

| North Carolina State University - ClassEval Report | |
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| Emplid: 001123529 | Name: Jonathan Williams -- Course: Lin Mod & Var Comp |
| Term: 2020 Sprg | ST 705 001 Courses surveyed - ST 705 001 |
| Question | Response |
| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Dr. Williams is awesome. He is super smart, explains the concepts really well and genuinely cares about us as students. He welcomes all questions. He wants us to succeed in our PhD so gives tips for that and not just tips for linear models. Can't say enough good things about him. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Similar. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Perhaps having live lectures would be preferable to pre-recorded. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Williams is hard. It felt like he didn't care that we had lives outside of his class. This class was very hard to keep up with. I didn't have time to work through problems fully because there wasn't time to do so. His lectures were good though. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Same as before. I was annoyed when lectures became longer and weren't uploaded by class time when I had planned to watch them. He acted as if there were no difference between before the epidemic and after. He did not treat our class with respect, making us feel like his was the only class that mattered and disregarding our mental health by continuing to raise standards. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Upload lectures at a pre-specified time so that students can schedule them. Stop treating this course like a rite of passage. Don't give me extra difficult things simply because 'it was like that when I was in grad school.' Stick to the necessary material and understand that some students have lives outside your course. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | A little extensive every online lecture, but it's fine! |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | weakness: I don't know what he did everyday, he always wastes our time in the office hour and lab. He even can't finish one question smoothly, every question must be considered during the class for a long time, as if he has never prepared before. the exam has nothing to do with what his teaches. And he always has too much homework. His class wastes our time. |

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| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | He always posts the class video much later than the usual class time. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | He needs to take the course more seriously and responsibly |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Don't know what he is doing in class. He seems to be talking to himself the entire time. During lab and office hours, he always doesn't know how to solve the problems he gave. It's kind of a waste of time watching him being stuck by the problems on the blackboard. And I don't get the idea behind the problems whenever I see him solving them. The midterm is really hard and is not consistent with what we learned in class. It has nothing to do with linear model stuff. All hard works seem to be in vain in his course. Also, he doesn't give the solutions to homework problems and asks us to go to his office hours to ask. But in his office hours, he doesn't give the details for the solutions. The review system for homework seems ridiculous. I got correct in the homework review but still lost lots of points in the midterm for the exact same solution. I don't see the point for him making a hard and meaningless midterm and failing to solve it in the lab on his own. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | The videos are seldomly posted on time. We always wait until the end of the lecture day or even a longer time to receive the updated videos, which is kind of a waste of time to refresh the website constantly. The office hours and labs are the same as before. He sometimes gets stuck on the problems and doesn't give satisfying solutions. The review system is bad as before. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Exams should be consistent with what we learn in class, what we do in homework. Don't do the review thing for the homework. Provide exact precise solutions to homework problems to really help us learn. Be prepared for homework and lab and exam problems. Post videos on time!!! |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Dr. Williams is a really passion professor. He is friendly to all students and greatly appreciates the participation of the students. However, I think it will be better if he has more extra time to prepare his lecture for smoothness of it. Maybe he needs more experience as an instructor of ST705. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Same with the prior comment. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Jon is an amazing professor. His class was extremely challenging for me, but it's clear that he really cares about his students and wants them to learn the material as well as possible. His lectures were generally very clear and easy to follow and he was very available to help us with his (super hard) homework assignments during office hours. I would absolutely take another class taught by him if given the chance. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | The instructor posted pre recorded lectures for us to watch. I thought that was a good strategy because it allowed me to continue taking notes as he wrote like I was used to doing in class, and I could watch them at my own pace. He also held office hours over zoom and tried to help as best he could in that format. Some of his homework assignments got even longer/harder after spring break which wasn't great, but he was super receptive when students mentioned that they were struggling and was very accommodating. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Great! |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | A bit of hard to have in time feedback since we are using record videos. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Prefer a zoom meeting lecture. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Dr. Williams took a very hard subject and taught it very well. It is clear that he put a lot of work and thought into this class, presenting information in intuitive ways and filling in his own proofs where the book failed or was confusing. His lectures were followable whereas I think the book is not. I really appreciate that he took the time to review some linear algebra topics at the beginning of the semester because I think a lot of us needed it. Dr. William's office hours were very helpful and he is very approachable. I liked being able to review my homework and make corrections. I think that the submission system would work better on Moodle or crowdgrader rather than via email. There are two things that set Dr. Williams apart from other professors. 1. He really listens to students questions, comments and suggestions and gives thorough responses. For example, if a student suggests an alternative proof in class (different from what Dr. Williams was planning to present) he will work through both proofs and talk about the differences. It made me feel heard, understood, and appreciated as a student. 2. Dr. Williams offers a new perspective on grad school that I think we all needed to hear. Dr. Williams would frequently share his experiences with us from his time in grad school (things like what to look for in an advisor, etc). He also spent time talking about some mental health topics that graduate students frequently face (e.g. tying your self worth to grades / publication |

