Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MATH 2060 100 during Fall Semester 2016
Respondents = 26 Enrolled = 28 Response rate = 93%

University Questions (3686)

G1. The instructor clearly communicated what I was expected to learn.
Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (7.69%)	4 (15.38%)	20 (76.92%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.692	0.618	5	26
Same Level	4.244	0.998	5	1040
Same Discipline	4.214	1.038	5	3683

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	2 (7.69%)	1 (3.85%)	8 (30.77%)	15 (57.69%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.385	0.898	5	26
Same Level	4.099	1.082	4	1041
Same Discipline	4.109	1.086	4	3679

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (11.54%)	5 (19.23%)	18 (69.23%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.577	0.703	5	26
Same Level	4.208	1.051	5	1042
Same Discipline	4.217	1.050	5	3682

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (11.54%)	5 (19.23%)	18 (69.23%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.577	0.703	5	26
Same Level	4.078	1.138	4	1040
Same Discipline	4.189	1.098	5	3670

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
1 (3.85%)	2 (7.69%)	4 (15.38%)	7 (26.92%)	12 (46.15%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.038	1.148	4	26
Same Level	3.857	1.262	4	1040
Same Discipline	3.855	1.279	4	3673

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
1 (3.85%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (19.23%)	7 (26.92%)	13 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.192	1.021	4.5	26
Same Level	3.783	1.280	4	1041
Same Discipline	3.811	1.310	4	3667

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
1 (3.85%)	1 (3.85%)	1 (3.85%)	10 (38.46%)	13 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.269	1.002	4.5	26
Same Level	4.117	1.106	4	1039
Same Discipline	4.172	1.089	5	3675

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (11.54%)	4 (15.38%)	19 (73.08%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.615	0.697	5	26
Same Level	3.952	1.152	4	1038
Same Discipline	4.047	1.147	4	3671

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
2 (7.69%)	1 (3.85%)	1 (3.85%)	12 (46.15%)	10 (38.46%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.038	1.148	4	26
Same Level	4.015	1.160	4	1038
Same Discipline	4.034	1.147	4	3673

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
1 (3.85%)	1 (3.85%)	2 (7.69%)	5 (19.23%)	16 (61.54%)	1 (3.85%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.360	1.075	5	25
Same Level	4.044	1.189	4	1040
Same Discipline	4.065	1.186	5	3668

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

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
1 (3.85%)	1 (3.85%)	4 (15.38%)	3 (11.54%)	16 (61.54%)	1 (3.85%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.280	1.137	5	25
Same Level	4.014	1.198	4	1040
Same Discipline	4.167	1.071	5	3664

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (3.85%)	6 (23.08%)	19 (73.08%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.692	0.549	5	26
Same Level	4.265	0.864	4	1040
Same Discipline	4.142	0.917	4	3676

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (3.85%)	5 (19.23%)	20 (76.92%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.731	0.533	5	26
Same Level	4.140	0.954	4	1042
Same Discipline	4.034	1.019	4	3672

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (15.38%)	22 (84.62%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.846	0.368	5	26
Same Level	4.786	0.625	5	1043
Same Discipline	4.662	0.776	5	3671

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
20 (76.92%)	6 (23.08%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
2 (7.69%)	24 (92.31%)	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 (1)	2	3	Very Satisfied (4)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	9 (34.62%)	17 (65.38%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	3.654	0.485	4	26
Same Level	3.457	0.737	4	1045
Same Discipline	3.498	0.722	4	3688

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

Type: Essay

Student	Comments

#1 - He is very passionate about math which allowed him to keep the attention of the class and created an effective learning environment.

#3 - The professor is very smart and is able to explain and adequately answer any questions we have.

#4 - He was always willing to meet with students and help them. He did an amazing job explaining the topics and provided plenty of material to make sure we understand.

#6 - Very Smart, Jokes a little in class which helps everyone stay focused and not be bored, Themed tests which are fun, Walks around and explain things, Reasonable with stupid questions and does not make you feel that bad.

#7 - The instructor knew the material well. The Webassign homework was helpful because of the "practice another version" feature. I learned most of the concepts through it.

