

Project Title: **2018-2019 (Fall 2018) Bowdoin Course Questionnaires**
Project Audience: **32**
Responses Received: **30**
Response Ratio: **93.75%**

Subject Details

DEPARTMENT

Mathematics

SECTION

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:

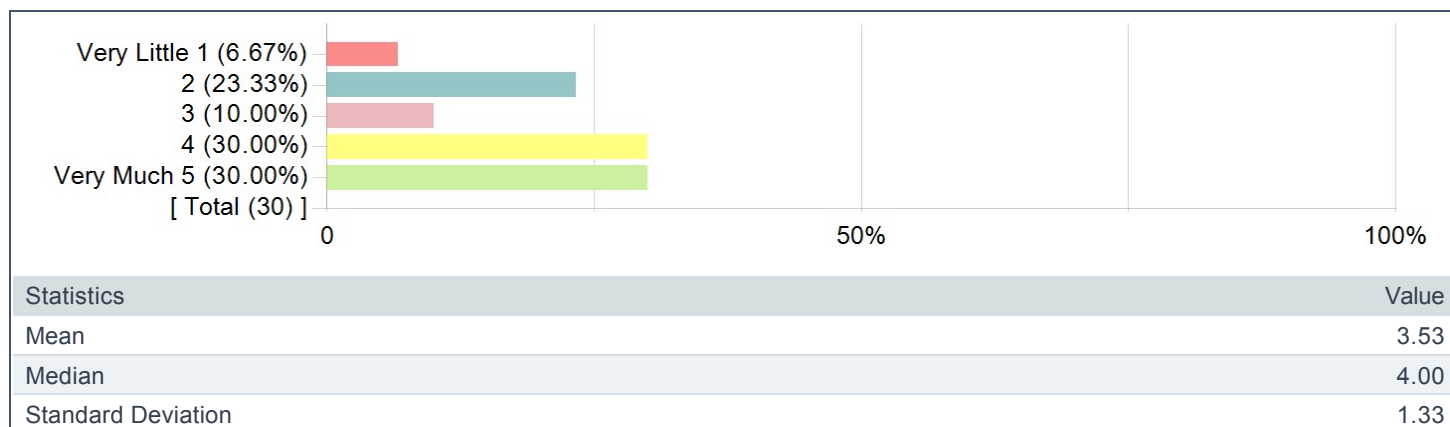
- Bowdoin Course Questionnaires are intended to provide you with useful feedback on your courses and to help you approach improvements or refinements in future courses. While student responses on these questionnaires can sometimes seem contradictory or different from your own experience of the course, 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: **Thu, Jan 03, 2019**

