University of Michigan
Winter 2025 Instructor Report
EECS 398-002: Special Topics
Suraj Rampure

80 out of 97 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	41	33	4	0	0	0	4.5	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	40	28	8	1	0	0	4.5	4.2	4.3
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	44	30	4	0	0	0	4.6	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	35	35	7	0	0	0	4.4	4.1	4.1
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	3	2	48	23	2	0	2.8	2.9	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Suraj Rampure seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	67	8	3	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Suraj Rampure explained material clearly.(Q199)	58	17	3	0	0	0	4.8	4.6	4.7
Suraj Rampure treated students with respect.(Q217)	67	8	3	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	48	24	5	1	0	0	4.7
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	40	26	7	1	0	3	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Suraj Rampure was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	62	13	3	0	0	0	4.9

The medians are calculated from Winter 2025 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 75 or greater in College of Engineering.

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Suraj is probably one of the best professors I've had at Umich. He is genuinely enthusiastic about teaching and is always making an effort to help students, both in and outside of class. I also hope his ankle gets better soon!
This class is truly what all EECS classes should aspire to be at the University of Michigan. The instruction was very clear, and Suraj always tried to answer anyone's questions.
n/a
Suraj was passionate about the material and in our learning process. Made it enjoyable and productive.
Professor Rampure was a great professor, super engaging and funny. He is clearly very knowledgeable of the course content and was always able to clearly answer student questions during lecture.
ijbnlkm.,m
no
Excellent lectures for learning
Overall I think the instruction was very good. While it was very fast at times it was usually very well done. questions were always open and it was nice to have someone who was close to our age teaching.
The course is amazing and I believe that the quality of instruction in this course is excellent.
The way the lectures were structured via followable Jupyter notebooks was honestly revolutionary
Very high, he is a very great teacher
Explanations during lecture were very helpful.
Suraj is an excellent teacher – he just needs to slow down a little bit! This course would be aided if it had maybe 1–2 lectures of less material so that more time could be spent explaining the more difficult mathematical relationships of classification and regression towards the end of the course. It feels a bit like drinking from a firehouse in the final half of the class, compared to the notably less intense first half, comparatively.
Suraj was one of the best instructors I have ever had, always very clear and detailed. His explanations and notes were concise and easy to understand.
Amazing 10/10
Much higher instruction quality than a lot of the EECS courses I have taken here. Suraj has done a great job putting together course content that is modern and enjoyable to learn from.
As a senior, this has been my favorite class I've taken at UMich. The material covered in this class was so engaging and taught extremely well. Suraj is by far the best lecturer I've ever had, it is very clear that he is very knowledgeable in the subject and is so passionate about teaching. I gained so much more interest in Data Science after taking this class. The material is challenging, but Suraj explains the concepts so well and has lots of supplemental lectures in case you don't understand a prerequisite topic. My only regret is that I didn't take this class sooner and change my major to DS!
I think he explained hard concepts in a simple way very well
Very good
I enjoyed this course! Suraj is one of the best professors I have had in the EECS department. The lectures were clear and the content was interesting.
Suraj was able to clearly explain the concepts in this course, and lectures were always packed with information.
great
I thought lectures were great and gave me good understanding of material
The instruction in this course was very good quality. It was overall well–organized and well–taught.
Very good! Suraj is an amazing teacher! I really enjoyed lecture and content was always explained really well. Assignments were always well thought out and very well prepared.
Very good variety of implemented methods used to teach conceptual concepts in this course.
Suraj is a fantastic instructor, does a great job of explaining , introducing, and motivating the material we are learning. Whenever there are challenging math or code portions, he goes out of his way to provide supplementary material that helps break the concepts down and ensure overall student success.
Good
Amazing quality of instruction

Comments
Suraj is a great instructor! He clearly cares a lot about our success and there are plenty of resources offered for anyone to succeed in the course with a little effort.
Very Good!
good
Suraj is a great professor who always went beyond whats just on the lecture slides. His positive energy kept class engaging and he could always simplify difficult concepts. Although the class material is python–heavy, Suraj would annotate the code and provide visuals as to how the code worked under the hood, which really helped me understand the material on a deeper level.
Instruction and answers to questions was always very clear.
Suraj is the goat.
Suraj is the GOAT!
Course was great.
Suraj and TA's were always well prepared for the course, always open to answering any questions about content. Thank you for all the work put into the semester!
Suraj is a very passionate speaker about data science and all course topics equally.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
It is the MOST VALUABLE COURSE I've taken this year. It not only teaches you the classic numpy pandas matplotlib, but also greatly broadens your understanding of regressions. As a stats major, it is amazing how much stats–related content I learned through a CS course.
I like how each lecture comes with an interactive demonstration rather than the usual slides.
There were many different topics that we learned that spanned over various fields. A huge strength of this course is that it is all application–based, so the lectures were all coding and the assignments were all coding. This is what EECS classes should be like, if we're expected to code for assignments, it should be taught to us in lecture which this class does extremely well. This class also gives students a huge opportunity to grow by allowing us to constantly practice our new skills and even has us do a final project that we can put on our resume.
n/a
Covered a lot of interesting topics. Sets up students for a wide array of classes and jobs.
I learned about data science which I think will have a lot of practical applications in my future career.
ijnlkmn
no
I really liked this course I think it was incredibly useful and gave an incredible overview of MANY different concepts that are going to be helpful in the real world. It was a great way to learn Python and really helped me understand things in my other courses as well.
I believe the strengths of this course was that there were that there were a lot of practice problems.
Suraj rocks
Different applications and just wide–spread cover of data science concepts that is very great as someone who has no prior experience
Excellent support from teaching staff, timely updates regarding course logistics.
Suraj! This course is his baby, each assignment was personally crafted and usually updated specifically for this semester.
Suraj is a great lecturer, the course website is structured well.
The course covers so many topics that are relevant to industry, and the homework is a very good reflection of what is taught in class. I liked how much support was offered in this class, and I thought the website was very informative.
The homeworks were really fun
Good content and thought, very well
The course gives you all of the fundamentals to work with data and Python.
The materials provided was probably the strongest parts of this course. The lecture notebooks are really in depth, we are provided with so many practice problems in discussion, which are super helpful for studying for exams. Studying for exams, the answer keys for practice exams and discussion problems have fairly in depth explanations for the right answer.
there were many
I loved the real world examples used to supplement material. Reinforced idea that these concepts and ideas have real world

