Individual Instructor Report Fall 2022 for MATH 2X03 C02 - Advanced Calculus I (Michel Alexis)

Project Title: **Course Feedback Fall 2022**

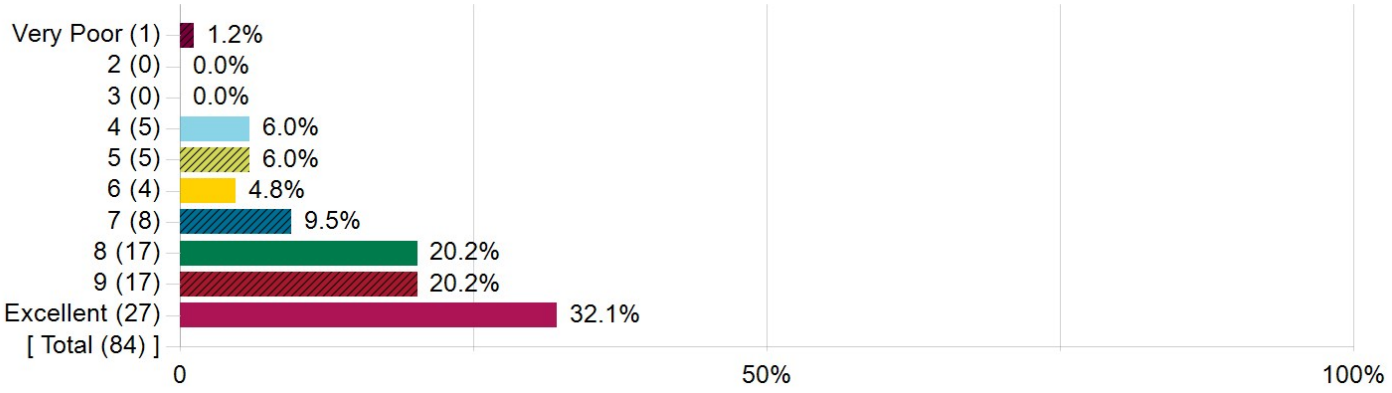
Courses Audience: **159**
Responses Received: **85**
Response Ratio: **53.5%**

Report Comments

McMaster Handling of personal information policy.
https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2018/11/handling-of-personal-information-policy.pdf

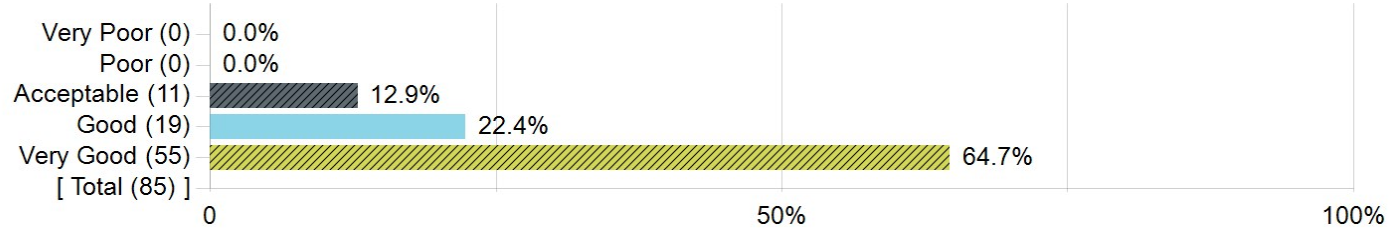
Prepared by: **the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis**
Creation Date: **Friday, December 16, 2022**

Overall for this course, how would you describe your learning experience?



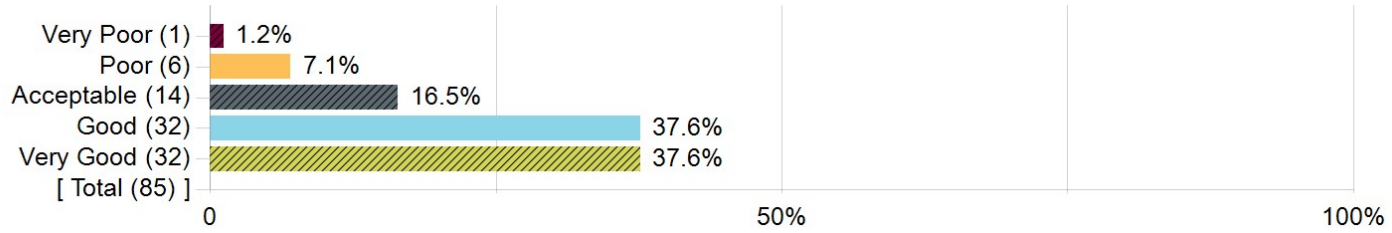
Statistics	Value
Mean	8.15
Median	8.62
Mode	10
Standard Deviation	1.97

How do you rate the overall organization of the course including the instructor's response to the students (approachability, attitude, availability, timing and appropriateness of feedback)?



