

Summer 2026

TRACE report for CY5770-01 Software Vulnerabilities (Kaan Onarlioglu)



Report prepared by Northeastern University
Created Tuesday, September 1, 2026



Courses Audience: 22
Responses Received: 20
Response Ratio: 90.91 %
Opted out: 0

Report Comments

Rating Scale:

5: Strongly Agree

4: Agree

3: Neutral

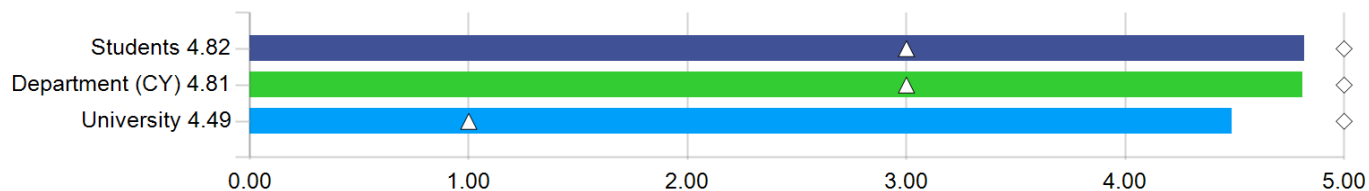
2: Disagree

1: Strongly Disagree

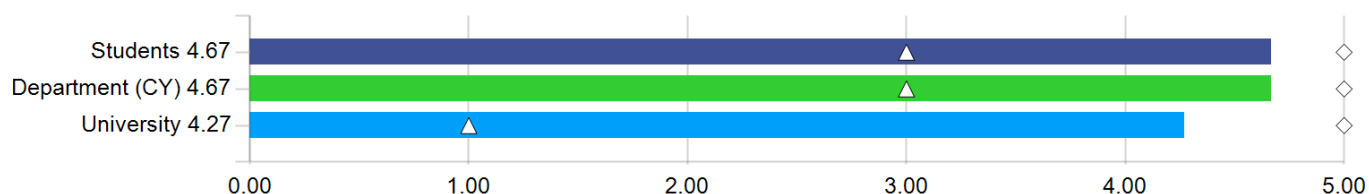
N/A: Not Applicable

Questions to Assess Students' Online Experience

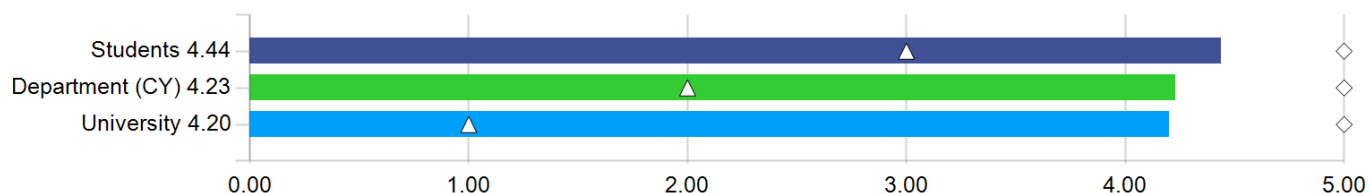
1. Online course materials were organized to help me navigate through the course week by week.



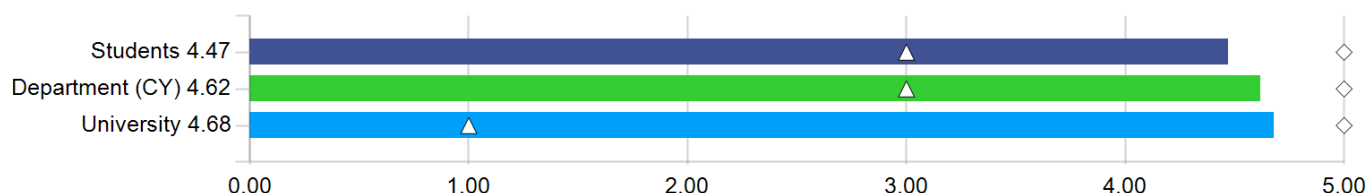
2. Online interactions with my instructor created a sense of connection in the virtual classroom.



3. Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates.

