University at Buffalo

Spring 2025, CSE 429LEC Algs for Modern Compute System Section

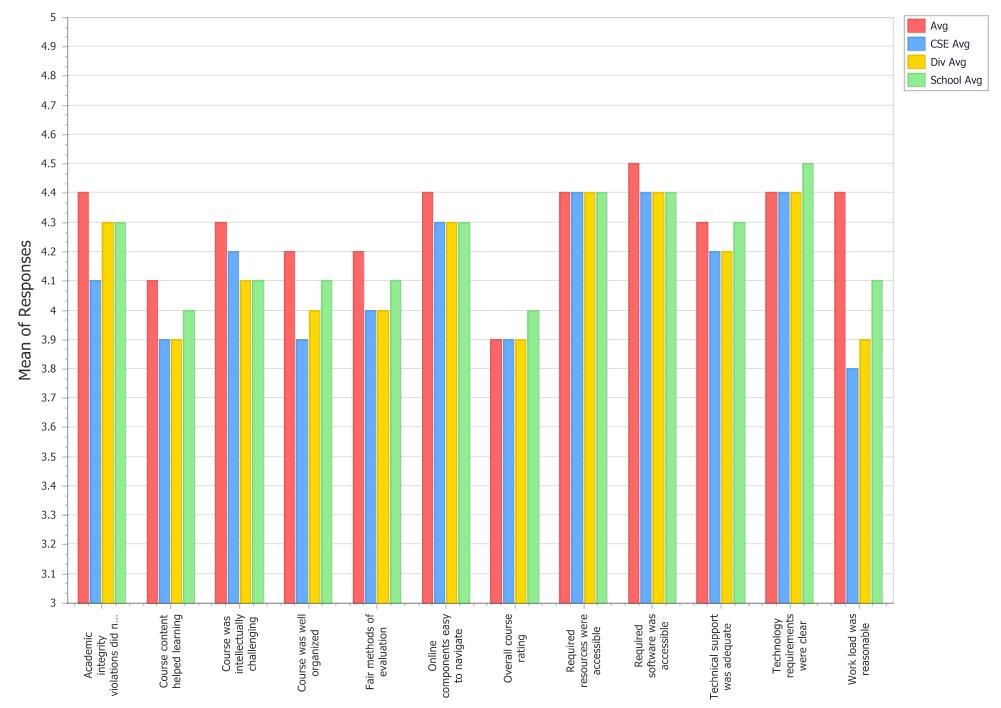


Instructor: Miller, Russ (Primary)

