

Mathematics Faculty Teaching Evaluation
Winter Quarter 2007

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 32A, Sec. 1 - Calculus of Several Variables

	Distribution of Scores											Avg	Stdv
	Blank	NA	Failing 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Excellent 9		
Ques1	1	0	1	4	7	6	11	21	25	31	16	6.57	1.91
Ques2	1	6	0	3	6	13	11	17	29	19	18	6.47	1.88
Ques3	2	0	3	2	4	6	19	28	33	20	6	6.21	1.70

151 Enrolled 123 Responded (81.46%)

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MATH 32A, LEC 1 – Calculus of Several Variables

5-6-6

Not allowing students to take notes during office hours combined with TA's not being able to answer questions about the homework makes learning the material extremely difficult. The class would be improved significantly with these two aspects changed.

9-7-8

Grading is too harsh!

6-NA-5

Too hard but good teaching. Very hard problems and proofs.

6-7-6

harsh grading

4-4-4

Too much homework. Not enough time for other classes. Tests are virtually impossible

9-8-8

The grading system for this class is very unfair because no partial credit is granted on the test, which does not make sense for a subject like math.

8-8-7

Really hard but effective teacher.

5-6-8

has capability we should spend more time on problems or h/out

3-3-0

Biskup doesn't teach us the material well in class, yet he gives us impossible homework problems. His office hour, discussion, and homework policy is ridiculous. I didn't learn much in this class.

3-4-7

Too much homework and they are too difficult

Not enough office hours

Professor absent for 4 days right before final

Schedule is too crowded and fast

8-5-7

I wish Biskup didn't think his class is the only one we take. In reality we have 3-4 other classes for which we have work to do and OH to attend. It's unreasonable for him to expect us to attend 6-8 sessions of OH a week to accomplish our 2 or 3 assignments of homework a week

5-4-6

Too much homework, did not prepare us properly for exams!

8-8-5

Great teacher, interactive lectures, but tough class.

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MATH 32A, LEC 1 – Calculus of Several Variables (Cont'd)

9-8-8

Prof. Biskup is extremely knowledgeable in his field, and continuously challenges everyone in the class. The only complaint I have is the somewhat draconian grading scheme, where partial credit is rarely given, and then only if you are very close to it. The actual answer.

2-3-1

In keeping with this whole “no partial credit thing”, you failed by your own grading scale. Fine, give us hard homework – but post the answers! Give us stuff our TAs have never seen – but teach it first! This is a lower div math class, not a grad level proof class.

6-7-5

This course was fairly difficult and I really did not like the sparse use of partial credit on exams. However, I feel I did learn a lot, but almost at the expense of my sanity.

8-9-6

Keep it up. The whole class was hard. Great lectures. Hard tests.

6-7-6

The main thing that was really difficult about the class was the difficulty forced you to go to office hours which were at very inconvenient times for me.

7-5-6

More office hours needed for very challenging homework

7-7-3

This class required way too much work for a 4 unit lower division class. The work was impossible to do without going to office hours, most TA's could barely even do the problem. The difficulty impacted my ability to understand basic concepts rather than increasing my understanding.

9-5-8

I do not like the fact that there is no partial credit in this class, we don't get rewarded for what we do know, we only get punished for what we don't understand. Other than that this class is great. ... and yes I do have other class to study for, this class has taken up too much time ... my GPA is sick.

8-5-6

HW could be less involving.

9-NA-6

Great teacher but needs to relax his grading. You can know the material but fail the course do to stupid mistakes.

9-6-7

Homeworks are absolutely brutal. Sometimes one problem takes 3-4 hours to solve.

9-NA –6

Great teacher. Should ease up on grading

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MATH 32A, LEC 1 – Calculus of Several Variables (Cont'd)

4-4-5

I hate the no-partial credit policy. Home works are ridiculous.

7-6-6

Do not take your frustrations over midterm scores out on helpless students. Otherwise, this is a good class.

3-4-5

The method of evaluation was very difficult. A lot of what was on the homework wasn't taught in class. The teacher made the students feel significantly inferior and unintelligent.

