

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MATH 2060 100 during Spring Semester 2015
 Respondents = 13; Enrolled = 13; 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%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (30.77%)	9 (69.23%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.692	0.480	5	13		
Same Level	4.275	0.910	5	663		
Same Discipline	4.263	0.996	5	2014		

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 (7.69%)	12 (92.31%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.923	0.277	5	13		
Same Level	4.120	1.009	4	660		
Same Discipline	4.132	1.077	4	2008		

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%)	1 (7.69%)	4 (30.77%)	8 (61.54%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.538	0.660	5	13		
Same Level	4.206	0.974	4	664		
Same Discipline	4.255	1.026	5	2016		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	13 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	13		
Same Level	4.155	1.001	4	660		
Same Discipline	4.181	1.069	5	2006		

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%)	3 (23.08%)	2 (15.38%)	7 (53.85%)	1 (7.69%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.888	5	12		
Same Level	3.947	1.157	4	658		
Same Discipline	3.958	1.221	4	1996		

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%)	2 (15.38%)	3 (23.08%)	8 (61.54%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.462	0.776	5	13		
Same Level	3.974	1.106	4	662		
Same Discipline	3.984	1.201	4	2007		

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 (15.38%)	6 (46.15%)	5 (38.46%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.231	0.725	4	13		
Same Level	4.127	1.066	4	662		
Same Discipline	4.181	1.079	5	2005		

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 (38.46%)	8 (61.54%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.615	0.506	5	13		
Same Level	3.914	1.133	4	663		
Same Discipline	4.076	1.114	4	2003		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (38.46%)	8 (61.54%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.615	0.506	5	13		
Same Level	3.983	1.135	4	665		
Same Discipline	4.037	1.151	4	2010		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (7.69%)	11 (84.62%)	1 (7.69%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.917	0.289	5	12		
Same Level	4.146	1.041	4	663		
Same Discipline	4.137	1.121	5	2010		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	6 (46.15%)	7 (53.85%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.538	0.519	5	13		
Same Level	3.988	1.165	4	657		
Same Discipline	4.123	1.105	4.5	1990		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (7.69%)	12 (92.31%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.923	0.277	5	13		
Same Level	4.280	0.794	4	658		
Same Discipline	4.162	0.896	4	2001		

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%)	1 (7.69%)	12 (92.31%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.923	0.277	5	13		
Same Level	4.212	0.891	4	661		
Same Discipline	4.065	1.031	4	1997		

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		
1 (7.69%)	1 (7.69%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (7.69%)	9 (69.23%)	1 (7.69%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	1.371	5	12		
Same Level	4.753	0.643	5	660		
Same Discipline	4.617	0.851	5	2008		

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
6 (46.15%)	7 (53.85%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
2 (15.38%)	11 (84.62%)	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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (23.08%)	10 (76.92%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	3.769	0.439	4	13
Same Level	3.453	0.739	4	665
Same Discipline	3.515	0.720	4	2015

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Dr. Brown really has mastered the material, and conveys it effectively. He wants the students to know the reasoning behind formulas, and his teaching creates a deeper understanding than most other professors.
- #3 - Dr. Brown was very good at explaining concepts and explaining how formulas were derived.
- #4 - The course was well-taught, but still very challenging. The instructor did a good job explaining concepts behind equations.
- #5 - The instructor was very knowledgeable about his subject and had a lot of experience in teaching the course. His examples and proofs were mostly written without much reference to the notes he brought with him to class, and he was able to engage most of the class by asking for input on how to go about solving each example or deriving each formula/proof. The group problems in class as well as the homework he assigned allowed us to develop our teamwork abilities as well as assess our grasp on the material between tests. The WebAssign work, while it was a bit tedious, helped to learn the material in general cases to prepare for the applications we would be faced with on tests and written homework. The teacher was able to relate a large portion of the material to our other courses, such as physics and chemistry, which made it easier to see alternative applications for each topic we went over.
- #7 - Has commanding knowledge of the material and does an extraordinary job of explaining the concepts in an understandable way. Extremely flexible for help outside of class.
- #8 - Dr. Brown is extremely knowledgeable about the material in this course and is a very effective and efficient teacher. He clearly established what he expected from us early on and never veered from that expectation. While it was by far my hardest class, I leave with no resentment or doubt in my knowledge of the material, despite how difficult it was.
- #10 - Dr. Brown was a fantastic teacher. He was always willing to work with us outside of class to help us understand the material. This course was really difficult, but he always did his best to help us learn. I liked that we learned real-life applications of the math that we were learning, even though it was sometimes hard to understand. I really learned a lot in this class.
- #12 - Dr. Brown is extremely good at teaching the material. Specifically, he knows how to follow a logical structure in explaining the material, which makes learning easier because the student gets to understand the basic principles and then build on them the more complicated ones. He is gifted at explaining and showing how each equation and mathematical operation learned is derived. He is also really helpful during office hours. I have gone to him with about a dozen questions and have come out of the office after just 30 minutes, completely understanding the material. I also appreciate his out-classroom teaching style. This is reflected in the amount of homework that he assigns and in allowing us to go at our own pace with it. This shows that he understands that he is working with honors students that are already generally very motivated and do not need a rigid

structure of a lot of mandatory homework to learn the material. Also, groupwork has been truly beneficial for my learning in the course. I can definitely tell how much I miss it now that there is no more of it during these last days of his class. It is a good way of taking what the student just learned and practicing it immediately after learning it, which increases the effectiveness of the lecture. Additionally, taking some time at the beginning of class to recall the concepts learned on the previous class is also extremely helpful to better understand the lecture. Also, he has a great sense of humor. He is a very sincere human being. He is always himself, good ol' Dr. Brown.

