Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MATH 1080 100 during Fall Semester 2014
Respondents = 9; Enrolled = 11; Response rate = 82%

University Questions(3686)
G1. The instructor clearly communicated what I was expected to learn.
Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (22.22%)	6 (66.67%)	1 (11.11%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.750	0.463	5	8	
Same Level	4.152	1.027	4	1419	
Same Discipline	4.163	0.997	4	3013	

G2. The instructor made the relevance of the course material clear.
Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8	
Same Level	4.020	1.096	4	1418	
Same Discipline	4.023	1.074	4	3011	

G3. The course was well organized.
Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8	
Same Level	4.216	1.040	5	1417	
Same Discipline	4.181	1.043	5	3006	

G4. There was a positive interaction between the class and the instructor.
Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (88.89%)	1 (11.11%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	4.123	1.068	4	1412	
Same Discipline	4.171	1.030	5	3000	

G5. The instructor's teaching methods helped me understand the course material.
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.625	1.061	5	8
Same Level	3.796	1.267	4	1416
Same Discipline	3.812	1.231	4	3004

G6. The instructor's verbal communication skills helped me understand the course material.
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	1 (11.11%)	6 (66.67%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.625	0.744	5	8
Same Level	3.817	1.274	4	1412
Same Discipline	3.808	1.229	4	2996

G7. The instructor clearly explained what was expected on assignments and tests
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.625	1.061	5	8
Same Level	4.038	1.139	4	1412
Same Discipline	4.078	1.098	4	2995

G8. The instructor kept me informed about my progress in the course.
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
1 (11.11%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (33.33%)	4 (44.44%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.125	1.356	4.5	8
Same Level	3.880	1.201	4	1411
Same Discipline	3.958	1.150	4	2999

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	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (22.22%)	6 (66.67%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.463	5	8
Same Level	3.896	1.145	4	1411
Same Discipline	3.935	1.129	4	3001

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.
Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	0 (0.00%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.707	5	8
Same Level	4.018	1.189	4	1414
Same Discipline	4.041	1.143	4	3002

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

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (22.22%)	6 (66.67%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.463	5	8
Same Level	3.995	1.099	4	1410
Same Discipline	4.069	1.073	4	3000

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

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8
Same Level	4.190	0.909	4	1413
Same Discipline	4.121	0.891	4	2993

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

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (33.33%)	5 (55.56%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.625	0.518	5	8
Same Level	4.044	1.071	4	1411
Same Discipline	4.019	1.016	4	2993

G14. To what extent was this course a requirement for you?
Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (22.22%)	6 (66.67%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.463	5	8
Same Level	4.648	0.787	5	1407
Same Discipline	4.621	0.818	5	2991

G15. Was this course in your major?
Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)	1 (11.11%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?
> **Type:** Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	8 (88.89%)	1 (11.11%)

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (11.11%)	7 (77.78%)	1 (11.11%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	3.875	0.354	4	8
Same Level	3.498	0.706	4	1418
Same Discipline	3.516	0.686	4	3009

G18. Please comment on the strengths of the instructor and the course.
> **Type:** Essay

Student Comments

#1 - Dr. Brown definitely knew the material very well. He always tried to help when questions were asked, whether during class or during office hours.

#2 - He was an incredible teacher and was very thorough with covering the material. I knew what was expected of me and was satisfied with my evaluations and critiques.

#3 - The instructor was clearly well versed in the material and was able to show most examples without the use of his notes. He was enthusiastic about the subject and, although the class was difficult, he made the material easy to understand by teaching the fundamental theories behind each concept.

#4 - Dr. Brown is a very effective teacher. When he explains concepts, he is very direct and to the point. Although he is clearly a genius, he finds a way to explain ideas effectively to his students. Going to his office hours and asking him questions in class always helped me understand the material better, even if the material was very complicated. He let us do webassign at our own pace, which helped me get much more out of it.

#5 - He was able to explain concepts well when I didn't get them the first time around. Also very helpful at office hours.

#6 - One of the most knowledgeable and competent teachers I have ever had in the subject; clearly an expert in his fieldHad high expectations for student performance throughout the course

#7 - Dr. Brown is very thorough in his explanations of topics and will stop and reexplain if you are confused. The course itself is pretty hard and a lot of work, but Dr. Brown made it enjoyable and made me look forward to coming to class.

