CTY Summer Programs 2019 | Academic SPEs | Individual Instructor Report for The Mathematics of Competitive Behavior (19C_MOCB_PRN_1A_bcohen49) (BENJAMIN COHEN)

Project Title: **CTY Summer Programs 2019 | Academic Student Program Evaluation**

Survey Audience: **15**
Responses Received: **13**
Response Ratio: **86.7%**

Report Comments

Class Section Code: 19C_MOCB_PRN_1A

Course Title: The Mathematics of Competitive Behavior

Site: PRN

Session: 1

Instructor: BENJAMIN COHEN

Teaching Assistant: DAVID KRYSKOWSKI

Creation Date: **Wednesday, September 18, 2019**

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I. Course Appraisal

	Count	Mean	SD	Strongly Disagree 1	Somewhat Disagree 2	Undecided 3	Somewhat Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
The course covered the material described in the catalog	13	4.85	0.38	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	84.6%
The course was challenging for me	13	3.69	1.18	0.0%	23.1%	15.4%	30.8%	30.8%
Written assignments contributed to my understanding of the material	13	4.15	1.14	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	38.5%	46.2%
Required reading contributed to my understanding of the material	13	3.54	1.20	7.7%	7.7%	30.8%	30.8%	23.1%
After taking the course, my interest in this subject has increased	13	4.38	0.87	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	38.5%	53.8%
Overall, I am satisfied with my academic experience this summer	13	4.23	1.17	0.0%	15.4%	7.7%	15.4%	61.5%

II. Instructor Appraisal

	Count	Mean	SD	Poor 1	Fair 2	Satisfactory 3	Very Good 4	Excellent 5
Knowledge of the subject	13	4.62	0.87	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	15.4%	76.9%
Organization	13	4.46	0.66	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	38.5%	53.8%
Ability to explain difficult concepts	13	4.15	0.99	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	30.8%	46.2%
Concern for my individual learning	13	4.00	0.82	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	38.5%	30.8%
Availability to help students	13	4.23	1.09	0.0%	7.7%	23.1%	7.7%	61.5%
Constructive feedback on my work	13	4.00	0.82	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	38.5%	30.8%
Overall fairness to students	13	4.38	0.65	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	46.2%	46.2%
Openness to different opinions	13	4.69	0.63	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	76.9%
Kept class interesting	13	4.23	0.93	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	38.5%	46.2%
Instructor's overall effectiveness as a teacher	13	4.38	0.87	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	38.5%	53.8%

Rating scale questions, top and bottom ranks

Strengths			
1	The course covered the material described in the catalog	I. Course Appraisal	4.85
2	Openness to different opinions	II. Instructor Appraisal	4.69
3	Knowledge of the subject	II. Instructor Appraisal	4.62

Areas for Improvement			
1	Required reading contributed to my understanding of the material	I. Course Appraisal	3.54
2	The course was challenging for me	I. Course Appraisal	3.69
3	Concern for my individual learning	II. Instructor Appraisal	4.00

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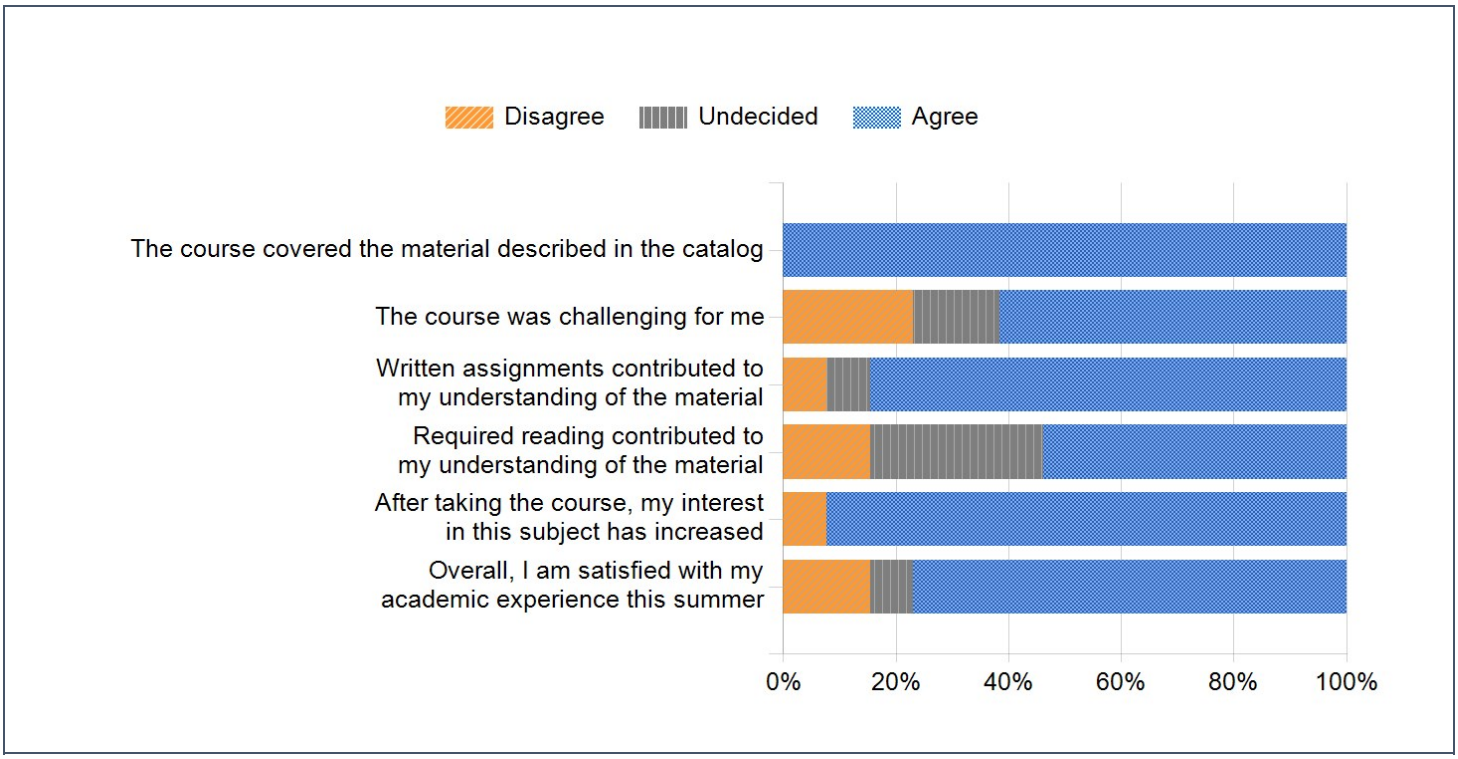
III. Teaching Assistant Appraisal

