

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MTHSC H106 001 during Fall Semester 2009
 Respondents = 15; Enrolled = 15; Response rate = 100%

University Questions(3686)

G1. The instructor clearly communicated what I was expected to learn.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	4 (26.67%)	10 (66.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.600	0.632	5	15		
Same Level	4.032	1.105	4	1971		
Same Discipline	4.134	1.049	4	3671		

G2. The instructor made the relevance of the course material clear.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	6 (40.00%)	7 (46.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.724	4	15		
Same Level	3.873	1.139	4	1969		
Same Discipline	3.979	1.106	4	3668		

G3. The course was well organized.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	10 (66.67%)	5 (33.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.488	4	15		
Same Level	4.147	1.049	4	1967		
Same Discipline	4.206	1.001	5	3663		

G4. There was a positive interaction between the class and the instructor.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	6 (40.00%)	7 (46.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.724	4	15		
Same Level	3.962	1.222	4	1961		
Same Discipline	4.068	1.143	4	3657		

G5. The instructor's teaching methods helped me understand the course material.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (33.33%)	5 (33.33%)	5 (33.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	0.845	4	15		
Same Level	3.568	1.336	4	1964		
Same Discipline	3.710	1.288	4	3656		

G6. The instructor's verbal communication skills helped me understand the course material.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	3 (20.00%)	6 (40.00%)	5 (33.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	0.926	4	15		
Same Level	3.542	1.326	4	1959		
Same Discipline	3.698	1.281	4	3653		

G7. The instructor clearly explained what was expected on assignments and tests

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	2 (13.33%)	5 (33.33%)	7 (46.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.200	0.941	4	15		
Same Level	4.017	1.128	4	1960		
Same Discipline	4.114	1.081	4	3652		

G8. The instructor kept me informed about my progress in the course.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (33.33%)	10 (66.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.667	0.488	5	15		
Same Level	3.688	1.221	4	1965		
Same Discipline	3.898	1.166	4	3656		

G9. The feedback I received on assignments and tests gave me the opportunity to improve my performance.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	5 (33.33%)	8 (53.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.900	5	15		
Same Level	3.747	1.183	4	1959		
Same Discipline	3.887	1.156	4	3660		

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	6 (40.00%)	7 (46.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.724	4	15		
Same Level	3.800	1.280	4	1963		
Same Discipline	3.950	1.211	4	3655		

G11. The instructor's grading procedures gave a fair evaluation of my understanding of the material.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	5 (33.33%)	3 (20.00%)	5 (33.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	3.733	1.100	4	15		
Same Level	3.931	1.129	4	1959		
Same Discipline	4.043	1.092	4	3646		

G12. How much work did you put into this course relative to your other courses?

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	5 (33.33%)	9 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.533	0.640	5	15		
Same Level	3.919	0.933	4	1959		
Same Discipline	3.909	0.921	4	3640		

G13. How difficult was this course for you relative to your other courses?

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	13 (86.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.867	0.352	5	15		
Same Level	3.760	1.093	4	1956		
Same Discipline	3.792	1.070	4	3641		

G14. To what extent was this course a requirement for you?

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (26.67%)	2 (13.33%)	9 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.900	5	15		
Same Level	4.548	0.877	5	1963		
Same Discipline	4.528	0.897	5	3651		

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
12 (80.00%)	3 (20.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	15 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G17. Please indicate your satisfaction with the availability of the instructor outside the classroom by choosing one response from the scale. In selecting your rating, consider the instructor's availability via established office hours, appointments, and other opportunities for face-to-face interaction as well as via telephone, email, fax and other means.

Type: Satisfaction

	Very Dissatisfied		Very Satisfied	
	1	2	3	4
	1 (6.67%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	13 (86.67%)
				NR
				0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	3.733	0.799	4	15
Same Level	3.324	0.805	4	1968
Same Discipline	3.420	0.761	4	3664

G18. Please comment on the strengths of the instructor and the course.

