

Project Title: **2018-2019 (Spring 2019) Bowdoin Course Questionnaires**

Courses Audience: **11**

Responses Received: **10**

Response Ratio: **90.91%**

Subject Details

DEPARTMENT

Mathematics

SECTION

B

Report Comments

This report contains both numeric analysis and content of comments of the course questionnaires from Fall 2018 for the course identified above. As you review these results, I encourage you to keep in mind the following:

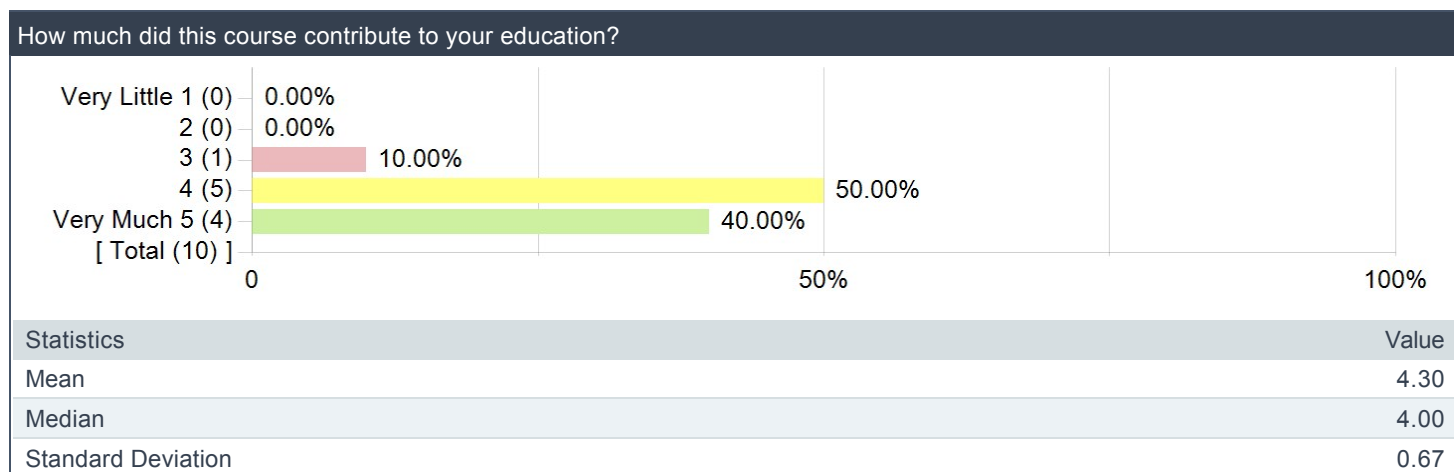
- Bowdoin Course Questionnaires are intended to provide you with useful feedback on your courses and to help you approach improvements or refinements in future courses. While student responses on these questionnaires can sometimes seem contradictory or different from your own experience of the course, I urge you to remain open to the issues and insights they might offer as you reflect on your own teaching.
- Your department chair/program director will also receive access to your reports and is encouraged to follow up with you to offer support and guidance in interpreting these results.
- You should keep your reports in your files. For tenure-line faculty and continuing lecturers, course questionnaires are an important part of the evaluative process and will be included as part of the reappointment and promotion reviews, as well as any subsequent reviews. For visiting and adjunct faculty, these may be important to your candidacy for future positions.
- With regard to course questionnaires, you may want to review Section V.L. (Procedures for Administration and Use of the Course Questionnaires) and Section IV (Policies and Procedures Governing Appointment, Reappointment, Promotion, Tenure, and Faculty Evaluation) of The Faculty Handbook.
- I am available to any faculty member for consultation and advice, as is associate dean Rachel Beane (rbeane@bowdoin.edu). Please feel free to reach out to either of us if you would like to discuss your reports.

