Course Evaluations – Priyam Patel

Below you will find the complete course evaluations for two courses I have taught in the past. The first set of evaluations is from a linear algebra course I taught at Purdue University in the spring of 2015. Most students in the class were sophomores and juniors with majors in mathematics, statistics, actuarial science, and computer science. The second set of evaluations is from the course "Topics in Math for the Liberal Arts", which I taught at Rutgers University in the fall of 2012. The students in this course were humanities and social sciences majors.

MATH Standard Instructor Survey
SP15 (2015)

Purdue University
West Lafayette

Course: MA35100 071 - Elem Linear Algebra   **Department:** MA

Responses / Expected: 23 / 40

MA35100 - 071

1a - Demographics	Responses							Course		
	F	**S**	**JR**	**SR**	**G**	**O**	**N**	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q1 YOUR CLASS	5	11	5	2	0	0	**23**	**2.1**	2	.87

Responses: [**F**] Fresh=1 [**S**] Soph=2 [**JR**] Jr=3 [**SR**] Sr=4 [**G**] Grad=5 [**O**] Other=6

MA35100 - 071

1a - Demographics	Responses								Course		
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**	**P**	**F**	**N**	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q2 EXPECTED GRADE	14	8	0	1	0	0	0	**23**	**6.7**	7	.71

Responses: [**A**] A=7 [**B**] B=6 [**C**] C=5 [**D**] D=4 [**F**] F=3 [**P**] Pass=2 [**F**] Fail=1

MA35100 - 071

1a - Demographics	Responses				Course		
	RFY	**RBS**	**E**	**N**	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q3 COURSE REQUIRED	22	1	0	**23**	**1.0**	1	.20

Responses: [**RFY**] Required for your major/minor=1 [**RBS**] Required by school/University=2 [**E**] Elective=3

MA35100 - 071

1a - Demographics	Responses												Course		
	AG	**ED**	**E**	**HHS**	**LA**	**M**	**P**	**SCI**	**T**	**VM**	**U**	**N**	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q4 YOUR SCHOOL	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	1	**23**	**6.0**	4	1.57

Responses: [**AG**] AG=11 [**ED**] ED=10 [**E**] ENGR=9 [**HHS**] HHS=8 [**LA**] LA=7 [**M**] MGMT=6 [**P**] PHARM=5 [**SCI**] SCI=4 [**T**] TECH=3 [**VM**] VET MED=2 [**U**] UNDECLARED=1

MA35100 - 071

2a - University questions about your course	Responses						Course		
	E	**G**	**F**	**P**	**VP**	**N**	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev

Q5 Overall, I would rate this course as: 16   5   2   0   0   **23**   **4.8**   5   .64

Responses: [**E**] Excellent=5 [**G**] Good=4 [**F**] Fair=3 [**P**] Poor=2 [**VP**] Very Poor=1

Patel, Priyam S

2b - University questions about your instructor		**Responses**					**Individual**		
	E	G	F	P	VP	N	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q6 Overall, I would rate this instructor as:	19	4	0	0	0	**23**	**4.9**	5	.38

Responses: [**E**] Excellent=5 [**G**] Good=4 [**F**] Fair=3 [**P**] Poor=2 [**VP**] Very Poor=1

Patel, Priyam S

3c - PICES instructor based questions		**Responses**					**Individual**		
	SA	A	U	D	SD	N	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q7 My instructor takes my views and comments seriously.	15	8	0	0	0	**23**	**4.7**	5	.48

Responses: [**SA**] Strongly Agree=5 [**A**] Agree=4 [**U**] Undecided=3 [**D**] Disagree=2 [**SD**] Strongly Disagree=1

MA35100 - 071

MATH questions about your course		**Responses**					**Course**		
	SA	A	U	D	SD	N	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q8 The book was clear and readable.	9	10	1	3	0	**23**	**4.3**	4	.97
Q9 The book's examples helped me complete the assignments.	9	10	2	2	0	**23**	**4.3**	4	.90
Q10 The course improved my mathematical skills and understanding.	14	7	1	1	0	**23**	**4.7**	5	.77
Q11 The course increased my interest in mathematics.	11	6	5	1	0	**23**	**4.4**	5	.92

Responses: [**SA**] Strongly Agree=5 [**A**] Agree=4 [**U**] Undecided=3 [**D**] Disagree=2 [**SD**] Strongly Disagree=1

MA35100 - 071

MATH questions about your course		**Responses**					**Course**		
	TD	SD	AR	SE	TE	N	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q12 The course was:	1	10	12	0	0	**23**	**3.5**	3	.58