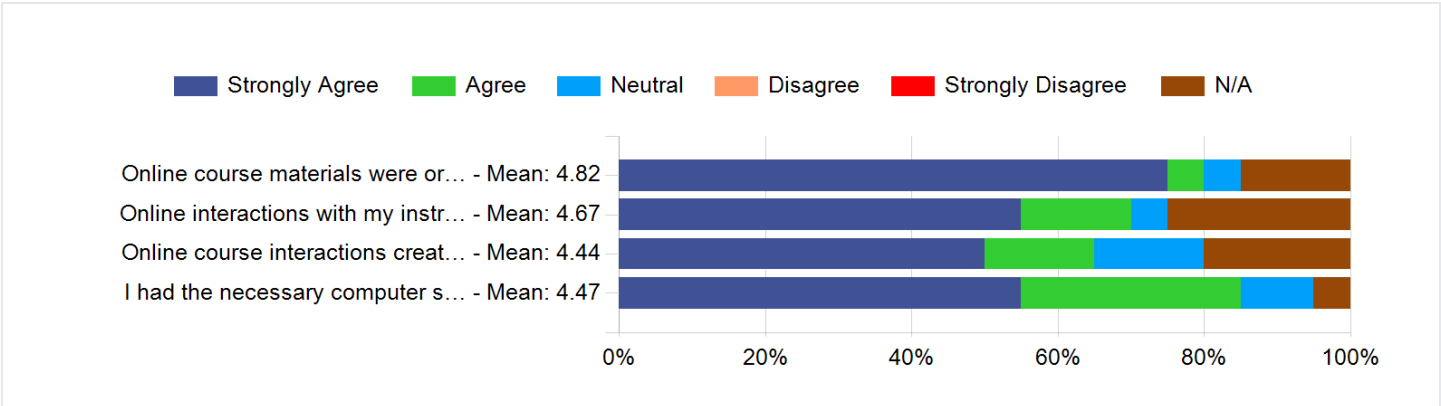


4. I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course.



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	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
Online course materials were organized to help me navigate through the course week by week.	17	77.27%	4.82	4.81	4.49	5.00	5.00	5.00
Online interactions with my instructor created a sense of connection in the virtual classroom.	15	68.18%	4.67	4.67	4.27	5.00	5.00	5.00
Online course interactions created a sense of community and connection to my classmates.	16	72.73%	4.44	4.23	4.20	5.00	5.00	5.00
I had the necessary computer skills and technology to successfully complete the course.	19	86.36%	4.47	4.62	4.68	5.00	5.00	5.00



Please comment on your experience of the online course environment in the open-ended text box.

Comments
The professor was phenomenal, deep understanding of subject, and opened my mind to what a cybersecurity SME is like.
N/A
Amazing
Offline class

Course Related Questions



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	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The syllabus was accurate and helpful in delineating expectations and course outcomes.	20	90.91%	4.80	4.74	4.55	5.00	5.00	5.00
Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes.	20	90.91%	4.70	4.51	4.46	5.00	5.00	5.00

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree N/A

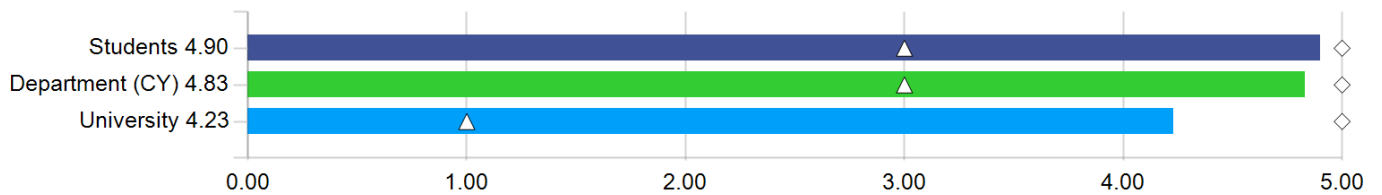
The syllabus was accurate and... - Mean: 4.80

