

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2019

Christian Sampson, MATH 547-002 LINEAR ALGEBRA FOR APPL

Raters	Students
Responded	42
Invited	140
Response Ratio	30%

Overall

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.19	4.00	0.74	42	0.0%	2.4%	11.9%	50.0%	35.7%
2. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.29	4.00	0.74	42	0.0%	4.8%	2.4%	52.4%	40.5%
3. Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.	4.37	5.00	0.86	41	0.0%	4.9%	9.8%	29.3%	56.1%
4. The instructor was one of the best I have had at Carolina, fully deserving of a teaching award.	3.83	4.00	0.91	42	0.0%	7.1%	28.6%	38.1%	26.2%

Instructor

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The instructor clearly communicated what was expected of me in this class.	4.55	5.00	0.67	42	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	33.3%	61.9%
2. I was able to get individual help when I needed it.	4.54	5.00	0.64	39	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	38.5%	59.0%
3. The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	4.55	5.00	0.55	42	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	40.5%	57.1%
4. The instructor showed concern about whether students learned the material.	4.55	5.00	0.50	42	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	45.2%	54.8%
5. The instructor expressed ideas clearly.	4.17	4.00	0.91	42	0.0%	9.5%	4.8%	45.2%	40.5%
6. The instructor showed enthusiasm for the subject matter.	4.76	5.00	0.48	42	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	19.0%	78.6%
7. The instructor showed enthusiasm for teaching the class.	4.64	5.00	0.62	42	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	21.4%	71.4%
8. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.76	5.00	0.43	42	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.8%	76.2%
9. The instructional techniques engaged me with the subject matter.	4.17	4.00	1.01	42	0.0%	11.9%	7.1%	33.3%	47.6%
10. The instructor provided me with helpful feedback on my performance.	4.27	4.00	0.71	41	0.0%	2.4%	7.3%	51.2%	39.0%
11. The instructor handled questions well.	4.38	4.00	0.58	42	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	52.4%	42.9%
12. The instructor used examples that had relevance for me.	4.33	4.50	0.79	42	0.0%	2.4%	11.9%	35.7%	50.0%
13. The instructor used class time well.	4.31	4.00	0.78	42	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	45.2%	45.2%
14. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.00	4.00	0.94	42	0.0%	9.5%	14.3%	42.9%	33.3%

	N	Yes
1. The instructor provided regular assessment of my work throughout the semester.	42	100.0%
2. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the course syllabus and the official schedule published for this course.	42	100.0%
3. Is this a required course for you?	42	7.1%

Course

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.31	4.00	0.75	42	0.0%	4.8%	2.4%	50.0%	42.9%
2. The course material (e.g., coursepack, website, texts) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.57	5.00	0.63	42	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	35.7%	61.9%
3. The course assignments helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.38	4.00	0.66	42	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	50.0%	45.2%
4. This course was very exciting to me intellectually.	3.85	4.00	1.01	41	0.0%	9.8%	29.3%	26.8%	34.1%
5. This course was designed to keep me engaged in learning.	4.05	4.00	0.85	42	0.0%	7.1%	11.9%	50.0%	31.0%
6. The workload was appropriate for what I gained from this class.	4.38	4.00	0.49	42	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	61.9%	38.1%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Very Easy	Easy	Average	More Rigorous	Most Rigorous
1. Rate the grading standards of this course compared with others you have taken at UNC.	2.81	3.00	0.80	42	7.1%	21.4%	54.8%	16.7%	0.0%
2. Rate the workload required in this course compared with others you have taken at UNC.	3.07	3.00	0.60	42	0.0%	14.3%	64.3%	21.4%	0.0%

Reported Engagement

	N	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	12+
1. Please estimate the average number of hours per week that you spent outside of class on work related to this course.	42	0.0%	42.9%	45.2%	9.5%	2.4%	0.0%
2. About how many times this semester have you met with the instructor outside of class?	42	54.8%	38.1%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Expected Grade

	N	A- or A	B or B+	C+ or B-	C- or C	F or D	Pass	Fail	H	P	L
1. What grade do you think you will get in this course?	42	73.8%	21.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%