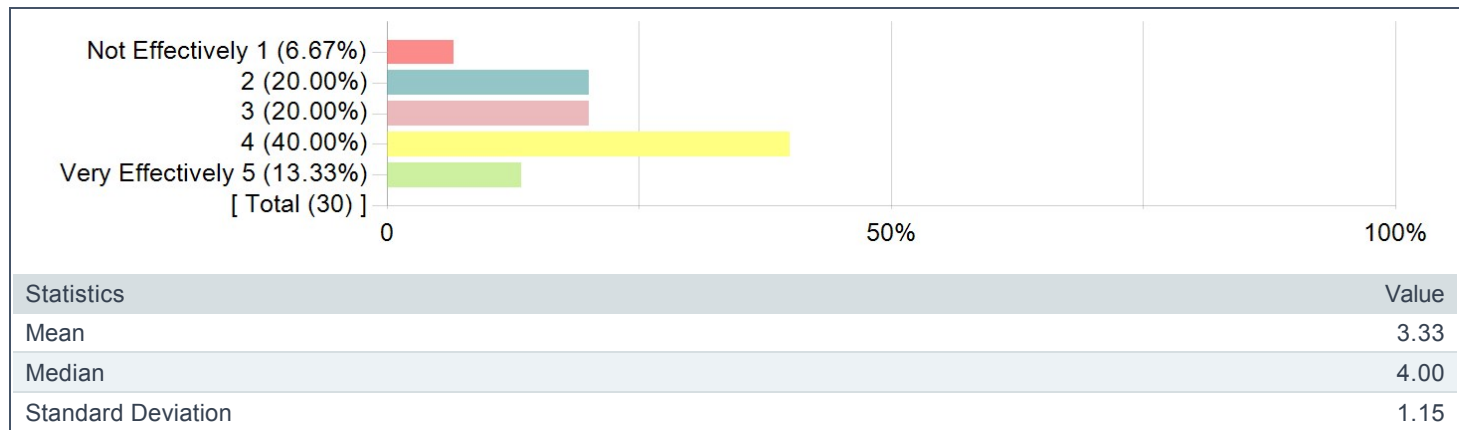
Frequency Analysis

How much did this course contribute to your education?



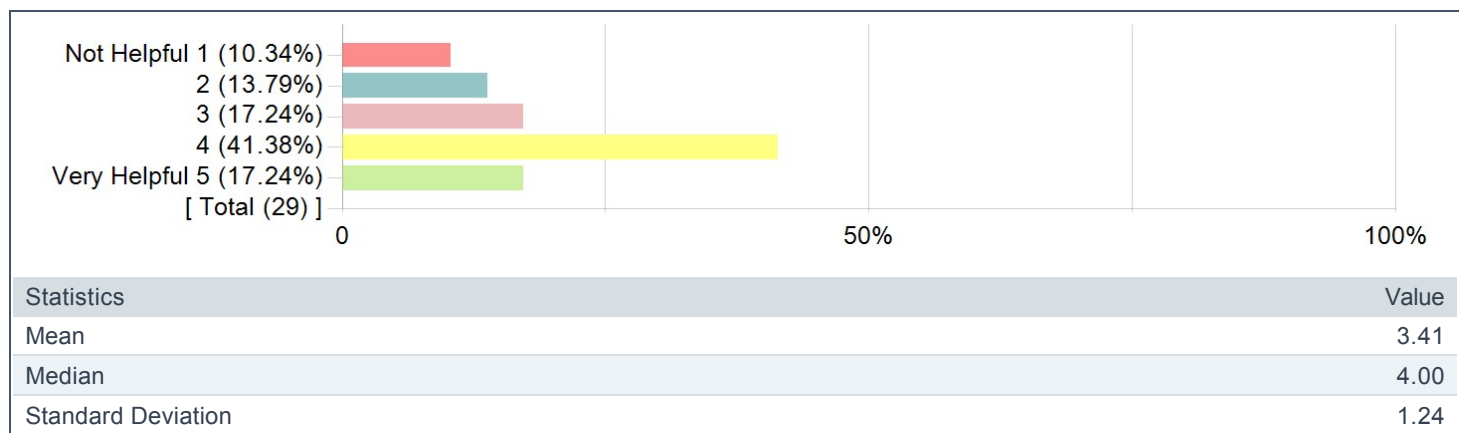
Comment
- A lot because I need to know calculus for graduate school.
- I learned a ton in this course! We packed a lot into a short amount of time. I definitely grew intellectually and feel prepared moving forward with calculus. I was challenged with the problem sets and quizzes a good amount—they were hard but not impossible. I really developed my calculus skills in this course thanks to professor Subhadip.
- I needed this class to start taking my other math and physics classes.
- I had already completed this section of Calculus in high school, and i do not believe the professor explored any new ideas and or broadened my understanding of the material.
- I learned a lot of material and was pushed to grow intellectually
- I learned so much in this class and my math abilities grew exponentially
- I had some experience already with the subject material, especially with the beginning of the course. I definitely learned many new math skills and grew, although I never felt extremely challenged.
- I learned pretty much everything about calculus but also was very very challenged in this class
- i feel bad for professor chowdhury. this was obviously his first time teaching anybody. it was a roller coaster of a class. chaos would be the best word to describe it. was i challenged? yeah. it doesnt help when your entire class is in TA hours because we didnt learn the material.
- I think he was a understanding teacher and was enjoyable to have. I liked having this class and he was available for office hours.
- I feel as if I have grown from this course but with great difficulty.
- I learned about myself even more after taking this course. Yes, this course has developed my math skills.
- I was extremely challenged in this course because I had never taken calculus before. It was a hard thing for me to learn however I am proud of what I had accomplished.
- Great course. I really appreciated the way Professor Chowdhury taught the material. I was appropriately challenged over the course of the semester.