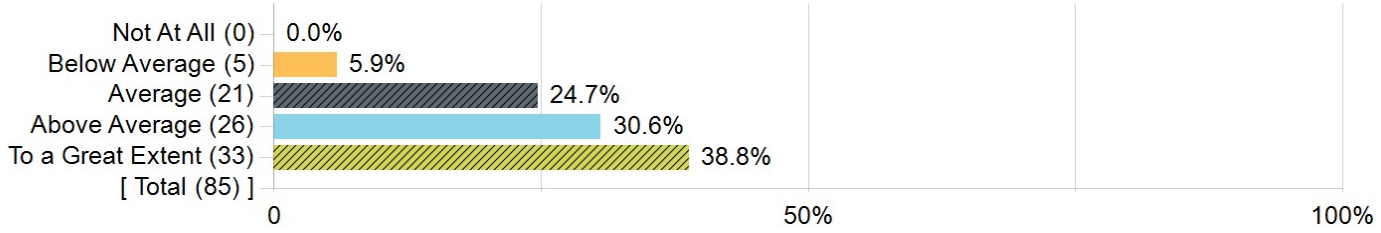
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.52
Median	4.73
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.72

What was the effectiveness of the learning resources available for the course? Resources include but are not limited to textbook, course notes, Avenue to Learn material.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.04
Median	4.17
Mode	4, 5
Standard Deviation	0.97

How much did this course contribute to skills development in this discipline? Examples of skills include critical thinking, problem solving, synthesis, research, laboratory or writing skills.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.02
Median	4.13
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.94

Identify at least two aspects of this course that you thought were particularly effective. Provide a brief explanation.

Comments
The lectures were well organized and presented; the tests were comprehensive and fair.
Instructors always gave many practice problems during lecture which were very effective at helping us learn. Instructors were also responsive to student feedback, altering aspects of their teaching and providing more chances to do well in the course.
Michel was very enthusiastic and made the sometimes dry material more interesting! I could also tell he was really trying to engage with everyone in the course.
I thought the professor did a great job on teach the lecture. His class is very lively and interesting, which is very helpful for our study. Also he is a very nice man and he is happy to answer our questions every time.
Dr. Michel Alexis going through "you tries" and walking through the class to ensure everyone knew what was going on was very effective. It helped make the environment feel inclusive and you could tell he had really enjoyed teaching the material. Additionally, the format of assignments was also effective as it followed questions taught and gave multiple attempts to ensure understanding.
when were doing questions in class before the prof does them The assignments were straightforward the context of the course is pretty manageabble
The You try sections are a very beneficial part of the course because by forcing oneself to engage in the courses content it becomes clear where your strengths and shortcomings are, and because the problem is taken up afterwards you are able to address them almost immediately.
I found the "you try" sections of class to be very effective, as I greatly enjoyed being able to properly attempt a problem involving a concept we had just learned, and then immediately receive feedback on my though process. I found that this helped greatly with my retention of the core concepts of this course. Another aspect I appreciated was Michel's active presence during lectures, as he would present material enthusiastically, answer all questions as thoroughly as he could, and check in with how people were feeling before moving on. I noticed that this helped me stay engaged with his lectures.
deal with integrals and surface analysis
Examples covered in class, ample explanations provided. Midterm tests were fair.
Michel's you try questions are excellent and he stays after class for a long time answering students' questions.
I love Michel's energy. He makes the class not tiring or stressful. Michel's handwritten notes are also nice that it actually listed everything out for us with the helpful "you trys".
Michels office hours were super helpful and he definitely explain everything really well, i also found that the 'you try' problems really helped me to get a better grasp of the material
I liked how much my prof, Michel, cared and wanted to help us. I can not think of another good thing about this course to be honest.
Michel's willingness to help out as well as his approachability were fantastic throughout this course. He often would work extra in order to ensure we were on the right track when learning in his class
I thought that the tutorials, textbook and practice questions, and lectures combined with having access to the notes were helpful. I prefer to read content out usually instead of just hearing it so even though lectures did help me, tutorials and textbook offered hands–on learning and I used the notes posted from lectures and the textbook to clarify concepts for myself.

