

Mathematics Faculty Teaching Evaluation
Fall Quarter 2010

BISKUP, M.

The questions were:

1. How would you rate your instructor as an effective teacher?
2. How would you rate the availability and helpfulness of your instructor outside of the classroom?
3. What is your rating of this course independent of the effectiveness of the instructor?

Math 31A, Sec. 1 - Differential and Integral Calculus

	Distribution of Scores											Avg	Stdv
	Blank	NA	Failing 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Excellent 9		
Ques1	0	0	1	8	14	12	14	21	38	21	20	6.15	2.08
Ques2	1	5	0	0	7	10	14	24	39	30	19	6.71	1.63
Ques3	0	2	2	8	9	22	24	25	27	19	11	5.73	1.96

198 Enrolled 149 Responded (75.25%)

FALL SESSIONS 2010

Math 31A, sec. 1 – Differential and Integral Calculus

6-6-7

The grading for this course was difficult. Each test problem is worth only 2 points, so if a simple mistake is made you miss half the problem. Although the exams are not too difficult, the grading scales make it hard to get a good grade. When at office hours to get help with homework we couldn't take notes, that was annoying because I would see the problem done and when I tried to do it later I would usually end up more confused.

8-8-6

He has a sense of humor without being corny. Something you don't see much. Legitimately wants you to learn the concepts.

8-8-8

Good.

5-7-3

This class was very difficult no matter how well you did in calculus or pre calculus in high school. It was important that you understand the homework, not just getting it done.

8-8-7

Professor Biskup is a great teacher, teaches the concepts well, however, the problems that we must apply these concepts are very difficult. Office hours are a necessity rather than a convenience.

6-5-6

Professor Biskup definitely knows how to engage with his students and understands how to example the material but his office hours were somewhat not helpful. The tests seem pretty fair but overall Biskup was a good teacher who knows calculus. Some of the homework problems were too hard though.

9-9-8

Good professor, but problems may be harder than what is from book. Helpful in office hours. Exams are fair.

7-7-7

The tests seem harder than the hw and the hw is far harder than the notes. I would have more motivation to study if I knew the tests would be doable, but some questions are always just way too hard and the tests are discouraging to how much work I feel I put into the class.

3-7-2

Lecture often did not apply to the homework. Amount of homework affected other classes. Time needed to go to office hours and student math center was too much.

BISKUP, Marek

5-7-2

In lecture, I was able to grasp all concepts. But when it went to the homework, there were concepts that went uncovered.

3-6-2

Lecture is too simplistic too be able to understand homework problems.

4-4-2

Give us the freaking answers to the hw problems you assign. How the hell else are we suppose to know if we're studying the right things. I don't have time to go to office hours due to schedule conflict with classes so I guess I'm fucked.

7-6-7

Sometimes the homework went too in depth too fast. It would have been helpful to go over the basics first & have some intermediate drill problems before the advanced ones.

6-8-6

The pace was too fast and some of the material was not introduced in full detail.

6-N/A-8

Professor Biskup is extremely charismatic and enjoyable to listen to. However, there are some concepts that he seems to make more difficult than they actually are.

7-8-5

When you teach something in class, please make it be on the homework that is due the next lecture. A lot of times we won't have any idea of what the HW is because you lecture on it after we turn it in.

7-N/A-8

Great at teaching material. Homework sometimes unnecessarily hard. Exams reasonable in difficulty, but too long for 50 minutes.

9-9-9

Everything was perfect. See you next quarter (winter 2011, 31b).

8-8-6

I don't have much in the area of criticism, but I am glad you have a sense of humor. math his boring for a lot of students so making them laugh from time to time keeps them awake.

7-9-6

Your lectures do a good job explaining the relevant concepts, but the homework felt as if it were slightly too difficult. I think your schedule of office hours helps, but does not completely remedy this problem.

BISKUP, Marek

9-8-9

The lecture is quite clear & effective. The homework is quite relative to the lecture & the exams are relative to the homework. Excellent teacher!

7-6-5

Professor Biskup's lecture is effective and easy to understand, however the workload is sometime too much and the homework and exam questions are hard (take too much time).

8-8-N/A

The homework was very challenging, which is good, but it was almost to the point where it was unbearable and consumed all of my time. Also, the tests seemed much more challenging than the actual subject material; our grade rested on whether or not we mastered the most complex questions, practically impossible to solve on your own.

9-7-8

I think Biskup's lecture is the best that I've had in UCLA. Although the midterms are a little bit difficult, if you do hard, you can do very well.

8-7-N/A

Overall, the professor taught the material very well and was very effective, making all the topics and ideas easy to understand. However, there was a discrepancy between the lectures and the homework. What was taught in lecture was very conceptual and used examples to teach the material however there was a large gap between examples and the homework questions in application as the homework was far more difficult than the lecture material and since the exams were based on the homework, they were very difficult as well.

