

# University at Buffalo

## Spring 2018, CSE 191LR Intro Discrete Structures Section A

Instructor: Miller, Russ (Primary)

	Question Text	N	RR	Top Two	My Avg	SD	CSE Avg	Div Avg	Sch Avg						
Grp	UBCoreCourse			80%	4.1	0.9	3.8	3.9	4.0						
Grp	UBCoreCourse (Miller, Russ)			89%	4.4	0.9	3.8	3.9	4.0						
Grp	UBCoreInstructor (Miller, Russ)			85%	4.3	0.8	4.1	4.1	4.2						
										S Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	S Agree	N/A/D K
1	High achievement standards for class	83	41%	88%	4.3	0.8	4.2	4.3	4.3	1%	1%	10%	45%	43%	0%
2	Clearly showed relevance of course	82	40%	79%	4.2	1	4.1	4.2	4.2	2%	4%	15%	28%	49%	2%
3	Provided useful and timely feedback on graded work	83	41%	77%	4.1	1	3.9	4.0	4.0	4%	4%	16%	35%	42%	0%
4	Creates environment of inclusion	83	41%	85%	4.3	0.8	4.1	4.2	4.2	1%	1%	12%	34%	49%	2%
5	Violations of Academic Integrity did not occur	82	40%	64%	3.8	1.1	4.0	4.2	4.2	1%	13%	18%	28%	32%	7%
										V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	
6	Overall course	83	41%	72%	4	0.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	0%	5%	23%	41%	31%	
										Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	
7	Course organized	83	41%	80%	4	0.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	1%	6%	13%	47%	33%	
8	Intellectual challenge	83	41%	86%	4.2	0.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	0%	1%	13%	46%	40%	
9	Work load reasonable	83	41%	80%	4.2	0.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	0%	7%	13%	36%	43%	
										S Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	S Agree	N/A/D K
10	Method of eval fair	83	41%	87%	4.4	0.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	1%	2%	10%	33%	53%	1%
										Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	
11	Course content helped learning	83	41%	75%	3.9	1.1	3.7	3.8	3.9	5%	8%	12%	43%	31%	
										S Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	S Agree	N/A/D K
14	TAs were effective in recitation/lab and office hours	80	39%	75%	4.1	1	3.8	3.9	3.9	3%	5%	18%	30%	45%	0%
										V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	NA
16	Overall instructor (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	84%	4.3	0.8	4.1	4.2	4.3	0%	2%	13%	34%	49%	1%
										S Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	S Agree	N/A/D K
17	Present learning outcomes clearly (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	89%	4.4	0.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	1%	4%	6%	34%	54%	1%
18	Enthusiastic about teaching (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	90%	4.4	0.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	0%	2%	7%	34%	55%	1%
19	Welcome seeking help (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	82%	4.2	1	4.1	4.1	4.2	2%	5%	11%	34%	47%	1%
20	Presented material clearly (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	87%	4.3	0.8	3.9	3.9	4.1	0%	4%	10%	37%	48%	1%
										Str Agree	Agree	Undec	Disagree	Str Disagr	
22	Text (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	88%	4.3	0.9	*ID	*ID	*ID	53%	35%	7%	2%	2%	
23	Switching Class (Miller, Russ)	83	41%	78%	4.3	1.1	*ID	*ID	*ID	61%	17%	14%	4%	4%	

Instructor	Text Responses
	Question: Course element found effective
	Difficult course, but great lectures
	hmm

Zybooks helped learn the content
N/a
The online website was very helpful.
love russs miller
His explanations were very clear and easy to understand.
tes review session
Zybooks
The instructor does a great job explaining difficult topics in a manner in which student's can understand.
just a hard course, he taught his best
I found the textbook and the fact that the course was centered around the textbook to teach discrete structures in a different way to be very effective.
I found Russ Miller's textbook very effective for the understanding the course material. After listening to topics in class and then rereading it in the textbook, everything started to make sense. The textbook isn't hard to read at all and I often find myself enjoying the material and thinking of ways I can apply these concepts.
Going to lecture and recitation is helpful.
The midterms helped a lot with regards to actually motivating students to study the material.
I found the zybook an amazing way to learn the material from the first half of the semester
I think the course taught me about topics that would be important to me in the future.
Recitations, office hours, review sessions
I found that for unit 1, zybook was a really good prep for course material
Zybook was good
Diagrams on the board and recitations
Prof. Miller has a fantastic understanding of *how* his students are learning, and teaches accordingly.
examples
The parts of the course based on discrete mathematics were great and well taught
The lectures. Extremely clear and interesting explanations.
Zybook was helpful.
none
The textbook
The types of computer architecture.
The recitation was most effective as they would help me understand the material better
great
Coming to lectures because good well planned lectures
Zybooks is pretty effective.
The teaching was very effective for those who attend the class
zybook
ZyBook is good reference material for underlying concepts vital to the course.
The practice exams
Question: Course improvements
Use powerpoint instead of blackboard
hmm
The syllabus suggests that readings and lectures will be updated online. They were not. Ever. This makes it difficult to look back for review of finer points that wouldn't be in notes.
A second homework assignment for the rest of the material. The homework helps improve understanding.
More ways to test understanding of concepts before exams.
N/a
Explain in more detail the topics that are a lot more complicated further down the class, after the first exam.
love his son the magician, i will make sure i hire hi to my family occassions

