



University of Connecticut

Student Evaluation of Teaching Spring 2020

Individual Report for MATH-3435-001-STORR-Partial Differential Equations

Instructor: **Sougata Dhar** (SET Primary Instructor)

Response Table

Raters	Students
Responded	16
Invited	19
Response Ratio	84%

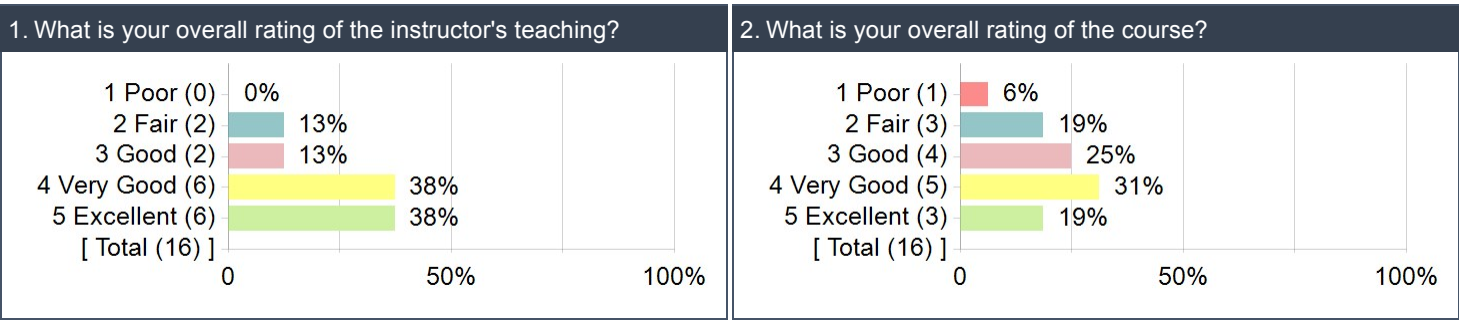
What is your overall rating of Sougata Dhar's teaching?

Question	Course		Department (MATH-Course Level 3000- FEIN)		School (CLAS- Course Level 3000-FEIN)		University (Course Level 3000-FEIN)	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3

What is your overall rating of the course?

Question	Course		Department (MATH-Course Level 3000- FEIN)		School (CLAS- Course Level 3000-FEIN)		University (Course Level 3000-FEIN)	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
What is your overall rating of the course?	3.4	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2

Overall Rating



Section 1. Summary

Please respond to the following questions about instructor Sougata Dhar:

Question	Course		Department (MATH-Course Level 3000- FEIN)		School (CLAS- Course Level 3000-FEIN)		University (Course Level 3000-FEIN)	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
The instructor presented the course material clearly.	3.8	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The instructor was well prepared for class.	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7
The instructor responded to questions adequately.	4.2	5.0	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	4.3	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.6
The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7
The instructor gave clear assignments.	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The instructor was accessible to students.	4.4	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7
The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.	4.3	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5
The instructor used class time effectively.	4.2	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6
The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.3	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
The instructor graded fairly.	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.6
The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5

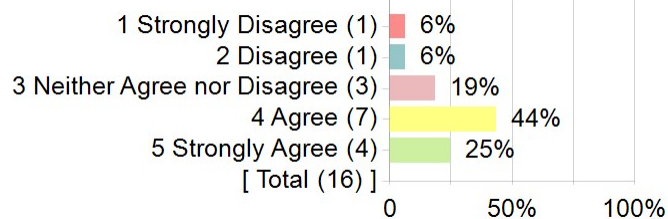
Please respond to the following questions about the course:

Question	Course		Department (MATH-Course Level 3000- FEIN)		School (CLAS- Course Level 3000-FEIN)		University (Course Level 3000-FEIN)	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The course content was well organized.	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The course objectives were clear.	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The course objectives were met.	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5
The course materials made a valuable contribution.	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5
The pace of the course seemed appropriate.	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5