#8 - Dr. Brown always responds to emails and questions quickly and respectfully, he never made anyone feel singled out or like their question was dumb. He explained the material very thoroughly and used a variety of teaching methods, catering to all students. He was very willing to work with students to make sure they understood everything and could do well in his course.

G19. Please comment on the weaknesses of the instructor and the course.
> **Type:** Essay

Student Comments

#1 - This course consumed the vast majority of my time, to the point where my roommmate commented on how I always did math homework. The WebAssign homework was quite difficult and took me a long time to do, maybe due to the fact that some of the questions on WebAssign asked about material we had not covered in class. I would have liked for this course to have followed and used the book more. This course was exceptionally difficult for me, which was a shock, as I did very well in math in high school (and I did have to do more than just memorize formulas there). I think sometimes the material in class went too fast, and I was unable to really comprehend what we were doing. I had class during the set office hours and a very busy schedule, so finding time

outside of class to ask questions was difficult. This course reduced me to tears at many points during this semester, and I stayed up late many nights trying to finish the homework or to understand the material. If this course had been just a slight bit slower or easier, I think it would have helped me do better. I studied really hard for the tests, and did many practice problems, but looking at my grades, you wouldn't know it. Part of the problem might have been that I did practice problems from the book, but the test questions were nothing like the book. I think the tests should stem a little more from the book, or that we should be given some sort of practice for the tests (even in the in-class examples), since they are so different from the book questions.

#2 -   None
#3 -   While not too difficult, there was more online homework for this class than I have ever had before and it did not always seem to be necessary. The material introduced by WebAssigns was not covered on tests and ended up being tedious.
#4 -   I would have liked for us to finish the parametrics material earlier, so that we didn't have to learn some of the material strictly by ourselves.
#5 -   Sometimes went a little fast but generally gave time for us to catch up.
#6 -   Sometimes unclear what would be expected to know on tests, due to the high volume of information/examples, but I would say that this merely places the onus on the student to study further in advance
#7 -   Sometimes things written on the board are hard to read.
#8 -   -

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 felt that the class went a bit too quickly, and it was hard for me to fully understand what we were learning. I also feel like we wasted time with the group work. I know that it is important, and I do think it was helpful, but I think sometimes too much time was spent on it, especially times when we tried to figure the answer out for a long time, and no answer was reached, and we had to spend another long period of time being told how to do the problem. I wish that we had done more problems in class that matched the format of those on the written homework and tests, as I understood the ones that we did in class, but the homework and tests sometimes confused me.
#2 -   All of them were effective.
#3 -   The use of examples and group exercises in class let us work out problems and apply the concepts we covered and were helpful in the understanding of material. To improve the course, the instructor could have added more group exercises or allowed us to work through more examples ourselves before showing the solution.
#4 -   Groupwork was very helpful for a lot lessons that we covered.
#5 -   Group work was helpful to make sure you process everything.
#6 -   Reviewing tests was extremely helpful, whether in class or during office hoursSometimes found professor absent during office hours, but was not an issue on more than two occasionsIt would be helpful to be able access grades/standing in class at any time during the course; due to instructor grading methods, that may not be plausible, but any sort of notifying process during the course instead of just after both tests would be tremendously helpful
#8 -   Doing examples followed by group work gave students an excellent opportunity to learn new ideas, then put them to use so they could learn them.

G21. I would recommend this instructor to a friend. Yes or no?   Why?
        Type: Essay
Student Comments
#1 -   I would recommend this instructor to a friend who was very confident in his/her math skills and had the time to take on the challenge of the course, including the large amounts of outside work required.
#2 -   Yes, because he helped me learn the material the best despite being challenging.
#3 -   I would definitely recommend Dr. Brown as a friend. He seemed very helpful and had a great personality and sense of humor. He was passionate about his research and enjoyed teaching us.

#4 - Yes, I definitely would. The class is tough, but it makes learning easier to have an instructor that is great at teaching the material.

#5 - Yes, covers the topics well.

#6 - Yes, if the student excelled at math, not merely in mathematical skills, but in deep, intuitive understanding; not if the friend was looking for an easy class or was not prepared to learn much more deeply than in any another mathematics course/devote large amounts of time to a class

#7 - Yes, the course was difficult and requires a lot of time, but I learned more than I would have in another course.

#8 - Yes. Dr. Brown is an excellent teacher that will challenge you enough to broaden your horizons and give you a truly great understanding of the material.