

# Wright State University

## 201580 Fall Traditional CBA survey

**Course:** 80396.20158: ME-1020-02 - Engg Prog with Matlab

**Instructor:** Scott Thomas \*

### 1 - Describe the overall effectiveness of this instructor.

Return Rate	31/51 (60.78%)
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- Cool guy but needs to spend more time going over the basics and in more detail.
- pretty effective.
- Very effective by describing the material behind the course as well as showing numerous examples.
- Professor Thomas is an extremely nice guy and it very helpful when you ask him questions. He knows what he is talking about for sure.
- The instructor was available for extra help out of the class room, and was great about explaining the topic. He paid extra attention to those select few students who showed that they would put in the effort for his class. overall perfect professor for the position.
- The instructor was fairly effective. He helped out a lot.
- The instructor was effective in explaining material as well as explaining any problems.
- Scott Thomas was a very effective instructor, his teaching style improved greatly as he went throughout the semester, and he applied his real world experience he had personally to the course in order to keep me engaged.
- excellent
- Goodish
- The instructor was very good teaching and helping the students.
- He was very helpful when i needed it and overall he was very nice.
- Good teacher
- Dr. Thomas is a very nice guy, but he is not very effective in teaching the material. He relies solely on the handouts he's already prepared and loaded on Pilot. The classes are basically free-for-all, as he and the TA's walk around looking for questions to answer. This is not always the case, but he treats (and promotes) this course as if you can learn it yourself, at home, online...and then show up for the tests.
- Very poor, i know hes a good teacher in other classes but in this one, he failed to teach. Giving homeworks and the answers during class and pretty much making this a study hall time, is a ineffective way to teach.
- He gave us plenty of lab time, and would walk around answering questions. However, lectures seemed fairly short with not enough examples.
- I would describe the overall effectiveness of this instructor as minimal, because he did not lecture or go into detail on how to go about solving a problem. He gave the most basic explanations and left us to resort to our textbooks, but not even then did the textbook help.
- great instructor. easy to talk to and approach.
- Quite effective.
- Moderately high. Scott is a very approachable and informative professor. However, I do not agree with his "teach yourself" hands-off style. As he did actively hold lecture, it only accounted for about 40 percent of class time, which I found to be ineffective.
- The instructor was not very effective; most of the time we were working on our own and the only interaction we had with the professor was if we had questions regarding our programming. He did lecture occasionally, but for the most part we were left to learn the material on our own.
- When Dr. Thomas actually decided to teach he was pretty effective but this was a rare event as it was often just a "do your own work and if you have questions we'll try to help". When questions were asked it was hard to get a definite answer as it seemed like Dr. Thomas wasn't very sure of how to do a lot of the problems.
- He teaches for the first 10minutes of class the we hav. Then we hav class workform the rsest of time and the TA 's were never vere y help full, Thomas was a good helper but not a got teacher.
- was a very good instructor. needs some improvement for lecturing but very easy to talk to
- For what the course is Scott Thomas did a good job. With something like MatLab the course is bound to be more like a workshop then a lecture.
- This instructor was very helpful and communicative throughout the entire professor.
- He is very good instructor, but he is very mean in the exam
- Good
- Not at all helpful
- He along with the TA's helped with specific problems students had, however most learning was strictly from the book/ through homework.
- The instructor is enthusiastic about the subject but teaching is still hard to find. Solutions are given for problems but some are very hard to follow. Programming of any kind benefits greatly from good examples.

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**2 - Did the instructor evaluate your work based on the expectations described in the course syllabus?**