Diversity and Inclusion

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The diversity of my classmates enriched my learning in this course.	3.60	4.00	1.14	20	5.0%	10.0%	30.0%	30.0%	25.0%
2. I increased my ability to work on a team with students from different backgrounds and perspectives.	3.52	4.00	1.29	21	9.5%	9.5%	28.6%	23.8%	28.6%
3. This course exposed me to points of view different from my own.	3.57	4.00	1.20	23	8.7%	8.7%	21.7%	39.1%	21.7%
4. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues of diversity.	3.64	4.00	1.22	22	9.1%	4.5%	27.3%	31.8%	27.3%
5. The instructor, Christian Sampson, valued the diversity of life experiences among students.	4.32	4.00	0.69	25	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	44.0%	44.0%
6. The instructor, Christian Sampson, saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.30	4.00	0.70	23	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%	43.5%	43.5%
7. In-class activities were organized to value the diversity of life experiences among students.	3.55	3.50	1.22	22	9.1%	4.5%	36.4%	22.7%	27.3%

Open-Ended Responses

Comments on Overall Assessment of This Course.

Comments

Interesting and practical course. Good intro to linear algebra for mathematicians as well as scientists and engineers. Would have been interesting to dive deeper into vector space structure and more general vector spaces like we did towards the end of the course, but I imagine that's what 577 is for.

I feel like I learned a lot from this class, but I think the way it was structured, it was very easy for students to just memorize answers for the test. I think that attendance in class should have been a part of the course grade because so many people skipped every day.

Covered all of the needed content at a decent pace.

In a course for the applications of linear algebra, I wish there has been less emphasis on theory and proofs. To be fair, this is the only linear class I have ever taken, so it might be less theoretical than other such courses, but I felt overwhelmed and discouraged by the emphasis on proving theorems in class — I wish we had more time to practice. In that vein, other math classes I have taken here allocated 5 minute intervals in class for students to work together to try a problem on their own. This would have been valuable because I felt like I understood examples in class, but I forgot much of the material by the time I completed the homework the next week. Practicing in class would be a valuable way to spend class time, shifting away from proofs.

Learned a lot about matrices, etc. Well built course and I got help when I needed it and so many chances to learn after failing.

Great format, excellent use of online tools, very helpful resources.

This course was very well done overall. Christian really wanted everyone in this class to succeed. However, I think we were offered too much in terms of grade-boosting strategies. Exams and quizzes are meant to hold students accountable for learning the information in this course. However, the way they were implemented this semester, they just held students accountable for memorizing the practice exams and quiz questions. In fact, not even that much happened, as I usually just worked with the people next to me and explained the answers as I did them, without imparting much understanding on them.

I think it's really fantastic how much Christian did for us to help us succeed. I guess for a class titled "linear algebra for applications" it was alright. I just wonder if it does more harm than good in the long run.

Fair class, the material was interesting and the delivery was alright. I appreciate the lecture recordings and while Webassign is annoying, it was helpful.

way too easy to the point where i actually did not learn much but just memorized

The setup of this course assists a lot in learning the material. The class notes, videos, and quizzes are very helpful for learning.

I thought the course was great. I learned a lot of new information.

Although the material was tough, the amount of help that I received from Professor Sampson was immensely helpful. If I couldn't understand the material in class, he always posted his notes and recordings of the lecture so that I could go back and review them. This alone helped me get through this class with high marks and encouraged me to work hard, since I will be rewarded. I am not very passionate about this material, but the instructor carried me through!

Comments on Overall Assessment of This Instructor.

Comments

Clear and precise with explanations while remaining approachable and intuitive. Taught through a class that didn't respect him too much (lots of chatter, etc.) and still remained an amicable and helpful instructor. Occasional arithmetic errors, but always caught and rectified them. Also gave ample opportunity to maintain and increase class grade – definitely cared about students learning the material more than grading them harshly. Happy I had him as an instructor.

This professor is one of the most effective math professors I have. He made material very clear and easy by giving notes before class and provided ample practice questions and resources. There were times when the material could have been taught in a more engaging way ie. breaking up into groups to solve problems, rather than a very traditional lecture format. A more flipped classroom approach (even on certain days) would give more opportunities for students to ask questions and practice the material.