Required and additional course... - Mean: 4.70

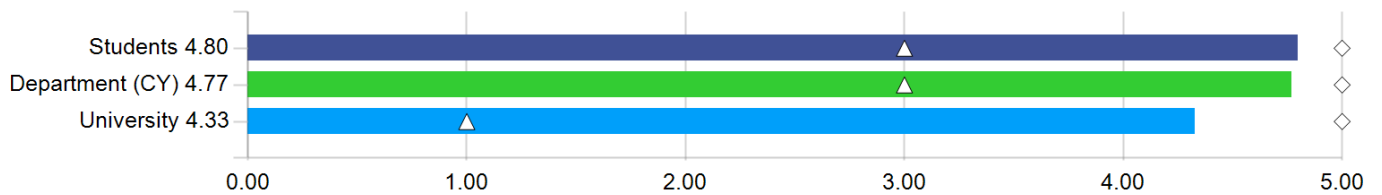
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Learning Related Questions

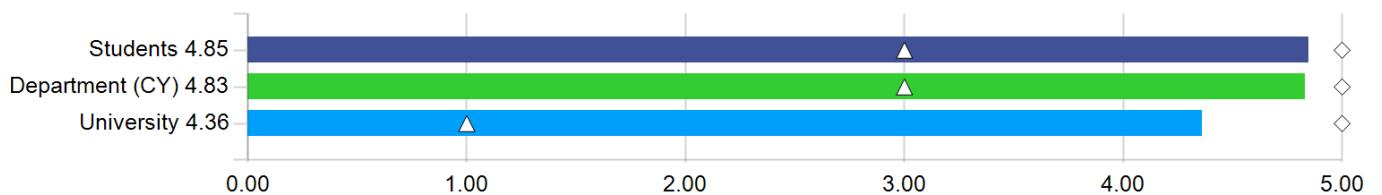
1. In-class sessions were helpful for learning.



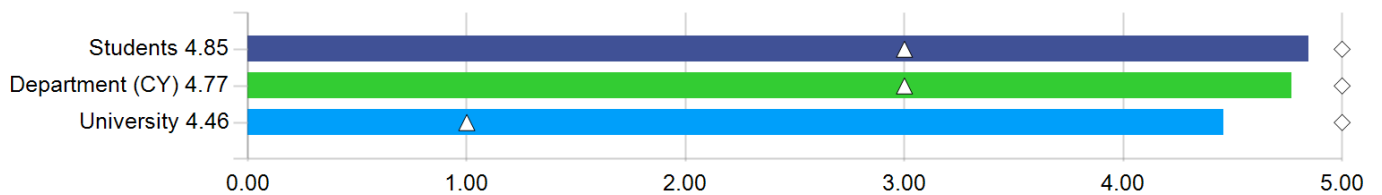
2. Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning.



