

# Student Assessment of Instructors - Instructor Interface

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## Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

**Evaluation Report** for James L Brown teaching MTHSC 853 001 during Fall Semester 2012

Respondents = 16 Enrolled = 21 Response rate = 76%

### University Questions (3586)

G1. The instructor clearly communicated what I was expected to learn.

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (18.75%)	13 (81.25%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.813	0.403	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.387	0.972	5	106
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.174	1.017	4	3454

G2. The instructor made the relevance of the course material clear.

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (31.25%)	10 (62.50%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.500	0.816	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.430	0.943	5	107
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.051	1.075	4	3448

G3. The course was well organized.

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (18.75%)	13 (81.25%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.813	0.403	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.393	1.026	5	107
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.199	1.053	5	3453

G4. There was a positive interaction between the class and the instructor.

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	3 (18.75%)	12 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.688	0.602	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.477	0.781	5	107
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.170	1.074	5	3442

G5. The instructor's teaching methods helped me understand the course material.

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
1 (6.25%)	1 (6.25%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (12.50%)	12 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.438	1.209	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.135	1.133	4.5	104

**Same Discipline** 3.776 1.267 4 3438

G6. The instructor's verbal communication skills helped me understand the course material.

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	14 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.775	5	16
Same Level	4.336	1.063	5	107
Same Discipline	3.738	1.273	4	3444

G7. The instructor clearly explained what was expected on assignments and tests

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	2 (12.50%)	12 (75.00%)	1 (6.25%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.733	0.594	5	15
Same Level	4.505	0.894	5	107
Same Discipline	4.174	1.070	5	3440

G8. The instructor kept me informed about my progress in the course.

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	2 (12.50%)	1 (6.25%)	7 (43.75%)	6 (37.50%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.063	0.998	4	16
Same Level	4.453	0.906	5	106
Same Discipline	3.977	1.127	4	3433

G9. The feedback I received on assignments and tests gave me the opportunity to improve my performance.

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	2 (12.50%)	3 (18.75%)	4 (25.00%)	7 (43.75%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.000	1.095	4	16
Same Level	4.340	1.004	5	106
Same Discipline	3.959	1.129	4	3445

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	1 (6.25%)	14 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.813	0.544	5	16
Same Level	4.318	1.087	5	107
Same Discipline	4.004	1.167	4	3450

G11. The instructor's grading procedures gave a fair evaluation of my understanding of the material.

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	4 (25.00%)	11 (68.75%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
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## Student Assessment of Instructors

<b>Class</b>	4.625	0.619	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.396	0.983	5	106
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.111	1.066	4	3434

G12. How much work did you put into this course relative to your other courses?

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (18.75%)	13 (81.25%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.813	0.403	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.087	0.925	4	104
<b>Same Discipline</b>	3.997	0.956	4	3438

G13. How difficult was this course for you relative to your other courses?

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (25.00%)	12 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.750	0.447	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	3.804	0.946	4	107
<b>Same Discipline</b>	3.831	1.066	4	3443

G14. To what extent was this course a requirement for you?

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (12.50%)	5 (31.25%)	9 (56.25%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.438	0.727	5	16
<b>Same Level</b>	4.179	0.954	4	106
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.571	0.853	5	3435

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
13 (81.25%)	3 (18.75%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	16 (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 (1)	2	3	Very Satisfied (4)	NR
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.25%)	3 (18.75%)	12 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	3.688	0.602	4	16
<b>Same Level</b>	3.701	0.633	4	107
<b>Same Discipline</b>	3.478	0.730	4	3457

