Foundations of Prescriptive Analytics
CSCI 29510 | Kadioglu, Serdar (S1) | Spring 2023

Summary

"Foundations of Prescriptive Analytics" (CSCI29510) aims to equip students with the ability to identify optimal courses of action using large amounts of data, contextualized by the modern-day Analytics Revolution. Taught by Professor Serdar Kadioglu, the course provides students with a wide-lens overview of Prescriptive Analytics and its applications through optimization technology. Topics include boolean satisfiability, constraint, linear, and integer Programming, local search meta-heuristics, and large-scale optimization. Official prerequisites for the course involve having taken one of the following: CSCI0300, 0320, CSCI0330, CSCI0310, or CSCI1330. However, several students noted that CSCI1570 and CSCI1710 were also helpful in providing background knowledge of, respectively, algorithm implementation and system logic.

Professor Kadioglu was unanimously beloved by students. He was described as witty, engaging, and genuinely passionate about the subjects he was teaching—as one student put it, his "lectures are riddled with nice humor; people get to laugh and freak out about things." Professor Kadioglu’s extensive industry knowledge allowed him to answer questions effectively and facilitate engaging in-class discussions. Above all, students noted that his sense of humor was what made the class particularly engaging and unique, bringing already informative lectures to life.

The course features five total projects throughout the semester, and some students described the course as “time-consuming” and “challenging.” However, these students also noted that despite the often intensive workload, the course was undoubtedly worth the effort. While lectures were information-packed and often covered dense material, Professor Kadioglu was always willing to answer questions and explain concepts as necessary.

Overall, students had overwhelmingly positive things to say about the course. While the topics covered were described as “niche,” one student wrote that this was what made the course so special. “Once you graduate and get a job, it’s likely you’ll be the only person on your team that knows this stuff—it makes you a black wizard!”

Data

Legend

Course Feedback

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

Instructor(s) Feedback

- Effective Presentation
- Efficient Class Period
- Encouraged Discussion
- Passionate About Material
- Receptive to Needs
- Feedback Available/Useful
Demographics

Year Breakdown

Concentrator
in the CSCE department

Did students take this class as a requirement?

No

Yes

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