Office hours Not At All (0.00 A Little (33.33 A Moderate Amount (22.22 A Lot (44.44	8%) - 2%) - 4%) - 8)]	50% Count	100% Percentage
Not At All (6.6 A Little (33.3 A Moderate Amount (40.0 A Lot (20.0 [Total (33%) 00%) 00%) 15)] 0			8. Office hours Not At All (0.00 A Little (33.33 A Moderate Amount (22.22 A Lot (44.44 [Total (18	8%) 2%) 9%) 8)] 0		
Not At All (6.6 A Little (33.3 A Moderate Amount (40.0 A Lot (20.0 [Total (Options	33%) 00%) 00%) 15)] 0 Score	Count	Percentage	8. Office hours Not At All (0.00 A Little (33.33 A Moderate Amount (22.22 A Lot (44.44 [Total (18 Options	8%) 9%) 8%) 8)] 0 Score	Count	Percentage
Not At All (6.6 A Little (33.3 A Moderate Amount (40.0 A Lot (20.0 [Total (Options Not At All	33%) 00%) 15)] 0 Score 1	Count 1	Percentage 6.67%	8. Office hours Not At All (0.00 A Little (33.33 A Moderate Amount (22.22 A Lot (44.44 [Total (18 Options Not At All	8%) 9%) 8)] 0 Score 1	Count 0	Percentage 0.00%
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Not At All (6.6 A Little (33.3 A Moderate Amount (40.0 A Lot (20.0 [Total (Options Not At All A Little A Moderate Amount A Lot	33%) 00%) 15)] 0 Score 1 2 3	Count 1 5 6	Percentage 6.67% 33.33% 40.00% 20.00%	8. Office hours Not At All (0.00 A Little (33.33 A Moderate Amount (22.22 A Lot (44.44 [Total (18 Options Not At All A Little A Moderate Amount A Lot	8%) 9%) 8) 8) 0 Score 1 2 3	Count 0 6 4	Percentage 0.00% 33.33% 22.22% 44.44%
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Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?



Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.

Comments

Amazing assignments! Very time–consuming, but got to take the reins and build a large project from the ground up. Felt like the first grown–up project (other than 3240) I've completed at UVA: having to architect and think about good design and revise to add new functionality, rather than just throwing something together and never touching it again. Optional points also give us a really exciting way to pursue what we're interested in.

I honestly got lost a lot in lectures, so the recorded lectures were helpful to have. I think the quizzes were hit or miss. A lot of the time, the questions would just involve finding the right moment in lecture where the exact question was answered, but there were still questions that facilitated understanding. I feel like a good part of my learning came from the homeworks, where I actually had to implement the topics covered in class because I had to actually understand all the details well for my program to work.

Office hours were really helpful. The fish of the day portion of the beginning of class was also really interesting.

The lectures, homework and quizzes are a good combination for this course, and the course schedule was reasonable for students to learn what they need for the homework.

all that I learned was from a lecture

The lectures were very engaging, and the professor explained the material very well.

The recorded lectures with the captions you could read separately were essential for digesting the difficult content.

OK

Office hours were very helpful to me. All of the TAs that I interacted with were great.

The lectures were very good and engaging

Lectures were the main way of learning new content, and homework assignments were extremely effective in teaching us how to implement the theoretical strategies we discussed.

The live lectures are very helpful, especially the time for questions and the exploration of various visual phenomena at the beginning of class.

lectures were interesting and easy to understand

The lectures were informative

The lectures/ recorded lectures contributed the most to learning. I understand the professors style of not having a slide, and appreciate the free form lecture, I think it would be helpful to have larger topics more clearly specified on the slides while writing. That way in class, and looking back, it is easier to recognize the larger topics.

The lectures were engaging albeit difficult. I felt like the course material was very hard for me to understand, but the lecture formats helped me understand them very well.

Course Comments

What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Comments

Professor Tychonievich knows so many things!! So lucky to get to learn from him.

This was a wonderful class and Prof. Tychonievich is the most brilliant person I've ever met. He's also an engaging and understandable lecturer.

I think the lectures and quizzes were pretty tough sometimes. I often got lost in lectures cause Tychonievich goes very quickly, and sometimes talks about new material as if we're already familiar with some of the terms and concepts already. He also sometimes transitions very quickly from one topic to another, which can be hard to mentally process. The quizzes were also not the most helpful. They felt more tedious than constructive at times because a lot of the questions were less conceptual and more just finding the answer in the lecture. I really enjoyed the homework assignments though. I felt like they really helped me understand the material, and I always had fun working on them.