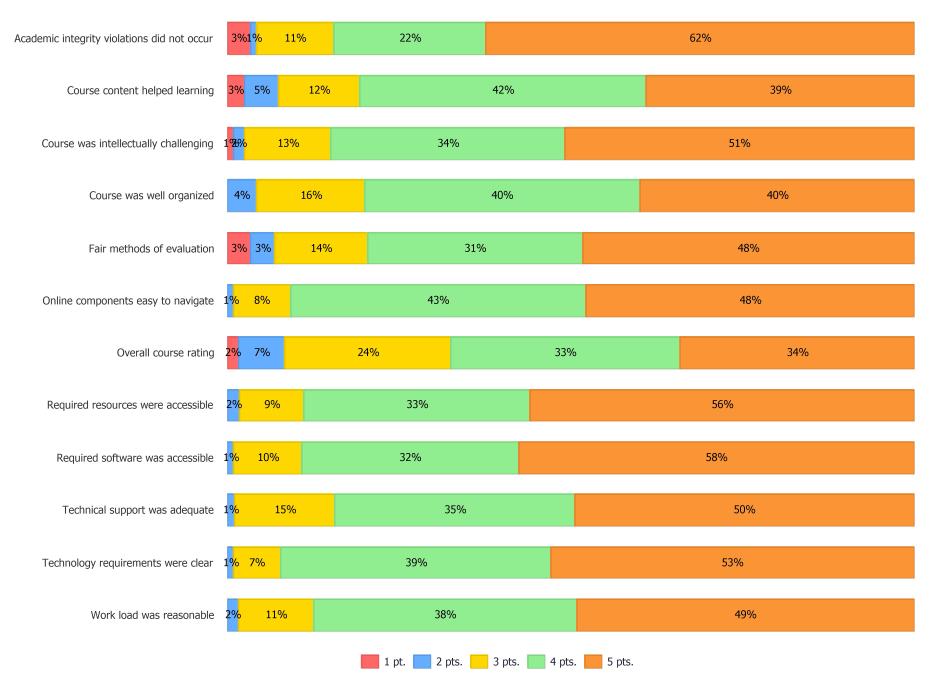
Question Text	N	RR	Avg	SD	CSE Avg	Div Avg	Sch Avg	Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	N/A
Academic integrity violations did not occur	120	90%	4.4	1	4.1	4.3	4.3	3% (4)	1%(1)	11% (13)	22% (26)	61% (73)	3% (3)
								V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel	
Overall course rating	120	90%	3.9	1	3.9	3.9	4.0	2% (2)	7% (8)	24% (29)	33% (40)	34% (41)	
								Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	
Course was well organized	120	90%	4.2	0.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	0% (0)	4% (5)	16% (19)	40% (48)	40% (48)	
Course was intellectually challenging	120	90%	4.3	0.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	1% (1)	2% (2)	13% (15)	34% (41)	51% (61)	
Work load was reasonable	120	90%	4.4	0.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	0% (0)	2% (2)	11% (13)	38% (46)	49% (59)	
								Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	N/A
Fair methods of evaluation	120	90%	4.2	1	4.0	4.0	4.1	3% (4)	3% (4)	13% (16)	31% (37)	48% (57)	2% (2)
								Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	
Course content helped learning	120	90%	4.1	1	3.9	3.9	4.0	3% (3)	5% (6)	12% (14)	42% (50)	39% (47)	
Follow up								Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	N/A
Online components easy to navigate	119	89%	4.4	0.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	0% (0)	1%(1)	8% (10)	43% (51)	48% (57)	0% (0)
Technology requirements were clear	119	89%	4.4	0.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	0% (0)	1% (1)	7% (8)	39% (46)	52% (62)	2% (2)
Required resources were accessible	120	90%	4.4	0.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	0% (0)	2% (2)	9% (11)	33% (39)	55% (66)	2% (2)
Required software was accessible	120	90%	4.5	0.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	0% (0)	1%(1)	9% (11)	29% (35)	53% (64)	8% (9)

Technical support was adequate	120	90%	4.3	0.8	4.2	4.2	4.3	0% (0)	1%(1)	13% (15)	30% (36)	43% (51)	14% (17)
Technology was easy to use	120	90%	4.4	0.7	4.3	4.3	4.4	0% (0)	1%(1)	10% (12)	30% (36)	53% (63)	7% (8)
Technology was reliable	120	90%	4.4	0.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	0% (0)	1% (1)	11% (13)	32% (38)	48% (58)	8% (10
TAs effective in recitation/lab and office hours	120	90%	4.2	0.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	0% (0)	3% (3)	18% (22)	27% (32)	42% (50)	11% (13
Follow up								V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel	N/A
Overall instructor rating	120	90%	4.4	0.9	4.2	4.2	4.3	1% (1)	3% (4)	12% (14)	26% (31)	58% (70)	0% (0)
Follow up								Str Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Str Agree	N/A
Instructor clearly presented learning expectations	120	90%	4.5	0.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	0% (0)	1% (1)	8% (10)	28% (34)	63% (75)	0% (0)
Instructor enthusiastic about course	120	90%	4.5	0.7	4.3	4.3	4.4	0% (0)	2% (2)	9% (11)	23% (28)	66% (79)	0% (0)
Instructor welcomed students to seek help	120	90%	4.2	0.9	4.2	4.3	4.3	2% (2)	3% (4)	15% (18)	30% (36)	50% (60)	0% (0)
Instructor presented material clearly	120	90%	4.4	0.8	4.1	4.1	4.2	1% (1)	2% (2)	12% (14)	32% (38)	54% (65)	0% (0)
Instructor used variety of teaching methods	120	90%	4.1	1	4.2	4.2	4.3	3% (3)	3% (4)	17% (20)	35% (42)	43% (51)	0% (0)
											33%	46%	2%

