Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for James L Brown teaching MTHSC 985 001 during Fall Semester 2011
Respondents = 8; Enrolled = 11; Response rate = 73%

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 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8	
Same Level	4.809	0.398	5	47	
Same Discipline	4.280	0.946	5	3742	

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%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	4.915	0.282	5	47	
Same Discipline	4.126	1.040	4	3739	

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%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	4.787	0.508	5	47	
Same Discipline	4.316	0.956	5	3730	

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%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8	
Same Level	4.851	0.551	5	47	
Same Discipline	4.220	1.024	5	3719	

G5. The instructor's teaching methods helped me understand the course material.
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (25.00%)	6 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.463	5	8
Same Level	4.739	0.444	5	46
Same Discipline	3.912	1.201	4	3718

G6. The instructor's verbal communication skills helped me understand the course material.
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8
Same Level	4.870	0.341	5	46
Same Discipline	3.891	1.206	4	3715

G7. The instructor clearly explained what was expected on assignments and tests
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (12.50%)	1 (12.50%)	6 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.625	0.744	5	8
Same Level	4.652	0.604	5	46
Same Discipline	4.245	1.014	5	3724

G8. The instructor kept me informed about my progress in the course.
    Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (25.00%)	6 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.750	0.463	5	8
Same Level	4.574	0.853	5	47
Same Discipline	4.043	1.103	4	3729

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	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8
Same Level	4.745	0.570	5	47
Same Discipline	4.027	1.099	4	3719

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.
  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%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	4.915	0.282	5	47	
Same Discipline	4.140	1.108	5	3718	

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

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8	
Same Level	4.783	0.554	5	46	
Same Discipline	4.189	1.012	4	3717	

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

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (50.00%)	2 (25.00%)	1 (12.50%)	1 (12.50%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	3.571	0.787	3	7	
Same Level	3.739	1.182	4	46	
Same Discipline	4.027	0.934	4	3712	

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

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (25.00%)	1 (12.50%)	4 (50.00%)	1 (12.50%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	4.286	0.951	5	7	
Same Level	3.553	1.282	4	47	
Same Discipline	3.830	1.072	4	3713	

G14. To what extent was this course a requirement for you?
  Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**NR**
2 (25.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (12.50%)	3 (37.50%)	1 (12.50%)	1 (12.50%)
Focus	**Mean**	**Stdev**	**Median**	**Observations**	
Class	3.143	1.574	4	7	
Same Level	4.043	1.141	4	47	
Same Discipline	4.570	0.851	5	3716	

G15. Was this course in your major?
  Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
7 (87.50%)	1 (12.50%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?
Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	8 (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%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.000	0.000	4	8
Same Level	3.915	0.282	4	47
Same Discipline	3.489	0.716	4	3735

G18. Please comment on the strengths of the instructor and the course.
Type: Essay
Student Comments
#1 - The scanned notes were helpful since they often had the some of the explanations the instructor verbally communicated to the class.
#2 - Dr. Brown understands the material very well and does a good job of teaching the material in class.
#5 - He is a great teacher and give clear lecture in each class, even though the stuff is not easy. He is also careful and responsible.
#6 - Professor Brown knows a lot of things. Besides teaching Lie algebra, he also helped us review linear algebra and analysis. Some of the linear algebra are really hard. Professor Brown also taught us a lot of material in 50 minutes. Therefore, I felt like learning a 1.5 semester stuff within 1 semester.   Professor Brown also made the homework do-able and allow us to discuss. He also gave us plenty of time doing our homework. He explained everything clearly in detail. He also put his notes online so that if we missed the class, we still can catch up with the course.
#7 - The instructor delivered excellent lectures on the relevant materials on posted lecture notes on his website in case one missed a class.
#8 - After each class I take with Dr. Brown, my opinion never changes about him. He is a great, inspiring professor. Very enthusiastic about the material and very knowledgeable about the content.   I have gotten more learnig from his classes than in any other class. He is the best addition to the department, offering classes no one ever offered before. By succesfully teaching a variety of courses at all different levels, he proves to be a real example that shows that pure Number Theory is a field that combines all basic domains of pure math: geometry, analysis, and algebra. He did way better than faculty members who claim analysis and geometry are their specializations. He brought incredibly positive changes to the pure math component of our department bringing it to a higher level. Now about the course.What a great course that involves a combination of all previous math courses taken. This includes linear algebra, group theory, analysis, geometry and manifolds. It is a very interesting course that shows how by combining techniques useful theories emerge.Great job Dr. Brown for such a great choice and a wonderful effort!

G19. Please comment on the weaknesses of the instructor and the course.
Type: Essay
Student Comments
#1 - For the course, it would have been nice if there was some prerequisites so everyone in the class had a similar background.
#2 - None.
#5 - no

#6 -   No weakness.
#7 -   ---

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 -   The scanned notes were good.
#2 -   In general I prefer the traditional lecture-and-study style of this course, but I would have liked to have more, shorter homework assignments.
#4 -   Course notes online were helpful. Very light when printed through, I might suggest increasing the darkness setting when scanning in the future.
#5 -   He did good at communicating with students in class.
#6 -   I would like to suggest Professor Brown to write much larger words on the white board although the current size is big enough. I appreciate so much that Professor Brown put his own notes online for us to check because it is really helpful.
#7 -   See question 18.

G21. I would recommend this instructor to a friend. Yes or no?   Why?
Type: Essay
Student Comments
#1 -   Yes, because the instructor does an excellent job at explaining challenging material.
#2 -   Yes, he does a good job of conveying information in the lectures.
#4 -   Yes.
#5 -   sure
#6 -   Yes, I would like to recommend this instructor to my friend. In his course, you can learn about 1.5 semester stuff within 1 semester. You can not only review what you have learned before, but you can also learn a lot of more advanced mathematics. He won't ask you to do impossible homework. The homework are do-able if and only if you pay attention in class. He is also generous in grading. One can get a lot of feedback without losing a lot of points.
#7 -   Indeed.   Jim Brown is quite knowledgeable about Lie groups, and if you take one of his courses and put in the necessary time to keep up, you WILL learn the subject well.