

Subject: Teaching Feedback for Chris Brown

June 16, 2020

Dr. Heckman attended Mr. Chris Brown's CSC 116 (Introduction to Computing - Java) course on June 16, 2020 and reviewed his course materials for the Summer 2020 10-week semester. The topic of the day was while loops. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes in the Summer 2020 10-week semester were moved to online instruction. As an "on-campus" section, Mr. Brown taught an online synchronous version of CSC 116 using the Zoom web-conferencing platform. Students in the section were expected to attend class; Mr. Brown also recorded the lectures for students who may not be able to attend sporadically due to their situations. Mr. Brown started the recording a little after class had started and has regularly posted lecture recordings to the Moodle webpage. There were 23 out of 40 students in attendance on June 16th. Additionally, Mr. Brown provides a recording of the lecture before class (without any pauses for exercises or work) so that students can prepare for the in-class lab activities.

The course Moodle is well organized with syllabus, course schedule, lecture slides, homework and project assignments, quiz, and other course-related resources are available. The syllabus contains all required elements when accompanied by the course schedule document. All assignment deadlines, weights, and expectations are clearly defined. The videos of in-person lectures, slides, and example code discussed in class are provided for the students.

Mr. Brown started and ended class on time. The first 35 minutes of class was a lecture on the topic of while loops. Mr. Brown started the lecture with reminders about upcoming deadlines and a refresher on materials covered in the previous lecture. The refresher contained exercises where students explored testing concepts and calculated the cyclomatic complexity of a snippet of code. From there, Mr. Brown moved into a review of for loops with numerous code-tracing and loop counting exercises. Then, Mr. Brown covered while loops. The discussion of while loops included examples of definite and indefinite while loops. Students would participate by providing answers to the in-class questions via the Zoom chat feature. Mr. Brown would bring the class back together to discuss the solution after several students answered the question. There was a group of about 5 students who regularly participated in answering the questions. After wrapping up the lecture material, Mr. Brown provided a break for students. He took the break time to create repositories and optional teams for the lab activities that students would complete during the remainder of the class time.

The remainder of class was a lab activity where students were expected to implement a random number guessing game program. Students had the option to work individually or on a pair/small team. Students on pairs/teams were split into breakout rooms. Mr. Brown would be notified when a breakout room needed help via Zoom features. He would check-in with the breakout room groups. He would also switch to breakout rooms for individuals working on the lab activity by themselves by creating a breakout room for their discussion. Several students did drop out of the zoom call during this activity, but it was unclear if the students had completed the activity or if they were planning to finish up the activity at a later time. The lab is due before the start of the next class, so they would need to work on the activity promptly.

Mr. Brown provided a quick request for last-minute questions about 10-minutes before the end of the class time. He notified students when their time was up and ended class on time with a reminder about upcoming deadlines, including the Project 3 deadline.

Overall, Mr. Brown is doing an excellent job with teaching CSC 116 during the Summer 2020 10-week semester. He has adopted existing course materials from regular CSC 116 instructors; has adapted to his teaching style, and is delivering a course that is helping students master the learning outcomes. Current grades are showing that students are doing well in the course on the lab activities and the first exam.

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