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - He knows the material very well.
- #2 - he has a very very good understanding of the material he is teaching and comes across almost as an expert in the field. he is also very willing to help any student who is struggling. however because this subject is so innate to him it becomes difficult for him to dumb it down enough for it to be easily grasped by everyone in the short amount of time he teaches it.
- #3 - The course was difficult and required a lot of work, and though the instructor went through the material quickly, he provided many opportunities to meet with him outside of class if we needed it.
- #4 - The class was challenging while not seeming overwhelming. Thanks for going back and reviewing the areas that we needed work. Office hours were a huge help. The fact that I could come and ask for help anytime I felt confused made the class less stressful yet still challenging.
- #5 - A very good teacher, explained the tougher problems thoroughly. Gives a lot of examples to go back and look over.
- #6 - Very helpful, rigorous but helped me learn a lot.
- #7 - Dr. Brown is a very challenging professor--he won't accept blind memorization of concepts or a halfway understanding of the material. He teaches calculus in ways unlike many other professors--when he gives you a formula, he will explain how the formula is derived, prove it, and describe its mathematical and real world importance. He will also describe in detail the applications of calculus to real world problems. I have developed a much deeper understanding of calculus than my peers who did not have Dr. Brown for Calculus 106. Rather than knowing or memorizing concepts, I feel as though I completely understand them.
- #8 - Dr. Brown knows a lot about the topics and the material, but he takes the course much too in depth. Instead of explaining how to actually apply the concepts, he teaches the reasons and proofs behind them as if they are much more important than understanding what to do.
- #9 - Coursework was interesting and kept me motivated, even though I had already seen the majority of the material.
- #10 - He knew his stuff backwards and forwards and definitely wanted us to understand it. He made us work but held our heads above the water throughout the stress and always gave us back our papers promptly with an entire solution set for us to compare with. And I liked that it was small.
- #11 - Very helpful outside of class and when asked but very confusing and fast with the material when taught the first time. He teaches the basic principle of each concept and expects you to be able to apply it to the highest extent which makes the course difficult and challenging.
- #13 - Explained everything very well and stayed on topics we needed help with. Went above and beyond what course required to make sure we had a thorough understanding.
- #14 - Nice, very willing to help, although he can be a little bit intimidating at times. Goes very fast... sometimes a bit hard to follow when he's teaching.

#15 - He conveyed a great deal of information in a clear, concise manner. It was also clear that much more was expected from us in this class than in the non-honors section.

G19. Please comment on the weaknesses of the instructor and the course.

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Teaches at an extremely rapid pace. It is difficult to keep up.
- #2 - he understands the material very well and well enough to explain it to everyone; however he moves too quickly to give everyone a full understanding of the material. he is very willing to help however when he helps you in a one-on-one situation the level at which he tries to explain it is still too high of a level for someone who is confused. he also teaches mainly to the engineering majors, as a biochemistry major the advanced level he is trying to teach to is higher than i need or care to learn. this made it hard for me to justify staying in the class when it is too advanced and difficult for me. unfortunately this was the only honors class i could get in for this semester so i had to stay in it if i wanted to stay in the honors college.
- #3 - none in particular
- #4 - No outstanding weaknesses that I can think of.
- #5 - went over the information too fast some of the time
- #6 - Grades on tests and assignments did not reflect actual grade in class.
- #7 - Many in the class thought that the homework problems assigned were too difficult. While I will admit that they were challenging, I found them to greatly solidify my understanding of what was reviewed in class and they helped me on the exams immensely.
- #8 - Dr. Brown does not explain the concepts and how to use them well enough. He takes the unnecessary reasons for the concepts too far and makes the class too complex.
- #9 - Written homework was extremely hard, time consuming, and did not always seem pertinent.
- #10 - It was simply hard, deep, and fast. On the homework I was never quite sure of what he wanted in the details of wording and such.
- #11 - He doesn't give you many ways to help remember how to do the material. He just expects you to remember it and be able to reproduce anything we do in notes. The speed of his teaching was the hardest thing for me. He didn't always explain why he was doing something or how it worked.
- #13 - Written home works were sometimes a little beyond the scope of the classes and the grading excessive.
- #15 - The course moved very fast, somemay say too fast, but I enjoyed the pace.

