

## **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

Computer Science/College of Engr & Comp Sci	COP3502CC001	COMPUTER SCIENCE I
<b>Department/School</b>	<b>Course-Section Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>
155	106	68.39
<b>Number of Students Enrolled</b>	<b>Number Responding</b>	<b>% of Response</b>

- 1) Good instruction, keeps me interested/awake through most of the lecture.
- 2) Long lecture, but is expected for summer semester. A lot of cramming for program assignments.
- 3) Fair grading.

4)

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- 1) The awesome slides, and an even more awesome instructor.

2)

3)

4)

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- 1) I liked the professor's attitude towards teaching and learning.

2) N/A

- 3) It is very thorough and accurate.

4)

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- 1) The amount of resources given to the student to learn the information

2)

- 3) Very tough class but probably one of the best instructors I've ever had.

4)

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- 1) awesome slides

2)

3)

4)

1) The instructor made the class interesting and made it straight forward and easy to understand difficult concepts.

2)

3) It was well done.

4)

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1) Everything really. The teacher is the most down to earth guy, and is extremely approachable, and all the TAs were very helpful and actually know how to teach.

2) I disliked that the class was Two hours long. I would have much preferred an hour class everyday.

3) Fair.

4) The teacher should know that all the students get his jokes but we all just don't show it like Kristina does.

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1)

2)

3)

4) Don't let anybody tell you dry humor isn't funny. Because it is always funny. Always.

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1) slides

2) nothing

3) great

4)

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1) Many things to list here, the lab sections very helpful, the powerpoint slides were informative and the pace of the class was sufficient to actually cover all material (the only of any of my summer classes to do so). Dr. Cazalas seems to empathize a great deal with students but does not let that empathy allow him to be a pushover and is firm but fair with his deadlines and rules etc. I think he earnestly wants us to learn as well as possible and takes great care to warn us of the pitfalls he's seen previous students fall into and explains things very well. I also think he recognizes his strengths and weaknesses very well, he clearly states multiple times that he is not the greatest coder himself and that we should see his TAs for coding questions first but that he knows his strengths are in explaining and teaching the way things work. This combination works extremely well, he maximizes his strengths and manages the TAs effectively to offset any weaknesses leaving all of his bases covered. He also uses this method to make the most effective use of lab times I've ever had in a course.

- 2) Not much to list here, he sometimes seems thrown off by questions but I think that is more to the rigorous pace required for abbreviated summer course. Also, while I do enjoy his jokes and they help keep the class focused for the long lectures and I get the dry humor I think he could pick better targets for a few jokes. It's fine to have a laugh about people doing boneheaded things because we all do it, but some of the jokes poking fun at people with minimum wage jobs etc didn't seem necessary. Allowing yourself to be part of the joke is what makes dry humor work, but poking fun at those who are "lower" in status than yourself just seems mean spirited. I don't think that Dr. Cazalas meant it in this way at all and I wouldn't remove all jokes, I would just suggest he be a little more discerning on who exactly the target of the joke is. This one complaint doesn't compare to the overwhelming positives of Dr. Cazalas as an instructor.
- 3) The tests and programming assignments were all fair and did not throw curveballs at us. The lab sections helped immensely with getting a sense of the types of questions we would see on the tests and Dr. Cazalas frequently told us to study Foundation Exams relevant to our test topics and these helped greatly. Grading was fair and accurate in my experience.
- 4) Overall this was a great course, the TAs were very helpful and Dr. Cazalas was very professional and focused on covering the material required. I would like to just point out again that this is my only class during summer that successfully covered all required material for the course and that is due to Dr. Cazalas' organization and dedicated pace. Dr. Cazalas by far puts more effort into teaching than any previous instructor I've had before and it really shows in our class performance and satisfaction, he is an excellent instructor.