Elizabeth McCormack
Dean for Academic Affairs

Creation Date: **Monday, June 03, 2019**

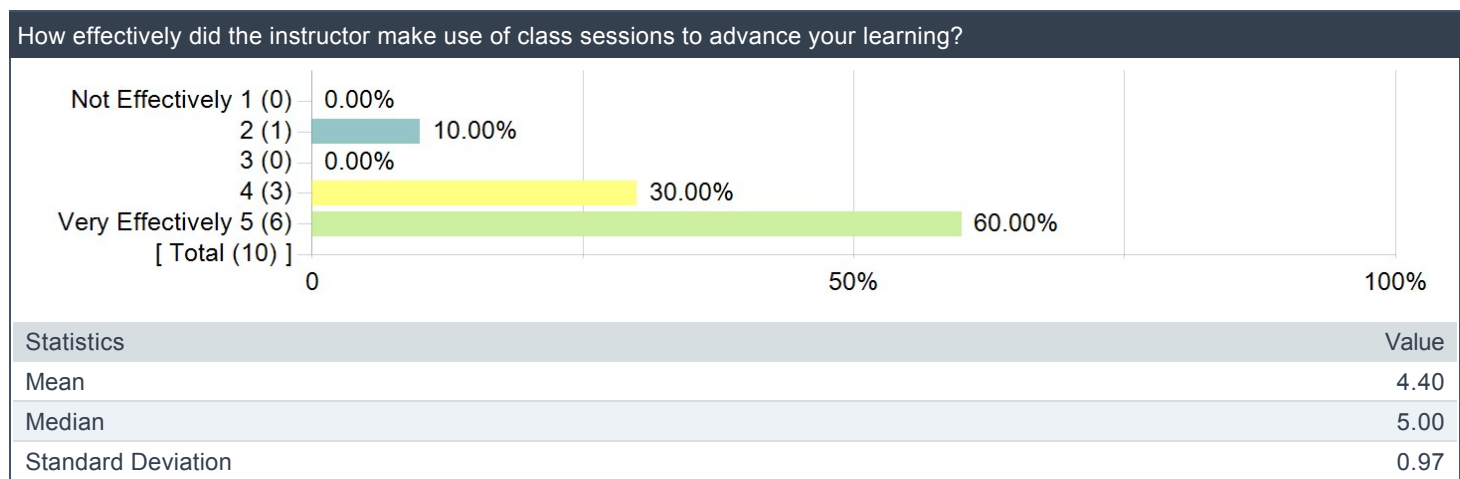
Frequency Analysis

How much did this course contribute to your education?



