Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

McAuley, Julian John
CSE 158 - Recommender Sys&Web Mining (A)
Fall Quarter 2018

Number of Students Enrolled: 357
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 117

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your class level is

2 (1.7%):	Freshman
0 (0.0%):	Sophomore
13 (11.2%):	Junior
101 (87.1%):	Senior
0 (0.0%):	Graduate
0 (0.0%):	Extension
0 (0.0%):	Visitor
1:	[No Response]

2. Your reason for taking this class is

81 (73.0%):	Major
5 (4.5%):	Minor
1 (0.9%):	Gen. Ed.
13 (11.7%):	Elective
11 (9.9%):	Interest
6:	[No Response]

3. What grade do you expect in this class?

53 (47.3%):	A
45 (40.2%):	B
11 (9.8%):	C
1 (0.9%):	D
0 (0.0%):	F
2 (1.8%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP
5:	[No Response]

GENERAL QUESTIONS

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

3 (2.7%):	Strongly Disagree
4 (3.6%):	Disagree
16 (14.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
44 (39.3%):	Agree
45 (40.2%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
5:	[No Response]

5. How many hours a week do you spend studying outside of class on average?

0 (0.0%):	0-1
1 (0.9%):	2-3
19 (17.1%):	4-5
22 (19.8%):	6-7
19 (17.1%):	8-9
25 (22.5%):	10-11
6 (5.4%):	12-13
6 (5.4%):	14-15
7 (6.3%):	16-17
2 (1.8%):	18-19
4 (3.6%):	20 or more
6:	[No Response]

6. How often do you attend this course?

44 (39.6%):	Very Rarely
42 (37.8%):	Some of the Time
25 (22.5%):	Most of the Time
6:	[No Response]

COURSE MATERIAL CSE 158

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
6 (5.6%):	Disagree
10 (9.3%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
54 (50.5%):	Agree
36 (33.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

8. Assignments promote learning.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
3 (2.8%):	Disagree
7 (6.4%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
50 (45.9%):	Agree
48 (44.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
8:	[No Response]

9. Required reading is useful.

2 (1.8%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
26 (23.9%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
21 (19.3%):	Agree
15 (13.8%):	Strongly Agree
44 (40.4%):	Not Applicable
8:	[No Response]

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

3 (2.8%):	Strongly Disagree
6 (5.5%):	Disagree
19 (17.4%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
52 (47.7%):	Agree
28 (25.7%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
8:	[No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

3 (2.8%):	Strongly Disagree
4 (3.7%):	Disagree
10 (9.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
58 (53.2%):	Agree
34 (31.2%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
8:	[No Response]

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

96 (85.0%):	Yes
17 (15.0%):	No
4:	[No Response]

13. Course CSE 158:

- Really enjoyed this course, although taking it after 150 and 151 made me feel like most of it was review.

- It's a good course, but maybe it should be stricter with pre-requisites.

- This course gives you the techniques for data mining and all that only for the first 3 weeks, then you will learn about the applications of the methods for the rest of the quarter. It is somewhat hard for me, but it does not really seem hard for the other students just because the midterm average is > 90% and I got way lower than the average.

- Wow, what a wonderful course. With this course and 150 I felt that I have taken my CSE knowledge to the next level and it has really opened me to the different opportunities and applications of some of the more difficult CS concepts. This course is amazing and should continue to be taught regularly at UCSD.

- great course

- Great practical application of machine learning concepts. As with any practical application, things get hairy when you try to solve real problems. Unlike most PAs, which are sterile and straightforward, the PAs in this class are open ended and definitely cannot be rushed.

- If you enjoy data science and training machines to learn patterns, then feel free to sign up for this course. Else if you do not such as myself, do not take this course.

- interesting stuff, learned lots but some of the later stuff is kinda hard to follow, especially with no corresponding hw assignments to teach

- Classifiers
  What not to love

- Great course - I love the material, the pace was right, the assignments were challenging but not too challenging, and I finished feeling like I have a much clearer understanding of what machine learning is and what kind of problems it can solve even if I don't know the gritty mathematical details of how those models are implemented.

- Interesting topics. The structure of the class puts you in a false sense of security, but assignments take a lot of time to do successfully, especially towards the end.

- It's weird that the homeworks are released in staggered format when we all know none is going to start Assignment 2 until homework 3 is done u know? I really do not think there was enough time for assignment 2.

