

EVALUATION: TEMPLATE

Name:

Class Year:
Major:
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Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback about your experience in this course. Teaching is highly valued at Amherst, and your reflections are an important part of our efforts to assess and improve our teaching. Please be thoughtful, fair, and honest. Your instructor will be able to view your responses only after final grades have been submitted, and to them your identity will be anonymous. As part of the reappointment, tenure, and promotion process, your responses will also be read by the president, provost and dean of the faculty, and other senior faculty, and to them your identity will not be anonymous.

PLEASE NOTE: Use the TAB key or your mouse to move between questions; the Enter / Return key will submit the webform.

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- Prepare for class
- Attend class
- Participate in class
- Complete assignments
- Meet with professor outside of class

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

EVALUATION: #1 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>always</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>rarely</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

- 1. Reading the textbook.*
- 2. Review the online lecture notes.*

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

- 1. Professor Alvarado presents the lecture material with clear structure at a propriety speed.*
- 2. Professor Alvarado uploads all lecture notes online which really help me to review and catch up when I miss lectures.*

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

- 1. The skill to write more complicated proof.*
- 2. The ability to generalize a complicated proof by some very basic ideas.*

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

- 1. The pace is appropriate, but occasionally it is a little bit too slow for me.*
- 2. The expectations are clear.*
- 3. Assignments are well designed.*

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

I miss a lot of lectures due to some personal difficulties, and Professor Alvarado really helps me a lot with his online lecture notes.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

None.

EVALUATION: #2 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>often</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>always</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>always</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>often</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

Made sure I was in every class. Professor Alvarado is a great lecturer and really helps you learn during the lecture.

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Tied together a lot of the math classes I have taken at Amherst. Gave me a much better understanding of higher level mathematics.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

I gained the knowledge of understanding and breaking down very abstract concepts.

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The class was fast paced, but I learned a lot every single class period. Professor Alvarado did a great job at transitioning to online classes and made the experience seamless.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

Professor Alvarado is the most interactive Math Professor I have had while at Amherst. He makes an active effort to make sure that students are engaged and enjoying the class.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

I am about to graduate from Amherst with only having had Visiting Professors in the Math Department. Professor Alvarado was head and shoulders above all of the other visiting professors I have had. His knowledge, enthusiasm, and care for his students really separates him from all of the others.

EVALUATION: #3 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>always</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>rarely</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>always</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>sometimes</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

I started the homeworks and exam early so I didn't have to rush and had time to digest all the problems fully. Also, the making sure to attend every class was essential, as it seemed that missing lecture was a surefire way to fall behind.

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Prof. Alvarado brought a greatly appreciated energy to what could have been very dry proofs and material, especially once we moved to Zoom and were on remote learning. It helped me brave the 9 am classes and pay attention.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

I learned a lot about using concepts and theorems in creative ways to solve new problems in a way that wasn't as clear or emphasized in Math 355. Being able to apply base level facts and concepts, wrestling with problems without a time crunch really helped me learn the material.

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I appreciated the pace of the class and the assignments, especially in the Zoom portion of the class, and was grateful for the understanding Prof. Alvarado showed with things like deadlines and format (LaTeX vs handwritten). The more relaxed pace when compared to Math 355 helped keep stress levels down and an encouraging atmosphere in the class.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

Prof. Alvarado really welcomed questions during class (even when we just stared blankly at him over Zoom) and answered them quickly and clearly. Office Hours were very helpful and he did a great job in managing all the different students who showed up and make sure everyone was taken care of. Feedback was helpful on assignments and exams and I appreciated the effort he put into it.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

[No Response]

EVALUATION: #4 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>often</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>often</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>always</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>often</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>rarely</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

I read a lot of math on my own time that used the material we were covering in class, making the material feel more motivated and reinforcing it. I asked a lot of questions and had discussions with the professor about the material and its generalizations/applications.

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I found it very satisfying that this course was constructed such that the capstone theorems (inverse and implicit function) used basically every single thing that we had learned up to that point. It made the course feel cohesive, even though there were points early on where it was unclear how certain topics related to each other.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

I'm now comfortable with analysis in \mathbb{R}^n . This course helped cement the notion of "derivative as a linear map" into my mind, since it was highly non obvious at the beginning.

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Professor Alvarado is very clear with everything he teaches. He focused on a lot on the big picture, and structures things in a way that we always knew where we were in the grand scheme of things. This was particularly helpful in the midst of very long proofs like Heine-Borel and the Inverse Function Theorem, where we would often take a moment to step back and look at the key ideas. I found it very easy to follow the class because of this.

The homework, I think, could've been substantially harder. Almost all of the problems assigned were routine applications of definitions, or proving the second part of a theorem that essentially involved just rewriting the first part of the theorem we had done in class. I especially feel this way because the professor assigned a lot more problems than we turned in, so he had a lot of leeway to assign immensely difficult problems for us to think about and stimulate us that we would never have to be graded on. As it stood, I felt like I had to go out of the way to see the material used in a more substantial way.