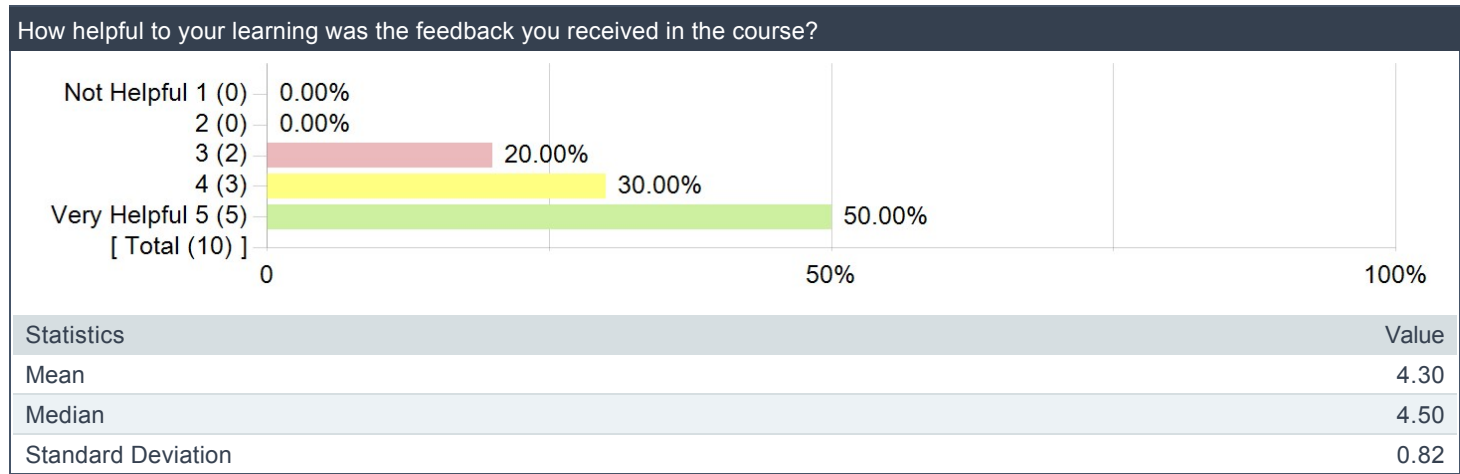
Comment	
- I am taking this course to complete a major requirement but I still feel like this course contributed to my interest in math and 3 dimensional concepts.	
- I learned a lot about math in this class and it helped me develop a lot of study skills, as well as quantitative reasoning to help me be a better problem solver. Also, the small class allowed me to get my questions answered efficiently and effectively.	
- This course definitely exposed me to new ideas and I do feel like I learned a lot in this course. I was thoroughly challenged and learned to think in many different ways.	
- I think this course really expanded my knowledge of math, but also problems solving in general. I was surely challenged throughout the course to expand my learning. Professor Chowdhury always wanted to help us dive deeper into Math.	
- I learned a lot in this course. It was very challenging and encompassed a lot of course material (and therefore some subjects were rushed), but the class was well worth taking.	
- I improved my skills for interpreting new mathematical concepts, problem solving, studying, asking specific questions.	

How effectively did the instructor make use of class sessions to advance your learning?



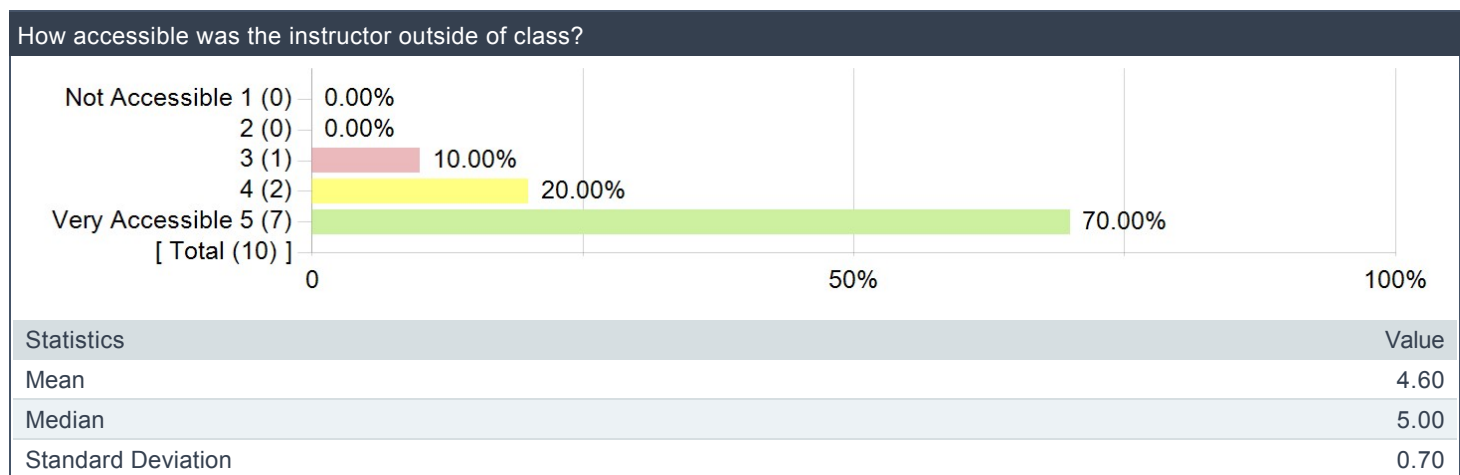
Comment	
- All of the learning I did in this class was completed through lecture time.	
- He was a good lecturer and combined handout problems, lab work, and group work on black boards occasionally to solve difficult and challenging questions.	
- All of our class times were either doing in class problems or lectures. There was never a time when I felt that the class time was useless or that I shouldn't have come to class. I went to every class and loved seeing there.	
- Chowdhury would make good use of class time. He could explain the theory very well, but he had trouble with coming up with example problems on the fly.	
- We got through a lot of material and used lab time as needed to review or practice material learned in lecture.	