Comments
I liked how Michel posted a summary of the thigns we learned on a particular day. This was really handy because I could easily refer back to lectures without wasting too much time on looking up what day he taught that content. Additionally, Michel was very open and easy to approach so when i had any questions, it was very easy to ask him. I founf this very helpful as he helped me solve my doubts and concerns of the course content.
Childsmath assignments were a good way to force me to do homework for the class so I did better on midterms
The You Try's and the step by step approach for doing examples.
The two aspects of this course that I found particularly effective were the Dr. Michel himself, and Matthew, our TA. I believe the most critical aspect of any course is the teacher, and their ability to communicate the course content to their students. Both Dr. Michel and Matthew did a fantastic job in this regard. With respect to Dr. Michel during lectures, he was always clear and methodical when explaining theorems, and ensured a few moments after his explanation for us to digest the topics and ask questions. I particularly liked his 'you try' examples where he would encourage the class to attempt a given practice problem for a few minutes, while he walked around making sure everyone was on track. He was also very helpful outside of class, offering to schedule extra office hours as a result of my personal scheduling conflicts. If I was ever unsure about a concept or needed an extension for an assignment, Dr. Michel was always quick to reply via email, and reasonable with extensions. If I was to give my experience in this course a score it would also be 10/10.
Lots of examples and real life applications were provided in class to help further understandings. Instructor was lenient with pacing of the course and allowed extra time to focus on areas of difficulty, if in class time was not possible in class he was available in office hours.
The suggested practice problems were very useful so that we had a good idea of what to practice based on the lecture. In lecture "you try" problems were also useful to keep us engaged during the lecture and make sure we weren't just blindly copying down notes. Uploading the recorded lectures also really helped if we wanted to go back and listen to what was said again.
really good suggestion problem to work on essential knowledge, the right amount of homework makes the course comfortable.
I liked the many examples in lecture, the pauses for questions, the explanations and the fair testing.
we have recorded lectures and prompt announcement
1. Michel is super nice, please continue hire him as professor. He is so helpful on the metirial, always well explain my every question. He is open to talk his research and studies, which makes me love math more. 2. The course cannot without Michel.
Interactive and lecture style
1. Content was taught in hand–writing notes. For me, learning math with hand–writing notes is much better than just follow up with slide show. 2. example after every definition or content that has been taught. I also love the record and posted class note that helps me review the content of that day.
first, numerical examples on courses are very effective, help us to get connected with the knowledge quickly. second, after class, our instructor always wait for answering our questions.
The professor made learning very interesting in this course, the in–class examples where we try it ourself first was an amazing part of the class and I think it helped keep me engaged and even boost my confidence in the topic when getting the question right as I tend to doubt my knowledge. The textbook is also great learning source for 2X03 I found myself always reading through it if I got behind.
tutorials and good problem selection
The explanations in class along with textbook reinforcement make for a great combo for knowledge retention. The past evaluation material on Avenue make for good practice before an assessment and weekly Childsmath enforces that we practice the content from the week.
1.Example explanation before examination 2.Clear lecture notes
the in–class "you try" exercises, found them to be quite helpful when reviewing, and the textbook practice problems
Definitely the "You Try"s. It was something I always looked forward to in the course. The idea of having students learn and experiment in class is something that seems to be unheard of nowadays. In university, most of the learning happens outside of the classroom, but the You Trys helped me learn a lot in class. Another aspect that's also related is Michel checking in on us during the You Trys. It really helps build relationships between the prof and students which I think results in students learning more and caring more.
good
Assignments kept me up to date with the course content
1. Provided Practice Problems for each topic covered, was great help especially for preparation of tests 2. Posted lecture notes, helped with going back and comparing my notes incase I missed something during lecture. As well, while I had COVID I was able to keep up to course content while at home