As for the pace, I'm conflicted. The pace was almost exactly the same pace as Math 355; I often felt that, given that it was a higher level course, it could move faster. However, I understand that the course was meant as a continuation of 355 and an easier alternative to 450. I especially felt this way when we were reviewing material from the calculus sequence, linear algebra, or 355; it was almost as if he expected us to have forgotten the material completely. While the refresher was nice, I felt it could've been a much briefer refresher, leaving the students who had legitimately forgotten the material to discuss it with professor Alvarado during office hours. For example, he talked for about 10 minutes about what a basis of a vector space was and the standard basis for \mathbb{R}^n . I think something like this could've been done in a lot less time than that.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

Professor Alvarado was very good at answering questions. I liked that it was clear that what we were learning tied to his own research, and I liked his anecdotes making that connection explicit. Outside of class, he was always approachable and answered questions in a clear manner. The feedback we received was meticulous, which I appreciated since it was a lot more specific than "these are right, these are wrong."

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

[No Response]

EVALUATION: #5 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluate your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>always</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>always</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>sometimes</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

Working through the assignments for this course on my own before looking for help was really important for me, I think I learned a lot by banging my head up against the problems.

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Alvarado was very helpful in showing me the importance of this material in particular. I thought I was done with the hard math proofs, but the results we showed at the end of class were really exciting in a way that I'd missed.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

I generally like the analysis branches of math better than the lin alg/groups branches, and this course really showed me just how limited the scope of my previous coursework was. Being able to do the same types of problem in even more generality gave me a deeper appreciation for the mathematics.

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The course was very clear. I thought that the beginning of the course was a little slow, the first two weeks or so could have been condensed a lot. It might be partly due to moving online, but I thought it sped up a lot towards the end. The assignments and expectations, though, were always clear and that didn't change once we moved online.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

Professor Alvarado was always available more than enough for extra meetings, and the assignments were graded quickly and clearly. Questions were encouraged and always answered, the classroom was a very fun and inclusive space.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

Thank you for a great semester!

EVALUATION: #6 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>always</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>always</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>always</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>always</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>always</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

I think Professor Alvarado 's office hours were always useful. I also had him for 355 so I had already realized the importance of attending office hours. I really liked Professor Alvarado's upbeat teaching style, so I decided to take another class of his. I think his energy keeps students engaged and motivated.

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I took 355 last semester and found it challenging. I never would have thought I could have completed 372 at the start of 355- but it is the end of the semester and I did not! Professor Alvarado is very encouraging and positive. Even though I am a math major, math does not come super easily to me, and I've struggled on tests and material at Amherst. This has caused a lack of confidence but 355 and 372 have helped turn that around. I feel much more comfortable in my abilities and that I can achieve what I put my mind to. In large part this was due to Professor Alvarado making the material never seem out of reach and his overall approach to the class.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

[No Response]

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The course was great because we were able to learn a lot of interesting things and didn't have to stick to the core curriculum like some of the other classes at Amherst. I really liked how if one person asked a question and we got down a bit of a rabbit hole we could do that because it was an elective. I think the pace was good and the presentation of the information was engaging. The expectations were clear.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

The professor was always engaged with student's questions and ideas and cared about each of us and wanted to make sure that everyone was engaged and interested and achieving their goals. I think there was a wide range of backgrounds in the class and the professor did a good job of handling that.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

Professor Alvarado has been a great professor these past two semesters - his positive and encouraging attitude is what each Amherst professor should strive for I think.

EVALUATION: #7 (of 7)

For the questions below, please evaluation your own commitment to and effort exerted in the course.

1. How often did you:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Prepare for class | <i>often</i> |
| • Attend class | <i>always</i> |
| • Participate in class | <i>sometimes</i> |
| • Complete assignments | <i>always</i> |
| • Meet with professor outside of class | <i>sometimes</i> |

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course:

I think review the notes and finish homework in time is always helpful to understand the materials. It is also very helpful to go to the office hour.

The following questions ask you to reflect upon the ways the course and instructor helped you to develop your thinking, skills, and abilities. Please provide specific details to support your reflections.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

The way in which Professor Alvarado give lecture is very inspiring because it's very clear beforehand the motivation of our learning. Also, the proof and lecture is very clear and helpful for us to learn to present proofs by ourselves.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course:

I learned Latex. I learned to read proofs and study a new area by my own and how to prepare and present lecture. I also learned the analysis In higher dimensions.

The following questions ask you to reflect on how the course structure and your instructor's teaching affected your learning in the course. Please provide specific details to support your feedback.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I think every aspect of this lecture is very great though the content of the course is difficult.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in the course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside of class, and the feedback you received on your coursework.

Professor Alvarado is very encouraging and the engagement with our questions and Ideas is good as well.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

7. Additional comments:

[No Response]