

Mathematics Faculty Teaching Evaluation
Fall Quarter 2004

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?
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Math 31B, Sec. 1 - Integration and Infinite Series

	Distribution of Scores										Avg	Stdv	
	Blank	NA	Failing 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			Excellent 9
Ques1	1	0	3	1	4	4	9	24	30	30	23	6.87	1.80
Ques2	3	0	1	2	3	5	6	18	16	27	48	7.40	1.83
Ques3	0	0	3	3	12	6	19	31	23	19	13	6.05	1.96

157 Enrolled 129 Responded (82.17%)

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Math 31B, Sec. 1- Integration and Infinite Series

7-8-7

Please do example problems that matches the difficulty of the homework during lectures. Perhaps assign more problems from the book. Please don't assign homework due right after midterm or the end of instruction. It is almost worth it to go to class just to see you erase.

4-2-1

This class single-handedly made me hate my first quarter at UCLA. The amount and difficulty of each homework assignment was absolutely ridiculous. The homework problems he gave were so complicated that I couldn't use the textbook for aid. Also, his office hours were placed at such difficult times, I was never able to attend them. Furthermore, I HATED THIS CLASS, and if I ever see Biskup outside of class, I will slap him!

8-8-8

More points should be awarded for all hwk problems for all the time and effort we put in. Biskup and the T.As were effective teachers and highly helpful.

9-9-9

Unnecessary amount of unnecessarily difficult homework. But very effective lecturer, clear and very generous with examples and explanations without being redundant.

6-6-4

Either don't assign homework as frequently or make the problems easier to solve. Some proofs and derivations seem unnecessary. Make examples in lecture the same difficulty as homework problems.

8--5

Great organization & lectures. He tries very hard to help students outside & class. The homework and exams are too hard but he is a great professor.

9-9-7

Good individual, smart and instructive all the time office hours are instructive and he adds some comic relief as he goes on.

6-9-5

too much homework for the difficulty of the problems assigned

8-7-8

The material goes by too too fast for me. You have been a good teacher, but maybe the class is not for me. Thanks for being a great instructor.

9-9-8

Professor Biskup made this class worth the time and effort. He put in his full effort, both inside and outside of class, as well as in making up his own homework problems. This has been the most challenging and worthwhile class of my academic career. I only wish Biskup would teach 32A next quarter.

8-9-6

Well organized lectures.. Knows his stuff. Very concerned with student success

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8-9-6

This was the hardest class of my academic career. However, I learned quite a bit. I enjoyed this class although it just about killed me. I have never been challenged like this before, but I feel that the challenges in this course have made me an all-around better student. Unfortunately I'm barely getting c-, but I've learned so much and learned how to work hard, I don't mind. This class was worth it.

8-8-7

Biskup teaches a difficult course and has high expectations for his students. Despite the possible damage inflicted upon my grade, I feel I have learned a great deal.

9-9-9

Great teacher, but it is a difficult course.

7-9-6

Homework was way too hard

6-4-5

Homework was excruciatingly difficult w/o office hours or TA sections. It would be extremely beneficial if HW had a good mix of easy to difficult problems. I'd rather have more HW problems than a few difficult problems. Lecture problems were extremely easy in comparison to the HW.

6-7-5

The homework was too crazy. More partial credit should be given because it's not fair to equate numerical errors with concept errors.

7-7-6

Good teacher, seems like a nice guy, but the homework and midterms were exceedingly and probably too difficult.

5-9-6

Homework could have been less or at least due only once a week so we could have a chance for every thing to sink in.

7-9-6

Biskup was very willing to help outside of class! This was a big help in gaining a better understanding of the material.

7-6-5

Effective teacher - I found the lectures well prepared & easy to follow, but the homework was often too difficult for the level taught in lecture: Sections not useful - used only to go over specific homework questions and not concepts.

5-7-4

HW assignments were too difficult. More intricate examples could be shown during lecture. More examples or HW problems could be pulled out from the textbook. This class was difficult.

8-9-8

I like the fact that the solutions to the homework are buried in the notes we take down in class and we have to rewrite the problems in order to get the solution. Even though there was a lot of homework, we're better prepared.

7-8-8

The course was very effective and I feel that after this class I am going to be well prepared for 32A.

