CIS 120001, PROG LANG & TECH I, Fall, 2018 — SHETH, SWAPNEEL

Term	Fall, 2018 (2018C)	Enrollment	201	School	ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE
Activity Type	LEC	Eligible	201	Division	-
Cross Listed Sections	-	Responses	196	Department	COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
		Response Rate	98%	Subject	COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCI

	Question and Scale			Average Ratings				This Instructor Only Worst Rating...Best Rating					Responses
		Instructor	Section	Course	-	0	1	2	3	4			
1	**Overall quality of the instructor.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.40	2.82	2.82	-	0% 0	3% 5	10% 18	32% 59	55% 100			182
2	**Overall quality of the course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.92	2.92	2.91	-	1% 2	4% 7	25% 45	43% 78	27% 50			182
3	**Please rate the difficulty of the course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Easy, Somewhat Easy, Neutral, Somewhat Difficult, Difficult*	3.09	3.09	3.02	-	0% 0	5% 7	19% 29	40% 61	37% 57			154
4	**Instructor was appropriately accessible outside of class time.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.88	2.65	2.67	-	1% 2	4% 6	30% 46	35% 53	30% 46			153
5	**Overall quality of the TA(s), if applicable.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.93	2.93	2.91	-	2% 3	5% 8	23% 35	37% 56	32% 49			151
6	**Instructor's ability to communicate the subject matter.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.25	2.76	2.74	-	1% 1	1% 2	14% 22	40% 62	44% 67			154
7	**Instructor's ability to stimulate student interest.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.05	2.63	2.62	-	1% 1	3% 5	23% 36	36% 56	37% 57			155
8	**Value of assigned readings.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.49	2.49	2.51	-	3% 4	9% 13	43% 64	28% 42	17% 26			149
9	**Amount learned from this course in terms of knowledge, concepts, skills and thinking ability.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.15	3.15	3.10	-	1% 1	3% 4	17% 26	41% 63	39% 61			155
10	**Please rate the amount of work required for this course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Very Little, Little, Neutral, Much, Very Much*	3.24	3.24	3.21	-	0% 0	1% 1	15% 23	45% 69	40% 62			155
11	**Would you recommend this course to a major?** *Scale: 0 to 4: No, May Not, Would Consider, Yes, Strongly*	3.41	3.41	3.42	-	1% 2	0% 0	7% 11	39% 61	52% 81			155
12	**Would you recommend this course to a non-major?** *Scale: 0 to 4: No, May Not, Would Consider, Yes, Strongly*	2.54	2.54	2.53	-	7% 11	8% 12	25% 39	45% 69	15% 24			155
24	**To your knowledge, has there been cheating in this course?** *Scale: 0 to 1: Yes, No*	0.96	-	-	-	4% 6	96% 133	- -	- -	- -			139

Cheating Comment	People copying each other's code
	I believe people have shared their answers on homework assignments with each other.
	There was A LOT of "collaboration" that happened to finish homework (pretty much every assignment). I never participated in sharing homework answers but pretty much everyone in my hall in the class had a "study group" every Monday night.
	HW's, somewhat minor/benign
	Students sharing code for homeworks
Comment Suggestion	Definitely one of my favorite classes. Interesting topics that cover a wide range of material.
	I think the course was challenging and time consuming, though rewarding. I do think the midterms were far too long for the time allotted.
	The course is definitely difficult, but you learn a lot. The teachers and TAs make it really easy to get help when you need it, but it is definitely something you have to seek out. Ultimately made me decide CIS was not for me, but I think overall it is a good class.
	Poorly designed. OFFICE HOURS ARE UNBEARABLY LONG! Course is interesting, but can be communicated and taught and structured MUCH BETTER! OCaml part of he course is HIGHLY IRRELEVANT!
	This is a very interesting course and it taught me a new approach to programming. I really enjoyed that the homework gave actual real–world applications of each topic that we learned.
	The course assumes knowledge if Java that I think makes it unsuitable for first timers.
	A very necessary course for anyone interested in CIS. Covers major concepts and is generally well–taught.
	I really enjoyed this course. It was challenging but very rewarding and I really liked how it was structured. It can get very difficult because the switch between OCaml and Java is hard especially for people who don't have Java experience. Additionally, I wish they held multiple review sessions because I could never go to them because I had class at that time.
	The course was very interesting. Some of the homework assignments were difficult and the exams were hard, but overall I learned a lot in the course.
	This is a good course that improved my programming skills. I enjoyed the tasks and wanted to make sure that I understood every concept that was on the homework and in the class. The final being on the very last day of testing sucked though.
	Lectures have been effective in teaching concepts but recitations are generally not helpful since they always repeat content covered during lecture. It would be better to do away with them and allow students to work on the worksheets independently.
	Very good course. I would definitely recommend this to anyone wanting to learn about computer science, if they had the time available to do the course.
	Amazing.
	Really enjoyed this course, especially the OCaml part. It feels pretty easy, though. I wish we did more projects like the game where we had to work up from scratch.
	The course is very good. I have a much better conceptual understanding of various topics across computer science.
	The course is fairly interesting and provides good programming skills; however, I do not feel that the course and homework prepare you properly to succeed on the exams.
	The course was very challenging, but rewarding. However, the latter half of the homeworks were graded so rigorously that it felt like my effort in just finishing the homework wasn't exactly reflected in my grade.