<b>Return Rate</b>	32/51 (62.75%)
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- yes
- yes very much so no surprises in this class.
- Yes.
- Yes, he graded and evaluated my work based on the solutions he gave out in class in order to help us reach our goal of understanding.
- he did evaluate the students work more based on his expectations. so if that student had prior experience to programing, or mat lab, it was easier for them. those students like myself, who had no prior experience struggled. yet I made it my goal to get to know him and put in the effort that he asked for.
- Yes, he had everything laid out within the syllabus describing what should be expected. He also talked about what was expected in class.
- Yes all work was evaluated based on syllabus expectation
- Yes, Scott Thomas was very clear on expectations and followed through with them 100%
- yes
- Yes
- Yes.
- yes
- yes
- Yes, although explanation was not thorough. At times, he did not know how to answer certain questions until I figured them out on my own, at which point he said, "Oh...I've never used that before."
- yes he did
- Yes and No, most of the content in class was reasonable. However, the test were unreasonably difficult.
- Yes
- yes
- Yes.
- Yes. The expectations were clearly defined in the syllabus.
- Yes.
- Dr. Thomas graded our work a little harder than expected, taking off too many points for little insignificant things that didn't show any sign of not understanding the topics.
- I tried my best but i just couldn't pertain the information, Thomas needs to focus on teaching how things are performed in class, like in depth .
- yes
- yes
- Yes.
- he established the expectations early on and held them constant throughout the entire semester.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Scott Thomas was very strict on his syllabus to an unreasonable point. As a freshman, I did not fully understand my rights as a student and I feel he took some advantage of that with his testing policy. I was required to attend a family funeral as a pallbearer and asked if I could either take the test early or late due to the time and date of the funeral being at the same time as the test. I offered to present proof and anything else needed, however he simply answered with the syllabus clearly stating the policy of tests not being made up "for any reason". It was not until it was to late that I found out that I could have possibly done something about this by speaking to administration.
- Yes

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**3 - Did the instructor routinely start class on time and use the full class period?**

<b>Return Rate</b>	32/51 (62.75%)
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- yes
- The days he did lecture it was mostly brief, with optional lab time was a big benefit to the class.
- He would start class on time everyday and ran class till the very last minute.
- Yes, class started and ended right on the dot. Used whole class period to help students who had questions.
- always started the class on time. generally would denote class to either a short lecture, and a lot of lab time. would frequently walk around always asking the individual students if they needed help.
- The instructor did routinely start class on time. However, most of the time, he did not lecture the full class period. He allowed us time to work on in-class assignments and homework so that we could ask questions.
- Yes class always started on time and generally lasted the entire period
- Yes, Due to the nature of the course, we did have a significant amount of lab time, which always lasted until the end of the period, during both lecture and lab, Scott Thomas and both of his TA's were available for help and provided a great learning environment.
- yes.
- Yes, kind of.
- Yes, every time.
- Yes he started the class on time and used the whole period.
- always on time
- Yes, and people left whenever they wanted because there really wasn't any teaching going on.
- yes
- Yes
- He started class on time, but students rarely stayed the full class period because he would have us just do homework in class everyday except for the days he lectured which were once every two weeks.
- class was always started on time. i wish he taught more. class was ran trail and error most of the time. to me id rather be taught what we need to know, shown examples of code, then work the HW or class work. I tried not to but i found i used the HW code as a crutch because we were never taught the material.
- Yes.
- Yes. 9:30 AM every single class.
- Yes.
- Dr. Thomas started class right on time every day, but didn't always us the class time to its full potential.
- he was always there at 930 but once teaching was over(20-60 minutes), we could leave if we wanted.
- yes, when applicable
- yes
- Yes.
- yes he was consistently early and held class to the end.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes but did not use the entire time ever
- Class was started on time. The entire period was not used for teaching purposes, but mostly for lab time to work on assignments.
- Started class on time, but did not use whole class for teaching, much of it was practice questions.

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### 4 - How did the instructor demonstrate interest in your learning?

Return Rate	28/51 (54.9%)
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- Asked if we ever needed help or to ask questions at any time
- He and the TA's were constantly walking the room and answering questions that anybody had.
- He would reply to my emails quickly and effectively. He would also pause to see if anyone had questions frequently throughout the lecture.
- This was one of the weak areas of the class, as we were expected to kind of teach ourselves, without much "intro" to the topics. But, he counteracted this by walking around class and helping us understand when he questions.
- this really all depended on the student. the instructor would walk around the class, and provide support for those students who asked.
- The instructor talked about how matlab is used in real-life applications. It made it more interesting.
- Instructor was very interested and determined to make the course interesting for everyone else.
- The Professor repeatedly asked for feedback on his teaching style and was very accommodating to our needs both as a group and individually.
- He made solid attempts at answering all questions
- He sent emails and tried every way possible to help the students.
- I think i started it with having an interest in the class and going through the class got me more interested although the class was difficult.
- By walking around waiting for questions? Although he would tend to stick with one student for a long time while the TA;s would try to cover all the other students with their hands raised.
- yes
- Yes
- He gave us real world applications.
- out of 10, id say 7. i felt he was very well educated and knows the material but conveying it or teaching it wasnt the best
- I was not paying attention to such things, so I do not know.
- By holding review sessions for midterms and making sure we understood the information during homework.
- He did not.
- Although Dr. Thomas struggled relaying some of the information about certain topics, when he was asked questions he seemed like he genuinely cared whether or not we understood the content.
- he tried to help me
- very passionate about the subject and showed he wanted the best for those of us in the class
- Scott Thomas and his aides were always available during class time to help with any problems.
- He was very helpful in one on one learning in class time and during his office hours.
- He helped every person who asked for help in class
- He didn't
- Was excited himself about the subject, however there wasn't much done to take interest in individuals.
- Real world problems, real world applications, much enthusiasm.

