

Spring 2025 ROSE Survey
Spring 2025

Sonoma State University
Campus-Wide

Course:	CS 454 001 - Theory of Computation	Department:	CSCI
Responsible Faculty:	Oleksiy Al-saadi	Responses / Expected:	27 / 28 (96.43%)
Focus:	Overall Results		

General Information		CS 454 - 001					
		Responses (%)		Course			
		YES	NO	N	Mean	Med.	Std Dev
Q1	Is this course required for your major?	27 100%	0	27	2.0	2	0
Q2	Is this course required for General Education?	15 55.6%	12 44.4%	27	1.6	2	.50
Q3	Is this course a pre-requisite for another course you need?	2 7.4%	25 92.6%	27	1.1	1	.26
Q4	Are you taking this course as a non-major elective?	0	27 100%	27	1.0	1	0

Responses: [YES] Yes=2 [NO] No=1

General Information		CS 454 - 001											
		Responses (%)								Course			
		A	B	C	D	F	CR	NC	INC	N	Mean	Med.	Std Dev
Q5	What grade do you expect to receive?	11 40.7%	11 40.7%	4 14.8%	1 3.7%	0	0	0	0	27	7.2	7	.82

Responses: [A] A=8 [B] B=7 [C] C=6 [D] D=5 [F] F=4 [CR] CR=3 [NC] NC=2 [INC] INC=1

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Instructor Evaluation		Oleksiy Al-saadi								
		Responses (%)					Individual			
		IN	SI	ME	EFF	VEF	N	Mean	Med.	Std Dev
Q1	My Instructor displays enthusiasm for teaching the course	0	0	0	6 22.2%	21 77.8%	27	4.8	5	.42
Q2	My Instructor is actively helpful when students have problems	0	0	3 11.1%	10 37%	14 51.9%	27	4.4	5	.68
Q3	My Instructor clearly presents course information	0	1 3.7%	3 11.1%	7 25.9%	16 59.3%	27	4.4	5	.83
Q4	My Instructor seems well prepared for class	0	0	4 14.8%	5 18.5%	18 66.7%	27	4.5	5	.74
Q5	My Instructor clearly explained the goals of the course	0	1 3.7%	1 3.7%	9 33.3%	16 59.3%	27	4.5	5	.74
Q6	In this course, my Instructor enables me to participate actively in learning	0	0	3 11.1%	10 37%	14 51.9%	27	4.4	5	.68
Q7	My Instructor respects different viewpoints	0	2 7.4%	2 7.4%	5 18.5%	18 66.7%	27	4.4	5	.92
Q8	My Instructor encourages me to do further independent study	0	1 3.7%	1 3.7%	12 44.4%	13 48.1%	27	4.4	4	.73
Q9	My Instructor provides opportunities to question ideas in class	0	0	3 11.1%	7 25.9%	17 63%	27	4.5	5	.69
Q10	The stated goals of this course are consistently pursued	0	1 3.7%	2 7.4%	6 22.2%	18 66.7%	27	4.5	5	.79
Q11	The Instructor displays competence in course topics	0	0	3 11.1%	5 18.5%	19 70.4%	27	4.6	5	.68
Q12	My Instructor makes difficult topics understandable	0	3 11.1%	4 14.8%	7 25.9%	13 48.1%	27	4.1	4	1.03
Q13	My Instructor consults and advises effectively outside of class	0	1 3.7%	3 11.1%	8 29.6%	15 55.6%	27	4.4	5	.82
Q14	My Instructor stimulates interest in the course	0	0	3 11.1%	6 22.2%	18 66.7%	27	4.6	5	.68

Responses: [IN] Ineffective=1 [SI] Somewhat Ineffective=2 [ME] Moderately Effective=3 [EFF] Effective=4 [VEF] Very Effective=5