Overall, I think the course is pretty decent. It feels very much like an introductory course, and though I did get some valuable knowledge out of it, I feel like I would rather dive right on in to more advanced concepts in CS. Learning OCaml and functional programming concepts in general I think was the most valuable.

Love it

Many of the homework assignments were challenging but rewarding, and the process of completing them was very engaging.

I really enjoyed this course. Yes, having to program in OCaml was frustrating at times, but I do think that it made me a better overall programmer. Even though I didn't really learn a lot of new programming concepts per se, I definitely learned a lot about how to think about a program overall. I am definitely a better programmer as a result of taking this course.

Really interesting but got really stressful a lot.

NONE

Great class, learned a lot.

This class is very helpful in building those foundations in coding techniques and design and whatnot. Excellent material, and interesting homework assignments.

Instructor Comment

Dr. Sheth was a good professor who made rather mundane material seem interesting. Definitely one of the better STEM professors I've had during my time at Penn.

fantastic professor. I really felt like I learned in this class.

I love you swap

Prof. Sheth is very devoted to his students and wants to help them in any way he can. His office door is always open and he freely gives advice on careers, CIS, and life in general. A wonderful professor!

I really appreciated the dedication that Professor Sheth had to this class. He was always willing to meet with me outside of class time and really made an effort to make sure that all students were successful. You can tell that he really cares about his students and the material, even in a class of 300 people.

very good at thoroughly explaining concepts

Dr. Sheth is very accessible and very generous with his time in Office Hours to help students. I really appreciate his dedication and patience in helping students learn the material.

Poor. Having interestig slides still means the explanations dhould accompany it!

Great instructor and very good lecturer

Swap is a genuine, friendly and incredibly warm person. On top of that, he is a clear communicator and a really good teacher. I learned a lot from him.

An excellent professor who really cares about his students. Accessible outside of class, teaches the material well, and increased my interest in coding.

I really enjoyed Professor Sheth's lectures. He explained the concepts really well and made the class very enjoyable and I really liked the material he presented.

Prof. Sheth clearly is very knowledgeable in this subject and is passionate about teaching it.

Dr. Sheth is a great professor. He genuinely cares about his students and is always open to help and answer questions. Lectures can at times be dry, but he incorporates fun examples that can make them engaging and interesting.

FANTASTIC PROFESSOR!!!!!!!!!!!!! I enjoyed going to lectures and learning from Swap. Swap is approachable and takes the time to make sure we understand the concepts being taught in class. His office hours are productive and efficient. All that Swap could work on is maintaining discipline in the back of the classroom since students show up there and don't really pay attention and distract others.

Prof Sheth has been extremely effective communicating the various computer science concepts, always striving to have practical coding sessions during lecture itself and stopping to answer questions well.

N/A

Very coherent and able to effectively relate the material to the students.

Swap is a great prof.

Swap's great. He's always super approachable, and whenever I want more detail on a topic, he's able to explain it in detail after class. I definitely hope to have more classes with him and/or work with him in the future.

Swap clearly understood everything very well, and he explained it very well in lecture. He also was very accessible out of class. Overall, 10/10

He was extremely accessible and provided invaluable insight into the course. He was very encouraging of all students no matter their skill level which I thought was good.

Sheth was a very good instructor and willing to answer any student's question.

