



Fall 2017 - Teaching Survey Report for Ryan Alvarado

MATH 0220 - ANALYTIC GEOMETRY & CALCULUS 1 - 1080 - Lecture

2181 - Teaching Survey Fall 2017

Total Enrollment 71

Responses Received 36

Response Rate 50.70%

Subject Details

Name	MATH 0220 - ANALYTIC GEOMETRY & CALCULUS 1 - 1080 - Lecture
DEPARTMENT_CD	MATH
CAMPUS_CD	PIT
SCHOOL_CD	ARTSC
CLASS_NBR	10754
COURSE_NUMBER	220
SECTION_NUMBER	1080
TERM_NUMBER	2181
COURSE_TYPE	Lecture
CLASS_ATTRIBUTE	
ENROLLED_STUDENTS	75
First Name	Ryan
Last Name	Alvarado
RANK_DESCR	Other
TENURE	NT

Report Comments

Table of Contents:

Instructor and Course Survey Results:

- Numerical
- Comments
- Additional School or Department Questions (if applicable)
- Additional QP Questions (if applicable)

Creation Date Fri, Jan 12, 2018

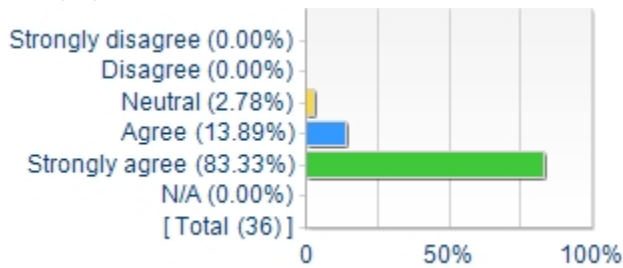
Arts and Sciences Questions

Summary: 5-point scale - Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

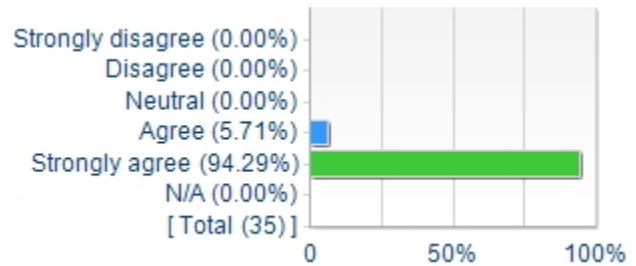
Question	Results		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The instructor created an atmosphere that kept me engaged in course content.	4.81	36	0.47
The instructor was prepared for class.	4.94	35	0.24
The instructor treated students with respect.	4.80	35	0.47
The instructor was available to me (in-person, electronically, or both).	4.75	32	0.51
The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	4.75	36	0.55
The instructor provided feedback that was helpful to me.	4.61	36	0.64
I learned a lot from this course. If there is no basis to judge or not applicable, answer N/A.	4.34	35	0.91

Detailed Responses

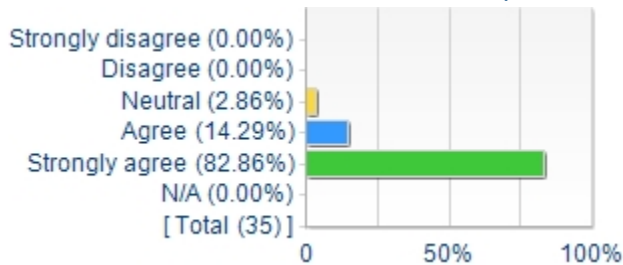
1. The instructor created an atmosphere that kept me engaged in course content.



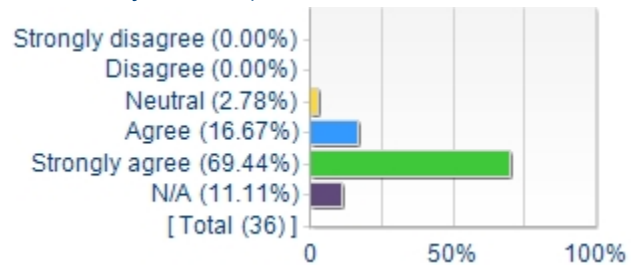
2. The instructor was prepared for class.



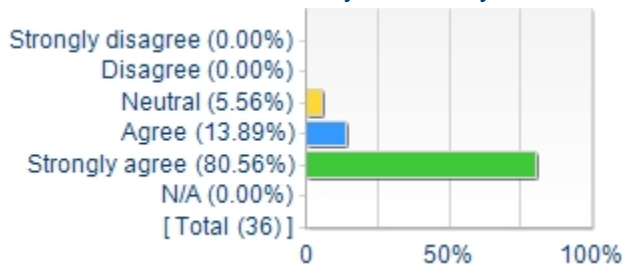
3. The instructor treated students with respect.



