

Armaan Ahmed
Recommendation
Dr. Michael Kumaresan

I am one of a select group of students who took Dr. Michael Kumaresan's independent study delving into a study of differential equations. This course provided a challenging yet enriching adventure into advanced math and higher-level thinking.

Every Monday 8:30 PM, he dedicates an hour (or more) of his free time to deliver exceptional and well-planned lectures. In contrast to using a mundane slide show or script, he exudes a general excitement for the content he teaches, usually "ending" his lectures with: "Wait, is it okay if I show you guys something else?" (To which we respond, "Yes!").

Additionally, he is a highly efficient teacher. The textbook readings he assigns are useful to recap what he had learned during lecture while informing our future lesson topics. I recall that he also crafted a unique homework assignment involving programming our own 1st-order ODE numerical solver to reinforce different methods to computationally solve differential equations.

He does all of this because of his general interest and robust foundation in math. Due to his novel background as a High School educator, he can communicate complex mathematics in elegant ways (such as through his "Pi Day lecture", where he delivered a crash course in Fourier Series) and have an interdisciplinary approach to designing class syllabi (such as his "Digital Logic and Design" class).

His ability to firmly contextualize his teaching material, make connections between different branches of mathematics, and communicate all this with his friendly, approachable demeanor makes learning math a true treat.