	Count	Mean	SD	Poor 1	Fair 2	Satisfactory 3	Very Good 4	Excellent 5
Knowledge of the subject	13	4.15	0.99	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	30.8%	46.2%
Ability to explain difficult concepts	13	4.15	1.14	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	38.5%	46.2%
Concern for my individual learning	12	4.83	0.39	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
Availability to help students	13	4.69	0.85	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	84.6%
Constructive feedback on my work	13	4.54	0.66	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	30.8%	61.5%
Overall fairness to students	13	4.69	0.63	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	76.9%
TA's overall effectiveness	13	4.38	1.12	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	61.5%

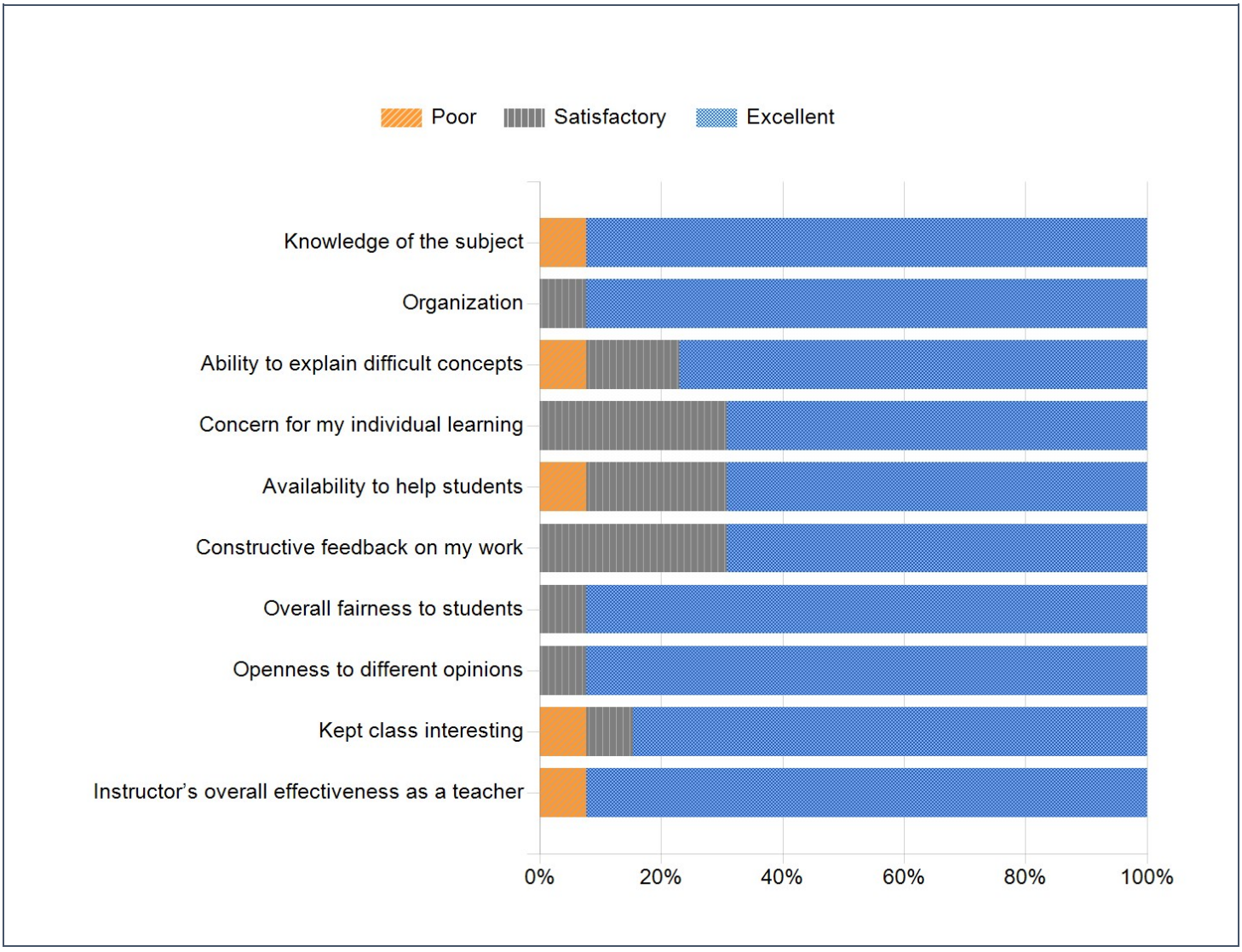
I. Course Appraisal - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Somewhat Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Somewhat Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



