

University of Michigan
Winter 2026 Individual Response Report
EECS 498-012: Special Topics
Nicole Hamilton

46 out of 53 students responded to this evaluation.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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

◊ [No Response]

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

◊ [No Response]

19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**

◊ [No Response]

20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**

◊ [No Response]

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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Neutral
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Nicole had direct subject experience which was incredibly cool. It didn't feel like we had some random professor read up on how a search engine works and try to teach it to us – we learned how a search engine works from the person who actually built one. That a) led to us getting a really good understanding of it, and b) get to learn about incredibly interesting stories on how it was built, which for me was very interesting because I am interested in the startup space. If anyone else taught the search engine course, it simply wouldn't be the same. Most of the value from the course came from Hamilton actually having built the search engine we'd be building (back when people had no idea how to build a search engine, putting her 20 years ago in the same position that we were in as students now).

 - Nicole treated me like an adult and not like a student, and I really, really appreciated that. My freshman year I took a class (DataSci 101) and the professor joked "How do you tell a student they are wrong without just saying they are wrong" and I remembered this and thought it was bad not to tell students when they are wrong directly, both for their own learning and for the learning of the other students. Nicole struck a good balance in being respectful towards students while still clearly communicating when an idea for a student was wrong (and they explained why it wouldn't work). She did this better than any other professor I met at Michigan.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**

- ◊ I think the lecture on multithreading felt rushed. One more lecture on that and one less lecture on GET / POST requests. Also, the last 3 lectures on negotiations / financial education / ethics would have been a lot more fun if more people were there (or just as many as during first half of semester) (maybe make the final non-optional)

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

- ◊ I thought it was – e.g. for several slides and exercises she explained she exchanged alphabet for numbers because numbers have a clearer ordering to them for international students. (I am an international student)

19. How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?

- ◊ Can we somehow split up the Parser into two assignments or explain to students that its a particularly hard (maybe the hardest) assignment in advance? Would help, but maybe that is also part of the course learnings (scoping out assignments)

20. What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?

- ◊ All of my best friends took this class together. As a result, lectures were incredibly fun and joyful. It might be the most fun course I ever took in college.

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Nicole is an amazing and knowledgeable instructor.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
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19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ Literally every part of building the search engine was amazing. It's my favorite class ever.

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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The think the core idea of designing a search engine over the whole term was really cool
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think spending way less time on basic library stuff in the beginning would be useful. Everyone going into the course knows how string, hashmap, vector etc work. I think it would be valuable to into the core search engines content and high level understanding significantly earlier rather than spending time on specific techniques and technical skills such as Utf8/networking/multithreading etc that are not specific to this course and can be learned independently (if not already known by the majority of the class). It just feels like not the point to be learning these things in a class that should be about search engines. I understand that they are specific skills that would be applied, so perhaps use the autograder assignments + some optional reading/documentation to learn it.
We should spend significantly more time discussing search engine specific design decisions and exploring different options, before or as the groups start planning and designing their projects, rather than after many groups have already started. Its kind of weird to submit a project plan with LOC estimations and design details before know what each component is and does only at a high level.
Additionally, spending the last fifth (ish, 19–24) of the class on general career advice instead of interesting search engine

specific content – while potentially valuable – feels misplaced. It could have been interesting to discuss how modern engines work, explain how they scale to billions not millions of pages, talk about page rank or how ML is used in a time constrained setting in more detail.

I got 95% of the benefit from this class from working on the project, not from the lectures. The first few were too basic to be interesting or useful, and by the time we got to the engine specific stuff we had already largely designed or figured out our own approach to those problems, or took info from the first lecture slides. This isn't to say they were completely useless, occasionally there'd be a useful tip or idea, but largely too late and unhelpful.

I think either focusing more on engine design early on or talking about how to design a system in general (something thats not often talked about) would be a much better use of time. The unique strength of this class is the large/production scale system design, playing to the strengths of how-to system design and search engine content would be much better, rather than networking, multithreading, etc which you can get from other classes.

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

- ◊ [No Response]

19. How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?

- ◊ Mixed bag. All of the standard library stuff was re-written, they should have been more open ended and then benchmarked for performance, instead they were very worksheet/cookie cutter –esque and were not remotely useful or insightful for the project itself. Especially since the implementations themselves were fairly trivial and something that was done in 280/281. The other engine specific assignments were better, and I think they should be kept and their corresponding lectures removed (ie Utf8, SSL, Multithread, LinuxGetURL, Tiny server, etc). The rest are core engine components that will need to be implemented anyway and it is likely redundant effort since we re-implemented almost all of the assignments to better suit our use case.