Dr. Sampson is such a nice, helpful professor. He also provided excellent resources to study. He clearly wanted all of his students to learn and do well in the class. I just feel like some of the students took advantage of how nice he was and of the extra opportunities he gave them to improve grades.

Wonderful instructor, cares about students, and grades extremely fairly.

Professor Sampson is always helpful and kind to help students get the best from and out of class.

Seemed enthusiastic about the course and its applications.

Professor Sampson clearly cares about the success of students: the extensive guided notes, recorded lectures, quizzes, and exam prep materials were all designed to ease the burden on students in a challenging class. He did not make the course unnecessarily difficult (he did not force us to memorize material, or give us assignments with unreasonable expectations). However, I feel like I was

Comments

able to move through the class (except maybe the final), without *mastering* the material. I have a sufficient understanding, but I would rely on having a textbook/reference source to do a lot of the work. One solution might be to not give out the quiz questions before hand — this would force people to study throughout the year, but would make the course more challenging certainly.

I very much enjoyed taking 547 with Dr Sampson. While the material definitely pushed me toward the end of the semester I thought Christian did a great job with this class.

Great teacher. Made lots of resources available to supplement lecture and was always willing to help.

The most passionate, thoughtful, and encouraging professor I have ever had at UNC

Great teacher, really cares about his students learning the material and is always looking for ways to help his students out

He's the most clearest math professor and caring professor I've ever had in a tough class such as Linear Algebra. After exam 2 where I basically failed it, he gave us extra credit opportunities and grade rebalances through the final exam, which helped me mentally rebound for the class. He also wants his students to succeed and gives various assignments and office hours to learn from. Legit the nicest professor and clearest math professor I've ever had. He really needs a teaching award. I also loved the way he used Sakai and gave us online lectures and online notes, just in case we somehow missed class. In regular classes without It it makes math classes hard, but this tool again helps us succeed.

He made too many calculation mistakes in class

Christian Sampson is the best professor I've had at Carolina, and should absolutely continue teaching undergraduate courses. He was fair, caring, and an effective teacher. He used relevant and interesting examples, provided excellent notes (digital was great) and resources, and recorded all lectures. The way quizzes were designed to check our knowledge instead of stress us out was also great. Also he's adorable and a great guy. I want him to be my uncle.

great professor. All the information we need to know is covered in lecture and made available online through sakai, which really helps me save time and focus on completing the assignments.

Dr. Sampson was a good instructor, he is knowledgeable in the subject matter. The only problem was the calculation errors that happened during lecture.

made a lot of mistakes in class during lectures but was very enthusiastic and kind

He is a great guy! Really knowledgeable about the subject and enthusiastic.

He makes a lot of careless mistakes that can get confusing at times, but someone usually points it out, and he always sends emails to correct mistakes so that you don't get confused.

Also he makes sure that an error on his part will never result in us getting questions wrong.

He will explain anything to you before or after class if you ask him!

I never went to office hours because I had classes during all of them.

He is also cognizant of the fact that students care about their grades and doesn't want to fail everyone. His primary goal is for us to learn the concepts, not just for us to pass the tests, so he will give extra credit if necessary.

Christian is very engaging and cares that his students learn the material.

The instructor is very enthusiastic and his teaching methods are effective. However, he does make many errors during lectures.

He is really nice and helpful!

I could tell that Professor Sampson cares about his students. He always made sure to record his lectures and post notes online so that students could review them. Sometimes, I would struggle to keep up in class and missed a lot of important details. However, after every lecture I would review it in detail after class to see what I missed. This proved to be an effective strategy that helped me get through this class. Although the material was difficult, the notes provided in class / online helped me out. Examples were given throughout class and could be reviewed after class. Exam information was clearly communicated and I was confident about myself going into the exams. I believe that Professor Sampson was one of the best professors I have ever taken due to his flexibility, eagerness to help his students (swift email responses), and his clear interest in the subject, even adding real-life applications to pique the interests of students. 10/10