Comments
applications.
The strengths were the lectures, Jupyter Lab, and most of the homework assignments.
Suraj!
The practice problems on the website are super helpful along with its solution sets and the ED website allowed for good communication between the students and the instructors.
The teaching staff really care about student experience and it really sets the class apart.
Extremely well organized lecture notes, homework, course page, additional info sessions – this is my final semester and I don't think I have seen a better run course.
The homeworks
The lectures for sure. Some of the homework were just tedious but amazing lectures
Easy to ask questions in OHs/Ed if I got stuck on a concept/HW, lots of hands–on experience working with various tools and methods used in data analysis
very consistent on hw and instruction.
useful hw + thorough exam prep material available
The class moved at a good pace, by the time we got to the machine learning part of the class I felt confident in my python skills. The class provided a ton of practice problems based on previous exam questions, which helped a lot when studying on my own.
Lives up to the title! Most topics covered in this class and assignments do feel very practical, and even when things get more theoretical there's always a direct application for how it can be used.
Interesting subject matter, interesting way to teach, I loved the final project. Again, both the professor and the IAs brought a lot of passion too.
Suraj is the GOAT!
Good instruction by staff, and they were accessible and helpful
Well explained basics on concepts that built on themselves , learned a lot both from the coding and mathematical reasoning behind prediction models
The applied data science portions of the course were very engaging and involved real world applications which were done very well.

What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)

Comments
PLEASE KEEP OPENING THIS COURSE NEXT YEAR. Hopefully, this might make a requirement for all datasci majors as it is sooo valuable.
I wish discussion was a little more collaborative, and less like a mini lecture.
My only complaint with this course is that the workload is definitely higher than I thought it would be, particularly with the homeworks. I feel like I personally would have learned much better if either the homeworks were 1.5/2 weeks apart from each other instead of having weekly homeworks or that the homework length is shortened. I personally felt like it was a lot to do in a week considering that I take other courses. One other "complaint" is that I am also taking EECS 445 alongside this course, and the notation for this course and 445 is completely flipped, or some things differ. I feel like it would be very useful for students if Suraj would compile a list of these differences and briefly mention it in all of the lectures.
n/a
Very little, keep going what you're doing
N/A
fghjkl
no
I would lower the amount of content because some of the lectures were way too packed with information and were very overwhelming. Also sometimes the typing was really fast, and it was super hard to catch up. There was a lot going on all of the time, and it got overwhelming and hard to grasp every concept. Students do not always have a ton of time outside of class to teach themselves the concepts that were missed. I also wish the homework had either been shorter or more spread out between long and short assignments because some homework could take me a few hours while others took me multiple days. The difference in lengths was frustrating.
N/a
Possibly start the final project earlier
He just needs to slow down a little bit! I feel like often so much content is thrown at the class over the course of 10 minutes that when Suraj is finally able to stop and ask for questions, nobody asks anything because they were lost half way through, and don't even know where to start. At least I know I felt that way on a few occasions!
N/A
None
Longer Homework!
more accessibility like Zoom lectures
I had grown accustomed to taking notes in the Jupyter notebooks during the lectures, so it would be nice if there were still notebooks created for the more math–heavy days.
Some change in the written homework questions.
Discussion could be better. wish more of the questions were covered
Truly cannot think of any – outstanding course
None
I would make the homeworks less long and make the questions more interesting. As an example, the questions about NCAA basketball and election were great and phenomenal to do but some of the other questions were not as interesting.
Wish HWs were released on a more regular schedule, especially by the end of the course when their release time/date became more irregular
None.
later hw deadlines..
It was helpful to have exposure to the math involved in the second half early on in the homeworks, I would keep the small math proofs in the early homeworks so that it's not a huge jump when entering the second half.
Discussions being 2 hour labs would be great
Suraj is the GOAT!
More office hours
Have homework rollout be consistent throughout the semester – after the halfway point, it was hard to fall into a rhythm of productive with homework as the release (along with the deadline) kept getting pushed back.

How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)

Comments
idk. I think it's already good.
I think the current class climate is good!
n/a
I think the class already does a good job of this.
ijnlkm.,m
no
As previously stated just having less content and making sure time is well spent on each topic to develop full understanding.
N/a
I thought this class was exceptionally welcoming and treated everyone fairly.
N/A
I think it's fine just the way it is.
–
The 8 late days is very helpful and inclusive to all students.
it was great!
Already is!
IDK
Its already so inclusive.
I think the environment is pretty inclusive as is.
None.
N/A
NA
Suraj is the GOAT!
N/A
n/a