3. This course was intellectually challenging.

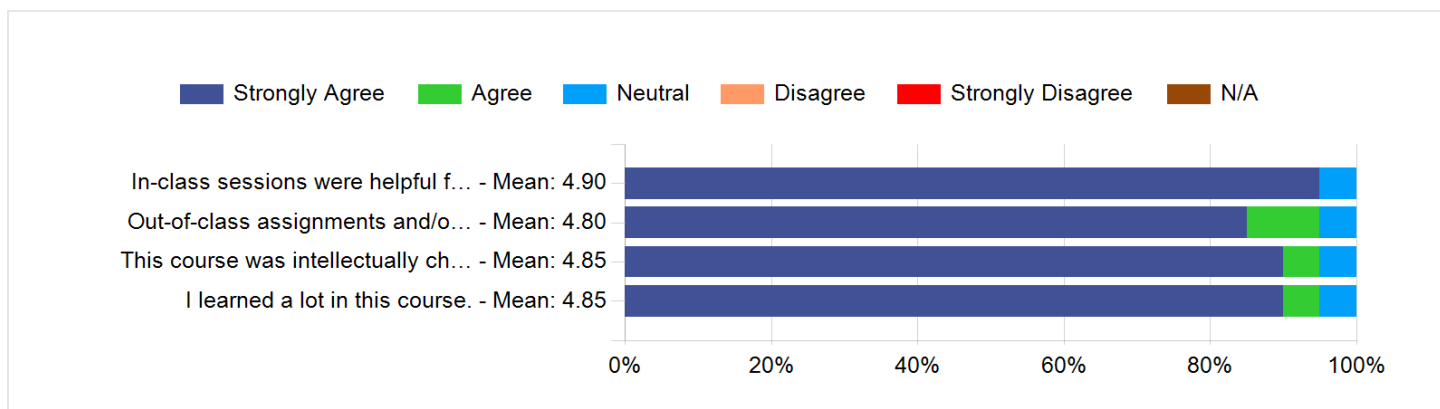


4. I learned a lot in this course.



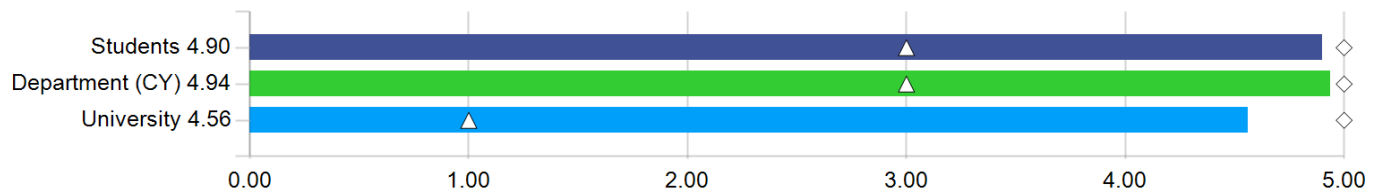
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	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
In-class sessions were helpful for learning.	20	90.91%	4.90	4.83	4.23	5.00	5.00	5.00
Out-of-class assignments and/or fieldwork were helpful for learning.	20	90.91%	4.80	4.77	4.33	5.00	5.00	5.00
This course was intellectually challenging.	20	90.91%	4.85	4.83	4.36	5.00	5.00	5.00
I learned a lot in this course.	20	90.91%	4.85	4.77	4.46	5.00	5.00	5.00

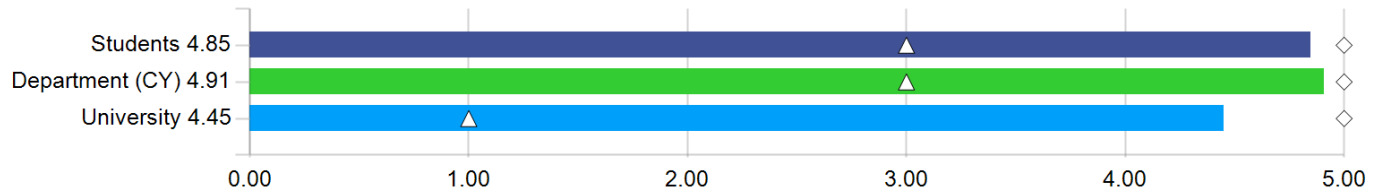


Instructor Related Questions: Kaan Onarlioglu

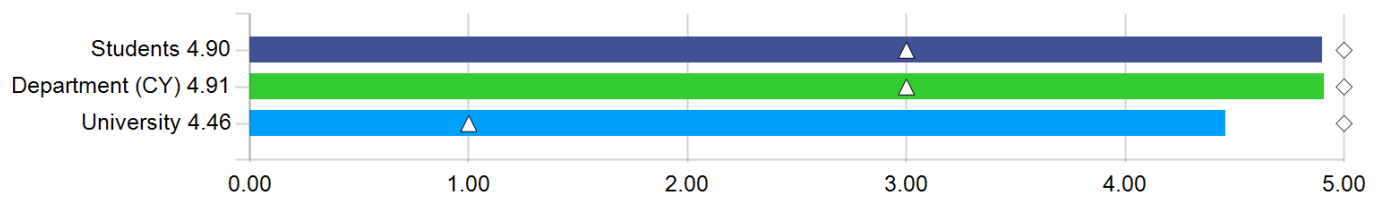
1. The instructor came to class prepared to teach.



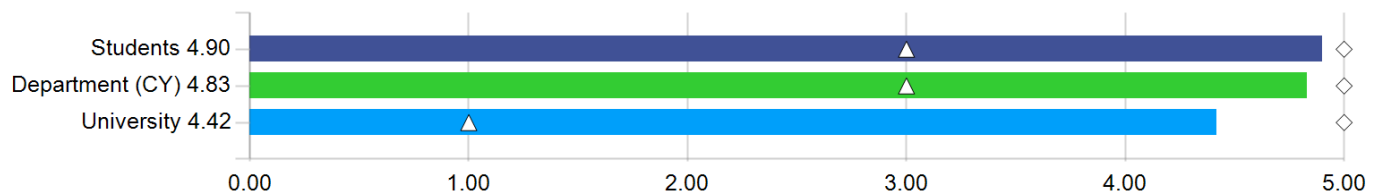
2. The instructor used class time effectively.



