

ECE326H1F: Programming Languages

Instructor: Subhendu Bhadra

Compilation of concerns / misconducts of the instructor (From students who took this course)

- Instructor being late to the course in a regular manner
 - Was not present for lecture regarding the discussion of project and review for final exam and not giving the TAs who attended further instructions
 - Canceled two lectures 30 mins before class.
 - Assume the instructor had family issue, but he didn't give an announcement for students or let the TAs cover up the course
- Syllabus and COFM (Composition of Final Marks)
 - Course syllabus is plagiarized from years ago
 - Syllabus wasn't posted until the end of the second week of school
 - Syllabus and first 8 lecture notes copied from <https://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~jzhu/csc326/csc326.html>
 - Syllabus did not correspond well to what the professor did - different numbers and types of assignments and labs, and dates were incorrect as they were unchanged from years ago, and methodologies/procedures listed in the syllabus were not respected.
 - COFM is not followed well
 - When being asked about the percentage of the project and midterm, his response was "We will decide later"
- Lecture Content:
 - Lecture notes are using out of date python syntax from 10 years ago (Python2) and there were no corrections from him.
 - He is not familiar with the lecture notes and in lecture just read through the material with less to no explanation.
 - Many times he just opens the PDF at the first page and talks about unrelated contents for the entire lecture. One day he was 20 minutes late and he just talked about how important time management is for the entire lecture!
 - Course content was also not communicated to TAs, TA has no understanding of what is taught during class and no effective communication could be done even after we asked TA to reach out
 - TA forced to make up material for tutorials last minute with no support from professor, and content was decided by professor only as a vague topic that did not have any connection to course
- Less to no lab instruction:
 - At the beginning of the term, he said the labs are biweekly. After the reading week, he decided there won't be any more labs, there will only be the project.

Even the TAs didn't know that there are only 3 labs. TA has no rubric for marking and are requested to mark the labs in 1 day.

- According to the TA in the lab sessions, they only received the lab instruction an hour before the practical session which left them no time to look into and when students asked questions about the lab they did not know how to answer them either since there was no time for them to prepare.
- Lab instructions are very minimal with vague instructions, causing confusion about what students have to do for the lab.
- Quiz instructions
 - Quiz information posted 3 days before the quiz date (announced a December 1st quiz on Monday, November 28th during lecture, announced on Quercus on November 30th)
- Project instructions
 - Announced that there would be a project a week before reading week (October 31st) and did not post the instruction for it until the end of the semester. Students had asked for it during every lecture and he always said he'd post it soon.
 - 20% project given in the week before the end of the semester (November 29th)
 - The project is unrelated to lecture contents.
 - Students had to self-teach Tensorflow and finish the project within a week (very stressful schedule)
 - Project instructions were similar to lab instructions with very vague statements about what is required from the student.
 - Professor announced TAs would teach/ help with required project content which was not properly communicated to TAs and ended up being nonexistent
 - No bonus assignment given but announced in the lectures several times that there would be a 10% bonus assignment.
 - Student private messaged prof multiple times (because the prof had said to message him on Teams if they had any questions) about the bonus project. Prof saw the messages but did not reply at all
- Exam instructions
 - Vague instructions given
 - Didn't comply with the information given in the faculty's exam info
 - Announced several times in lecture that it would be open book and changed to close book two days before the exam.
 - Implied in final lectures that personal laptops would be used for the final exam.
 - Incorrect information relayed between student, faculty, and actual final format of the exam, which was extremely painful to navigate
 - Last minute change to closed book test with one aid sheet
 - Posted an announcement for allowing aid sheet the night before the exam (8:37pm). -> this is extremely irresponsible as it forces the student to stay up

overnight finishing a last minute aid sheet. This places undue stress upon many students' **mental and physical health!**

- Claim that "there is no need of any aids for an exam of a programming course" when the actual exam tests nothing but memorizing skills as in the questions are mostly concepts questions from the non-original slides.
- No final review was given, professor did not show up day of promised review with no communication to students or TAs, TAs were left to face the class with no ability to answer any questions
- Accessibility Services concern
 - Instructor didn't reply any communication attempts from the ATS although student(s) are registered with accessibility services for their midterms, which are approved by ATS
 - Test didn't go to ATS, student couldn't write a midterm
- In-course Communication concerns
 - Never responding to teams messages and email, although the instructor has informed students to reach out via teams message
 - Always edit Quercus announcements, which does not send any notification to students, constantly changing announcement information without notice.
- Midterm schedules and instruction
 - Changed midterm date twice, initially announced for October 24th, then suddenly decided to change the date to October 17th during lecture and edited the old midterm announcement to change date. Then two days later, decided to change the date back to 24th
 - During the lecture, he said there will be 3 questions in the midterm and we only need to answer 2 of them. Then the actual midterm is composed of 5 questions and you need to answer all of them.
 - Change midterm coverage from lecture1-lecture7 to lecture1-lecture8, the night before the midterm (8:11pm).

What should be done for students who took this course

- Give the 10% bonus as promised
- An official apology for reading and then ignoring student messages even though he himself said to reach him through Microsoft Teams for any concerns.
 - The very act of ignoring these messages is extremely ill-mannered and I refuse to be tolerate the disrespect I faced throughout the course as both parties are adults who should be responsible for their actions and inactions (can reach out to Andrew Zhao for detailed screenshots as proof of disrespectful interactions)

What should be done to prevent this from happening in the future?

- Faculty should be held accountable for similar events in the future (the onus of hiring the right professor falls upon the faculty).
- Faculty should intervene in these situations early on to prevent it from lasting an entire semester. (Students communicated the issues to our class representatives and they tried their best to inform the faculty but there was still no change).

Appendix: Student Feedback

-Dropped this class 3 days in cuz he was the worst prof i've ever had. Very disheartening as it was originally a course I looked forward to taking - an asian man

-I also dropped the course in a few days because that's all I needed to see he was a horrendous prof -a white guy