7-9-7

Insane homework load

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9-9-7

Biskup is an excellent professor, lecturer, and helper in outside situations. However, the course work is a bit too heavy for a first-year, first quarter with 4 classes. Nevertheless, by working hard, it helps extremely to make the students learn. The grading is a bit harsh, as either 2 pts, half credit, or no credit.

9-9-9

Your class was very tough but it was evident you really cared about your students, I know I will thank you in the future

4-7-7

Homework is way too hard. TAs should be able to help

7-7-5

The instructor's lecture is pretty good, but the amount of homework is too much. I find grading based on accuracy than process is also unfair because it makes student either really ?????? or careless. The problems given are also harder than the lecture and each hw to takes more than 4 hrs to do.

8-8-7

The instructor was very effective, but his course and homework had to be paid off with an overwhelming sacrifice of time. At times, hardly any other work can be done b/c math homework needed to be done.

7-7-5

This fall I had many, many sleepless nights where I was up doing 4-7 hours of lovely (A.K.A. night mareish) calculus homework. Calculus became my life, and not in a good way. You are a super-duper guy & quite amusing, especially during office hours, but your homework is both painful & brutal. I would recommend assignning less homework but keeping the level of difficulty the same. Adios!

6-6-4

I think it would be more helpful for the students if the level of difficulty on the homework correlates more with that of the classwork.

9-9-9

This course was really hard, but made me a much better mathematician. Having homework every night was a bit excessive, but greatly increased my understanding. I love you Biskup

9-9-9

- Excellent caring teacher
- Hard home work that I can't do without office hours
- I enjoyed your class even though it was the hardest class I ever took.
- Noticed that he took so much time and effort to push us hard to perfect math 31B

9-9-9

He is very knowledgeable -- too knowledgeable, which is very positive because eventually he passes this knowledge on. Although the homework is hard, he provides enough help outside of class for it to be able to be complete. I would obviously recommend him.

5-6-3

The homework was a bit excessive in comparision to other math 31B classes.

8-8-6

Homework and tests were unnessecaririly difficult. Took up most of my time. Class was good, but overall course could be easier

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9-9-9

I thought the instructor was great. He know a lot about the material which is a must! However, the HW proved to be extremely difficult. Overall, I thought the class was well taught.

6-7-3

The later part of this course (infinite series & sequence) is really confusing. I tried to understand it, but I still don't get it at the end.

7-8-6

The instructor is an effective teacher but gives out too much homework.

1-5-1

Stop making courses hard when we aren't geniuses. You only teach elementary things not the advanced steps and you expect us to do the hard problems with no knowledge of the more advanced techniques. Teach more advanced stuff if you want us to get the homenonic ?ight.

9-9-9

I believe that the examples done in class should be more similar and worded similarly as the homework problems. They should also be of the same level of difficulty.

9-9-8

This class is very effective, it's hard, you have to really work hard and think outside the box. But Biskup is available to help, and he enjoys helping students out. Take away series and sequences; not appropriate for many 1st years.

7-5-3

There was an old man from Stambou, Who soliloquized thus to his tool:
``You took all my weath, And you ruined my health, And now you won't pee, you old fool!"

6-7-6

I believe the midterms and the homework problems were a bit difficult. The problems were worded kind of confusing so it was hard to know exactly what was being asked for. I think that H.W. every day was a good way to keep up to date in the class. Good job.

9-9-9

Professor Biskup is great. His knowledge, patience and general willingness to help students made 31B an almost enjoyable experience. His homework was incredibly difficult but one had the sense that they really knew the material if they could do it.

9-9-8

Instructor was very knowledgable of course material. His lessons were well organized. HW assignments were hard, but helpful.

6-6-6

Professor Biskup has really good lectures, and gives really good notes but his homework and tests are way too hard.

9-9-8

Biskup is an excellent professor. His dedication to teaching really inspires his students to learn. Though the homework load was a bit much. It was useful in that it forced us to do the work and actually learn the material almost daily.

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8-9-6

Biskup was a very organized professor. His homework with 12 problems did take up a lot of time, so he should just keep it to eight problems per homework. It would be nice if he could post the homework answers online so that we know what we did wrong. I also like the fact that he updates the grades frequently. The grade estimates he created was really nice.