Comments
When doing the midterms there was no multiple choice, and we were able to get part marks on long answers which I liked
the image setting and the imagine of the three–dimensional things. class exaplain how to change a quesiton to a three–dimensional image
At the start of class time instructor Michel always gives students a chance to try some calculus problems to evaluate students themselves. He always gives students a chance to ask questions during each lecture.
The you try part of each lesson is very useful and will help me understand better what I have learned. This part bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical work. Thanks a lot for all that Michel has done for us this semester, and I would love to attend some of the math classes he will be teaching in the future!
Prof's writting is structural and clear. And I also appreiciate that he will give us some time to think and ask him questions.
"You try", where the professor would give us time to attempt a textbook example, then he would go over the solution(s). The use of the projector instead of the chalkboard helped in being able to better see the lecture notes.
The you try sections and overall class discussion level is very helpful. Our prof is actually amazing and does a very good job explaining everything.
good
The lectures were engaging and Michel made efforts to get to know his students through these lectures where we tried problems in class which I appreciate. Michel is very helpful and kind. As mentioned, the tutorials were really good too.
Dr. Alexis is extremely helpful even when he was put under difficult circumstances. He was readily available and was eager to help whenever students needed him. The Ta's were extremely helpful as well.
The instructor is good at explaining. He could teach well. The instructor is approachable. We can feel comfortable asking him things.
Michel's ability to be approached easily, and the "you try" parts of the lecture where he would come around to help individual students. Great prof overall, a funny guy.
You Try – Help us practice what we learned. The way lectures were structured in general was very effective. Childsmath – Very good website for assignments, give quick feedback, open for a long period, not much pressure.
Teaching is good.
nice lecture
Michels lectures were very cohesive, and he makes sure the entire class understands a concept and is always pausing for questions. This course is also organized very well and the tests are also fair regarding the material which I appreciate.
The examples provided right after introduction of new concepts was really helpful. It helped increase understanding and clear confusions through you trys when the professor was walking around.
Lectures are perfect
learned 3D calculation
coherent notes that are also posted online, sufficient amount of practice examples
Michael provides us with practice problems in class which a lot of professors pass out on. I think that practice problems during lectures are very effective in helping students learn. I also like how enthusiastic Michael is to teach the course, as it gets me excited for the course as well.
The "you try's" were good because it made the class more engaged. The tutorials were very informative and helpful because if I was stuck on a question, we would go over it.
you try questions in the lecture and recording lectures
In lecture there were a lot of opportunities to try questions out ourselves. The avenue page had all the information needed to learn math. (Practice problems, lecture notes and recordings)
everything is good, but the test is kind difficult
Dr. Alexis takes a much more friendly approach to calculus than most other professors. I love how he had icebreakers on the first day of class, and hope he maintains his enthusiasm for teaching students. "you try" is very helpful for understanding class concepts.
Michel's 'you trys' was a great way to try out the content. I also loved the way Michel lectured; he was really good a lecturing.
The "you try" portion at the beginning of every lecture was very effective. The prof was also a very great lecturer. A bit fast at times but he didn't mind slowing down to re–explain parts. I also liked that he would stop after explaining a topic/theorem to see if the class felt ok about the material. I can tell that he's very passionate about teaching. Thanks for a great semester!!
I enjoyed the lectures and I thought the "You Trys" were very effective at helping me learn the material. I also appreciated the

Comments
recommended textbook questions as I used them to study for the tests and found them to be very helpful.
I found the course to be a rather good covering of the material. It has been probably one of the more successful math courses I've taken, and I appreciate Michel's warm attitude. I also found the course lay–out to be good, as everything flowed well from one topic to the next.

Identify at least two aspects of this course that you thought particularly needed to be improved. Provide a brief explanation.