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| | output). And he talked about what we should try to get out of this program. In these "tangents" Dr. Williams addressed a lot of topics that I think we students are assumed to know but are never taught. I really appreciate him for this. Dr. Williams is the best professor I have had at NCSU. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Dr. Williams transitioned his class online very well. The lectures were as informative as in class and he held regular office hours and lab sessions. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Strengths: well organized and all concepts and theorems are clearly explained. Weaknesses: the labs always went overtime. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Strengths: well organized and all concepts and theorems are clearly explained. Weaknesses: It often happens that I cannot see the blackboard when the teacher is writing. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | While this content was not my favorite, Dr. Williams did a good job explaining and be understanding to students when they were unsure or lacked the confidence to complete a problem. Questions were always allowed and never felt stupid for asking them |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | One of the biggest strengths of Dr. Williams is willingness to support his students in all ways. Since spring break he has offered additional office hours to ensure the students are retaining the information since we can no longer have in person classes. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Having a different source could allow online format to be better. Due to the size of files, dropbox became inconvenient because without the professional size then you are limited to the number of videos on can watch. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | This class was extremely challenging and consumed more time than the other two courses I'm taking combined. The peer review homework grading system is also extremely time-consuming, though it has its benefits. It would be nice to be guaranteed to see the correct solution to the hw problems though. I know this can be done via office hours, but sometimes my busy schedule preents me from being able to come to office hours. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Overall, the feel of the class was the same after Spring Break. It took more work to ask a clarifying question, but having an additional office hour instead of lab more than compensated for it. |

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| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Attend office hours as though it is a required part of the course. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Amazing professor! Teaches at the right pace and gives a good mix of challenging and doable questions. He is open to suggestions from students and implements them if possible. I enjoy the rants. I wish the planned lab questions were posted before lab. I might not get to try them fully but I will at least look at them before hand. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Why did you make the last lecture 2 hours long!? |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Other than the rare occurrences where we would get off topic or spend a little too long on one question and get behind this class was great. The content was a struggle for me to learn but Jwilli was great at trying to explain things in different ways until we understood. You could tell that he spent/spends a lot of time trying to be the best teacher he can be and giving us a lot of opportunities to be able to get help from him. His office hours were always packed and unfortunately we didn't always get a chance to go through everything we had questions on but he was always open to help via email as well and that was nice. My only complaint was the process of grading homeworks. I liked that we were able to re-submit homeworks and I understand the concept behind the process and appreciate the effort in what was trying to be accomplished there but I just wish the TA had graded them and we could make corrections and re-submit. Most of the assignments were good but a handful of them were just a little long. If they are going to be long like that I would have appreciated a little more time to do them instead of every week. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | This material is very difficult for me and not being able to work and talk through it in person with others made it very hard to comprehend. Jwilli did a great job with offering zoom office hours and recording lectures and doing what he could but the lack of being about to review the material with peers was just very hard. I think that this was nothing on his part and mostly on me for struggling with the distance learning. I appreciated all of his effort! I also really appreciate his willingness to help us over the summer if we have more questions about the course as we prepare for the basic! |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Yeah.... this class should just like NOT be online for the benefit of both the students and the instructor! If you had to do it online then maybe slow it down and split it up into like spring and summer session or something.... this is just way too much to learn in a semester during distance learning! PhD school was not meant to be online!!! |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Professor Williams is very dedicated and often goes the extra mile. However, that often means the lectures and labs go on too long. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | The lectures' audio quality is not the best. Perhaps wearing a headset with a microphone could improve it. |
| To help other students in the future and enhance student success, what could be improved in the course after it was transitioned to a totally online format? | Sometimes asking Professor Williams for help was still intimidating. I got more comfortable as the semester progressed, however. |
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| Please consider the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break (i.e., prior to the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor PRIOR to Spring Break. | Everything was great. However, I would recommend professor to be more familiar with the homework questions, so as to save more time and being more efficient during the office hours. |
| Please consider the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break (i.e., after the COVID-19-related changes in instruction). Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course and instructor AFTER Spring Break. | Video formatted lectures are convenient for students, as we can decide when and where to start the lecture by ourselves. One shortcoming is that we can not communicate and ask questions when we get a problem during the lecture. Furthermore, I think the book has too many wrong notations/equations, maybe more proof reading before the lectures, and informing students with those errors will be more helpful to lessen our time of being confused when doing homework. |