Responses: [**TD**] too difficult=5 [**SD**] somewhat difficult=4 [**AR**] about right=3 [**SE**] somewhat easy=2 [**TE**] too easy=1

MA35100 - 071

MATH questions about your course		**Responses**					**Course**		
	E	G	F	P	VP	N	**Grp Med**	Mode	Std Dev
Q13 Overall, I rate this textbook as:	6	12	3	2	0	**23**	**4.0**	4	.86

Responses: [**E**] Excellent=5 [**G**] Good=4 [**F**] Fair=3 [**P**] Poor=2 [**VP**] Very Poor=1

	MATH questions about your instructor		Patel, Priyam S								
			Responses						Individual		
		SA	A	U	D	SD	N	Grp Med	Mode	Std Dev
Q14	My instructor shows respect for me and other students in this class.	17	6	0	0	0	23	4.8	5	.44
Q15	My instructor is open to students' questions.	17	6	0	0	0	23	4.8	5	.44
Q16	My instructor encourages an atmosphere where ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	17	4	1	0	0	22	4.9	5	.54
Q17	My instructor was well-prepared and organized in class.	20	3	0	0	0	23	4.9	5	.34
Q18	My instructor gave clear and helpful explanations.	19	3	0	0	0	22	4.9	5	.34
Q19	My instructor was reasonably available to help students outside class.	17	5	1	0	0	23	4.8	5	.55
Q20	My instructor gave exams which accurately reflected the course material.	17	3	2	0	0	22	4.9	5	.63
Q21	My instructor graded exams fairly.	17	3	2	0	0	22	4.9	5	.63

Responses: [**SA**] Strongly Agree=5 [**A**] Agree=4 [**U**] Undecided=3 [**D**] Disagree=2 [**SD**] Strongly Disagree=1

Q22 - We welcome your written comments below. What is something/are some things that the instructor does well, e.g., something you hope that the instructor will continue to do in the class in the future?

Faculty: Patel, Priyam S

Response Rate: 47.83% (**11** of **23**)

- She was very organized in presenting the material in class. She explained all concepts understandably. Her exams were difficult enough, but reflected what we learned. We always knew what to expect on the exam and we took time to review in class which was very helpful. Also, not having to formally prove things leveled the playing field for those of us who hadn't taken an analysis course or done proofs before.

Professor Patel very clearly covers all course material and shows proofs for almost all theorems used in the course, with the only theorems not proved being ones very difficult to prove with the knowledge level of the class. The proofs help me understand the concepts much better than merely discussing the topics, as seeing how and why the concepts covered work helps with both conceptual and theoretical applications of the topics, as I can reason out why certain things work the way that they do.

- Professor Patel also has students work together on some problems in class, and gives time to work on examples, allowing the class to learn through our own thought instead of just being told. This helps with learning and truly understanding material covered in the course. Having us work on an issue lets me learn the solutions my way, which cements the content in my mind. Professor Patel does cover the content after class discussion to make sure that all students do know the material as well, meaning that issues can be corrected and people who could not work out the issue on their own can still learn the topic.

Having homework due once every week is also nice for time management, as it lets me finish work either as I get it, or when I can allot time. The feedback that the homework provides on knowledge of material also helps quite a bit with preparation for exams.

Overall, I would say that the course covered all material very well and taught me what I needed to learn in such a way that I both understood the content and enjoyed learning it.

Everything the instructor did, she did well. I am in a unique position to commend her since I took this same class 2.5 years ago and hated it, and I am taking this class a second time to boost my GPA. Because it was so long ago, I forgot everything about linear algebra, and it was basically like taking it for the first time again, which wasn't hard because I didn't learn it well the first time. The first time I received a C+, and this time I expect to receive an A, and I would say Prof Patel is the majority of the reason why I will be receiving an A. She made the material understandable and

'provided me with the tools to succeed' as cliché as that is.

-She selected an amazing book, much better than the old one.

-I feel like she assigned homework with care and purpose to aid us in learning the subject and not just cram in a bunch of problems.

-She explained things well in class, and only went into greater detail where need be. (She gave us proofs that would help in our understanding, and didn't just proof everything, giving us confusing material that wouldn't be of help)

- -Her use of in class group exercises made a lot of difference as well (Which for someone like me who doesn't enjoy group work, will admit I'm glad she forced me to participate)

-The pace at which class was run was very appropriate for the material, she was very keen at spending the correct amount of time necessary to master a topic as well as spending extra time on important items that formed the basis for later learning.

