University of Michigan
Fall 2025 Instructor Preliminary Report
EECS 298-004: Special Topics
Suraj Rampure

39 out of 43 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	26	11	2	0	0	0	4.8
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	15	19	4	1	0	0	4.3
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	17	13	6	1	1	0	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	17	17	5	0	0	0	4.4
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	1	3	9	21	5	0	2.2

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Suraj Rampure seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	31	6	2	0	0	0	4.9
Suraj Rampure explained material clearly.(Q199)	27	8	4	0	0	0	4.8
Suraj Rampure treated students with respect.(Q217)	29	9	1	0	0	0	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	24	10	5	0	0	0	4.7
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	21	12	2	1	1	2	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Suraj Rampure was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	26	12	1	0	0	0	4.8

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
None
Suraj is a great instructor! I felt that content that I struggle with in other courses was explained fantastically well here! He was very approachable outside of class and his office hours were super helpful. As a student it always felt like he was putting in a ton of effort to create resources to help everybody succeed! 10000/10 would absolutely recommend other people to take this course, its a great one!
Suraj is an amazing, passionate teacher and genuinely cares about his students. I've never had a teacher reach out to me after I missed a homework, especially so promptly. I really appreciated that. He is also very well–versed in the subject and is very good at explaining his work.
Suraj has been my favorite professor in college, the way he went through the notes as the class went on, it just made sense.
Dr. Rampure is an excellent professor and really seems to care about the learning of his students. He does his best in lecture, in office hours, and in class forums and announcements to make sure that students can understand what is expected of them and can grasp the material as much as possible.
The quality of instruction was superb. I cannot speak highly enough of the staff – this might have been the best run course I have had the good fortune of taking at this university (and I'm ~140 credits in...)
Lectures were well thought out and explained.
I believe Suraj was a great teacher and explained all concepts clearly!
Great teaching staff, concepts were very well explained.
good
I had a hard time keeping up with the problem solving process in lecture and i felt lost on many of the homework problems
Great instruction
I think Suraj Rampure gives great lectures and holds very insightful office hours. I enjoyed many things about this course and hopefully do well enough to pass it.
the instruction in this class was very clear.
I think the instruction was well done. Sometimes I just wished the lectures were a little harder because I feel the lectures felt a lot easier than labs/homeworks/exams.
It was great!!! Much better than some math department classes, or so I've heard.
The best class I've taken at Michigan. I have recommended it to all of my friends and sincerely hope it becomes a permanent fixture of the Computer Science catalog. Professor Rampure was genuine, approachable, knowledgable, and humble. It was clear everyone in lecture was engaged and comfortable. Additionally, his lecture style where he draws out the concepts on blank slides is far more interesting and educational than reading off of slides.
Lectures are sometimes a bit slow but very thorough!
The quality of instruction was good.
Instruction was great!

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Good Course notes
How well the content was explained, I feel like while we've covered a lot of content I understand all of it pretty well especially in the context of how its use in ML
Great explanations, love the resources (lecture notes, recordings, and chapter notes in particular really helped). Lecture was hard for me to intend in person, and I feel like I never missed material.
Learning about math but in a way that made sense to machine learning and stuff outside of it, even though it was just math, we learned how to use it for other things
The strength of this course is the amount of material that students can expect to learn throughout the course of the semester. Also, it is framed in a way that is pretty helpful to the students' understanding of ML as a whole.
Communication of general expectations and consistency of new material. Additionally, it was abundantly clear how dedicated Professor Rampure and the whole staff was to ensuring students succeed. Additionally, the emphasis put on students' learning as opposed to grades was incredibly helpful. As a student, you truly felt like you mattered and you were seen which – in my experience – is depressingly rare at UMich.
I was able to learn about linear algebra in a more applicable way than most other classes would teach it.
The strengths were the content was interesting!
Professor is a very engaging teacher, course notes were comprehensive, and labs were helpful.
good :D
the course notes were helpful
Great content explanations, selected relevant content to cover
You learn a ton of material and in a lot of depth too.
Homeworks were tough but informational.
The strength of this course was the detailed notes on each topic. In addition, the examples and graphics helped me understand what was happening.
I really liked the content and the structure of the course. I also think material was explained well.
Its labs and Ed help were extremely helpful.
Professor Rampure and his staff. This could have very easily been a complicated and frustrating subject to learn, but they created the best course structure I've seen at Michigan. The course notes are phenomenal —- if every EECS class had notes like them, I would be over the moon. Under their leadership this class has a great future ahead of it.
The content is very good preparation for ML courses.
I liked how the professor gave lectures
Suraj is a very engaging lecturer

What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)

