

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MTHSC H206 001 during Fall Semester 2010
 Respondents = 14; Enrolled = 14; 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 (7.14%)	5 (35.71%)	8 (57.14%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.650	5	14		
Same Level	4.270	0.939	5	909		
Same Discipline	4.219	0.993	5	3856		

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 (14.29%)	5 (35.71%)	7 (50.00%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.357	0.745	4.5	14		
Same Level	4.112	1.027	4	908		
Same Discipline	4.082	1.055	4	3855		

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 (7.14%)	1 (7.14%)	12 (85.71%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.786	0.579	5	14		
Same Level	4.240	0.981	5	907		
Same Discipline	4.250	0.991	5	3855		

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 (7.14%)	4 (28.57%)	9 (64.29%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.571	0.646	5	14		
Same Level	4.259	1.010	5	905		
Same Discipline	4.188	1.067	5	3840		

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%)	1 (7.14%)	1 (7.14%)	5 (35.71%)	7 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.286	0.914	4.5	14		
Same Level	3.937	1.167	4	905		
Same Discipline	3.871	1.223	4	3841		

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 (7.14%)	6 (42.86%)	6 (42.86%)	1 (7.14%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.385	0.650	4	13		
Same Level	3.898	1.190	4	895		
Same Discipline	3.830	1.253	4	3834		

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 (14.29%)	5 (35.71%)	6 (42.86%)	1 (7.14%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.308	0.751	4	13		
Same Level	4.181	1.094	5	906		
Same Discipline	4.179	1.070	5	3847		

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%)	2 (14.29%)	6 (42.86%)	6 (42.86%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.286	0.726	4	14		
Same Level	3.852	1.158	4	904		
Same Discipline	4.014	1.124	4	3837		

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%)	8 (57.14%)	5 (35.71%)	1 (7.14%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.385	0.506	4	13		
Same Level	3.939	1.132	4	906		
Same Discipline	3.977	1.126	4	3847		

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%)	3 (21.43%)	5 (35.71%)	6 (42.86%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.214	0.802	4	14		
Same Level	4.135	1.078	4	905		
Same Discipline	4.072	1.141	4	3839		

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 (42.86%)	7 (50.00%)	1 (7.14%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.538	0.519	5	13		
Same Level	4.081	1.115	4	897		
Same Discipline	4.124	1.063	4	3824		

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 (7.14%)	1 (7.14%)	12 (85.71%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.786	0.579	5	14		
Same Level	4.118	0.896	4	903		
Same Discipline	3.987	0.944	4	3837		

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 (14.29%)	12 (85.71%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.857	0.363	5	14		
Same Level	3.998	1.026	4	904		
Same Discipline	3.798	1.084	4	3843		

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 (7.14%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (28.57%)	9 (64.29%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.429	1.089	5	14		
Same Level	4.729	0.671	5	904		
Same Discipline	4.566	0.862	5	3839		

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
10 (71.43%)	4 (28.57%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
1 (7.14%)	13 (92.86%)	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%)	4 (28.57%)	10 (71.43%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.714	0.469	4	14	
Same Level	3.491	0.681	4	909	
Same Discipline	3.485	0.706	4	3855	

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - He is extremely smart. He also had a unique sense of humor which I liked. He is always willing to help you out with homework or anything.
- #2 - He is a very intelligent teacher.
- #3 - Dr. Brown did an excellent job teaching the material of this course. He provided examples to make the information relevant to the real world. He was always willing to provide extra help outside of class even when he did not have office hours and through email. Dr. Brown was very helpful with homework questions and explaining concepts I did not understand. The course was challenging but taught me a lot and really strengthened my math skills.
- #5 - He knows the material well.
- #6 - The instructor did an excellent job of explaining the material in a meaningful way and I left with a better understanding of the material. For instance, a lot of emphasis was placed on the cylindrical and spherical coordinate systems, as well as the method with which they are derived, which helped me to finally understand these coordinate systems.
- #7 - He has a deep understanding of the topic material. He is very willing to answer questions and spend time so everything is completely understood.
- #8 - The material was taught in a highly mathematical method as opposed to a conceptual one. It was more difficult to follow this way unless we asked enough questions, in which case the instructor promptly and effectively explained what was asked.
- #9 - Dr. Brown is a very talented mathematician who provides a lot of insight into the roots, nature, and uses of the course material.
- #10 - Very helpful and reasonable teacher.
- #11 - It was good to see how formulas and processes were derived so we had a better understanding of how and why the formulas are used.
- #12 - Jim is a really smart guy. He understands the material like I have never seen a math teacher understand it. What's better is that he can bring it down to an understandable level. I've had math teachers that were super smart but couldn't teach. Jim can which is really nice!
- #14 - Really awesome in general. Made sure we understood the material and was basically friends with the class.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - A lot of the time the homework was way harder than what we did in class. I guess that was probably the purpose. We also had too much homework in my opinion.
- #2 - He sometimes has trouble keeping the class's interest.

