

University of Michigan

Winter 2026 Instructor Report

EECS 481-001: Software Engin

Priscila Santiesteban

24 out of 135 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	9	13	1	1	0	0	4.3	4.4	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	9	9	4	1	1	0	4.2	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	11	9	3	1	0	0	4.4	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	7	13	3	1	0	0	4.1	4.0	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	6	14	3	1	0	3.1	2.9	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
Priscila Santiesteban seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	17	6	1	0	0	0	4.8	4.7	4.8
Priscila Santiesteban explained material clearly. (Q199)	18	5	0	1	0	0	4.8	4.6	4.7
Priscila Santiesteban treated students with respect. (Q217)	21	3	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	13	10	0	0	1	0	4.6
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	13	10	1	0	0	0	4.6

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Priscila Santiesteban was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	18	5	1	0	0	0	4.8

The medians are calculated from Winter 2026 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are upper division with enrollment of 75 or greater in College of Engineering.

Written Comments

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

Comments
Very good, you can tell the instructors are fully bought in and enjoy teaching the content. A wonderful learning environment.
The lectures feel like a massive info dump and are difficult to pay attention to. The "stretchy trivia" just makes me zone out mid lecture and I don't realize when they start talking about important things again. Wes and Priscilla are entertaining, but I think the content and the way it's presented could use some rethinking.
n/a
Priscila and Wes are amazing lecturers. The flow of the class is very well-structured such that content always proceeds in a logical manner. I appreciate that they keep giving us chances to participate, even if it's a slow day—sometimes students just need a few seconds to realize what's going on... but we are trying!
Very well taught, I think Wes and Priscilla really bring this course to life with how they rehearse and run lectures.
Both professors were great lecturers.
Probably one of my favorite classes so far in this regard
Wes and Priscila were very enthusiastic and open to answering questions in class
I liked it a lot.
The instructors were very passionate and committed to making the learning experience as strong as possible.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
very engaging
Very entertaining lectures which kept me engaged. We covered a lot, but still went in depth pretty well.
This course does a decent job providing us with an approximation of what real world software engineering is like. HW6 was the highlight of this course, in my opinion.
n/a
The course places a strong emphasis on accurately depicting real-world software engineering. I've learned a lot of words that have come in handy in interviews, and a lot of my illusions about industry have been shattered, haha. HW 6 is particularly useful and relevant to bring up in interviews.
The topics seem to really apply to the real world, and I enjoyed how many examples from the real world were applied.
Expectations were clear, assignments were very transparent, and instructors were excellent.
Practical, clear concern for students in general life beyond the strict scope of the course (particularly on Piazza), good lectures.
Vague ways to complete homework
The professors.
The instructors spoke with a lot of enthusiasm that made paying attention to the material easier.

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

Comments
N/A
Maybe a bit less filler seeming content sometimes, it's easy to zone out for a little and gloss over stuff.
This class seems to pride itself in being time consuming and difficult to work with for the sake of "realism." The Instructors claim they don't have a centralized location to turn in assignments and keep track of tasks because that's what the real world is like, as if most of us aren't taking 3 or 4 other classes. It's okay to use multiple resources because one doesn't accomplish the needs of the other, but just say that's why you're doing it.
The most time consuming aspect of the course was setting up and wrangling a VM on an outdated Ubuntu version. The class provides no specific Mac support and I tried four different approaches to get a somewhat effective development environment. In the real world, developers are given a company laptop and a well documented approach for developing efficiently. If you need a consistent environment, Docker exists for this exact reason.
The amount of reading expected is unrealistic and I guarantee 99% of students aren't reading the papers in any serious manner. The 5 minute reading quiz time limit makes it more tempting to use GenAI, not less. Sure, software engineering involves reading but usually it's reading documentation, code, and forming abstract connections between different components. Many papers/readings are outdated. *Software Project Survival Guide* came out in 1998. *Mythical Man Month* was last revised in 1995.
n/a
Nothing.
The final exam is too long. Make it 2 exams
Idk.
maybe make the exam checkpoint earlier and add a second one to further encourage students to space out doing the exam early.

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

Comments
it already is
No notes.
n/a
I don't have a proper answer.
N/A
It was diverse enough idk?
good as is

University of Michigan

Winter 2026 Instructor Report

EECS 481-002: Software Engin

Priscila Santiesteban

24 out of 107 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	School/College Median	Univ-Wide Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	13	5	3	0	0	0	4.7	4.4	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	14	5	1	1	0	0	4.8	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	16	3	2	0	0	0	4.8	4.4	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	15	2	4	0	0	0	4.8	4.0	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	2	3	11	4	0	1	3.0	2.9	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

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Priscila Santiesteban explained material clearly. (Q199)	14	2	1	0	0	4	4.9	4.6	4.7
Priscila Santiesteban treated students with respect. (Q217)	14	2	1	0	0	4	4.9	4.8	4.8

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	13	4	3	0	0	1	4.7
I felt included and valued when working with other students. (Q253)	11	2	1	0	1	6	4.8

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Priscila Santiesteban was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	14	2	1	0	0	4	4.9

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Written Comments

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

Comments
lectures were great and engaging
n/a
Wes and Pricilla are amazing professors and clearly show a lot of passion towards teaching and coordinating this class.
The lectures were informative and engaging. Wes and Priscila have great chemistry and made learning the material more fun.
It was very sporadic, topics didn't flow together well and the professors confessed to leaving many aspects obscure.
i loved wes he's a great teacher. very engaging and and i love the piazza posts

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
great professors
n/a
I enjoyed how the class covers many parts of the software engineering industry, from standing meetings to peer reviews to realistic downsides of the workforce.
It definitely had the breadth that you'd want from a class like this, and many course topics were relevant to the goals.
the whole thing is planned before and you always know what is expected of you

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

Comments
n/a
n/a
N/A
Daily homework in eecs should be reserved for capital offenders. Jokes aside, it's a massive difference from most EECS courses I've had to feature 1–2 assignments every day of class.
make AWS setup easier
less little busy assingments and more ones wher eyou ahve to apply yourself

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

Comments
n/a
n/a
N/A
N/A
not sure i was remote