Question Averages



Russ Miller Teaching CSE 429LEC UGRD Algs for Modern Compute System LEC Y_HE sec: 2025 Spring



Text Responses

Comments on most effective elements

(CSE 429LEC) The course lectures were extremely great at preparing us for what was to be expected on exams, and what was expected of us to do well on those exams. Recordings helped to be able to go back and review material. The visual aids for the beginning algorithms/architectures helped a ton.

(CSE 429LEC) I thought the information presented was really interesting, and it was given in a very thoroughly-explained manner (both in the slides and by the prof in class). Exams were extremely reasonable and matched the format of both the past exams available and the expectations given in class. Definitely enjoyed this course.

(CSE 429LEC) The practice problems from previous exams was helpful to understand the material.

(CSE 429LEC) The lectures were a bit dense, but that is expected with a CS theory class.

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture material

(CSE 429LEC) I found the diagrams and drawings done in lecture very helpful.

(CSE 429LEC) Russ Thoroughly explained the algorithms which made the content easy to understand

(CSE 429LEC) I thought the way that the exams were structured was confusing at first. Specifically for when you answer questions. The first exam I didn't answer the questions like how they wanted to so my grade suffered because of it, but when I paid attention in class and figured out the actual correct answer, it made sense why I go the grade I got. The lectures are one of the most important parts of this course, so I think these were done the best.

(CSE 429LEC) The quizzes helped me understand what the materials are about

(CSE 429LEC) Animation examples were very helpful. I felt that I was able to gain a deeper understanding through them.

(CSE 429LEC) I found the Q/A sessions before the exam very helpful

(CSE 429LEC) Overall the class was very interesting and everything was laid out well.

(CSE 429LEC) N/A

(CSE 429LEC) the animations in the slides were SUPER helpful for understanding the concepts. uploading the slides was very nice too because we can slowly go over each slide to process the information. additionally, he is very attentive to the chat so it's nice

(CSE 429LEC) Exams are fair

(CSE 429LEC) Slides are well-organized, complicated concepts are explained in detail

(CSE 429LEC) Lecture Slides were helpful as well as the dynamic pictures of some of the data structures

(CSE 429LEC) I like the honest grading scale.

(CSE 429LEC) There was essentially only two components when it came down to it: the exam and the lecture. The quizzes were essentially free points and barely helped with preparing for the exam. The lectures helped us learn the material, but not with how the graders expect the answers to be formatted for the finals.

(CSE 429LEC) hv

(CSE 429LEC) This was a very well structured course

(CSE 429LEC) Weekly quizzes helped keep me on track as to what I had learned.

(CSE 429LEC) Being a remote class allows students who are scared to ask questions in person to speak up.

(CSE 429LEC) The weekly quizzes

(CSE 429LEC) The course was consistent with the material we learned.

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture slides that went through the algorithms step-by-step were very important in advancing my knowledge and learning in the class

(CSE 429LEC) I found effective the zoom lectures- the professor was very engaging, answering every question in the chat! I actually participated!

(CSE 429LEC) Having previous exams helped me be well prepared for exams.

(CSE 429LEC) The course has a gradual build-up in the material

(CSE 429LEC) I feel like lectures were okay. For the most part they conveyed the topics

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture slides, weekly quizzes, and course website were particularly helpful. Specifically on the website, the posted exams from past semesters were extremely important for review and putting student knowledge into practice. On Brightspace, the slides and quizzes further supplemented my learning and allowed for me to continuously excel on exams.

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture animations helped a lot.