Comments
The assignments for this class are unnecessary and, unfortunately, worth a significant proportion of the grade. In my view, they are redundant for a second–year mathematics course, and ultimately fail to add any substance. I assume that the goal of the assignments are to keep students up–to–date, but I find that the deadlines were more restrictive and less serving than they are intended to be. If, instead, the goal of the assignments are to give students a taste of what material is testable, then I fail to see the purpose in the large quantity of assignments and the bi–weekly due dates. Can the students not keep up with the assignments according to their own pace/needs and complete the assignments whenever they please?
Only one course section had lecture notes uploaded to avenue. Those notes occasionally had minor mistakes (usually arithmetic, so they didn't really affect the presentation of the material). While the notes were still very helpful to have when reviewing material, they can be improved for future offerings of the course.
There definitely needed to be better coordination and communication between the course instructors regarding tests, assignments, and the material covered. Michel also could have covered some of the content more quickly in order to stay on schedule with the other section.
I think it will be better if we can have all the lecturing record. Sometime, I missed some classes and it is hard to catch up with only the notes.
I don't have any areas that I think need to be improved. This course was taught extremely well, the assignments were fair, the TAs were excellent, and the tests were fair. By far my favourite course I'm taking this term and my favourite math course I've taken so far!
Lack of Ta's
I feel that the timeline of this course could be improved, as both sections quickly fell behind schedule, and my section in particular fell well behind the other section at some points. This lead to many last minute adjustments to assignments and tests that I feel most likely caused unnecessary stress for students as there was often some confusion regarding what would actually be tested vs. what was supposed to be tested. I believe this is a timeline issue because I never really felt like the course was lagging all that much (there was maybe the odd exercise–focused lecture that I found unnecessary, but that could just be me). However, the pace of this class could not be sped up without sacrificing the parts of this course that I found beneficial (that being many opportunities to ask questions and actually apply the material in class). So I think future students would appreciate if this course was maybe organized closer to how it ran this term, or just organized less strictly so that these issues can be avoided.
cooperation and thinking skills
More attempts on childsmath. Maybe provide textbook solutions if possible. Maybe higher weights transferred to assignments. Maybe even weekly quizzes as well and have a lower weight exam. formula sheet if possible.
The notes posted on avenue are kind of hard to read. Tutorial could be longer as we feel we sometimes dont get enough time finishing tutorial.
I understand that it is Michel's first year teaching so he wouldn’t be 100% organized on time and our questions. However, he is still extremely nice and talented. I hope he’s not feeling too much pressure on this. One thing I could think of that needs to be improved is we need a proper sample test before each test rather than tests from past years. It will be really helpful if we know what type of questions will be on the actual test. Keep going Michel we love you!:)
I think that if the courses operated out of one avenue page it would have been better as there wouldnt have been a difference in the resources available to each section in that case
This course was extremely disorganized. Assignments dates were not provided in advance, they would just be sprung on us, and many times with content we haven't learned, and with inadequate time to complete them. We got no practice questions, mock tests, or review sessions for tests. As well, the marking scheme is terrible. It is not forgiving, and there were no other weightings offered. I felt as if they did not care, and wanted us to fail as they were setting us up for failure. The course coordinator was AWFUL, and I felt bad for the other instructors as there was obviously little to no communication to them. I am leaving this course extremely discouraged in my math journey at McMaster, and consider this a waste of money. DO BETTER.
– Speed at which the content is gone through – More focus on understanding concepts rather then examples of applying them
I thought that some parts of lectures were hard to follow, often I felt that there could have been a bit more simple slower explanation to build on top of, but we usually would just go straight to the topics very similar to how the textbook would.

Comments
If Michel could improve his handwriting that would be awesome! I can read it but there are some cases where I don't understand words or phrases and I have to decipher it.
Childsmath assignments could be harder, tests could be easier
It would be nice to have more resources such as practice tests and exams to prepare for midterms or exams.
I have no complaints about this course. Prof and TA were excellent, tests and assignments were fair, and the topics we covered were interesting.
Better and more resources for test and exam preparation.
Sometimes the due dates for the assignments weren't matching with the pace at which we were covering the content, which got a little confusing. Other than that everything was great :)
The knowledge of the two midterm tests is too narrow, there should be some multiple–choice questions instead 4 calculation questions. The exam is too tight, there is no time for thinking at all, that is what makes it easy to get nervous.
Overall, no complaints about the course.
No need to improve, it's the best i ever had in McMaster
nothing
1. sometimes the teaching speed of the course is a little bit fast but this may be due to the course instruction. 2.
I have only one suggestion since I have an excellent learning experience in other aspects. it will be better if there are more exam samples (or past exam sheet) available, so that students can at least know the key point.
I think this class is a crucial step in mathematics as it helps piece together many aspects that have been learned and never applied and hugely introduced visualization as a key component. I think at some points this course may go a bit quickly and I loved the professor and it was one of the only classes I found myself continuously coming to campus for. I think having neat written out notes online could be a good aspect to include and secondly sometimes the lectures got a bit quick to take notes + actually sink in the information.
provide more practice examples and more variation in grading (ie more weight from non tests, include some multiple choice on tests)
It's a cut and dry math course, I didn't particularly have any problems or concerns with the course. Perhaps assign less questions in the recommended problem sets as students as less likely to do practice problems if they have to choose a subset of a large problem pool compared to being given a smaller practice problem set.
1.It can make the examination form more diverse
I understand 50min is not a lot of time but time management in coverage can be improved. I had friends in the other section and I felt our section was always behind by a class or so. I don't think removing You Trys should be a solution to that aspect. I also think resource–wise with homework, having walkthrough guides is limited. We have the textbook and the answers but no full and thorough solutions. Having access to more resources would be nice such that we don't have to spend even more money on solution manuals.
good
I believe that some concepts of the course should have been taught a bit slowly and patiently. Professor Michel went through various concepts a bit too fast which made a ton of his lectures very forgettable. If he went through concepts a bit slower it would have certainly helped.
I think the way Prof Michel taught was very effective in the way of preparing for tests and assignments, and if needed he was quick to respond to emails via email. I personally don’t think there is much to improve on.
I wish there were notes to the lectures that would be uploaded. I wish lectures were recorded. In addition, shorten the hw.
the video is 54 mininte but some knowledge is not imclude
There should be more proof for the definition/theorem in the topic of the course rather than just showing the computation method of solving problems.
The lecture recordings sometimes have missing audio, and sometimes this causes me some trouble in my studies, and I hope this can be avoided in some way.
The difficulty of the homework should be adjust. There are some questions which contained numbers that create difficulties for calculating and has no help on contributing and refreshing the knowledge we learned in classes. Secondly, I think if the prof can give some summary after we finish a part, then compare it to the relative things we learned, it would be better for us to identify and understand the whole prospect of it.
Please give the students maximum marks. Thank you so much. 2X03 is hard to learn, but I will try my best to learn!!
The course itself is a little disorganized. The assignment deadlines are regularly modified and pushed back and once, the