8-7-7

Biskup is a really good teacher, but with the existence of GPAs, it's hard to realize sometimes. I believe we've learned much more than any other 31B course in the country (according to sources), but that means good grades are hard to come by. The work load is not considerate of our schedules and the difficulty was tremendous of times. I'll come to a final conclusion after I get my grade.

8-9-3

Biskup is a really nice person - he takes time even outside his office hours (makes more time for OH) to help students. However, the class is so hard that OH becomes a necessity, rather than a supplement to the course.

8-8-6

Lecture was always well-structured and, although rather fast-paced at times, could be followed (with a little effort). Office hours were critical to completely understanding the material, and were very useful. Homework assignments were difficult but good practice for midterms. Biskup's humor helped a great deal during times of aggravation.

9-9-8

Biskup tried very hard to challenge his students and explained the problems thoroughly. His sense of humor lightened the atmosphere and his personality made the rigorous class enjoyable. The material and problems, however, were much too difficult for a 31B class and could not be done without his help. Were the difficulty level covered, the class would be more effective.

7-9-5

I wish we would do homework from the book. You give way too much homework, that is too hard. I feel like we jump right into hard problem when we don't even know how to do the standard level ones. Thanks for being caring though. I like you as a person ...as a professor...you're too hard!

7-9-8

The homework is too difficult for the class. It took up too much time and sometimes, the TAs didn't even understand the problems. I realize he wants us to think outside the problems. I realize he wants us to think outside the box and learn different strategies, but it ate up all of my time. The examples during class were easy, but the homework problems were infinitely more difficult. If he wants to keep the level of difficulty then he needs to have more office hrs and more into a larger office.

7-8-7

The homework problems ??? unnecessary difficult. (Very time consuming???)
Biskup does show that he cares about his class. Excellent chalkboard eraser!!!

9-9-9

This is/was one of the best math courses that I've ever had. I have already taken this course (B? calc/Math 150 A/B of CSUF) before and did really well then and I still feel like I learned a lot from this course. Biskup is a great professor. He is very difficult, but the class is very worthwhile and well taught.
I love you Biskup! - You're a great teacher & person.

7-6-7

The difficulty of the course at times was overwhelming, but gave more insight and strength in the subject.

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6-6-7

The professor was available for office hours and was willing to help. There was a lot of homework. However, and having it due every lecture is a little much.

8-9-6

Professor Biskup was an excellent instructor and was always willing to help out the students; however, the homework assignments were extremely difficult and time consuming.

2-4-6

The homework is overwhelming! It would be alright if there was a really difficult homework maybe once a week, but such hard homework everyday is overwhelming. Also, the fact that we can't take notes makes it hard to understand how to do it. If our homework grades really aren't so important, why can't we take notes so we can better understand the material?

8-9-7

Homework should not be worth a fourth of the entire grade, because (1) it puts those with a conflicting schedule with office hours at a disadvantage and (2) forces students to concentrate on only few selected problems (not giving time for many more in the book).

6-6-6

I think it would have been more helpful if we could take some notes in office hours, since it is meant for a learning experience or else it just becomes more of a memorizing subject.

8-9-8

The homeworks were a little too time consuming (too much for a 4-unit course) The lectures on infinite series were too confusing and difficult to apply to the HW.

8-6-7

This professor is by far one of the hardest at UCLA. Compared to other 31B classes, this one was very difficult. The professor was good as a teacher but he raised the level of the course far too high in comparison to other 31B classes.

8-8-5

An answer key given after the homework is turned in would be very helpful. Mr. Biskup is a very tough and demanding teacher, but as a person he is very nice. In discussion, we should be able to get the help we need rather than our T.A. being too scared to write the problems on the board.

9-8-7

He's very hard, and makes the course very very intensive, but hell be damned if I didn't learn a buttload of math this quarter.

-5-5

Although Prof. Biskup is a good lecturer, his demands are high. The homework is very long, hard and time consuming and due before each class. The tests are very similar to the homework, causing a great decline in grades. Although Biskup's lectures are well organized, they are too simple and often fail to help with the homework due to the homeworks degree of difficulty.