(CSE 429LEC) N/a

(CSE 429LEC) Class recordings were very useful

(CSE 429LEC) Watching recorded lectures and annotated slides

(CSE 429LEC) Having lecture recordings

(CSE 429LEC) - The TAs and office hours helped a lot. - The interactive examples made by previous students that took the course

(CSE 429LEC) This class was great

(CSE 429LEC) I used to find algorithm classes intimidating and stressful, with this class as long as I pay attention and take notes and review them a reasonable amount I can do well

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture slides and the previous exam questions that were provided were very effective.

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture recording and slides helped a lot in the course. I actively joined and listened to class, but the pace of the class just made me inefficient and losing focus a lot.

(CSE 429LEC) I found the textbook and slides an effective resource when reviewing and studying. Being able to access recordings of lectures was also extremely helpful and convenient.

(CSE 429LEC) diagrams were super good. the turn around on grading was amazing.

(CSE 429LEC) being able to rewatch lectures was very helpful

(CSE 429LEC) The slides were great. What I studied, specifically for exam 2 was all in the slides.

(CSE 429LEC) The past exams are really pointing a direction for us to what to prepare for. The course materials are precise in term of explaining the logic of of coming up the analysis.

(CSE 429LEC) Lectures and quizzes

(CSE 429LEC) Professor Miller is a great teacher and lecturer. Very impressive ability to convey extremely complex topics in an easily understandable way. Highly knowledgeable and enjoyable to listen to.

(CSE 429LEC) lectures were at a great pace for the challenging material

(CSE 429LEC) no comment

Suggestions to improve course

(CSE 429LEC) More demos/visual aids for different architectures.

(CSE 429LEC) I know this has been discussed in class, but the prof's handwriting can be totally illegible at times. This was particularly a problem during exam review sessions. It would have been better in those cases for the prof to type answers when possible and reserve drawings and annotations for diagrams. Other than that, I would request that bonus questions on exams be added back for future students, but that's it.

(CSE 429LEC) The class could have more undergraduate TA as sometimes the times conflict with my other class lectures.

(CSE 429LEC) I wish there were more drawn out homeworks with questions similar to the exams so we know how to expect the questions to be asked/answered.

(CSE 429LEC) More homework assignments

(CSE 429LEC) simplify some of the lectures

(CSE 429LEC) The lecture slides sometimes have typos that goes unaddressed and that has caused me some confusion throughout the semester.

(CSE 429LEC) No Improvement he was amazing

(CSE 429LEC) It would be nice to have the answer key to at least one of the questions on an exam, but I understand why they are not. So, other than that, I have no other suggestions.

(CSE 429LEC) None

(CSE 429LEC) Keep this course exactly the same, it's great.

(CSE 429LEC) I think having the extra credit questions and homework reintroduced to the class would be beneficial

(CSE 429LEC) N/A

(CSE 429LEC) allowing answers for practice axams in order to give more study material or just for reference or to double check yourself

(CSE 429LEC) Test's are nice but like too much pressure that does not reasonably prepare you for the work force in any meaningful way. I have worked within industry as a developer for two different companies and have not found the test sections of 429 to be effective at teaching students to work within industry. Maybe more class work and a small group project.

(CSE 429LEC) N/A

(CSE 429LEC) more animations of concepts - those are always helpful

(CSE 429LEC) more animations please. for each topic taught, would be helpful i think. the ones that are already there are great, but there are some topics such as hyperquicksort and course-grained bitonic sort that i didn't quite understand because of a lack of depth in the explanations.

(CSE 429LEC) Lectures are stupid and the content is irrelevant

(CSE 429LEC) some extra credit opportunities, more quizzes/revision

(CSE 429LEC) Maybe content that is not only reliant on the exams such as regular homework that may take away some weight from all the exams.

(CSE 429LEC) I would maybe suggest implementing homework as this might help deepen understanding.

(CSE 429LEC) Adding an additional graded component to the course, like homework, would help the student understand how the graders expect the answers to be written would help the student stress less about that for the exams.

(CSE 429LEC) boub

(CSE 429LEC) Nothing this course was run well (CSE 429LEC) The midterms were taken pretty late in the day but I don't believe there is much that can be done about it. (CSE 429LEC) I think attendance should be considered to some extent. Feel bad for the professor teaching to only half the class. (CSE 429LEC) Extra credit and different assignments could benefit students more than just having grades solely based on exams. (CSE 429LEC) More outside-of-class work like practice problems would have helped me a lot. (CSE 429LEC) I would like to see graded homeworks. (CSE 429LEC) None.

