**Anonymous Student Survey - CS419/519 Spring 2001**

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**Question 1: Fall99-01**

Question:

It is needed to conduct student evaluations of courses in classes near the end of a semester. For this course, we can do this only through an on-line survey. Due to the special characteristics of this Web-based course, we have designed a special set of questions. We try to use them to figure out how this course performed and how to make improvements on it. We start from a very broad question, _Overall_ speaking, you think that **this course is** (The question is about your overall, general feeling about this course: its content, methodology, instructor help, etc.):

(4) Very good
(14) Good
(0) Neutral
(0) Not good
(0) Very bad
(0) No opinion or do not understand the question

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**Question 2: Fall99-02**

Question:

I think that the **usefulness of the subject matter** (It may be called the technical content. It includes all the knowledge, experience, skill, and theory that the course offers.) of this course is (For this question, do not include other supporting factors such as laboratory services):

(6) Very good
(9) Good
(2) Neutral
(0) Bad
(0) Very bad
(0) No opinion or do not understand the question

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**Question 3: Fall99-03**

Question:

I think that the **actual content of the course provided by the instructor** (This includes course notes, examples, references, assignments, examinations, projects, and other instructor's efforts.) as a **whole** is: (Do not include anything that are beyond the control of the instructor.)
Question 4: Spring2001-04 Available Information

Question:
Compared to ordinary courses, the total amount of **useful information** made available to me in this course has been:
(7) Much more than average
(6) Somewhat more than average
(2) Average
(2) Less than average
(0) Very much lacking
(0) No opinion or do not understand the question.

Question 5: Fall99-04

Question:
I think that the **instructional methodology** (i.e. how you were facilitated to learn, and encouraged to explore) that has been **applied in this course** is:
(This question is about the approach that the course is taught by the instructor. We will evaluate supporting services separately.)
(3) Very good
(9) Good
(2) Neutral
(3) Less than adequate
(0) Very much lacking
(0) No opinion or do not understand the question.

Question 6: Fall99-06

Question:
Considering the way this particular course is conducted, I think that **the amount of hands-on learning experience that I have achieved, as compared to a corresponding hypothetical lecture course** (We have to assume that the hypothetical lecture course does not have available the same on-line access to all the course materials and interactive examples, and it has to meet at scheduled hours.), is probably:
(This question is about comparing what you have actually learned in this class with what you would have learned in a hypothetical traditional lecture class.)
(6) Much more
(9) More
(0) About the same
(1) Less
(0) Much less
(1) No opinion or do not understand the question

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**Question 7: Fall99-05**

Question:

Comparing this particular Internet-based course (not Internet-based courses in general) to traditional classroom-based lecture courses in all aspects (including the course structure, ready availability of course-content related materials, convenience or flexibility in learning regarding time and place, intellectual stimulation and the opportunity for active learning, availability of instructor assistance, etc.), I think that this course is:

(4) Much better
(8) Better
(3) About the same
(1) Worse
(0) Much worse
(1) No opinion or do not understand the question

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**Question 8: Fall99-07**

Question:

Even though I do not meet the course instructor regularly in a classroom, I think that the instructor's overall contribution has been:

(7) Very good
(5) Good
(5) Neutral
(0) Bad
(0) Very bad
(0) No opinion or do not understand the question

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**Question 9: Fall99-08**

Question:

I think that the OCCS service (support on the LearningSpace aspect of the course - assistance in accessing the on-line course material and various functions) has been:

(6) Very good
(3) Good
(5) Neutral
**Question 10: Fall99-09**

Question: I think that the support of the CS laboratory service (availability of account and various system servers in proper working order) has been:
(This aspect is beyond the instructor control, but is relevant to the course and the learning process.)

(4) Very good
(4) Good
(6) Neutral
(3) Bad
(0) Very bad
(0) No opinion or do not understand the question

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**Question 11: Fall99-11**

Question: Please give your written comments on both positive and negative points regarding your learning experience, the course content, methodology, actual operation, instructor action, laboratory support, and so on. You are particularly encouraged to comment on the aspect of an Internet-based course.

Anonymous Response: It is a very good and interesting course. I learned a lot of useful things.

Anonymous Response: positive points: The subject can be learnt by us without attending any class at our convinience and also all the study material is available for our ready reference any time.
Negative Points: Since it is a web based course there is more pressure on us to learn the subject ourselves. Hence the grading should be accordingly.

Anonymous Response: The course was very useful for me.

