

## Student comments for Jonathan Cazalas, jcazalas@knights.ucf.edu

In this report of student comments, each student's comments are presented together in order in response to the following questions. If a student left no comments then nothing appears in this report from them.

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- 1) The thing(s) I like the MOST about this course
  - 2) The thing(s) I like the LEAST about this course
  - 3) What is your reaction to the method of evaluating your mastery of the course (i.e., testing, grading, out of class assignments (term papers), instructor feedback, etc.)
  - 4) Additional comments and suggestions for improvement

**Instructor Name:** Jonathan Cazalas

<u>Computer Science/College of Engr &amp; Comp Sci</u> <b>Department/School</b>	<u>COP3502C0001</u> <b>Course-Section Number</b>	<u>COMPUTER SCIENCE I</u> <b>Course Name</b>
<u>298</u> <b>Number of Students Enrolled</b>	<u>162</u> <b>Number Responding</b>	<u>54.36</u> <b>% of Response</b>

- 1) While I have a mild interest in programming, Prof C. made this course enjoyable due to his attitude and teaching style.
- 2) Some of the questions on the online quizzes could have been worded better.
- 3) No surprises here. Tests were fair, as were the assignments.
- 4) Let students know beforehand that they don't need to buy the book.

- 
- 1)
  - 2) The instructor was under the idea that all students were computer geniuses and had master all the subject matter in introduction to C, most of the material had something to do with something that should have been covered prviously, NOT...

- 3)
- 4)

- 
- 1) How awesome and thorough Jonathan is as a professor. Funny knowledgable, made the class interesting, really cared.
  - 2) na
  - 3) good
  - 4)

- 
- 1) The thought the course had a reasonable pace and workload. The tests are fair and the homework assignments forced you to innovate and gain experience. Jonathan is very charismatic in his teaching, making his class interesting and fun. He asks if the class understands a certain concept over and over and seems to really care if we GRASP the material. Overall, good.
  - 2) None that I can think of.
  - 3) The tests are fair and test your knowledge. The homework assignments are the most challenging aspect of the class. Although they are challenging, they're interesting and demand creativity in most cases.

- 4)

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- 1)
  - 2)

- 3) programming assignments made great use of the concepts taught within the course. tests appropriately evaluated material covered in class. unlike other courses where tests draw from a pool of homework problems, tests within this course made us think beyond what we just went over in class.
- 4) Jonathan Cazalas may be my favorite instructor i've ever had in the history of my school career. he clearly has mastered the material he teaches. he surveys the class asking who is understanding the material and who is not, and if the majority of the class is unclear on something, he will go through it again. he also makes the class entertaining and is a funny person all around, thus making the learning process interesting. the only negative thing i can think of is that sometimes the pace of the course was very fast. but that seems to be beyond Jonathan Cazalas's control.

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1) The professor and his TAs were the staple of this course. This is the first and only course I've seen so far where the professor keeps in contact with the students 100% of the time. If an e-mail is sent to him, it is replied to promptly. If a message is posted on the online discussion forum, he will reply. Overall, an excellent professor.

2) It ended.

3) All exams and quizzes were fair. We were told what areas of the course to expect and he delivered accordingly.

4)

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1) The professor made the class VERY interesting. Best professor I have had yet. Class was not easy, but it was a pleasant learning experience.

2) Lack of TAs. It's a tough course that needs more TAs so students can get more feedback on the graded programming assignments. Hence, feedback would be more than just "Program crashed -50 points."

3) Grading on assignments. If the program did not compile, it was an automatic 50% off the grade. Instead of two tests, we could have had 3 HARDER tests and in the end, drop on, or replace the lowest with the highest graded one. Therefore, when students have 4 tests in a week due to midterms, they are not punished by the pressure and they are tested on if they truly know the material as opposed to being a good test taker.

4) 3 HARDER tests and dropping/replacing the lowest test grade would be optimal to test students for their knowledge of the material rather than how good their test taking skills are.

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1) The way the instructor put massive slides up. This helped tremendously when reviewing for tests, quizzes, and even programming.

2) Not enough time was given on quizzes and you couldn't go back and forth on questions on quizzes.

3) Grading was straightforward and fair. Extra credit opportunities were given.

