

**End Of Course Survey (202503)  
Fall 2025**

**Vassar College  
Campus Wide**

<b>Course:</b>	CMPU 102 01 - Data Structures and Algorithms	<b>Department:</b>	CMPU
<b>Responsible Faculty:</b>	Heather Newman	<b>Responses / Expected:</b>	10 / 13 (76.92%)

**Q1 - Question 1: Please explain your main reasons for taking the course: such as fulfilling a requirement, exploration for majors or correlates, interest in the subject matter, etc.**

<b>Faculty:</b>	Heather Newman
<b>Response Rate:</b>	100.00% (10 of 10)
1	Trying to learn something I struggle at / improve at computer science and understand it at a rudimentary level
2	This is a required course for a computer science major. I also felt it was a good introduction to the computer science program at Vassar.
3	This course was necessary to fulfill my computer science major. I was also interested in the subject matter.
4	This class was a requirement for a computer science major.
5	One main reason for taking this course was to explore the major. I had an interest in majoring in CS.
6	Major requirement.
7	Interest in computer science, comp sci major / correlate broadly.
8	Interest in practicing coding, fulfilling major elective path, and getting a basic understanding of data structures and algorithms
9	I wanted to take one more CS course to see if it was something I'd want to study more intensely! And yes, this course convinced me :)
10	Fulfilling requirement for computer science major

**Q2 - Question 2: Please comment on the workload of the course outside the classroom, such as but not limited to: assignments, group work, outside lectures, readings, etc.**

<b>Faculty:</b>	Heather Newman
<b>Response Rate:</b>	100.00% (10 of 10)
1	average workload. The class does move very fast, so sometimes I felt as if I couldn't spend as much time learning some stuff as others. Particularly, I wish I had a better idea of how the runtimes work for the earlier sorting algorithms we worked on because I didn't know they would be so important.
2	Workload is relatively mild, sometimes certain homeworks can take quite a long time but as you're usually given quite a good amount of time (at least a week) to do them they're mostly fine. Exceptions exist around breaks because they're breaks, but that's unavoidable.
3	Workload is the amount expected.
4	This course required me to spend a decent amount of time outside of the classroom working on homework. Each weekly assignment probably took me anywhere from 4-6 hours to complete. I also usually had to spend time outside of class completing the weekly labs.  Studying for exams was a significant time commitment as well. The tests were difficult, but generally reasonable provided that I did the study guides. (Though I will note that I felt the midterms might have been slightly too long for the given time frame).
5	There was typically an assignment about every week and a half due and a lab every week with readings for every class.
6	The homework assignments were quite challenging, the labs were easy to complete, the lectures were easy to keep up with, and the readings were quite a heavy.
7	Quite a bit of workload but I don't think an unfair amount. I think a lot is expected of students in this class but working hard in it should support them for future CS classes.
8	I think that the course load of this course was highly manageable. The only really stressful bits were the homework assignments and the exams. The forgiveness days helped the stress a lot though.
9	I felt that assignments in particular were very time consuming, as least compared to the CS courses I have taken in the past.
10	Homework Assignments, Labs, Tests, Readings.

End of Course Survey		Heather Newman					
		Responses (%)				Individual	
		5A	4	3	2	1D	N
Q3	Question 3: This course expanded my intellectual interest in the subject matter.	3 30%	6 60%	1 10%	0	0	10
Q4	Question 4: I clearly understood what was expected of me in the course.	5 50%	4 40%	1 10%	0	0	10
Q5	Question 5: I understand how different parts of the course contributed to my learning of the subject.	5 50%	5 50%	0	0	0	10
Q6	Question 6: This course increased my understanding of the subject matter.	7 70%	3 30%	0	0	0	10

Responses: [5A] 5-Strongly Agree=1 [4] 4-Agree=2 [3] 3-Neutral=3 [2] 2-Disagree=4 [1D] 1-Strongly Disagree=5

**Q7 - Question 7: You may provide additional explanations or comments of your answers to questions 3 through 6.**

<b>Faculty:</b>	Heather Newman
<b>Response Rate:</b>	30.00% (3 of 10)
1	The lecture structure, assignments, and tests all were clear in my expectations of what was expected in the course.
2	I understand a lot more of the fundamental building blocks of algorithms and algorithm design now. Understanding what options I have for data storage and accessing information feels very applicable to future classes.