Computer Science Department - Instructor		Oleksiy Al-saadi								
		Responses (%)					Individual			
		IN	SI	ME	EFF	VEF	N	Mean	Med.	Std Dev
Q15	My instructor gives assignments/examinations which contribute to learning the course material.	0	0	2 7.4%	7 25.9%	18 66.7%	27	4.6	5	.62
Q16	My instructor provides feedback on completed assignments/examinations that contributes to learning the course material.	0	0	5 18.5%	3 11.1%	19 70.4%	27	4.5	5	.79
Q17	My instructor challenges students to a degree commensurate with the course level.	0	1 3.7%	2 7.4%	9 33.3%	15 55.6%	27	4.4	5	.78
Q18	My instructor employs fair and impartial grading practices.	0	2 7.4%	2 7.4%	8 29.6%	15 55.6%	27	4.3	5	.90
Q19	My instructor has selected a useful textbook.	0	3 11.1%	2 7.4%	7 25.9%	15 55.6%	27	4.3	5	1
Q20	My instructor should have a high overall rating for this course.	0	0	4 14.8%	4 14.8%	19 70.4%	27	4.6	5	.74

Responses: [IN] Ineffective=1 [SI] Somewhat Ineffective=2 [ME] Moderately Effective=3 [EFF] Effective=4 [VEF] Very Effective=5

Q21 - Please comment on the topics and the structure of this course.	
Faculty:	Oleksiy Al-saadi
Response Rate:	85.19% (23 of 27)
1	We need a 10 minute break in the middle. 2 straight hours is too much, fatigue sets in and it makes it very hard to come back in the back half of class. I think some emphasis on why we take this course would go a long way. Right now, it seems as if unless you plan on pursuing a doctorate or theoretical study, this course is largely a conceptual one.
2	This course was something that I was really dreading because of all of the horror stories I had heard leading up to it. I was pleasantly surprised with how this class was structured. I liked being able to collaborate with a group mate on the homework. I liked the in class quizzes because we were able to make up some lost points. I really liked how the exams were modular and not cumulative.

3	This course is DECIDEDLY challenging, but I understand its place in our curriculum and its importance, even in 2025. One thing that might help the sting of its difficulty, would be potentially dropping the lowest exam score (out of 4) or giving more weight to the daily in-class quizzes. I believe that most people's issues with the class weren't entirely with the content, but the structure, and grading "standards" (or lack thereof). There were instances of expectations not being communicated well.
4	This course is fairly fast paced and covers many topics. The classes consist mainly of lecture and with the occasional open note and open discussion quizzes. The homework is pretty difficult but is done in pairs which gives opportunity to work together and problem solve. There are frequent and difficult exams throughout the course. I found the topics much more difficult to understand towards the end of the course, partially due to the speed in which we went through the proofs.
5	This class is brutal in terms of content, but the structure of course was very nice in terms of fostering groups to figure out homework assignments, quizzes, and studying for exams. The signature assignment is needlessly long though as a 25 minute presentation. 10-15 minutes is understandable, but as is it's a little too much.
6	There was a bit of a disconnect in the beginning of the semester where students felt that we were moving onto a new topic more quickly than we were wrapping the old one up. This concern was voiced and immediately addressed by Oleksiy and there were no more issues.
7	The topics are vast and very complex, but the structure does a good job of covering it in class. It's just a lot to study / work on outside of class in terms of time, effort, and do-ability.
8	The topics are hard, but the professor makes it easier to understand. The homework is very hard, but they prepare you very well for the tests. I like the way the class is structured, like the quizzes and the tests, and the presentation.
9	The topics presented in this course correspond with the overarching goals of the course and help students understand the underlying concepts that apply to computer science. The course is structured well, gradually introducing new topics that build off of previous ones.
10	The structure is very easy to follow and it is clear what is we are going to learn and be tested on.
11	The course was structured very well, and while the topics were difficult to understand, the professor did a great job in portraying them.
12	Sufficiently broad range of concepts covered in sufficient depth to be interesting and challenging.
13	Structure was very nice and easy to follow, I wish we knew further in advance when our exams would be. The homework was very helpful for learning the information, but they were very tiring and time consuming so almost everyone I know was too burnt out by the last homework to actually gain good information from doing it.
14	I think more small projects would be beneficial, especially for certain hard to understand concepts. This would also allow groups to be established earlier on before the final project.
15	I like it
16	I feel like this course would have been better with smaller more frequent assignments.
17	I feel like at times we went through a lot of course material in a small amount of time so it went by too fast at times to learn everything.
18	I don't like doing the long proofs, they are very tedious and tire my feeble brain. Maybe there's a way to make them more... "digestible"? I understand proofs require full context though. Despite this, I think our instructor did the best he could to efficiently teach us the topics of the course without overloading us.
19	Honestly, the perfect teacher in my opinion. Organized, well prepared, knows his material inside out, somewhat humorous, strict when he needs to be, relaxed when he needs to be. It is hard to find any true criticism. If there was any vector of improvement I could provide, it is that, since his course is so well put together, he should be using the extra time to broaden his expertise. It would be wonderful to see him teach more courses. Learn how LLM Cognition works, it will be very important.
20	Great
21	Great Professor who makes time for his students and is a generally great guy outside of class.
22	Arguably the hardest CS class at SSU and in general, 454 with Dr. Al-Saadi lives up to that jurisdiction. The class is very fast paced, and went from relatively difficult (but doable nonetheless) to being so unbelievably confusing. More time should have been allotted for clarification on such topics.
23	2 straight hours of theory that we've never worked with before, and from a brand new professor, is almost impossible to stay focused during. There really needs to be a 5 or 10min break structured into the course or something.