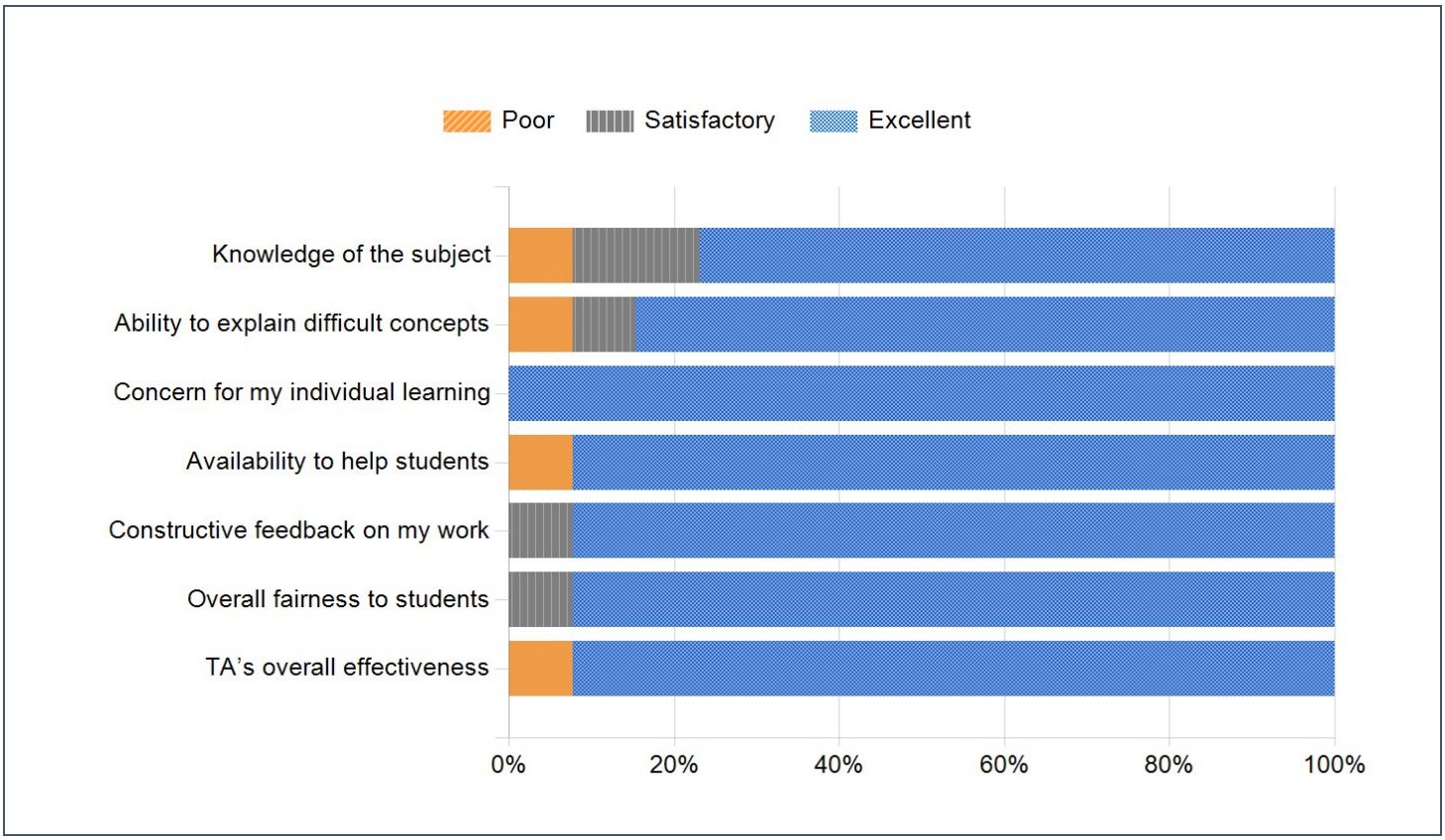
II. Instructor Appraisal - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Poor" and "Fair" have been grouped together as "Poor" while "Very Good" and "Excellent" have been grouped together as "Excellent".



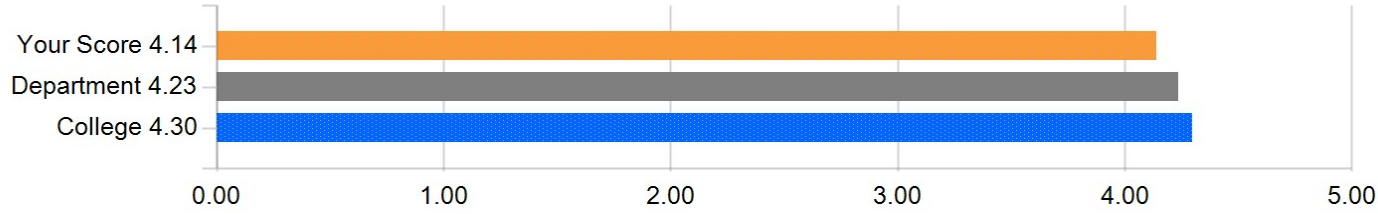
III. Teaching Assistant Appraisal - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Poor" and "Fair" have been grouped together as "Poor" while "Very Good" and "Excellent" have been grouped together as "Excellent".