3-2-3

Required too much outside work. Sufficient help not provided. Instruction during lecture does not apply enough to frequent homework assignments.

6-7-5

Office hours should be mandatory for this course. It is a bit difficult because it seems like all we've going to do is reiterate problems rather than actually know the concepts of math. Otherwise it is manageable if we all just take the time to go to office hours. Oh yeah, pop quizzes for this class are hard.

8-7-5

Very good lecturer, and fair exams, but HW is a little excessive in intensity

7-4-8

Prof Biskup is a good & concise lecturer, but he is typically 10 min late for his office hours. He also excludes himself from office hours because of conferences

He has defiantly missed over 10 OH because of conferences

Also he does not give partial credit which skews the grades unfairly

7-7-8

A very good teacher but a very hard grader. The grading style is ridiculous. I spent the majority of my quarter on math hmwk/studying, and I do have other things to do in my life.

5-9-2

This class is too much work.

4-5-8

Make HW more in grade-b???? points. Make HW more optional! But base quizzes/tests on HW.

8-9-8

Lot of HW, it is good, but way too much, but it is still good.

6-6-6

I don't think adding more homework at the end of the quarter would help us with the course. So many of us were so worried about finishing the homework we do not have much time to study. Making each problem on the exams worth only 2-3 points makes it really hard to get good grades in the class.

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8-6-4

While the method of teaching is meant to help, I did not find it particularly helpful.

7-6-7

Class required a lot of work and difficult material compared to other class

9-9-8

Biskup is an exceptional professor. I would have loved this class if it were the only class I am taking. However, the amount of homework as of late has been ridiculous, and caused me to do worse in other classes. Other than that, I really enjoyed the class.

8-8-6

Biskup was an effective lecturer but his lack of partial credit made it difficult to score well in the class.

9-9-9

He would go above & beyond what the book covered making it difficult to do HW & learn what he wanted. But he is a great teacher & was very accessible to discuss problems we may have had.

8-9-8

He is a good teacher but needs to calm down with the homework.

7-7-5

Effective and intelligent Prof. But the course is possibly too time consuming and stressful for students!

7-4-5

I was able to easily understand most of the material gone over in class, however the homework problems did not seem to match the material in class. Office hours did not help that much because we could not take notes and so it was hard to go quickly retain so much information. Plus they were super crowded. I know he doesn't want to give hw answers but allowing notes and doing problems similar to those on the hw would have been more helpful.

7-7-5

Please give partial credit on exams. On a timed test, it is extremely easy to make small error that will ruin the final answer. Even if we know how to do a problem and the concepts behind it we will get marked down more than half if we miss a negative sign early in the problem

7-7-7

The professor teaches beyond the scope of the course and tries really hard to teach us everything. He is a very good lecturer, but very difficult as well to get a good grade in

4-4-4

He needs to have more office hours or let us take notes in his office hours. He shouldn't be so concerned about neat homework, is, but just assign it and let us have our practice. It takes too long to transfer homework to the homework sheet and the sheet answer box is too small. My worst math professor yet.

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MATH 32A, LEC 1 – Calculus of Several Variables (Cont'd)

6-3-6

This class was very challenging. I think I learned less after the second midterm because I was so focused on attempting to answer all of the questions and the office hours were so crowded. While he was nice, I felt very lost and I spent at least 2 hours a week in his office. Too many challenging homework problems to understand the basic concepts. This class made me decide to not be a math major.

6-8-7

I like the way the homework is formatted online, but I didn't like the way it took many hours to complete if I had to work by myself (which I usually did). The tests were quite difficult, and for having so few questions and so little time, I don't think enough partial credit was given. After this course I feel I have a pretty good grasp of the concepts, but I still might have to retake the class because I expect poor scores.

7-4-7

I think Biskup is a little too demanding. I'm falling behind in my other classes. He does not have enough office hours He only has 4 office hours. I can only make it twice a week and sometimes homework is due before then. The TA's are obviously unable to keep up with him. We just aren't given the means to complete all of his work. I have AAP tutoring and a lot of times even my tutor gets stuck on his problems.

9-8-9

You are an excellent math teacher. I like the way you challenge us with difficult math problems, & explain the concepts very clearly.