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

Type: Essay

Student

Comments

- #1** - Dr. Brown is a smart man, and knew the material really well.
- #2** - It was helpful that keys were posted online to provide extra/supplementary help.  
Dr. Brown was very approachable, and often answered student questions.
- #3** - Dr. Brown is a great professor. He is clear and helpful. If I liked algebra, I would sign up for another course with Dr. Brown. The course was extremely hard because of the abstrat thought involved, but Dr. Brown explained concepts well.
- #4** - The main strength was organization; the structure of the lectures and the structure of the proofs presented in class facilitated learning immensely.
- #5** - Dr. Brown is an excellent mathematician and an excellent teacher. He cares about the material and teaches it accordingly. He also communicates very, very well.
- #6** - Very organized. Having his notes available to help understanding was a very good thing. Good at being clear in connection between items within and outside the class.
- #7** - The instructor was always very willing to help me and answer any questions. He was very accessible via email and often replied quickly. He was organized and clear with his notes and teaching.
- #8** - -Wrote on the board clearly and in an organized fashion  
-Supplemented his written work on the board with explanations that helped with understanding  
-Knew when to expect homework to be due well in advance. I like that this was consistent each week.  
-Since our class had a lot of first-year students, he tried to give us tips about things outside of the class, such as attending seminars and choosing an advisor, etc.  
-Liked the posted notes online, as an additional resource  
-Began and ended class on time every day
- #9** - Very professional, demands his students do quality work. He set these expectations on Day 1 and never wavered - as a result, he had the respect of the entire class after the second week.
- #10** - Did a good job explaining material, and providing help on homework.
- #11** - Dr. Brown clearly presented the material and didn't just rehashed what appeared in the textbook. He's responsive to our questions during class and office hours.
- #12** - Dr. Brown was very consistent in how each class period proceeded and how his notes were organized. He answered questions with clarity.
- #13** - Dr. Brown's organizational skills and preparation are key. His lecture notes stand alone as a comprehensive resource for the course. And it seems as if he's put genuine thought into how best to cover the material on his own, without the distraction of fitting the course to a textbook.
- #14** - I appreciated all notes being available online. He was also very helpful when students asked questions during class.
- #15** - Great at some places and on the other places those are far from his major may be not. But totally he is a very nice prof.
- #16** - Professor Brown was a great lecturer and he made the course much more interesting than I thought it would be. Instead of just teaching a more difficult version of an undergraduate math class, he actually took the time to develop the material in a very interesting and informative way.
- G19. Please comment on the weaknesses of the instructor and the course.

**Type:** Essay

**Student**

**Comments**

- #1** - Algebra is not my concentration and therefore a weakness, and many times throughout the semester I was lost.
- #3** - I wish we had a solution key to our assignments afterwards to see how to correct our thinking on homeworks.

- #4 - N/A.
- #5 - No real weaknesses. The course moves really fast, but is taught well and is reasonable.
- #6 - None that I could think of. I thoroughly enjoyed this class although it was difficult (not a weakness).
- #7 - The instructor was not very available in school for face-to-face help. He had very limited office hours and was only in school 3/5 days each week. Although he was good with communicating via email, it would have been nice to ask questions in person more often. Also, it would have been nice to have clear solutions to the homework problems to learn from, especially since the grader's feedback was not very good.
- #8 - -Sometimes I felt like answers to questions about homework problems led us away from the answer rather than helped us.  
-Sometimes felt like big things we were supposed to understand could not be found in our notes (i.e., two matrices are similar if they have the same rational canonical form)
- #10 - Only thing is I would have liked grade/class standing updates more often.
- #11 - Although the material ordering worked fine, it may have been more beneficial to cover tensor products/exterior algebras last. It's certainly easier to understand the more abstract ideas after dealing with more concrete/familiar ones. The ideas aren't so foreign when we can relate back.
- #12 - It was fairly inconvenient whenever he covered topics not in the textbook, particularly since we were not supposed to use other texts. He also repeatedly stated that he was teaching this course geared toward students taking the algebra prelim, which left some students, including myself, feeling marginalized.
- #13 - He might go too fast, but if you eventually catch up you're better for it.
- #15 - No math weakness points. May, be just his accent is really fast.
- #16 - I didn't think there were any.
- 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	- More examples, I know that doing examples are time consuming but they are helpful.
#2	- in class examples worked out, teaching concepts in multiple ways to reinforce, homework to apply theorems
#4	- I found that stepping back and asking the class if we had any questions was extremely beneficial.
#5	- I love the online notes. It makes review and relearning very useful. It also allows me to pay attention in class and not fear if my notes aren't perfect there.
#6	- Class note availability. (helpful) In office at appointed times always. (helpful) Better mixture of abstract and example homework rather than all abstract ( I'm talking about in the beginning of class over the first 3 or 4 chapters in his class notes where some very quick extra examples given in homework would have been helpful.)
#7	- I found that having the notes posted online was quite helpful. I also appreciated that all of the definitions and theorems were numbered throughout the course. The organization of the course was superb and very helpful to me. I would simply suggest that solutions to the homework answers be posted as well.
#8	- I felt like completing homework assignments really helped me to understand the material better. I also feel like the homework assignments were typically of a reasonable length/difficulty, and matched the notes well.