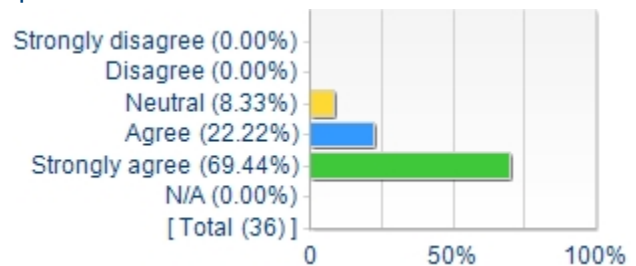
4. The instructor was available to me (in-person, electronically, or both).



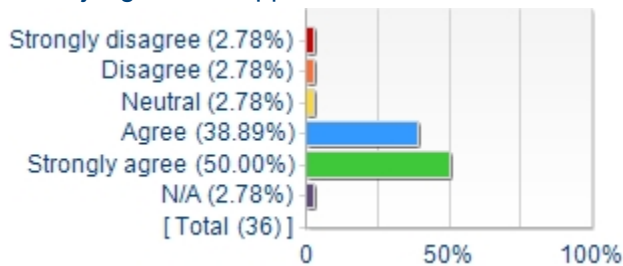
5. The instructor evaluated my work fairly.



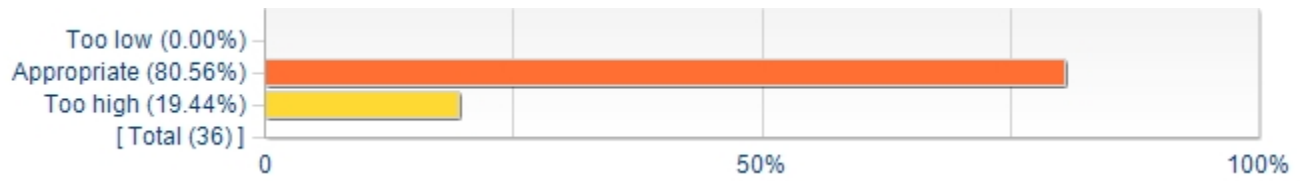
6. The instructor provided feedback that was helpful to me.



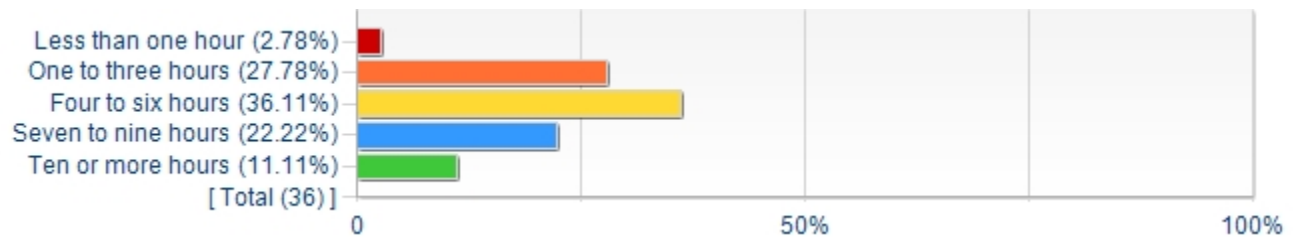
7. I learned a lot from this course. If there is no basis to judge or not applicable, answer N/A.



The standards the instructor set for me were:



How many hours per week did you usually spend working on this course outside of classroom time?



Comments

What did you like best about how the course was taught?