How helpful to your learning was the feedback you received in the course?



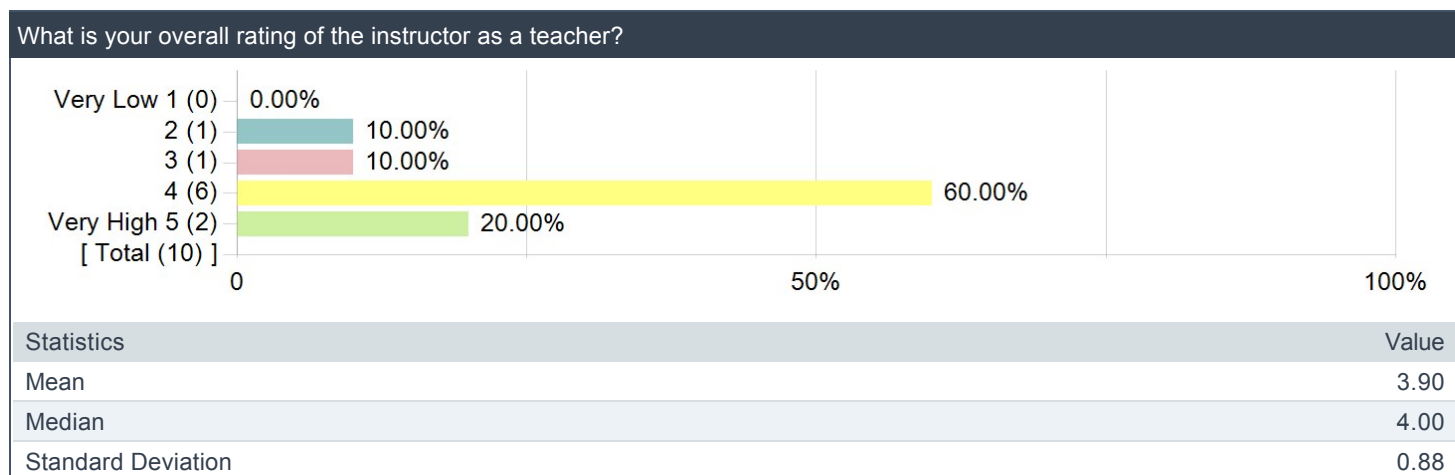
Comment	
- The assignments were graded by student TAs so the comments were not helpful, however, the ability to redo test questions after feedback was very helpful.	
- The problem sets were sometimes very difficult, but the professor helped at office hours and helped prepare us for exams. He also gave us a chance to improve our test grades with corrections, which was very helpful feedback for me and also helped my grade.	
- Professor gave goof feedback on exams and helped us learn the stuff we got wrong on exams.	
- Our problem sets were given back on time. Exams had comments on them and we were able to do test corrections on them.	

How accessible was the instructor outside of class?