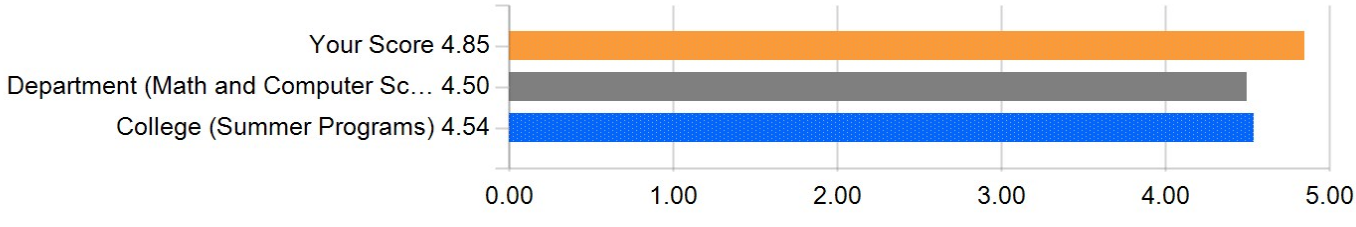


I. Course Appraisal - Comparative Scores

Overall



1. The course covered the material described in the catalog



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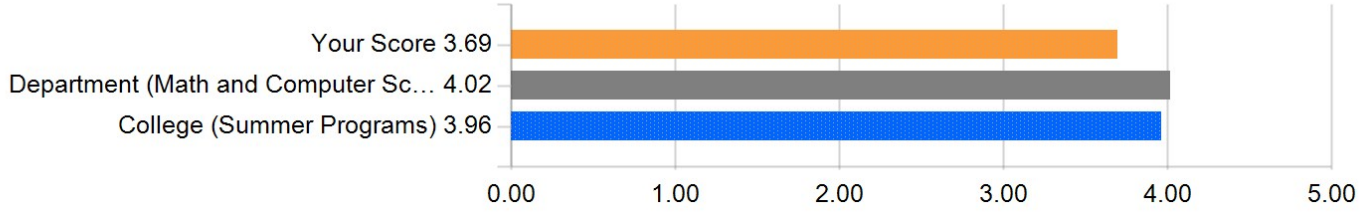
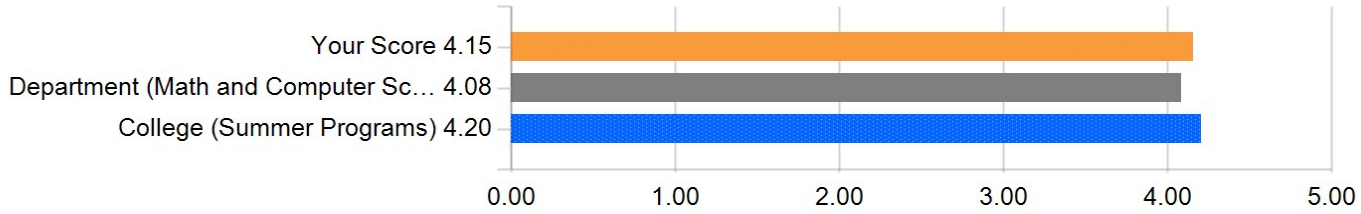
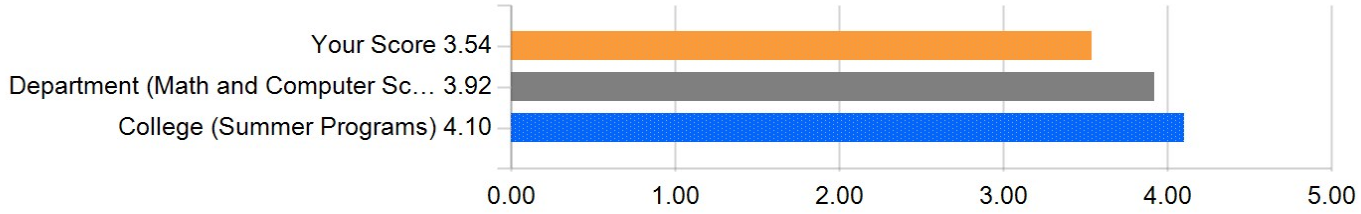
2. The course was challenging for me



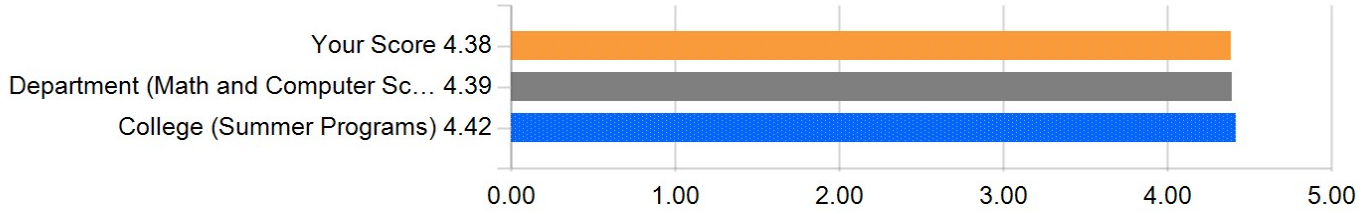
3. Written assignments contributed to my understanding of the material



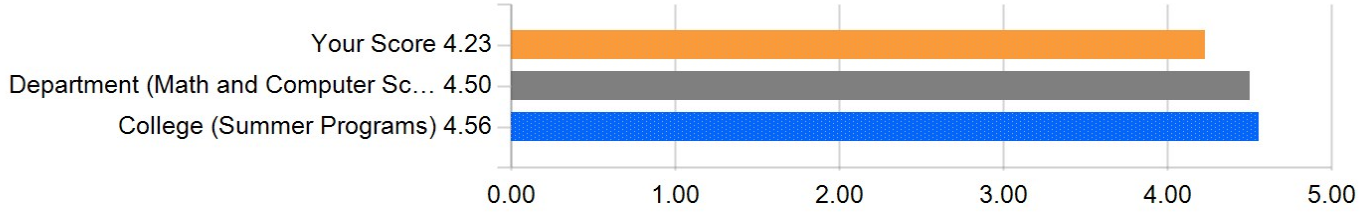
4. Required reading contributed to my understanding of the material