#8 - He is very good at answering all questions in ad outside of class. He also is good at choosing a reasonable pace for the material.

#9 - You are an extremely smart guy, and you do a very good job of explaining the content, where it comes from, and proving the derivations. I like how we get to do group work in class so we can test our understanding while being able to ask you questions if needed.

#10 - Dr. Brown takes the time to explain what is going on in each section graphically and always asks if anyone has any questions. He facilitates and encourages cooperation with group homework and in-class "in groups" examples. I also really appreciated that I could track my progress using Gradesly, which is significantly better than BlackBoard. Also, he's got a pretty great sense of dry humor that I appreciate (don't let your head get too big, Jim), which is nice because Calc 3 isn't always the most engaging course.

#11 - I really liked doing the group problems in class and how we did so many examples.

#12 - He is very helpful during office hours. He also take the time to answer questions in class to make sure the material is being understood.

#13 - Dr. Brown understands the material and is very good at explaining why the math is true not just that it is. It helps me to understand the material on a deeper level than other math professors I have had

#14 - Dr. Brown explains proofs and solutions very thoroughly. I am very appreciative of his willingness to answer questions during the proof and his method of taking a "hand-wavy" description of a proof to a mathematically certain description.

#15 - Dr. Brown does an excellent job of explaining the reasoning behind equations instead of throwing equations at us. His tests are entertaining although quite difficult. Gradesly, once I figured it out was helpful.

#16 - Dr. Brown is simply a very good teacher. He explains the content of the class very well and is open to questions. He assigns just enough work for us to understand the material, but not too much so that its overbearing.

#17 - The course itself was pretty difficult, but Dr. Brown made it much more bearable. I always liked how he drew plenty of examples and provided images with almost every example problem. That definitely helped me understand many concepts better.

#18 - It was nice to have the notes from class in electronic form, even though I did take physical notes in class. I liked Dr. Brown's attitude toward the students and that he did not seem patronizing or overly pedantic. I appreciate that he has a sense of humor, even though it tends to be rather dry. The pace of this course was certainly challenging, but Dr. Brown did a good job of helping the students keep up.

#19 - Great teacher. Explains well and really makes sure that students understand the material.

#20 - The course is challenging and the way it was taught allowed us to learn more than we would in a non-honors class.

#21 - Dr. Brown is incredibly knowledgeable about the material taught in the course which made it easier for us as students to understand what was going on in lectures. Dr. Brown's lectures were very informative, and he was very willing to answer questions during lectures if we had questions about the material. Dr. Brown was also very helpful during his office hours and made sure that we were all clear on what we had questions with before we left. Overall, I had a relatively positive experience in the course.

#22 - He works a lot of examples. Very helpful

#23 - Dr. Brown clearly explained the course material and challenged us to do our best.

#24 - Clearly knew what he was talking about and rarely made mistakes during lectures.

#25 - Professor Brown is very knowledgeable and can answer any question at any time very helpfully.

#26 - Dr. Brown definitely know the information well and was able to get it all across to the students in lecture.

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

Student   **Comments**

#1 - Since he was so smart sometimes it was difficult for the material to be conveyed to the students

#3 - It's much more difficult than I expected, and the exam format is tough.

#4 - Never completely worked the integral

#6 - No review ever.

#7 - The instructor did not specify what skills we would need to do well on exams. The Lectures were very different from the online homework, which was very different than the written homework, which was also nothing like the exams. There was no uniform structure in the course, and the grading was too harsh. Not

one person got an A on the second exam. Our final grades are curved, but it would be better to administer tests we can do instead of tests that make us feel like we did not learn enough. The written homework was nearly impossible also. I would spend 7 hours on 4 pages of math for it and still receive a C-. There was a ridiculous amount of work that went into assignments that I would receive poor grades for and that would have nothing to do with the skills needed for exams.

#8 - None.

#9 - Only thing you should do differently is to slow down on some of the proofs (or you can omit some of them and just give us an understanding of where they come from)

#10 - He says the word "want" funny. Also, when he abbreviates the word "functions," it looks like "fetus." Every. Time.