Maybe recording lectures for review, or writing bigger on the board.
better notes
Give Homework. More practice problems. Post practice tests online
There is a severe lack of resources for students to use. This is particularly for the exam. With now answer key or lecture notes from the professor, it can be difficult to prepare for an exam due to the variability of his exams
More homeworks, something to practice like things we might see on a test, it's helped focus students
not really sure its just hard
Going to lecture
I would suggest more homework or required practice.
I would suggest incorporating weekly homework assignments into the course. This is would give students practice with topics.
Can give more examples on the materials.
Needs more helpful TA's.
Add homeworks or attendance so the grading is not weighed almost exclusively on exams
Possibly some homework problems with answers provided.
I think the final exam should be in class rather than during final's week.
More of chapter based structure. After the zybook, the course kinda took turns all over the place that confused me
I would suggest that study sheets be provided
Please give us homework or put notes online because some students don't take notes well. Also, some of us don't like reading off blackboards
none really
clarity of txbk
When Dr. Miller decided 191 was suddenly mini-529, though the content was taught well, it made me care a lot less about the material. Additionally, I feel like it resulted in the minimization of the discrete math part of the course -- what the entire thing is supposed to be.
Should add more bonus points.
none
more examples
give some recording
No improvements. Best course of the year
the part without zybook is hard to understand
Have more test like practice problems to do
Teaching assistants can split the recitation into two parts. Review past material and material to appear in the next class.
make it more interesting and have recorded videos like many other courses
too much reading, please bring the course load down.
More discussion on how asymptotic notation is derived.
I would allow laptops in class. Some students take better notes with them. I am not one of those students but they do exist. If people surf the web, it is at their own loss.
<b>Question: How effective the TAs were in helping meet learning outcomes</b>
TAs taught us in a more effective way than the professor
They were extremely helpful
They were always very helpful during recitation, and had many opportunities to meet with them outside of class if we were struggling.
Helped us understand our mistakes and prepare for tests
solving the problems of students.
hmm
TA always late, would occasionally not show up to recitations.
Not very effective because I still didn't understand all that much what was taught to me.
dhruv and devashish is great
He manage to list down the topics we learned in class.

	My TA was exceptionally helpful in the course's recitation. However, the scheduled office hours for all of the course's TAs conflicted with my schedule, making it difficult to get help outside of my recitation.
	helped me better understand material
	He was alright sometimes
	Some TA's weren't very helpful in teaching the course work. However, other TA's, Devashish Agarwal in particular, were amazing. Very clear and direct to the point.
	Recitation did not help at all unless it was the week of a test, the only point of going was to get attendance and even that didn't encourage people much
	TA's helped a lot, very good
	My TA was ok, but as i started to understand the material better, I found that he knew what he was talking about but wasn't the best at explaining it
	My TA Manjusha was just perfect. She is able to explain the course material in a simplistic and retainable way. During her review sessions, she literally taught the whole course in two hours and I walked out as confident as ever for the exam.
	the TA provide examples and explain the materials
	They did very well in reviewing topics discussed in class as well as being very engaging.
	my TA was a little less than helpful
	give more example
	Quite effective
	not very effective, disorganized and material in recitations did not correlate with material in actual class
	My TA was by far the best part about the course. He was funny and extremely good at going over relevant examples and prepare us for the exam
	this course is very hard
	Very effective.
	Very good, Devashish was a great TA
	they were really helpful in clearing my doubts and in organization of the course
	He did not. He never knew what was happening in the class and did not solve doubts properly. He said he would get back to us about a doubt, but he never did.
	Not too much.
	One was enthusiastic and could teach very well. The other was usually late, boring, and could not teach very effectively.
	TAs were the best I have seen. Extremely knowledgeable.
	Sometimes some of them were slightly confused, but most of the time they were able to work through the problem in a clear and understanding manner.
	The TA was very effective in helping me review topics. I understood what he was teaching.
	Incredibly helpful. My TA was manjusha and she clarified all questions i had. She deserves a raise
	The TAs were really helpful during recitation. They explained the material really well and know what they are doing.
	Not applicable
	They were patient
	Very helpful in explaining the material in a digestible format
	The TA seemed to not know where in the material the class was currently at, having to ask the students what they were up to.
	very good in explaining difficult concepts
	Devashish was amazingly helpful in recitation, and Manjusha's review sessions were even more so.
	Very helpful
	none
	The TA knew less about the material than the students. Recitations were a complete waste of time and I only went because our grade is partially based on it.
	Many TA's disagreed on answers to problems defined and solved in the course textbook. I've heard a TA proclaim that he was a TA to relearn the course material.
	Question: Effective teaching
Miller, Russ	It felt as though the instructor did not care about the class due to it being intended for freshman. The professor also personally profits from the required textbook being purchased which seems to be a conflict of interest
Miller, Russ	Great lecturer, very understanding with our grades, gave us many opportunities to improve
Miller, Russ	hmm
Miller, Russ	The complete lack of access to course material outside of lecture was really detrimental to the learning experience.
Miller, Russ	I have never been to a class. Don't know how good he is

