



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Fall 2020

Course: MATH 007A Section: 022 - CALCULUS FOR LIFE
SCIENCES

Instructor: Chris Grossack

Question # 18: YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR'S TEACHING SKILLS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE TEXTBOX BELOW. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO 2000 CHARACTERS.

- Their ability to aid students through problems is beyond phenomenal. I am a student who needs even the smallest steps of the problem to be worked out in order to understand how to find the answer and Chris never fails to provide amazing explanations. They also always answer any questions (including "Chris, I am very lost") and has the astonishing ability to make up examples on the spot that align with the topic we are covering.
- I found it a little bit difficult to follow along with his teachings but he is really great with explaining something that is unclear. Really really great TA!
- Overall, I enjoyed the energy they brought to the material, however, I felt there was a slight disconnect between Chris and the professor. Sometimes when going over problems Chris would go over the problem in a different way than was taught in lecture which made things slightly confusing.
- In my opinion, Chris did an excellent job at helping their students understand the material. They are very approachable when it comes to the class environment and any questions the students have. :)
- Not prepared. Not organized. They do NOT help at all. I wish I was in a different discussion--perhaps this class would have been more enjoyable. I am aware that we are in a literal pandemic, but Chris didn't even try. I had other TAs that tried (i.e. my chem TA was very helpful via zoom). However, I learned nothing in this math discussion. I heard the other TA for this class gives study guides + really helps. I did not experience this in Chris's discussion. Chris's notes + writing is NOT legible at all if you were to examine it. The other TA also used a mouse to write notes and had legible handwriting. Effort would be appreciated. Chris is not a good math TA. What's wrong with answering math homework questions? WE ARE IN A PANDEMIC--students need HELP learning. Literally, my math PROFESSOR last quarter was not selfish when it came to answering/helping any questions, including homework. Worst discussion I have ever experienced. Wow. Chris is a good person, though. You could tell they have a big heart. Regardless, still NOT a good TA.
- Chris was really great throughout this quarter! I had Chris for a 9:00 am discussion which was really rough to get up for, but they were very approachable and understanding about that. I like how the discussions were more of a friendly environment rather than a very uptight environment. It made me excited to come to class and learn a difficult subject. I also appreciate how they were very quick to responding emails and Piazza questions. I really enjoyed how Chris kind of made class fun with funny comments here and there. Learning calculus at 9:00 am is kind of brutal, but Chris made the class a little more enjoyable with the funny commentary about themselves.
- was able to descriptively explain problems in which we had trouble with patiently, great ta
- Chris Grossack was a great TA, they always seemed prepared for the discussion and answered questions. I felt like I could connect with them and not feel intimidated. Their teaching style uses notes with drawings, math, and questions. The questions being on the notes were especially helpful. I felt relaxed in their class and always felt happy.
- T.A. Chris was a very helpful and kind T.A. He made sure to go over anything that students were struggling with. He provided multiple examples to make the material easier to learn. He was also very positive and approachable. Chris didn't mind staying a bit later to help out students. He gave advice about math and life and made math easier to understand. Overall, he was an excellent T.A.
- Chris is a great teacher's aide. Chris really made me feel comfortable and encouraged me to learn. Chris is very kind and sweet and always asked the students if we had any questions about the course. Chris made sure to go over any questions students had or concepts students struggled with during the discussions. If there were not any questions, Chris would create their own problems related to what students learned during the lectures. One thing I would like to recommend would to maybe have some time for concepts that Chris would like to go over or were recently talked about in the lectures and then provide some time for questions. I say this because I often do not know exactly what to ask so maybe after a small presentation/lecture in discussion I might be able to ask what I do and do not understand. Overall, I am very thankful I had Chris as my TA and I would definitely recommend them to teach further.
- This instructor taught a course that wasn't really a course. If anything it was mainly a period to ask homework questions and to get clarification on one topic from lecture. Because of that, the course felt as if it was almost optional to even attend. I felt as if the instructor did not really get the chance to fully use their teaching abilities to their fullest as they didn't really need to teach any supplementary material.