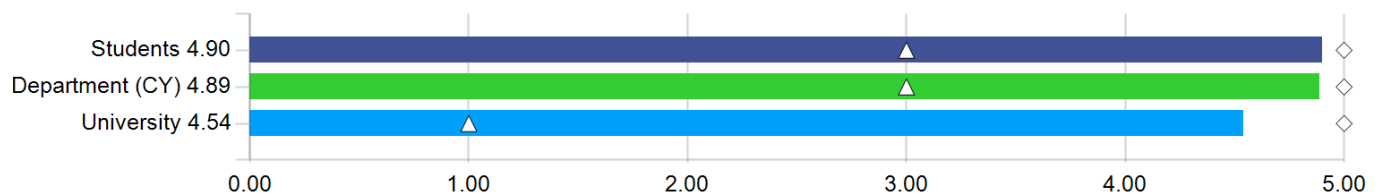
3. The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.



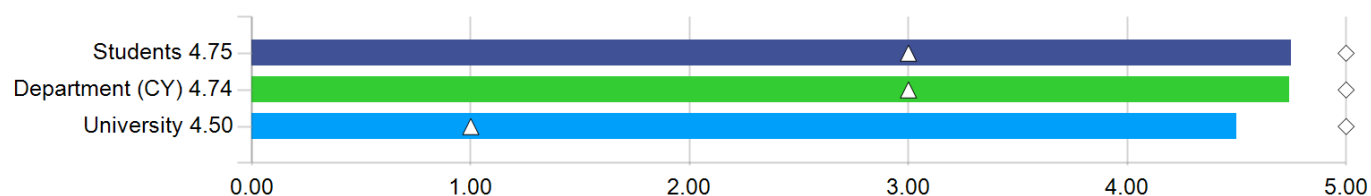
4. The instructor provided sufficient feedback.



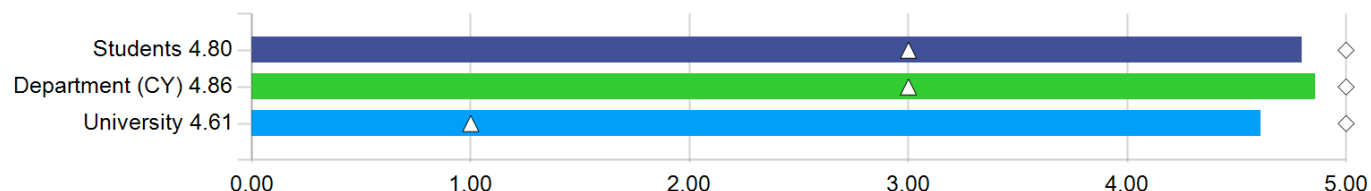
5. The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.



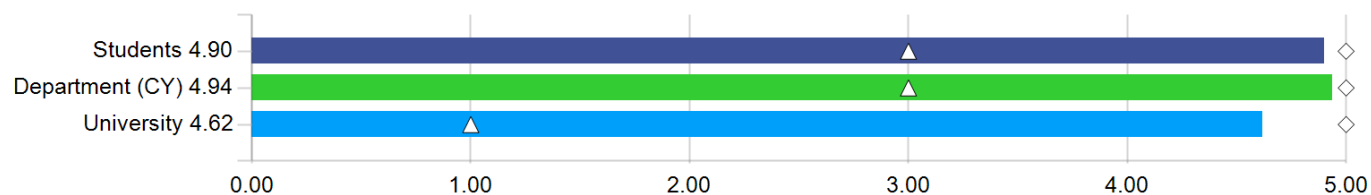
6. The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.