1-2-2

The professor did not explain concepts well enough. His homework problems are ridiculously hard and he should reform them so that TA's don't have a hard time doing them.
I think the work load was too much and he taught concepts too fast. There are only a few things I will remember from this course, everything else is too complicated to understand. This course made me hate math.

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9-9-4

You have neat handwriting and you erase the board very well - it was always entertaining to watch that process. Thank you for holding so much office hours. Though I've seen students copying down solutions. It was quite unfair. You might want to look out for that.

8-9-8

The instructor provides many indepth course materials. Provides way too much advanced problems and not enough basic fundamental problems to reinforce concepts learned should assign hw with with some advanced problems but not all advanced problems.

7-8-5

This course should we split in half so that the students get a chance to practice and fully comprehend the entire material. The professor was effective because he forced us to stay on task, but answers to the assignments should have been posted online even if he wanted to use them again in upcoming quarters. Overall, the course was valuable but very difficult for a 4-unit class.

4-8-2

Professor Biskup knew the information well, but gave an unreasonable amount of incredibly difficult homework UP UNTIL THE DAY OF THE FINAL! It makes it very difficult for me to find time to study my weaknesses when I have to invest hours and hours into the homework. Furthermore, his homework was much more difficult than both the books, the lectures, and what the covel tutors went over. How are we suppose to do the problems? Go to office hours where we can not even take notes. The unrealistic amounts of homework were a heavy distraction from learning in this course.

5-7-6

The homeworks are very hard. The topic might seem okay during lecture, but the homework problems are so tricky and hard. We also should have had more time for review for midterms/ finals. And homework due the week of finals is interfering with actual preparations for finals for this class and my other classes.

6-5-5

Difficult course. Sometimes the professor confused us more on simplex topics --> the derivations were all over the place and he lost us after a few steps. He didn't follow the methods of the book so it was difficult to review. His OH were during my classes, so I could never go to them. The HW was 100 x more difficult than examples he gave in class. Great chalkboard eraser. I would have liked to receive HW sooner to review. Would have liked more reviewing for the last few classes instead of new material.

8-8-8

Erase chalk boards very well; should not make homework due the day right after midterms; do more series problem in class
Thanks! I learned a lot!

6-8-4

The homework problems were extremely hard even though the professor provided a lot of help outside of class. The subject was just extremely difficult and I wish the notes were available online because sometimes I can't see the board.

5-7-3

This course was definitely harder than expected. There was too much homework and the problems were too difficult. Also, the reader wasn't a good grader because if a friend and I got the same answer, one would get points and the other wouldn't. Homework should have been once a week instead of three. I put a lot of energy into this class and wasn't able to spend as much time on my other classes.

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7-8-7

Sometimes the material during lecture is explained rather quickly - however, it's well organized & makes it easier to follow. The homework is difficult & so much time is put into it that it seems insane. The effort helps slightly, but sometimes I'm not sure if it actually helped.

7-6-3

Biskup is a good professor. However, he can work on creating a system where students should not have to go to office hours to SURVIVE! Towards the middle and end of the course, math homework became a burden.

7-8-6

The course includes topics that seem to be above and beyond what this course was originally intended to cover. The homeworks were unusually hard that it was always necessary to attend office hours in order to understand how to solve the problems.

8-9-8

This course presented many challenges including very frequent, and often difficult homework. Although this proved to be an effective device, it occasionally felt to be moving at a fast pace. Nonetheless, I was very satisfied with the professor and course in general.

6-4-2

Compared to other 31B course, this one required an ??????? amount of time - we didn't know our other classes existed. The amount of work required was extremely dis????????? And those unable to make it to office hours were at an extreme disadvantage as there was great disparity between the lecture & h/w material. Considering the amount of time this class requires, it should be made honors if taught this way. Even the TAs agree that no other math classes are this much work. While a good foundation is important, these changes need to be implemented department wide or this class graded with a much larger % of "As"

8-9-6

Of all of my professors Marek Biskup is one of the most caring and conscientious people. He truly made himself available through many sets of office hours as well as emails and other forms of communication. On the other hand, I believe this course was much too challenging for the level of the students as well as the time commitment. Compared to other 31B classes, this class was a much higher level in terms of intellectual though as well time necessary to succeed.

