



# UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Spring 2019

Course: MATH 136 Section: 003 - THEORY OF NUMBERS:INTRO  
Instructor: Michael Pierce

**Question # 18:** YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR'S TEACHING SKILLS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE TEXTBOX BELOW. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO 2000 CHARACTERS.

- Mike is very helpful and has taught me A LOT this quarter. He was also always energetic and very motivational. His approachable demeanor made it easy to attend his office hours and ask for help. I also liked that he used different methods to help us further understand his explanation of a problem.
- if you are single I can help hook you up with my very single (forever single) cousin
- The instructor is extremely helpful in learning the material, and is an effective teacher overall.
- Great TA! He pushes you to think and learn on your own but he helps guide you! very easy to talk too. A great person in general as well.



# UC RIVERSIDE - Student Evaluation of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Spring 2019

Course: MATH 136 Section: 003 - THEORY OF  
NUMBERS:INTRO  
Instructor: Michael Pierce

Enrollment: 24  
Respondents: 6  
Response Rate: 25%

Enrollment: 3850  
Respondents: 1274  
Response Rate: 33%

Enrollment: 43933  
Respondents: 16439  
Response Rate: 37%

Questions	Course								Department			Campus				
	<u>7</u> High	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Low	<u>N/A</u>	Mean	SD	% tile	Mean	SD	% tile	Mean	SD
1 Provides goals and objectives in presentations.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	69.38	5.99	1.4	65.93	6.25	1.2
2 Is well prepared and clearly organized.	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.17	1.2	58.00	5.97	1.5	53.29	6.27	1.2
3 Thoroughly understands the subject matter.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	56.35	6.24	1.3	57.76	6.40	1.1
4 Explains the relevancy of the material.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	63.04	6.04	1.4	64.23	6.28	1.2
5 Clarifies lecture and readings	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	68.99	5.98	1.5	66.21	6.23	1.3
6 Encourages me to participate and/or ask questions.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	66.89	6.03	1.5	66.60	6.25	1.3
7 Uses language appropriate to the level of the course.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	54.17	6.24	1.3	56.42	6.41	1.1
8 Gives useful feedback on assignments and exams.	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6.00	1.3	58.00	5.97	1.5	49.81	6.18	1.4
9 Effectively manages the classroom environment	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.17	1.2	56.67	6.03	1.5	55.04	6.27	1.3
10 Motivates me to do my best.	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.50	1.2	76.97	5.92	1.5	79.96	6.13	1.4
11 Is accessible and helpful during office hours.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	63.97	6.14	1.4	60.84	6.34	1.2
12 Is approachable - has a demeanor that encourages interaction.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	65.00	6.09	1.5	62.25	6.29	1.3
13 Encourages and respects diverse perspectives.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	55.65	6.27	1.2	55.69	6.42	1.1
14 Appropriately handles sensitive situations and/or inappropriate student comments.	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6.00	1.3	43.18	6.28	1.2	36.01	6.42	1.1
15 Creates and maintains a tolerant learning environment.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	57.25	6.26	1.3	54.78	6.41	1.1
16 Command of English language does not impede my learning the material. (This question is not applicable in foreign language sections.)	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.33	1.2	46.74	6.53	1.1	57.05	6.49	1.1
17 Overall, is an effective teacher.	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	6.00	1.5	50.71	6.06	1.4	46.88	6.27	1.2

\* The number of N/A is not included in the Mean and S.D. calculation.



# UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Spring 2019

Course: MATH 136 Section: 002 - THEORY OF NUMBERS:INTRO  
Instructor: Michael Pierce

**Question # 18:** YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR'S TEACHING SKILLS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE TEXTBOX BELOW. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO 2000 CHARACTERS.