- #6 - The instructor moved through the material at breakneck speed, and glossed over a few things that I later had to go back and relearn. Also, the homework load was overwhelming at times. I understand the need for homework, but sometimes the requirements for this class were met to the detriment of the other classes I was taking.
- #7 - Not many, he was a little inflexible but that is all.
- #8 - The instructor's taught in a way that demanded a high level of mathematical fluency and familiarity with the material. I don't think this is as much of a weakness as it is an over-strength. His style is appropriate for honors students and math majors.
- #9 - There were no real weaknesses with the course.
- #10 - The course was fast-paced and in-depth.
- #11 - Sometimes the online homework seemed excessive and was different than what we learned in class.
- #12 - He's freaking tough as hell. But whether that is a weakness or not is debatable. He also tends to try to shove as much into his classes as possible, which means that lessons go by very quickly.
- #14 - Sometimes he went too fast, and while I was still writing other stuff he was moving on.

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 do like the webassign, but I think less of it could have been assigned.
- #2 - The physical examples that he did in class.
- #3 - Dr. Brown always stopped and asked the class if anyone had any questions while teaching which was helpful so we would not get confused by allowing him to clarify anything we were unsure about. Dr. Brown's "group work" examples during class were also helpful because they allowed us to apply what we learned and work together to solve a problem and help each other if we did not understand something.
- #5 - More group work and example test questions would improve the course.
- #6 - I enjoyed the instructor's sense of humor, and the fact that he was very knowledgeable in the subject. Most of the time he is able to explain the material in a way that helps me understand it. Although understandable, I feel like the instructor stood in front of what he was writing on the board too much.
- #7 - I really liked the extensive amount of examples and working them together as a class.
- #8 - Working examples in class was the most helpful method the instructor used. It would have helped me to work more problems based on real-world applications (word problems).
- #9 - Having the class try going through problems after we were shown a concept helped me ensure that I fully understood what was going on.
- #11 - I thought that learning where formulas came from helped me to better understand the concepts behind them and better apply them to problems.
- #12 - The Webassign homework with written homeworks strewn about was very effective. The written homeworks gave us an opportunity to connect what we learned, and the online homeworks were a great way to reinforce what he learned. His class structure was great. Also, his lecture style was very normal, which was nice.... all these new-fangled teaching methods never work as well.
- #14 - Doing examples was really helpful. Also, showing the Maple graphs was nice.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - I would recommend this to a friend who wanted a challenge and really wanted to learn this material. I would not recommend this person who just wants to get by.
- #2 - Yes, but you get out what you put in.
- #3 - Yes, I would recommend this instructor to a friend. The course is challenging, but it is worth it because Dr. Brown teaches the students a lot and helps with improving their math skills. Some of the written homework was difficult but we were able to solve it by working together, and Dr. Brown was willing to provide help with it as well. The exams were also challenging, but you get as much as you put in-if you work hard, you do well on the exams and in the course.

- #5 - No. The class takes up too much time if you want to do well in it.
- #6 - I would definitely recommend this instructor to a friend, but only if they were in honors, they were interested in math, and weren't taking other time-intensive classes.
- #7 - Yes, if they are a good math student and respect a good math teacher (one who is very knowledgeable and demands a good effort)
- #8 - No because none of my friends are as gifted in math as I am, and I struggled a lot to understand the material.
- #9 - It depends. If my friend has a light course load, then yes. If my friend has a heavy course load, then no. I think Dr. Brown is a good instructor, but his class is quite challenging, and trying to keep up with it while taking a lot of hours and several hard courses has been rather stressful.
- #10 - Possibly, depending on whether the friend is intelligent and hard-working.
- #11 - Yes because he is always very helpful when you don't understand something and always willing to help.
- #12 - Yes, but on the condition that my friend needs to expect tons of work. Jim is a great guy, and quite frankly I will miss him, but I definitely won't miss the hours of homework I would do for the class EACH night.
- #14 - YES. He's cool, and he wants you to want to learn and understand.