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**5 - How effectively did the instructor communicate both in and out of the classroom?**

<b>Return Rate</b>	32/51 (62.75%)
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- Very effectively, had lots of office hours
- In the class room well, never had to email him but he answered them quickly from what I have heard.
- Replied to emails quickly (sometimes with in hours but usually within a day). Always refereed us to meet with him during office hours and stayed after class to assist with questions.
- He did a great job, sending us emails about new updates and other information. In the classroom he was very attentive of the students who needed help, also had TA's running around helping as well.
- very well.
- The instructor was very effective with communicating both in and out of the classroom. He helped out with any questions we had. Also, he would respond to emails as fast as he could.
- The instructor was very effective in and out if the classroom.
- The Instructor was very effective at communicating and was very easy to get ahold of, both in class and through email outside of class.
- good
- About as effectively as the next guy
- Very good.
- communicated pretty effectively and was great at teaching and helping in and out of the class.
- good
- He tends to go off in tangents during class. With regard to out-of-class communication, he is very unwilling to compromise based on the instructions and requirements put forth in the syllabus. He refused to give any leeway with a particular homework assignment due to a hospital-related emergency situation, despite the fact I contacted him the night before to let him know. Please keep this private, as it is a situation in which he would know that I had communicated this issue, and I am concerned about bias in his grading.
- very well
- The communication on adequate
- Wonderfully, but he was a very busy man so he didn't have the best office hours.
- very well when needed
- Quite well.
- Very well. Timely responses to emails and questions.
- He communicated well both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Dr. Thomas was fairly effective in his communication about anything when it was needed.
- fine, never outside
- well enough, when applicable
- in the classroom could use some slight work but i believe that was due to the size of the class. outside of the classroom was very helpful and willing to answer questions
- Scott Thomas was effective at communicating one on one while problem solving scripts. I did not see enough of his lecturing to have an opinion on that, I also did not attempt to contact him outside of class.
- he was clear with the material he explained in and out of lecture.
- He always asks the students if there is anything that he can help with
- Great
- Not at all effective. And lacked explanation much of the time
- Good communication through email. Would answer in class questions as well.
- Well thought Pilot and in the Classroom.

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### 6 - Were the course content and lectures well organized?

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- No
- Yes very well organized and went right along with the book and syllabus.
- Very well. The entire course homework/lectures were all posted online. So if there was anything missed in class you could always refer back to it.
- Yes, everything was in a great order and organized properly.
- yes. provided additional info and problems for the course.
- The course content was well organized. The lectures were also organized. However, sometimes I wished the lectures were longer and more involved with examples so I could understand some of the material better.
- Yes
- Yes, the course was on track 100% and all of the course content was taught effectively.
- yes
- Yes, kinda
- Yes.
- yes they were, although more practice exam problems would have been helpful for the other exams.
- yes
- Yes.
- no, they were as described before, it was learning on your own, or having background in it, or learning things wrong.
- Everything was well organized
- No
- for the most part when he taught, when given the class to work our HW was nice except with only 2 TA's and the instructor it was hard to always get questions answered in a timely manner.
- Yes.
- I don't believe so. This class was very fast-paced and was much more difficult than other entry-level MATLAB courses I have taken.
- There were very few lectures, but what lectures there were were organized.
- The lectures for MATLAB were not structured very well as it seemed he just read off of an answer sheet the whole time.
- i'd say so
- yes
- yes
- Yes. All of the content was available online, lectures, homework, solutions. I really appreciate the amount of effort taken to make the content for this course available online.
- everything was laid out in a methodical manner.
- Yes
- Yes
- Not at all
- Yes, however there was not much to organize.
- Yes, but very compact at times.

