

Spring 2016 Comment Report

STEVEN CLONTZ

Course Sections

A MATH 2242 (90): Calculus IV

B MATH 3142 (1): Adv Calc of Several Variables

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the grading and feedback in this course: -

- A**
- He is inconsistent. He gave us explanations of all of the quizzes for the midterm, and the class averaged a 93 on it. So now, he is not going to do the same for the final, he is just telling us that we can make 6 pages front and back of formula sheets. He usually got the quizzes back to us timely, but it took him way too long to grade our midterms (the only test he has had to grade all semester).
 - In particular, I appreciated the methods used to grade quizzes. The method allowed for short quizzes while also preventing a single poor score from ruining the overall grade.

- B**
- I mentioned this before, but there was a lot of coursework (a fair amount) and I would have liked to see some feedback on my proofwriting style and structure, even if I got the problem correct.
 - He never gave feedback on wrong answers and left it to us to decide what we did wrong. I feel that while that might encourage more studying, sometimes students don't see their own mistakes and need a good understanding as to why they lost point on problems. The grading was fair as he announced ahead of time what the grading scale was, but was only given one of three grades, 100, 70, 30 .
 - Dr. Clontz was always quick to update us on grades, presentations, and the like. His grading is fair and transparent, and he would even send reminder emails about upcoming due dates.
 - I think that class presentations should have had more flexible scale. You either receive an A, C or F on presentations, and think that a satisfactory presentation should warrant a B, not a C.

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding your instructor's level of professionalism: -

- A**
- I visited my instructor's office on multiple occasions, and he was always willing to answer questions I had as well as take the time to address my concerns about the textbook.
 - Dr. Clontz was very open to student input and he had a warm personality so that you felt you could always go talk to him. His office hours were frequently filled by students in my class asking for help on the homework.

- B**
- Dr. Clontz has a wonderful "open door" policy in regards to office hours. He never makes the student feel incompetent and will make sure either after class or during office hours to clarify any points that are still unclear. Very attentive to the needs of his students.
 - Dr. Clontz is professional yet down-to-earth.
 - Dr. Clontz provides instant feedback. He usually replies back to emails within an hour during the business day. He's always available in his office hours. If you stop by his office outside of his office hours, he doesn't mind answering your questions (like I did a few times). Always likes to use the blackboard in his office, which is the best way for me personally to learn.
 - Very fast response to emails and readily available during office hours.
 - Dr. Clontz is extremely professional.

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have about your experience in this course: -**A**

- In four semesters at UNCC, I have never experienced a professor who provided adequate time for quizzes until this class. I have always been rushed, hindering my grade. However, in this course I felt I was given the time required to complete the work assigned.

B

- Overall, this has been an interesting experience. I'm glad Dr. Clontz made us type our notes in LaTeX. This semester has given me a lot of practical experience in developing a workflow and writing up proofs. Our current textbook is good companion for this type of guided-notes system. As for suggestions, I have two: First, I think there should be less emphasis on student presentations (which, in many cases, felt like people paraphrasing what I could just read in the textbook). I would've liked more lecture time to explore more topics in analysis. Second, maybe instead of just doing the book theorems/exercises, include a few more extended problems that require applying multiple techniques/ideas developed in the class. Going through the book chapter by chapter was tedious, and while I understood that each chapter had a "goal" in mind, rarely did we get to see how to re-adapt and extend those ideas in novel situations. I think many students would appreciate seeing the interwoven nature of mathematics, even at this albeit basic level.
- Dr. Clontz is truly an asset to the Department of Mathematics. His enthusiasm for the mathematical sciences is astounding. I believe he will be an invaluable addition to the UNCC team of professors. He deserves a full-time faculty position!

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the instruction you received in this course: -**A**

- This course was effective.
- I thoroughly enjoyed this course and would recommend my instructor as one of the best at UNCC. My only complaint lies in the textbook selected. It was confusing and often displayed incorrect answers.
- Dr. Clontz regularly either forgot to prepare a quiz or made an error on the quizzes he actually prepared and it put a lot of pressure on us. He would come to class sometimes and try a problem, and then forget how to do it. So he would do it outside of class and then come in and explain it to us.

B

- I really liked how he used pictures to describe what we were trying to prove. It helped me understand things better.
- Dr. Clontz truly empowers students and provides enough information for us as students to hone our mathematical proof writing skills
- Dr. Clontz has an interesting and unique way of presenting material. I really benefited from his diagrams and intuitive explanations of concepts. His examples would provide a different way of thinking about a topic, which would motivate me to independently follow up on it (via the notes / self-study).
- Dr. Clontz is a teacher that reflects a new brand of teaching that relies on current technology that's available for teaching. Unlike the previous generation of instructors, Dr. Clontz makes students learn and at the same time present this knowledge with the other students in class to re-enforce the material that they learned. Furthermore, students are required to write-up their own notes using LaTeX, to ensure that the student understands what they are writing down, instead of blindly copying from the blackboard as in the majority of classes. Along with learning multi-variable real analysis, we also learned how to use LaTeX in this class. Dr. Clontz is a naturally-gifted teacher.
- Most of the time, the students introduced theorems and topics with their explanations, when no one would present, he would teach it. The teaching style was unique as it tested student's ability to reason mathematically. However, I feel that coding notes on an overleaf account was tedious and that some of the students who presenting had no clue what was going on and so neither did the class.
- I would have liked to receive more feedback on my proofs, but other than that it was a great course.
- I enjoyed student presentations because the material was rather difficult, so it was nice seeing other student's thought process
- Overall class is great. But it will be much better if the instructor provide reasonable explain about hw grade. Or go over it, so i can learn from my mistake