Critical Review

Brown University's Undergraduate Academic Guide

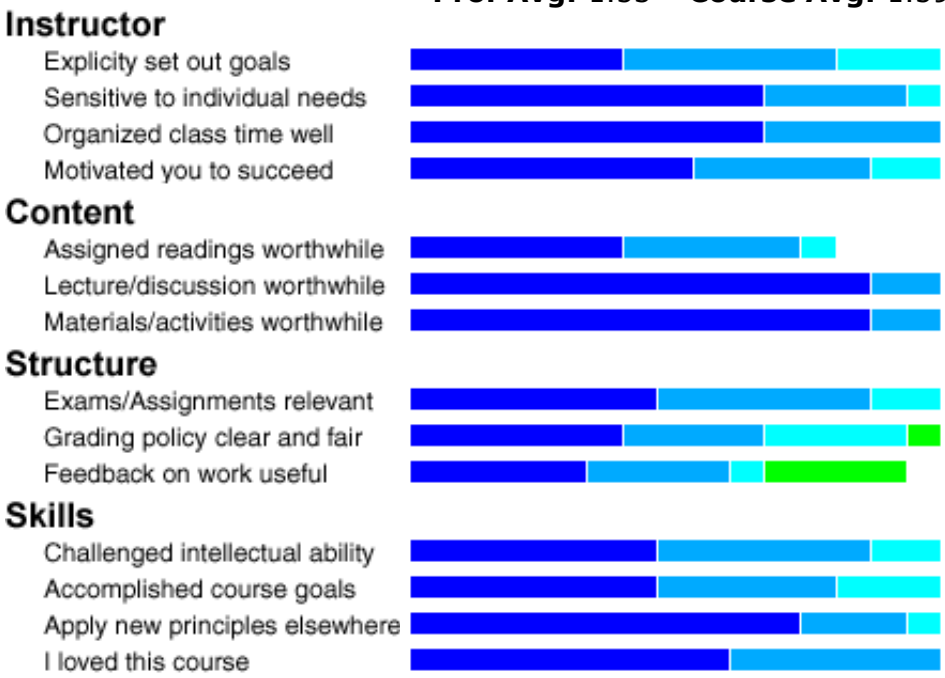
Edition: 2002 Spring Printable Version

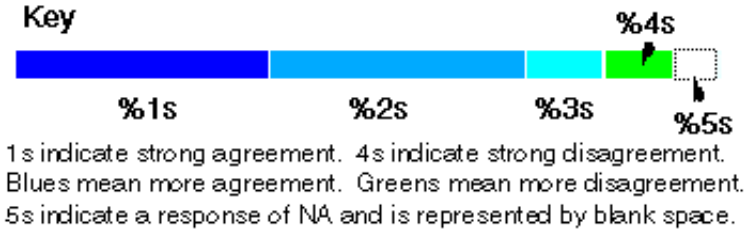
Computational Molecular Biology

Course Code: CSCI1810-001 (Mocha)
Instructor(s): Van (Mocha)
Department: Computer Science
Format: Lecture
CRN: 0

Frosh: 0 **Soph:** 1 **Jun:** 5
Sen: 7 **Grad:** 0 **Total:** 19
Concs: 9 **Undecided:** 0
Non-concs: 6 **Respondents:** 15

Prof Avg: 1.53 **Course Avg:** 1.59





"Computational Molecular Biology" is a course that focuses on teaching the basics of solving biological problems, such as DNA sequencing, using computers. The course helps students understand computational biology problems and the algorithms that are used to solve them. The prerequisites for this course were CS 16 or 18, and 22. Theoretical computer science is important to know, as are basic computer programming and biology. Respondents noted that a good CS background can make a big difference in the level of difficulty of this course.

Professor Van Hentenryck received amazing reviews by most students in this course. His lectures were interesting and you could see his excitement about the topic. He was very patient, always asking if people completely understood the information before he would move on to another topic. He was entertaining, attentive and very approachable.

The coursework comprised of four assignments and a final. There was not a lot of work and the readings (which were not mandatory) were usually quite enjoyable. There was a mix of opinions pertaining to the textbook. Some found it very useful for completing assignments while others

found it unhelpful. The work was harder though without a good CS background.

Students spent usually around four to six hours a week on this course, but more when projects were due. This met almost everyone's initial expectations. An overwhelming majority of the class seemed to enjoy this course. The overall suggestion is to take this class – especially because Professor Van Hentenryck is teaching it. It is a great introduction to computational biology.