G20. Please comment on any teaching methods you found particularly helpful, and suggest alternative methods that you feel would improve the course.

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - He was always willing to do practice problems if asked.
- #2 - i think more examples would help further the students understanding. proofs are not important to a biochemistry major and i dont want to learn them. Proofs are supposed to help a students understanding according to our teacher but they just confused me and made it more difficult to learn the material
- #3 - Working a wide range of difficulties was helpful. A little slower pace may have been helpful.
- #4 - Examples in class help immensely (both on the board and in groups).
- #5 - Gave many examples which helped a lot.Maybe could have spent more time on some of the subjects like Series and Sequences. Review did help a lot though
- #6 - Written homeworks helped me understand the course material the best.
- #7 - Dr. Brown gives numerous examples regarding each theorem and concept, and proves nearly all laws and relationships he teaches. The progression from one topic to another in class is clear and well-defined. While the class moves rather quickly, he ensures that everyone understands the concepts being taught before moving on.
- #8 - Dr. Brown does provide good notes and examples for his lectures.
- #9 - Group work and lots of examples that I could work over again were helpful.I would have rathered that all examples were worked on the board until completion, rather than a point at which it

seemed that the class could easily solve. Not having a final answer made it difficult to know I was doing it correctly when practicing later.

- #10 - Its hard to ask a question in his class because he moves so quickly that you're still writing down the notes while he's asking you if you have a question, so you didn't have time to think of one yet. So slower is good, but other than that I like lecturing and tons of notes to look back at regularly. Group work was awkward, but I don't know how you'd fix that because its a good idea.
- #11 - He is very willing to help any student with something they don't understand. The class could be best improved if he slowed down his teaching style and explained his steps in each problem.
- #12 - I liked the fact that we were able to request review material online like we were...even though I didn't use it.
- #13 - Mymathlab was a pain some nights but helpful. Understanding the proofs behind why the theorems were was also helpful.
- #15 - Plenty of examples were provided and were extremely helpful.

G21. I would recommend this instructor to a friend. Yes or no? Why?

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Yes, if they are willing to put in allot of work. He goes very in depth with the material, but it is do-able if you work hard.
- #2 - for a friend who is extremely talented in math and was a math of physics major i would recommend him highly but for anyone else i would warn them to stay away from his classes at all costs, not because he is a bad teacher but because of the level he teaches to
- #3 - I would if my friend is looking for a challenge. I would not if my friend wants an easy class that he wouldn't have to spend much time with.
- #4 - If he or she were willing to work hard to LEARN the material rather than just trying to cruise through the course, then most definitely.
- #5 - Yes. He's a very good teacher that knows what he is teaching and is affective at passing on the information
- #6 - Yes, difficult but is a good teacher and you learn a lot.
- #7 - Yes. Although many other students state that Dr. Brown is too difficult of a teacher, I attribute this to simple laziness. Dr. Brown's class requires a great deal of effort, but the complete and total understanding of the material that accompanies his class is well worth it. While the class may be more work than most other classes, you will walk away from it with a concrete and complete knowledge and understanding of calculus that most other freshman do not have.
- #8 - Maybe. If the person really liked and understood math, I would recommend it, but it requires the most work and most studying of any Honors class that I have.
- #9 - I would recommend this instructor to a friend who is a determined, hardworker, and enjoys learning. If the friend is intrested in only getting by, I would not make the recommendation.
- #10 - yes, its horribly hard but rewarding in the end, and hopefully 108 will be easier now.
- #11 - Yes if the friend wanted a challenging class. But no if they were looking for an easy A or a class with little work.
- #12 - Yes because I did.
- #13 - I would, good teacher, good class, and you learn a lot.
- #14 - Yes. The class is pretty challenging, but he's not out to fail you. He's willing to go back over stuff and work with you.
- #15 - Yes, because although the class moves fast, it is clear that the instructor has a clear understaning of the information he is presenting and is adept at conveying this understanding.