

JHU - Krieger School of Arts & Sciences / Whiting School of Engineering
ASEN.2013.Spring

Course: EN.600.667.01.SP13 : Advanced Distributed Systems & Networks

Instructor: Yair Amir *

1 - The overall quality of this course is:

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.82	3.94	3.95	Question	School Level	Department Level	
Weak	(2)	0	0.00%								
Satisfactory	(3)	0	0.00%								
Good	(4)	2	18.18%								
Excellent	(5)	9	81.82%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
Return Rate	Mean	STD		School Level	Mean	STD	Department Level	Mean	STD		
11/11 (100%)	4.82	0.40		7,487	3.94	0.98	867	3.95	0.99		

2 - The instructor's teaching effectiveness is:
Yair Amir

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.91	3.91	3.82	Question	School Level	Department Level	
Weak	(2)	0	0.00%								
Satisfactory	(3)	0	0.00%								
Good	(4)	1	9.09%								
Excellent	(5)	10	90.91%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
Return Rate	Mean	STD		School Level	Mean	STD	Department Level	Mean	STD		
11/11 (100%)	4.91	0.30		8,081	3.91	1.08	873	3.82	1.08		

3 - The intellectual challenge of this course is:

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.91	4.03	4.19	Question	School Level	Department Level	
Weak	(2)	0	0.00%								
Satisfactory	(3)	0	0.00%								
Good	(4)	1	9.09%								
Excellent	(5)	10	90.91%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
Return Rate	Mean	STD		School Level	Mean	STD	Department Level	Mean	STD		
11/11 (100%)	4.91	0.30		7,436	4.03	0.91	857	4.19	0.83		

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4 - The teaching assistant for this course is:											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			4.91	3.97	3.84			
Weak	(2)	0	0.00%								
Satisfactory	(3)	0	0.00%								
Good	(4)	1	9.09%								
Excellent	(5)	10	90.91%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level
Return Rate	Mean	STD		School Level	Mean	STD	Department Level	Mean	STD		
11/11 (100%)	4.91	0.30		7,450	3.97	1.09	861	3.84	1.17		

5 - Please enter the name of the TA you evaluated in question 4:	
Return Rate	11/11 (100%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniel Obenshain, Tom Tantillo - Dan Obenshein and Tom Tantillo - Tom, Dano, and Amy - Daniel Obenshain, Tom Tantillo - Daniel Obenshain, Tom Tantillo - Danno - Tom, Dano - Tom, Dano - Daniel Obenshain, Tom Tantillo - Tom/Dano - Daniel Obenshain and Tom Tantillo 	

6 - Feedback on my work for this course is useful:											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Disagree strongly	(1)	0	0.00%			4.91	3.75	3.64			
Disagree somewhat	(2)	0	0.00%								
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Agree somewhat	(4)	1	9.09%								
Agree strongly	(5)	10	90.91%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level
Return Rate	Mean	STD		School Level	Mean	STD	Department Level	Mean	STD		
11/11 (100%)	4.91	0.30		7,419	3.75	1.09	859	3.64	1.13		

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7 - Compared to other Hopkins courses at this level, the workload for this course is:											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means			
Much lighter	(1)	0	0.00%					4.09			
Somewhat lighter	(2)	0	0.00%						3.32	3.56	
Typical	(3)	3	27.27%	[Bar]							
Somewhat heavier	(4)	4	36.36%	[Bar]							
Much heavier	(5)	4	36.36%	[Bar]							
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	School Level	Department Level
Return Rate	Mean	STD		School Level			Mean	STD	Department Level		
11/11 (100%)	4.09	0.83		7,449			3.32	0.99	860		
									3.56	1.05	