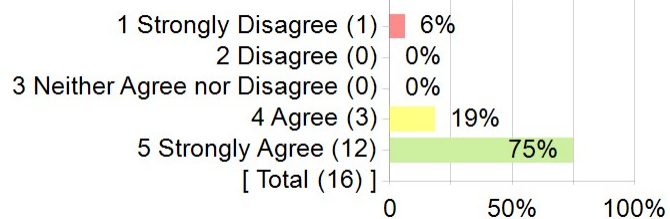
Section 2. Questions About the Instructor

Please respond to the following questions about instructor Sougata Dhar:

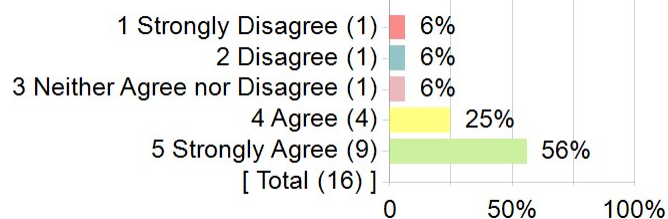
1. The instructor presented the course material clearly.



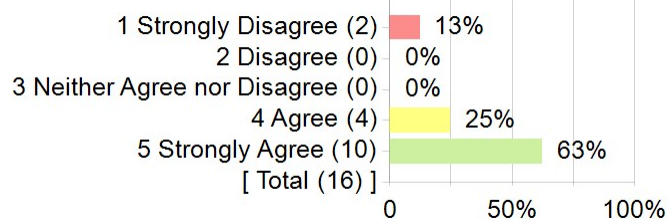
2. The instructor was well prepared for class.



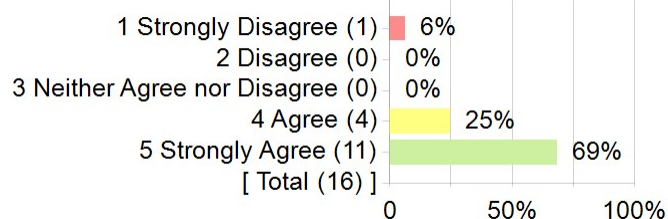
3. The instructor responded to questions adequately.



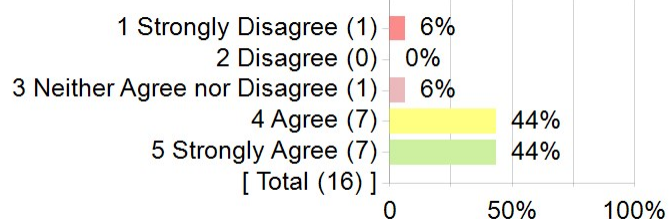
4. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.



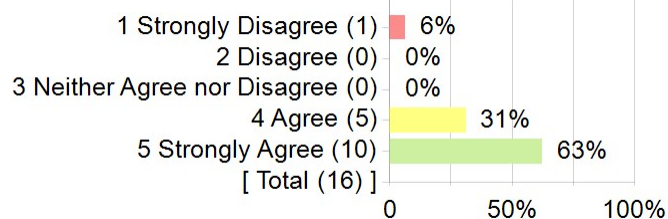
5. The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.



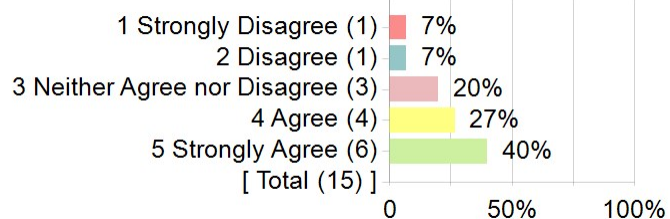
6. The instructor gave clear assignments.



