Home Dept: Mathematics   Instructor: Ray,Arunima   Course #:   MATH 151A 1

Overall Instructor Rating (Avg. q12-q18):   4.66   Enrollment: 12   Responses: 9   Rate: 75%

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Key: #-Total Responses 1-Strongly Disagree 2-Disagree 3-Neutral 4-Agree 5-Strongly Agree

COURSE STRUCTURE AND GRADING

General Structure	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
1 The course syllabus was comprehensive, clear, and accurate.	9	0	0	0	0	9		5.00	0.0
2 The learning goals were clearly stated in the syllabus.	9	0	0	0	0	9		5.00	0.0
3 Classes started and ended on time.	9	0	1	0	2	6		4.44	1.0
					Average:			**4.81**	

Grading	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
4 Content of tests and assignments was consistent with content of lectures and/or reading.	9	0	0	1	1	7	0	4.67	0.7
5 Assignments and/or exams were returned promptly.	9	0	2	1	0	6	0	4.11	1.4
6 The grading policies were clear and consistently followed.	9	0	0	1	2	6		4.56	0.7
7 The graded assignments allowed me to demonstrate what I learned in the course.	9	0	0	1	1	7	0	4.67	0.7
					Average:			**4.50**	

Content and Workload	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
8 The content covered in this course was challenging.	9	0	0	0	4	5		4.56	0.5
9 This course requires a lot of work.	9	0	0	0	5	4		4.44	0.5
					Average:			**4.50**	

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
10 I completed the course readings.	8	0	0	0	3	5	0	4.63	0.5
11 I kept up with work as it was assigned.	8	0	1	0	3	4		4.25	1.0
					Average:			**4.44**	

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND SKILLS	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
12 The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	9	0	1	0	2	6		4.44	1.0
13 The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	9	0	0	1	1	7	0	4.67	0.7
14 The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	9	0	0	1	1	7		4.67	0.7
					Average:			**4.59**	

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RESPONSIVENESS OF THE INSTRUCTOR	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
15 The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	9	0	0	0	2	7		4.78	0.4
16 The instructor respected students' ideas.	9	0	0	0	2	7		4.78	0.4
17 The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	9	0	0	0	2	7		4.78	0.4
18 I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	8	0	0	1	2	5		4.50	0.8
						Average:		**4.71**	

CONTRIBUTION TO LEARNING	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
19 The stated learning goals for the course were met.	9	0	0	0	2	7		4.78	0.4
20 This course improved my writing ability.	9	0	0	0	1	4	4	4.80	0.4
21 This course improved my oral communication skills.	9	0	0	1	1	4	3	4.50	0.8
22 This course improved my quantitative skills.	9	0	0	1	2	5	1	4.50	0.8
23 This course helped me develop my creative abilities.	9	0	0	1	0	5	3	4.67	0.8
24 This course helped me to analyze, interpret and synthesize information.	9	0	0	1	2	5	1	4.50	0.8
25 This course helped me to reason better and to think more critically about its subject matter.	9	0	0	0	3	6	0	4.67	0.5
26 This course helped me to consider alternative perspectives on complex issues.	9	0	0	1	0	5	3	4.67	0.8
						Average:		**4.63**	

OVERALL QUALITY OF THE COURSE	#	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Avg	S.D.
27 The overall quality of this course was excellent.	9	0	0	1	1	7		4.67	0.7
						Average:		**4.67**	

STUDENT STATUS	#	First Year	Sophmore	Junior	Senior	Master's	Doctoral
28 Your class standing?	8	0	0	0	0	5	3

	#	SCI	SocSCI	HUM	ART	Undecided	not applicable
29 What is your school of major?	8	5	0	0	2	0	1

	#	university req.	major req.	minor req.	interest	not applicable	
30 Why did you choose this course?	9	2	4	0	3	0	

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31 Please identify those aspects of the course you found most useful or valuable for learning.

    1 The professor is particularly good at illustrating both the "big picture" of this subject and yet also is very successful in presenting the important details in a satisfying and intuitive manner.

    2 Aru is excellent at telling a story in her lectures. She clearly states not only the content but also points out which parts are most important to focus on and motivate the material well. She was also very available for me to ask questions and went out of here way to make sure that I was getting the help that I needed.

    3 The textbook is very helpful especially in the second half of the course. The lectures were best during the first half of the course.

    4 I found the coloured pictures that the instructor drew very useful, and they went beyond the textbook that we were assigned.

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32 What suggestions would you make to the instructor for improving the course?

    1 I think that this course is as good as it gets given the time constraints etc.

    2 I felt like maybe the fourth homework assignment should have come before the midterm exam. I understood the material about coving spaces and group actions a lot better after having done the fourth assignment and that would have bee useful for the midterm.

    3 Aru is on her way to becoming a great teacher, but she has room for improvement. Here are my specific suggestions: 1. Watch the clock more carefully, or plan the lectures more carefully. She often rushed through the last (and most complicated) 15 minutes of class, which meant we didn't really understand those parts.   2. When a student asks a question, she has a tendency to answer much more than the question itself. Often she would answer the question in about 2 sentences, and then say something like "This is actually an example of..." and go on a tangent. Better to stop after those 2 sentences because it saves time and carrying on can make the student feel like they are hogging the class time when really they just had a small clarification question. 3. I'm having trouble articulating this final point. Essentially, I felt that Aru's lecture style was too focused on her notes and details, and not enough on the big picture questions. In a phrase, she wasn't telling us a story. There was no clear "problem" or "question" and it was more like a pedantic re-statement of all theorems in the book. I fully believe Aru is capable of telling a great story, and she had some good moments in this course, but usually they came at the end of the material, after slogging through a mountain of notation and details (actually a lot of her good story telling would only come when she was loquaciously answering a question, see point 2). I think if she thinks about her lectures in terms of storytelling instead of a list of things to write on the chalkboard it will help her be more effective and engaging.   As for the course in general, the anticipated prior knowledge needs to be stated so much more precisely. Even "Up through Chapter x of Munkres" is a perfectly good statement, but it needs to be somewhere. Many of the homework problems seemed to draw quite heavily on facts from other courses. That's not actually a problem, but a statement like "If you want to review non-orientable surfaces, see chapter X of Lee's Topological Manifolds" would be extremely helpful. Also I think Problem Set 3 was especially challenging and, it seemed to hold up many members of the class from proceeding to the later assignments, which led to a cram at the end. I don't know if that means the assignment was poorly engineered or if something could have been done to mitigate that effect (such as a strict deadline for the first 3 problem sets). In general I liked the flexible due dates.

    4 N/A.

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33 If you feel that this instructor should be considered for a teaching award, please explain why. Please
    understand that completing this section does not constitute a nomination for a teaching award. To nominate a

      1 The professor is very clear and organized, and very good at making the deep material
        intuitive without sacrificing rigor. The professor is always interested in sharing
        mathematical ideas with students and this has an extremely positive impact on their
        learning.