

## Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2022

### Xuqiang Qin, MATH 381-002 DISCRETE MATH

#### Mode:

| Raters   |      |        |      |    | Students          |          |         |       |                |
|--|------|--------|------|----|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| Responded  |      |        |      |    | 35                |          |         |       |                |
| Invited  |      |        |      |    | 40                |          |         |       |                |
| Response Ratio   |      |        |      |    | 87.5%             |          |         |       |                |
|  | Mean | Median | SD   | N  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.   | 4.43 | 4.00   | 0.61 | 35 | 0.0%              | 0.0%     | 5.7%    | 45.7% | 48.6%          |
| 2. The instructor treated all students with respect.   | 4.91 | 5.00   | 0.28 | 35 | 0.0%              | 0.0%     | 0.0%    | 8.6%  | 91.4%          |
| 3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.  | 4.11 | 4.00   | 0.90 | 35 | 0.0%              | 0.0%     | 34.3%   | 20.0% | 45.7%          |
| 4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.   | 4.20 | 4.00   | 0.83 | 35 | 0.0%              | 0.0%     | 25.7%   | 28.6% | 45.7%          |
| 5. I could really be myself in this course.  | 4.17 | 4.00   | 0.89 | 35 | 0.0%              | 2.9%     | 22.9%   | 28.6% | 45.7%          |
| 6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.   | 4.29 | 4.00   | 0.79 | 35 | 0.0%              | 0.0%     | 20.0%   | 31.4% | 48.6%          |
| 7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.  | 4.57 | 5.00   | 0.50 | 35 | 0.0%              | 0.0%     | 0.0%    | 42.9% | 57.1%          |
| 8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter. | 4.06 | 5.00   | 1.21 | 35 | 2.9%              | 14.3%    | 8.6%    | 22.9% | 51.4%          |
| 9. Overall, this course was excellent.   | 4.09 | 4.00   | 1.07 | 35 | 2.9%              | 2.9%     | 25.7%   | 20.0% | 48.6%          |
| 11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.  |      |        |      |    |                   |          |         |       |                |
|  | Mean | SD     |      | N  | Yes               |          |         | No    |                |
|  | 1.00 | 0.00   |      | 35 | 100.0%            |          |         | 0.0%  |                |

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Spring 2022 semester?

#### Comments

Through lectures, tests, and homework assignments.

Professor Qin had an enthusiastic mindset when teaching us the content of this course; however, the lectures were not super engaging and it was hard to stay focused in the class. Also, while he offered a few office hour sessions, these times would be in the middle of the day, conflicting with other classes. If these hours were held later in the evening, I know I would have attended more for sure.

Prof Qin is such a great professor. He always takes time to answer questions in class and genuinely makes class enjoyable. I liked getting to know him through the little stories he told in class; he seemed to enjoy talking to us which made the class fun. The only thing I wish we did at the start of the semester is have everyone in the class introduce themselves. It would have made the class seem less serious, especially at the start of the semester when nobody knew each other. Other than that I really have no complaints; I would take another class with Qin for sure.

## Comments

I definitely feel like Professor Qin made learning possible for me during the Spring 2022 semester by being consistent in his teaching. Most times, lectures were straight from the book, which provided many opportunities to go back and look over material from the lectures for extra review. At times, I feel like I could have used a few more examples or maybe a few opportunities to work questions on my own in class (maybe some examples where we had time to work and then the answer was shown), but overall, the lectures were straightforward and clear.

great explanation of discrete math, providing a collection of review questions before exams.

Dr. Qin is an amazing professor and taught some really hard concepts effectively. He is very accessible in office hours and takes the time to help me understand the concept, instead of simply giving me the answer. This class really forces you to think, and Dr. Qin effectively managed to make me realize the gaps in my knowledge and apply my learning.

He made sure to explain everything in the class to ensure that everyone understood the concepts and whenever anyone was confused, he made sure to answer any questions to the best of his ability.

