

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MTHSC H106 001 during Fall Semester 2011
 Respondents = 10; Enrolled = 11; Response rate = 91%

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 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	7 (70.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.600	0.699	5	10		
Same Level	4.396	0.854	5	1858		
Same Discipline	4.280	0.946	5	3740		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	9 (90.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.900	0.316	5	10		
Same Level	4.228	0.964	5	1854		
Same Discipline	4.126	1.040	4	3737		

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%)	3 (30.00%)	7 (70.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.700	0.483	5	10		
Same Level	4.448	0.839	5	1853		
Same Discipline	4.317	0.957	5	3728		

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%)	1 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	8 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.700	0.675	5	10		
Same Level	4.288	0.979	5	1846		
Same Discipline	4.220	1.024	5	3717		

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%)	2 (20.00%)	5 (50.00%)	3 (30.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.100	0.738	4	10		
Same Level	4.014	1.147	4	1846		
Same Discipline	3.913	1.202	4	3716		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.707	5	10		
Same Level	4.008	1.146	4	1842		
Same Discipline	3.892	1.207	4	3713		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (20.00%)	5 (50.00%)	3 (30.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.100	0.738	4	10		
Same Level	4.364	0.908	5	1847		
Same Discipline	4.246	1.014	5	3722		

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%)	1 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	5 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.200	1.033	4.5	10		
Same Level	4.096	1.048	4	1855		
Same Discipline	4.044	1.103	4	3727		

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 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.300	1.059	5	10		
Same Level	4.104	1.026	4	1841		
Same Discipline	4.029	1.099	4	3717		

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%)	1 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	7 (70.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.600	0.699	5	10		
Same Level	4.239	1.042	5	1847		
Same Discipline	4.141	1.108	5	3716		

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%)	1 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.300	1.059	5	10		
Same Level	4.280	0.918	5	1844		
Same Discipline	4.190	1.012	4	3715		

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 (10.00%)	5 (50.00%)	4 (40.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.300	0.675	4	10		
Same Level	4.009	0.923	4	1845		
Same Discipline	4.026	0.935	4	3709		

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 (20.00%)	8 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.800	0.422	5	10		
Same Level	3.718	1.091	4	1838		
Same Discipline	3.828	1.072	4	3710		

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		
2 (20.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (30.00%)	5 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	3.900	1.595	4.5	10		
Same Level	4.583	0.819	5	1846		
Same Discipline	4.569	0.851	5	3713		

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
8 (80.00%)	2 (20.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	10 (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	NR
	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	4 (40.00%)	5 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.400	0.699	3.5	10	
Same Level	3.527	0.672	4	1854	
Same Discipline	3.490	0.716	4	3733	

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - He does a great job covering the material and answering any questions that you have. He provides all the details you need to derive the formulas for the various situations and also provides countless real world applications.
- #2 - Dr. Brown is one of the most intelligent professors I have ever had. From the moment he began to teach, you could see that his knowledge about calculus was extensive and comprehensive. He was able to present different perspectives of problems and made sure that all problems had real world applications. He always made sure that his students were challenged, and did so by giving example problems and homework that took a much greater level of comprehension than simple memorization. I feel much better prepared for 108 even though I only took 106 H from him.
- #3 - He is an extremely good teacher. He explains things in a way that really makes you understand where this would be used in real life and makes these examples extremely hard so you really have to understand the material, there is no faking it.
- #4 - He definitely knew his material very well.
- #5 - was very thorough with the course material
- #6 - Dr. Brown thoroughly knew the material and had pre-planned lectures to work off of. These included explanations about how various formulas were derived as well as multiple examples with varying difficulty that were worked as a class and in groups. Dr. Brown was able to answer any questions regarding the material and explain them well. The lecture and course progression was smooth and logical and was conducive to good learning.
- #7 - He knows the subject very well and is able to communicate the information to the class. He makes sure the students understand how something works rather than just repeating the steps of a problem.
- #8 - Obviously, you do an incredible job of proving why certain mathematical relationships exist the way they do. You're very good at clearing up misunderstandings, and explaining each aspect of support for some idea.
- #9 - He comes across as very nice and that he wants to help you succeed. The topics were well explained and he made them interesting.
- #10 - He did a great job of showing the real world applications of calculus. He really knew the material well and could explain it well as well.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - His grading is incredibly tough on both tests and written homework. Show all your work because if you have the right answer with no work, you won't get any credit. Earlier in the class, he moved

through the material too quickly for most. He wanders around during office hours, so if you drop by to see him, and he isn't there, it might take him a few minutes to wander back.