#13 - The instructor teaches well and is good at explaining hard material.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

#3 - Sometimes, I felt like we went through a lot of conceptual stuff without stopping to let the students work a problem. However, I could generally learn how to work the problems well by the end of the Webassign.

#4 - It was extremely difficult as could be expected.

#5 - The largest weakness of this course/instructor was probably the spacing between tests. The first one was probably a month and a half into the course, while the second was just a month before final exams. This left a relatively large amount of material to be covered on the second test and made it hard to study for. The professor did have some absences throughout the semester, but those were not hard to adjust to and he did a good job of providing online lectures so that we would not fall behind on material.

#6 - unfeasible amounts of homework

#7 - Sometimes goes a little quick because there isn't a lot of time to cover everything, but always stops for questions. When he missed class the video lectures were a little confusing, but once again he was always available to explain them outside of class.

#8 - If any, Dr. Brown can sometimes rush through material, specifically examples given in class. One of the resources I liked in my previous honors math course was out of class review sessions, and we never did that in Dr. Brown's course. However, he made very clear that we would be able to reach him whenever we needed.

#10 - I wish that the tests and homework would have been a little more like the regular sections, as they were sometimes really difficult to understand. I also sometimes found the course to be moving a little too fast. And sometimes I found the proofs to be hard to follow and unnecessary. But overall, it was a pretty good course.

#12 - The most obvious weakness has been rushing through the material starting with line integrals. Everything we have done since then brings most of what we have learned in this class together and adds new ways of doing integrals. For these reasons, these topics have been difficult for me to truly understand despite reviewing them everyday after class. And.... yeah. I think that's it.

#13 - The instructor was absent a lot during the semester, but he did make lectures available online for the material that he didn't cover while he was gone.

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

#3 - The group work is always very helpful in class.

#4 - Integrating SAGE and Maple were very helpful for picturing shapes.

#5 - The group problems and student involvement in examples were very helpful as they have us the opportunity to make sure we understood what was going on. The instructor also paused often and asked if we had any questions, which helped to clear up any confusion related to new material we learned. The group homework was also very helpful in assessing our grasp on material as we learned it.

#7 - I felt as though his teaching method worked and I cannot think of any better way to deliver the material.

- #8 - The written homeworks were by far the most effective learning tool Dr. Brown implemented this semester. They were extremely difficult, but helped me understand how everything tied together, and helped me out by forcing me to ask other classmates for assistance.
- #10 - I liked the homework assignments, even though they were really difficult. I liked that we could work with other students (if we had the time) or could meet with Dr. Brown to get help. Sometimes I thought that the proofs were really helpful to understand where a formula / theorem came from, but other times I felt that they were a little unnecessary. Also, the group work was helpful, but sometimes I felt that it took up too much of the class time, especially when no one knew how to approach the problem.
- #12 - Representing concepts geometrically has been absolutely necessary for my understanding of the material. The go-to surface is overused but for a good reason, it keeps things simple. The written HW have also helped expose the students to tougher, closer to real life applications. However, it would have been better if there were less questions related to proving and more questions relating to real life examples.
- #13 - I liked getting the chance to work in groups.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Yes, I learned more than I would have in a regular 2060 course
- #3 - Yes because you learn the concepts very well.
- #4 - I would recommend this instructor to someone who will work very hard because it will pay off, but not to one who wants an easy A.
- #5 - I would recommend this instructor to a friend, as he is very knowledgeable and passionate about his subject, and strives to provide a better grasp on Calculus through this Honors section relative to the non-Honors sections of the same course. While challenging, this course succeeded in giving me a firm grasp on Calculus and the reasoning behind each of the properties we learned in class. The instructor himself was also very engaging and had a good sense of humor, which made him easier to follow throughout the course.
- #6 - not if they're taking more than 15 hours. enormous time commitment. otherwise sure.
- #7 - Yes, most definitely. That is, if they were prepared for a challenge and to be tested in there knowledge of calculus or whatever level of math. This is because he is an awesome professor but he also wants us to know the concepts behind math, not to just memorize how to solve problems.
- #8 - Absolutely. While his course is extremely difficult, you will walk out with a better understanding of multi-variable calculus than any of the other instructors can produce.
- #10 - I would recommend Dr. Brown to a friend who really liked math and gaining a deeper understanding of where the different formulas / theorems came from and why they're useful, instead of just learning when to use them. I would only recommend this class to someone who was willing to work really hard and had the time to put a lot of effort into the class.
- #12 - Yes. He is a genius and a great teacher. I don't understand how he spent like two full weeks traveling and still managed to teach all of the required material to the class.
- #13 - Yes, the instructor requires you to put in a lot of work, but he teaches everything in high detail.