

Course Evaluations

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Course Evaluations

Wabash College

The following are part of an anonymous course evaluation questionnaire that is distributed at the end of each semester. Each question is based on the scale: 1 = not at all ... 10 = very much.

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9
Precalculus	Fall 2006	9.1	9.5	9.9	9.7	6.7	9.4	9.1	8.9	7.7
Calculus I	Fall 2007	9.5	9.9	10	9.7	7.0	8.8	9.2	9.1	8.6
Calculus I	Spr 2007	9.2	9.6	9.9	9.1	7.4	9.3	9.4	9.1	8.5
Calculus I	Spr 2006	9.3	9.8	9.9	9.6	6.9	8.6	9.4	9.0	7.4
Calculus I	Fall 2005	8.7	9.4	9.6	9.6	7.2	8.6	9.1	8.7	8.3
Calculus I	Spr 2005	9.2	9.9	9.9	9.9	7.7	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.3
Calculus II	Fall 2007	9.2	9.6	9.7	9.5	8.2	8.5	9.6	8.8	9.2
Calculus II	Spr 2007	9.7	9.9	10	9.1	9.0	9.6	9.9	9.4	9.1
Calculus II	Fall 2006	8.7	9.8	9.6	9.7	6.7	8.6	9.3	8.9	8.3
Calculus II	Spr 2005	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.8	8.0	9.7	9.3	9.3	8.2
Calculus II	Fall 2004	8.3	9.4	9.6	9.8	6.6	8.2	7.9	9.1	8.1
Linear Algebra	Spr 2007	9.4	9.7	9.9	9.2	8.4	8.9	9.3	9.7	9.3
Linear Algebra	Spr 2005	9.0	9.6	9.5	9.5	7.0	8.7	9.4	8.5	7.6
Diff. Eq.	Spr 2006	9.4	9.8	9.9	9.7	8.5	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.1
PDEs	Fall 2007	10	10	10	9.8	10	10	10	10	10
PDEs	Fall 2005	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Numerical Analysis	Fall 2006	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.6	8.5	9.7	9.7	9.0	9.5

Questions about the Instructor

Q1 Lectures are organized and well-prepared

Q2 Instructor is well-prepared

Q3 Instructor is enthusiastic

Q4 Instructor is accessible outside class

Questions about the Course

Q5 Material is interesting

Q6 Assignments are relevant

Q7 Grading policies are fair

Q8 Workload is appropriate

Q9 I enjoy this class

University of Colorado

All courses at the University of Colorado are evaluated anonymously and the summaries are posted by the university. Below are the summaries for courses and recitations I taught there. To see these in the context of all courses in the Applied Math department see

http://www.colorado.edu/pba/fcq/by_coll/as/appm.html.

Subject: APPM -Applied Mathematics
 Course Types: Lecture/Seminar/Studio/Main lab

Course #	Term	Number		Course		Fair		Work	Diversity	Course
		Enrl	Ret'd	Instr		Access				
APPM-1350	Spr03	44	22	B+	A	B+	A	5.9	A	CALC 1 for Engin.
APPM-2350	Sum02	26	16	B+	A+	A-	A	5.5	A+	CALC 3 for Engin.
APPM-2350	Spr01	24	20	B+	A	A+	A+	5.5	A+	RECITATION
APPM-2350	Fal00	19	14	B	A-	B+	B	5.6		RECITATION
APPM-2350	Fal00	24	17	B	A+	B	B	5.8	A	RECITATION

Average ratings are based on a scale of A = very good ... F = very poor.

Course Rating	“Rate this course compared to all your other university courses.”
Instructor Rating	“Rate this instructor compared to all your other university instructors.”
Fair Grading	“Rate fairness of grading policies.”
Accessibility	“Rate accessibility of instructor.”
Workload	“Rate workload relative to the credit given.” For this item the scale is 1 = too light, 5 = OK, 9 = too heavy.
Student Diversity	“Rate instructor’s treatment of ethnic minority and female students.”

Student Comments

The following student comments are from anonymous, end-of-semester questionnaires. Most responses are from an open-ended question asking for a comment about the instructor or course. Responses here have been transcribed verbatim (including spelling mistakes).

Numerical Analysis, Wabash, Fall 2006 (enrollment: 11 students)

Interaction and flexibility with students (keep it up).

I enjoyed working and getting to know my group. It pushed me to know the material so I did not feel like I was the weak link. If I did not understand something, my group members could help me then if I need more help I would ask you.

He is always available to talk when a student needs help, and his lectures always do a good job of explaining very loaded and difficult language within the text in simpler, easier to understand notes and examples that clarify difficulties.