7. The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment.

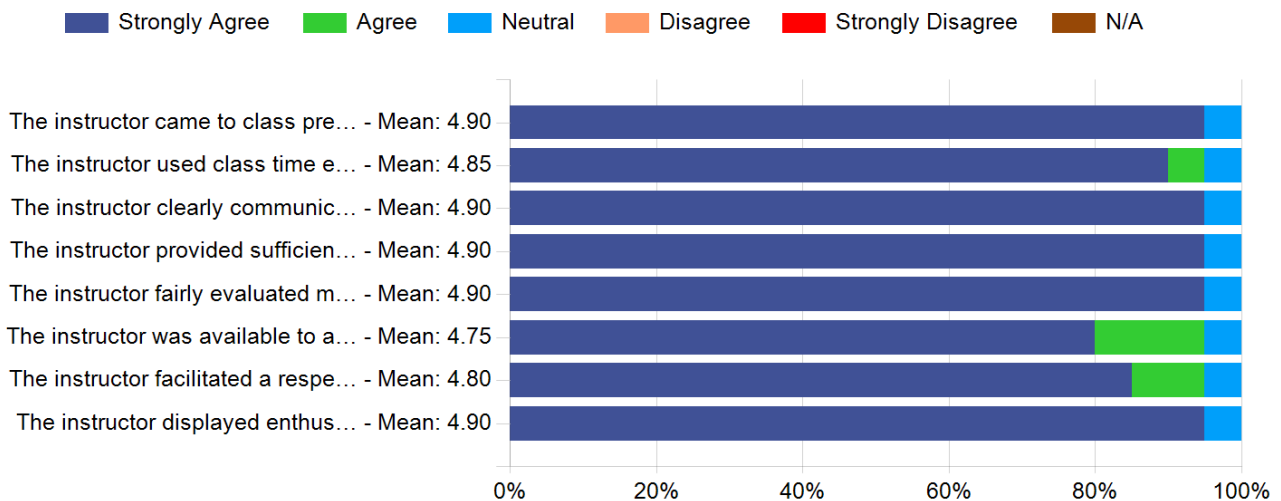


8. The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.



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	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The instructor came to class prepared to teach.	20	90.91%	4.90	4.94	4.56	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor used class time effectively.	20	90.91%	4.85	4.91	4.45	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.	20	90.91%	4.90	4.91	4.46	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor provided sufficient feedback.	20	90.91%	4.90	4.83	4.42	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor fairly evaluated my performance.	20	90.91%	4.90	4.89	4.54	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor was available to assist students outside of class.	20	90.91%	4.75	4.74	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor facilitated a respectful and inclusive learning environment.	20	90.91%	4.80	4.86	4.61	5.00	5.00	5.00
The instructor displayed enthusiasm for the course.	20	90.91%	4.90	4.94	4.62	5.00	5.00	5.00



What were the strengths of this course and/or this instructor?

Comments

Passion for getting students to excel. Challenging course, but TAs are also helpful and push you to learn new things. Objectives are clear, there are always opportunities for more points and final assessment is very clear. Instructor is very flexible in ensuring the success of all students while maintaining a high difficulty comprehensive security course. I highly recommend to increase Kaan's funding so he has more creative freedom for making an interactive learning environment for all his students.

This was one of the most transformative courses I have taken at Northeastern. Though the course was very challenging, I feel prepared to apply to security engineer roles having only taken this course in cybersecurity. This is a huge testament to Dr. Kaan's ability and efforts. Dr. Kaan somehow managed to cover rudimentary to advanced topics in one term, from buffer overruns to reverse engineering, striking a delicate balance of work that will challenge experienced CY students while leaving success for first-timers in reach. He also truly avails himself to you and does his due diligence to make sure you can succeed. He is deserving of all the accolades. I recommend his course to everyone, even non-CY majors. This a great way to end my degree. I feel I can teach myself anything now.

Exposure to real world security flaws and gaps that us as leaders need to be prepared to address and take on.

The course material were well curated covering relevant topics in systems security. The instructors was well prepared, kept an engaging class and could explain complex materials in a way that students could easily understand.

This was a very hands-on course. The challenges that Prof. Kaan gave us really helped me to reinforce and strengthen my concepts.

Both the course and instructor are great at creating challenges and environments that strongly encourage learning new skills and new software and makes students approach challenges with a broader mindset.

Professor Kaan is the best professor I have had in my academic career. He was very good at explaining and he always kept the classes very engaging and interactive. The assignments were constructed very well and were hard but fun to complete. This is the best professor at northeastern and also the best professor I have had so far !