- The material is interesting, but this class turned my otherwise bad quarter into a truly miserable time. I know that it wasn't entirely the fault of this course; I did my fair share of procrastinating. That said, the timing of the homework and assignment due dates made the second half of the quarter very unpleasant.
  So let's take a look at those due dates. Got off to a nice slow start with hw1 due Week 3 Monday, and hw2 due 2 weeks later in Week 5.
  And then CSE 158 decided to pick up its pace considerably.
  Week 6 had the midterm, and exactly one week later, hw3 was due. 5 days after that, Assignment 1. Now, I know Assignment 1 was assigned several weeks in advance, and I know I should've started it a bit earlier. That was my mistake, and I payed for it dearly, because once this class picked its pace up, it didn't slow down until the very end. Just a week after Assignment 1 was due, hw4 had its due date, and a week after that was Assignment 2. The first 5 weeks of the class had two small homeworks and the last 4 had 4 larger ones. Oh yeah, the class ended at the start of week 10, so everything had to be due one week after the previous, I guess.

  The saddest part for me is that I liked the material, but it felt like the course was designed to keep students from coming to lecture.
  Just as a gas expands to fill the available space, homework expands to fill the available time. I would guess that I was not the only student in the class working on the homework until the deadline had nearly arrived. This meant that I often knew I wouldn't be able to get to class on time, as I live off campus and the bus system can easily take me 45 minutes to get to class. So I didn't go to class very often after the midterm.

- Nice course but not enough example and instructions are given in assignments. Often times had to go to oh or piazza to ask for specific instruction that was missing. Much harder assignment this quarter comparing to last

- The course is very helpful or could be very helpful if it were structured better. At least for me I think if you get stuck on a particular aspect, it becomes very hard to do well in the class.

- If you have taken CSE 150, and CSE 151, this class is largely review. The assignments are pretty long and overlap a lot with projects. This class takes up a lot of my time with busywork.

- A pretty interesting class that was pretty challenging. The concepts are pretty difficult, but I learned a lot and it was fun and interactive. One assignment is competitive, which was stressful but also not a huge portion of your grade so not too bad.

- Great class. A little too heavy on the math.

- I liked the material. The home works were a little rough.

- It is clear the professor and teaching assistants put in little to no effort to improve the course. The course has not changed at all compared to previous sessions and this includes minor mistakes in homework assignment write-ups. Most professors in the department put in effort to improve their course after teach session and push their teaching assistants to also identify areas of improvement.

- The course itself is interesting and the topics and methodology for data mining/building recommender systems is a very useful skill

- Great course, although the first four weeks are unfortunately just spent on machine learning basics. I don't think it's worth; you should dive straight into sentiment analysis and the like at the very beginning of the course.

- I learnt a lot from this course.

- One of my favorite courses. I really enjoy the pace and material. Homework and assignments are very reasonable - you don't feel like you're wasting too much time. Very easy to learn on your own time. Flexible.

- Really nice to learn the applications side of common recommender systems and ML. Really got to learn how to use python for data science purposes.

- The Kaggle competition of assignment 1 is interesting, but overall this course is not very helpful

- Fun course that introduces some real-world applications of machine learning.

- very cool class. one of the most interesting CS classes I've taken here

- I think the topics were generally pretty interesting

- Intellectually stimulating.

- It's sometimes too easy and the content is too shallow. Want to learn more deeper thing instead of just knowing how to use it.

- Not hard class, lots of contents but exams are not hard

- The course material is very interesting and useful. However, most of the assignments are poorly designed or written. Very often, the homework instruction does not include enough details and students have to ask on Piazza for clarification. The unclear instructions make doing assignments really annoying because students have to spend a lot of time figuring their tasks instead of actual learning. This is somewhat understandable but the instructors do not respond to question on Piazza promptly. Also, if the instructors want to give an extra degree of freedom in assignments by omitting a lot of details, they should be more lenient on grading instead of deducting points for deviating from the standard solution.

14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- Fair with good coverage of material

- One midterm - didn't feel like it strongly corresponded to what I learned in class. It felt very freeform and open ended.

- Exams are perfectly what they need to be -- straightforward.

- Exam was really easy although rather boring

- Exams did reflect the material.

- The midterm does not reflect what we learn in the first half of the course

- The instructions on the last section of the midterm weren't clear to me.

- Assignment 1 is pretty hard.

- Midterm was relatively open-ended because of design questions.

