

COLORADO.CAMPUSLABS.COM/COURSEEVAL

COLTON GRAINGER (MATH 1300)

Please take 10 minutes to complete the Faculty Course Questionnaire (FCQ) for MATH 1300.

It's online: colorado.campuslabs.com/courseeval.

Reminders and tips:

- FCQs are anonymous, confidential, and only released to faculty *after grades are posted*.
- We appreciate written feedback! We have thick skin!
- Try to be specific: you may refer to faculty and course staff by name.
- Do *explain* and *justify* your criticism.

Who uses FCQs?

- Individual instructors for use in improving their courses and teaching.
- Departments for use in course assignments and in promotion, salary, and tenure decisions.
- Students for use in course selection.

1. EPIGRAMS

Mary-Claire van Leunen (*Mathematical Writing*. Donald E. Knuth, Tracy L. Larrabee, and Paul M. Roberts, 1989)

Many years ago Mary-Claire was a frequent passenger on the Chicago bus system. The neighborhood where she boarded her #5 bus was a gathering spot for "bummy guys" ... Some begged, others peddled. Among the peddlers---hawking wares ranging from trenchcoats full of watches to freedom from the peddler's presence---was a man whom Mary-Claire patronized quite regularly. He sold pencil stubs (obviously collected from trash bins); but Mary-Claire said his patter was charming enough to rate one or two pencils a week.

"These pencils are magic pencils," he would say. "Buy a magic pencil. Only 25 cents."

"What's a magic pencil?" would come the expected response.

"With this pencil, you can write *the truth*."

Inevitably, someone would pipe up, "But I can write lies with it."

"Oh, you break the magic. But if you really believe, you can write *the truth*."

Richard Hamming (talk at Bellcore, 7 March 1986):

Therefore, go forth and become great scientists!

Tom Wayman (*Did I Miss Anything?*, 1993)

Nothing. When we realized you weren't here
we sat with our hands folded on our desks
in silence, for the full two hours

Everything. I gave an exam worth
40 percent of the grade for this term
and assigned some reading due today
on which I'm about to hand out a quiz
worth 50 percent

Nothing. None of the content of this course
has value or meaning
Take as many days off as you like:
any activities we undertake as a class
I assure you will not matter either to you or me
and are without purpose

Everything. A few minutes after we began last time
a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel
or other heavenly being appeared
and revealed to us what each woman or man must do
to attain divine wisdom in this life and
the hereafter
This is the last time the class will meet
before we disperse to bring the good news to all people on earth.

Nothing. When you are not present
how could something significant occur?

Everything. Contained in this classroom
is a microcosm of human experience
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder
This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered

but it was one place

And you weren't here