(CSE 429LEC) Exams was extremely difficult and stressful for students

(CSE 429LEC) -

(CSE 429LEC) I really think there needs to be more stuff we're assessed on throughout the semester. I did bad during the first midterm because I had no idea how the answered should be structured or how much do even write. After the first midterm, I knew what to expect and did a lot better during the second midterm Because we're only graded on 2 midterms and a final, it's incredibly difficult to judge our understanding of a topic since there is literally no other place to demonstrate our knowledge other than the midterm and final

(CSE 429LEC) From past semesters, I would recommend bringing back the course textbook (even if it optional) and extra credit. These should not have been removed in the first place in my personal opinion but bringing these back would definitely help future students.

(CSE 429LEC) I would consider providing guidelines on how the course will be taught. Just because I tried to get ahead and the chapter setup was in order but we went out of order so it made it really confusing. So perhaps having that layout in the syllabus.

(CSE 429LEC) more TA's

(CSE 429LEC) N/a

(CSE 429LEC) N/A, but maybe extra content to explain concepts more

(CSE 429LEC) assigned homework that forces me to do more practice problems

(CSE 429LEC) More animations

(CSE 429LEC) bring back extra credit they lied last year

(CSE 429LEC) - Add some short of ungraded homework to help create re-enforced the material besides practicing it on your on time

(CSE 429LEC) None

(CSE 429LEC) Wish there were more open hours.

(CSE 429LEC) I would suggest the course be set so that the points are more distributed and not heavily on exams. I really liked the concepts in this class, but there was no programming, so I could not see how it works during a working environment. I know it is theory, but I would of liked some examples.

(CSE 429LEC) I don't generally like courses that are remote although I do understand it is one of the attractions of the course for some people. Some people learn more effectively in person rather than behind a screen and to account for that, I think having TAs hold office hours in person more often is a potential improvement.

(CSE 429LEC) assignments should be used for the course. that would force students to keep up more (not that that is requirement professors should be concerned with).

(CSE 429LEC) clearer grading on exams, when getting the exams back there are questions where points are lost but the only thing written on the paper by the grader is the question score. In the future, it would be helpful to have what was missing or wrong explicitly written down by the grader

(CSE 429LEC) Give more real world use cases (CSE 429LEC) I think the way it is is pretty good. (CSE 429LEC) Bring back bonus questions on the exams (CSE 429LEC) N/A (CSE 429LEC) no suggestions (CSE 429LEC) no comment TA effectiveness in helping meet learning outcomes (CSE 429LEC) They were always helpful in OH's in clearing up any confusions I had, as well as making clear what the professor would be expecting of us. (CSE 429LEC) Did not meet with TAs except to pick up exams (CSE 429LEC) I wish the other ta can be more present as when I ask the ta regarding a subject, he was also confused about the concept that I was having an hard time understanding. (CSE 429LEC) n/a (CSE 429LEC) helped you with answers, explained lecture material, very nice (CSE 429LEC) No comments. I did not attend office hours. (CSE 429LEC) They barely helped (CSE 429LEC) Pretty knowledgeable and all willing to help. (CSE 429LEC) They helped because they were always available. Makes a big difference if your stuck. (CSE 429LEC) They were very reasonable and helpful. (CSE 429LEC) I never went to the TAs so I can't comment on this. (CSE 429LEC) I didn't go to TAs (CSE 429LEC) The office hours were very helpful (CSE 429LEC) The TA were helpful and were able to explain the topics well. (CSE 429LEC) the teaching assisants were effective (CSE 429LEC) N/A (CSE 429LEC) helpful! i got some points back on my test because they saw that i expressed some of my understanding on the test. i read one of the prompts wrong and got points off for it, which was understandable, but upon realizing that i explained the process (even if not fully), i got some partial points back which i appreciated (CSE 429LEC) npkn (CSE 429LEC) Very helpful (CSE 429LEC) They answered my questions thoroughly. (CSE 429LEC) TAs are very helpful, but due to it being on Zoom. There might be times when you can be waiting in the waiting room for a while.

