

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MATH 8530 001 during Fall Semester 2014

Respondents = 5; Enrolled = 6; Response rate = 83%

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%) | 1 (20.00%) | 4 (80.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.800 | 0.447 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.373 | 0.965 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.163 | 0.997 | 4 | 3016 | | |

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%) | 1 (20.00%) | 1 (20.00%) | 3 (60.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.400 | 0.894 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.437 | 0.829 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.024 | 1.074 | 4 | 3014 | | |

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%) | 5 (100.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 5.000 | 0.000 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.319 | 1.030 | 5 | 141 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.182 | 1.043 | 5 | 3009 | | |

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%) | 3 (60.00%) | 2 (40.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.400 | 0.548 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.589 | 0.775 | 5 | 141 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.173 | 1.030 | 5 | 3003 | | |

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%) | 3 (60.00%) | 2 (40.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.400 | 0.548 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.190 | 1.045 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 3.813 | 1.232 | 4 | 3007 | | |

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%) | 2 (40.00%) | 3 (60.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.600 | 0.548 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.291 | 0.899 | 5 | 141 | | |
| Same Discipline | 3.809 | 1.229 | 4 | 2999 | | |

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%) | 2 (40.00%) | 3 (60.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.600 | 0.548 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.338 | 0.922 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.079 | 1.098 | 4 | 2998 | | |

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%) | 4 (80.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | 1 (20.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 3.400 | 0.894 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.282 | 0.992 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 3.959 | 1.150 | 4 | 3002 | | |

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%) | 3 (60.00%) | 2 (40.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.400 | 0.548 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.279 | 0.975 | 5 | 140 | | |
| Same Discipline | 3.936 | 1.129 | 4 | 3004 | | |

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%) | 3 (60.00%) | 2 (40.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.400 | 0.548 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.400 | 0.973 | 5 | 140 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.042 | 1.143 | 4 | 3005 | | |

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%) | 1 (20.00%) | 3 (60.00%) | 1 (20.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.000 | 0.707 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.401 | 0.931 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.071 | 1.073 | 4 | 3003 | | |

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%) | 4 (80.00%) | 1 (20.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.200 | 0.447 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.113 | 0.826 | 4 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.122 | 0.892 | 4 | 2996 | | |

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 (40.00%) | 3 (60.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.600 | 0.548 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 3.906 | 0.924 | 4 | 139 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.020 | 1.016 | 4 | 2996 | | |

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 (20.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | 4 (80.00%) | 0 (0.00%) | |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | | |
| Class | 4.600 | 0.894 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Same Level | 4.155 | 1.132 | 5 | 142 | | |
| Same Discipline | 4.621 | 0.818 | 5 | 2994 | | |

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

| Yes | No | NR |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| 4 (80.00%) | 1 (20.00%) | 0 (0.00%) |

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

| Yes | No | NR |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 0 (0.00%) | 5 (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%) | 2 (40.00%) | 3 (60.00%) | 0 (0.00%) |
| Focus | Mean | Stdev | Median | Observations | |
| Class | 3.600 | 0.548 | 4 | 5 | |
| Same Level | 3.641 | 0.667 | 4 | 142 | |
| Same Discipline | 3.517 | 0.686 | 4 | 3012 | |

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Online Course Note really helpful. Dr. Brown knows the material really well. For a theoretical course this one is at an appropriate difficulty.
- #3 - Dr. Brown could tell when we were having trouble understanding, and he tried to help us understand with another explanation if he had time.
- #4 - Dr. Brown was very clear about what was expected in terms of the homework assignments. He provided good notes that could be followed during the lecture to reinforce the concepts and put less strain on note-taking. The material itself was well-structured and generally seemed to give a useful foundation for ruther work in the field.
- #5 - Clear material and instruction. Excellent at explaining why the material was important for varying areas in math.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - For those who only take this course as a breadth requirement, this course may be a pain. (Because the course is theoretical)The HW is NOT collected weekly, unlike what's written in the syllabus, which is odd for a theoretical course. In order for the students to practice proof-writing, regularly assigning problem sets is necessary. Another odd thing is that, for the exam problems, some are much easier than HW problems, but some are way harder than any of the HW problems.
- #4 - There wasn't anything noticeably wrong with the course. I suppose the mid-term felt like pretty difficult material to cram into 2 hours, but it was mostly fine until the last problem, so even that wasn't too bad. Perhaps more of the examples from the notes (or even different examples) could be done in class, but again, with reading the notes, it seemed like there were enough examples to get the general concepts.
- #5 - Didn't see any. I'm not a fan of the choice to make the final such a big portion of the grade and the homework so little but I wouldn't classify that as a weakness.

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

- #4 - I found it verhy helpful that ther were pre-made notes available which could be followed along with in class. It resulted in more time in-class spent absorbing the material rather than frantically trying to keep up with notes, and allowed for further examination with additional examples and more in-depth proofs. As far as alternatives, it might even be helpful to suggest parts of the notes be

read before class so that any difficult questions that might arise could be raised during class as the material is being covered. Actually requiring anything to be pre-read might be pushing it, but suggestions could be helpful for some students.

#5 - I appreciated having notes online before the course began. Scheduling the midterm outside of class was also an excellent idea.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

#1 - This depends on my friend's expectation for 8530. If he/she can do proofs then Yes.

#3 - Yes. Dr. Brown is a fair grader, and he really wants you to understand the material. He is open and willing to have students come by his office and ask questions. He can tell if you don't understand it.

#4 - Yes, I would recommend Dr. Brown to a friend. The material may have been difficult, but he did a great job teaching it in a straightforward manner. His grading policies seemed fair and a good preparation for further graduate-level work. He was willing to help answer questions about the material outside of class.

#5 - Yes because you actually learn something from him.