Q22 - Please evaluate the instructor's performance in this course.

Faculty:	Oleksiy Al-saadi
Response Rate:	85.19% (23 of 27)
1	you can tell he's new
2	Very good. Ambitious in the amount of stuff covered but structured the course well.
3	Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable.
4	Very effective while teaching, he is very attentive and shows a lot of interest towards the topic
5	The professor did very well in having a well structured lecture. I think more concrete examples in class would be helpful. Rather than just going over textbook examples, incorporate questions from the textbook and answer them in class. Maybe have some time dedicated to how to solve the problems since they require so much creativity. Going over the textbook examples is nice for answer structure, but having some class time dedicated to "how to come up with this unorthodox solution" would be nice.
6	The professor is pretty fair overall but can be pretty childish and also anal. His grading practices often don't align with his promised ideology of grading easily and is honestly a pretty big stickler. Recording group members to have EXACTLY the same amount of presentation time as one another is ridiculous. He also had us spend a week learning a NEW topic (that was not going to be on the next exam), then it was spring break, then we had to take the exam - when we were already beyond confused.
7	The instructor's performance was great throughout the course. As topics varied in difficulty, the instructor scaled what was expected appropriately.
8	The instructor performed very well teaching this course. He clearly explained the topics we went over using clear examples to help student understanding.
9	The instructor gives clear and understandable lectures and leaves open the opportunity for questions.
10	Taught hard information in a very digestible way, I don't think I would have been able to learn as much as I have with any other professor.
11	Professor Al-saadi is probably one of my most favorite professors that I've ever had. He expresses competence over the material, but with an enthusiasm that has been unmatched. He is the reason that I had a decent time in this class. He is extremely kind and patient, while remaining professional. He shows everyone respect and never talks down to anyone, even if some students like to poke fun. He is a role model of a professor and I'm excited for his future students.
12	Presents information very very clearly. Runs into trouble infrequently with extra details in problems, just because the course material is like that. Probably does as good as anyone can, great job.
13	Oleksiy is excellent at teaching and is passionate about the topics in class. He made a somewhat ominous course quite enjoyable.
14	Just take my word man, lol

15	It is good
16	I believe that Dr. Al-saadi has the makings of a great professor, truly. He has passion for the subject matter, is extremely smart, and is fresh off his PhD. Unfortunately, this can sometimes work against him. I feel like he often forgets what a reasonable work-load for an undergraduate student should be (when compared to what he did as a grad student for 6 years). While I believe he did a much better job at teaching 454 than previous profs, he could benefit from better managing his expectations.
17	He was a very smart and good instructor. He grades fairly.
18	He is very enthusiastic about the class and allows people to ask questions whenever needed. I use his office hours a lot, and he is very patient and understanding.
19	He is clearly very passionate about the material and does a good job explaining.
20	He did great! Very fun being in his class :)
21	Great
22	Great! Super positive and helpful, and makes complex ideas easier to understand
23	As close to perfect as it gets I think. Reminds me of the level of professionalism and clarity from when I took courses at MIT. As long as he remains humble, a good listener, and approaches his topics with the same level of thought as he does in this course, I think he will go very far, build a lot of connections, and be a revered instructor/professor/mentor. I cannot think of a single thing I would change, and I am an extremely judgemental person.