# **Georgia Institute of Technology**

# Spring 2025, ISYE 8803 Special Topics: Topics Mathematical Data Sci Section OST

Instructor: Ostrovskii, Dmitrii (Primary)

There were: 9 possible respondents.



Question Text	N	RR	Interpol. Median	3	6	9	12	15	18	18+	
Hours per week spent on course	7	78%	5.38	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	
				0-30	30-50	50-70	70-80	80-90	90- 100	N/A	
Percentage of classes attended	7	78%	94.63	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	
Percentage of homework completed	7	78%	94.8	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	
				Extrem	Prep	Neither	Some what	Unprepared	N/A		
Student preparedness to take subject	7	78%	4.38	3	4	0	0	0	0		
				Except- ional	Great Deal	Modest	Little	Nothing	N/A		
Amount learned in course	7	78%	4.33	3	3	0	1	0	0		
				Except- ional	V Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A		
Assignments measured knowledge	7	78%	4.33	3	3	0	0	1	0		
				Str Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Str Disagree	N/A		
Overall course effectiveness	7	78%	4.63	4	2	0	0	1	0		
				Except- ional	V Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A		
Instructor Clarity	7	78%	4.63	4	1	1	0	1	0		
				Str Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Str Disagree	N/A		
Instructor: Communicated how to succeed	7	78%	4.63	4	2	0	1	0	0		
				Except- ional	V Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A		
Instructor: Respect for students	7	78%	4.63	4	3	0	0	0	0		
				Extrem	Very	Moder- ately	Slight	Detached	N/A		
Instructor: Enthusiasm	7	78%	4.63	4	3	0	0	0	0		

				More Eager	Interested	No Change	Less	Ruined	N/A		
Instructor: Stimulates interest	7	78%	4.63	4	2	1	0	0	0		
				V Access	Access- ible	Neither	Some what	Hard to Find	N/A		
Instructor: Availability	7	78%	4.63	4	3	0	0	0	0		
				Extrem	Very	Moder- ately	Slight	Not	N/A		
Instructor: Feedback helpfulness	7	78%	4.63	4	2	0	1	0	0		
				Str Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Str Disagree	N/A		
Instructor: Inclusive	7	78%	4.8	5	2	0	0	0	0		
Instructor: Overall effectiveness	7	78%	4.63	4	2	0	0	1	0		
				Mid - 3:00	3:01- 6 a.m	6:01- 9 a.m	9:01- noon	12:01- 3 p.m	3:01- 6 p.m	6:01- 9 p.m	
Time of day evaluation completed	7	78%		2	1	0	1	0	2	1	0
				1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	22+
Classes this semester	7	78%		7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## **Text Responses**

### **Comments about student effort**

(ISYE 8803) This class was great fun, and kept my brain active. Dmitrii was super accomodating, flexible, and filled with great ideas.

(ISYE 8803) I believe the effort was concentrated around when we did HW and I believe the HW was more effort than usual.

(ISYE 8803) made fair efforts

(ISYE 8803) Higher effort (and higher reward) than I anticipated. I definitely went in expecting it to be math heavy, but I didn't expect the level of interest and involvement it would create for me. I think no GT class has ever made me think this hard.

(ISYE 8803) The homework assignments were somewhat lengthy, but this was compensated for by the amount of time provided to complete them.

# Course best aspect

(ISYE 8803) The best strength of the course was that it genuinely helped me make progress on my research. In my mind, that is a perfect graduate course; one cannot ask for more.

(ISYE 8803) Detailed lecture notes created by students and professor that I believe will be useful beyond this class.

(ISYE 8803) Lectures are the best

(ISYE 8803) The notes were well curated by the instructor, and how open-ended it was from the perspective of integrating new research related outcomes.

(ISYE 8803) Assignments were very, very beautifully designed. Solving a couple of the questions really felt.. epiphanic? The same goes for the lectures, which he put into a little textbook format during the semester (which must have required quite some effort...). I could really see the appreciation he has for the material in the lectures and the class notes. I think I could say that the best parts came from his genuine passion for what he teaches. For the final presentation, he gave a list of suggested papers. I picked one he had coauthored. I could really see that in the writing. I think he's really found his destined vocation with doing math in academia.