7-7-7

I actually did enjoy this course and felt like I learn a lot from Professor Biskup. The midterms were pretty hard and I can't speak of the final yet, but I did feel like I understood the material after I got each test back. Only suggestion I could make would be to have homework due once a week instead of every lecture, because after a while I started to feel trapped in math homework.

2-3-4

This class is so hard unless you are a genius or plan to spend a ridiculous amount of time on it. The tests are from the homework but the homework is hard. He doesn't lecture about the hw or test. He's a smart guy but doesn't teach well.

7-6-4

I think that the hw and all was a bit too hard considering not all of us are math majors, as long as we get the basic stuff we're happy.

BISKUP, Marek

5-6-4

I found him to be funny and entertaining but my only problem with the class was the availability of solutions to the homework. I have a late discussion and so I would find myself not having the homework before a test to study. And even if I got it back I wouldn't know how to solve a problem unless going to office hours. I recommend posting solutions to turned in homework.

8-8-8

Lectures don't necessarily address problems/topics on the homework, but that's what office hours are for.

4-7-5

It was inconvenient to have office hours as an integral part of the course. Other professors seemed easier to understand/do well in. I did very well in high school calculus but I struggled to pass this course. Very good lecturer, but tests were unpredictable. Cumulative midterms were also more difficult than other professor's midterms.

2-N/A-2

Gives us homework at a rapid pace to the point where I hardly have time for my other homework; gives us homework problems he hasn't shown us how to do or makes no sense. Homework hardly matches lecture, midterm hardly matches homework.

7-7-8

Nice!

6-3-5

The homework does not reflect what is taught in class well, and exams are very difficult. It is hard to devote enough time to studying in order to do well on the exams and keep up with other classes. Overall, good class, but the work load is too heavy.

8-7-6

Professor Biskup is quite the character. He was hard to understand at first, but you adjust to his teaching style...eventually. His homework problems are impossible to do without office hours, but at least you are forced to think out of the box. Definitely the hardest class I've ever had. Improvements: teach us the tricks in class...and more examples PLEASE. HW solutions posted online?

5-2-5

A really nice person but not a good enough teacher. Homework is too hard and takes too long time! Without clear answers to each question. The score on the exams are so harsh! Makes us lose confidence in exam.

5-7-5

This class was extremely difficult. I already took AP Calculus in high school and passed the test with a 4, so it is difficult to understand why I am struggling so much in this class.

BISKUP, Marek

Biskup is a really nice and funny teacher, but his homework was impossible to complete even by the many engineers on my floor.

4-4-4

Wording of problems is difficult.

3-3-3

I understand that the course is rigorous and covers a great deal of material in a compressed amount of time. I found it unfair that students were expected to perform optimization calculations on the midterm #3, when this subject was not covered in lecture this is unjust, and I found the homework problems inconsistent with material covered in class.

1-3-7

Curve too harsh (basically half of the class does not pass course). Grading scale= should have more than 8 problems on midterms, more than 2 points each so possible partial credit, hard to get good grade on tests. Should have less hw, workload too much.

4-5-7

Biskup is way too hard of a teacher. I took math in high school, and I never had trouble. But the way the material was covered was very challenging for me to understand.

4-7-4

I feel this class was extremely difficult for everyone but the math “geniuses”. The homework problems are nearly impossible—the TAs don’t even know how to do most of them. My confidence in math is destroyed. Also, I don’t like that you go over your 50 minutes. On the other hand, if I can’t do well in your class, future students don’t deserve to either, so keep doing what you’re doing.

3-7-6

First off, Professor Biskup is a great person who definitely is only looking out for his students...unfortunately his teaching style is not suited for everyone. He often takes long, complicated “short cuts” that only leave students confused. In classes, he only teaches how to do the trivial methods of performing calculations (i.e. Bisection Method) instead of spending time on the practical way of solving problems. If you can’t go to office hours, you didn’t learn the tricks, & thus spend too much time on the test.

3-6-3

Although I have been to almost every office hour, I find this class extremely difficult. This class is by far, my most challenging course. The tests are too difficult.

6-6-5

Posting up answers to the homework online after the homework is due would be helpful. Especially for the homework that were marked for completeness instead of correctness.

7-4-3

BISKUP, Marek

Exams: I wish each prob was worth more. Examples in class much more effective than those in the book. I struggled b/c of a bad background in precalc. Class: extremely difficult to be in w/o taking AP Calc.

5-7-4

Workload is extremely heavy, problems are close to impossible to point where TAs can barely explain to students. Would help if answer keys to homework are posted online. Nice personality, but expects a lot.

2-5-3

The homework is unreasonable based on what Biskup has taught us, I feel as though I have to get help or else I will fail. The homework is close to impossible and it confused my understanding of the concepts. Biskup should focus more on how to apply concepts rather than how to derive them.

