

Course Evaluation Instructor Detail Report for term 1171, MATH 23B-1 INTRODUCTION TO PROOFS (Arunima Ray)

Instructor: Arunima Ray
Course: MATH 23B-1 INTRODUCTION TO PROOFS
Term: 1171
Home Department: Mathematics

Spring 2017 Instructor Course Evaluations	
Raters	Students
Responded	39
Invited	44
Response Ratio	88.6%

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	Mean	SD
The course syllabus was comprehensive, clear, and accurate.	39	0	0	0	2	37	4.95	0.22
The learning goals were clearly stated in the syllabus.	39	0	0	0	2	37	4.95	0.22
Classes started and ended on time.	37	0	0	1	7	29	4.76	0.49

Grading

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
Content of tests and assignments was consistent with content of lectures and/or reading.	39	0	1	1	7	30	4.69	0.66
Assignments and/or exams were returned promptly.	39	0	1	5	8	25	4.46	0.82
The grading policies were clear and consistently followed.	39	0	2	1	8	28	4.59	0.79
The graded assignments allowed me to demonstrate what I learned in the course.	37	0	2	1	5	29	4.65	0.79

Content and Workload

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
The content covered in this course was challenging.	39	0	0	0	15	24	4.62	0.49
This course requires a lot of work.	39	0	0	3	13	23	4.51	0.64

Student Responsibilities

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
I completed the course readings.	39	0	1	1	11	26	4.59	0.68
I kept up with work as it was assigned.	39	0	0	2	12	25	4.59	0.59

Instructor Responsibilities and Skills

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	39	0	0	1	6	32	4.79	0.47
The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	39	0	0	0	9	30	4.77	0.43
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	39	0	1	1	6	31	4.72	0.65

Responsiveness of the Instructor

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	39	1	0	1	4	33	4.74	0.75
The instructor respected students' ideas.	39	0	0	1	6	32	4.79	0.47
The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	39	0	1	1	5	32	4.74	0.64
I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	39	0	2	2	8	27	4.54	0.82

Overall Instructor Rating

Question	Course Average		
	Mean	Median	Response Count
The instructor was effective as a lecturer and/or class leader.	4.79	5.00	39
The instructor's presentations were clear and organized.	4.77	5.00	39
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	4.72	5.00	39
The instructor was available and helpful to students outside the class.	4.74	5.00	39
The instructor respected students' ideas.	4.79	5.00	39
The instructor was concerned about student learning and development.	4.74	5.00	39
I received feedback that helped me see ways in which I could improve my learning and understanding.	4.54	5.00	39
Overall	4.73	-	-

Contribution to Learning

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
The stated learning goals for the course were met.	39	0	0	1	5	33	4.82	0.45
This course improved my writing ability.	38	0	1	2	2	33	4.76	0.68
This course improved my oral communication skills.	29	0	1	2	7	19	4.52	0.78
This course improved my quantitative skills.	36	0	1	0	6	29	4.75	0.60
This course helped me develop my creative abilities.	28	0	1	2	4	21	4.61	0.79
This course helped me to analyze, interpret and synthesize information.	34	0	0	0	4	30	4.88	0.33
This course helped me to reason better and to think more critically about its subject matter.	36	0	1	0	6	29	4.75	0.60
This course helped me to consider alternative perspectives on complex issues.	30	0	0	1	5	24	4.77	0.50

Overall Quality of the Course

	#	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD
The overall quality of this course was excellent.	38	1	0	2	8	27	4.58	0.83

Student Demographics

Your class standing?

	#	First Year	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Master's	Doctoral
Your class standing?	39	12	16	10	1	0	0

What is your school of major?

	#	SCI	SocSCI	HUM	ART	Undecided
What is your school of major?	38	27	9	1	0	1

Why did you choose this course?