Comments
The professor is extremely organized and had very clear expectations for the class, so we were never surprised by the material on exams
online notes
I enjoyed the thorough notes and explanation to the main concept.
The notes were put online.
I liked how fun and relaxing he always made the course. People would get stressed about exams and problems, but Ryan always had a way to calm them down. He showed us cat pictures!
The teacher has a passion for what he teaches, making it a more engaging atmosphere.
He taught the course with enthusiasm and at an equal level of understanding with his students, that way everyone is on the same page and wouldn't be left behind and confused.
Dr. Alvarado made the class fun even though the topic doesn't necessarily interest me too much. Additionally, his examples in the notes matched what was seen on the exams.
He is definitely the best professor ever. He is really enthusiastic in class which makes the lecture interesting. He is also really fair and caring. He asked international students whether we had language barrier to understand questions with a lot of words. He actually pays attention on students' thoughts. BTW, teaching with a surface is awesome!!!
He taught the content in a way to appeal to all majors.
Dr. Alvarado was very receptive to student concerns and needs, and adapted appropriately to best help our class. This is something truly unique that I've never seen in any other teacher in my life and it greatly helped.
I liked having quizzes every week to make sure we stayed on top of the material, and that our LONKAPA homework WAS NOT due every week. Extra credit forced us to think deeply about the material and helped save our grades a little. I really enjoyed having the notes on the tablet to refer to after class, and even the color coding was helpful! Alvarado speaks loudly which works in his favor because it makes you pay attention and feel an urgency in what he's saying. Besides that, you're the best professor I've had at Pitt in my three semesters here, and that's an indisputable fact. I'd love to take another one of your classes again, but alas, I don't want to take calc 2 if I don't have to. Thank you for earnestly caring about your students, thank you for trying to step into our shoes in order to think like the student and help us in literally any way possible, and thank you for making Calc 1 as engaging as it could possibly be, especially for me, who took it for the second time. And thank you for pushing us, every class, to work hard and do well. To whoever is reviewing this survey, just know this man is THE SHIT. As in, I wish he could teach all of my courses because he just knows how to reach students effectively and he's that brilliant. I don't know how he does it, there may or may not be some sorcery going on. I love this man. As in, if this man was not twenty years older than me and seemingly married, then YOU ALREADY KNOW I'd be ON THAT SHIT, if you know what I mean. I could go on and on about how inspiring he is, and I'M TERRIBLE AT CALCULUS. That's impressive. Please give this man an award or something, because he needs to be recognized.
He taught the course with passion. He cares about his students. The way he teaches makes me really understand the material.
I liked that the notes were available to me online. It allowed me to focus on what he was saying while in class versus trying to quickly scribble down the notes on the board. Having him write the notes on the tablet and having access to them was a great tool for me.
I liked the class notebook to be able to go back through when doing homework or studying. Having it be colored coded helped me focus on different parts of the notes and solving problems.
I loved everything about this class
the notes were online
–Using the Surface and OneNote online
–Professor's enthusiasm
–Very Clearly presented information
The professor (Ryan Alvarado) is an incredible professor!!..keep him for as long as possible.

Comments

Phenomenal teacher, cares about his students, always goes over examples clearly and correctly,

I love the online notes and how I can look back at them at anytime I want. Dr. A is really engaging and probably my favorite professor.

I really liked him as my professor. I retook this class and he explained very well of the concepts that I missed last semester.

I liked that Dr. Alvarado was highly engaging and did his best to teach us the material.

The online notes are very helpful when I can't write down all of the notes in class. Posting the answers to the exams can help me figure out what I did wrong and study for the final. The quizzes are very helpful in learning the different topics and helps me focus on one section each week.

I liked Professor Alvarado's notetaking style and that he put problems we'd seen before on the tests— it made it more manageable to study for his tests

I really like Ryan as a professor. He was always very engaging and seemed to care about the students in class, unlike some other professors. I also really enjoyed the tablet he used, I feel it made teaching much easier and more streamlined then writing on a whiteboard or chalkboard.

The online notes were very nice, though i seldom looked at them. I also liked the speed, it may have been too fast for some, but fitting in everything and then having a day of review left is tough. Actually teaching at that pace almost impossible but you did an amazing job teaching.

The online notes and the several different types of examples done in class. The professor's enthusiasm for the course made the course more engaging.

Being given proofs and explanations of course content was immensely helpful to retention.

Very friendly attitude in class, it made paying attention and staying engaged easier as well as made me enjoy going to calculus— something I never imagine possible. Overall a very good instructor and had exemplary explanations and feedback!

The tablet was a great choice for notes

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?