7-8-5

My professor was a nice guy and a good teacher. However, I often felt the homework was too much or too difficult to do without enough time to practice applying the basics. Prof. Biskup was very helpful out of class and often available. Overall, the class was good, but could have been better.

1-3-3

The homework was ridiculously hard as well as the final and were graded way too steeply. Even the teaching assistants thought the problems assigned to us were too hard. We didn't really learn much.

7-7-6

While the homework given certainly enabled me to gain a higher mastery of the course material, the amount assigned (8-12 problems due every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday lecture) became extremely strenuous and a major source of stress in my life - it often prevented me from giving equal study time to my other classes, causing me to ????? in those other classes (because homework would take 2 very long time). I would suggest scaling down either the amount of problems assigned (4 problems every MWF, or 16-20 due every Friday).

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7-4-3

Bring back Math 31E! This class is ?????????????? hard to economics majors. Also, the TAs and professor don't seem to correspond well, the TAs often knowing nothing about what's going on in class. The textbook is expensive and never used. Rethink before giving Biskup his tenure.

3-3-5

Homeworks and exams were incredibly difficult so much so that every office hour completely filled the office, as this was the only way to complete HW. With a curve so low on exams (18/42) on first midterm) and so many people seeking help, this should say something about the difficulty of the course.

9-9-8

It would be nice to use the book a little more often. I used it primarily as a reference, which isn't bad, but having paid so much for it, I expected to use it more. The homework problems were rather difficult. On the weekends, I could not effectively seek assistance perhaps a selection of easier/ more fundamental problems would help.

6-6-6

This class was too hard. We had too much work and if we were not adequately prepared before we got here, we had no chance of succeeding. I have never put so much work into one class, and I will likely receive my worst grade ever in this class. Most importantly, I think it is extremely unfair that other Math 31B classes have nowhere near as much work even though they are learning the same material. I am glad it's almost over.

6-7-8

It would've helped me a lot if we could write down the way to do problems at office hours. I can't learn by just watching how it's done. I need to have it in front of me so I can write it and study it. On a scale of 1-10, w/ 10 being hardest, hw was on a level of 8-10 & I spent at least 8 hours on hw every problem set. If you're introducing new concepts it would help to start out with easy problems and work up to the complex ones, even if it means giving more problems. Having a lesson in class about the basics and then jumping to extremely hard problems on hw didn't help me a lot. But I can tell you put a lot of effort in so thank you.

7-6-6

The teaching is excellent for this course; however, the grading seems too harsh as I find it difficult at best to complete the homework in the given 8 hours per week. This course is a little too rigorous considering it is a very low division. More mediocre rather than difficult problems would be appreciated in order to understand the subject matter rather than purely worry about the grade.

8-9-9

This class was very time consuming, but I feel more prepared for future classes because of it. The homework was challenging, but workable if the student goes to office hours. My suggestion for the homework is that we work up to the level of difficulty. When we began sequences and series, it felt like we should have done more basics before we attempted such difficult problems.

8-9-8

Professor Biskup really cares about his students. He's always available and constructive during office hours, and we get at least one email from him each week on how we can do the homework or how we can study for tests. He has a fun personality, making remarks about his colored chalk every now and then. My only critique is that his homework takes up a lot of time because he makes the problems up himself, and there's always a trick!

4-8-3

There is too much material covered in such a short time. It feels like it's 2 quarters of class crammed into one. There's also too much homework (takes me an average 10 hours to finish each)
The professor can't quite explain the concepts in simpler terms, but I guess they can only be explained so simply and more simpler

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6-5-7

The homework given in class took at least four hours to complete, only to be graded so harshly that I rarely received more than half credit for them after all of my work. Professor Biskup was always very nice and seemed willing to help during his office hours, but I was never able to make it to them because of my work schedule, so I was never able to benefit

3-6-7

The bad dash to "learn" series at the end was too much in too little time to do. The intensity of the homework gave me ulcers and sometimes made me feel like this: The cold war is over, please don't torture children with your Soviet mathematics. Thanks so much.

6-9-3

The level of difficulty for this class was extraordinarily more difficult as compared to similar classes for this course. The homework fails to accurately depict the knowledge that should be garnered for this class and instead relies on "tricks" and complex manipulations unrelated to the subject.