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



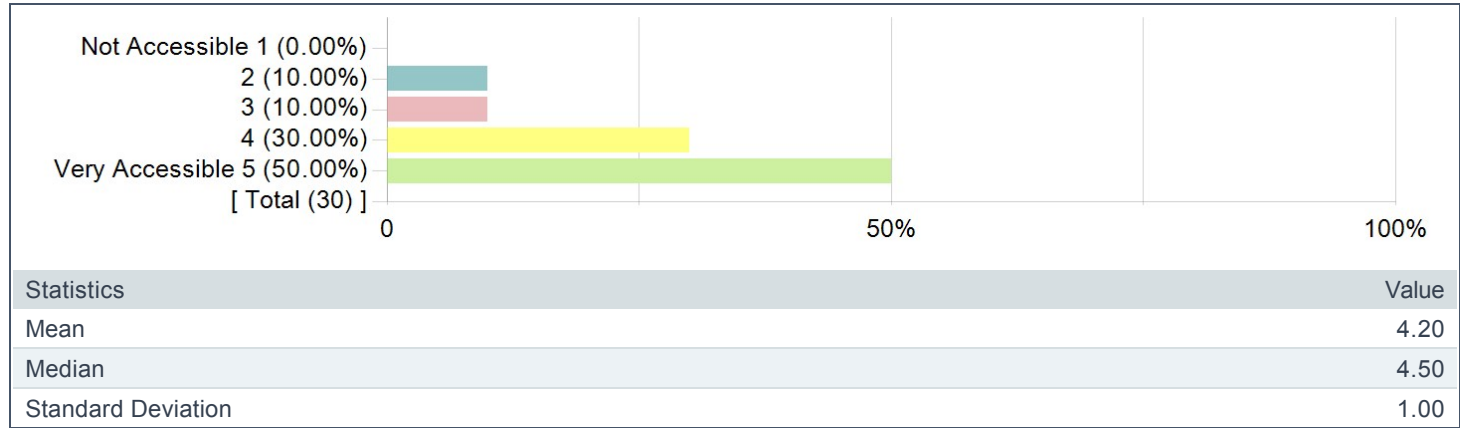
Comment
- We used every second of class time for learning.
- Professor Chowdhury moved at a good pace. The lectures moved along well so that by the end of class I felt like we had covered a lot of material, but not so much that it was hard to grasp.
- The class structure sometimes was hard to follow.
- I feel as if sometimes we did not get through some of the material for that class period, but overall good
- I thought class time was used effectively except his teaching style was a little chaotic and he often contradicted himself which was sometimes confusing and hard to follow. However, class time did help in that we spent the beginning of class reviewing and then learning new things later in the class
- I personally felt like we should have been covering more material in class, as we spent a lot of time going over student questions.
- especially toward the second half of the semester, and everyday our notes were catered around the homework and topics
- This was a very good first class for him. Although sometimes the lessons were a bit unclear, but that's to be expected when this is your first time teaching.
- class was so confusing
- There were some days that there were lectures and others that were board problems. I liked having board problems and enjoyed having it in class. The lectures helped me understand concepts.
- I feel as if Professor Chowdhury was more effective in office hours as opposed to how fast paced he was in class.
- Professor Chowdhury ineffectively made use of class sessions because he would just start doing problems on th board really quickly and no one can follow/ understand what he is teaching. He also often makes mistakes and has to erase the problem and start over again.
- The classes at first were not very well organized, however over time they got better structured.
- Efficient use of class time, started on time, extremely willing to answer questions, clear lectures. The professor's understanding and love for math was obvious and was reflected in the lectures.

