UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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UCSD

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Graduate Course Evaluation for Jun-Kun Wang
Data Science Program

DSC 211 - Introduction to Optimization
Section ID 319348
Section Number A00
Winter 2024

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 6
Number of Students Enrolled: 11

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

0 (0.0%):	Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Subject Area Requirement
3 (50.0%):	Elective
3 (50.0%):	Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

4 (66.7%):	Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

4 (66.7%):	Strongly Agree
1 (16.7%):	Agree
1 (16.7%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

3 (50.0%):   Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):   Agree
1 (16.7%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

3 (50.0%):   Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):   Agree
1 (16.7%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

3 (50.0%):   Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):   Agree
1 (16.7%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

4 (66.7%):   Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):   Agree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

3 (50.0%):   Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):   Agree
1 (16.7%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

3 (50.0%):   Excellent
2 (33.3%):   Above Average
1 (16.7%):   Average
0 (0.0%):   Below Average
0 (0.0%):   Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance
Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Caring and knowledgeable

- Personally I think the instructor's performance is getting better as the class progress, especially during the last two weeks, which is expected from a new instructor. The class is better organized, the instructor is more aware of the level of students instead of dumping the high-level concepts directly, even though the instructor is constantly checking in with the students since the beginning.

- Professor Wang is very conscientious in the performance of his duties. He always answers my questions patiently. I have learned a lot as a beginner thanks to him, and I can feel his class improving all the time. He is definitely a good teacher!

11. I would recommend this course overall.

3 (50.0%):   Strongly Agree
2 (33.3%):   Agree
1 (16.7%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

3 (50.0%):   Excellent
1 (16.7%):   Above Average
1 (16.7%):   Average
1 (16.7%):   Below Average
0 (0.0%):   Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- A lot of interesting optimization topics but the contents are very coherent, clear and in-depth. We learn a lot from it.

- It's a very fundamental skill for data science domain.

- This is the introduction to optimization, which is a basic course for those who want to study and research deeply in almost every field related to machine learning.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- I would appreciate it if the instructor could dedicate more time on the basic concepts of optimization, for example some more intuitive explanations. Also it would be great if we can have a clearer class structure and also how the concepts are connected at the beginning of the class, like what we had at the end of the last lecture. In general the higher level concepts are very helpful for people who are interested in optimization, but overall this class is not very beginner friendly.

- Keep doing that, it is good enough, it would be better if some simple examples related to those hard definitions can be given.

- More hand-on programming assignments in homework. TA is a little bit harshing in grading of homework, we lost a lot of points because of latex format. As graudate students, students do not have too much time to focus on format.

- Since all homework are open notes and the exam is similar to the homework problem with solid proof, it should also be taken-home or completely open note rather than just one sheet cheatsheet. Sometimes even with the written theorem it is hard to finish the proof without the lecture slides or others.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Sometimes things look very complicated and hard to understand, but if you can believe in yourself and try to overcome your fear, you will ultimately overcome it and learn a lot.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?
Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Professor Wang, you are definitely a good teacher and DSC211 is a good class!