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- 1) Relatively difficult concepts were taught in a way that made the material easier to understand and remember. I also like the way the different components of our grade were weighted. I also liked the opportunity for a "free" 100% on the last assignment.
  - 2) In the summer, there are less TA hours.
  - 3) I am pleased with the method of evaluating my mastery of the course. If a student puts in enough effort, the method of evaluation would not be an issue.

4)

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- 1) No time is wasted, everything is as clear as humanly possible. Awesome power points.

2) Summer Semester sucks.

3) Excellent

4)

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- 1) One word - BEARD.

2) Not enough of it.

3) Too many lines of code, I never want to look at a computer again.

4) Notes really are AWESOME.

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- 1) The professor does a lot to keep people interested and paying attention. I have ADD and was attentive for 95% of all lectures, which amazes even me.

2)

- 3) exam 2 should have been harder. just saying.
  - 4) I wish I could take this class again. I enjoyed the whole semester.
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- 1) method of teaching
  - 2) need more materials
  - 3)
  - 4)
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- 1) The professor did an excellent job presenting the material for the course. Did a phenomenal job keeping us awake and engaged during a two-hour class.
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
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- 1) it was an easy class
  - 2) long, difficult assignments
  - 3) good
  - 4) none
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- 1) If you have a problem in this class and you cant understand what a TA is telling then you can go to him and he will explain it over and over to you until you understand it. I went to him about not being able to understand something and I sat at his desk for over an hour and he explained it to me until I understood it. This is a hard class but Jonathan does his best to explain so that an average student who is willing to work can understand it and pass the class. SLIDES are awesome. I have advised a few people who are taking this class in the fall that he may not be teaching and they should download the slides on the website and keep because of the work that he put into them and how detailed they are. Brain Breaks- Bike failures, and stupid people examples (They are great). The fact that we can use the Foundation Exams to study from Tests in this class really helped me, plus the labs too.
  - 2) I had one of the worst programming professors for C and that put me really behind but what I hated was the amount of work that I had to put to get caught up in this class in the first 3 weeks but I am glad that I put that work into this class. Having this lecture be 2 hours in the summer is brutal. This class needs to be split into 3 classes on M/W/F which are an hour and half a piece and would be slightly easier on the brain and fewer occurrences of Jello for brains.
  - 3) Tests were usually straight forward (the second one more than the first in my opinion), programs were really hard to complete in 2 weeks and if it wasn't for the TA's there is no way I would be passing this class, quizzes were easy.
  - 4) Jonathan is AWESOME!!! I wish that I had more professors that were this thorough and cared their students as much as he does and were willing to explain things in detail rather than tell you that you need to learn it on your own and then kick you out of their office.
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- 1) The professor is interesting, and teaching is certainly his forte. He loves to talk and explains well.
- 2) Programming assignments were too difficult for the skill level a new programmer would have attained at this point.
- 3) I felt like this class was designed for someone with more programming experience. The only class I had taken previously to Comp Sci I was Intro to C Programming. That means I had one single semester of experience and my thought processes were not advanced and honed enough to be able to do the assignments without a full-time tutor. I should have been able to do the assignments with minimal tutoring, if any. I came to this university to be able to learn a skill, and they should teach such a class with that in mind, since Comp Sci is a vital class for a Computer Science major. I believe most of the other students in this class were either taking it for a second time, or have a job in the field/have programmed before. I don't think this class should be designed for these students, but for the NEW students, the ones who are trying to learn it for the first time.
- 4) The professor designed the tests based off of previous scores, and thought the test was too easy if the average was an 85%. Like I said before, the class was filled with people who have been programming for a little while at the least. Don't base the tests over the scores, but off of what a new programmer would be able to handle. The fact that the scores are high is irrelevant.

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1) Everything

2) Nothing

3)

4)

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1)

2) The pace was insanely difficult for a new programmer to keep up

3)

4) Assignments far more difficult than they needed to be to get the learning objectives across.

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1) Cazalas is awesome and teaches the material well.