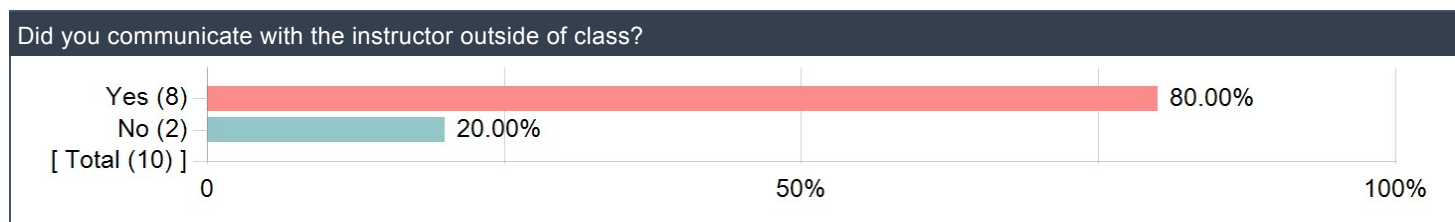
Comment	
- I always had my emails answered promptly.	
- He had convenient office hour times after he changed some times to fit my schedule better. I also went to his office before class a lot and always found time to receive help.	
- One of the things I look for in a good teacher is their dedication not only to the subject, but their dedication to their students. Professor Chowdhury has both. He was available 5 days a week for at least 2 hours a day. I went to office hours every week and every time he was so helpful. He is a phenomenal professor.	
- Prof. Chowdhury always held many office hours throughout the week and would always try to change times to accommodate students' schedules.	
- Our Professor had office hours almost every day and was accomadating to students' schedules.	

What is your overall rating of the instructor as a teacher?

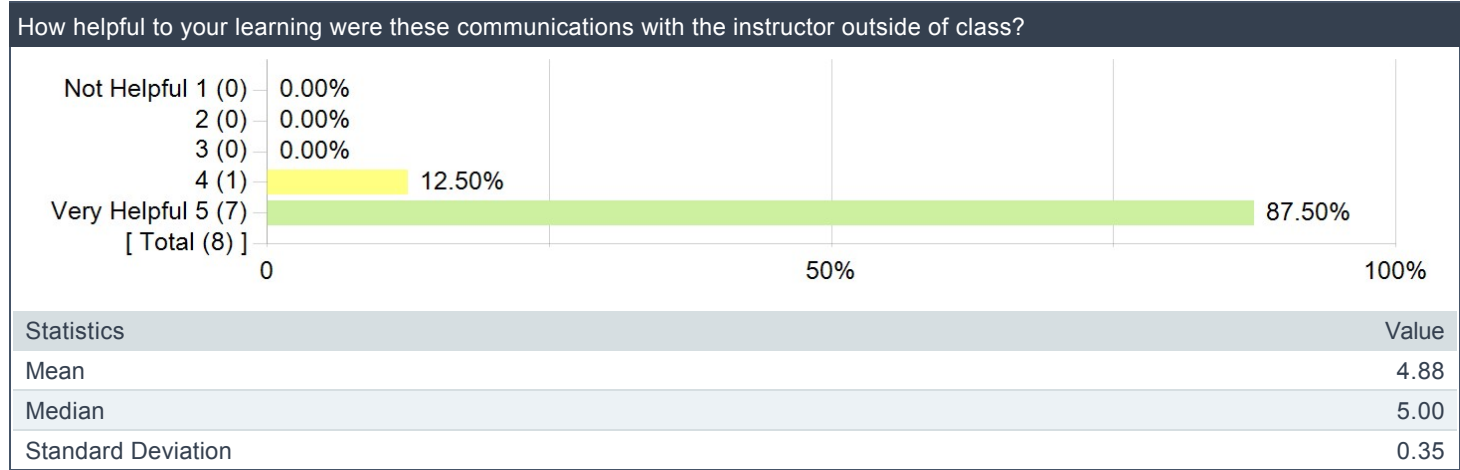


Comment	
- I think that Professor Chowdhury showed a great deal of improvement in his teaching style throughout the course and became more organized and personable in lecture.	
- He is a good professor, but I think he could make better use of class time sometimes so his office hours aren't as crowded with a lot of students that are confused about the same questions on HW, class notes, etc.	
- I would surely take another class with Chowdhury he is so dedicated to his work and students. His exams are not challenging and he assigns a lot of work, but he is always there to help you.	
- Prof. Chowdhury has a lot of potential to be a great professor. He clearly wants everyone to learn the material and is very challenging and engaging while teaching.	
- Overall, the material made sense in the lectures. Professor Chowdhury was engaging, excited, and patient. He sought class participation from everyone and helped people reach an answer and understanding as necessary.	