7. The instructor was accessible to students.

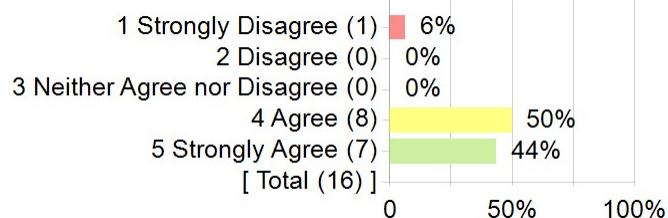


8. The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.

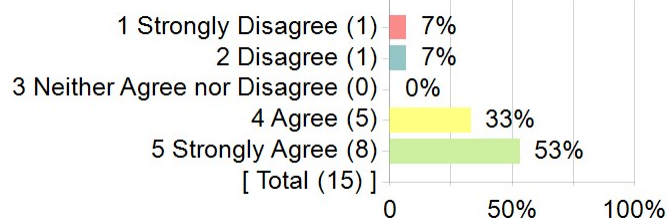


Please respond to the following questions about instructor Sougata Dhar: (continued)

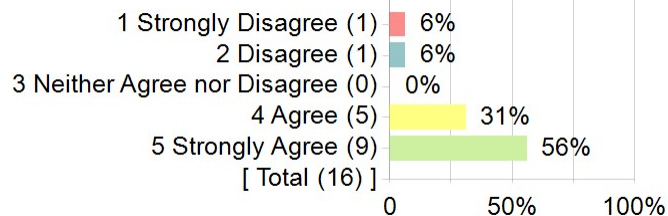
9. The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.



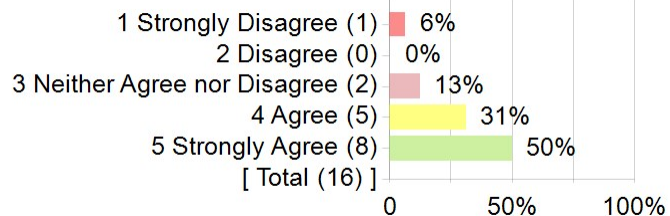
10. The instructor used class time effectively.



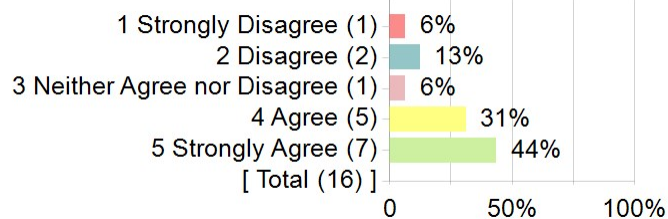
11. The instructor treated all students with respect.



12. The instructor graded fairly.



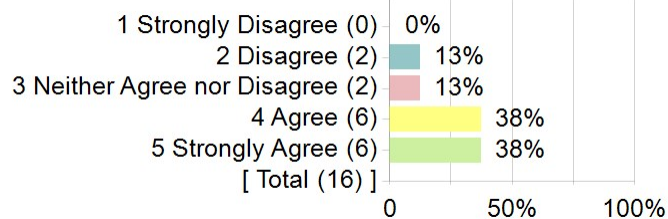
13. The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.



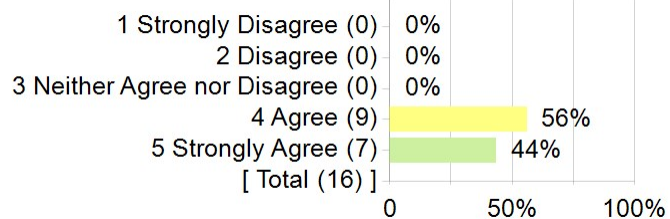
Section 3. Questions About the Course

Please respond to the following questions about the course:

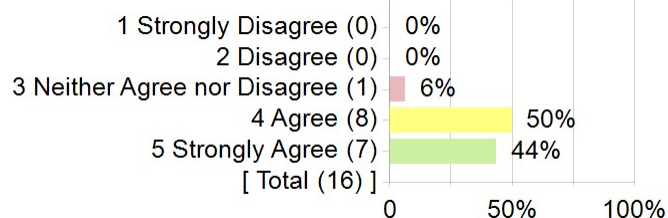
1. The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.



