


BOSTON COLLEGE Course Evaluation Summary Report - MI15701-2009S-tx1 INTRO TO PROGRAMMING/MGMT Gips, James

	Total Surveys	Surveys Submitted	Response Rate	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14
2009 Spring Term - BC2009S	56,666	48,118	84.92%	4.51	4.25	4.30	4.59	4.26	4.22	4.55	4.00	4.33	4.40	4.16	4.24	3.45	3.79
Carroll School of Management	7,280	6,532	89.73%	4.51	4.25	4.38	4.59	4.25	4.20	4.55	3.98	4.34	4.41	4.14	4.22	3.47	3.81
Information Systems	453	398	87.86%	4.66	4.40	4.38	4.75	4.48	4.41	4.69	4.27	4.40	4.38	4.38	4.27	3.48	4.03
MI15701-2009S-tx1 INTRO TO PROGRAMMING/MGMT Gips, James	36	35	97.22%	4.86	4.50	4.69	4.57	4.40	4.51	4.60	4.40	4.63	4.48	4.77	4.71	4.12	4.14

	Response 1	Response 2	Response 3	Response 4	Response 5	N/A	No Response	Mean	STD
1. The instructor was prepared. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	5 14.29%	30 85.71%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.86	0.36
2. The instructor was available for help outside of class. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	1 2.86%	12 34.29%	20 57.14%	1 2.86%	0 0.00%	4.50	0.71
3. The instructor returned assignments/tests conscientiously. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	11 31.43%	24 68.57%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.69	0.47
4. The instructor showed enthusiasm about the subject matter. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	13 37.14%	21 60.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.57	0.56
5. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject matter. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	2 5.71%	14 40.00%	18 51.43%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.40	0.74
6. The instructor's explanations were clear. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	15 42.86%	19 54.29%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.51	0.56
7. The instructor treated students with respect. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	12 34.29%	22 62.86%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.60	0.55
8. How would you rate this instructor overall as a teacher? Poor = 1/Acceptable = 2/Good = 3/Very Good = 4/Excellent = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	5 14.29%	11 31.43%	19 54.29%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.40	0.74

	Response 1	Response 2	Response 3	Response 4	Response 5	N/A	No Response	Mean	STD
9. The course was well organized. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	13 37.14%	22 62.86%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.63	0.49
10. The course generally followed the syllabus. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	5 14.29%	6 17.14%	20 57.14%	4 11.43%	0 0.00%	4.48	0.77
11. Class attendance was necessary for learning the course material. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	8 22.86%	27 77.14%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.77	0.43
12. The course was intellectually challenging. Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	10 28.57%	24 68.57%	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	4.71	0.46
13. Compared to similar courses (i.e. core, major, etc.), this course required: Much Less Effort = 1/Less Effort = 2/About the Same Effort = 3/More Effort = 4/Much More Effort = 5	0 0.00%	3 8.57%	5 14.29%	11 31.43%	15 42.86%	1 2.86%	0 0.00%	4.12	0.98
14. How would you rate this course overall? Poor = 1/Acceptable = 2/Good = 3/Very Good = 4/Excellent = 5	0 0.00%	1 2.86%	8 22.86%	11 31.43%	15 42.86%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4.14	0.88

What are the strengths of this course?

- * Great at explaining things. Fun class. Learned a lot. Professor Gips is available for help outside of class all the time and enjoys talking to students.
- * Professor Gips is a nice man and can be funny at times. Did a good job of explaining the concepts.
- * Professor Gips is obviously very passionate about the course material and presents it in an interesting way. It was tough at times, but I always ended up understanding the concepts.
- * Professor Gips was well-organized and readily answered questions posed by students.
- * Professor was a great teacher of info, great way to learn about how computer applications run.
- * The handouts are always posted to blackboard. All the solutions are gone over at the beginning of class.
- * a lot of subjects covered, teaches students to think logically
- * the material
- * Forces the student to develop more structured solutions and approach problems in different ways.
- * Professor did a great job of explaining topics, created an environment where people weren't afraid to ask questions if they didn't understand. Class was always interesting because we were always learning something new or a new way to utilize something we had already learned.
- * Developing a different type of problem solving skill. Creating worthwhile programs. Business focused.
- * Exercises. Both in class and assignments were key to learn programming.
- * Important subject
- * Interesting materials
- * Intro to Programming with Prof. Gips really challenges you. As a first-time user of Visual Basic, I had never taken a programming class and Prof. Gips' teaching style really throws you right into the material gets you using the software. I found this to be a good thing. It really forced me to adapt quickly, which I found easy after completing the first few homework assignments.
- * It went at the pace of the students and was very interesting
- * Perhaps the best class I've taken at BC. Professor really knows his stuff, grading isn't easy but is extremely fair, course grade contains no subjective "participation" credit so it is entirely transparent, excellent integration with Blackboard Vista to make all assignments, exams, and homework grades easily accessible.
- * Prof. Gips is the man. His understanding of programming is incredible and he teaches his students in a well thought out manner so that everyone is able to understand the material. He is funny guy
- * You learn to program. It forces you not to procrastinate and to think outside of the box sometimes. Diana was really nice.

* Very well organized and structured. Enjoyed going to class, doing homework even though material was challenging at times. Prof Gips was always extremely well prepared, organized, and made class enjoyable. He made sure the class understood the material and would spend more time on topics we had trouble on

* The strengths of this course were learning a programming language that is both user friendly and useful in the world of programming. The professor's personality also made the somewhat dull content more interesting.