3 Almost everything was interesting to learn and I appreciate how the labs all involved real world situations. It felt like the stuff I was learning could actually be useful to me more than just conceptually.

End of Course Survey		Heather Newman					
		Responses (%)					Individual
		5A	4	3	2	1D	N
Q8	Question 8: The work I was asked to do facilitated my learning in the course.	5 50%	4 40%	1 10%	0	0	10
Responses: [5A] 5-Strongly Agree=1 [4] 4-Agree=2 [3] 3-Neutral=3 [2] 2-Disagree=4 [1D] 1-Strongly Disagree=5							

End of Course Survey		Heather Newman					
		Responses (%)					Individual
		5A	4	3	2	1D	N
Q9	Question 9: I had opportunities in this course to demonstrate what I have learned.	6 60%	4 40%	0	0	0	10
Q10	Question 10: I received feedback that supported my learning.	5 50%	5 50%	0	0	0	10
Responses: [5A] 5-Strongly Agree=1 [4] 4-Agree=2 [3] 3-Neutral=3 [2] 2-Disagree=4 [1D] 1-Strongly Disagree=5							

End of Course Survey		Heather Newman					
		Responses (%)					Individual
		5A	4	3	2	1D	N
Q11	Question 11: I found that the instructor provided help if I requested it.	9 90%	1 10%	0	0	0	10
Responses: [5A] 5-Strongly Agree=1 [4] 4-Agree=2 [3] 3-Neutral=3 [2] 2-Disagree=4 [1D] 1-Strongly Disagree=5							

**Q12 - Question 12: You may provide additional explanations or comments of your answers to questions 8 through 11**

<b>Faculty:</b>	Heather Newman
<b>Response Rate:</b>	50.00% (5 of 10)
1	The professor goes above and beyond when it comes to assistance during office hours and explains algorithms and data structures with depth and intuition.
2	The large number of labs and homework assignments gave me plenty of time to show what I have learned.
3	Office hours were very helpful!
4	I received plenty of help both in and out of class when I had questions about the homeworks, labs, or just other conceptual questions from the professor.
5	Good professor. Very thoughtful and attentive towards helping students. One of the only regrets I have in this class is not utilizing office hours and out of class teaching more, but that is entirely on me and not the professor.

**Q13 - Question 13: Please make an overall comment on your experience of the whole course.**

<b>Faculty:</b>	Heather Newman
<b>Response Rate:</b>	100.00% (10 of 10)
1	The professor has done an excellent job with retention and hands-on based pedagogy and has been able to find a way to teach the subject matter almost as deep as CMPU-241 to introductory students with high success. Very supportive and explains things very intuitively.
2	Overall, I enjoyed this course. The homework assignments were interesting, especially since they often involved real-world applications. I felt like I learned a great deal this semester.
3	My experience in this course was quite amazing, as I learned so much from this course.
4	Lecture heavy, could use more interactions or tests of knowledge during lecture.
5	I really enjoyed Algorithms! It sort of felt like a necessary, but deeply rewarding, bootcamp that will prepare me for my future classes as a CS student.
6	I really enjoyed this class. Professor Newman has been a great teacher this semester and I think the class was well run. I think that despite the sometimes dry subject matter, Professor Newman kept it interesting and made it fun. Having assignments based on things I think are fun in my free time (e.g. The Wikipedia Game) it made this class quite interesting. I would certainly be potentially interested in future algorithms classes.
7	I felt that this was the first demanding CS course I've taken so far. In that regard, I feel that it has been important to pinpoint my flaws and weaknesses that have arisen throughout the course, and overall I have felt that the challenge was important. I think I have grown as a student in general from taking this course.
8	I appreciate how the instructor went over typical tech interview questions in class that were directly related to what we were doing and thought it was very helpful.
9	Highly positive overall, everything is greatly tied together and cumulative while still making new content feel fresh and interesting. It's honestly feels easier towards the end of the course as you're able to parse a lot of what you hadn't previously, but obviously conceptually it becomes much more difficult in some ways. Good balance of difficulty conducive to learning I feel.
10	Good course.