2) Length of the classes and having two lectures in one day.

3) I really understand the concepts well. I personally hate programming, but I like the logic applied to abstract data structures. Guess that's for being a math major.

4) I think that this course was great. Keep it up! AWESOME!

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1) The attention to detail was very good. Nothing was skimmed over or ignored when a topic was explained. Also, the lab sessions were very helpful for practicing the material on an individual level, but still having someone to check your work - which would be difficult to do in a purely lecture-based course. The quizzes were great for me, because they forced me to keep up with the material. (I have a tendency to slack off until exams if I'm allowed to do so.) Jonathan is one of the most engaging professors I've encountered. His concern for his students is second to none. He's funny, fast-paced, and detail-oriented. A+ lecturer and professor

- 2) The assignments were very difficult and time-consuming, but I suppose that just comes with the territory.
  - 3) Including quizzes and lab attendance in the grade was probably good for students like me who are likely to slack off without the extra push. At first I was a little grumpy about the fact that they would be included in my grade, but in retrospect, I'm glad b/c it helped me keep up and learn things more in-depth than I would have had I waited and crammed my studying.
  - 4)
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- 1) I've heard nightmare stories of this course! It was not bad at all! This course was very challenging for me! That's what I most enjoyed. The professor made the class exciting and presented the material in a way that anyone could understand. I feel that if I would have taken this class with a less engaging professor I would have "tuned" out!
  - 2) The deadlines are what I least enjoyed! This course should be taken during the Spring or Fall, not Summer!
  - 3) The structure of this course was set up, in my opinion, for a student to succeed. There was plenty of opportunities for students to get extra points for assignments and quizzes.
  - 4)
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- 1) Virtually everything! Lecture slides were pure awesomeness. (Especially the epic fails, bike fails, and demotivators)
  - 2) The quizzes.
  - 3) Very fair.
  - 4) You're one of the best professors I've had here at UCF. After every lecture, I clearly understood the materials. Keep up the great work!
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- 1) I liked the engaging atmosphere and the effort he puts into each class. The slide and the humor were great.
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
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- 1) Its entertaining. The professor really goes out of his way to make the class interesting and relatable.
  - 2) I wish we could have done more programming hands on, but I know this class focuses more on the logic.
  - 3) I think it was very fair.
  - 4) Great class, great professor :)
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1) The instructor knew what he was talking about.

2)

3)

4)

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1)

2)

3)

4) Give Cazalas a raise! Also, UCF would prove to be entirely downright IDIOTIC if they did not hire him on as a professor after he finishes his doctorate! Seriously, Jonathan Cazalas is one of the best teachers that I have ever seen! All around, he is a great teacher who cares about and can relate to us students, not like most teachers who are jaded and have grown to either hate, or simply feel apathetic about, students. Make a smart move and hire this guy...

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1) The energy he used to teach the class kept me interested and wanting to learn. The slides were AWESOME.

2) I took it in the summer.

3)

4)

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1) Class was always interesting and interactive. And of course the bike fails and demotivators.

2)

3) The tests were very fair and the programs were challenging without being overly difficult.

4)

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1) He makes awesome slides and makes everything easy enough for anyone and everyone to understand. He puts a lot of work and enthusiasm to make sure we learn the material. He also makes his notes easy enough to understand that you could almost not even go to class and still be able to learn everything.

2) The programs lol ;)

3) It was good, the programs brought my grade down but thankfully my test scores kept my grade normal.