He was kind and was good at responding through email. He also paused for students to ask questions throughout the class period.

Professor Qin was very engaging in his class and taught in one of the most straightforward, helpful ways I've learned math before. He encouraged any and all questions and participation and treated all students respectfully. He was flexible and considerate, posting Zoom recordings and lectures notes as well.

Posting lecture notes for each class period as well as assigning homework that encompasses all of the subject matter was helpful for me to keep up with learning outside of class. These measures made it easy to know what to study between each class.

Keeping the classroom environment casual and light-hearted, especially when dealing with what I found to be personally really difficult content, his attitude and humour made the lessons much less intimidating.

Professor Qin recorded and uploaded all lectures in a timely manner, even though this wasn't required of him. I cannot emphasise enough how much this meant to me. In classes where in person attendance is not absolutely essential to running a successful course and for students to master the content, I wish this was the norm. I personally find it much easier to absorb the content when I am able to pause and really think through concepts that don't immediately make sense. In maths, where concepts are cumulative, even through the period of a single lesson, it really helps having this option.

He always made sure to stop for comments and questions while he explained materials and did his best to make discrete math a more understandable and interesting

He taught directly out of the book which I liked because it gave me a chance to review without my notes.

He selected good homework questions to help me practice the concepts that we learned about in class.

He was able to accommodate an online portion. This was really beneficial when I had COVID.

lecture recordings and notes posted online helped when i couldnt make it to class

Good reasonable hw and lectures and tests

Very good and clear explanations; encouraged questions and was always happy to answer without judgement. Teaching method was really good, I liked that he used 3 different chalkboards so that if I get behind on notes I can still copy while he writes somewhere else. Some of the midterm questions could be a little difficult, though (more difficult than the homework). It would be a little better if there was more of a curve.

Explain concepts clearly and provide helpful examples

Professor Qin Did an excellent job at communicating the topics in an easy and clear manner. I enjoyed how he always gave definitions and proofs then followed with examples.

He answered questions in class effectively,

Professor Qin held class both in person and on a zoom recording, so that students could still attend even if they couldn't come in person. He also posted his notes after class so that students had another reference to use while studying.

Office hours were available, quick to respond to emails

good teacher

Professor Qin is super helpful! He explained the concept in a concise and clear way. Learned a lot from this class.

– On time to class

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Comments

- Organized, legible concept notes paired with examples
- Posted notes/recordings on Sakai
- Created study guides
- Gave us time to write notes, ask questions after the introduction of each new concept, held consistent office hour times

He taught directly out of the textbook which makes the tested material more easier to learn.

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**2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?**

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Comments

I think all aspects of the course should be kept.

The way the homework is set up works well along with the style of teaching.

Having a study guide for the second midterm and the final has been helpful in preparing for the exams, as it provided a narrowed focus of study. Also, the homework assignments were really helpful in learning the concepts of this course.

I don't think anything lecture-wise or assignment-wise needs to change. The pacing and length of homework assignments was perfect; they weren't too long but I always felt that I learned something while doing them. The exam difficulty was fair, but I think the class deserves to have three lower-weighted exams because of how much information is taught. I wish that exams counted for less of the grade; 85% of the entire grade seems a bit harsh.

I feel like the recordings and the uploaded notes after class should definitely be kept going forward. I think at one point Professor Qin was thinking about only doing this for the pandemic, but I think having those resources was really effective for review, especially if I had missed a word or could not understand something in my notes.

everything is great!

I like the overall structure of the course, with homeworks and tests being spaced out perfectly so as to not put too much pressure on students. However, I wish the midterms were weighted slightly lower because small mistakes on tests could cause a huge dip in grades.

I feel that the course is great the way it is.

Pausing for questions, the increased presence of practice problems in class

Unit 1 was the unit that most deepened my understanding of logic and application to other subject areas.