4)

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1) the lectures

2) the language

3) standard

4)

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- 1) The material was very interesting at times and the lab component was a nice supplement to the course.
  - 2) The instructor would spend a lot of time on some material in class even though the course was not very challenging and he seemed to be trying to stretch the information out in order to utilize the entire class period.
  - 3) The tests and quizzes seemed to be quite easy, however they did evaluate the student's performance in regards to comprehending the course material quite well.
  - 4)
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- 1) I liked the availability of the TAs and the tests.
  - 2) The grading on the assignments, I understand that there are hundreds of students, but it's just not right to have a proper code with a few errors that halt running all the way through and to get a 30, while someone with an inaccurate and incomplete program can get a 60 just for having it run all the way through.
  - 3) Everything was very fair, tests especially, but program 4 was killer. The volunteering option for program six was amazing and will come in very handy before finals.
  - 4)
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- 1) Teacher Teaching Style Powerpoint Slides TA's help in HEC 308 TA's help outside of class Content Programming etc.
  - 2) Deadlines Teacher-made assignments Program 4
  - 3) good on all accounts
  - 4) Keep up the good work! Teach more classes.
- 
- 1) A Very energetic and knowledgeable professor, very relatable.
  - 2) Mostly the programs that take forever to do. This class destroys other time to study for other classes. Trying to succeed in this class makes it very difficult to succeed in the other classes.
  - 3) The grading of programs tend to be extremely harsh on errors.
  - 4) If you could drop the program requirements by one program, instead by having 5 programs or some more mini programs to turn in, it would make it easier on my schedule.
- 
- 1) Cazalas was a great teacher and really wanted the class to learn. He taught in a way that made complicated concepts easier to understand and was very supportive of keeping us interested in the material.
  - 2) The program deadlines were pretty frequent with my workload, but I'm not the best project planner, so it's really only a tribute to my failure. Cazalas did a great job.
  - 3) The programs were challenging and taught you a lot of what you needed to know for the course.
  - 4) Keep Cazalas as a teacher. He's the best CS1 teacher by far. Maybe even get this guy into Intro to C if he can.
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- 1) Prof. Cazalas was so interesting to listen to. He seems genuinely concerned and invested in the class. Demotivators... good stuff.

- 2) Program work, mostly because I did poorly on a lot of it,. That said, it was exactly what I need to work on, so I hated it but appreciate (grudgingly) the push for me to work through my short-falls.
  - 3) Lots of ways to make up for bad tests or bad projects. Because you could make up for a bad grade by going to lab, for instance, it made the overall grade a bit more forgiving. I may or may not pass this class, but either way, the grading is fair.
  - 4) My issues sprang from how much I struggled in C. That was taught in COP 3223, so the best way to improve this class would be to make adjustments to COP 3223. Maybe there is some curriculum with interactive C language learning-tutorials or something like you have for CGS 3175 to learn HTML. For the most part, I learned C via lecture and frankly it just doesn't sink in that way. In and out as soon as the exam is over.
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- 1) The professor always had positive energy in the class. Made things fun and easier to learn. He wanted to make sure we where learning the material. He definitely cares about his students.
  - 2) Program were ab bit tough and took alot of hours to complete. Often times drawing me away from other classes. The test was great but sometime being in a 50 minute class can be sort of pushy on time for exam.
  - 3) Program were ab bit tough and took alot of hours to complete. Often times drawing me away from other classes. The test was great but sometime being in a 50 minute class can be sort of pushy on time for exam.
  - 4) its kinda hard to help on the programs sometimes. so i guess improvement would be to better the TA lab which i know is kind of hard when you have 300 students and 8 TA's.
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- 1) Instructor slides were useful & material was presented in an easy to learn manner. Professor knows what is going on with his student body & does an excellent job teaching.
  - 2) Assignments that were 1 min late were not accepted.
  - 3) I learned all of the concepts taught and am well on my way to being prepared for the Foundation Exam.
  - 4) Great teacher!
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- 1) Instructor was very funny.
  - 2) There was no middle ground in the learning process. It almost seems like there needs to be a ramp up prep class to CS1. I believe this was partially because of the previous instructors. The harder the intro to C instructor, the better the grade in CS1. I believe the math portion was a surprise being that CS1 was SOO math intensive. I believe their should be more math requirements before taking this course, if the instructor is required to involve math in the projects. Regarding the teaching tone, either you knew it or you did not. The complexity of the course is not the instructors fault. The complexity of the assignments however and the attempt to bring it down to a level that most could understand was. I've learned from people in many facets so that one knows when your being talked down upon. His sarcastic tones was a at times was very funny, however was at times construed as talking down upon those who wanted to learn.
  - 3) I am more than likely going to have to take this class again. Against professor cazalas's in class comments, it is not for lack of trying.
  - 4) The CS1 tutors in the cave came and went as they pleased. There was not a set schedule. This did not help, however compounded the situation. Most people avoided "The Cave" as there were help, but for the most part was limited. Regarding the cave, there needs to be a serious adjustment in the scheduling of the TA's.
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1) Johnathan is by far the best professor I have had in my four semesters at UCF. He explains everything in great detail and his presentations and resources are without a doubt, the most helpful I've ever seen. He adds humor and fun into each of his lectures, and makes you actually WANT to come to class.