I took this course essentially for fun, after dropping my BS in Math during my sophomore year. Now, I will be attending the University of Virginia School of Law, which is ranked 8th in the nation. I say this to show that I am not a poor student by any means, but that I dropped the major because I felt that the UNC mathematics department as a whole cared very little for the students in it. I want to emphasize now, IF MORE MATHEMATICS PROFESSORS WERE LIKE CHRISTIAN, I FULLY BELIEVE I WOULD STILL BE A PART OF THE PROGRAM. Sorry to be dramatic, but Christian's care for the class, enthusiasm for teaching, and pure work he puts into it go far beyond anything I have seen in a science or math class at UNC. EVERY professor of math at UNC I have had could learn from his example. Perhaps there are others who are as dedicated to actually teaching— rather than just going through the motions necessary to secure research funding— but Christian Sampson is by far the BEST I have ever seen. I hope that he will read this and know that every student I have talked to in this class feels the same way.

How Did the Diversity of Your Classmates Contribute to Your Learning in This Course?

Comments
It did not. There was no relation of diversity of my classmates to my ability to solve math problems.
Mainly worked alone for this class.
stop asking this
Different applications of linear algebra
There were a lot of questions asked in class so that was nice.
N/A it was a math class
I was able to work with different people to complete certain assignments.
Not very applicable

How Might the Class Climate Be Made More Inclusive of Diverse Students?

Comments
No idea.
stop asking this
Get non-math majors to take the course
I think it was fine.
Not sure because it's a math class
I don't know

If You Would Recommend This Instructor For a Teaching Award, Please Briefly Explain Why.

Comments

Was able to give intuitive yet rigorous understanding of the course material, and show how it could be generalized or used in relevant applications with clarity. Additionally, remained amicable and helpful even while teaching disrespectful or disengaged students. Overall good instructor and pleasant experience in the course.

Truly wants his students to succeed. One of the best professors I've ever had.

Professor Sampson was very proactive in making the class as accessible as possible to all students and because of that we were able to do better in this fairly difficult subject than we would have given a typical learning environment.

Very organized with respect to the class notes, enthusiastic and does a good job in lecture getting points across.

He is by far the best math teacher I have ever had. I've taken a lot of math courses at UNC (like 7 or 8) so this is saying something.

Professor Sampson included examples from his research in his lectures and his enthusiasm for the subject was infectious. I have never had a professor so dedicated to the success of his students. He consistently went the extra mile to make sure that every one had the opportunity to get help, understand the material, and obtain the best grade they could.

He really cares about the subject matter and was really fascinated in wanting to teach the class more than just the subject matter.

Best math professor I've ever had and not to mention this class is tough. He gave a diverse set of assignments and grading opportunities. Very clear in his explanations and provides many resources inside and outside of class. I can't recommend this professor enough.

Christian Sampson is the best professor I've had at Carolina, and should absolutely continue teaching undergraduate courses. He was fair, caring, and an effective teacher. He used relevant and interesting examples, provided excellent notes (digital was great) and resources, and recorded all lectures. The way quizzes were designed to check our knowledge instead of stress us out was also great. Also he's adorable and a great guy. I want him to be my uncle.

A lot of effort was put in to make this course effective. Every lecture was recorded and notes were posted before and after to sakai so that students can reference them whenever they needed. Lectures were well-organized and included relevant examples that enhanced the students understanding of the material and demonstrated its applications beyond the class. Weekly quizzes served as useful checkpoints that ensure students understand all the material before the exam. The professor also made sure students were well-prepared for exams by holding exam review sessions outside of regular class hours. Students with questions can email the professor and expect a quick response. Overall, it is clear that this professor cares deeply about the success of his students, and is committed to ensuring this success.

he really cares about us! and he does an excellent job teaching difficult material

Flexibility inside and outside the classroom and clear passion in teaching the subject matter.

In the last four years, I have taken classes across Carolina's College of Arts and Sciences. Christian is one of the most invested professors I have ever taken a class with. From what I can tell, he does complete valuable research for this university, yet unlike the vast majority of higher level professors I have had, this does not detract from his work as a professor, and teacher, at all. He is always fast to respond, thorough in his responses, and concerned with whether or not his students are learning. I have never had a math professor who cared so much, and this should be rewarded.