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



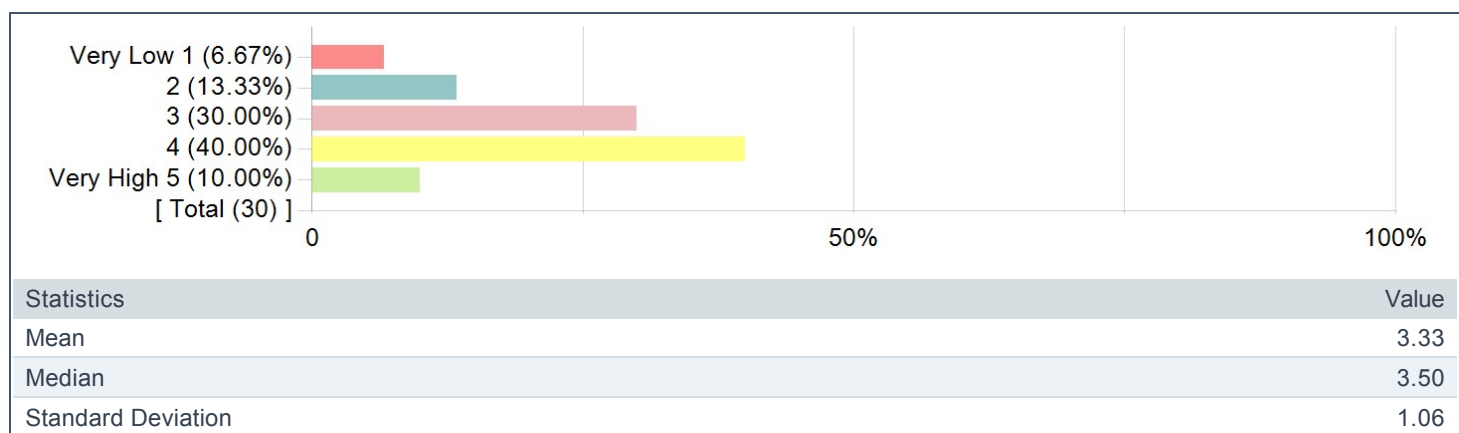
Comment
- Feedback was good! Problem sets were generally graded so that we could have an idea of what we did wrong. On quizzes, we would go over the answers immediately after taking the quiz, which helped a lot in terms of growing from and understanding mistakes.
- The feedback on exams were very helpful.
- I never really needed to receive feedback.
- I wish he would have spent more time responding to homework
- I will say that there isn't much feedback present in the course, but the problem is that homeworks aren't given back in class, making it difficult to see comments sometimes. Also, there usually aren't many comments anyway because student graders are grading the work.
- There isn't much feedback given except for the homework and the grades given.
- Feedback from office hours was very helpful.
- I got feedback whenever I asked for help.
- We didn't receive much written feedback, but office hours were very helpful, and I didn't feel that written feedback was necessary.

How accessible was the instructor outside of class?