While some of the assignments required a lot of effort, I think they were really rewarding, and the topics and algorithms discussed in class were also very interesting.

the homeworks were tough for sure, but I enjoyed every second of them (except for hw5, which was not at all flushed out and had 0 guidance)

I thought that this course was one of the best electives I have taken in the computer science department. Although the material can be quite difficult, the concepts were very interesting. Additionally, being able to see difficult mathematical concepts being applied actually helped me retroactively understand those mathematical concepts better. Overall, this course was a challenging but very rewarding experience.

This course is absolutely amazing, I cannot imagine ever learning this content in any other context. We really got an understanding of how big the world of computer graphics is, while also getting the real opportunity to tackle it without safety wheels. The course description could use a little work to better explain what is required from the students. It would be an absolute shame if this course was not offered at least once every academic year.

OK

I think that this was the most interesting and engaging computer science class I have taken while at UVA. It was very hard and the assignments took me a lot of time. I do not know if this was something only I experienced or if it was the general experience. It was hard to get a gage of how other students were handling the class because collaboration on HW was heavily discouraged.

This course was amazing and was probably the best computer science course I've taken at UVA. It is challenging, fulfilling, and an overall great experience.

Professor Tychonievich ran this course extremely well, it was very challenging but also very interesting and informative.

This class was very well organized and taught me a huge amount about the topic. The freedom within the course was also very helpful for learning.

nothing

It was a very interesting course

Professor Tychonievich is my favorite Computer Science Professor. You can tell he cares about the topic, his students and making sure all of his students understand the material.

This is my favorite course I have ever taken at UVA. The material is fascinating, the assignments are hard yet rewarding, and the professor is engaging, intelligent, and fair. Also, I liked the grading system a lot.

Instructor Questions

Mean values are displayed below.

Scale 1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

Question	Instructor Average - this course		Instructor Average - all courses (lat7h Luther Tychonievich)		Department (CS)		School (ENGR)	
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
The instructor clearly communicated the course schedule and expectations for participation (e.g., readings, discussions).	23	4.87	58	4.84	3887	4.28	10991	4.34
The instructor clearly communicated the course learning objectives.	23	4.83	57	4.81	3872	4.25	10973	4.32
The instructor implemented learning activities and assignments that allowed me to demonstrate understanding of the course material.	23	4.83	58	4.60	3875	4.20	10989	4.24
The instructor provided me prompt and useful feedback on my learning.	23	4.83	58	4.55	3889	3.83	11012	3.91
The instructor provided opportunities for my active participation.	23	4.61	58	4.41	3883	4.02	10987	4.16
The instructor was available to help support my learning.	22	4.64	57	4.51	3880	4.11	10985	4.24
The instructor fostered an environment where I felt valued as an individual and that I belonged in the class.	23	4.57	58	4.34	3879	4.03	10992	4.19
Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	23	4.78	57	4.60	3879	4.07	10987	4.18
The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.	23	4.57	58	4.31	3882	3.98	11000	4.10

1. The instructor clearly communicates a communicate the set of th		s, discus	sions).	2. The instructor clearly communobjectives.			
Strongly Disagree (0.00%) Disagree (0.00%) Neutral (0.00%) Agree (13.04%) Strongly Agree (86.96%) [Total (23)]		50%	100%	Strongly Disagree (0.00%) Disagree (0.00%) Neutral (0.00%) Agree (17.39%) Strongly Agree (82.61%) [Total (23)]		50%	100%
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Options	Score		Percentage	Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%	Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%	Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	3	13.04%	Agree	4	4	17.39%
Strongly Agree	5	20	86.96%	Strongly Agree	5	19	82.61%
Statistics			Value	Statistics			Value
Mean			4.87	Mean			4.83
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5. The instructor provided opportu							
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Options	Score		Percentage	Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%	Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	4.35%	Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	7	30.43%	Agree	4	8	36.36%
Strongly Agree	5	15	65.22%	Strongly Agree	5	14	63.64%
Statistics			Value	Statistics			Value
Mean			4.61	Mean			4.64
Median			5.00	Median			5.00
mount			0.00	Median			
Standard Deviation			0.58	Standard Deviation	ee		0.49
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You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how Luther Tychonievich created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

Comments

Professor always answered any and all questions despite different perspectives.