It would be less confusing if you didn't tell us to study the extremely new material right before the midterms, when it wasn't actually on the tests. When I tried to learn the new material, I didn't have

9-8-9

You are an excellent math teacher. I like the way you challenge us with difficult math problems, & explain the concepts very clearly. It would be less confusing if you didn't tell us to study the extremely new material right before the midterms, when it wasn't actually on the tests. When I tried to learn the new material, I didn't have as much time to review the material that was actually important.

9-8-4

Biskup is very knowledgeable and willing to aid his students. The biggest problem, however, is the massive amount of time required for homeworks and such that students must manage.

1-3-1

Professor Biskup seems to think that his course is the only one that any of his students are enrolled in. He assigns far too much work, with problems so difficult that you must attend office hours, which is supposed to be optional. He doesn't even come to office hours on time. Terrible teacher who made the quarter a living hell.

6-4-7

The nature of the homework was sometimes such that, considering the time of the average student, office hours were necessary, effectively increasing lecture time two or even threefold. Homework should be able to be solved, for the most part, independently

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MATH 32A, LEC 1 – Calculus of Several Variables (Cont'd)

7-6-6

Lecturing is highly effective I understand all the concepts well, my best math proof at UCLA. But, extremely hard, too much work, can't keep up especially since we take other classes, too

8-9-7

Professor Biskup is effective at explaining the concepts. He is available for office hours and is always willing to explain concepts that people do not understand. The home work load was a lot and very time consuming. Would be more helpful if he did problems that were similar to homework problems during lectures, because most of the office hours did not fit my schedule.

8-NA-8

Hard. Easier questions for homework would be nice, or go through in class ways to solve them. Practice midterms and final would be nice, as well. Overall, very effective teacher

6-7-6

The professor is a good lecturer, but his homework is rather ridiculous at times. He has broad knowledge of the subject, but unfortunately he fails to translate it to us. He should provide solution to homework so we can learn from our mistakes. Otherwise, it is impossible to do well. His tests are hard, but reasonable.

6-7-6

The teacher explained the concepts in a basic level then gave homework that required a lot more depth than the lectures. You had to go to office hours to find out how to do the problems. The tests were even harder than the homework.

8-8-6

Professor Biskup is a terrible lecturer and is very concerned about his students. However his homework is very hard so one needs to go to office hours to do well. Since homework problems cannot be discussed in discussions. This made the course a bit tough at times.

9-7-8

Professor Biskup has very good lectures that are clear and very understandable. Homework, however, can be ridiculously difficult and impossible to solve without going to office hours or spending the majority of your free time on it. Grading can also be very harsh, but overall this is a class I learned a lot in.

5-5-5

The examples were too simple relative to actual hw problems. Grading was a bit harsh; a little more leniency and partial credit would have helped.

3-3-7

The class was usually much more frustrating than it had to be. Everything from the homework assignments to the office hours was held in a much different manner from other classes. The intensity and complexity of Biskup's class in comparison to concurrent 32A courses is obscene.

7-7-4

The homework, while helpful in understanding concepts, was excessive. I consumed most of my homework time, and negatively affected the attention I could pay to my other classes.

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6-5-6

To much hw that didn't make sense without massive help.

6-3-7

Change your grading scale, allow more help on homework problems. Partial credit should show what students learn.

3-6-6

I like how he teaches in class, but the homework and tests are so different than any example he does in class. The homework is impossible. Corollary: The tests are impossible. I don't see the point of not letting us take notes in office hours. What the crap. Change the grading scale, too. Look at more than just the answer.

8-6-5

Your grading scale is the stupidest thing I've ever seen. It shows nothing about what students actually understand. We should also be able to take notes during office hours because your homework is really really hard

9-7-5

Professor Biskup is one of the best math teachers I've had. He has a gift for explaining things. However, the grading scale is horrendous. With no partial credit & such a steep curve (midterm out of 20 points!), the grades do not reflect what students have learned. Plus, quizzes are on the hardest questions on the homework. Fix the grading scale!

8-6-7

Available outside of class often, but not being able to take notes made it very difficult to understand all questions asked in discussion.