- The exam was somewhat representative, but pretty open-ended and fairly graded. We have to write some write-ups for our assignments that explain our approaches to problems, but the expectations are pretty clear. My first write-up was graded fairly.

- Good representations of class material

- Midterm grading was lenient so that was nice.

- The exam was alright.

- 4 Hw projects which take a while to complete and 2 assignments (one of which a group project). Assignment 1 was difficult, but assignment 2 much better and you get to apply the techniques to any field you like.

- The homework assignments were kinda hard, I thought sometimes it was unclear from lecture how to actually use the concepts we learned such as on the homework. A bit more concrete examples and explanations of them would have helped. (Like ok the cut of these two nodes is 78/156 based on the formula - why?) I thought the first couple of homeworks were pretty hard. And I think the instructions for the homework/assignments should have been more clear about what was expected. Grading/expectations for the assignments should have been more clear. Also the things that the staff said on Piazza seemed to be more lenient than the actual grading of the homeworks/assignments - they made it seem like we just had to make reasonable attempts and reasonable answers but that's not what was reflected in grading.

- Exam questions vague

  Format somewhat hard to read

  lost points b/c of readability

- I like that there's no final, but this encourages missing lecture since at the end of the quarter, the only commitments left in this class are assignments.

- Only 1 exam (midterm) that's very open-ended, and appears to be graded pretty easily. If you review the past exams, you should be well-prepared for the calculation questions, but the open-ended ones require pretty thorough review of lecture material to have justification, though only a few words are really required.

- sometimes hard to understand the question but grading is fair

- midterm was not too bad

- The exam is a good representation of the lecture and slides. However, it is nothing like the homework so students have to spend extra time to memorize the material for the exam even though they had already spent tons of time doing homework assignments.

- The exams were representative of the course material.

- There is no final, literally the whole grade just depends on your midterms. So if you mess up on those your whole grade gets messed up.

- The exams were very generous and representative of the class

15. Reading [title(s) and comments]:

- not much reading

- We didn't have readings

- Lecture slides and lecture code help a lot.

- readings are optional and interesting

- No reading.

- There is no required reading for this course.

- no assigned reading

INSTRUCTOR Julian McAuley

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
33 (30.8%):	Agree
71 (66.4%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
3 (2.8%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
37 (34.3%):	Agree
65 (60.2%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
9 (8.4%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
37 (34.6%):	Agree
58 (54.2%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

4 (3.7%):	Strongly Disagree
5 (4.7%):	Disagree
12 (11.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
34 (31.8%):	Agree
51 (47.7%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

20. Lectures hold your attention.

10 (9.3%):	Strongly Disagree
20 (18.5%):	Disagree
25 (23.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
24 (22.2%):	Agree
28 (25.9%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

21. Instructor's lecture style facilitates note-taking.

9 (8.3%):	Strongly Disagree
16 (14.8%):	Disagree
27 (25.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
25 (23.1%):	Agree
30 (27.8%):	Strongly Agree
1 (0.9%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

2 (1.9%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (0.9%):	Disagree
17 (15.7%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
42 (38.9%):	Agree
42 (38.9%):	Strongly Agree
4 (3.7%):	Not Applicable
9:	[No Response]

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

2 (1.9%):	Strongly Disagree
7 (6.5%):	Disagree
19 (17.8%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
41 (38.3%):	Agree
36 (33.6%):	Strongly Agree
2 (1.9%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
15 (14.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
39 (36.4%):	Agree
36 (33.6%):	Strongly Agree
16 (15.0%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
3 (2.8%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
37 (34.9%):	Agree
61 (57.5%):	Strongly Agree
4 (3.8%):	Not Applicable
11:	[No Response]

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
8 (7.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
47 (44.3%):	Agree
46 (43.4%):	Strongly Agree
4 (3.8%):	Not Applicable
11:	[No Response]

27. The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity.

1 (0.9%):	Strongly Disagree
3 (2.8%):	Disagree
13 (12.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
33 (30.8%):	Agree
44 (41.1%):	Strongly Agree
13 (12.1%):	Not Applicable
10:	[No Response]

28. Instructor Julian McAuley:

- Cool teacher, learned a lot of great application-side parts of ML and recommender systems. He is quite strict on deadlines however and not lenient at all when it comes to deadlines, especially as assignment 1 (25% of grade) was due during midterm season.

