"Solving Hard Problems in Combinatorial Optimization: Theory and Systems" is a graduate-level computer science course that deals with the theory of combinatorial optimization and how it manifests in practical systems. Formal prerequisites for this course include CSCI0310 or CSCI0360, along with a basic knowledge of linear algebra. Additionally, students reported prior experience with combinatorial optimization to be helpful.

Professor van Hentenryck was described as an incredibly effective and enthusiastic lecturer: his knowledge and excitement for the subject matter was evident in class. In particular, Professor van Hentenryck's consistent encouragement of student participation was praised. The professor was also commended by reviewers for his detailed feedback on assignments, and his requests for student feedback. On the whole, Professor van Hentenryck was considered to be

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Key:
- **%1s**: 1s indicate strong agreement.
- **%2s**: 2s indicate moderate agreement.
- **%3s**: 3s indicate weak agreement.
- **%4s**: 4s indicate strong disagreement.
- **%5s**: 5s indicate a response of NA and is represented by blank space.
a dynamic discussion leader and speaker. Respondents found the readings and assignments for the class to be helpful. Overall, the material covered in lecture and learned through rigorous assignments was found to be most instrumental to success in this class. Assignments consisted of five large projects, in which pair programming was highly encouraged. Many students reported that, as in many other computer science courses at Brown, the majority of learning occurred when students worked on the projects. As one student described them, "The work spikes around the five projects...[the projects] were crazy hard, but crazy fun!"

Time commitment to CSCI2580 varied between students; most respondents spent anywhere from 9 to 20 hours a week on projects. To students considering taking this class, reviewers highly recommended this class, citing its awesome lecturer and interesting subject material.