This class did a good job of showing application of the material outside of the classroom in the workplace.

Continue group homework. I think it really challenges the students and makes us think and apply ourselves.

The class atmosphere (was) very relaxed.

He motivated us continuously with jokes, class discussions related to numerical analysis (applications) and hard work solving problems with algorithms.

Continue problem sets and presentations.

Homework really helped me learn.

Partial Differential Equations, Wabash, Fall 2007 (enrollment: 6 students)

He was very patient when we wouldn't understand something both in and outside class.

Very good outside of class, very good at describing and showing the material. No complaints.

I like how you take us step by step through derivations, then give us examples, make HW and material much easier to understand and doable.

Very easy to follow lecture. Fair grading and test material. The material is very interesting.

Absolutely great, I learned a lot, I became interested and passionate about the subject, I want to take more classes on the subject. Don't change anything.

This class was a real treat.

Make going through derivation easy as he refreshes old concepts nicely. Lectures were easy to follow.

Partial Differential Equations, Wabash, Fall 2005 (enrollment: 2 students)

This class was very good in that the professor made the material very interesting to learn. His lectures were very helpful as well as the notes given. His enthusiasm had a positive impact in the way the material was taught and I hope he will continue to have these positive impacts on his future students.

(The best part of the course was) Finally making a connection from math to the real world. I understand how math can be incorporated into everything in some way. Maybe not a full understanding, but I definitely buy into it now.

Differential Equations, Wabash, Spring 2006 (enrollment: 23 students)

I would encourage him to keep his lectures organized and to be enthusiastic and tell jokes in class.

Class and lecture styles were a refreshing change from calc and linear.

Difficult material was presented in an enthusiastic manner that blunted the challenge somewhat.

He was well organized, well prepared and enthusiastic. His energy made an 8:00am class bearable.

He was a good enthusiastic teacher...my favorite class to come to even though it was at 8.

Keep doing everything. The lectures are helpful. The quizzes are great and the tests really test our understanding.

I really liked the instruction. Going through the method totally and walking through examples was the best for us to learn.... Thanks for a well taught class.

I really think this course is perfect the way it is.

You're a great professor and even better person. I feel as though you're among the top in the department in both categories.

His lectures are very organized and helpful. Every time I went to Goodrich, he was available for help.

You did an excellent job in explaining new material step-by-step.

His enthusiasm for the class and willingness to help whenever is tremendous.

I always enjoyed his positive attitude. He always appeared prepared for class and was always in a good mood. Although corny, his jokes were able to lighten the mood. He always presented the material in an organized fashion and was able to laugh if he made a mistake. I'm having a hard time thinking of something he should change.

Linear Algebra, Wabash, Spring 2007 (enrollment: 20 students)

I would say that he made the class very interesting and transmitted his enthusiasm to the students. There's nothing I would change.

Coming to class everyday was a treat to me.

Very enthusiastic, kept attention, helped and controlled pace to stay on task.

He was very enthusiastic about teaching, was very easy to get a hold of for help, and presented the subject very well.

Very clear and detailed lecture.

Good excitement about the material and explanation of difficult things.

Class discussion was encouraging.

He has a good attitude about teaching and is receptive to students in and out of class.

Great office hours, good lecture, homework was relevant and not too heavy.

Really the best math class I've had. If they were all this good, I would be a math major.

Notes and proofs were very well prepared.

He was enthusiastic and tried to make class interesting.

He should continue telling jokes. He should get better jokes.

I think you should keep teaching at this school. Though this course was tough for me you helped me out alot. Thank you.

Linear Algebra, Wabash, Spring 2005 (enrollment: 17 students)

Please continue the bad jokes. Professor Westphal knows how to control the pace of a class. Bad jokes and worksheets keep the class engaged, even at 8:30 am.

Best math course I have ever taken in my college career.

I could always count on him to be in his office pretty much whenever I stopped by during business hours. His organization of the lectures were very logical and easy to follow. The occasional terrible jokes in class kept us all sane.

It's a shame Prof. Westphal isn't on tenure-track here. He is an excellent professor, and it will be a great loss to the college when he leaves.

Telling jokes in the middle of the lecture should continue.

I liked the take-home tests, less stressful, I could work on them when I had the time.

Helped me develop my own ways to prove theorems.

Continue—take home exams, work load, just about everything.

His energy and enthusiasm is something I really like. I would like to change his harsh policies on late HW.

I like the take home exams. I generally take my time and those help.

He was always available and knew how to help.

The problem solving component to the proofs were valuable.