5. After taking the course, my interest in this subject has increased

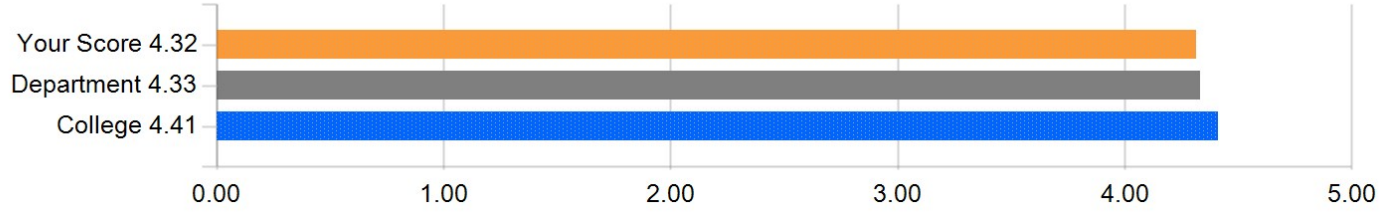


6. Overall, I am satisfied with my academic experience this summer

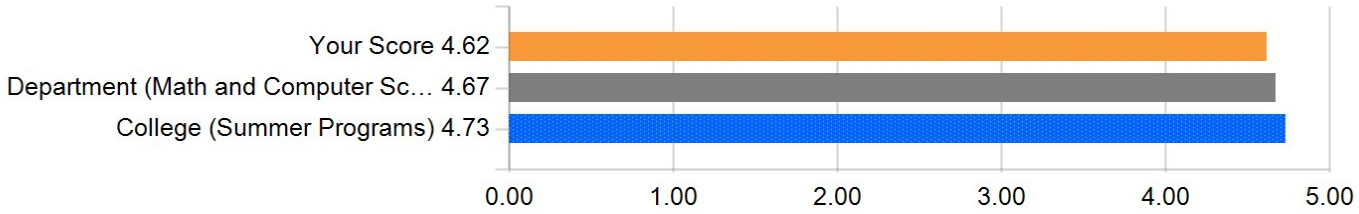


II. Instructor Appraisal - Comparative Scores

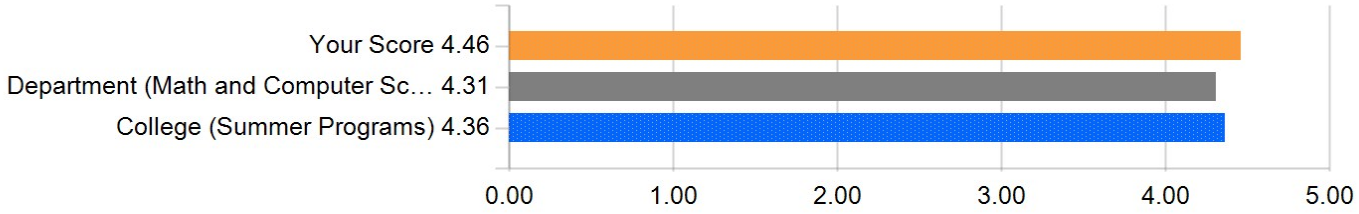
Overall



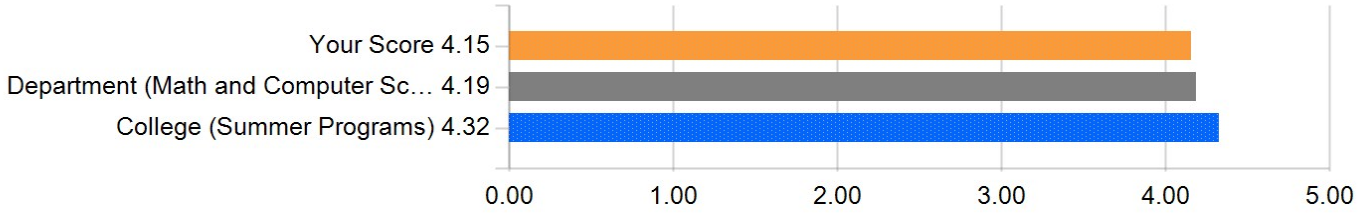
1. Knowledge of the subject



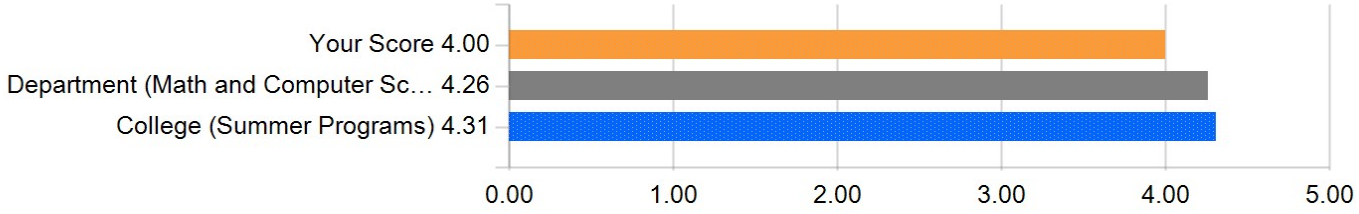
2. Organization



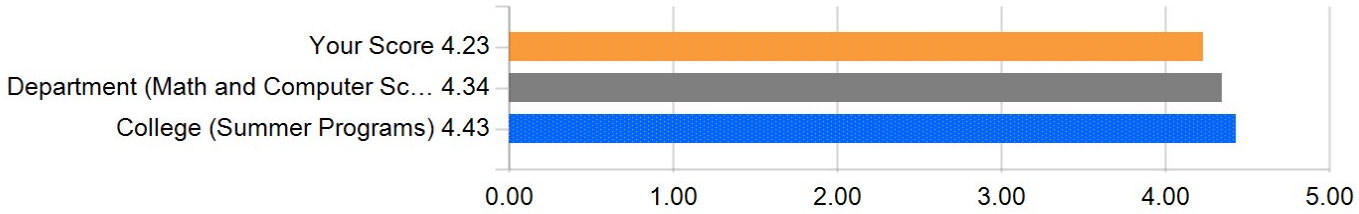
3. Ability to explain difficult concepts