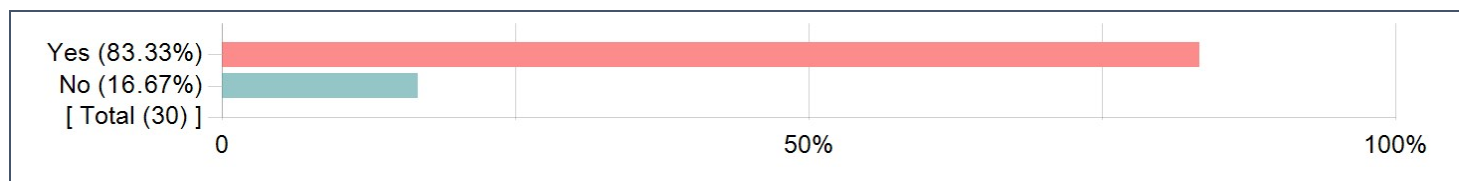
Comment
- Professor Chowdhury was accessible every time I wanted to meet, which I really appreciated! The office hours were extremely helpful in understanding material. Professor Chowdhury always responded to my emails very quickly and was fast to send clarifying emails to the whole class. He sent out emails frequently throughout the semester with a summary of steps to complete a difficult problem, updates for big things coming up in the semester like midterms or quizzes, and with general updates—I found this organization extremely helpful!
- He would respond very quickly to emails
- Very accessible in office hours, encouraged the class to do so
- Always extremely responsive and helpful, I never approached him to help me with class but any logistical issues were always solved very quickly.
- He always made the effort to be available as much as possible, as this was very necessary for a lot of students to understand the lesson.
- professor was good in office hours
- He was very accessible and had office hours for a long time and was willing to meet after class.
- Very accessible during office hours
- He was always available to meet and I went to every office hour. I found these meetings more helpful than the classes.
- Always willing to meet with students outside of class times.

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

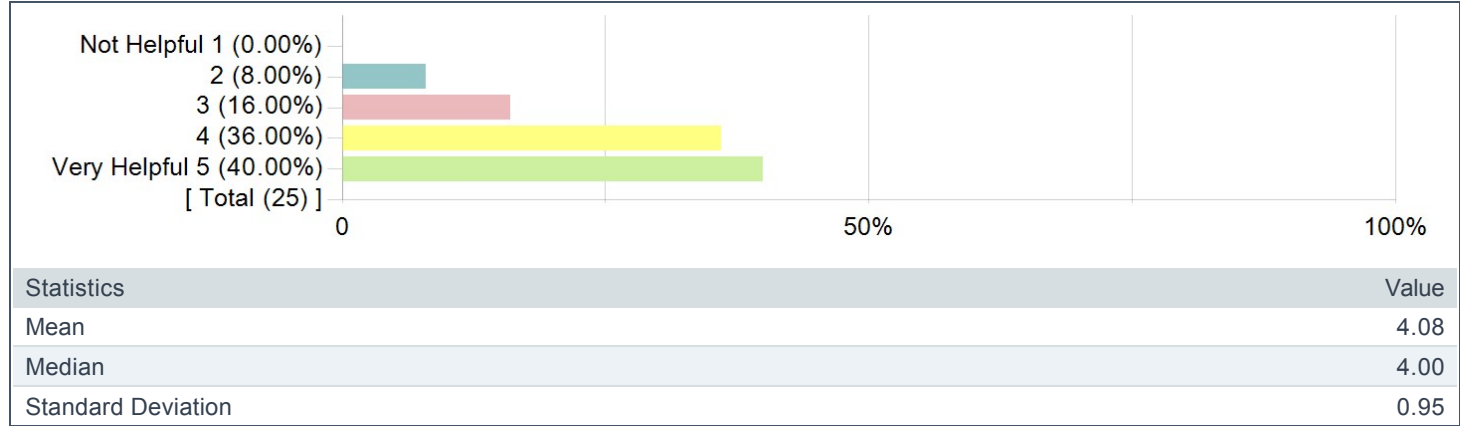


Comment
- Professor Chowdhury was a great professor that helped me learn a ton of new information! I really enjoyed the course and he made me excited about math for the first time in a long time.
- He knew the material very well but was sometimes very hard to follow with class lectures.
- He is a young professor and has a lot to learn.
- Showed care for his students, very accessible, humorous and good about explaining concepts in various ways
- I think he has a really strong understanding of the subject and is very helpful to struggling students, I just wish the course moved a little faster.
- I just think that he was somewhat unorganized, and that often our exams didn't reflect the level of difficulty we had in class or for homework
- He cares about his students and does his best to help students, but his lessons are sometimes a bit confusing. The homeworks also don't always correspond to the lessons we are learning.
- This was one of my favorite classes this semester and the fact that he challenges every student made me a better student.
- I think that professor Chowdhury has a very rough start when it came to explaining the material and I feel as if he still has trouble clearly getting material across in class and I feel as if this is where the difficulty lies in class and in understanding material.
- This is by far the worst instructor I have ever had at Bowdoin and I do not recommend to anyone to take his class. He does not know how to explain anything and goes so fast that no one has any idea what is going on. He expects people to know the math but some people in the class haven't taken calculus yet.
- I saw a lot of growth in his teaching abilities.
- Extremely kind professor, great lecturer, and clearly cared about the class. We would regularly receive detailed emails explaining things such as important points covered in class, instructions/information about upcoming exams, and updates about things posted to Blackboard. It was obvious that the professor really cared about the class. Small calculation errors that the professor made were really insignificant and didn't impede the ability to learn during lectures.