8-4-5

Let ppl write in OH, not everyone is a visual learner and if all they do is copy and never look @ it again, then let them do bad on the exams. And don't expect ppl to do "extra" problems when the homework problems you assign take 20 hours to do. Students have 2/3 other classes. Not everyone can make OH when they have full-time jobs to pay for school.

8-7-7

The tests should be more reasonable. The class is very hard especially compared to all other Math 32A classes. Tone it down. It is not fair that even though we learn more than other students with other professors, we end up with lower grades.

The entire class did horrible on the 2nd midterm so he decided to have 8-12 problems due every other day. NOT a good idea, especially since the problems are not out of the book and they are nothing like the ones in the book. It would help if he put the solutions online to help us see what we did wrong because there is not time to ask after it is due because everyone has questions on the new homework. He expects too much of us

8-9-7

The grading scale is pretty steep, making the class very difficult. The homework was hard, but office hours helped tremendously.

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MATH 32A, LEC 1 – Calculus of Several Variables (Cont'd)

8-9-8

The professor was well capable to address and fully understand our academic needs for the class. He was an excessively strict grader and the homework was sufficiently time consuming to take the balance away from my other classes. Overall view, good teacher with very high expectations.

8-6-2

The workload is a bit ridiculous at times. The instructor insists on offering problems that are commonly not referenced to or explained in the book. While the instructor is extremely intelligent & very good at his job, this problem needs to be realized & dealt with. Perhaps a database of math problems similar to what is offered can be credited so that they can be studied on a more independent basis rather than relying upon office hours for explanation

2-4-6

Please gear lectures towards applications of formulas to more complicated problems rather than using them to derive equations. Difficulty of exams is excessive, not even comparable to those problems which took the most time on the homework. Homework consistent studying is too much for one class (keep in mind that we are taking 2-3 other classes besides yours)
PARTIAL CREDIT WILL ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO WORK HARDER TO UNDERSTAND CONCEPTS FULLY.

5-7-5

The lectures are the best component of this class because Biskup solves many problems. His exams are extremely tough and is based off of very difficult home work problems. No partial credit makes it very hard to know what you did correctly on tests. Overall this class is extremely difficult and relies on perfection rather than continual learning.

7-8-8

Prof. Biskup is very clear, but his homework problems are very, very hard. I think the difficulty of the problems has more negative effects than positive ones. However, he's always available and willing to help us with homework outside of class room.
Over all, Prof. Biskup is pretty effective, but his homework makes him a less effective professor because the difficulty of the problems doesn't help

8-8-8

Very clear instructions, organized lecture
Homework is a bit too hard sometimes.

7-7-6

The homeworks took way too much time! Some problems were simply not worth the effort. Grading on midterms was too hard. It would be HELPFUL if answers to homework were posted after HW was turned in

5-5-5

Homework is a bit too much for type of class: gives problem the neither the TA's nor the teacher can solve.

6-5-8

He needs to let us take notes during office hours and his homework needs to be easier.

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9-9-9

He's a great professor. He goes over the material well and effectively

7-7-7

Everything was fine until after the 2nd midterm. I believe he handled the unsuccessfulness of the midterm the wrong way. Homework shouldn't be due at each lecture.

7-9-9

Homework is really tough. As are tests.

8-8-8

The teaching method is clear and effective but the homework requires more knowledge than the one taught during class. Office hours should be held at a bigger room than an office.

5-6-4

There is too much homework and not enough office hours. Not enough credit given to homework in overall grade of class.

8-9-7

Very straight forward, demanding.

9-9-9

Prof. Biskup's class has been really hard because of the sheer volume and difficulty of the homework assignments but he has been a really great professor and I feel as if I have learned a lot this quarter though my grade may not fully represent that.

2-2-6

Professor Biskup's course was horrible. The homework was too hard and the midterms were fair.

5-9-6

The test grading system is ridiculous! Only 2 pts?! And no partial credit is not fair. It's too hard. He knows his stuff but expect us to be where he is in knowledge. Evil!

Homework is excessively difficult, and the difficulty is far beyond what is covered in lecture.

5-6-7

Homework was too difficult and too frequent to be reasonably done and understood.