2)

3) Excellent

4) Keep rockin'!

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1) This guy is awesome he should be a full time teacher, please don't lose him like you lost Ben Douglas. He really cares about teaching. Slides were the bomb. Bike fails rocked. Labs REALLY HELPED

2) Spending hours on big assignments and still not getting them done. I like multiple small assignments that would be easier but build my ability to program up. Getting harder as it goes.

3) Best tests I've ever taken, very fair and yet at the same time challenging. They were almost fun to take. I felt very prepared not because it was easy but because you taught us so well, keep it up!

4) Professor Cazalas is super good because he cares about students and he's not there to do research. Hire this man as a full time teacher NOT AS A RESEARCHER OR PUBLISHER. Let him just teach he would be the best thing that could happen to UCF. oh and let him teach Discreet because all the teachers you have suck.

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1) Your humor, enthusiasm, your powerpoints, and your understanding.

2) I'd have to say the pace of the programs. I know that you addressed this in class with the explanation of how much time needs to be dedicated to college in general and how small of a part that is required in order to complete the programs, but still I think more time would've helped. It also might have just led to more procrastination as well.

3) I felt the tests were accurate and fair methods of evaluation.

4)

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1) The professor showed extreme interest in our grasp of material, making it easier to learn and follow the lectures. The lecture slides, being VERY detailed, were EXTREMELY helpful (don't change it, even if a few people complain, about 99.9999% of us greatly appreciate it). The daily demotivators and fail pictures kept the mood light and the students interested in the course material.

2) The lab sessions, unfortunately... While I understand why we need to attend and I found the worksheets/examples presented very helpful, I did not have a very good TA. He taught to the board, whenever he attempted to teach, making it hard to hear him, let alone understand him. On a few occasions he was stuck at the board for 20 minutes trying to FIGURE OUT what we were supposed to do before he could even try to teach it to us. He seemed very uninterested in what he was doing, as if someone dragged him there and he was being forced to hold the lab session. I had a Wednesday, 3:30 lab, and while I appreciated getting out early nearly every time, I didn't feel as if the time was well spent at all. On one occasion we had a substitute TA and he was wonderful; I also met a different TA at the Cave and he too was awesome and very helpful. I trust my lab TA (who's name I don't even know) knows what he's doing, but I'm not so sure he likes it anymore...

3) All tests and quizzes were VERY fair. I felt that Exam 2 was a bit long, but if you had done what the instructor had recommended you would've had no problem. There were never any surprises, which is a huge plus. The programming assignments (with the exception of program 4, for the obvious reasons of course) were challenging in the best sense -- each had an objective and forced you to learn the concepts being taught.

4) Great class, great professor. I appreciated the community service opportunity due to the fact that I'm a terrible coder. I'm a student who would attend lab whether or not it was required, but I also appreciated the incentive for attendance. The professor is very involved with his students (answering discussion posts sometime at 2:00 AM) and this was another great aspect of the course: there was ALWAYS help available for those who needed it. I'd definitely take another class from Professor Cazalas.

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- 1) Great lectures, great power points, overall you're a fantastic professor.
- 2) Stop giving extensions. It's one thing I did not like about this course is all the extensions you gave. The only understandable one was for program 4. I think by giving out so many extensions students took for granted that they are always going to get them. If you want to stop students from procrastinating, be stricter on extensions.
- 3) Every thing was extremely fair and I learned a lot.