Learning about the different aspects of computers and other stuff that linear algebra effects was the best part of the class.

Teaching style is effective. No complaints.

I think he had really good lectures, he was well prepared and enthusiastic about his work. He is a fair grader and assigns a perfect workload.

There isn't anything I would change about his teaching techniques.

Calculus II, Wabash, Fall 2007 (enrollment: 13 students)

The study sessions were a big help before exams.

Upbeat vibrant lectures helped keep the interest level high.

Corny jokes are good, also continue to offer as much outside help as you have, that's awesome.

I wouldn't change anything except have a wider variety of example problems in class.

Needs to continue teaching, study sessions. Change—Ummm needs a snazzier over the top “zoot suit”.

Being enthusiastic and accessible made the class much more enjoyable and conducive to learning.

The emphasis on drawing really helped me alot. Probably one of the most important things I learned.

Your availability outside of class was very helpful.

Projects were a fun way to apply our learning in a possible real-world situation.

Very interactive in class, made an enjoyable experience.

I liked the study sessions and assignments. I appreciated and learned much from the projects.

It [was] always just really helpful getting help outside class and review sessions before tests.

I was satisfied with all aspects of his teaching style.

Calculus II, Wabash, Spring 2007 (enrollment: 10 students)

Excellent.

He made math interesting, fun and easy. I would change nothing.

Help outside class was excellent.

I enjoyed the projects even though they were challenging.

I think it was good, I am looking forward to more math classes.

He's quirky, keep it up. Always available. I wouldn't recommend change.

The only thing that would better this course is soft-serve ice cream, this course was pretty good.

I felt that professor Westphal was excellent all semester. The class was excellent!

He was very encouraging and helpful.

Was fun and made calculus bearable.

Professor Westphal's jokes, and his teaching style (was the best part of the course).

Calculus II, Wabash, Fall 2006 (enrollment: 20 students)

I liked how he always tried to get everyone to participate. However I would have him tell less bad jokes.

Prof. Westphal's attitude toward class—he always seemed enthusiastic about math and teaching it.

He was very accessible outside class and was very helpful when approached.

Lots of effort to involve students in class.

The projects were good applications of the skills learned in class. Keep doing those. The dumb jokes were ok, even though the class never responded.

There never was a completely dull moment.

I enjoyed the jokes in class—keep them coming.

I enjoyed being able to see where underlying theories of mathematics come from.

His jokes are amusing and he has a good attitude in class that makes class more engaging.

I liked his style of teaching and would encourage him to continue.

Good for helping outside class. Very accessible and personable. Could use some better jokes, though.

Calculus II, Wabash, Spring 2005 (enrollment: 8 students)

Many profs here say they care about the student and how they perform. For many this is a statement. For you, I truly feel you cared about each student's performance in the class. Your accessibility and willingness to help has been unmatched by any other prof I have had here at Wabash. Keep up the good work. I also really enjoyed the projects. Thank Drs. R.M. Pitts and Cris P. Bacon for me.

Pretty darn good as is. Wabash is lucky to have you.

Warn students on the first day of class the difficulty of the class.

I would encourage him to keep up his enthusiasm. It makes the class quite enjoyable.

the humor in the room: everyone felt at ease and was ready to learn.

Good Lecture.

The lectures were well put together and easy to understand. I wouldn't change anything.

Calculus II, Wabash, Fall 2004 (enrollment: 14 students)

He is extremely accessible.

I thought he made himself very available, and that was very helpful.

Enthusiatic, willing to spend time out of class.

Great class, Thank you Dr. Westphal.

Alls good.

It was a well constructed class and he was a good professor.

Dr. Westphal was always accessible for help as well as answering questions that allowed me to do the thinking.

Great teaching, keep that up!

Always available outside of class; patient; could relate material well. Not much to change. Was available even 15 minutes before class.

the overall laid-backness of the class was the best part of the class.

He was always willing to help outside class which was a great help.

I really enjoyed the projects.

Calculus I, Wabash, Fall 2007 (enrollment: 25 students)

He is very well-prepared.

I enjoyed the lectures they were helpful and fun.

He met with me several times outside of class.

He was very approachable.

Enthusiasm in class was always appreciated.

Lectures are very helpful.

He's available. He taught the course with enthusiasm.

Made the learning fun and class enjoyable.

He seemed enthusiastic.

Keeps the class interesting like joke time. It's more than just calculus. I liked the projects.

I appreciated his willingness to help outside class. I would only change to a slower speed for teaching.

His jokes are pretty awesome. I enjoyed the projects and the practical skills it taught me.