Kaan solidified my foundations in security concepts

This course taught me so much. Professor kaan teaches concepts so well. His challenges are amazing you really get good hand-on experience

Knew exactly what to teach and how to teach. I have never had a better professor in my life

What could the instructor do to make this course better?

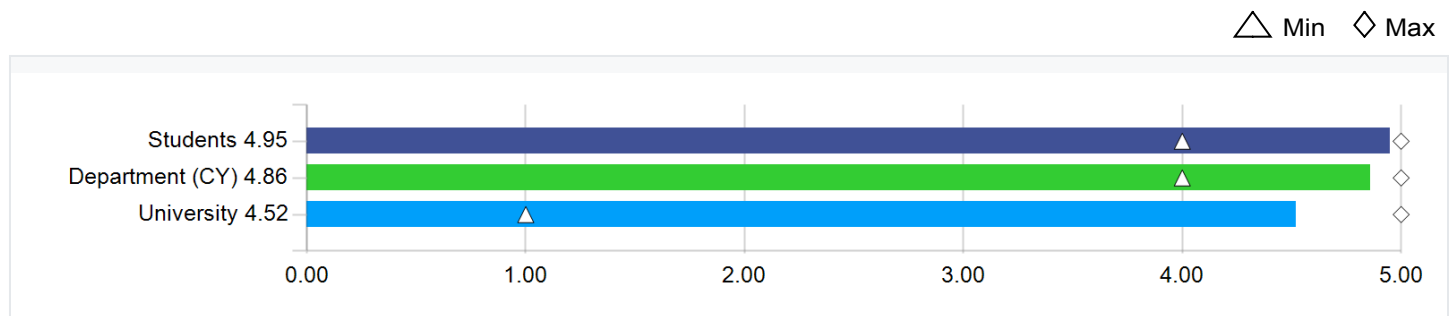
Comments
Honestly, from my perspective this was as good as it could have been. I guess I would ask for a few extra days for challenge 7 since it is consistently the most difficult challenge? But that's more personal bias since I specifically spent a lot of time on it haha. I think otherwise the professor did an awesome job with the course. He also is not that intimidating despite other reviews, I think otherwise students are easily scared. If he comes across as intimidating, that's only because he wants to be straight through with the students and guide them on the right path, and I wouldn't change that at all. I absolutely loved his demeanor.
I am sure this is impractical, but I wish that either there was more time between assignments to do the bonus challenges, or access to the challenge environment after the course is over, because I really did learn a lot from them and feel it is a shame I could not do them all.
Having access to the slides before the class took place would have been helpful. Having a dedicated slot for questions because I felt like there was not enough time to ask deeper questions into subjects.
The course was well prepared.
Continue on what he is already doing .
I think that the only thing that could be better would be adding extra in person office hours and not have them right after class. But I think this is personal preference because since this class was at night after it I was always very tired
Nothing! this is the best.
Nothing. He is already the best

Please expand on the instructor's strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.

Comments
Strengths: Interactable lab environment Very accessible for help Passionate Fair grading schema Dynamic lectures In class participation
Weaknesses: None. Kaan clearly cares, and also easily adapts. Thank you for the class and all that you do!
I find Dr. Kaan an engaging speaker. His lectures are well-structured and fascinating, and they foster compelling discussions in class. Dr. Kaan is an endless well of knowledge in his field. He rewards participation and I find him to be an inclusive teacher.
Great professor overall, probably one of the best professors I've ever had.
Instructor's key strengths include but not limited to, the ability to breakdown complex materials in a manner that most of the class could understand, kept an engaging class, designed the course to ensure the learning objective was met, and readily provided assistance to students.
He really helps us visualize the concepts, provides feedback on our answers and really makes you think critically. He really focuses and stresses on the fact that whatever we do , we should be very precise.
The instructor was amazing at explaining and great at creating interesting assignments. I have no notes for improvement on this
Maybe include some group assignments
None

Instructor Effectiveness: Kaan Onarlioglu

What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?

