

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MTHSC 851 001 during Fall Semester 2010
 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%)	2 (20.00%)	2 (20.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.400	0.843	5	10		
Same Level	4.354	0.941	5	178		
Same Discipline	4.220	0.992	5	3860		

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		
1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (30.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.300	1.252	5	10		
Same Level	4.348	0.952	5	178		
Same Discipline	4.082	1.054	4	3859		

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	4.331	0.984	5	178		
Same Discipline	4.251	0.991	5	3859		

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%)	1 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	2 (20.00%)	4 (40.00%)	1 (10.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	1.118	4	9		
Same Level	4.322	0.967	5	177		
Same Discipline	4.190	1.066	5	3845		

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		
1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	5 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.100	1.287	4.5	10		
Same Level	4.074	1.106	4	176		
Same Discipline	3.872	1.222	4	3845		

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		
1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.200	1.317	5	10		
Same Level	4.198	1.045	5	177		
Same Discipline	3.831	1.251	4	3837		

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		
1 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	7 (70.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.100	1.524	5	10		
Same Level	4.390	0.948	5	177		
Same Discipline	4.179	1.068	5	3850		

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%)	6 (60.00%)	4 (40.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.400	0.516	4	10		
Same Level	4.254	0.976	5	177		
Same Discipline	4.014	1.124	4	3841		

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		
1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	5 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.100	1.287	4.5	10		
Same Level	4.247	0.983	5	178		
Same Discipline	3.978	1.125	4	3850		

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (30.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.300	1.252	5	10		
Same Level	4.345	0.971	5	177		
Same Discipline	4.072	1.139	4	3843		

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%)	2 (20.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	4 (40.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	3.900	1.197	4	10		
Same Level	4.371	0.925	5	178		
Same Discipline	4.126	1.061	4	3827		

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%)	2 (20.00%)	8 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.800	0.422	5	10		
Same Level	4.011	0.968	4	178		
Same Discipline	3.988	0.944	4	3841		

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	3.733	1.021	4	176		
Same Discipline	3.800	1.084	4	3847		

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 (10.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	1 (10.00%)	4 (40.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	3.600	1.430	3.5	10		
Same Level	4.337	0.956	5	178		
Same Discipline	4.568	0.860	5	3843		

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
9 (90.00%)	1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

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

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
	1 (10.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	8 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.600	0.966	4	10	
Same Level	3.635	0.652	4	178	
Same Discipline	3.486	0.705	4	3859	

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #2 - Class was tough but I must say that I have learned alot of mathematics even if I pass or fail the final.Good job!
- #3 - The lectures are clear and well-prepared. Having an online copy of the professor's notes is incredibly helpful in case you have trouble keeping up with the notes as presented. The material is difficult, especially for students in their first semester. If possible, students may be better adjusted for the pace of the course if they've taken 853 first.
- #4 - The instructor has a clearly has a profound mastery of the material. I felt confident that what I was learning was both complete and accurate.
- #5 - Dr. Brown explained the material well and gave us a great set of notes for this class.
- #6 - He is obviously very interested in what he is teaching, which makes it more interesting to the class. He is good at answering questions on the spot during class, and he is very helpful in office hours.
- #7 - Overall, the course was effective. It would have been helpful to know before lecture, the chapters/sections we were covering so that I could have followed along in the text.
- #8 - The instructor seems to have a very thorough knowledge of the subject.
- #9 - Dr. Brown is able to communicate fairly complicated material to the class in an organized, efficient way. He is thorough in his grading, which is a tremendous asset. He is also able to think on his feet quite well, compared to other instructors I have had including this semester.
- #10 - The instructor was clear and concise in lectures. Also he sometimes would draw examples from number theory which I enjoyed.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #2 - He is really fast. The material of the course is also very much.
- #3 - While not specifically the professor's weakness, the pace of the course is very rigorous. If any material could be omitted to allow for more time spent on necessary concepts for the preliminary exam, this could be beneficial.
- #4 - The instructor lectures entirely too fast at times. Many classes I felt like I was doing nothing more than just scribing the notes which made me feel like coming to class was no more useful than simply copying online notes. I also felt that my grades on assignments did not reflect my knowledge of the course at all.
- #5 - Sometimes we covered material too quickly.
- #6 - He needs to do more examples of things that are similar to homework problems, because many times its hard to figure out where to start the problems.

- #7 - Though I recognize that the course is very fast paced, it was often hard to keep up with the material.
- #8 - Instructor's personality was very intimidating to a point that severely inhibited my ability to learn. His method of lecture consisted of merely copying his notes rapid-fire onto the board, so that the whole time in class, I was too busy trying to keep up with copying down the notes to be able to try to comprehend the material as it was presented.
- #10 - ---

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

- #2 - He gave allot of hard homework which forced me to study allot and understand allot of the material.
- #3 - The homework, while difficult, is certainly manageable and helpful in preparation for the exams. The in-class examples are also particularly helpful in putting more concrete emphasis on abstract concepts. More examples, time permitting, would always be helpful, specifically of concepts that we did not have time to explore examples for already.
- #4 - The chosen homework problems were particularly useful for reinforcing my understanding of the material.
- #5 - The homework was particularly helpful, although I felt that it did get a little too extensive at times. I felt like I got behind on the new material when we had a week and a half between the end of the material for the first test and the first test. I would suggest having the test sooner after finishing the material that will be on the test.
- #6 - He has very good notes, and even though he moves at a fast pace, he is good about trying to explain as much as he can at the time.
- #7 - Posting the notes online was extremely helpful, since I often missed the explanation for a particular steps in the proofs, etc.
- #8 - First, don't have the homework due on Mondays. That way, I can start it over the weekend and have the opportunity during the week to consult with both the instructor and my classmates on the parts I don't understand. Second, slow down! I understand that there's a lot of material for the prelim that needs to be presented during the semester, but lecturing at such a rapid pace doesn't do any good because very little time is given to ensure comprehension of the material. This is especially critical in a course like this one in which almost all of the material builds upon itself very quickly.
- #9 - Of particular importance in this course is the amount of homework given in order to truly understand the massive amount of material covered. That being said, I think the difficulty level of the homework could be scaled back a bit...not much, in order to allow sufficient time to study proofs/exercises given in class. However, overall I learned a lot from the homework sets which is the ultimate goal.
- #10 - He pointed out connections to number theory (as already stated earlier in this course evaluation).

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #2 - Yes. He makes you study hard and is helpful during office hours.
- #3 - Yes. The professor is difficult, but this level of rigor fully prepares the student for the preliminary examination, along with success in graduate school.
- #4 - Potentially. If you are going into Algebra, Dr. Brown is a great instructor to have; however, your other classes will be pushed to the wayside while taking his class.
- #5 - Yes. I learned a lot.
- #6 - Yes, he wants the students to understand, which is nice. Even though the class is hard, Dr. Brown does a good job of getting the ideas across.
- #7 - Only if the friend wanted to concentrate in Algebra.

- #8 - I would absolutely NOT recommend this instructor. While he is very knowledgeable about the subject, he did a very poor job of communicating his knowledge, was hard to find outside of class, and was extremely intimidating.
- #9 - Absolutely. There are few that can teach a graduate level course that is to be covered on a prelim. Not only that, but one of the more difficult introductory courses to a field. I will not hesitate to take any other course offered by Dr. Brown based on teaching style.
- #10 - Yes Although this course constitutes a significant time commitment with respect to other courses, if one puts in the necessary time and effort, then one will come away with a thorough grasp of the course materials.