3-4-3

Biskup needs to teach the class more in depth. His lectures don't correspond to his homework. Test problems and homework don't correspond to each other. Class is extremely difficult.

9-9-9

I think Professor Biskup is a very good teacher. He expects a lot of work from his students, and as a freshman like me, I sometimes find it quite a struggle to catch up to his explanations. But I think his class has helped me learn not only about math but also what it takes to be successful, because he often gives frank, honest advice to us. I hope...I pass this class so I can continue with him to the next level.

2-4-5

He does not put great effort into teaching his students, & has way too high of expectation. His tests are extremely hard, and they do not appropriately reflect his homework. He is impossible.

2-5-4

The homework is unreasonable considering how basic the lectures are. Most problems are impossible to do without the help of a TA. Homework does not help or improve my knowledge of math but merely destroys my understanding of the concepts.

2-5-4

Biskup skipped the teaching aspect and went straight to assigning difficult to impossible, problems. My confidence in math has been destroyed by the curve style grading...I want to succeed, not fail less than others. Miserable class, could be much easier and infromative still.

6-6-7

The way the material was very challenging. Therefore it made it more difficult and confusing to learn the base materials.

BISKUP, Marek

9-9-9

The way the exams and class lectures are set up is great. Great explanations and (even though there is a lot of homework) as long as you do homework the exams should be so bad. Also puts emphasis on basics which is great considering you will always ace them.

3-7-3

I can see that the professor really wants us to learn, but his teaching method is just not effective. The midterm is on the hardest and most rare problems from our homework, not the ones we practice regularly on. And I don't know how he expects us to do well on the midterm (based on hw) when we don't even know if we've done the hw right, bc he REFUSES to post any solutions.

3-3-5

He is concerned about his students, BUT his homework assignments are too difficult compared to the actual topics he teaches in class. Also, he should release the solutions to the problems after they're graded so we know how to correct our mistakes in order to prepare for the tests.

7-6-5

Prof. Biskup is very effective in teaching. He teaches the important points in a clear way, gives an insight to what he is doing, and makes sure we understand. The big problem is with his evaluation method. All evaluations derived from the homework, which makes the student learn the homework instead of how to solve problems in general. It eliminates the creativity of solving problems. Also, exams are graded too harshly, taking miscalculation errors as wrong as not doing any thinking process at all.

9-9-9

Professor Biskup is an excellent professor. His voice is loud and clear, his letters and numbers are visible from the back. However, his course requires a lot of work from the students, more specifically homework and office hours. Bottom line: if you are a student willing to push yourself to succeed, Prof. Biskup is a very good teacher. If you're scared of hard work, stay out of his class. Thank you, Professor Biskup.

3-7-4

I feel that the material on the midterm is much harder than the material on the homework assignment. And, lectures only go over basic & simple material, while problems on homework assignments are much more different.

7-5-5

Biskup is a pretty good teacher.

8-8-5

Biskup is an excellent lecturer. His board notes are neat, logical, and comprehensible. However, the homework assignments are extremely challenging & time consuming. He is willing to help you but it will take a lot of time to thoroughly understand the material.

BISKUP, Marek

3-6-5

The homework problems were too hard to do unless you saw a T.A. & each one took 3+ hours. The exams were inaccurate representations of what I knew & most of the time I felt overwhelmed even though I had already taken 31A.

7-5-6

Biskup is a good teacher, he just has his own methods to teach you. He will show you alternative ways of solving problems by handicapping methods you learned in high school. He makes it challenging, but should pay off in the end.

8-8-4

You learn a lot in this course but you also do a lot of work. The professor makes sure that you know where the concepts came from instead of only being able to solve easy problems with them.

3-6-6

I thought the midterms were not graded right. They should be made out of more points rather than 2 to give people a chance to actually score points. The homework was overwhelming at times, but it was bearable once you got used to them. Have a better grading scale or policy where we have an option of dropping 1 midterm if we wanted.

8-7-7

I think homework should not be assigned for every class period. The load is too heavy for students who just try to complete and turn in on time, rather than fully understanding it if midterm/final is based on homework. Students should have access to correct solutions, and hw should be graded for correctness. The professor is an effective teacher but should change his homework policy.

8-8-7

I really like the instructor's way of presenting problems in class. However, his homework problems are every challenging and required too much time.

5-4-1

Please don't make tests/exams to be based on homework problems. Do easy questions.

8-8-7

The class is very challenging but if you go to all the office hours and lectures he teaches the material well. I've had to invest a lot of item and effort into this class and I hope to get a B.

6-7-5

I wish that the course wasn't so dependent on office hours. There are tricks and methods that are not shown in discussion or lecture that are essential to the class that are not presented.

