

University of New Mexico

2021 Fall Courses

Course: CS591001: ST: Parallel Numerical Algo
Instructor: Amanda Bienz *
Response Rate: 6/10 (60.00 %)

1 - Please rate the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness:

Amanda Bienz

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Highly Effective	(5)	4	66.67%		
Effective	(4)	2	33.33%		
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%		
Ineffective	(2)	0	0.00%		
Highly Ineffective	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate			Mean	STD	Median
6/10 (60.00%)			4.67	0.52	5.00

2 - How comfortable do you feel approaching the instructor with questions or comments?

Amanda Bienz

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Very Comfortable	(5)	6	100.00%		
Somewhat Comfortable	(4)	0	0.00%		
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%		
Somewhat Uncomfortable	(2)	0	0.00%		
Very Uncomfortable	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate			Mean	STD	Median
6/10 (60.00%)			5.00	0.00	5.00

3 - What features of this course and of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Amanda Bienz

Response Rate 5/10 (50%)

- The worked examples helped make the sometimes esoteric explanations understandable.
- Slides and lectures were well organized, and walking through relevant examples of challenging concepts made them easier to grasp and understand.
- Dr. Bienz is highly knowledgeable in the subjects being taught, and getting the opportunity to work on the UNM supercomputer at CARC is awesome. Learning about how algorithms are parallelized is really neat too, things like inner products and outer products exist everywhere and seeing how there are many methods for matrix systems. Going over the serial version then looking at how the algorithms can be parallelized is a great subject! I feel like with this info not only can this be applied for CPU-based HPC clusters and would make a good project to try this on a GPU. Anyways, the topics were great and have the potential to get applied for other area that require heavy computation (e.g Deep Learning).
- She is very easy to ask questions to! She is also very nice which is awesome.
- Excellent lectures. Extremely knowledgeable instructor. Fun, self-selected project. Good balance of theory in lectures and hands-on exercises in homework.

4 - What specific suggestions do you have to improve the course and the instructor's teaching?

Amanda Bienz

Response Rate 4/10 (40%)

- Focus more on teaching how to design programs that implement mpi, rather than analyzing it. Analyzing is nice but it doesn't need to be a huge focus, since we are fairly used to analyzing programs we wrote as part of our writeups for most of our undergrad/grad classes.
- For future classes, I would really like a more involved tutorial/lecture on how to read visualization in jumpshot. Eventually one figures it out, but I feel like a more in depth example would have led to me creating better homework submissions. Also it would be neat to be able to have a second try at taking the post-class questions. For exams, I would prefer more context, I feel like that I have missed points and have gotten the answer wrong due to a simple misunderstanding.
- I think running her code for homeworks was not really what I had envisioned for the class. I think it didn't let me get as hands-on with what we were doing. That was a big disappoint me for me, though I don't think the class was sold as a "coding class" so I think it's fair the way it is! Regardless I don't think it is good for learning. Better homeworks (like the first two of the class) will go a long way towards learning more! Obviously she had a kid during this semester so her availability went downhill a bit but that is completely understandable.
- Personally, I wish the in-class questions were worth more than 5%. They were such an important part of the class, but they were easy to dismiss if I missed a live lecture. It was only during preparation for the exam that I realized how much they helped me learn the material.

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Response Rate: 6/10 (60.00 %)

5 - How helpful, knowledgeable, and professional was your TA?									
Amanda Bienz									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Highly Effective	(1)	5	83.33%		1.83	Question			
Effective	(2)	0	0.00%						
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%						
Ineffective	(4)	0	0.00%						
Highly Ineffective	(5)	0	0.00%						
N/A	(6)	1	16.67%						
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				1.83	2.04	1.00			

6 - Were the problem sets/homework assigned helpful in learning the material in this course?									
Amanda Bienz									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Very Helpful	(1)	4	66.67%		1.67	Question			
Somewhat Helpful	(2)	1	16.67%						
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%						
Somewhat Unhelpful	(4)	1	16.67%						
Very Unhelpful	(5)	0	0.00%						
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				1.67	1.21	1.00			

7 - How many times did you visit the instructor during his/her office hours?									
Amanda Bienz									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
10 or more times	(1)	0	0.00%		3.00	Question			
5-9 times	(2)	1	16.67%						
1-4 times	(3)	4	66.67%						
Never	(4)	1	16.67%						
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				3.00	0.63	3.00			

8 - How many times did you visit the TA during his/her office hours?									
Amanda Bienz									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
10 or more times	(1)	0	0.00%		4.00	Question			
5-9 times	(2)	1	16.67%						
1-4 times	(3)	1	16.67%						
Never	(4)	1	16.67%						
N/A	(5)	3	50.00%						
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				4.00	1.26	4.50			

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Response Rate: 6/10 (60.00 %)

9 - Were the quizzes, midterm, and final exam representative of the material presented in this course?									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Very Fair	(1)	3	50.00%						
Somewhat Fair	(2)	3	50.00%						
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%						
Somewhat Unfair	(4)	0	0.00%						
Very Unfair	(5)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100	Question				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				1.50	0.55	1.50			

10 - Have you learned new concepts/topics in the course?									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Yes, Many	(1)	5	83.33%						
Yes, Some	(2)	1	16.67%						
Yes, a Few	(3)	0	0.00%						
No, none	(4)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100	Question				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				1.17	0.41	1.00			