8--7

Very, very, challenging course. The only hope I had of passing this course came from attending more than 4 or 6 office hours every week. Homework was unbelievably frustrating most of the time and involved certain tricks that would be very elusive unless you knew what to look for. Prepares you for his midterms.

7-9-6

Biskup is very smart and knows his shit. He's also very helpful and really wants to help students. His homework problems, all his problems in general are pretty difficult without going to his office hours. He also has a very strict homework policy and has a heavy % on the grade I suggest he have an early midterm for students and lighten the homework

7-8-6

Providing an answer key for the homework after it has been turned in would be very helpful. The pace towards the end (infinite series) was a bit too fast.

6-4-5

The textbook was well chosen but never used. The professor did not follow the book very well so it was hard to study outside material. Bring back math 31E for economics majors. This class was too hard. Also, the homework problems were ridiculously harder than other the 31B courses.

7-8-6

The homework in the earlier part of the course started extremely hard and may have discouraged many students. Overall the course was good except for the fact that series was incorporated into this course.

8-8-6

Biskup is a good teacher. He conveys the material, well, in an organized, set fashion. Digressions only happen when something's not understood. Despite his teaching abilities, his homework is definitely worth questioning. It's ridiculously much & horrendously difficult. That's my only gripe.

6-7-7

Give partial credit

6-6-6

The homework was of limited usefulness as a learning tool because its point value was too heavily weighted, its impact on the ??? grade too substantial, and its ability to return with pertinent information regarding how to fix the errors shortcoming. The TAs hadn't the faintest idea how to solve some of the problems and by not following the book to well, left both the TA and the student somewhat uncertain where to find the appropriate methods of solutions. The lectures, however, were clear and informative, well organized.

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7-9-3

The homework was overwhelming. It was very difficult to manage and balance my time b/w the homework (which took 5 hours + per assign.) with all the studying for other courses. However, it forced me to study. Professor was concerned about his students, and took measures to help us (though that didn't improve my mark). I could tell that he was genuinely passionate about the subject he teaches.

8-6-7

There were too many homework assignments. Having a homework assignment due the day after the midterms was extremely harsh and unnecessary. The workload was not always manageable. Thanks for a good quarter though!

9-9-9

Dear Professor Biskup,

Thanks for turning me into a math soldier. This course was extremely challenging, but definitely worth it. One thing that would help would be if we could somehow get a copy of the notes before class, so that we could spend the class period listening to what you say

Thank you

6-6-6

In general, all material covered in class was well-explained. However, much of the homework required concepts and/or general mathematical knowledge that had not been learned in class before the homework was due.

8-8-8

I would just like to say that I definitely did not pass this class, in fact I didn't even get close. But I do feel, as ill prepared as I was, that I will ace next quarter 31B. I know that sounds bad but honestly I didn't know any calculus (except pre) and I did not try hard enough. Next quarter will be different & I feel Biskup has made that possible for me. If you get to read this I would like to apologize for my 3/42 & 8/48 on my midterms but I would also like to thank you for the future.

9-9-9

Biskup is an incredible professor - He led great, helpful, engaging lectures. He was available for an extended amount of office hours. He was respectful of the course materials and his students. His class was rigorous, challenging and enjoyable! We love you Biskup! You rock!

8-6-6

Professor Biskup is an excellent teacher. Each lecture was thorough with lots of examples, and he held my and the class's attention very well. The homework for the course, however, was overkill. The assignments he wrote, due 3 times a week, usually took 3-4 hours or more each to do, and even then I only got 50-80% on most of them.

5-9-3

Get rid of sequence portion of course. Jam-packing too much tough, brand-new material into a short period.

7-9-7

Homework is the every class & Biskup doesn't collect late homework so it forces us go to class in time. Homework can't be done alone. His office hours do help, just sit there and pay attention to him doing the problems for you. He doesn't follow the book 's problems, but makes his old which is 10 Xs harder!

6-8-6

This course was the hardest Math course. I took in my life. I learned most of the material during office hours. The lectures went so fast I couldn't catch up. Also a lot of the proofs were confusing and mind boggling. You need to slow down Dr. Biskup!!

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6-6-6

I never put so much work into a class and go so little out of it. I recommend 4 problems each day rather than 8-12. This will allow students time to invest in the lectures and most of all, their other classes. The hw was too strict.