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**7 - Was the instructor reasonably available and responsive to your needs during office hours and appointments, or on line?**

Return Rate	32/51 (62.75%)
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- yes
- As I said he responded quickly to emails from what I have seen.
- Yes as stated previously.
- Yes, always answered emails and had office hours.
- yes.
- Yes, the instructor was reasonably available and responsive to my needs.
- Yes they were
- yes, at no time did I feel like I could not get ahold of my instructor.
- yes
- Yes
- Yes.
- yes he was
- always
- Yes.
- yes
- Yes
- Somewhat.
- yes
- I never needed such assistance, so I do not know.
- Yes, no problem there.
- I never had a need to communicate with him outside of class.
- I never read into his office hours as the way I learned didn't necessarily mesh with how Dr. Thomas taught.
- never tried and
- yes
- yes
- I did not attempt to contact Scott Thomas outside of class, therefore I have no opinion on this matter.
- yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No he often told me to look it up on google if I had questions
- Responsive through email.
- Yes.

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### 8 - Do you have any additional, relevant comments?

<b>Return Rate</b>	25/51 (49.02%)
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- Needs a better method to teach the course rather than powerpoints every so often, that don't make sense
- Great class very helpful.
- Probably one of the best teachers I have ever had. Very effective. Lectures are interactive. Homework/tests/quiz grades were given back faster then any other teacher I have ever had.
- Professor Thomas is a very cool guy and knows Matlab very well. Very helpful and easy to understand, willing to "dumb" down things to make it simpler for students to understand. I only suggest that in the course for the future that there is a slight bit more effort in actually "teaching" the topics, as sometimes leaving the students to figure it out for themselves can backfire. But other than that, the class is great and I have learned a great deal about the Matlab program.
- I enjoyed this class. It was a challenge. I did like how the homework solutions were posted onto Pilot. It helped me understand the material a lot better. I would definitely like to have Dr. Scott Thomas as a professor again.
- Not at this time.
- Scott Thomas is a great instructor and I look forward to taking additional courses with this instructor
- no
- He would run through a power point real quick and then we'd just work on our computers for the rest of the period as he and the TA's walked around answering questions. Some people took issue with this, but I thought it was a pretty effective way of presenting and course material. It's really not a difficult class, I've been getting A's on the exams having not even attended most of the lectures. You just need to practice a bit. The in class assignments and homework assignments prepared me well for the exams. I would recommend this instructor for other students looking to take this course.
- No.
- i think something that could have been change was the weight scale of the exams, although the class didn't have a lot of other things 90% of the class being exams is a pretty high number, but still achievable.
- Test's seemed to be a little more challenging than what expected
- I am disappointed in his class and ability to teach, and I will search out different professors for my classes going forward.
- no
- Hes a really good teacher, ready to answer any questions that he can. I just feel like things weren't explained well enough for me in lecture to be very proficient. As well as the test being unreasonably difficult, for an already difficult class.
- I would not recommend him to my peers. He is a great person, but an awful professor. His exams are extremely difficult.
- Scott is a wonderful professor, I just wish there were more in-class examples he would work out with us step by step, instead of giving us a list of problems and letting us try blind.
- I have no additional comments.
- Professor, is there any was you could pass me this with a letter grade D or C, because i don't think i'll do to well on the exam and i already have an F.
- no
- no
- Nope.
- His lecturing was quick and difficult to keep up with at certain times. He focused on learning by doing with this particular course and could have spent more time going over the process for the computer program in more detail.
- I think simulink was sometings distant for the whole matlab semester, I mean, we had to learn the whole new system in just one week for the final exam
- I have heard good and bad tings about Scott Thomas and I believe the reason to be that he caters only to certain students learning. Those who were good at teaching themselves and learning from the book or were already well versed in programming succeeded in the class, while those who really need an instructor struggled. This may simply be due to the nature of Matlab, however I did not feel like I learned anything from Scott himself. I was able to learn some simple concepts on my own, but once the class reached more technical points that I needed help understanding, I felt that there was really nothing I could do. Besides that, I also felt wronged by Scott for being unable to take a test due to a funeral which I was required to attend which I believe should be treated no differently from legal obligations.