(ISYE 8803) The lectures provided insights into recently published papers, and provided some open research problems for students to think about.

## **Course improvements**

(ISYE 8803) Things could be a little more organized. For instance, I wish HW2 was released earlier, because I had truly no time left to work on it at that point in the semester. If you stick with the 2-homework format, I think maybe distributing the load to 2 months/HW would be a more realistic time frame, releasing the first homework correspondingly earlier. However, I think most issues were simply due to this being the first iteration of the class, and it just needs more practice.

(ISYE 8803) More clearly outline the necessary background information needed to understand this course. There was so much information that was assumed as basic knowledge and specific notions not commonly taught in general.

(ISYE 8803) I think we can have weekly reading materials and for the final project, we could have one more option: start a simple research project because this course is in the PhD level.

(ISYE 8803) Probably by adding a little more structure

(ISYE 8803) As the course was taught for the first time, I think if nothing changes and it's retaught, the flow will be smoother.

(ISYE 8803) Lectures seemed to digress into technical details at times, which made it difficult to keep track of the main ideas or points. It would have been more helpful if white board presentations were more structured and listed out a road map of the main theorems and proofs ahead of time.

#### **Instructor greatest strength**

(ISYE 8803) The instructor's greatest strength was the respect he has for students, and the ability to transmit research guidance through his teaching. The instructor's approach to teaching was really refreshing, and his availability was exceptional. I am hoping that we continue to make progress on the research idea that came out of this class.

(ISYE 8803) Extremely intelligent; clearly an expert of the subject matter.

(ISYE 8803) It has excellent lectures with in-depth content. The instructor is good at giving high-level ideas and developing big pictures. I learned a lot from him.

(ISYE 8803) Commitment towards each and every student and going out of their way to make sure that the course material is well imbibed by students

(ISYE 8803) A couple of things come to my mind-- 1. His genuine appreciation for the material, which is really interesting to see. When he's writing the proof of something, and it gets to the "crescendo", you could tell by his excitement. I really got how brilliant he is towards the end of the semester after reading his papers. I really think this was the experience I was looking for in grad school. Unfortunately, it's so often the case that self-studying from the available resources is a better alternative than going to the class; what one gets out of the university experience is the structure, and the feedback, and obviously towards the end, the degree. When in GT, I've always hoped for more than that. It's always refreshing to see when the instructor really really gets the material and is really excited to share his excitement. 2. Overall, I think this course took so much effort to teach and design. I've passed close to 60 credits of grad-level credits in GT, and no class has ever gotten me this involved. It happens that I feel like a much shorter video on YouTube could've done the instruction better than the instructors. In this case, I knew I couldn't find the materials on YouTube (it was often hard to find papers). I think this would naturally make the design and teaching the class much harder. It was obvious from the structure, lectures, textbook (which he put together himself) and assignments that he's put a great deal of effort into them. 3. He was very, very available, even outside his office hours. He made it very clear in class that you could just reach out to him and ask for a time slot outside the designated ones. In one setting, he spent more than 3 hours discussing a problem he had touched on in the lectures and had really made me think, and some of my confusions with the homework questions. This happened a good number of times.

(ISYE 8803) The instructor provides many deep insights into research problems and communicates his thought process.

### **Instructor improvements**

(ISYE 8803) I enjoyed the instruction, but if I had to give some suggestions, I think a little more overall organization could help, and maybe a little more time spent trying to relate the concepts back to the interests of the individual students.

(ISYE 8803) More clarity in the explanation of topics and proofs. Lectures often gone into tangents not immediately relevant to original lecture outline.

(ISYE 8803) Sometimes, maybe the course pace can be a little bit faster.

(ISYE 8803) by making it a little more structured

(ISYE 8803) I hope he teaches this class again. I know a good number of students in GT would want to take a class like this.

(ISYE 8803) More references to papers or curated lecture notes would have been more helpful.