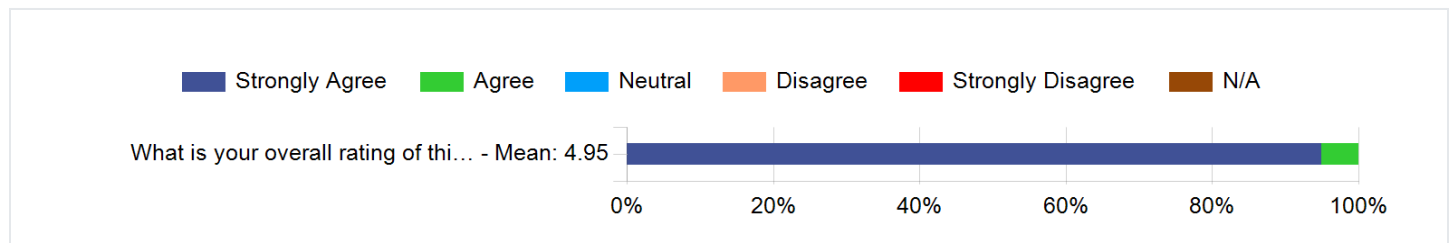


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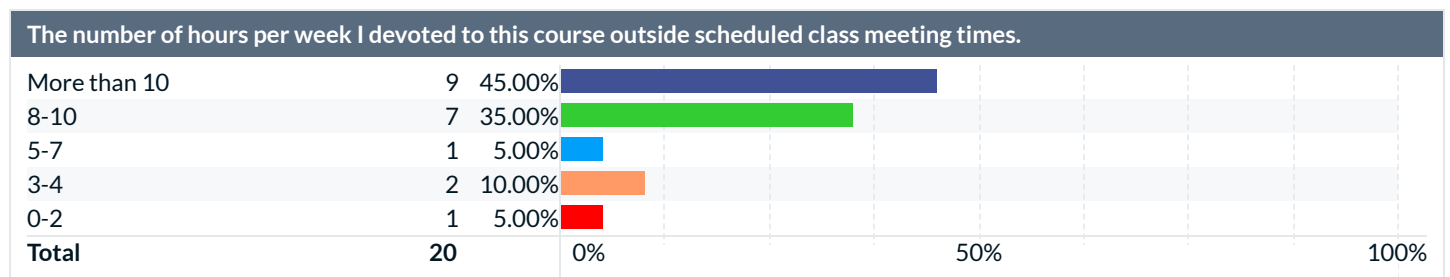
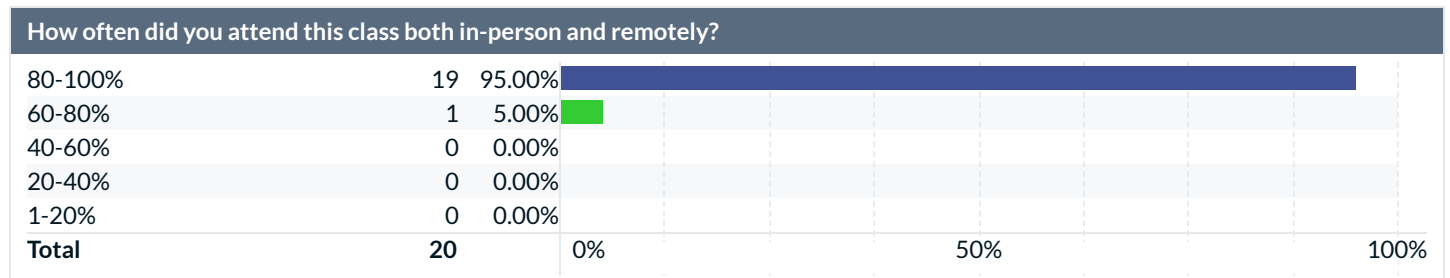
What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?

Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
20	90.91%	4.95	4.86	4.52	5.00	5.00	5.00

What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?



Demographics



Student Self-Assessment of their Effort to Achieve Course Outcomes

What I could have done to make this course better for myself.

Comments
Attend more virtual office hours.
I could have gone to more office hours.
Done more CTF challenges outside the classroom and prepared for this course.
Review the additional materials and start working on the challenges as soon as they were available.
I feel the course is great as is. Personally i feel the hands-on approach that the professor takes truly hits the mark and exactly how it should be.
Given it more time outside of the weekly lecture schedules butt hat was next to impossible because of simultaneous co-op workload.
I think that starting challenges earlier is something I was very good with but I was not as good at starting the bonus challenges earlier
This was the best course I had at northeastern