Even if remote options are unavailable, I think lecture notes should be posted on Sakai. These helped me to catch up on content I may have missed in class, and also were a helpful resource for studying for exams.

Recorded lectures + uploaded notes

Ensuring that students have understood concepts by explaining and waiting to see if anyone has questions or further comments to the concepts

Teaching directly out of the book

I liked having homework assignments to focus on particular sections. Practice homework assignments not for credit should be assigned as exam practice. I found myself not doing odd problems until the exam preparation, so those can still be used for those potential practice assignments.

The course content

All aspects

Great lessons and 3 chalkboards

Everything is perfect!

The manner of following the outline of the textbook was extremely helpful.

The pacing of the course material, the examples used in class

Homework schedule

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Comments

all aspects

The structure of the class is nice. He always defines the theory first and then proves it. The examples/exercises followed are also helpful.

All of the above:

- Organized, legible concept notes paired with examples
- Posted notes/recordings on Sakai
- Gave us time to write notes, ask questions after the introduction of each new concept, held consistent office hour times"

Teaching out of the textbook is a good thing to keep and being organized.

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## Department Specific

If you would recommend this Instructor for a teaching award, please briefly explain why.

### Comments

I would recommend this instructor for a teaching award because he is always welcoming to students. He always accepts questions and never makes anyone feel as if they don't belong in the class. He wants to make the learning environment comfortable for all students and explains concepts well. I enjoy his class structure.

I would recommend Professor Qin for an award based off of his passion for the subject and his willingness to help students after class or outside of class time.

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I would definitely recommend Dr. Qin for a teaching award. Coming into the class, I was really nervous after hearing about old students' experiences in Math381. However, Dr. Qin made my learning process a really memorable one, and I started enjoying the problem solving and deep thinking aspects that this course forces onto students. He provides some amazing resources outside of class (especially office hours) that come in handy when students tend to struggle. Dr. Qin is definitely deserving of a teaching award based on the passion he teaches with!

He seemed very enthusiastic about the concepts regarding the class and I've genuinely enjoyed being in the course. He ensures that all his students understand the work and concepts in the course and I can definitely say that he tries his absolute best at all times. He not only works hard in class, but he attempts to connect with his students in other ways. I've enjoyed this course very much.

He is extremely kind and considerate of the students in his class. He is willing to go the extra mile to make sure his students are accommodated for.

I would recommend Professor Qin because he is truly dedicated to helping students learn and master the material. He encourages us and provides a very consistent basis for us to meet with him (he almost never cancelled office hours and was there the whole time!) to understand. As a very fair and gracious teacher, he never made any questions — no matter how basic — appear foolish and answered everything very clearly.

Yes! He is relatable, enthusiastic, kind and has made a really hard course approachable.

He was always welcoming and was able to make time to answer specific questions no matter how simple or confusing it was, and he was almost always open outside of class as well to answer questions.

I liked the way that he explained topics. It was always clear to me.

He tried to always answer student questions.

Very nice and helping and organized

Because he's good at explaining concepts and gives good answers to all questions

Professor Qin is excellent at teaching discrete math. He always provides several examples to help us understand the concepts. He is also good at explaining concepts and answering our questions. Great great professor! :D

Professor Qin has been the clearest math professor I have had at UNC. It is impressive for anyone to be able to take growingly more advanced topics and shape them into what feels like easy content. Furthermore, he always checks that students are keeping pace with him. I also greatly appreciate his sense of humor. Math does not always have to be serious!

he makes difficult concepts easy to understand and goes at a good pace . Seems to care about students.

I would like to recommend Professor Qin for the below reasons:

1. He is supportive and helpful whenever students reach out.
2. He is knowledgeable about things he's teaching and is able to explain the concept in a clear way.
3. He encourages students a lot in class, and we never feel uncomfortable asking him questions.

Always made class fun, engaging lectures, showed care towards students in terms of having them understand the content

I wish he added more graded assignments and our grade wasn't dramatically influenced by 1 or 2 tests.