4. Concern for my individual learning



5. Availability to help students



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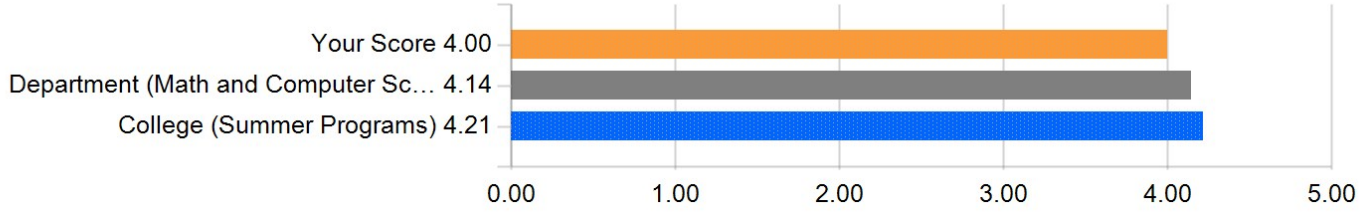
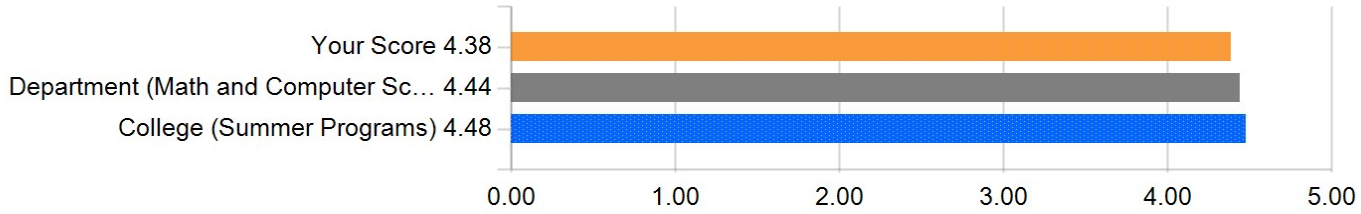
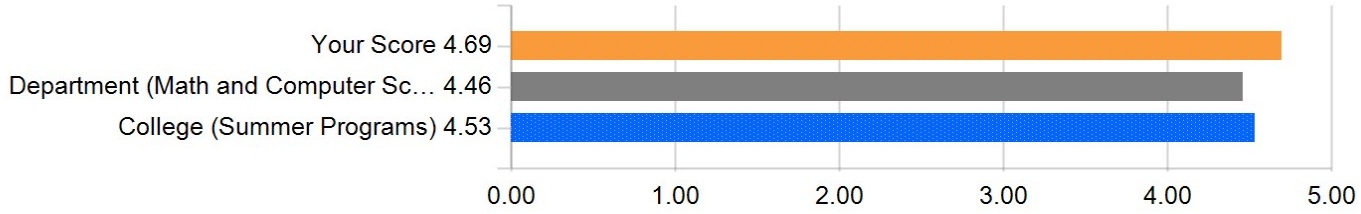
6. Constructive feedback on my work