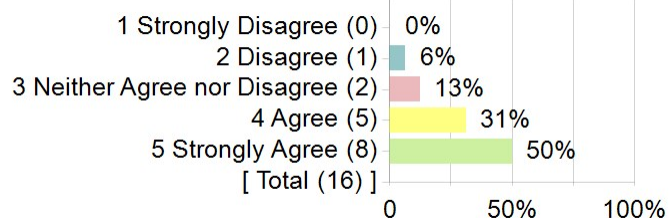
2. The course content was well organized.



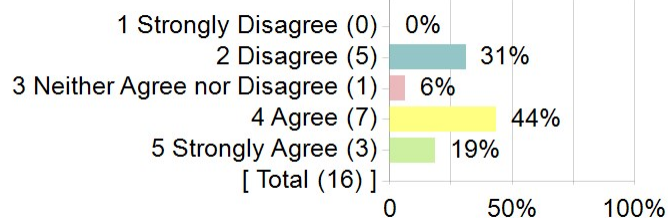
3. The course objectives were clear.



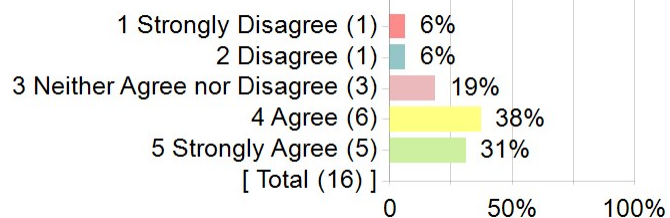
4. The course objectives were met.



5. The course materials made a valuable contribution.



6. The pace of the course seemed appropriate.



Section 4. Student Information

What is your Academic Level?

What is your academic level?		
Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0%
Sophomore	0	0%
Junior	10	63%
Senior	5	31%
Graduate	1	6%
Other	0	0%

What is your expected grade in this course?

What is your expected grade in this course?		
Options	Count	Percentage
A	4	25%
B	3	19%
C	3	19%
D	1	6%
F	0	0%
Pass	5	31%
Fail	0	0%
Other	0	0%

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?		
Options	Count	Percentage
3.5 and above	7	47%
3.0-3.4	6	40%
2.5-2.9	2	13%
2.0-2.4	0	0%
< 2.0	0	0%

How many times did you miss this class?

How many times did you miss this class?		
Options	Count	Percentage
0-2	13	81%
3-4	3	19%
5-6	0	0%
> 6	0	0%

Section 4. Student Information (continued)

On average, how many hours a week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?

On average, how many hours a week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?		
Options	Count	Percentage
0	0	0%
1-3	1	6%
4-6	7	44%
7-9	6	38%
10-14	2	13%
15+	0	0%

Which best describes this course for you?

Which best describes this course for you?		
Options	Count	Percentage
Requirement for my major	2	13%
General Education Requirement	1	6%
Other Requirement	5	31%
Elective	2	13%
Elective for my major	6	38%

My desire to take this course was:

My desire to take this course was:		
Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	2	13%
More than most courses	6	38%
About the same as most courses	5	31%
Less than most courses	3	19%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

For me, the level of difficulty of the course content was:

For me, the level of difficulty of the course content was:		
Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	8	50%
More than most courses	6	38%
About the same as most courses	2	13%
Less than most courses	0	0%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 4. Student Information (continued)

Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?

Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?		
Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	4	25%
More than most courses	5	31%
About the same as most courses	5	31%
Less than most courses	2	13%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 5. Comments

What was the most positive aspect of the way in which this instructor taught this course?

