

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MATH 8520 001 during Spring Semester 2015
 Respondents = 3; Enrolled = 4; Response rate = 75%

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.383	0.900	5	120		
Same Discipline	4.264	0.994	5	2024		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.571	0.809	5	119		
Same Discipline	4.136	1.076	4	2018		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.375	0.889	5	120		
Same Discipline	4.256	1.025	5	2026		

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%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.420	0.878	5	119		
Same Discipline	4.185	1.067	5	2016		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.246	1.086	5	118		
Same Discipline	3.959	1.219	4	2005		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.364	0.967	5	118		
Same Discipline	3.985	1.200	4	2017		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.286	0.975	5	119		
Same Discipline	4.180	1.077	5	2015		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.441	0.853	5	118		
Same Discipline	4.078	1.112	4	2013		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.222	1.043	5	117		
Same Discipline	4.040	1.149	4	2020		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.425	0.895	5	120		
Same Discipline	4.140	1.120	5	2019		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.419	0.902	5	117		
Same Discipline	4.125	1.103	4	2000		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	3		
Same Level	4.288	0.807	4	118		
Same Discipline	4.166	0.896	4	2011		

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 (33.33%)	2 (66.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.667	0.577	5	3		
Same Level	4.160	0.883	4	119		
Same Discipline	4.070	1.031	4	2007		

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		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (33.33%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (66.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	1.155	5	3		
Same Level	4.250	1.154	5	120		
Same Discipline	4.616	0.855	5	2017		

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	4.000	0.000	4	3	
Same Level	3.642	0.658	4	120	
Same Discipline	3.516	0.719	4	2025	

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Jim is great at explaining both in class and during office hours. He is very knowledgeable as an instructor and also very personable. I enjoyed going to class every time, even if it was on the 4th floor of Daniel and I had to climb those stairs. The course material was well presented with good pacing, and we covered a good selection of topics. I appreciated the large number of examples that illustrated why we needed particular conditions for a theorem, or when certain conditions fail, and also the range in difficulty of the examples. I was happy with the availability of his handwritten notes; they were extremely useful. I also liked how the course loosely followed Dummit and Foote so that we had an extra reference and could easily keep track of what topics were coming next, but I liked that Jim did not just mimic D&F exactly.
- #2 - Clearly comfortable with the material/Well constructed examples/Very aware of the class' level of comprehension
- #3 - Dr. Brown is an excellent instructor. He teaches much more material than is normally taught in a second algebra course. Although this required much more work, it was quite satisfying at the end.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Instructor weaknesses: claustrophobia when the blinds in our tiny classroom were closed, pollen, rhinoviruses that lead to the common cold, jet lag, dirty whiteboards, undergraduates. I also am very upset that our exams were not themed like the undergraduates. A Jurassic Park / intelligent dinosaur themed final exam on Galois and module theory is necessary to change my mind.
- #2 - The midterm ended up being extremely long; ended up being my favorite professor anyways
- #3 - The course was fast-paced at times; but, the notes really helped when I got lost during a particular lecture. (Mostly, I understood the overall goal of the lecture, but was lost in the details at times).

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 - Lecturing from his notes is the way to go.
- #2 - I really appreciate that most of the notes were available online at the beginning of the semester
- #3 - The notes are extremely clear and helpful for studying. I also found it helpful when Dr. Brown made an effort to ask if we had any questions periodically.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Yes. Definitely one of the best professors I've ever had. He reminds me of why I chose to come to graduate school in the first place, and if you come out of his class and haven't learned a ton of math, it's on you.
- #2 - I most certainly would, but I would warn them that Dr. Brown will probably be one of the toughest professors they will ever have. If they were looking for an easy A, I'd tell them to look elsewhere. If they are looking for someone to hold them accountable and push them to go beyond what's required, then Dr. Brown is the exact professor they want.
- #3 - Yes, I would recommend this professor to a friend. However, I would warn them that they must devote a considerably amount of time to homework and studying.