Did you communicate with the instructor outside of class?



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



Comment
- The only downside to office hours is the spacing. At times it can feel a bit crowded considering the amount of people that show up and the size of the office. I would consider holding office hours in a bigger space.
- Meeting with Professor Chowdhury outside of class was essential to my understanding of material. I would go to see him during office hours to go over problems that were confusing or general questions and going over these one on one helped me so much.
- He seemed preoccupied when I was in office hours and did not help me much.
- He was most helpful outside of class. Better one on one than in class
- nice guy he tries
- He would help me with my homework and if I had questions he would help me and challenge the way of thinking.
- The most helpful moments were in office hours and getting one on one teaching in the material I had difficulty with.
- He explained topics better one on one.
- Professor Chowdhury helped me clarify confusing topics
- He did very well teaching me one on one. Many kids came to office hours.
- Willing to meet during office hours and beyond them.

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

Comments
I liked the individual and team homework; it allowed for collaboration with others in order to solve a problem after individual practice. If group work were a little more structured, this style of learning could be a lot more effective.
I appreciate the inclusion of team homework to try to work on interpersonal communication, but it was a lot in combination with the individual homework trying to figure out a time to meet.
The best part of the course was the amount of review done in class. It was very helpful come time to take the test.
terrible use of almost everything. An aspect that was decent was the weekly quizzes he gave.
I like the progression of Professor Subhadip as a teacher but I'd suggest him to make better use of class time by going over problems that we studied.
I liked the organization of topics for the course. I think the material built really well on previous topics as we'd move forward throughout the semester. The pace was great—it was fast enough to keep me on my toes, but not so fast that I felt I couldn't keep up. Professor Chowdhury is overall pretty organized, but it was a little unsettling when he would question if a problem was correct that he wrote on the board once in a while (this happened only a few times). He is a very warm person and made it easy to ask questions and was extremely inviting making it clear he only wanted the best for all his students. It is clear how much he wanted us to succeed, because after an exam he would talk about things people could do to improve their scores. The problem sets were sort of helpful for the exams, but some problems totally confused me and weren't really related to exam questions. I found his packets of practice problems the best for studying for exams and understanding the material. He'd have a little summary of key points on the front page of the packet, which was AMAZING!!!
He is a good instructor when it is a 1 on 1 teaching session where you can learn how to do this problem. When given a similar problem what you have learned before is no longer useful. Class sessions are hard to comprehend as he goes extremely fast. He teaches this class to the skills that people who already have experience with calculus can understand, but those with no calculus experience are severely screwed from the start.
The group work and individual homework assignments were very good. The class structure was organized well too.
I enjoyed the flexibility of the course.
The assignments were absurdly hard and were never taught in class. He would expect us to just know the material. The quizzes were much harder than anything we did in class or the homework.
This Professor was fairly disorganized and was not particularly good at explaining. He was very nice and tried his best. Homeworks were very hard and we often did not learn the material before it was assigned.
I would not have a quiz every class session.
Well chosen assignment, got through all of selected course materials, effective introduction to differential calculus, organization mostly good
WHY IS HOMEWORK GRADED?? I never missed a homework assignment, not once! i tried my ass off on every homework but because it was HOMEWORK and things we learned THAT WEEK i never got full marks. INSTEAD: you can grade a 'problem set' and have one due every 2 weeks or so, wehre the material they cover is at least 1 week old.
I thought the pace of the course was good and the assignments were a good evaluation of progress in class. I don't know if the team homework was necessarily effective. I learned better by going to office hours than from people who were in my team.
Better organization and clearer teaching. Slower pace, more attention on thoroughly covering material. More consideration.
I think a smaller emphasis could be made on team homework, it is really difficult for students to meet outside of class, especially athletes like myself. I also think the pace was too slow, although I'm not sure if the class body agrees with me.
I think he really cared about us doing well and gave us opportunities to boost our grades but also really wanted us to learn. I didn't really like the text book and wish there was a different range of nature of assignments
The assignments were VERY numerous.
I liked that the instructor always tried his best to help his students, but the issue is in group work. Although groups are assigned, many group members don't feel the need to meet or discuss the homework. So, we end up having two problem sets a week, and this can be very intensive, especially if your group didn't meet (like mine).
he shouldnt teach this class again
I like the fact that there were group board problems so that I could communicate and work with my classmates. The pace of the course was fine possibly a bit rushed at the end of the semester. The homework were graded harshly and were not fair though. The textbook was extremely helpful.
I would offer the suggestions of slowing down in class and making sure that the professor gets a good idea about the difficulties the class faces and tries to address them everyday. I also feel that the HW was a bit much but necessary.
I have nothing positive to say about this course.
The assignments were very difficult, but I managed to get through them.