Good job, made the class interesting enough to stay awake.

The fun we had in class [was the best part of the course].

I like the jokes there is room for more.

Calculus I, Wabash, Spring 2007 (enrollment: 35 students)

I thought it was perfect, it was engaging and I enjoyed it b/c I felt I understood the material.

The jokes and how they were relevant to the lectures (was the best part of the course).

He was very interactive with his students. He always encouraged them to get involved.

He was enthusiastic about everything and was always there when you need him. I wouldn't really change anything.

liked the teaching style.

Being extremely enthusiastic at 8:00 am was great, change nothing.

I enjoy the way he teaches. I learned an enormous amount of material this semester.

Keep the jokes.

Helpful and available to students.

Lessons are well prepared.

He was always uplifting and dealt with us in our 8am. He made the class interesting and I probably learned the most from this class.

He was a great teacher who took the time to teach the material.

Reading questions really get you thinking ahead. Fun class and review sessions.

Calculus is not very interesting, but he did a good job of making it as good as possible.

He was always willing to help.

Keep being really enthusiastic and telling jokes.

He was always prepared and enthusiastic for an 8am which really helped. I seldom missed class because I looked forward to class.

I really enjoy your teaching style and don't think you should change anything.

He did a really good job because he kept the course challenging yet manageable. Lectures help tremendously.

He is very energetic.

He made the class great, there's nothing about it I would change.

The best math teacher I've had. I hope you stay.

Very helpful all the time.

He should continue to be available and break the tension with a joke every now and then. Being well-prepared and organized was helpful.

I would encourage the instructor to continue with math competitions as they serve to lessen some stress.

Calculus I, Wabash, Spring 2006 (enrollment: 18 students)

I would encourage him to continue to be excited about the material. I had this class with a different professor that was very monotone and apathetic. Dr. Westphal made this much more enjoyable and engaging. Best class experience I've had at Wabash so far.

Outside class help was amazing, he was always available.

Continue telling jokes in class, it helps keep peoples attention, especially those who don't like math.

The real world applications that the projects show makes everything seem a little more relevant.

The professor did a good job of remaining enthusiastic and breaking down the material into baby steps so that it could be understood.

I liked how prepared he was for his lectures, his creative projects and how much help he offered. I do not think the course could be improved much at all.

He pretty much did everything right. I don't really have any complaints about the class.

Continue to use groups and class participation.

Structured responsible atmosphere, not overbearing but stable.

He helps out on anything. He tried to hide behind Owen Cash. You are him don't lie!

Continue review sessions before exams. Continue projects.

Calculus I, Wabash, Fall 2005 (enrollment: 29 students)

Good explanations, well organized, good approach.

The instructor did everything very well. The only potential change would be the length of test.

(The best part of the course was) knowing that I could go to the office hours if I needed it and the laid back atmosphere.

Very nice, great personality as a math prof. Knew subject matter well enough that it made it easier to learn for us (in high school for me this didn't happen).

More information than any other math course I've been in. Great outside help, as well as the projects were fun. Oh yes, and your jokes.

He loves to teach, does a wonderful job of explaining things, and goes above and beyond the call to help students.

(the instructor was) enthusiastic about topics.

Material related to real life situations very well.

Continue class just as it is.

Get better jokes, but stay enthusiastic.

He was open for study sessions, which was good.

I liked the study sessions and would encourage them. Some problems on tests were just far too advanced for what we were taught and read in the books. Instructor is well-instructed on derivatives.

Very good course structure and enthusiasm.

The structure was well-balanced and the instructor easy to follow.

Please continue with jokes and open-office hours. I can't think of much to exchange except for a tad bit more homework to secure our knowledge.

He was always ready and willing to hold review review sessions before tests.

The atmosphere was always relaxed and interesting.

Even when teaching a class of sarcastic and obnoxious freshman guys, you manage to remain enthusiastic in all aspects.

The instructor did very well at making this class interesting.

More jokes. Stay the same. I had taken calculus before but you helped me understand it.

The instructor made learning fun as well as multiple opportunities to improve grades.

I liked being able to get help in the morning before class since it is hard to find time for math before night before class.

I understand his explanations during lecture and felt confident on most tests, some skill I'm just now acquiring in math.

Continue: jokes, personality, review sessions.

The instructor was very understanding, especially when unforeseen circumstances came up. The best part was being able to do group work, not only on projects, but also on the quizzes.

Calculus I, Wabash, Spring 2005 (enrollment: 23 students)

He's enthusiastic, and easy to understand.