4)

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- 1) Amazing lectures. Extremely clear and concise notes and explanations. The instructor was eager to teach and showed. I never wanted to miss this class.
  - 2)
  - 3) I was relieved to have gotten such an outstanding professor for this class which is vital for my CS major. I have a full understanding of the material and I knew what to expect on exams. My level of mastery of this course are reflected in my grades.
  - 4) I wish professor Cazalas could teach the rest of my CS degree. Excellent professor.
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- 1) The help we got from the professor and his TA. Blackboard discussions help me a lot.
  - 2) The meeting hours.
  - 3)
  - 4)
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1) One of the most interesting courses I have taken in my long college career. Professor Cazalas made each class enjoyable with his apparent passion and knowledge of the material. The demotivators were awesome, with the weekly bike pictures giving the mid lecture mind break that was necessary to process all of the information. I hope to take more courses with him in the future.

2)

3)

4)

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- 1) I really liked the detailed powerpoints and explanation to go along with them. Very detailed in the way he explained the concepts and made sure that the class was following and keeping involved.
- 2) There is really nothing that I have to say here. I enjoyed it all.

- 3) VERY EXCELLENT INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK! Cazalas was very communicative when it came to keeping us informed about everything that was going on in and out of class.
  - 4) I really enjoyed Mr. Cazalas as an instructor! His passion for this subject and caring attitude made him an excellent teacher. He was always keeping us involved with class participation and making sure we completely understood material before moving on. His powerpoint slides are the best that I have seen in that they are extremely explanatory so there is no question that understanding the material completely was just a powerpoint away. Very good speaking skills and enthusiasm in his style of teaching. I just wish that more teachers would model their teaching style from his.
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- 1) The challenge involved in the programming assignments
  - 2) The challenge involved in the programming assignments ;D
  - 3)
  - 4) Cazalas is a GREAT instructor! He understands all of the material and knows his slides like the back of his hand. He got the class involved in each lecture and woke us up in the mornings! Its a shame I'm only IT because taking another one of his courses would be awesome! Style++ (dig the beard)
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- 1) I really appreciate the detailed notes. The slides were very helpful when studying for an exam and I did not need to go through my notes as much in this class due the the in depth explanation in the slides.
  - 2) The time constraint regarding the programs was a very tight window for me. I had a tough time completing many programs but I admit that this was my fault. I am just saying this was my LEAST favorite part of the class. Nothing truly needs to be improved because you are a fine professor and the rest is up to the students.
  - 3) The tests were excellent. I finished the first test right before the time was up and finished the second test with time to spare. The weight of the tests ultimately helped my grade and for that I like the weight system you have. Instructions for the programs were detailed and therefore very nice as well.
  - 4) No suggestions.
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- 1) Everything helped with the class, the labs sessions were great, the tests were ultimately fair, the quizzes (although tricky) were educating, the programs really enabled you to learn the concepts in the class.
  - 2) Amount of time spent on the programs (well...actually....just Program 4) was hell. I spent around 80+ hours on my program and it did not work as successfully as I'd hoped. However, the grading of program 5 helped with program 4's grading so everything is all good.
  - 3) VERY VERY FAIR!!!! VERY!!!!
  - 4)
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- 1) interesting and very informative
  - 2) there were only two weeks between programs. tough deadlines
  - 3) it was good
  - 4)
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- 1) Dr Cazalas keeps it exciting! Hands on. Explanations too. Powerpoints SHOWED me what was going on. I got a good education from many different angles
- 2) The programs were pretty tough. I've gotta be honest! (But they also do make me feel very confident in all that I have accomplished)
- 3) The labs were very helpful. Thanks for those. I feel like the extra time in the labs for an actually part of the grade made the course even more to learn from. The tests challenged us to remember and apply the important fundamental principles of Computer Science. The quizzes kept all topics fresh in my mind
- 4) Maybe 3 weeks per assignment so I could have appreciated each one just a little longer and really gotten down and dirty with it. In a two week period I had many things competing for my time, leaving only just a few small bits of time for each project. 3 weeks / assignment could have possibly let me really soak it in a little more

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- 1) The Slides and notes amazing!
  - 2) Nothing... wish he would teach more classes
  - 3) Great Teacher
  - 4)

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- 1) The class was very interesting and I was able to learn new concepts about the class.
  - 2)
  - 3) The homework assignments required more than 20 hours of work in order to be completed. When we need assistances by the TAs, just 5 minutes is allow to get help for the homework. If student wants more time, the student has to wait until everyone waiting for the TA finish. Class has 305 students.
  - 4) CS1 is an introduction class and currently demands a high level expertise to get an A, An evaluation of the class, including homework needs to more efficient requesting less time to get it completed. Also, the TA availability should be considered since the students need to get help form other resources.