Anonymous Response: Overall the course is very good. Dr. Shen is a very good teacher and has organized an excellent course. I do believe the course is primarily for graduate student and can be taken by undergrad. There are some places in the course with statements such as thoroughly understand the information given at URL. When you click on the URL it takes you to a site that would take two weeks to absorb all the offered information.
Now as to reliability of the infrastructure that supports the course. In simple terms there are too many accounts, servers, and points of connectivity.
This is great for flexibility since I do my work from the CS labs, and dial-in service from three different sites; however, this also means there are many single point failures which make the whole system inaccessible or useless for a particular assignment, project, or lesson. This class environment is good, but as with all things applied in Computer Science, it should be replaced with the next generation system. Retain the flexibility, increase the speed and reliability. Thank you for your interest and in giving me an opportunity to continue to learn and grow as a computer scientist and a person.

Anonymous Response:
I feel that all the hands on work creates many questions and that having only classmates to pose these questions to is not adequate. Perhaps if the TA could be accessed for a lot of the students questions, or have the TA monitor the discussion database would be of great help.

Anonymous Response:
Although this course is more than excellent, but I think Internet-based courses are not suitable for every subject. For example, theoretical oriented courses needs more interaction and dialogs with the instructor, so it's important to face the instructor during the lecture to enrich the discussion and to give direct questions.

Anonymous Response:
Tests failed to reflect on material relevant to the class in many instances. The idea that fulfilling requirements for projects only gets the student an 80 is quite ridiculous.

Anonymous Response:
There are problem with an inadequate wide area network that prevent remote users from accessing university resources. I took this course while on the road about 90% of the time. Students should be warned that they may have problems taking this course from remote locations.

Anonymous Response:
I liked the course very much. I learned a lot! The instructor was very professional and helpful. I have a few suggestions:
1) The grammar and spelling in the material needs to be corrected.
2) The links to supporting documentation is frequently down. This is very frustrating.
3) The tests asked questions about material in previous course work. I think that this is a bad practice. Unless it is covered in this course, then it
should not be on a test. If you want to make sure that students have previous knowledge, then make the first assignment deal with previous stuff.
4) Students need more feedback on their assignments. Grades are great, but knowing why you received a grade is better.

Anonymous Response:
- It was difficult at time to get email response from the instructor, but he was very fair in giving extensions and providing a great deal of extra course material.
- The course room was very helpful in helping with my problems.
- The grading was very slow, I would like to get a quicker reponse on my assignments.
- No comments were made about why points were lost.
- Assignments were challenging and helped me learn a lot about the course material. Not to mention the assignments weren't impossible to do either.
- The Oracle book was excellent, but the Perl book I thought was terrible.
- The grading itself was pretty fair, but there were a few times I thought I deserved more points.
- Overall the course is pretty good, I learned a lot.

Anonymous Response:
-the connection from OCCS was shaky at times, it was hard to predict when Learning Space would be available.
-I always get a "run time" error when using learning space, sometimes causing my browser to crash.
-Dr Shen's materials provided were good. His flexibility and understanding with assignments (because of bad connections) was very very helpful.

Anonymous Response:
<No Response>

Anonymous Response:
I found this course very frustrating. Internet courses that are open to working adults with families should be designed differently. The prerequisites should be more specific, since some of us are not ODU students, but taking transfer credit. "C++ experience equivalent to that in CS150" doesn't tell me that I needed to be a great programmer, and that an introduction to C++ course wouldn't suffice. Also, since many students taking internet courses are working adults, it wouldn't lower standards any by meeting them half-way and telling more about what to focus on for exams. While providing a mountain of information and links to mountains more is great for those who have the time, I found myself reading through pages of perl and plsql manuals without really knowing what to digest for the exams, and then found totally unexpected questions on exams. i.e. html programming questions. HTML wasn't a prerequisite and wasn't focused on in the material. Since I use Dreamweaver, most of my HTML is done behind the scenes. Also, the question on database normalization BCNF was not covered in the core material. And tests weren't returned to me so I couldn't evaluate my weaknesses.
Furthermore, I found assignments and projects totally without direction as to how to proceed except "do it in pl/sql" or "perl". So I spent a great deal of time figuring out whether to use perl, perl cgi.pm, or perl dbi and how they work together before beginning any programming. Perhaps this is all just because of my perspective, coming from Univ. of MD, having taken online classes with them for four years. They weren't easy on us but they didn't intentionally make everything difficult either. Not all of us are software engineers, and I didn't think it was fair to ask us to master new material like mSQL, mySQL, CGI.pm and everything else in what was a few days time per section. That ends my comments.

Anonymous Response:
no comments

Anonymous Response:
This internet-based course is very good.

Anonymous Response:
Better to have some meeting every 2 weeks or so.