Comments
What I liked most about the course was groupwork on the chalkboards during class and working through examples as an entire class, with the Professor asking if we had questions after each step of problems. My advice for other students would be to start homeworks ahead of time, otherwise they can quickly pile up.
I liked the group work in the class. I appreciated when we broke up into groups during class and did problems. I had a lot of trouble with the homework problems, and I found that they were harder than what we did in class sometimes. At first the class work did not really line up with the homework or the exams, but over time this got better and things matched more thus making it easier.
Assignments were reasonable and relevant to lecture. Course material was standard for first semester calculus.

Please describe your own level of effort in this course.

Comments
I have passed in homework on time, I have studied for each exam, asked questions when confused, and helped others when needed.
Moderately high
I have put forth a lot of effort in this course.
extremely high until the near end
I put a lot of effort in this class
I worked extremely hard in this course, because I want to succeed and I enjoy learning. I would go in to his office to ask questions whenever I was confused and would go to see the math tutors at night for questions about my problem set. The student math tutors were really friendly and so helpful!!! They would work out problems on the board that confused me and challenged me to think things through.
High
I put forth a lot of effort in this class because Physics is my major and I need a good understanding of the material in this course to continue my other math and physics courses.
My effort decreased as the course progressed.
I worked very hard for this class, went to office hours and studied a long time
I tried very hard in this class and wasn't able to fully understand the material.
I tried decently hard.
High effort
8 out of 10
I worked really hard in this class, went to office hours and TA sessions often and studied very hard for exams
I am confident in saying that I tried very hard in this class.
I put out an adequate effort to succeed in the course, although I didn't go above and beyond.
I have never tried harder in a class, yet done so poorly
I put in sufficient effort.
I think I tried very hard to keep afloat in this class, and I went to tutoring very often to help me with managing the work in this class.
tried as hard as i could. would have helped if the teacher had some experience
I put a lot of effort into the class by studying and going to office hours.
I describe my effort in this class as being very high due the difficulties I faced in this class all semester.
I gave maximum level of effort by going in to see him when I had questions and always came to class on time and did the assignments.
I put a great amount of effort into this class. I feel that I have reaped the rewards of studying.
I gave a lot of effort in this course, it was very independently driven. Most of my understanding was gained from doing research outside of class while I was completing the homework problem sets.
I tried extremely hard in this course. I went to every office hour and I went to tutoring at Kanbar. I did everything I could to study and I asked many questions.
I worked hard in this course.