- #2 - I feel that sometimes Brown feels like he has to cover and complete a new calculus topic every class period. Very rarely do we spend more than one day on a topic, and at times the pace can seem rushed. By teaching through examples more general concepts often get overlooked. If a student doesn't fully understand a topic, he or she often only has one or two worked examples to look through. Also, the content on the online homework does not really represent the types of problems on the tests. Although the wileyplus reinforces memorization of formulas, this seems to be counter intuitive to Brown's purpose.
- #3 - Extremely difficult. Some of what we learned was way over what was required of the course
- #5 - none
- #6 - Dr. Brown was an excellent professor and I have no weaknesses worth mentioning.
- #7 - He sometimes went through the material too quickly, covering a new topic every day, when another day of coverage would have been helpful.
- #8 - With no blackboard, I basically had no idea how I was doing in the class. I still don't. I've gotten good grades and bad grades on homeworks, and my grade on the second exam was supposedly equivalent to an A, but I still don't really know.
- #9 - The style of the class tends to condition you to put less work into it. Also a few of the examples were difficult enough that I couldn't easily understand my notes on them (which were fairly extensive). Both of these came back to bite me when exam time came.
- #10 - None

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 - I liked working with a group to help solve problems. Taking the time to go over how all the formulas is a little over the top, but it doesn't hurt.
- #2 - Although frustrating at first, I eventually found it helpful that every formula used in class was proved. By doing these proofs, students were better able to understand derivation of formulas, and thus less likely to forget them. The only real suggestion I can make as far as the teaching goes is that perhaps before each lecture it would be helpful to give a more general overview of the topic, including relevant formulas, before jumping directly into examples. Also, Brown often has a tendency to resort to methods that aren't covered in Calculus 106 to solve problems, and I just think he should make a point to explain his reasoning when doing this so students don't get confused.
- #3 - I liked the way the class was taught.
- #5 - used real world applications
- #6 - Dr. Brown's lecture progressions were very helpful in the sense that he introduced a topic or idea, was able, for the most part in the confines of our current knowledge and course relevance, to explain and show where formulas came from, give examples, extra help, and then build on these ideas and topics further and relate the topics as the semester progressed.
- #7 - The written homework was very helpful because it required a thorough understanding of the material, preparing the class for exams. Some review before exams would be beneficial for students, however, especially in connecting separate topics.
- #8 - I like it exactly how it is.
- #9 - The examples were very helpful. More of them should be used on the harder topics.
- #10 - I liked the examples done in class and group problems.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - If you are a capable and talented math student that is highly interested in math then I would definitely recommend him as an instructor. If you are just looking for an easy class, I would definitely not recommend it. While he teaches well and in detail, he expects you to perform at that very high level.

- #2 - Yes, I would recommend Brown to someone who loves math and is ready for a challenge. This is not a class to be taken lightly. I sometimes wondered why I didn't take my Calculus credit, but now I am coming to realize how beneficial the class has been. It is like a test of fire, if you can do well in this class you should be fine in the future.
- #3 - yes, amazing teacher. Really hard, but helps you learn a lot
- #4 - No, I found the course incredibly difficult even though I had previously taken calculus before.
- #5 - yes
- #6 - Indeed, I regard Dr. Brown as one of the best teachers I have had because it was easy to see that he had excellent mastery of the material and was able to convey his knowledge easily, effectively, and efficiently to his class. He also clearly enjoys teaching and transferring knowledge to his students, and he was always cheerful and never too serious. He welcomed students to utilize his office hours or email for any help on homework or lectures in general.
- #7 - Yes, he understands the material very well and is able to explain it clearly. The class may be difficult, but the students leave with a strong understanding of the course material.
- #8 - Yes. I would warn them of the fast pace, though. I already tested out of taking any math classes in college, but I felt I could take a low level calculus as a refresher. I should not have chosen honors. But anyone who is ready for this course should definitely take it. It's fun, challenging, and useful.
- #9 - I would recommend him to anyone who is smart enough to withstand his exams. You will certainly enjoy this class more than the regular one, even if it is much harder.
- #10 - If they want to be challenged and learn a lot I would recommend this class. This is a very difficult class, but you grow a lot from it. If the student is willing to work hard and has a genuine interest in math I would recommend the class. However if they aren't willing to put in hard work and want an easy A instead of learning the concepts well I would not recommend the class.