(CSE 429LEC) Very helpful with exam review

E 429LEC) TAs were kind and helpful.	
E 429LEC) They were very helpful in breaking down problems and helping the understanding of the content	
E 429LEC) They were nice, only went once.	
SE 429LEC) Good.	
SE 429LEC) accessible and nice	
SE 429LEC) unsure, I never went to office hours	
E 429LEC) I personally do not have much to comment on for the teaching assistants in terms of office hours. However, they generally did very well in hel dents when it came to discussing exams and regrades. They worked hard to grade exams quickly and return them in a timely fashion. Thank you very much	
SE 429LEC) They were good.	
SE 429LEC) m/a	
SE 429LEC) Good	
E 429LEC) They were great, were straightforward and was very helpful	
E 429LEC) - They explain the concept clearly and patiently and they really want to help students do well in the course.	
SE 429LEC) N/A	
E 429LEC) Teaching assistants were helpful during exams	
E 429LEC) The TAs helped by giving advice and suggestions on doing well in the course.	
E 429LEC) The TAs were great and helpful when answering any questions.	
SE 429LEC) I did not meet with any TAs	
E 429LEC) the expectations for grading felt like they were not clear. things that were "required" were not mentioned in lectures; requiring you to go to OF nts. Also Nitin definitely was unwilling to understand my answer to an off-putting degree. saying things like "its just so wrong i dont even know where to see, east asian counterpart was met with completely different demeanor (kinder and more understanding). it felt biased based on physical traits.	
E 429LEC) I have not been to the office hours myself, but my friends. They said the TAs are always there to help with whatever uncertains you have regarse materials.	rding the
SE 429LEC) Both Nitin and Bahadir were amazing TA's	
SE 429LEC) N/A	

(CSE 429LEC) I went to 1 office hour and it was good

(CSE 429LEC) didnt go to TA hours

(CSE 429LEC) no comment

Comments on teaching effectiveness

(CSE 429LEC) At first this course scared me, but Dr.Miller really breaks down the material and what we are expected to learn in a way that makes this complicated of a subject matter easy for students. This became my favorite theory course I took at UB.

(CSE 429LEC) Prof was great at explaining complicated topics--made things understandable with full text explanations, and diagrams via drawings and slide animations which were extremely helpful. Also very responsive to questions and made sure students fully understood the answer before moving on. Very nice and friendly class environment, encouraged participation.

(CSE 429LEC) Professor Miller is sometimes a bit brash with the implications of taking his class. I know he wants to warn us of it being a hard class and it most likely being our last semester, but telling stories of students losing visas and not graduating directly because of the course seems like he is relishing in it a bit too much.

(CSE 429LEC) The topics taught in class align very well with what's presented on the exams. And the course is well taught in general.

(CSE 429LEC) talks a lot, does not get to the point, would benefit from spending less time on the background and rather getting to the point and explaining from there, but on another note, explained how to succeed in the course, and was correct on how to do this.

(CSE 429LEC) Dr. Miller is an excellent professor. I enjoyed that he went very in depth when he would explain the material. He provided many example problems as well as lecture recordings for further review. I would absolutely take another class of his.

(CSE 429LEC) He post the zoom lectures for us to rewatch

(CSE 429LEC) Russ was an amazing professor I enjoyed the material and would enjoy attending lectures. He was information and very interesting to watch.

(CSE 429LEC) the instructor is very passonate i just wish he was able to break the content down make it more digestable

(CSE 429LEC) The instructor was amazing and extremely fair. He was passionate about the teaching and structured the class really well.

(CSE 429LEC) Drawing might need some work but other than that it was great; lectures were easy to follow

(CSE 429LEC) 10/10

(CSE 429LEC) Always responsive to the chat and felt like he wanted to be there

(CSE 429LEC) This course was an excellent course and Dr. Miller was an excellent professor. This was the first algorithms related course at UB that I enjoyed and found intellectually stimulating, so thank you Dr. Miller.