Other than that, can't really think of anything.

#11 - There feels like there is a disconnect between the webassign homework and what we do in class. Webassign feels like busy work a lot of times.

#12 - This is a fast course. During class few examples are done.

#13 - He is constantly roasting Clemson and keeps talking about how great caltech is. I don't know what he sees in it, it's another tech school, but he seems to have a pretty good understanding of the material anyway so I really can't complain.

#14 - Dr. Brown is (obviously) much more skilled than the students, and often works at a pace that challenges students. However, he makes up for this by sending out the notes.

#15 - Group HW was not especially helpful. Seemed like time spent on those problems could have been better spent on the actual problems. Although, understanding and doing proofs was interesting.

#16 - His course can be difficult with those who don't learn well in lecture, as his lectures involve him explaining the concepts and a few group problems. Those who have difficulty reviewing his course notes could have trouble in the course.

#17 - We tended to move very quickly and covered a lot of material that did not necessarily always fit together well, at least not until the end of the course. Also, the online homework felt very different from what we would do in class, so I'm not sure if it really helped me a lot or not.

#18 - Overall, this was a very strong course. Perhaps having more homework where the work was graded as well as the answer would be good--I know that it is often far too easy to work around using a specific method in WebAssign, where the final answer is the only thing graded.

#19 - I don't really like Gradesly, but other than that he's great.

#20 - Occasionally forgetting how to integrate something, but other than that I can't complain.

#21 - With the class being an honors course, it was very difficult and the material itself is not the most self-explanatory. Coupled with Dr. Brown's tendency to jump the gun or speed ahead, the lectures were sometimes difficult to follow. However, I recognize that this can be a problem in just about every college class, so I don't put much stock into it. I thought it just might be worth pointing out that Dr. Brown does tend to go very quickly in his lectures and can leave out details that make it hard for us as students to put together on the spot. Additionally, I wish Dr. Brown had more office hours than just the hour on Mondays and Thursdays.

#22 - He is really intelligent, but he's such a genius he has a tough time explaining the material to people who are not on the same level of mathiness that he is. Only math majors should take this section.

#23 - Handwriting sometimes made his writing unclear and illegible.

#24 - Wrote extremely fast so it was difficult to not only keep up with the notes in class, but understand the material to be able to ask questions.

#25 - Often times I felt the class move to quickly and I was unable to even comprehend the notes as I wrote them since I was copying them down so quickly.

#26 - I didn't feel that the questions given in class and assigned for homework prepared us for the tests very much.

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 enjoyed getting the notes after each class

#3 - The WebAssign work should be a little more relevant to the in-class teaching, as I sometimes have to learn how to do a problem a second way just to do the online homework. Having the notes done digitally so we can have .pdf copies is great.

#4 - He would walk us through the examples and explain them step by step.

#6 - A review would help a lot and the in class examples followed by the "in-group" problems help a lot.

#7 - The only thing that helped me learn concepts was the Webassign homework with the "practice another version" feature.

#8 - Using pictures and graphs to explain new material really helped.

#9 - Like I said in the last comment, slow down and focus less on proofs and more on different types of problems.

#10 - Group homework, access to old tests, and in-class examples and in-group problems were all particularly helpful. Dr. Brown varied the methods by which he taught (requiring us to explain how we solved problems to the class, completing proofs, and showing computer generated graphs for those of us who can't visualize in 3D worth a poo), so I don't think any alternative methods would necessarily improve this course.

#11 - I liked the problems worked in class.

#12 - Proving out the theorems as to why things works is extremely helpful.

#14 - Dr. Brown's insistence on us drawing pictures to visualize the problem is very helpful towards the end of the course, even though it seemed like a nuisance at the beginning. I'm glad that he created this habit for us.

#15 - Group problems in class were extremely helpful. I would have appreciated more of those even though that would mean sacrificing examples done by Dr. Brown.

#16 - Dr Brown is excellent and explaining content, and though his tests are difficult, they test your understanding very well.

#17 - I definitely liked working in my group to help solve problems inside and outside of class.

#18 - I appreciated the electronic notes--having those to review on my own was an excellent way to review material.