- I am able to get my daily dose of MasterChef Australia and Super Mario Odyssey speed-runs thanks to his live stream.

- Nice professor with a great voice, although a little unclear. Seems to be a professor who's in it only for the research.

- Assign time-consuming homework but we don't actually learn a lot from doing those stuff

- Dear Professor McAuley, today is the last day of your CSE158. I was gonna come and applause for you, but the weather is horrible. It is rainy heavily and extremely cold outside. So I am afraid I cannot make it. But I want to let you know that I truly enjoyed your lecture. You made the course super fun and I learned a great deal. I hope you have a wonderful winter break.

- Professor McAuley seems to have absolute mastery over the course material, it is incredible. He is so knowledgeable in what he is teaching that it makes you jealous. I have learned so much from this course, and love how he incorporated Ads, Facebook Ego Networks, and Web Scraping into his course. As a student who likes taking notes, I found this course a bit challenging since the slides carry a lot of information and he only spends a short amount of time per slide. This forced me to either play catch up, or try to learn in a more auditory style, which I sometimes struggle with.

- Good

- I like your chain wallet, ;)

- Good instructor but could get students to be involved more during lecture.

- I thought the professor is pretty good. I think that it was kind of hard to follow along with lecture partly because of some of the content and a bit because of the lecture hall (lecture was really big and it's hard to pay attention when people around you aren't) so it would have been nice if the professor tried to make lecture a bit more engaging, maybe by giving people more things to think about or by proposing questions.

- Lectures can be much more interesting. He needs new slides.

- Thanks for the podcast

- Why does he speak in a monotone as though he is really bored with the material. It makes me not want to be in class and instead watch the podcast at 2x speed.

- I found it easier to take notes from the podcast.

- Very soothing voice, which can be hard to focus on. Moves quickly through lecture material, but generally explains concept well. Assigns more work than is required to effectively learn the material.

- An extremely talented researcher, but I expected more from the course :(

- Awesome professor who taught the course well. He could be intimidating at times with the advanced math equations that I found hard to follow, but he made the focus on the concepts behind the math which was good. Sometimes lectures had lots of information and were hard to follow, but I think it was just because it was challenging as a topic in general. He did a great job with the course and everything felt well connected and meaningful.

- Great prof

- He is very good at what he does, but the way he structured the class makes some people do really well, even if they don't quite know the material and other people who may know more to do bad. It just depends. I think if he focused more on what people were learning rather than who good they were at executing stuff, it would have been a much better learning experience.

- His manner of speech is a bit monotonous but he's very entertaining if you can manage to put your phone away and pay attention.

- Many of the explanations felt glossed-over. I wish Professor McAuley would have more interaction with the class, such as raising hands or clickers with group discussions.

- I like his accent

- Very well organized and on top of the course. Very knowledgeable about material and presents it clearly to students.

- Good professor. Has solid understanding of all the material and discusses it in a casual, easy-to-follow, and interesting manner.

- Nice accent :) but course is getting really tough and really really really really really really time consuming after midterm. Like crazy busy.

- Could have provided more helps regarding the assignments.

- Professor McAuley shows good command over the material and makes good slides. However, he should spend more time making the assignments more clear and answering students answer on Piazza (or make TA's to do it more often). And please don't give points based on rank especially if that makes up a significant part of the grade (6% of the final grade in assignment 1). It is quite unfair for students to lose a lot of points just because they spend less time on the assignments despite all the effort they already made.

- Fantastic professor. Great life advice.

- Sometimes a bit monotone but overall explains the material well

- Thank you for teaching such an interesting course!

- Great instructor, thanks.

- I liked the way he lectured. Seemed like he didn't care at all if students showed up to class. Maybe he actually preferred having fewer students there.

- Friendly and has a strong command of the material, and structures the lectures well. But classes feel too lecture-y to me, and often lost my attention. I wish that more questions were asked during class, that students could discuss or at least think about. Most lectures had no student participation. I felt like the tone of voice was a little monotone at times, but that might just be me. Also, it was fine that hand-writing notes on slides was part of the lecture, but handwriting was hard to read, even though an effort was made to write neatly. Issues with accidentally skipping to the next slides and having trouble erasing were also frequent. Maybe a better tablet, better software, or doing less handwriting on slides, would help.

29. Do you recommend this professor overall?

93 (82.3%):   Yes
20 (17.7%):   No
4:              [No Response]

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Computer Science and Engineering, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express his or her opinion.