20. What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?

- ◊ Working on the engine/design discussions with teammates by far.

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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ I very much liked it
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Very in depth and cool material
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ Maybe I took this class too early but not having a class like 482 or 491 made me feel behind.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ Its good
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ They were pretty helpful
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ Oh god

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16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ It was really good! Professor Hamilton was super helpful at breaking down complex topics and drawing the links between the different topics we covered. I do wish
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ It's just such a unique experience to build a search engine with one of the original engineers from Bing. Truly a special class that I cannot see being offered at other universities.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think some more structure would have been nice. Specifically, I wish we had some sort of deadline in the middle of the course to have a working, barebones engine. A lot of teams only started development 2 weeks before the final presentations, and it showed during the demos. Holding students to be accountable would have caused our search engines to be a lot more well thought out.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**

- ◊ Getting close with the team was a blast. Definitely my favorite course this semester!

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 - ◊ Disagree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Occasionally
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
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17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think the course should have spent less time on prerequisite content like OS and compiler knowledge. I also wish a portion of the course went in detail about how modern engines work, and some of what's changed/the interesting new designs which could be incorporated into your engine.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ I don't think they were particularly relevant. I feel as though they could have been given as scaffolding and not a required assignment.
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ Working with my friends :)

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Most lectures felt like an information dump and I think that this is because I wasn't too familiar with the ropes of programming large SW assignments. There was little support for debugging and I felt like most of the office hours periods were for more high-level discussion on the system design. Having taken 281 almost a year ago I definitely had a lot of catching up to do. Prof Hamilton is very kind and warm in office hours and is always willing to make adjustments or extensions to help her students though—in lecture she is also very good at asking questions.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Giving students a large project and having them figure it out. This is how real learning is done, especially when students work together to solve the problem. Working together teammates who have vastly different work habits has helped me adapt and become a more effective engineer.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ The barrier to entry to this class was far too low—I feel like I spent most of my time on the project struggling to piece things together instead of actually building the engine, because I was so unfamiliar to everything. Prof. Hamilton does her best to explain all the concepts for any student from scratch, but there are so many layers of abstraction that it was difficult for me to follow along without committing much more time to the course than I expected. Walking away from the course I still feel like my contribution to my team was diluted even though I spent a large portion of my time working on it every week, and I think it's because the difficulty of the project was something that I struggled to grasp.

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

- ◊ n/a, this is done pretty well already

19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**

- ◊ hashblob, utf8, and multithreaded file IO helped me get a grasp for how indexing + threading worked.

20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**

- ◊ Struggling in the dude/ugli for 10 hours a day like I am right now and reflecting deeply on my life choices

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ N/A
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Lighter
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
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13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
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Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Neutral
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Neutral
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Frequently
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
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10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
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12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Prof. Hamilton was very knowledgeable with all the concepts of the course, and regularly made time within lectures to answer questions, of which there were many. Prof. Hamilton also had many anecdotes concerning the technology or methods that we would be talking about, which made lecture interesting. Overall I thought that Prof. Hamilton did a great job, and that I consistently learned a lot from the lectures, which helped significantly in our project.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The unique experience of working on a team of this sort, and being thrown into a project where there are a lot of parameters and design decisions that have to be decided upon, was quite rewarding. One of the underrated components was the communication and problem resolution skills we had to develop within our team, and overall it was quite rewarding when we ended up with a good final product.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think that lab attendance should be compulsory, as that was the time when it was most critical to be together with my group. Whether a group is together in lecture doesn't really matter at all, but the vast majority of the labs were most useful as a group meeting and weekly check in, which keeps everyone on track. Since they were not compulsory, it was too easy to skip them, which hurt the team.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**

- ◊ I think a great job is already done, I wouldn't have suggestions

19. How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?

- ◊ They were good, and provided us with useful guidance on the key pieces of the search engine. My only complaint is that a lot of the time, when a teammate does an assignment, it's difficult to find the time to review their work and learn it for yourself. It would be interesting if the assignments were scaled down a little bit, but then not submitted as a group (i.e. everyone has to do them individually), so that we are sure to learn all the most important things