Swap was great, he really understood how to explain things to students and was very nice and engaging.

Very helpful, very amazing

Made sure to carefully re–explain challenging topics. Considerate and patient. Felt like he was passionate about subject, which helped spark interest.

Swap's great.

At first, I had to adjust to how fast he talked in lecturers. After getting used to it, he really fits/crams a lot of information into one 50 minute lecture. When asked a lot of questions, he answers each one with detail and interest. He is also very helpful outside of class.

Love Swap, he killed it.

NONE

Great professor, interesting lectures.

Swap is good at explaining key concepts and making sure students understand them.

My primary instructor. Very easily reachable for appointments. Funny professor.

Probably my favorite teacher so far at Penn. Swapneel is great at explaining, and very sympathetic towards students who are struggling. The most frustrating thing is when a teacher is especially harsh on students who have fallen behind, but Swap meets all his students where they are. He will always respond to emails and make time for students who need to talk through a problem.

Great, knowledgeable professor; the style of teaching is great and easy to understand.

CIS 120002, PROG LANG & TECH I, Fall, 2018 — SHETH, SWAPNEEL

Term	Fall, 2018 (2018C)	Enrollment	173	School	ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE
Activity Type	LEC	Eligible	173	Division	-
Cross Listed Sections	-	Responses	165	Department	COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
		Response Rate	95%	Subject	COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCI

		Average Ratings				This Instructor Only Worst Rating...Best Rating					Responses
Question and Scale		Instructor	Section	Course	-	0	1	2	3	4	
1	**Overall quality of the instructor.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.39	2.83	2.82	-	0% 0	2% 3	10% 16	35% 55	53% 84	158
2	**Overall quality of the course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.89	2.89	2.91	-	1% 1	4% 7	28% 45	38% 60	28% 45	158
3	**Please rate the difficulty of the course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Easy, Somewhat Easy, Neutral, Somewhat Difficult, Difficult*	2.95	2.95	3.02	-	0% 0	7% 9	18% 25	49% 67	26% 36	137
4	**Instructor was appropriately accessible outside of class time.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.90	2.69	2.67	-	0% 0	6% 8	32% 43	29% 39	34% 46	136
5	**Overall quality of the TA(s), if applicable.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.89	2.89	2.91	-	1% 2	9% 12	23% 31	34% 46	34% 46	137
6	**Instructor's ability to communicate the subject matter.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.22	2.72	2.74	-	0% 0	3% 4	14% 19	41% 56	42% 57	136
7	**Instructor's ability to stimulate student interest.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.07	2.62	2.62	-	1% 2	5% 7	19% 26	34% 46	41% 56	137
8	**Value of assigned readings.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	2.53	2.53	2.51	-	1% 1	14% 19	38% 50	26% 34	22% 29	133
9	**Amount learned from this course in terms of knowledge, concepts, skills and thinking ability.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent*	3.05	3.05	3.10	-	1% 2	5% 7	20% 28	33% 45	40% 55	137
10	**Please rate the amount of work required for this course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Very Little, Little, Neutral, Much, Very Much*	3.18	3.18	3.21	-	0% 0	0% 0	17% 23	49% 66	35% 47	136
11	**Would you recommend this course to a major?** *Scale: 0 to 4: No, May Not, Would Consider, Yes, Strongly*	3.42	3.42	3.42	-	0% 0	4% 5	4% 6	38% 52	54% 74	137
12	**Would you recommend this course to a non-major?** *Scale: 0 to 4: No, May Not, Would Consider, Yes, Strongly*	2.51	2.51	2.53	-	6% 8	11% 15	25% 34	41% 56	16% 22	135
24	**To your knowledge, has there been cheating in this course?** *Scale: 0 to 1: Yes, No*	0.92	-	-	-	8% 9	92% 109	- -	- -	- -	118