(CSE 429LEC) quite good at teaching. he explains ideas in understandable ways, which makes it a lot easier to learn theory than i was expecting. i feel like all the previous theory courses i have taken have explained complex topics with complex explanations, causing me to fall behind. miller gives us simple explanations for each step so it is processable.

(CSE 429LEC) Meh

(CSE 429LEC) Great guy and a great instructor if you actually listen to him. The content is pretty unrelatable and over your head, but he is a good teacher. If he was teaching an easier class I would probably like him a lot more

(CSE 429LEC) He is very upfront and honest.

(CSE 429LEC) he was aight. His handwriting at times was illegible, especially upon reviewing the lectures and the slides

(CSE 429LEC) n lkn

(CSE 429LEC) The professor drew pictures and encouraged students to draw pictures to help visualize the concepts we were being taught.

(CSE 429LEC) Good teaching from the professor makes things clear. Overall very nice.

(CSE 429LEC) He was amazing

(CSE 429LEC) The main points of the class were communicated but the lectures were often filled with a lot of random, unimportant side-thoughts that disengaged a lot of students

(CSE 429LEC) Like I said, he had a very engaging attitude toward class and encouraged participation.

(CSE 429LEC) Great professor.

(CSE 429LEC) The instructor was very enthusiastic and caring

(CSE 429LEC) Professor Miller was good. You could tell he wanted us to do well and for the most part he conveyed the material well. The only issue I had was sometimes I found the things he said or expected unreasonable.

(CSE 429LEC) Professor Russ Miller was very effective in teaching the course, and it was an absolute pleasure to be in his class. He is very passionate when it comes to teaching students, enhancing their understanding of concepts, and clearing up any confusion when necessary. In the few instances where I was lost during lecture, I was never hesitant to ask a question and receive a complete response. The professor has proven that he will absolutely ensure that the student fully understands a concept before moving on. Prior to this class, I had a negative outlook on theory courses generally, but his class definitely changed my mind. This class will stick with me even after my college career. Thank you very much Professor Russ Miller, and have a wonderful summer!

(CSE 429LEC) Honestly Dr. Miller is my favorate professor in UB, he is very willing to explain questions and good at making answers full of details to help students better understand the material

(CSE 429LEC) Was solid and happy to see he gave us a students animation to show algorithm.

(CSE 429LEC) Very willing to help students

(CSE 429LEC) n/a

(CSE 429LEC) Presented clearly vocally, bad handwriting

(CSE 429LEC) - The professor will answer any question that is asked either in the chat or vocally on Zoom.

(CSE 429LEC) Was always enthusiastic and telling us what we should focus on

(CSE 429LEC) He was good

(CSE 429LEC) The instructor just took some pauses which throws my focus and I end up getting distracted doing something else.

(CSE 429LEC) Instructor clearly explains the topics and provides sufficient examples of each explanation.

(CSE 429LEC) Great proffessor.

(CSE 429LEC) There are some good things about Russ, but overall he has an insane talent for turning a five word explanation into a half hour ramble. He is also extremely boring and his hand writing is terrible. Lastly, he is extremely unwelcoming towards students. I would give him an C overall, because he structured the class easily.

(CSE 429LEC) Dr. Russ Miller was great at teaching this course. I didn't do well in the first exam but it was my own fault, I was able to get back on track by the end of the semester and did pretty well in the second exam because the slides, textbook, and past exam questions were extremely effective studying tools.

(CSE 429LEC) It is clear as you cannot find any other word other than CLEAR.

(CSE 429LEC) Dr.Russ Miller is evidently very knowledgeable on the topic considering the fact that he has been teaching the course for decades and is very well established and respected in the field. His ability to break and explain various complex algorithms and models of computation helped me understand all the course material.

(CSE 429LEC) see above

(CSE 429LEC) see above

(CSE 429LEC) loved the class

(CSE 429LEC) no comment