4)

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- 1) Awesome slides are awesome. Professor engaged students effectively, work was challenging but doable and there was ample opportunity to get help.
  - 2) The bike fails killed some of my brain cells.
  - 3) Tests were fair, programs were difficult but fair, and quizzes were effective in making sure I keep up with material. Overall, there was ample opportunity for bringing my grade up and I learned a lot from the programs.
  - 4) Take it easy on the Bike Fails, they're bad for the brain.
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- 1) the professor's method of teaching, especially the slides he came up with
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
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- 1) Fun, easy, entertaining.
  - 2) Having to see people in front of me with their laptops on browsing the internet during class. Honestly, if they aren't going to pay attention anyways, can't they just go sit in the back? It's really distracting, and thankfully I did not find the course material challenging, or else I might've had some trouble at times.
  - 3)
  - 4) Jonathan's teaching method is perfectly suited for this course. He clearly cares about the students and wants them to learn. I'd say he's one of the best teachers I've had at UCF except for the fact that he's a Saints fan.
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- 1) He had great lectures and a great attitude while teaching. He was always trying to make sure we were with him (mentally) and if he felt like we were turning "jello" we would try to get us back into the groove. He was sympathetic to personal problems I had with my family and even follow up on the progress. A great teacher and a great guy!!
  - 2) The material is hard. Wish IT students wouldn't have to take this course. Programming C and Java is plenty!
  - 3)
  - 4)
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- 1)
  - 2) Online Quizzes absolutely screwed me because they were only open during a limited time frame that I could not make. I would have easily passed all the quizzes at my leisure had they been open 1 or 2 days prior to being due.
  - 3) Testing was well done, Programs were thought out well and aptly tested our knowledge and critical thinking on the subjects.
  - 4)
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- 1) The use of the power-points as well as the awesome lab notes.
- 2) The length of the course was short, being that it is summer, and the fact that we couldn't cover all of the labs in lab.
- 3) Overall excellent class and excellent teacher.

4)

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- 1) The professor's power point slides were awesome!!! Also, the T.A.'s were a tremendous help.
  - 2) A large class size.
  - 3) The course exams and quizzes tested student's knowledge of the material. The grading was fair and accurate.
  - 4) No additional comments.

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- 1) 2nd time around, i enhanced my knowledge of the C lanuage.
  - 2) C code and syntax, I don't get this stuff at all!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 2nd time around taking this course!!!!!!!!!!!!
  - 3) Great instructor, i'm not really interested in the subject matter.
  - 4) Please take CS1 off the Information Technology required classes!!!!!!!!!! Let people in CS take this course, i love working on computers, fixing them taking them apart, networking, etc. I'm not much of a programmer.

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- 1) BEST CLASS EVER!! I LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS COURSE!!!! :D
  - 2) SUMMER SUCKS :P
  - 3) I HAVE LEARNED A LOT! I AM A SENIOR MATH MAJOR AND IF I TOOK THIS CLASS ON MY FRESHMEN YEAR.. I WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY CHANGED TO COMPUTER SCIENCE! NOT KIDDIN
  - 4) AWESOME PROFESSOR AND TA'S!!!! EPIC ASSIGNMENTS!! :D AWESOME SLIDES AND NEVER MISSED A LECTURE JUST BECAUSE I ENJOY THEM!

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- 1) Mr. Cazalas is an awesome teacher and I look forward to having him as a teacher again if possible. Makes the class very enjoyable.
  - 2) The time it was at.
  - 3) It seemed to be pretty fair.
  - 4) Possibly a bit easier on grading the assignments.
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- 1) The professor. He was an amazing professor I went in the class with no idea of what any of the topic we went over meant in the begin. And I know that as I leave the class I have a complete understanding of all the topics and how they work. He made the class fun and really taught the students.
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4) A simply amazing professor that I would recommend to any student a 100 times over. One of the best professors I have ever had.
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- 1) Cazalas does a very good job of describing the concepts of the course material.
  - 2) It was impossible for me to successfully complete this class because I work 9-6 around classes. If I need help with coding homework assignments (after 6) there is nobody available, and the TAs did not consistently respond to my questions via email.
  - 3)
  - 4) Out-of-class support has got to get better!!! I can't pass a tough assignment when I can only make it in person once a week, and nobody responds to my emails! Will be taking this class again in the fall.