

Accelerated Natural Language Processing (ANLP)

Response to student feedback in 2021/22 course survey for ANLP

We thank the seven students who responded to the survey. It's clear from the comments that different students have different preferences (such as whether pre-recorded lectures are helpful or live lectures are preferred) but we'll try to address a few common concerns.

- Regarding "throwing new concepts randomly", - it was an underlying assumption in Shay's lectures that the reading material was at least skimmed prior to the lecture, so the concepts shouldn't have been new. Future lecturers will explain their expectations on how to prepare for their lectures, and we'll remind students that different preparation styles work best for different students (e.g., one respondent suggested always doing the reading before lectures, while another one said not to!)
- We've noted the desire for more examples during the live sessions (should the course remain in the same format) and/or more time to go over tutorial exercises, and will consider how to accommodate these next year, depending on the course format.
- Assignment 2 was entirely new, and we apologise for requiring a few patches, though aside from one very early one which would actually make the task easier, these were minor and should not have harmed progress with the assignment. We have noted all the recommendations and added comments to the code in case we use some version of this assignment in future years (or if not, we will keep in mind to include comments in the code for assignments). We did not expect students to cover all of the material mentioned in the assignment handout on their own -- the code provided abstracted all of these details away, as was quite clearly noted. However, we acknowledge that the second assignment was open-ended and not easy. It required some independent thinking and studying, as appropriate for postgraduate level.

ANLP lecturers, 4/2/2022