#19 - Giving the students each days notes was nice. He also asked if anyone had any questions frequently throughout class, encouraging students to ask questions when they don't understand something. Also the themed exams make them less stressful!

#20 - I like how you show us examples and then give us a more challenging problem to do in groups.

#21 - Dr. Brown was a very strong lecturer as I stated before, and I was especially fond of the amount of examples we did as a class and in individual groups. I'm not sure I would suggest changing any of his methods because I thought they were effective, overall.

#22 - Group problems, and working examples are good

#23 - Allowing students to write out and explain their answers in front of the class cemented knowledge, and the written homework, though difficult, showed us different ways of thinking about the topics.

#24 - He gave good examples in class that I could look back at in my notes. I felt I had a better understanding of the topics that had a written homework associated with them.

#25 - I liked how Professor Brown wrote on the boards however I wish he had slowed down at parts to explain certain aspects more fully.

#26 - I like how we made us work in groups to do the homework and in class problems because it made learning some of the more difficult things easier.

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

Student   **Comments**

#1 - Yes, He is very passionate and helps learn the material but is also very challenging

#3 - No, unless this friend is really looking for a challenge and isn't expecting an A.

#4 - Yes A lot of work but a great professor

#6 - Yes, he is a very smart and friendly instructor.

#7 - I would not recommend this class to a friend because it was by far the most time consuming and difficult course I have ever taken, and I do not think the amount of stress it caused was necessary.

#8 - I would recommend this instructor because he is available outside class, explains problems clearly, and has a great sense of humor.

#9 - Yes, Dr. Brown is a great teacher all in all and will gladly work to help each of his students to succeed.

#10 - Yes, I would definitely recommend Dr. Brown to a friend. He effectively teaches the material (some outside of the scope of the regular Calc 3 curriculum) and makes Calc 3 as enjoyable as calculus can be.

#11 - Yes because I feel like I have really learned a lot of calculus and the class is structured in a way that you do not have to worry so much about your grade so it is difficult but not stressful.

#12 - Yes. This course is difficult and time consuming but by the end of it you should know the material very well.

#14 - This depends on the friend. A friend who is genuinely interested in scholarship and doesn't mind late nights and hard work would gain a lot from taking Dr. Brown's class. However, an average engineering student

taking it for their major and just trying to get an A should not take Dr. Brown's class.

#15 - Yes. Definitely. Best math professor I have had by far. He is extremely good at explaining the reason behind the math, and helping when you do not understand. He also pushes students to perform at an extremely high level while not seeking to kill GPA's.

#16 - It depends on what they want from the course. A student who wants to pass easily with an understanding enough to succeed in classes outside of a math major would be best to avoid this class. I would definitely recommend it to a student that wants a strong understanding of multi-variable calculus.

#17 - I would probably recommend Dr. Brown to most people that I know. Even though math is a tough subject for many people, he was always willing to work with us and help us, even outside of class.

#18 - Yes, absolutely. Dr. Brown is a very good instructor. He definitely takes the time to explain the fundamentals behind different theorems and methods, and proves why they work. I enjoyed his class. The occasional bribes didn't hurt either.

#19 - Yes! He is challenging but very fair and clear to understand. You will definitely come out of the class knowing the material very well.

#20 - Yes. I have definitely learned a lot from this class and how it was taught and everyone should experience this type of course.

#21 - I would in fact recommend Dr. Brown to a friend because of his willingness to help his students and how much I am taking away from the class as a whole right now

#22 - No! Run far, run fast. Jim should honestly come with a disclaimer describing how he will speak a mathematical language that nobody knows but him. You will probably make like a 15 out of 100 on your written homework, and things are so abstract that you will have no idea how to actually do the calculus.

#23 - Yes, because Dr. Brown is very clear about his standards and goals and effectively teaches the material.

#24 - Yes. He spoke very clearly and knew what he was doing.

#25 - Yes because although the coursework is tough, Professor Brown is very knowledgeable and will do what it takes to help you succeed.

#26 - Yes, because if you work hard you will learn a lot and do decently enough grade wise.