-The review sheet she gave was very beneficial, not that it gave us the basis for all the questions, but that it stressed the key concepts that would need to be understood to answer any type of question for concept

-Her enthusiasm and desire for us to learn was above and beyond. What really struck me was that she had to miss a class, she would not allow a substitute teacher take her place in fear that he/she might teach us the material in a confusing way

Ranoutofspace

Professor Patel is an excellent instructor. She is very knowledgable on the subject of linear algebra. She did an
- excellent job of explaining topics clearly and providing great examples. Her exams were always fair, and overall she is a great professor.

- prof has a great understanding of the material. can communicate it very well and makes a complicated subject very understandable

- Keep it up. Best teacher I've had so far at Purdue, hands down.

The best math professor I have had at Purdue. Clearly very well prepared and gave examples that really helped my
- understanding. I appreciated the overall atmosphere of the class and would definitely reccomend Prof. Patel to anyone taking the class in the future.

- I really enjoyed the class, and I felt that you explained difficult concepts really well, allowing students to learn the material.

By far and away the best teacher I have ever had at Purdue. She explains the material well and is very open to
- questions. She promotes working together to solve problems instead of competition like other classes. She made a point to learn everyone's names and use them throughout class which is amazing.

- none

Professor Patel is the best instructor I have had in my life. Literally. I remember one time at the very beginning of the semester, the first day of class, I believe, that stands out specifically as an example of her skill. She gave us an example problem to do and told us to look at it then work together on it. So, we all looked at the problem and didn't really know what we were doing, but then just sort of say there quietly because we were all really nervous to be the first one talking in front of our new professor. Recognizing this, Professor Patel slyly told us she "had to go do something" and walked into the hall. Almost immediately upon her departure students started turning and talking to
- each other, so that by the time she returned a minute later we were all talking and figuring out how to do the problem she assigned us, exactly what she wanted to happen.

Furthermore, making her students discuss problems with each other was one of the most helpful things she did while teaching this course. It greatly improved my understanding of the material and I know it helped others as well. Without Professor Patel encouraging discussion in class, I would not have been able to learn nearly as well. Professor Patel is an amazing teacher, and my only complaint is that now all my other instructors seem sub-par in comparison.

Q23 - Make a suggestion(s) for improving the course (a criticism alone is not helpful; tell your instructor how you would fix any problem).

Faculty: **Patel, Priyam S**

Response Rate: **34.78**% (**8** of **23**)

- Honestly, I have no suggestions. The course was great.

- The only recommendation I have is to perhaps offer the classes during dead week after our final as optional, to cover extra topics that you wish to cover but didn't have time for, as I know that I would be very interested in attending the extras to learn any extra bits of theory that we ended up running out of time for.

  I enjoyed the course and I wouldn't change a thing.

  To continue my comments on what she did well because I ran out of space... Just one more

- -She was strict but in a good way, she kept her class focused and I thought it was important that she enforced her no cellphone policy and continually called people out who were on their phones to pay attention.

  I normally don't write much in the written comments, but I hope the time I put into this review is noticed because she honestly deserves the highest rating she can receive. She has been by far the best math instructor I've had at this university.

- I think that the instructor talk to fast, I think that I would be able to understand more if she talk slower.

- No suggestions needed. Excellent course and instructor.

- The one thing that I would say is don't just assume that because groups did the examples that everybody got the same answer. There were often times when my group said that they had an answer and I was still trying to figure out how to do the problem and they were not willing to help. While that is not your fault, I would suggest doing some of the examples on the board to make sure that everyone is on the same page!

- none.

- none

Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating Survey
Fall 2012 (Online Survey)

01:640:103:07   09152   Patel Priyam
        ENROLL=   41   RESP= 26 (63%)

PART A: UNIVERSITY-WIDE QUESTIONS:	STRONGLY DISAGREE 1	2	NEUTRAL 3	4	STRONGLY AGREE 5	# OF NO RESPONSES	MEAN OF SECTION	MEAN OF COURSE	MEAN OF DEPT	MEAN OF LEVEL
1. The instructor was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner	0	1	2	5	18	0	4.54	4.44	4.21	4.18
2. The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions	0	2	1	5	18	0	4.50	4.38	4.09	4.05
3. The instructor generated interest in the course material	0	1	2	6	17	0	4.50	4.17	3.95	3.94
4. The instructor had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material	0	0	1	2	23	0	4.85	4.56	4.23	4.21
5. The instructor assigned grades fairly	0	1	4	6	15	0	4.35	4.33	4.14	4.12
6. The instructional methods encouraged student learning	0	1	2	7	16	0	4.46	4.14	3.85	3.82
7. I learned a great deal in this course	2	0	3	6	15	0	4.23	3.99	3.83	3.78
8. I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course	9	6	5	1	5	0	2.50	2.54	3.47	3.40