- The online solutions are very helpful to see what a proper proof is. Explanations in person are very clear, and also doesn't mind being asked for clarification.
- During every section, it was the same thing: problems were mindlessly written on the board and students were expected to solve. Students would ask questions and be faced with sarcastic answers instead of a constructive or helpful explanations. Grading was absolutely terrible. The TA was expecting long thorough proofs regardless of whether or not the question required or prompted as such. TA has trouble reading student work, which should be a basic requirement for teachers/instructors/aids, but it ended up resulting in student grades being greatly affected. Sections would often consist of two or three students arguing over which method to approach a problem and often end in the TA struggling to gain control of the classroom back. It would have been more helpful to have had actual supplemental instruction, or even an open discussion, to help student understanding of course concepts instead of a rushed solution written on the board the last 5 minutes of class. Please, do better. We want to learn.
- Michael was quite helpful and very interesting. The way he ran the discussions was nice, I liked the less lecture/instruction style and more student-focused way. The problems he chose were helpful in understanding the concepts and clarifying course material. His sass was funny at times and his explanations were clear and simple, I did like how he didn't give us the full answer but left us thinking about it and forced us to try the problems on our own. Also, I like how he interacted with the students instead of creating this separation between student and instructor. Overall, Michael is a pretty cool guy and definitely knows his mathematics.
- Pretty good, very few complaints aside from limited hours
- The TA was very fair and very helpful in Discussion times. He was also very accommodating to students. I think the best sessions were the ones he spent a couple minutes at the start discussing the topics or reviewing the material before starting discussion on problems.
- He's smart and knowledgeable, but that's about the only positive quality I see in him as a teacher.



# UC RIVERSIDE - Student Evaluation of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Spring 2019

Course: MATH 136 Section: 002 - THEORY OF  
NUMBERS:INTRO  
Instructor: Michael Pierce

Enrollment: 24  
Respondents: 10  
Response Rate: 42%

Enrollment: 3850  
Respondents: 1274  
Response Rate: 33%

Enrollment: 43933  
Respondents: 16439  
Response Rate: 37%

Questions	Course								Department			Campus				
	<u>7</u> High	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Low	<u>N/A</u>	Mean	SD	% tile	Mean	SD	% tile	Mean	SD
1 Provides goals and objectives in presentations.	4	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	5.30	2.4	29.38	5.99	1.4	23.99	6.25	1.2
2 Is well prepared and clearly organized.	4	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	5.60	1.9	35.33	5.97	1.5	31.48	6.27	1.2
3 Thoroughly understands the subject matter.	6	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	6.40	0.8	61.11	6.24	1.3	63.24	6.40	1.1
4 Explains the relevancy of the material.	3	4	1	-	-	-	2	-	5.20	2.3	23.91	6.04	1.4	20.36	6.28	1.2
5 Clarifies lecture and readings	6	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	6.00	1.9	53.80	5.98	1.5	48.42	6.23	1.3
6 Encourages me to participate and/or ask questions.	5	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	5.40	2.4	27.70	6.03	1.5	27.59	6.25	1.3
7 Uses language appropriate to the level of the course.	4	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	5.70	1.8	27.50	6.24	1.3	25.00	6.41	1.1
8 Gives useful feedback on assignments and exams.	4	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	5.20	2.3	27.33	5.97	1.5	24.44	6.18	1.4
9 Effectively manages the classroom environment	2	5	1	1	-	-	1	-	5.40	1.8	31.33	6.03	1.5	28.43	6.27	1.3
10 Motivates me to do my best.	4	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	5.30	2.4	32.24	5.92	1.5	28.65	6.13	1.4
11 Is accessible and helpful during office hours.	4	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	5.80	1.4	43.38	6.14	1.4	32.52	6.34	1.2
12 Is approachable - has a demeanor that encourages interaction.	3	2	3	-	-	-	2	-	5.00	2.3	25.00	6.09	1.5	17.19	6.29	1.3
13 Encourages and respects diverse perspectives.	3	2	3	-	-	1	1	-	5.10	2.1	13.71	6.27	1.2	11.61	6.42	1.1
14 Appropriately handles sensitive situations and/or inappropriate student comments.	3	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	5.50	1.8	23.48	6.28	1.2	17.88	6.42	1.1
15 Creates and maintains a tolerant learning environment.	4	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	5.60	1.8	25.36	6.26	1.3	24.16	6.41	1.1
16 Command of English language does not impede my learning the material. (This question is not applicable in foreign language sections.)	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.89	0.3	92.39	6.53	1.1	92.50	6.49	1.1
17 Overall, is an effective teacher.	5	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	5.80	1.9	45.00	6.06	1.4	38.96	6.27	1.2

\* The number of N/A is not included in the Mean and S.D. calculation.