- This isn't a clear "teaching" method, but he promptly responded to emails, which I appreciate.
- Notes clearly organized
- #11** - It was helpful to see worked out examples/proofs and receive regular homework assignments. Getting lots of exercises was great, since it encouraged us to be active learners. This is the most helpful when exercises are accompanied with a few remarks about the appropriate/suggested approach (Dr. Brown also always did this).
- #12** - I was very appreciative of the online notes. Also, the amount of detail that went into his proofs was extremely helpful.
- #13** - Posting the notes online is essential because I can't copy that fast without mistakes and pay attention too. Disregarding the textbook would be a major drawback for a less organized professor, but Dr. Brown's notes make the book irrelevant.
- #14** - Concepts and results were always well explained. It was very helpful that every result was proven. Exercises were often helpful. Homework was always relevant.
- #15** - I like him when he asked the students frequently: Do you have any questions/ And he was so ready to answer all of my questions..nice person..
- #16** - I really liked the side notes and comments that Professor Brown gave. They were very insightful and made learning the material a little bit easier.

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

**Type:** Essay

<b>Student</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>#1</b>	No, this course was too much to handle. Dr. Brown is not a bad professor in any way, his style of teaching was not for me.
<b>#2</b>	Yes, if my friend had an adequate background in algebra. Otherwise, I would recommend taking other classes in abstract algebra to be able to understand the notation and such.
<b>#3</b>	Yes. The class was hard, but Dr. Brown is a good job making the material accessible.
<b>#4</b>	Yes, because the class was extremely thorough, the homework was designed to facilitate and progress the learning, and the class was fair overall.
<b>#5</b>	Yes. He's a great teacher, very entertaining.
<b>#6</b>	Yes I would recommend Dr. Brown. However, I would only recommend him to the students I know would be willing to put in the effort EVERY DAY in order to understand the material. It is a strict course that teaches discipline and offers so much knowledge and practice. Great overall.
<b>#7</b>	Yes, as long as you have the time to devote to the course. This course was by no means easy, which was expected. I learned a lot and had a great experience, but it was very time consuming. I think Jim Brown is an excellent teacher and would definitely recommend him to anyone who has the time to focus on the class and is willing to try their best.
<b>#8</b>	Yes. Jim is organized and you know what is expected of you, and when. His notes are clear and follow the book reasonably. He is more than willing to answer questions about course material. My only hesitation would be that a grader grades our homework but Jim grades exams so we don't know how our exams will be graded differently from homework. Also, feedback from the grader on homework was not always helpful.
<b>#10</b>	Yes I would, but it is a tough course.
<b>#11</b>	Yes. This course is "tight." By this, I mean that it's well-structured and all the ideas/topics are related (and this relation is explicitly indicated during class!).

Forgot to mention earlier that the online notes are awesome.

- #12** - Yes. If this friend is an algebra student, they will benefit from his

expertise. If they were looking for an easy introductory course, definitely not.

- #13 - Yes; I benefitted greatly (though my g.p.a. might not) from Dr. Brown's rigorous treatment of the subject.
- #14 - Yes. I learned more in this course than my other two combined. Not only about algebra but also proof techniques and the relevance of developing concepts. Everything was connected, and Dr. Brown made those connections very clear.
- #15 - Sure. because He has huge math he can learn it to my friends
- #16 - Yes, Professor Brown is an excellent teacher and he really pushes his students to do their best.

OK