8 - What are the best aspects of this course?	
Return Rate	6/11 (54.55%)
<p>- The course allows you to choose a topic of your interest in the realm of distribute systems and work on it. There are no restrictions on working in groups or by yourself. There is a discussion session in class where everyone discusses the project they are working on and you get to do the same. This is very helpful as it gives you insights into other projects and the challenges they are facing. The other good part of the course is that you actually get to deploy your systems or idea on the resources in the DSN lab which gives you a better understanding of what to expect out there.</p> <p>-- All the group projects were transparent to other groups. - Detailed discussions about each project in all the classes. - No exams :-)</p> <p>- Students are able to pick projects that they find interesting. Class discussion covers different projects. There is continual feedback throughout the course, from both instructors and other students.</p> <p>- One of the best aspects of this course was that we got to work on our own project that we thought would make an impact. In very few classes are you encouraged to explore you own ideas. Another great aspect was all of the help and advice that we got along the way. Very rarely can you find both of these aspects in a course.</p> <p>The professor is extremely enthusiastic and willing to help you accomplish something important.</p> <p>- We all worked on really cool projects all semester. The class time was spent sharing progress and problems and it was pretty good.</p> <p>- This course strikes a very good balance between steering the different student projects so that they actually accomplish something and giving them enough latitude to go in directions that the student finds interesting</p>	

9 - What are the worst aspects of this course?	
Return Rate	6/11 (54.55%)
<p>- It can be difficult to find a project in the early stages of the course.</p> <p>- Once our projects were completely defined it was much easier to get going. Defining a project was one of the hardest parts. I just wish that we had had more time in the course.</p> <p>- None</p> <p>- The course is ad-hoc in the sense that there is no script. This is not entirely a bad thing in the sense that you get to go on your own pace and work in your own way. Other than that it is a great class and will make you learn a lot. But if you want to have an organized class then this is not the right place.</p> <p>- There's not enough time in the semester.</p> <p>- I feel like there were too many projects happening this semester. It made the course a little less cohesive.</p>	

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10 - What would most improve this class?	
Return Rate	4/11 (36.36%)
<p>- I would say having at least groups of 2 would make it better that there would be less projects and more time to discuss on them. Plus it becomes very difficult for the person who is working alone given that there is something to discuss every class.</p> <p>- Not sure that this would improve anything, but we ran long most days.</p> <p>- It is hard to say, because while it would be nice to work on larger groups on a smaller number of projects, I felt it was important that each person with a different interest got to explore his or her idea.</p> <p>- Initially project topics were picked up by students under the guidance of the Professor. It would be better if the topics are decided before hand so that students can start working on the projects right from day one. In our class, we had to spend a month's time to decide upon the abstract of the project.</p>	

11 - What should prospective students know about this course before enrolling? (You may comment on any aspect of this course such as assumed background, readings, grading systems, and so on.)	
Return Rate	4/11 (36.36%)
<p>- Challenging and rewarding. Not for the faint of heart.</p> <p>- Distributed Systems by Prof. Yair Amir is a must before taking this course. I would recommend Computer Networks, Parallel Programming and some experience in systems before taking this course. Take this course if you are comfortable with Prof Amir's style of teaching and can keep up with the constant work. Other than that it is a great class and a must for any student who is interested in systems research.</p> <p>- While it might be useful to have some idea of a project going in, it's definitely not essential.</p> <p>- Computer Networks. Distributed Systems.</p>	

12 - This course improved my appreciation for and/or ability to engage in life-long learning.				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
Disagree strongly	(1)	0	0.00%	
Disagree somewhat	(2)	0	0.00%	
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	0	0.00%	
Agree somewhat	(4)	4	40.00%	
Agree strongly	(5)	6	60.00%	
Return Rate				
10/11 (90.91%)				

13 - This course deepened my understanding of the social impact of computing.				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
Disagree strongly	(1)	0	0.00%	
Disagree somewhat	(2)	0	0.00%	
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	0	0.00%	
Agree somewhat	(4)	4	40.00%	
Agree strongly	(5)	6	60.00%	
Return Rate				
10/11 (90.91%)				

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14 - This course enhanced my ability to work effectively in a team.				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
Disagree strongly	(1)	0	0.00%	
Disagree somewhat	(2)	0	0.00%	
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	1	10.00%	
Agree somewhat	(4)	2	20.00%	
Agree strongly	(5)	7	70.00%	
Return Rate				
10/11 (90.91%)				