BISKUP, Marek

9-8-4

Professor Biskup is an excellent teacher, he's effective at explaining difficult concepts and easy to get along with. He's available during his office hours and is willing to help. He cares if you get the material. I like that. He gave a lot of work, very challenging material. An excellent choice if you're prepared to work.

4-6-2

The professor is knowledgeable of the material and knows what he is doing, but gives us work that times TA's and tutors do not know how to do. I feel like I have learned, but not to the potential I can due to the set up of the way it is taught.

7-7-6

I thought the HW was difficult so that I always had to go to office hours, but he was very funny.

7-5-7

Biskup is so smart and knows what he's teaching but sometimes makes concepts harder than they needed to be. I didn't like all the hard work and studying and homework, but I honestly learnt a lot in this class because I was forced to.

6-5-3

Prof. Biskup is very nice. I know he tired to help us a lot, but for an intro to calc class, his problems are really hard to understand. Maybe he could explain how to do them more accurately.

8-N/A-9

Good teacher (grills in concepts well). Extremely tough homework.

7-8-5

He was effective in understanding the material in depth but was incredibly hard & time consuming. Homeworks were very difficult & could drill the basic concepts more.

6-5-8

I feel as though the first test was not based off the homework exactly. His office hours should have been spread out on days we don't have class.

7-8-7

Explain more difficult examples in class as well as the more trivial ones.

7-6-6

No HW answers!!

9-8-7

Hopefully hw can be less. Also, could you please put solutions of hw each time up on the website!

BISKUP, Marek

8-8-6

There are too many midterms and they are too hard.

9-9-6

Tough stuff, but I learned a lot. Biskup is an excellent professor if you take away his hard homework.

7-9-7

The professor was extremely tough but I did find myself learning a lot in the 10 weeks of class. It would be nice if he was a little more careful in choosing HW problems because at times I would find he assigned problems that he had never taught.

9-9-8

If you go to office hours the class isn't bad at all. Office hours are well managed and numerous.

7-7-7

Hard HW and exams.

9-8-7

Biskup is an excellent teacher—his explanations clear, concise, and straightforward.

5-6-4

He was alright. TA wasn't great.

7-4-6

Very bad TA. Professor was really good, but TA was very unhelpful.

7-7-7

The teacher has clear instruction of the course. Factor that hurts him is the HW.

6-8-4

Although the exams were based on the homework questions, they were usually a lot harder. Explanation of concepts more easily is needed.

4-3-5

Focus more on basic calculus rather than extremely arbitrary and difficult problems. Teach class more for beginners rather than experts.

7-7-4

Too hard.

3-5-4

Teaches fairly well in class. However, the homework and tests are harder than what he teaches. Homework takes too much time to do.

BISKUP, Marek

9-9-5

Excellent.

7-9-8

Maybe he should be more organized in lectures. Seldomly, he is not 100% prepared for the class. The class is challenging. It took me much more time than I expected to handle the course. But I really feel I learned something from the course.

4-7-4

I feel the class lectures would be more effective if problems like the ones assigned on hw were taught prior to doing the hw.

8-6-2

Great instructor with excellent teaching skills. Harsh grading scale and point system. Learned much in class but afraid that grade does not reflect my knowledge of material.

5-7-6

Biskup has a great personality as a professor and passes great qualities for effective teaching. He's always available for help and stresses your intimate understanding of the material. However, eh stressed it a little too much, going a little overboard on his expectations of student in the harshness of exams and homework. Great class and teacher, but one can only do well if one is prepared to work more so than a regular freshman required.

4-4-4

The covering of the basics should be gone over more or at least review them every once in a while.

7-6-5

I feel that he teaches the material well and the homework is reasonable but when it comes to exams, they are extremely difficult and there is not enough time to complete.

5-7-4

The tests are ridiculously hard for the pretty simple things that professor Biskup goes over in class.

6-7-4

Too much homework, not enough time to thoroughly do it while balancing with other classes.

8-7-8

This material is not too difficult to comprehend. Professor Biskup is very good at teaching, thus you learn a lot, but the homework is plentiful and laborious, and sometimes difficult to solve even with the help of a tutor or T.A.

BISKUP, Marek

9-8-7

Professor Biskup has a teaching method that is extremely effective. The course got a bit unbearable when the homework expanded from two pages to three pages but of course everyone is going to find this challenging. Overall a great class.

3-4-5

Show more ways of solving problems, instead of a lot of time on theory, when theory can be self taught from the book.

8-9-7

Even though this class is hard, Professor Biskup teaches it very well and challenges his students, which I liked.

8-6-8

I like the course. You are a good teacher!

2-3-1

Homework assignments would be much more beneficial in studying for the midterm if the correct solutions to the problems were posted online after turning in the assignments. That way you would know whether you are doing a problem right.

7-7-8

Perhaps making the grading system a bit less severe on minor details, and to grade students on understanding the concepts & employing the techniques.