20. What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?

- ◊ One of my favorite parts of the class was when our crawler actually started working, and I could look through the data and websites crawled. I think the internet is very interesting and I had a lot of fun just looking through the esoteric or random websites that we somehow came across. Taking an all-nighter in the fishbowl to get the crawler deployed was definitely an experience, but I don't know if it was a highlight or a lowlight.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The project-based structure of this course really helps me know better about the search engine. And my ability of using github has been significantly enhanced during this process.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I understand that LOC is intended to encourage participation, but it may negatively affect team collaboration. Some important contributions (such as parameter tuning) require significant effort but result in little LOC. This can shift focus away from building a high-quality system toward tracking individual code output, creating unnecessary stress. If LOC is used, it would be helpful to clarify at the beginning that it is not a decisive metric, and that similar levels of contribution will not lead to meaningful differences in evaluation. Emphasizing peer evaluation more may provide a more accurate reflection of individual contributions.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ It's already very good.
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**

- ◊ To cooperate with great teammates and work towards our joint goal.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Instruction was great, please keep this course around for future generations.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The opportunity and ability to build out an enormous distributed project that really demanded optimization and efficiency.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I do believe lectures could have spent less time on prereq material (i.e. OS topics, idiomatic concurrent programming in C++, network socket programming, etc.) and more on actual search engines concepts, or, at the very least, more on search engines case studies.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Neutral
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Frequently
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Disagree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Neutral
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Occasionally
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Hardly Ever
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Neutral
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Neutral
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Hamilton's lectures are useless. We spend about 3 weeks of a semester—long course about how to build a search engine discussing how to build a search engine. The remaining months are spent on topics that are far less important and do not require lecture time (e.g. how to memory map a file in C++ — we can google this) or interesting but not related to course content in any way shape or form and not why we registered for this class (e.g. whether or not you have to report your house being haunted when you sell it). This allocation makes no sense and is a major disappointment; I feel I could have learned far, far more about how search engines work, how to make smart design decisions, what to consider when making these decisions, etc. with another instructor. I imagine that if another reputable CS program were to provide a similar class, I would have learned a lot more from lectures.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ The project. The project is amazing. It's like having an internship where you're your own boss for a semester. It is one of only a handful of projects I've worked on in Michigan courses that feel like more than a class project and not just a toy. The requirement to build your own version of the STL is a great one. The amount of flexibility you have and the lack of a precise spec force you to develop good habits, think through things thoroughly, and learn about the fundamental structure of an engine.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ The lectures need to change drastically. The entire value of this course is the project, the lectures and the instruction were

not at all helpful.

Anyone one aspect of a search engine could be its own course. You could spend a semester talking about different ways to build an inverted index or about the methods and heuristics used to rank web pages, or about building efficient and performant query compilers. Instead, each of these got half a lecture (45 minutes!!!!) and maybe one related document that was optional reading. This is an unfathomable design decision for the course. The entire semester of lecture should be spent on search engine content. No time should be spent teaching syntax (like network calls in C++). You can put these topics in lab time if you really want to teach them, but honestly I think you should just tell students to read the man pages and come to office hours if they have questions. All of the "fun" topics at the end of the semester need to be dropped. They are a huge waste of time. If Hamilton wants to teach a special topics on how to live your life, she should teach that instead of a special topics on search engines. It is not the content that I enrolled in the class for, and it was a major disappointment.

Additionally, the limited amount of lecture time that is actually devoted to search engines is not well taught. Hamilton basically gives an extremely brief (maybe 5 to 10 minute) overview on how that part of the engine works/what its role is. She then spends about 10 minutes describing how Microsoft did it, and either complaining that they didn't listen to her advice on it, or saying that this is the right way to do it. She concludes with spending about 5 minutes mentioning that Google did it a different way, and then assuring us that Google's way was worse, wrong, and got undeserved credit. She would typically cram two of these topics into a single lecture.

The instruction is just bad. The concept of the course and the project are amazing, but Hamilton is not good at teaching the actual content itself.

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

- ◊ [No Response]

19. How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?

- ◊ They were somewhat helpful. I wish they were spaced out less and pushed closer to the front of the semester to encourage us to get working sooner. Maybe have two do a week instead of one.

20. What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?

- ◊ The project. There are some fun memories of cramming in the last week.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
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5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
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9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ It taught me a lot about working on a large scale software engineering project, something bigger and far more open ended than regular class projects.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think providing more structure in the deadline of the final project would help. I know we were expected to Gantt chart it at the beginning of the semester, but that early in the semester we had no idea what this class would entail and how much work each part would be, so we were putting dates that "seem reasonable" down (I don't think we ever looked at the gantt chart again, because the timeline was so off). This class is really really hard. I think 482 or 491 should be a required pre-req just because distribution is a key component of almost every part of the search engine. I think 281 is definitely a prereq, but it doesn't give you near enough of the C++ skills you need to take this class. I don't know if I would have a functional search engine at this point if I was in a group with some of my peers (CS major friends who I take other classes with) because we would not have been able to figure any of this out.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ If a freshman/sophomore takes this course, they probably tested out of 280, or at least the 100 level class before that,

which puts them ahead of other students who are taking a 100 level programming course, followed by 280, then 281, so they're probably already ahead of the curve. If I had another team I don't think I would have been able to produce a functional search engine :(