	#	University req.	Major req.	Minor req.	Interest
Why did you choose this course?	39	2	33	1	3

Course and Instructor Comments

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

Comment
Problem sets, reading, some of the lectures
The professor was really great, she clearly cared very much about her students learning and her enthusiasm for math is infectious. I would probably never have considered majoring in math if it weren't for her encouragement. She was very helpful during office hours. She sometimes goes off on a tangent about other areas of math; this is never intentional but I feel that that tendency actually gave me a better understanding of how different topics in math relate to each other and what a mathematician actually does in their work.
The way this course starts with the barest axioms and then gradually got more complicated made for an excellent learning curve.
Well, it is an innovative class.
I think that my professor's constant support and offers of help outside of the classroom really got me to seek additional help when I was struggling and therefore learn more.
After taking this class, I can really write math proofs. This helps not only in this class, but also in other math classes I take.
This class has changed my entire perspective on math. I was able to Read, write and understand mathematics in a different way. The essay writing, the group and individual assignments, and the class lectures were simply excellent. Assignments and exams were given back promptly, grades and feedback posted right away. AMAZING!
basic math
The learning was very involved in every aspect, whether through group work or problem sets. It was impossible to fall behind on material because of this.
Group work and homework. Group work really helped me learn the material in a way where my peers could help me if I needed it, and also allowed me to gain a lot of hands-on experience and exposure to problems without the pressure to complete assignments on my own. Collaborating and working in a group taught me the material far more effectively than a simple lecture class would have.
Also Aru is a wonderful person and I'm sad to see her go. Her love for math really reached her students, and her love of math was contagious. Not only that, but she's such a creative, effective and approachable teacher!
Problem sets and Group work
This course was great.
Aru was an excellent professor. she inspired interest in literally every lecture just by showing her own passion for math to the rest of us. she's the kind of professor you like no matter what
Literally all parts of it-- it made me improve in communication and writing of mathematics, as well as in the practice itself. I cannot overstate the importance of this.
learning logic and writing style of math
The group work is a good idea.
She loved to answer questions. I love the way she presented math with full passion which clearly demonstrated her interest and professional knowledge. I remember one day when I came to her office hour, Professor Ray patiently answered all my questions and had the math talk with me for over 2 hours. She is very responsive and an excellent instructor.
I enjoyed the lectures.
The entire structure of the course

What suggestions would you make to the instructor **Arunima Ray** for improving the course?

Comment
Less group work, more problem sets.
I think the course could use more graders, in order to get assignments back more quickly. Proofs assignments inherently take a long time to grade, but I think the students would benefit from having them back sooner.
Probably less group work would be good.
My only suggestion would be to change the perusal homework assignments and make them optional because I would tend to focus on commenting on the textbook instead of actually reading it and taking in the information.
More part of teaching, i enjoy traditional classes where professor teaches something like Professor Merrill Parker Kadic-Galeb does.
You are the closest to the perfect teacher I have always wanted to have. Keep doing everything you are doing, Aru. You are an inspiration. I feel bad that you are leaving, and this is probably the only class I take with you, but I have a feeling I will talk about you and your class for many years. Thank you! P.S. Great sense of humor too!
Aru is awesome!
I noticed that the perusal reading assignments weren't as effective simply because the technique perusal uses to grade reading assignments was very confusing and made me feel like I get a low score even if I completed the reading and understood the material.
Keeping Aru, but that's okay. I would, however, recommend that whoever replaces Aru in teaching proofs in the future learns from her course structure, because Aru has made proofs such a wonderful class. As a writing intensive math class it can be really easy to accidentally make intro to proofs a dull and tedious experience, and yet Aru teaches it so wonderfully.
less groupwork, more teaching
None. Then instructor for the course was fantastic
Aru was the best mathematics instructor I had.
This class requires a surprisingly more amount of work compared with other similar-level math classes. 8gw, 6ps, one essay, 12 readings. And the lecture seemed to be very tedious as well. The instructor managed to copy down all of her notes on the board during classes but it tended to be less interesting than expected.
The feedback for the problem sets should be more detailed. I would often lose one or two points but have no idea why I lost them.
I struggled to get my group members to actually talk about group work, but I really liked the idea of it..
It was perfect
The final is so hard!!
Overall quality of the teaching of this instructor is perfect.
I didn't like perusal. I understand that you want us to read the material before class but i found it was an ineffective way of asking questions even though the responses were prompt. Often times if i didn't understand a concept i wouldn't even know what questions to ask to help me understand, and asking/stating the general comment of "i don't understand" isn't specific enough. So if i didn't know what question to ask i didn't just put "i don't understand" because then someone would be like "what don't you understand". But since i didn't comment on it Aru thought we understood it and wouldn't go over it in class. Also, to effectively use perusal to its fullest you need to learn LATEX basically, otherwise its a big giant mess. I would have liked more lectures even though i understand the push towards group work.
Get Aru to stay. You're loosing out big time by her leaving. She is probably one of the best teachers in the dept.

If you feel that the instructor Arunima Ray should be considered for a teaching award, please explain why.

Comment

Aru is definitely the best math teacher I've ever had and thus deserves a teaching award. She is so incredibly passionate about math, not to mention a genius, and gives her all to teaching and spreads her passion to her students. She is the perfect balance of lenient, fair, friendly, and supportive with stern, ensuring respect from all of her students without needing the intimidation factor. Everyone in the class admires her brilliance and down-to-earth personality. I'm truly going to miss her next year.

Aru deserves all the awards out there. She is born to teach!! Very organized, very smart, very kind and truly concerned about her students.

she is really awesome. Happy to help students and try her best to make class challenging and interesting

Prof. Ray is amazing. It is sad that she is leaving the department

The instructor was very involved in the learning process and very dedicated to her students. Not only that, but she has a very deep love for math that she has imparted onto me and probably a majority of the class as well.

Aru was the best mathematics instructor I had.

No she doesnt deserve one

I have never seen a more effective communicator of mathematics nor teacher than Dr. Ray, and I have seldom seen a professor who is kinder or more passionate about their discipline. Everyone in the class was lucky to have her as a professor.