11 - If the course has prerequisites, did they adequately prepare you for the course?									
Amanda Bienz									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Well prepared	(1)	3	50.00%						
Somewhat prepared	(2)	1	16.67%						
Ill prepared	(3)	0	0.00%						
Not applicable	(4)	2	33.33%						
				0 25 50 100	Question				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
6/10 (60.00%)				2.17	1.47	1.50			

University of New Mexico
2021 Fall Courses

Course: CS491001: ST: Parallel Numerical Algo
Instructor: Amanda Bienz *
Response Rate: 8/19 (42.11 %)

1 - Please rate the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness:						
Amanda Bienz						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Highly Effective	(5)	3	37.50%			4.13
Effective	(4)	4	50.00%			
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%			
Ineffective	(2)	1	12.50%			
Highly Ineffective	(1)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
8/19 (42.11%)				4.13	0.99	4.00

2 - How comfortable do you feel approaching the instructor with questions or comments?						
Amanda Bienz						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Very Comfortable	(5)	6	75.00%			4.25
Somewhat Comfortable	(4)	0	0.00%			
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%			
Somewhat Uncomfortable	(2)	2	25.00%			
Very Uncomfortable	(1)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
8/19 (42.11%)				4.25	1.39	5.00

3 - What features of this course and of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?	
Amanda Bienz	
Response Rate	7/19 (36.84%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture recordings. na Having classes recorded and having some wiggle room for watching those recordings. Office hours Having the course slides, notes, and lecture recordings were very helpful to my learning. The lectures themselves were very informative, and guided everything else for the course well. Having the notes available as well was useful when I didn't understand a concept, and allowed me to work through the examples and learn the content better. The powerpoints and in class discussions Organized lectures, clear explanation with examples, enthusiasm, homework and quizzes are helpful 	

4 - What specific suggestions do you have to improve the course and the instructor's teaching?	
Amanda Bienz	
Response Rate	6/19 (31.58%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returning grades in said 2 weeks after due date. na n/a - Have an assigned book for students to reference. - Make the class less theoretical - Work on more problems during class time - Explain concepts and problems by doing examples instead of just talking about it Some of the content in the slides was not as complete as the information given in the lectures. Sometimes the content discussed in class was absent from the slides, so the only way to find it was to look back at the recording. In many cases, the information in question was on the in-class questions. During lecture, our professor would write down notes on the slides and post them for our use, so I think the only thing I would say would be to include those bits of info in those notes. As someone who has had limited contact with Linux and no contact with Wheeler before this, I felt lost doing every assignment for this class. When you're writing up instructions, write out commands like the person reading has no idea what's happening. I am a senior in CS and have not been given the experience you expected me to have walking into this. Also, if someone asks for help, telling them to look at the instructions again doesn't help. I reached out because I was confused by the instructions, and I never ended up getting my answer because I didn't feel like I could ask again. 	

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5 - How helpful, knowledgeable, and professional was your TA?						
Amanda Bienz						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Highly Effective	(1)	2	25.00%			3.75
Effective	(2)	2	25.00%			
Unsure	(3)	0	0.00%			
Ineffective	(4)	0	0.00%			
Highly Ineffective	(5)	0	0.00%			
N/A	(6)	4	50.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
8/19 (42.11%)				3.75	2.43	4.00

6 - Were the problem sets/homework assigned helpful in learning the material in this course?						
Amanda Bienz						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Very Helpful	(1)	4	50.00%			2.00
Somewhat Helpful	(2)	1	12.50%			
Unsure	(3)	2	25.00%			
Somewhat Unhelpful	(4)	1	12.50%			
Very Unhelpful	(5)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
8/19 (42.11%)				2.00	1.20	1.50

7 - How many times did you visit the instructor during his/her office hours?						
Amanda Bienz						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
10 or more times	(1)	0	0.00%			3.50
5-9 times	(2)	0	0.00%			
1-4 times	(3)	4	50.00%			
Never	(4)	4	50.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
8/19 (42.11%)				3.50	0.53	3.50

8 - How many times did you visit the TA during his/her office hours?						
Amanda Bienz						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
10 or more times	(1)	0	0.00%			4.50
5-9 times	(2)	0	0.00%			
1-4 times	(3)	1	12.50%			
Never	(4)	2	25.00%			
N/A	(5)	5	62.50%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
8/19 (42.11%)				4.50	0.76	5.00

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9 - Were the quizzes, midterm, and final exam representative of the material presented in this course?									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Very Fair	(1)	2	25.00%						
Somewhat Fair	(2)	5	62.50%						
Unsure	(3)	1	12.50%						
Somewhat Unfair	(4)	0	0.00%						
Very Unfair	(5)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100	Question				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
8/19 (42.11%)				1.88	0.64	2.00			

10 - Have you learned new concepts/topics in the course?									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Yes, Many	(1)	4	50.00%						
Yes, Some	(2)	3	37.50%						
Yes, a Few	(3)	1	12.50%						
No, none	(4)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100	Question				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
8/19 (42.11%)				1.63	0.74	1.50			

11 - If the course has prerequisites, did they adequately prepare you for the course?									
Amanda Bienz									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Well prepared	(1)	3	37.50%						
Somewhat prepared	(2)	2	25.00%						
Ill prepared	(3)	1	12.50%						
Not applicable	(4)	2	25.00%						
				0 25 50 100	Question				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median			
8/19 (42.11%)				2.25	1.28	2.00			