* This course is an introduction to computer programming for business, and as such it should interest a wide range of students. It assumes no understanding of programming for students entering the class, and works from the ground up to help students understand what programming is and why it's useful. While this course may not go far enough to enable the creation of programs that seem truly useful in their own right, it is clearly the foundation for such an understanding. This class is also taught as a "thinking" class, wherein students learn how to communicate clearly through their code and accomplish goals in simple and effective ways.

* The homeworks helped alot in learning the material.

How could the instructor improve the course?

* I think there were just too many homework assignments. At first they were challenging and stimulating, but at one point it became too much (and they all are very time-consuming). In addition, I wish we had had some more creative ability with the programs. It would have been really interesting if we could have come up with some ideas for programs on our own. Finally, I would recommend not asking students to buy a book that was never once referred to. We pay enough for college.

* Homeworks were very long and frustrating. Way too much work. Need to find out how to put the tests on the computer because the material is strictly for the computer

* Make the final easier. it was really really difficult, and I knew the material. I studied alot.

* make homework assignments a little more obvious? towards the end they were taking up a whole night for me to figure them out

* I don't know how they could but if somehow they could have the exams on the computer

* Gips teaches too quickly. Most of the time, I would try to follow what was going on in class but be lost in general, then learn the material outside of class. He could make the exams shorter and easier. It was nice of him to give extra credit exam points but the assignment was overly difficult. If only about half the class got it, it's probably unreasonable to expect people to earn those points.

* I thought the homeworks were graded unfairly a lot of the times. Minor errors could cost you significant points on homeworks. Also, it seemed that the tests were usually incredibly difficult and not enough time was given to complete them.

* I really enjoyed this course as is. I wouldn't change it.

* I would have liked the tests to involve more computer-based work as opposed to written tests on paper. It was difficult to do the tests in the short amount of time and with the inability to check if the program was working while we were working. I felt I knew the material well and did well on homework, but felt that it did not always translate to tests. However, I understand that testing on the computer is very difficult to implement.

* Less challenging assignments

- * Drop the lowest homework score. Give quizzes to evaluate how well the class understands the course material.
- * The instructor could have improved by providing a syllabus that outlined the programming topics we would cover in the semester rather than just showing up to class and having no idea what would be covered.
- * I thought that there were times where the homework problems were simply too unlike what we had discussed in class - or the problems dealt in depth with a topic (i.e. arrays) that at the time we had little practice with in class. Although I understand that the point of doing this is to get us to learn Visual Basic and its commands through actual use, Prof. Gips must understand that all of his students are taking many courses in addition to his. Spending more than 6 hours in front of the computer to figure out one homework problem should not happen as frequently as it did for me (and I'm someone who felt very comfortable with the material).
- * More exam problems as review.
- * None. Perfect as is.
- * In my view the class is excellent.
- * More communication between the TA and the students.
- * Concentrate on teaching more about the harder stuff at the end of the course.
- * Great course.
- * I thought this course was somewhat challenging and was fairly interesting throughout. Professor Gips certainly makes programming accessible. The number of handouts was staggering at points, but this was also useful because the tests and quizzes were open notes.

Would you recommend this course to other students, majors etc.? Why or why not?

- * Yes, I don't think anyone could teach Visual Basic better than Gips
- * Yea, its good to know about computers and how they work
- * yes, the course teaches you to think logically so it's not purely about information systems.
- * Yes I would definitely recommend this course to other students because I came in with no knowledge of programming and feel like I left with a pretty good foundation in it. I learned a lot and never felt overwhelmed by the material.
- * Yes. For a student who wants to learn how to program and see its application to finance and other business areas, this is a great course.
- * Only if you are an information systems concentration, or interested in the subject. If you are one of those two then YES, but if not then you will not enjoy the class.
- * Yes. Expect a challenge, but expect to learn a lot. This course and the material taught in it may be very helpful in a world that is becoming increasingly reliant upon technology and programming code.
- * No. Too many late nights
- * Most definitely. With the proper amount of work, achieving an A is easy. Don't save homework until the day it's due, you won't finish in time.

- * Yes, great course in that it teaches you to approach problem solving from a whole different point of view.
- * Yes.
- * If you're not an info systems major, it's probably not a good idea to take this class just to learn programming. It's very stressful and the cause of much anguish. Too time consuming...
- * Yes, learned a lot
- * Yes, it was great to start learning Visual Basic and has already helped me a lot!
- * I learned a lot about programming from this class but it took up much more time than I originally expected.
- * Yes, I feel the programming skills I have gained through this course are worthwhile. We learned a lot of useful programs that were both challenging and interesting.
- * Yes. The class is challenging but informative and very rewarding.
- * Yes, great course, learn a lot, challenging and fun.
- * Yes, to learn programming this is the best way and the Professor is really really well prepared and ready to answer any question, and even to adjust the syllabus to requests of students.
- * Yes, develops logical thinking.
- * Definitely, topic is increasingly important
- * Like many introductory courses, I think that this is one which anyone with an interest could enjoy. It builds problem analysis skills and teaches students to plan their solutions to problems well before beginning the coding process. The universal value in this course lies in its implementation of established techniques to solve novel problems. It also teaches students how to document their planning and thought processes so that others (and they themselves if returning after an extended absence) can understand their work.
- * yes. Good for intro to the information systems major.

Additional comments:

- * Very good teacher for a somewhat confusing subject
- * N/A
- * The fact that the professor publishes these course evaluations should speak to the transparency and fairness he believes in and practices in his teaching. All professors should choose to do this, and if they won't, it should be made mandatory.
- * Homework took me quite a while, but it was absolutely necessary in order to succeed in this class.
- * By far my favorite class of the semester and the year. One of the most interesting classes I've taken. I really enjoyed it and I feel like I learned a lot.
- * Work is pretty easy in the beginning and gets more challenging. Great Professor.