Cheating Comment	copying homework assignments
	No
	Typical code copying from previous years. Students having their friends code their homework who had taken the course in the past. I don t know how widespread it is, but I feel like it s less common for kids majoring in cis...
	Code help
	continuing to write on tests after time is called
	uhm I don't think so? I don't really know though
	Sharing code, having friends who are TA's.
	Copying / sharing code
	Copying sections of code from other students for homework
	People copy off each other s homework all the time. There s especially rampant cheating among M&T students.
	Major collaboration on Homework assignments. I've noticed that tests are oriented not based on knowledge, but on memorization. The students who copy homework and finish efficiently are at no disadvantage during test time, which doesn't seem right.
Comment Suggestion	TAs weren't great at actually running the recitations but fantastic otherwise. An overwhelming number of resources students could turn to for help (which proved to be necessary)
	Great TAs and Swap made this tough course, extremely rewarding.
	I liked CIS120 a lot (especially a lot more than CIS110) and I felt like the homework assignments were really valuable in teaching me programming concepts. My two critiques are about exams and the final project. After scoring roughly the mean on the first exam, I studied a lot for the second exam so I could try to do better. I went back to archived CIS120 webpages and printed off about 10 previous exams so I could prepare as much for the midterm as possible. I felt extremely prepared for the exam, but I felt that the questions asked did not resemble anything on any of the previous exams. I would have never expected a question where I traced for loops, and did not feel like that evaluated my understanding of concepts from the course. I am so frustrated because I felt as though my studying did not pay off at all. Secondly, I was extremely frustrated with the final homework (game project) only being worth 100 pts. I felt like the amount of time that the project required, combined with the fact that I could not start studying for other finals before the last day of class, only increased the stress myself and other students felt going into finals. If the game project was worth twice as much and there was no final exam in the class, I would have felt a lot better about the situation, but at the time it was incredibly and unnecessarily stressful.
	Significantly more complex than 110, but is as challenging and rewarding.
	I had a great time.
	CIS120 is important to students who want some level of access to all CS–related fileds
	Hard class with a lot of work but worth it
	This is my favorite course this semester! Great job :)
	This was a very interesting course and has motivated me to study more CIS at Penn. I felt I gained a lot of experience in this course and genuinely enjoyed spending my time working on all of the homework projects. I also found the lectures to be very interesting.
	Tough class but enjoyable nonetheless. Two good profs and homework assignments and midterms that were difficult but not impossible.

I personally prefer actually coding when in coding classes, so up till this point I am still not that used to the style of the class which is listening to lectures about how to code but not able to open the labtop and experiment in class. Besides this, I think what's unique about CIS120 at Penn is that it takes on a "program design" perspective by also teaching OCaml. I think this is very helpful for my future developments in CS.

This is a very demanding course, but I feel that the level of support coming from both the Professors and the TAs means that I was able to rise to the challenge and grow a lot. The only suggestion I have for the course is that I sometimes felt that the homeworks were released/due too early relative to the material covered in lecture (i.e. the relevant topics would only really be discussed the Monday before the homework was due).

I really enjoyed the homeworks. The lectures, however, aren't very captivating (compare to CIS 160).

The course was a good refresher on programming, though I think the course could do a little less hand–holding towards the end of the semester. Maybe it's because they want to avoid testing issues, but it might be more helpful for the students to begin constructing their own classes and methods to get used to setting up their own environment. I found that the course was able to be done purely through the notes, of which I'm eternally grateful for. I think the lectures should be optional because sometimes I found it much more productive for me to study the notes themselves.

very rewarding

Great course that really teaches and engages students every week about programming.

Very useful for cis majors but a hard class to people without any coding experience before. Would recommend taking another easier cis course before this one. Java part is quite challenging for those who have never used java.

Good course. It seems like it was a little too easy in the beginning and a little too hard at the end.

The paint homework was painful

Very good course, though HWs tended to be a bit too time consuming and office hours were usually very packed and it was very difficult to get the appropriate help. Also, think there was a bit too much focus on OCaml and we had to rush through the Java concepts.

Excessive amount of work –– there should not be both a final project and a final exam –– should be only 1 or the other

CIS 120 has been one of the most rewarding and challenging courses I have ever taken. There is a lot of time that needs to be put into the class –– homework assignments can take up to ten hours or more –– but I have learned a ton over the course of the semester and consider myself a much better programmer than before. I would recommend this class to everyone, because computer science is such an important skill.

Learned a lot in this course about programming to further independent study if I chose to.