Did you communicate with the instructor outside of class?



How helpful to your learning were these communications with the instructor outside of class?



Comment	
- His office hours were very helpful to do HW and ask other questions.	
- He is very helpful in office hours as it is more in–depth in a specific problem rather than going over a new topic.	
- Like I said all my office hours visits were very helpful and I enjoyed getting to know Professor throughout the semester. I would not have done as well in the class if I wasn't able to work through homework problems and examples with Professor outside of class.	
- Lots of office hours!	

What did you like best about the course? What suggestions would you offer?

Comments
I like the course. Nothing to complain about really. But maybe the teacher can try more to understand what the students have a hard time with specifically and can spend more time on that.
The course was fast paced and had more work than any other course I have taken at Bowdoin so far. I think that perhaps the length of problem sets can be reduced given the number of them that were assigned. I also think that the group projects were relatively unhelpful for understanding course concepts because we never went over them in class. For the number of group projects assigned, it would be nice to go over them.
Pace of course was much too fast, much of the homework did not help my learning but just bogged me down in tedious, unnecessary work. Homeworks were way too much and took up way too much time outside of class. Not enough examples shown in class, lectures were very general. Often had homework problems we had never been taught how to solve. Labs were usually helpful however.
I liked the class, but I do think the pace of the course was sometimes really fast. However, I think that Prof. Chowdhury organized it well with handouts, group projects, and other ways to get us actively involved. He is also very helpful in office hours and really easily accessible outside of class, which helped so much with our homework and midterms. Sometimes I do think that we had a lot of work and projects, but I think they still complemented my understanding of class material, so overall it was a great course.
The pace of the course I felt was a bit fast. I also felt like the homework assignments were sometimes a bit too much. It would get to the point where instead of effectively learning what I was doing, I was just trying to get it done as fast as I can because it would take me over an hour and a half. I would go to his office hours as much as I could and those always helped. I wish he would utilize more handouts like he did towards the end of this course that has theorems and formulas for the problems we are going over.
There were a lot of assignments, but they were generally pretty necessary. However 30 problem sets and 10 group projects were a lot. The pace was perfect and Chowdhury was always very organized.
The organization and structure of the course was very good, as we were able to cover a lot of material during the semester (and completed the syllabus). There were too many group projects given and not all the labs seemed necessary or helpful to complete.
I liked that the assignments and course materials were generally manageable and the lectures were engaging. Professor Chowdhury's office hours were a TREMENDOUS help. I would suggest getting rid of the group projects because the value that I perceive I received from them was not worth the amount of stress, effort, and time put in.

Please describe your own level of effort in this course.

Comments
Average
I put a maximal level of effort into this course due to the large workload.
Most challenging course I've ever taken, time required was too much for me to handle so I had to sacrifice my effort and grades in the course so I could even begin to complete my other coursework. I felt like this class made me less effective in my other classes with all the time I had to dedicate to this.
I worked very hard in this course!
I felt I worked very hard in this course. I was constantly in his office hours asking about the material and homework.
I worked really hard in this course. I think Chowdhury forced you to work hard if you wanted to do well, which I liked. Before taking this course I thought I wouldn't take math afterwards. However, because of this course and Chowdhury's teaching I have the confidence to take more math at Bowdoin and possibly try for a major/minor.
I put a lot of effort into this course.
I put in a high level of effort in this course, seeking help as needed from classmates, TA Sessions, Searles Study Sessions, and office hours. I did my best to understand and engage with the material.