Comments
questions were changed too. I'd just like better communication between instructors so that both sections can be on the same content too, because I hear that my section is always behind.
This course was disorganized. The practice tests were not a reflection of the tests. I had no idea about what I was getting myself into while going into the test. I have spent more time on this class than any of my other math courses and I still found myself struggling on the tests. I hope going forward, future students will be provided with resources that set them up for success.
Lecture notes posted on avenue is bad. It's just messy writing on pencil and paper. In lectures, it's hard to take notes because it's very disorganized. The intructor just writes random things on paper or chalkboard.
The pacing of some of the lectures could have been slower, and especially when going over a proof, sometimes seemed confusing or even pointless. Perhaps better recordings of lectures could be implemented as well.
Lecture Recordings – Audio wasn't recorded and was done asynchronously. In the future, please try synchronous recorded online lectures through Microsoft teams. Lecture Notes (posted online) – were often messy with words or functions crossed out. Instead of posting the notes used during the lecture, please post the lecture notes that were actually written during the lecture. Basically, if you missed a class, it was hard to rely on the lecture resources to catch up. I had to rely more on the textbook in these scenarios.
Take the cheat sheet during the exam, and take the examples before the exam.
More works on examples and the midterm is pretty difficult
I thought that if more practice tests could be provided it would be helpful in preparing for midterms. I wish the pace of the lectures gave more time to the later material (chapter 16) because it has more difficult and confusing topics.
I believe the course could be better structured by providing all textbook questions in a singular master sheet to ease access. It would also be more helpful for the professor to write on the board as opposed to the projector. I believe it made it easier for me to understand content when the professor started off the course by drawing on the board. It would also be super helpful if the professor could post solutions to assignment questions after the deadline has passed to help with studying.
Can lecture note uploaded to a2l be more clear
Midterm exam questions can be a little shorter, can't finish writing
TA strike lol
I think multiple choice on concepts would be good for midterms because it makes us study the theorems and try to understand what's going on. Childsmath due dates were inconsistent and it would be nice to have set dates.
No
I wish we spent less time on describing the process to get to a theorem. I wish we had more midterm test reviews.
very good
The only major detriment to this course has been the TA strike. Tutorials are an integral part of this course, and a lot of students, including myself, couldn't attend most of Dr. Alexis' office hours.
Nothing, run it the exact same way. Best course I had this year.
The coordination of the assignments on childsmath was sometimes off with what we were learning in lecture, a couple times assignments were moved back somewhat last minute after I had tried to figure questions out that we hadn't discussed yet in lecture.
I found the assessments to be a bit of a jump from what we were doing in class. Though similar to textbook problems which was helpful. Occaisonally, Michel would go a bit fast through the content if he was lecturing off slides as opposed to writing along with us. Due to the fact that midterms were in class, our TA has told us that the exam will feel much harder. That I am concerned about, as having the midterms in class was a professor decision. I hope that there will be adequate resources from our professors to support us in preparing for the exam.