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- 1) power point and test were great
  - 2) the assignments were too hard for me, just coming out of intro to c and programming crazy assignment was hard. I understood the material to an extent that gave me A's on the exams.
  - 3) I think to help out a little more you can make the assignments cost a little less of the grade percentage.
  - 4)

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- 1) Professor's mastery of material delivery coupled with outstanding course material (.ppt/.pdf) notes.
  - 2) EPIC ... assignment # 4 ...
  - 3)
  - 4)
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1) The professor's notes were incredibly thorough and you can definitely tell he enjoys teaching.

2) Textbook wasn't necessary.

3)

4)

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1) n/a

2) n/a

3) n/a

4) n/a

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1) I would have to say the best thing about the course was the notes, I found it extremely helpful to be able to study the notes later on

2) The assignments, although they were very helpful in the end

3)

4)

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1) The content

2) Grading time

3) OK

4)

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1) The notes are GREAT!! Easy to read, facilitates the learning process.

2) It was a challenging class, but overall the class was my favorite this semester.

3)

4)

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1) The slides were very helpful and also the labs

2)

3) Everything was fair

4) Great at teaching CSI

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1) The notes. Never Stop.

- 2) All TAs graded differently
  - 3) TAs would grade homework assignments differently from one TA to the next. Pass more cases with one TA:51%, pass less with another TA: 75%
  - 4)
- 
- 1) The lectures, detail of information that is covered never felt overwhelming, and the occasional pause for a laugh was nice.
  - 2) Program 4, the simulation of the TA lab 3 days before an assignment was due.
  - 3) Aside from Program 4, I felt the test and assignments were fair.
  - 4)
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- 1) Cazalas is a great professor.
  - 2) I suppose a couple of the assignments were too long. However, if worked on in a timely manner (don't wait until last two/three days to start), they would be more manageable. I can only frivolously nitpick here.
  - 3) :D yay
  - 4)
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- 1) I liked the humor the professor had in the course. It's very hard material if you don't practice, so I thought he did a good job.
  - 2) I don't enjoy how the professor would spend a lot of time worrying that if students didn't raise their hands that they were not always getting the material. I don't think this is the best feedback to know if students are learning or not.
  - 3) I have learned a lot from this course. Most learning, I believe, is done with practice, so it's up to the student to learn.
  - 4) Not to put down the TA's but when it came to the labs we had to do, I almost always ended up leaving because I did not learn ANYTHING from the instructions they gave. My TA spoke quietly and didn't look like he knew how to teach at all. It was kind of upsetting. I would suggest that the TA's facilitate more group work. Like making the students group up and discuss the material.
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- 1) I LOVE PROGRAMMING!
  - 2) The format of the online quizzes, once you passed a question, you couldn't visit it again.
  - 3) not sure what this question is asking.
  - 4) Cazalas is great, provides many examples and slides to facilitate the learning experience.
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- 1) Cazalas is a genius in his ability to explain CS concepts
  - 2) Attendance requirements
  - 3)

4)

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- 1) Programs were challenging
- 2) One program was not well explained
- 3) Tests and programs were challenging, without being overly difficult. Good course.

4)

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- 1) Very funny guy, always kept things interesting. All of the information from the lectures was always available on extremely detailed powerpoints, which was really helpful.
- 2)
- 3) Tests were always fair, and the programs we had to write, for the most part, weren't too bad.