Comments
the pace of the exams and no departmental final
I would enjoy diving deeper into the explanation on the why's of the lesson rather than presenting it briefly then moving onto examples.
Maybe give the students more chances to bring their grades up with other assignments or more extra credit.
Nothing
Focus more in the first weeks of the semester for review of pre calc and trigonometry materials.
Teach at a slightly slower pace
Not assign LON CAPA homework as a required grade. It distracts from actually studying and makes preparing for an exam very stressful in terms of trying to get it done, as well as study the rest of the material.
nothing
nope.
Try and go a little slower and explain the material in more depth.
I wouldn't terrify my students about the departmental final.
Nothing.
nothing
I'm not sure that I would do anything different. My professor makes class as entertaining as a college calculus class could be and uses all of the resources available to make sure that his students understand the material.
I would like to slow the class down, but I know it's not possible in this course.
As a department I'd slow it down but individually I'd change anything
Not require the departmental final
Honestly I don't think Dr. A should change anything but I'm putting this complaint here about a TA that isn't mine so hopefully dr. A will see it: during computer lab Tong Tong is extremely rude and condescending. Whenever you ask her a question and try to explain what you did to try to solve it she always interrupts and tells you things you already know and doesn't answer your questions at all and then is frustrated when you still have more questions. If she would just let someone explain what their thinking is and why they're confused that'd be better but when I tried to do that she said "fine go ahead since you're so much better than me" so I really don't know what this girl wants from a student.
He does have bad handwriting and sometimes talks too fast to miss the information
I personally think the standards set for this class are too high. I had to drop my AP credits for graduate school reasons, but I had previously done well on my AP calculus exam, so I assumed that I would at least be able to follow along with the material 99% of the time. This was absolutely not true. The departmental final creates a nervousness throughout both professor and class. I understand that this is a prerequisite to calculus 2, an even more difficult class, however the amount of time that it took me to be able to even grasp the course content after already performing well in a calculus class was more than a bit ridiculous.
nothing
The only issues I have with this course are the departmental final and the pace, but I realize neither of these things can be changed regardless of what I or my classmates think. I feel the pace puts a lot on you as the student to figure out whatever you do not understand very quickly before the next lecture or you become at risk for getting lost, which I struggled with at first. As for the final, from what I have heard so far it is unreasonably hard and a large percentage of people fail it. I am not sure why if I have such a good professor failure is still so prominent, so to me that seems like an issue with the exam itself. That being said I do understand the exam can not be altered.
The chapters listed in the syllabus online do not directly correspond to the chapters in the book. Also it was confusing how the notes were formatted.
Nothing
Provide more example answers, if not professor designed, then just a way to find them.
Do more examples in class

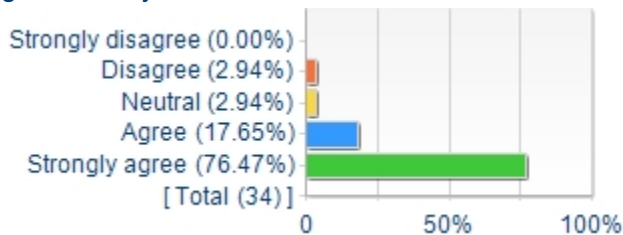
Math Primary/Secondary Instructor Additional Items

Summary: 5-point scale - Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

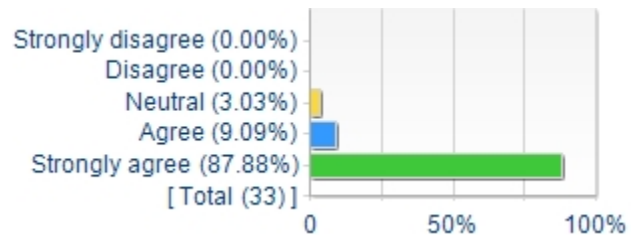
Question	Results		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The instructor presented the course in an organized way.	4.68	34	0.68
The instructor responded to student's questions in an effective manner.	4.85	33	0.44
The instructor used class time effectively to enhance understanding of course topics.	4.79	34	0.48
Based on what I learned in this course, I feel well prepared to use the topics of the course in the future.	4.12	34	0.84

Detailed Responses

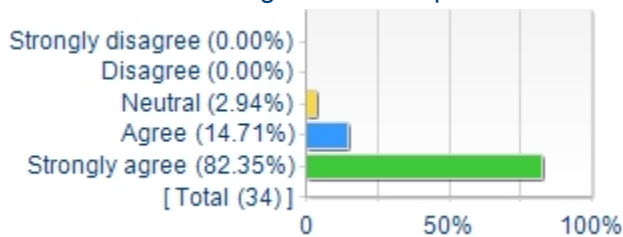
1. The instructor presented the course in an organized way.



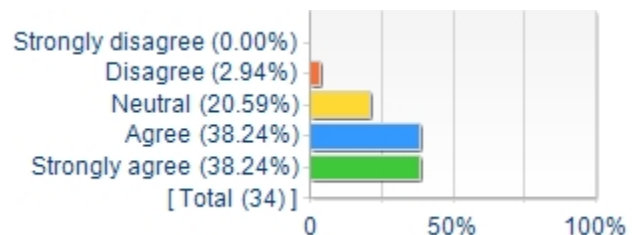
2. The instructor responded to student's questions in an effective manner.



3. The instructor used class time effectively to enhance understanding of course topics.

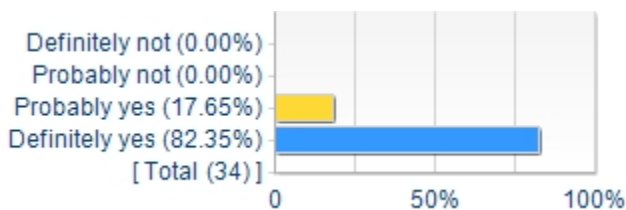


4. Based on what I learned in this course, I feel well prepared to use the topics of the course in the future.



Detailed Responses

1. Would you recommend this instructor to other students?



2. Would you take another course from this instructor?