Diverse perspectives didn't really come up since this is mostly a technical course, but Tychonievich seems like he would welcome diverse perspectives if they arose.

Fish of the day was an opportunity for anyone to ask a question on a topic they wanted to learn more about.

Professor Tychonievich is a very understanding and accommodating professor, and he would do anything to help his students learn better in his class.

Was always willing to hear anyone's opinion at all

The instructor always encouraged questions and discussions; additionally, the instructor treated each student response with interest and respect.

He would literally ask us to give solutions to problems, and entertain them for quite a while even if he knew they were wrong, so that we could see the limitations of those solutions. There was no real feeling like you could have a wrong answer, just that some solutions were more effective than others.

Good

In the discord server that he set up, we were able to fill in our pronouns.

Very welcoming guy and always makes a welcoming class atmosphere. Talked about his religious beliefs a few times (in response to questions, and of course in a very respectful way) which isn't something many CS professors would do, and it was a pretty cool conversation.

The professor always allowed plenty of time for asking and answering questions and always provided very thoughtful answers.

class is just lecture

Allowed people to ask questions and participate

He always asks the class if everything makes sense and I like that he opens with just asking for any example

Instructor Comments

What constructive suggestions do you have to help Luther Tychonievich improve this course for future students?

Comments

Nothing I can think of!

This was an awesome class! I'm so glad I took it. I really liked the structure of the assignments (in that they built off of each other) and it always felt really rewarding to finish an assignment, especially because the output is so visual. This class was hard (as a 4000 level CS class kind of should be) but incredibly rewarding and I feel like I've learned a lot.

I think it would be helpful to write down and explicitly define new terms when introducing them. I feel like a lot of the time, some new concept would be introduced really quickly, and I wouldn't quite process it fully, and then I wouldn't understand any of the next like 15 minutes of lecture. This would also make the slides more useful on their own. I think one of my main issues with quizzes and lectures was the lack of clear definitions of certain terms.

Some of the quiz questions were a little ambiguous and unclear. Also, a little bit more guidance for some of the later assignments might have been helpful to get us going; however, getting to figure it out on your own was also very fulfilling.

change hw 5 or edit it so that it isn't so crazy in terms of having no clue what to do

I think a bit more guidance could have been provided on homework 5. I found a lot of the Discord comments helpful when going through the homework, and I think some of that information could help clarify misunderstandings early on if it was included in the write–up. I really enjoyed the other homeworks though and felt that they all built off of each other very well.

Please put the course website on lou's list so that people can get a better idea of how the class is heavy on coding. I really think this class needs to stay, and I'm worried that the drop rate means it won't survive. This was probably the most rewarding CS elective I've taken at UVA. I appreciated the hands–off approach to let us figure it out on our own, while also giving enough support so that we could.

Excellent course. One suggestion was that the last bones homework was too hard – doing the required portion of bones to get the last assignment done was as difficult as all of HW1/HW2. The bones writeup could be longer. Some of the quiz questions could be a little less vague.

Good

The fluid simulator HW took me much longer than any of the other HW assignments that we had in the class. I do not know if this was how it was designed. I would probably include a more detailed description of how to accomplish the fluid simulator if the assignment gets re–used next year. There were things that were not fully discussed in lecture that were very important to the assignment.

HW5 was pretty difficult because it was tough to understand how to do the transformation in order to get the objects relative to each other. Otherwise, the homeworks were good.

Maybe tone back the difficulty of HW5 slightly, but also I assume a lot of people have most of their optional points from previous assignments and have less to do in HW5 as a result. Also, the raytracer assignment was super cool and fun to implement! This was probably the best class I've taken at UVA, thank you for being so passionate about your teaching :)

The class was very well structured and incredibly informative. I wouldn't change much of anything about it.

nothing

I think that it would be helpful to have the homeworks split into smaller assignments. Each one could be split in 2 with the required and optional being due in seperate weeks. I personally am better at keeping track, and making sufficient time for assignments when they are weekly and regular.

He is an amazing teacher! He is very engaging, funny, and overall an interesting person. Sometimes he talks very fast and it is hard to understand all the information at once. He may benefit from talking more slowly or restating important ideas during lecture. Also, a bit more help on the actual pseudo–code of algorithms during lecture would help greatly for the homeworks.