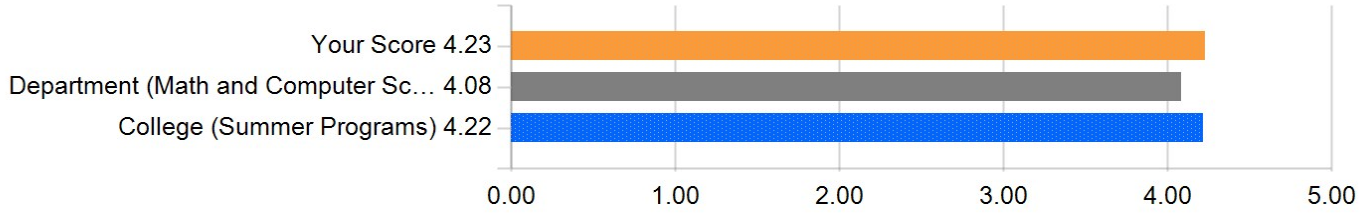
7. Overall fairness to students



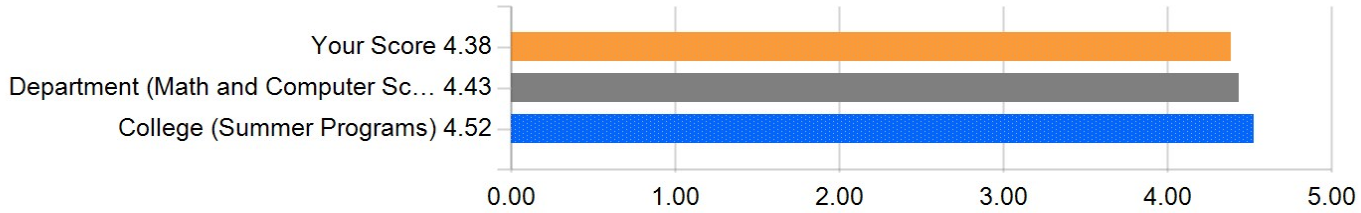
8. Openness to different opinions



9. Kept class interesting

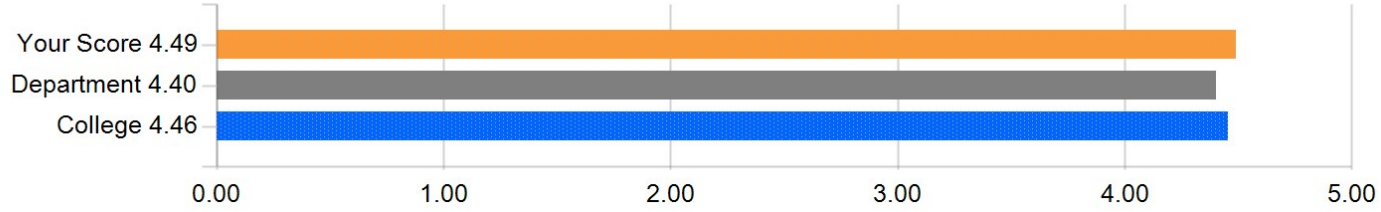


10. Instructor's overall effectiveness as a teacher

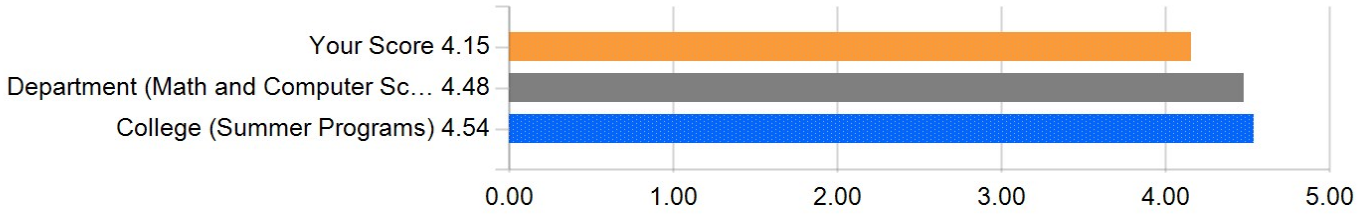


III. Teaching Assistant Appraisal - Comparative Scores

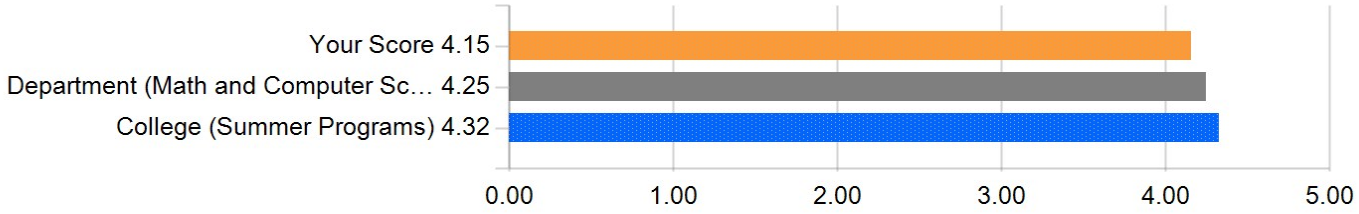
Overall



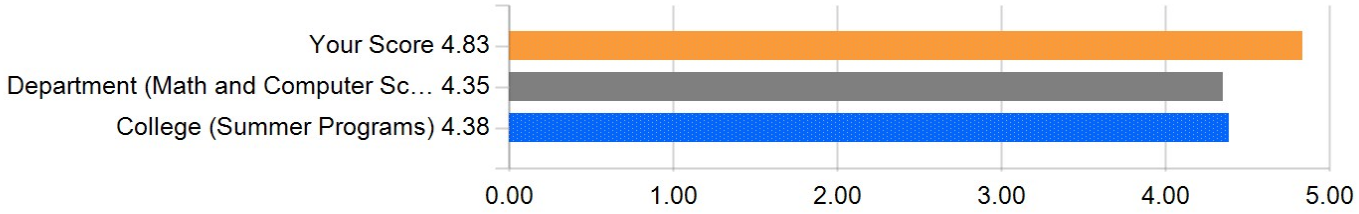
1. Knowledge of the subject



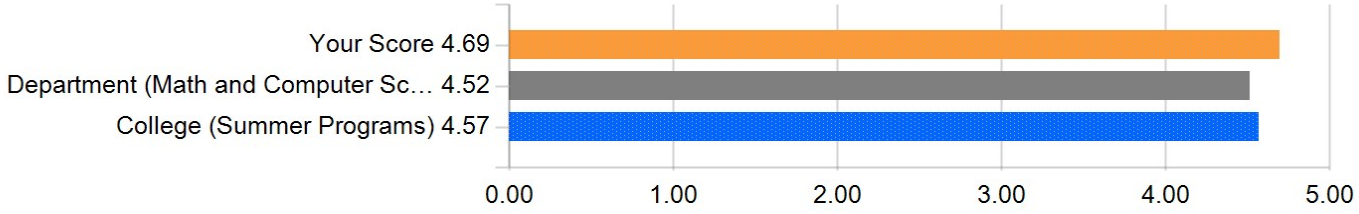
2. Ability to explain difficult concepts



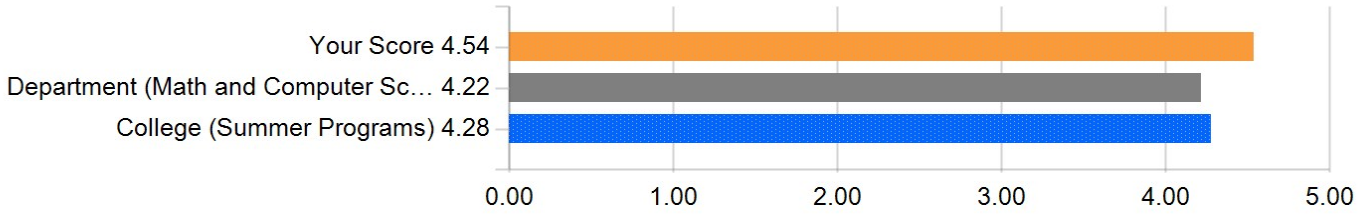
3. Concern for my individual learning



4. Availability to help students



5. Constructive feedback on my work



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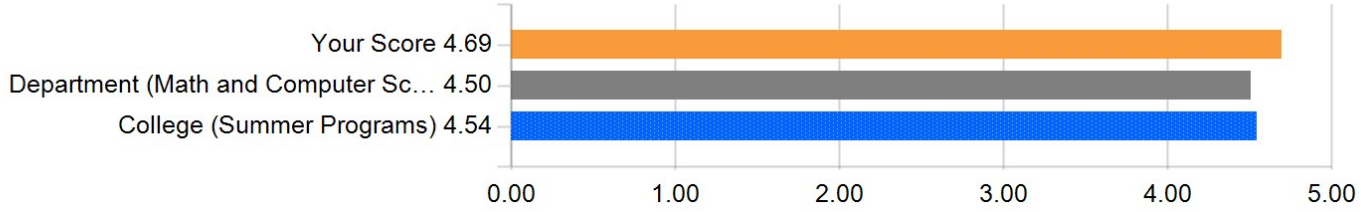
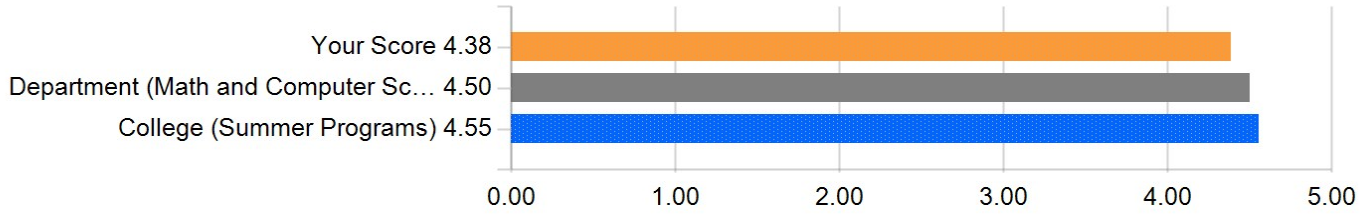
6. Overall fairness to students



7. TA's overall effectiveness



What do you think were the most important ideas and/or skills you learned in this course?