Comments
More activities
Don't really have any
I mean he already shortened the labs' required portion, which helped a lot because the time constraint stressed me out when we had 6 activities. Besides that, I would say no suggestions.
None
Decrease the workload slightly by making homeworks and/or labs shorter.
As I have previously stated, my only suggestion would be to take the first ~10 minutes of lab to go over the previous lab's worksheet answers so students have a chance to check their work and ask questions they might have at a time they are already dedicating to EECS245.
Longer exam times would be very helpful.
I think making the tests a bit more manageable, whether that means give more time or less questions. I think the current tests are not the best reflection of a students understanding.
Reiterating at the beginning of the course that reading the course notes is almost necessary to do well, and lectures are not a substitute for reading the course notes.
more office hours
More time for exams
Maybe having more resources if you're struggling in the class would help, like maybe some kind of interactive questions in the notes like EECS280 does. I think a lot of the other issues will be fixed next semester like the homeworks being available right away along with the course notes. The materials were being written as we went along which sometimes made it difficult since I take a long time to do things and like to start on homework and read the notes immediately.
More guidance on labs and maybe doing some of those problems in lecture.
Increase the number of IAs in labs and also have the homework grades released earlier. Also make more practice questions or exams to help prepare for the midterm and finals.
More resources when studying for exams, but mostly more practice exams.
Homeworks often took many many hours, but it was later adjusted to be more appropriate.
Make the exams easier or shorter.
Not much — having talked to Professor Rampure about the future of the course, my thoughts are already in the process of being addressed. I'd just say a little more structure to labs — and PLEASE keep previous labs, exams and homeworks on file!!! This is a subject that requires practice to fully grasp, and the more that's there the better. Plus, over the next few semesters, building up a stockpile of old material will be immensely attractive to prospective students.
If possible cover all topics in lecture notes or in lecture (example Gram–Schmidt was only covered in HW)
The homeworks are very extensive and I wish there was a practice exam for the final.
THE EXAMS ARE SOOOO FREAKING HARD!!! Also in order to succeed you can't just go to lecture, you need to read the course notes a lot. I think that needs to be mentioned (on exam 1 I didn't think to read them because most "course notes" are not required. Instead of calling them course notes, just call them required reading).

How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)

Comments
It is inclusive already I feel
I felt like it was pretty inclusive, policies were pretty flexible and course staff were super welcoming
Very inclusive already. I have a learning disability and I feel like the resources available really helped
N/A
NA
Group homework problems could help students form study groups and work together for better inclusivity.
No suggestions.
I felt it was already very inclusive.
I think there definitely needs to be more resources for if you have a weaker math background like I do. I think interactive problems like ecoach in EECS203 or EECS280 asynchronous assignments would be helpful, even little videos inside the lecture notes to help explain calculations and topics in more depth would help a lot. Another way this could be helped is maybe to be clear with course expectations and workload at the start, I'm not sure if I would have taken it knowing it would be so much work for me but I worked hard to get to this point and notice I've improved a lot with my math skills, not even for just this class.
N/A
I think it was already pretty inclusive. I think its hard to make class inclusive during lectures but maybe during labs more like team building in the beginning?
I don't know.
Speaking about academic diversity, more material in the notes to brush up on proofs and calculus would be appreciated. For me, it had been over a year since I'd taken calculus, and I spent a lot of time getting the hang of it again once we hit gradients. Other than that, keep doing what you're doing! I'm so happy to have taken this class and grateful for the immense amount of work you've put into it. It's evident to everyone that you care about teaching and making this course the best it can be. I walked in with a disdain for mathematics and am now crossing my fingers that I'll be able to be an IA next semester —- a complete 180 in just a few months. Thank you for everything you've done this semester!
I'm not sure
It's already inclusive.

University of Michigan
Fall 2025 Instructor Preliminary Report
EECS 298-005: Special Topics
Suraj Rampure

7 out of 10 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	2	5	0	0	0	0	4.2
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	1	4	2	0	0	0	3.9
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	0	5	0	2	0	0	3.8
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	2	4	1	0	0	0	4.1
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	0	1	4	2	0	1.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Suraj Rampure seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	3	3	1	0	0	0	4.3
Suraj Rampure explained material clearly.(Q199)	3	3	1	0	0	0	4.3
Suraj Rampure treated students with respect.(Q217)	3	4	0	0	0	0	4.4

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	2	3	2	0	0	0	4.0
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	3	4	0	0	0	0	4.4

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Suraj Rampure was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	3	2	2	0	0	0	4.3

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
The lectures were wonderful. The course notes are written very well. Overall, I learned so much in this course and I really liked the way it was set up.
Quality of instruction was good
Pretty good, could use more guidance.
well explained

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
It very nicely builds intuition on how linear algebra applies to machine learning problems.
Group work
I think that the strengths of this course were understanding its real world applications because that seemed the most interesting.
good lectures

What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)

Comments
I would suggest a forum specifically for mistakes in the course notes, similar to how some newly written textbooks have set up. Occasionally I do see some mistakes in the course notes, so I would suggest this so that it makes it easier for Professor Rampure to find those small mistakes.
I would shorten the exams. Specifically midterm two was incredibly hard to finish, and I feel like there wasn't enough time to demonstrate what I actually knew how to do.
Having the test difficulty be in line with the practice test difficulty.
I think suggestions I would have are possibly including projects, or mini–projects to understand the real world aspect a little more.
more practice problems/practice exams

How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)

Comments
I believe the class climate was very well inclusive of diverse students already.
N/A