

Limits of Computation (Fall 2017)

Instructor: **Pemmaraju, Sriram**
Subject: **CS**
Catalog & Section: **5340 0001**
Course ID: **CS:5340:0001**
Objectives:

Enrollment: **13**
Responses Incl Declines: **8**
Declines: **0**

Computer Science (10 comments)

Q: What did you like best about this course?

- 1 The lectures were self contained, so even though most of the times I could not go over assigned reading, I got a lot out of the lectures.
- 2 Challenging and interesting material. Great and very clear lectures that fill in details that are skipped in the book.
- 3 I am the "consistent least scorer" of this course. Everyone can recognize me at a glance by this above term. This is the best thing which I like about the course.
- 4 Prof. Pemmaraju is a wonderful teacher. He tried his best to make sure the students understand and appreciate the material. The lectures are paced appropriately so that students get the most out of attending the lectures.

That said, the material is very challenging and the homework problems take a very long time to solve. The exams are very challenging and really test your understanding of the material more than your knowledge of the material.
- 5 The coursework is both quite challenging and very engaging. The in-class lectures often give rise to interesting discussions that further our understanding of the subject.

Q: What did you like least about this course?

- 1 Not much to say here. Maybe that the blackboard was small? A lot of times a crucial definition or equation got erased even when it was to be used multiple times later.
- 2 The material is intrinsically very difficult. Not the fault of the instructor.
- 3 There is no plenty of resources available in the internet for this subject. Generally, for me, the online resources are easier to understand than the book (I am not saying about copying and pasting). If I had got plenty of resources available in the internet for this subject, I think, the word "consistent" would not be there in the term "consistent least scorer" which is affixed with me.
- 4 The lectures are not long enough to cover most topics so there is a lot of repetition in covering the material across different lectures.
- 5 I think knowing up-front that the midterm might be curved might (depending on scores) might help reduce student anxiety (and rate of drop-out)

Written Comments (2 comments)

Q: Additional comments

- 1 Complexity theory was always a curiosity for me and I finally decided to learn about it. I got a lot out of the course and it's hard to imagine it being taught any better. I wish I had worked harder (specially towards the end of the semester), but I'm still very happy with what I learned.
- 2 Throughout the semester I tried hard to understand the subject properly. But my effort was fruitless, because what I thought that I had understood, was my fallacy. Apart from that, Prof. Pemmaraju was helpful. Only for his teaching to me during his office hours, I could understand how the reduction procedure goes on and some more things, though I know it may be another fallacy. If he teaches any other graduate subject in future I will try to take that course because that will also become a challenging subject. But for that subject I do not want to get the above affixed term with me i.e. "consistent least scorer" and I will try not to become that.