19. How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?

◊ [No Response]

20. What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?

◊ Working on a large? scale software engineering project. I had a group of really smart people who I learnt a lot from.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Frequently
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ The professor did a good job explaining everything and giving us tips. I would have preferred if the final few lectures were about maybe special topics in OS, or Networking (ex. Kernel Bypass, CPU pinning, etc.)
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
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5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
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6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
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9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
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 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Neutral
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Occasionally
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Occasionally
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Neutral
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Neutral
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ N/A
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ N/A
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ N/A
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Lots of learning thru proj building
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ They were good
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Disagree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Frequently
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ I wish we'd gotten started on search engine specifics earlier.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Overall concept of the course is really cool. This course also taught me how to break down a big project into pieces, and delegate work/work concurrently with others. Professor Hamilton was also really knowledgeable and clearly passionate about the course. I also appreciated how this course had what felt like relatively little "busy work" compared to the other MDE I took.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ Checkpoints for working on the project, so that it doesn't all inevitably get pushed to the last month.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ nothing to add here.
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ I think the GetSsl, robots.txt, and bloom filter were quite helpful. The others might have been but didn't add too much to my background.
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**

- ◊ Working with my group members specifically talking design when it came to the crawler. Will definitely remember pulling an all nighter to get the search engine to work.

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Neutral
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Neutral
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Neutral
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Typical
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Frequently
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Neutral
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Neutral
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Neutral
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Neutral
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Neutral
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Frequently
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
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6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
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8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

Course Name: EECS 498-012: Special Topics

Instructor Name: Nicole Hamilton

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Much Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Frequently
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
8. **Nicole Hamilton treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
9. **Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
10. **Overall, Nicole Hamilton was an excellent teacher. (Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Neutral
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Disagree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ I think Professor Hamilton is a fantastic person. She cares about her students and their learning. It can be hard to read her, but she does really care. I think its definitely hard to balance working with students with a strong systems background versus those without one, and Hamilton does find a way to reach a good balance.
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ I think there should be a checkpoint presentation halfway through where each team presents progress / results. This forces real progress to be made early, and ideas to propagate and be shared.
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ I think they were generally helpful.
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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11. **I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)**
 - ◊ Frequently
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
 - ◊ Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Thought instruction was great in teaching us the core components of how an engine work and the homeworks were useful in getting a starting point for the engine components
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Strengths were in overall system design. This is the one class that really showed me how to build something to completion and with a use case. In comparison, i took EECS 485 which was a wimpy version of the search engine, and the methods in that class for the engine were actually not the methods that would yield to better ranking results. Strengths were also in configuring code depending on what your deployment strategy is which is not something i've had to think about too much before. Also I took
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ no idea, thought was pretty good
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ N/A
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ Mostly helpful, but one I worked on was the html parser and was hard to debug because of minimal autograder output of what error was in code

20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**

- ◊ best part was finishing the project because I could share engine with friends and have them search things

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 - ◊ Typical
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 - ◊ Sometimes
12. **I think this class may help me get a job.**
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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ [No Response]

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 - ◊ Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Frequently
4. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Agree
5. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
6. **Nicole Hamilton seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
7. **Nicole Hamilton explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Frequently
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 - ◊ Agree
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14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
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 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ [No Response]
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I learned how an entire search engine works and how to build one from scratch.**
 - ◊ Agree
14. **Working on a team of 6 or 7 was really cool and not like any other class.**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
16. **What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)**
 - ◊ Practical knowledge learned.
17. **What suggestions would you make for improving the course ? (Q955)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ Helpful! I like the STL part.
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ Build such a system from scratch is cool.

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 - ◊ [No Response]
18. **How might the class climate be made more inclusive of diverse students? (Q910)**
 - ◊ [No Response]
19. **How helpful were the autograded assignments? Which were the best? Could they be improved? Any you would add?**
 - ◊ I just wish that the autograder assignments were a bit more heavy in what was tested, in the sense that there were more testcases on the autograder to really really stress test the student solution.
20. **What was the best, most interesting, or fun part of the class? Will you have some favorite memories?**
 - ◊ [No Response]

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3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Sometimes
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