As I understand, this is Professor Baruah’s first semester teaching COMP 283. The executive choice to have him teach this course was a mistake that has cost the students greatly. Regardless of my grade in this course, I am confident that I gained much of anything from his course, and plan on taking MATH 381 in the future so my experience in Dr. Baruah’s 283 class will not harm my education more than it already has.

About once a week, in lecture, Baruah would be unconfident in a major topic or example and would say things along the lines of, “Jack [Snoeyink] says…” or “Jack’s book says this, so…”

The course felt as if Dr. Baruah was a teaching assistant to Dr. Snoeyink, and that he didn’t have an in-depth understanding of discrete mathematics.

Dr. Baruah’s inability to teach this topic wasn’t the only shortcoming of the class. I felt as if Baruah did not truly care about the course. He often wasn’t present in lecture, and when he was, it wasn’t more than reading off of a PowerPoint. I don’t believe that Dr. Baruah truly prepared for lecture more than reading Dr. Snoeyink’s book, and building slideshows.

Communication with Dr. Baruah was often redirected to the teaching assistants. who too were unprepared to teach this course. Nonetheless, I feel like they made a valiant effort to make up for this.

When in office hours with James Martin, we would spend 30 minutes working through a problem, only to then decide that the method we worked on it was wrong. I have spent an unreasonable amount of time in office hours and study sessions with James who would explain an idea and then recall that explanation because it was wrong. Despite this, I respect James for the amount of time he spent outside of class learning the topics and then would better explain it in the next office hours session.

Office hours with Aidos Abzhanov was never announced the entire semester. In study sessions, he would not talk or explain. The only interaction that I had with Aidos was on Piazza, where he would sometimes respond to posts (even though James responded to a far greater number of posts). In my opinion, Aidos should not be a teaching assistant again.

I understand that Dr. Baruah is a very well educated and smart man, a top researcher, and may even be a good teacher in some subjects. Nonetheless, he is inept in teaching discrete functions. I do not blame Dr. Baruah for this failure, but I do blame the executive who made the decision to put him and the TA’s in charge of this class. I am beginning to regret my choice to be a student of UNC’s computer science program over NCSU’s computer science program if this is a signal of what is to come within the department.