Midway Course Evaluation

The students were asked to answer 7 questions using b.socrative.com. Between 15 and 20 students asnwered the questions, so there were a fair number who chose not to come or not to answer. This probably biases the results somewhat. The percentages are the number of students who gave that answer, according to socrative.

1. The assignment covered a representative selection of the topics from the first part of the course.

   A agree strongly — 64%

   B agree — 29%

   C disagree — 0%

   D disagree strongly — 0%

   E no opinion or don't understand — 7%

   They said that if they answered E, it was because they had no opinion.

2. The assignment was:

   A much too hard — 25%

   B hard — 69%

   C neither hard nor easy — 6%

   D easy — 0%

   E much too easy — 0%

   They said that it was mostly just 3 questions that were very hard, and I like having some challenging questions.

3. The amount of time I spent working on the assignment was:

   A < 5 hours —0%

   B $5 - 10$ hours — 5%

   C $10 - 20$ hours — 21%

   D $20 - 30$ hours — 32%

   E > 30 hours — 42%

Given that there are only two assignments in the course, this is not unreasonable, but next time I will aim for shorter, rather than longer.

4. Coming to lectures helps me a lot in learning the material.

    A agree strongly — 20%

    B agree — 40%

    C disagree — 20%

    D disagree strongly — 10%

    E no opinion or don't understand — 10%

Based on comments, next time I teach the course (and for the remainder of the course now) I will try to add more intuition and examples, especially during the first part of the course where I use slides most.

There were comments that they missed having some notes when I use the blackboard, but find that it's more dynamic when I do use it. I will try to make the part with more slides more dynamic next time. There was also a comment wanting it to be easier to find what is in my slides and where it is. I haven't figured out any effective way to do that.

5. Coming to discussion sections helps me a lot in learning the material.

    A agree strongly — 14%

    B agree — 36%

    C disagree — 25%

    D disagree strongly — 21%

    E no opinion or don't understand — 8%

The comments about Kristine were very postive, saying that she was very skille, gave good support, and was well prepared. There was a student who thought she was good, but had what he called a minor comment, saying that she sometimes seems unstructures, particularly on the blackboard, writing something and then erasing it. She will try to improve that.

6. Covering the combinatorial and probability parts of the course mostly with slides worked well.

    A agree strongly — 17%

    B agree — 35%

    C disagree — 13%

D disagree strongly — 9%

E no opinion or don't understand — 26%

Comments about this are combined with question 4.

7. Covering the algorithms parts of the course mostly with blackboard lectures worked well.

A agree strongly — 6%

B agree — 44%

C disagree — 11%

D disagree strongly — 11%

E no opinion or don't understand — 28%

Comments about this are combined with question 4.