Comments
Professor Dhar always kept the student's attention. The class material was challenging, but it wasn't boring and the schedule that the professor followed was very appropriate.
He was very flexible in the transition to online classes.
Professor Dhar has a wonderful way of explaining topics, and he is able to relate to the students really well. He also does a good job of pushing students to exceed what they think they are capable of.
Very clear notes and progression through a problem/concept. I enjoyed the fact that you forced us to communicate with you about our likes and dislikes about the course at various points instead of just continuing to teach regardless of how we felt. In my opinion that shows that you actually care about teaching your students the material and it made me want to learn the material being taught
Very clear and concise, able to clarify confusing topics very well.
That he seemed to want students to learn the best way possible and tried to get student's feedback.
Great teacher! Very chill.
Dr.Dhar was very knowledgeable about the topic and presented stimulating questions
Very organized, which is crucial when teaching math. Helped to keep things moving smoothly
Very excited about the math, and connected all the concepts together
Professor Dhar made this difficult course very understandable to all of the students. He also adjusted very well to the new method of online learning. It was very clear that he worked very hard to make sure that the students were learning as much as they could in a trying time like this. Overall, one of the best professors I have had.
Professor Dhar made sure that every single one of us understood what was happening, and if we didn't, he went out of his way to help. Not to mention he is the nicest guy I've ever met. One of the smartest guys in the Math department for sure, I am so glad to have taken this class.

What can this instructor do to improve teaching effectiveness in the classroom?

Comments
Homework problems were pretty difficult especially for the Fourier series (last homework). More examples in class would be better or providing exercises and the answers so we could look through and understand solutions better.
Perhaps not skip the "easy" parts of examples in class
I think the organization of the material at the end can be improved. The class is very incremental. As we learn more methods of solving PDEs, we go back and revisit important PDEs such as the heat equation, the wave equation, and the laplacian. This is really great, because it really grounds these new methods in our heads, but the one complaint I have is that sometimes the different methods can yield VASTLY different looking solutions of the same problem, and there wasn't enough emphasis on the connections between these kinds of answers.
Often times, a large majority of class time was spent going over the theory and derivations of the topics we were covering, most of which had very little application in the problems we were doing. We did have a discussion about this in about the 5th week of class and after that point, things did improve. Some of the hw assignments were lengthy and complex, sometimes including certain types of problems not covered in class.
He realized that many students were not following some of the more abstract derivations, so he began to use more and more example problems. Continuing this in following semesters would be very helpful
The work was too much. He gave work as if students had nothing else going on. There was an absurd amount of work for this class which in my opinion made it harder to focus on how to do a problem effectively and more just writing something to get a homework grade.
Needs to slow down a lot! I would spend more time trying to keep up with your writing than actually paying attention in the class.
Was unclear what material was meant to be "interesting" or "motivating" and what we were expected to know for th quizzes and exams. Would like clearer structure in the presentation (i.e. this is why we care about this, this is a real world application, these are 2-3 problems you are expected to understand).
MORE EXAMPLES, which I know is difficult because of the time it takes to do them. However, it would be very beneficial.
More examples that are relevant to quizzes/exams/homework
Prioritize teaching the students what they need to do to demonstrate the skills needed to pass the homeworks and exams before talking so much about the underlying proofs.
Nothing
Nothing. You're doing great.

Please write any comments you have about the course or course materials.

Comments
The book was very helpful for most of the topics except for Fourier series
I feel that a different book needs to be chosen. We just didn't use the book enough, and I don't feel like I got my money's worth.
The book, for all intents and purposes, was useless. It provided no help with any of the problems and concepts being taught. Everything was based on the notes and lectures
The book was useful in the beginning but the internet was more useful by the end of the semester
ridiculously overwhelming in workload
Course was good. I found it hard to follow the book.
Course materials were helpful, there was one or two units where we didn't use the textbook because it wasn't helpful but I would have liked some supplemental materials on that topic to read through if I got lost (besides class notes)
Difficult course, but phenomenal professor.
The textbook was helpful until about halfway through the course where it soon became useless

For courses with laboratory and/or discussion sections: were the laboratory/discussion sections helpful to your learning?

Comments
N/A
NA
N/A
very rushed
N/A
N/A
N/A