	POOR			EXCELLENT						
9. I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as	0	1	1	8	16	0	4.50	4.24	3.86	3.83
10. I rate the overall quality of the course as	0	1	3	10	12	0	4.27	4.03	3.79	3.75

What do you like best about this course?:

"The professor really made the class enjoyable and I looked forward to going to class because of Priyam."

"It was easy or at least she made it easy."

"She went slowly and explained step-by-step how to do the problems so that we'd understand. "

"She was very attentive to students, and helped any student who did not understand the subject."

"The instructor"

"Priyam's love the the subject. Not common that you get a teacher so passionate about what he/she does. Made it worth coming to class."

"The skills I learned will be very useful later in life."

"Priyam keeps the class light hearted and exciting while also teaching the necessary materials."

"Priyam was the best part of the course. I never enjoyed math or found it very useful, but Priyam was very optimistic and helpful about everything. She was fair in her testing and took time to actually explain everything. "

"She was extremely friendly and willing to help and reasonable"

"Being called Batman."

"The information taught was interesting material."

"I liked having the notes pre-made for class, it made it easier to follow the concepts that were being presented. I also liked having weekly quizzes"

"Priyam did a great job at engaging our past misconceptions about mathematics and challenged us to make new opinions. She is very energetic and passionate about the material, which makes her seem more approachable to students. "

"The professor was very willing to help any student who needed extra help. She is a warm and very kind professor"

"The information was always clearly presented in class. I was pleased with the amount of homework each week. It was just enough to cover all the material learned in class. If I did the homework, I would practice what we learned and during/after completing the homework I would immediately know if I needed more help with the concepts."

"Fun material and overall it was well presented."

"The professor was very help, made the material easy to understand"

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?:

"I would have the homework graded based on if you completed it or not, instead of having it graded based on whether you got the answer correct or wrong."

"Nothing"

"nothing "

"She taught it just how it should be taught. The one thing I would say is she spoke a little fast sometimes, but that was most likely out of excitement."

"Nothing."

"I dont like having to submit math homework online."

"nothing she was perfect"

"Nothing. "

"I would have less homeworks and more quizzes "

"Nothing, keep it the way it is"

"Nothing! Priyam did it perfectly!"

"I wouldn't break the chapters up the way they are, I think the last chapter on graph theory feels really forced into the course as opposed to the others."

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?:

"The instructor has encouraged me to learn about different types of math."

"Nope"

"I actually did my math homework "

"I really strongly hate math, but she tried to make it as easy as possible not only in class, but took time out of her schedule to be on sakai chat and help students online."

"The instructor was very motivated and showed a real interest in trying to get her students to learn. I'm not fond of math, but I am glad Instructor Priyam Patel was teaching me."

"I can now do quick little interest calculations on the fly."

"She made the material interesting and presented it with a fun attitude to keep the class focused."

"Ive learned a lot."

"She made me enjoy math to some extent. I never mind going to this class because it encouraged me to learn. "

"I actually kind of like math more now! I'm encouraged to know basic things that the average person may not know but should know"

"Makes math fun. "

"I learned some aspects in math that I never thought I would enjoy"

"Priyam was an extremely enthusiastic teacher and constantly motivated the class. She was always appeared happy and excited to teach each day she came to class. I actually enjoyed attending class twice a week! "

Other comments or suggestions::

"Priyam Patel was the best professor I have ever had at Rutgers University!"

"Shes pretty"

"she was great"

"I add/dropped this course a few semesters ago because I felt that the previous professor did not want to help her students learn. After taking it completely this semester, although my grade could be better, the professor really helped me improve my math skills and overall math grade because she took the time to teach the information."

"Keep up the good work."

"She's a keeper!"

"Great professor. "

"I enjoyed it!"

"Only thing I would change is the exams. I think it would benefit the students if the Final Exam was not cumulative. The class could have a mid-term and non cumulative final. Or three non-cumulative exams."

file:///Users/Priyam/Documents/Rutgers%202013%20docs/Some%20Course%20Evals/SIRS_Fall-2012_01_640_103_07-Patel_Priyam.html

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