The Prof. was very helpful in explaining the material, in class and out of class.

Don't change your teaching style at all. He's probably the best teacher, not just math teacher that I have ever had. I'm not sure what it is about his approach that allowed me to grasp.

I liked that he gave projects to keep us interested, and helped outside of class whenever needed.

The best part was the projects, they were challenging, but at the same time brought reasoning for learning calc.

I really thought this course was taught perfectly. It was so well taught that really anything that was new was easy to learn because the stuff we learned earlier was fresh and could be applied to the new material.

Accessibility is unmatched by any teacher I have ever had.

He was always approachable and willing to help.

The material was interesting and the professor presented it in a way that was easy to understand.

I would encourage him to continue with his current teaching style. He's quite personable in and out of class, yet he still upholds solid professional reserve.

made things very easy to understand. If we did the work - we understood the material. He was very helpful.

Continue connecting with the class through jokes.

He was available whenever needed.

He was very helpful and accessible outside of class.

Enthusiasm and helpfulness of professor was the best part of the course.

Continue to bring sense of humor to the classroom.

He was always available and he was very understanding of a personal situation of mine.

He made math/calc a subject that I would be interested in continuing. Prof was always available so I never had to use QSC.

as good as math gets.

Precalculus, Wabash, Fall 2006 (enrollment: 33 students)

Very helpful. fun.

Everything you did I enjoyed, the review the day before the test was very helpful.

Professor Westphal, very helpful every day outside of class, very well presented.

His out of class help is very helpful.

The way he taught the class knowing all the material beforehand. Being very knowledgeable. (should be continued).

He continued to be himself and hold control of the class. I wouldn't change anything.

The interaction between class and instructor (was the best part of the course).

He taught the course well and tried to make things simple, which was good. Some of the material is tough but he did a good job explaining.

Lectures are well prepared and discussed.

Jokes actually help class. Keep doing what you have been doing.

He was enthusiastic and taught people even if they didn't know what was going on.

(I) like enthusiasticness.

The humor was great.

I really enjoyed you as an instructor.

He is very helpful and easy to talk to and find in his office for help. Continue to tell crappy jokes.

Works well with all of us and always there for help outside of class!

The instructor did his best to get us interested in the course and to be able to understand the information.

The instructor seems to be very concerned with the well-being of the students.

Keep the jokes, the only thing I would ask you change is the manner in which the problems appear in tests, the structure of the problems shouldn't be too radically different.

The instructor knows all the material and is always willing to meet with us to discuss the information.

Being able to go in and get help from the professor anytime (was the best part of the course).

Turning in homework until 4:00 pm (good). Practice questions for exams and key (good).

Nothing that you could change would make it better.

Calculus III for Engineers, CU, Summer 2002 (enrollment: ~ 25 students)

First and foremost, I think that you are the best math teacher I have ever had at a collegiate level, if not at any level. You seem to have a great gift by making higher level math intuitive. I don't know what your plans for the future are, but I do hope that they include teaching at some level, because you definitely have a gift for teaching. I had struggled with calc III tremendously until this time around.

Chad did an excellent job explaining and presenting course material. His teaching capabilities are much better than the professors who teach Calculus III during the year.

The instructor gave excellent explanations.

Chad is a better instructor than most professors I have had.

Helped me to actually comprehend Calc 3.

Awesome teacher. Great way of teaching. I actually understand what is going on.

This was the best math course I have had at this University.

Chad did a great job explaining the material in class.

Calculus I for Engineers, CU, Spring 2003 (enrollment: ~ 30 students)

Good job teaching the course.

Chad was a great professor. He presented the material well.

Good Lecture.

Chad was really good about answering questions.

Office hours helped out alot and Chad was more than willing to go over material one-on-one.

Presented material clearly and in a common sense manner.

The teacher was very competent. He knew what he was talking, which was very helpful.

Chad did a great job of explaining the material, so that it's understandable.

Chad is an excellent instructor.

Chad Westphal → Clarification of course material was excellent!!

Chad 'decoded' the book, giving applications before explanations, sometimes, so we could see the example and then understand how to generalize.

Chad is great and very accessible. I was worried about this course, but his instruction made it understandable and less frustrating - Thank You!

Chad was a fantastic instructor. He genuinely cared about our progress and seemed to really enjoy teaching.

Sometimes the homework seemed a little overboard but it was good for us.

Physics II, TCC, Summer 2000 (enrollment: ~10 students)

Physics has never been a real joy to me, but I just wanted to let you know that you were a great teacher (others said the same). If you are looking to be a professor, you'll do well. (unsolicited email.)