Miller, Russ	Russ Miller always presented information clearly, and stopped frequently to see if he could answer any questions about anyone so that everyone was on the same page before he moved on. He also connected this class to the real world frequently, and used many examples that made more difficult concepts easier to understand.
Miller, Russ	To me not very effective.
Miller, Russ	love miller
Miller, Russ	He was great, using many examples that were memorable and effective.
Miller, Russ	Russ Miller was very good at presenting material and explaining it thoroughly. However, made it difficult for people to find relevant resources outside of class, as the only proper resource was the text book which mainly contained vague descriptions.
Miller, Russ	Was very interested in what he taught and tried his best to answer all questions
Miller, Russ	good
Miller, Russ	He is a great teacher in explaining the content but once out of class you have no work to do and he can totally make some questions to do per week in this class
Miller, Russ	He was willing to answer questions in lecture no matter how simple it may seem to him or other students.
Miller, Russ	Drawing graphs and table to explain the concepts.
Miller, Russ	Professor Miller truly cares about the students. He starts every lecture with asking the students if they have any questions from any topic that was taught throughout the course. He knows that his material is difficult to understand so after about 20 to 30 minutes into the lecture, he pauses and once again takes questions from the students. He is very friendly and approachable and slightly humorous which helps makes the class more engaging. If I am giving the opportunity, I would definitely take another course with Professor Miller.
Miller, Russ	Good explanations, was able to understand everything the first time he explained ... still need to study lots to remember everything clearly but it makes it relieving to know that you get the idea before leaving the classroom
Miller, Russ	Great! missed a lot of lectures but the ones I went to were interesting and informative
Miller, Russ	Love the diagrams
Miller, Russ	I think the way that the professor taught was very effective and gave good notes. At first, I thought that I didn't know the topics very well before tests but when I looked back at the notes, I understood what they meant.
Miller, Russ	Prof Miller uses the chalkboard!!! Amazing
Miller, Russ	He was clear and descriptive in explaining the concepts.
Miller, Russ	He explained the material really well.
Miller, Russ	He was pretty good at explaining the material
Miller, Russ	The class was early in the morning but professor Miller was always energetic
Miller, Russ	very effective
Miller, Russ	Very effective
Miller, Russ	Makes every lecture interesting. Extremely clear explanations and a non-boring way of speaking.
Miller, Russ	Dr. Miller is a great teacher, his teaching style worked very well for me and I believe many others. That being said, his office hours are disappointing and should be more than after class, hallway outside Cooke 121. The material is additionally an issue, taking a discrete structures/discrete maths course, I would expect to be learning discrete math. I much prefer to have a good background in logic and CS theory going in to 250 than a good background in parallel computing algorithms. I know Dr. Miller's life's work is in parallel algorithms, and he has every right to be proud of that work. However, by teaching it in a low level course when something else should be being taught, he is devaluing the degrees of every student who goes through his class - and therefore the university.
Miller, Russ	none
Miller, Russ	Very helpful
Miller, Russ	Very effective. Presented material in a very interesting and visual way.
Miller, Russ	The Professor was excellent it was amazing to learn from him
Miller, Russ	nothing
Miller, Russ	it was very easy to understand and the method of teaching is good
Miller, Russ	Effective, appreciate the hard work.
Miller, Russ	He was very effective and taught lectures very clearly.
Miller, Russ	teach the zybook pretty fast
Miller, Russ	him and zybook were the only factors you can learn something from. books were completely useless.
Miller, Russ	Answered any and all questions with insightful knowledge