Foundations of Prescriptive Analytics

CSCI 2951O | Kadioglu, Serdar (S1) | Fall 2017

Summary

In "Foundations of Prescriptive Analysis" (CSCI2951O), students gain a comprehensive overview of the theories and practices behind applying prescriptive analytics through optimization technology. Some of the techniques studied include: Boolean satisfiability, linear programming, local search meta-heuristics, and large-scale optimization. Students noted that a thorough knowledge of Java was needed to succeed and suggested experience working with algorithms.

Students praised Professor Serdar Kadioglu’s instruction as captivating and effective. Class was lively each week with constant discussion and involvement from the whole class. Reviewers noted Professor Kadioglu always did what he could to get the whole class involved and many felt he was the best lecturer they had at Brown thus far. Professor Kadioglu was also always available outside of class for assistance on projects or for extra help, whether during office hours or through email.

Students were evaluated based on five projects completed throughout the semester and weekly class participation. Students had mixed feelings about the difficulty of the assignments. While some reviewers found all the assignments to be easy, more students found the projects to be of varying degrees of difficulty. However, the reviewers agreed that the projects were relevant to the course goals and generally interesting.

Overall, the reviewers thoroughly enjoyed “Foundations of Prescriptive Analysis.” Most students remarked that their favorite part of this class was its real-world applicability. By applying theory and concepts to real-world examples with students, and bringing in guest speakers to discuss the applications, students left the class interested and excited about the possibilities of computer science in the real world.

Data

Legend

Course Feedback
Readings Worthwhile
Materials Useful
Difficult
Learned a lot
Enjoyed Course
Timely Grading
Fair Grading

Instructor(s) Feedback
Effective Presentation
Efficient Class Period
Encouraged Discussion
Passionate About Material
Receptive to Needs
Feedback Available/Useful

Demographics
Year Breakdown

- Grad: 7
- Junior: 5
- Senior: 4

Concentrator in the CSCI department

Yes: 16

Did students take this class as a requirement?

- No
- Yes