4)

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- 1) The power point slides
- 2) The way TAs graded the programs
- 3) I did not like really like the grading on the programming assignments

4)

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- 1) I really enjoyed the class and learned a lot. Professor Cazalas is a very good teacher

2)

3)

4)

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- 1) Detailed Notes 100% on Program 6 volunteering for 5 hours. Professors Passion for teaching
- 2) Programs
- 3) I personally enjoyed professor Cazalas's class because he made programming fun to learn and had detailed notes that really helped you understand the material. Don't get me wrong, the material is really tough, but having extended notes really came in handy. Professor Cazalas really brought life into the 930am lecture and it showed. I was really dreading taking this course, but professor Cazalas made it enjoyable for us all.

4)

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- 1) The content covered was interesting.
- 2) I am knowledgeable in the topic, so I felt the class moved too slowly.

3) I feel the grading scale is appropriate and done properly.

4)

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1) The subject matter.

2) I don't have any dislikes.

3) I feel the grading is accurate.

4)

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1) Jonathan was one of the best professors I have EVER had. He would go out of his way to help his students and really new how to teach the difficult material he had to cover. Truly enjoyed his class, and made me want to be a computer science major.

2) The lab sessions, I feel were a waste of time. This was due to the fact that I felt my TA knew less about the material covered than I did. I felt like I was going to lab once a week to sign a piece of paper and learn nothing.

3) The tests were fair and appropriate and Jonathan prepared us well for the tests. The professor also gave us feedback on about where our grade was throughout the semester which I liked a lot! POWERPOINTS WERE FANTASTIC!!!! He gave us soooooo much information.

4)

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1) I like how your slides are very detailed

2) Your god damn quizzes. Well maybe not the quizzes, just how you have it set up where you can't go back and change any answers. On top of that with a time limit, you are forced to move fast. So alot of the questions have to be read fast and answered fast. There is no time to think about if you read the question read or not. You just have to answer and keep moving so not to miss anything. I did poorly on the first few quizzes because I didn't realize how trickly worded the questions were until at the second half of the quiz, but by then I have already answered them wrong.

3) I think everthing was fine BUT the quizzes. I don't believe quizzes reflect my mastery of the course but how well I was able to read the question.

4) Remove the quizzes or change it so you can go back to previous questions.

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1)

2)

3)

4) Keep this man on board with UCF as an educator.

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1) Great slides, engaging lectures, tests were always fair. All the programs were just difficult enough to challenge the students but not hard enough to discourage.

2)

3)

4) Just an absolutely great professor. Best I've had so far.

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1)

2)

3)

4) I do not usually feel engaged in most classes, but I can genuinely say I enjoyed coming to class everyday. You were a GREAT professor, and I really thank you for the energy and hard work you put in to making class valuable. I learned a lot and am excited to continue my studies in Computer Science. THANKS! Corey

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1) Community Service for program 6

2) only two weeks to complete the assignments

3)

4)

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1) Curriculum

2) Due dates

3) Good

4) none

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1) THE POWERPOINT SLIDES : )

2) Some of the TAs weren't very helpful

3) All of the tests seemed fair, some of the quiz questions were poorly worded, but the assignments really helped understand the material.

4) Keep doing your thing, sir. You're a great professor. And don't think that your comedy is unimpressive -- I like that you liven up lectures with demotivators and bike fails.

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1)

2) There were hardly seats available so when my bus was late I wouldn't bother come to class to stand in the back.

3)

4)

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1) Very organized. tests were fair

2)

3) Should make programs due on the weekends, allowing for two and a half weeks of programming time

4) This course is an accurate test of programming knowledge and skills

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1) The notes and powerpoints were awesome. Course expectations were very clear.

2) The course content can be pretty challenging at times for students who are not CS majors. But professor tried very hard to break it down.

3)

4)

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1) The professor did an excellent job explaining the material. He used different techniques in order to ensure student understanding.

2) The programs were hard!!!!!! Dedicated tooooooooo much time to get them done.

3)

4)

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1) Emphasis on problem solving.

2) Doing the actual programs.

3) Grade assessments were excellent.

4) To me, for whatever reason, it often felt that a majority of the time was spent on the relatively easy components of the course, while the difficult concepts to master were only covered briefly.

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1) Awesome powerpoints.

2)

3)

4)

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1) THE NOTES WERE AMAZING.

2)

3)

4) By far the most enjoyable and informative professor to date. Very detailed notes and an exciting attitude made coming to class oddly enjoyable.

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- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4) The programs were beasts, but I learned a lot. I would take this instructor again in a heartbeat.