This course is a nightmare if you have only basic coding knowledge, or barely any passion for the material. I regret taking it and I feel like I'm about the same level of programmer as when I started. The office hours are a shitshow with everyone scrambling to write their name on the board before other people (I can't believe a course in COMPUTER SCIENCE doesn't have an online queue) and the room for office hours had literally 2 power outlets only. To get one on one attention from a TA who may or may not be able to help you, you have to sit in the room for literal hours and if you can't solve your problem or bug you have to get back in the queue behind everyone else and wait all over again. The homeworks were extremely long and grindy often making us work on problems or algorithms from scratch. It felt like reinventing the wheel for no good reason. Unless you're planning on majoring in CIS I wouldn't recommend this class to anyone.

The course kind of seems like a bit of filler. Starting with algorithms and skipping it wouldn't be a bad idea.

Really great at teaching so much effectively in little time. Made me want to continue taking Comp Sci courses.

N/A

Really good.

The course requires putting efforts to understand all the concepts well. The test can be very different from the style of homework.But overall a great class.

I feel like my main struggle with this course was the lack of interaction with my peers; I feel I would have benefited from more types of assignments that allowed me to discuss specific concepts and applications of different things we learned in realistic contexts. Instead, I found it limiting how we were not allowed to discuss our main homework assignments with each other. Especially in subjects such as CIS, I think collaboration is one of the best ways to learn and it was not as integrated into the coursework as I would have liked. One aspect I really appreciated was the course notes being provided to us; I think it really helped to consistently be able to go back and refer to specific ideas and content without having to depend solely on lecture or office hours.

Instructor Comment

During lectures, he'd regularly pause to make sure the content so far had made sense. This got repetitive, but also showed genuine care with regards to this

Swap is amazing! Really cares about his students and wants to cultivate a positive atmosphere in CIS 120. I really enjoyed learning from him and appreciated how open he was and eager to meet outside of class.

Dr. Sheth is a wonderful professor! I feel like he really cares about his students and wants us to become better programmers. I was really engaged by his lectures and I appreciated the no laptop policy.

Professor is very knowledgeable and always willing to help students. His speed of delivery is very fast but he is very clear and willing to explain. Outside of class, he is willing to help me look at my personal projects and I am very grateful.

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Prof Swap communicates the class materials well and helps students outsides of class a lot

Was good but didn't seem very excited about the material.

Awesome teacher, very helpful outside of class as well and right after class, very good at explaining

Very good professor who was always able to keep the class engaged.

Great professor and very knowledgeable, did a good job keeping the material engaging in lecture.

Incredible knowledge of all material taught. Could answer any question effectively and with the exact bit of knowledge needed.

Dr. Sheth is an engaging professor in class, but I found him to be the most helpful during office hours, where he always took the time to talk to me about what I was working on and to help me with any questions I had. When I decided to take on a demanding project, he was eager to provide me with resources, and when I filed a course absence report, he checked to make sure I was alright, which meant a lot considering I was one of hundreds of his students. I felt that Dr. Sheth was one of the most engaging, caring, and challenging professors I have had here, and this combination meant that even when I struggled in the class, I knew I had resources to help me understand the material better.

He was great at making me interested in the the course content and I learned a lot from him.

Better at communicating the material, but I still lost interest at times.

Had to focus a lot to understand but pretty good

Excellent professor who actually care about his students understanding and learning the material.

Swap is pretty good at lecturing and makes sure that everyone grasps the content before moving on. Overall a good teacher.

Communicates concepts well.

Very clear description of concepts and explained things at a good pace. Allowed for questions frequently.

Is effective at explaining the course material.

Professor Sheth is extremely helpful and understanding. He knows computer science inside and out, and never failed to answer a question from a student. He is very patient, and delivers the material in a clear and easy to understand way. One day after class I had a question about a homework assignment, and Professor Sheth stayed with me after class to not only fix the issue I was having, but also teach me how to debug my code in the future.

Extremely knowledgeable about any topic and can relate to industry examples.

Explained things quickly and efficiently, though at times too quickly to follow. Had an excellent grasp of material and always made time for student questions, answering succinctly and moving on / incorporating it into the material.

Professor Sheth was great. He's a super nice guy, he has a great mastery of the material and could answer specific questions about the languages that were quite obscure. He genuinely cared about students and was always available. Sometimes it was a bit boring and the ASM explanations droned on, as well as the advanced topic lectures, but overall he is great!

BEST TEACHING STYLE EVER!! I really appreciated the systematic way of teaching in lectures

N/A

Dr. Sheth was the best professor I ve ever had. He took so much time with me one on one was was a great lecturer. Really excellent.