Comments

Game Theory applications in real life and the beauty of math behind it.

Basics of Game theory: Nash Equilibrium, Pareto optimality
Applications to real world: economics, warring countries

The most important skill I learned was analyzing decisions to obtain the highest reward, since it can be applied daily.

I think the math itself wasn't as important as the concepts of game theory, which I feel were thoroughly investigated through the class (Behavioral and Experimental game theory were my favorites).

I LEARNED HOW TO GAMBLE MORE RESPONSIBLY WITH PROBABILITY AND SUCH TO AVOID GETTING SCAMMED.

Comments
I learned about an overview of game theory and what it means to act rationally in matrix games. I also learned how to apply it to real world situations.
The equilibrium points, mixed strategies and firm behaviour. I think these will help me a lot as I want to study economics in the future.
Probably the whole idea of figuring out the best possible decision in a mathematical game.
I learned how to better think about situations in which decisions are made so that I can maximize my outcomes
Understanding movement in diagrams + the optimality of a strategy given whether its nash eq or Pareto optimal
I learned the basics of game theory and how to create and analyze matrises.
I learned how to solve game theory solutions and apply them to the real world.

Would you recommend this course to other students? Why or why not?

Comments
Yes, This course introduced ideas not taught in school and challenges me the right amount.

Comments
Yes. The knowledge is interesting and the classes are exciting and fun (especially when we gamble)
I would recommend it because it mixed a learning of mathematics with its real world applications.
I would recommend this course since it is an interesting topic with many real-life applications.
YES, BUT ONLY IF YOU LIKE MATH A LOT
Yes, I would. It was fun to bargain chips and the material was interesting. However, I would explain to them that we do not do much math in the class, it is less rigorous and more "hand-wavy".
Yes, if you are interested in math and want to know about probab. of wins and losses.
yes because it teaches skills applicable to multiple subjects, whether its math, comp sci, or economics, or even daily life.
Yes because you learn a lot.

Comments
Yes Instructor and TA kept it interesting as well as informative.

Please comment on the strengths of your instructor and suggest ways, if any, that your instructor's teaching might improve:

Comments
very good teacher. Sometimes he should give a little more time to digest information. Revising concepts once in a while would help refresh and solidify concepts.
Extremely patient and clear in terms of explaining the concepts. Sometimes maybe he can give us longer breaks?
Instructor: very knowledgeable and was able to explain difficult concepts easily. Also understood how students were feeling which made him relatable and his class interesting
My instructor was very, very, knowledgeable, my only problem was sometimes he stood infront of the board when I was trying to copy notes, or erase too early.
BEN WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND KEPT CLASS FUN WITH SOME GAMES, BUT COULD HAVE GONE SLOWER AS NOT EVERYONE MOVED AT THE SAME PACE OR HAD THE SAME PRIOR KNOWLEDGE
I think Ben is good at making fun games in class and the "chip" economy is engaging. The instructor's teaching could improve by presenting more rigorous justifications of concepts and assigning less busy work. The assigned problems should be shorter and more thought-provokin

Comments
My instructor had lots of knowledge on the topic which definitely improved learning. The instructor is great, however the course could be better if it was more balanced over the three weeks. There was lots of math in the first week and lots of applications and more discussion material later on.
He was very knowledgeable and covered a lot of mate but I wasn't given a lot of opportunity to go over topics again and learn them
Make the class fun, interesting and moving fast.
Ben is very knowledged on his instructing & very empathetic towards the students. He makes the class interesting w/ personal anecdotes without completely deviating from the class. Sometimes he has a tendency to go fast/underexplain concepts behind the math, but that's my only struggle here
Some strengths include timing so that we could review WPWorks during the night class. Also we applied game theory to many subjects so the class was never bobring.
strengths - knowledge of subject, passion, interesting improve - focusing on individuals that need more help

Please comment on the strengths of your TA and suggest ways, if any, that your TA's teaching might improve:

Comments
Very friendly and approachable. He could possibly be more familiar with the course content so he can provide more help in class

Comments

The TA was knowledgeable and friendly. Very fun to be around and fostered a good learning environment.

Trust in your abilities and demonstrate your knowledge. You are incredibly capable.

My TA was knowledgeable, but I feel like the instructor already knew the answers to all the questions but during night classes he was very helpful.

DAVID WAS VERY FUN, NICE, AND SMART. GREAT TA AND A REALLY COOL GUY.

David is good at giving students fun problems and things to think about. However, he could improve by having a deeper understanding of game-theory. Even he admitted "I learned this stuff 2 years ago so I'm not really sure," in response to a question.

The TA was loved by everyone. Personally, I think it would be nice if he had teaching opportunities as well other than simply supervising or helping us when we do worksheets. Additionally, the TA could explain how to solve the question rather than giving the answer. That could help with learning.

He was incredibly excited to help and walk students throu the curriculum but he could take charge of the class more.

David is a really good TA + a great partner to Ben. Evening classes w/ him help me conceptualize the material. If I'm insure about a particular idea, David provides helpful analogies / explanations (i.e the lemonade stand). Overall really enjoyed having him w/ our class.

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Comments

Some strengths include good explinations and making a good learning environment.

strengths: caring, knowledgeable, learning environment

improve: explaining

Other Comments:

Comments
Overall an excellent experience and I wish I can see those teachers again! P.S. #FreeTheBoys!
Free David. Free Rocco.
I feel like we worked way harder in the first week than the second week, and the same for the second and third weeks. It could have been spaced out more essentially.
ROCCO (JOHNATHAN PERI) AND DAVID GARDNER WERE TREATED UNFAIRLY BY A HARSH ADMINISTRATION AND DID NOT DESERVE TO BE KICKED OUT OR TREATED SO POORLY BY CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS
I liked the class, but I strongly feel that it could use more math based proofs, rigor, and justification of concepts. Right now, it feels like we just learn techniques and not why they work. Also, there should be less busywork.
Johnathan and David were treated so poorly by the administration and absolutely did not deserve the punishment they received. This is a very popular opini