



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Fall 2017

Course: MATH 005 Section: 006 - PRECALCULUS
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.

- Very helpful during office hours. Explains key concepts better than the professor. Easy to talk to and interact with.
- Made the materials in math easy to understand. Really helped a whole lot with problems and provided useful feedback. Very friendly and cool!
- Sometimes I felt like he was a bit condescending towards the students when they made a mistake. But, otherwise, he taught very well and, with his aid, I understood the class a lot better compared to when I just go to the lectures
- Cares about your academic progress and wants you to do your best and really think about and solve problems. Doesn't spoon feed you the answers and forces you to think critically while guiding you at the right amount. Makes math seem easy as long as you try and put in effort. He is always willing to help and tries his best as a T.A when we are struggling. He also encourages "math language". He's really excited about math. I wish he would have focused more on homework problems instead of the worksheet questions.
- Very strict TA. He needs to show us how to do the homework questions and help us more on the class worksheets. We need a helping and guideful TA not a strict TA.
- Very helpful TA very knowledgeable overall
- I really enjoyed coming to discussion class after the first week. The way that he clarified math problems helped me further understand the concept that was being taught in lecture. In office hours he was almost always approachable which plays a big part in our return to seek for help with our TAs. Overall, he did an amazing job in teaching us, he gave helpful homework feedback even when it was unnecessary. He helped me see math in a new way.
- Mr Pierce was extremely helpful because he cleared up any questions we had and held office hours at a time that suited our schedules. He gave students clear feedback on the homework assignments and explained to us how our final drafts should be. He would go over concepts we did not understand and made sure we left with a better understanding of the material than what we entered with.
- Mike Pierce was a very fair TA to have. He was very accessible if I needed the help and explained concepts in math that taught more than gave answers, which is important in math.
- It was very nice of you to try engage students and encouraging us to ask questions if needed. Your insights put things into more understandable terms as opposed to lectures. Thanks!
- Mike was a great T.A. since he always welcomed any questions that I had and provided excellent feedback as to why something would be wrong with my work. He would allow us to struggle and really challenge ourselves with the option of help always available.
- This instructor is helpful
- Has high expectations for his students, but comes off as condescending which discourages students to ask questions. Worksheets were at least one lecture ahead so the material learned in the previous lecture wasn't enforced as well as it could have been.



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Course: MATH 005 Section: 006 - PRECALCULUS
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Enrollment: 30
Respondents: 20
Response Rate: 67%

Enrollment: 5465
Respondents: 3224
Response Rate: 59%

Enrollment: 46435
Respondents: 28400
Response Rate: 61%

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.	7	2	7	2	1	-	-	1	5.63	1.3	33.93	5.86	1.5	43.81	5.97	1.4
2 Is well prepared and clearly organized.	8	5	6	-	1	-	-	-	5.95	1.1	52.61	5.90	1.4	58.84	6.01	1.4
3 Thoroughly understands the subject matter.	13	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	6.60	0.6	78.17	6.20	1.2	81.97	6.22	1.2
4 Explains the relevancy of the material.	7	4	7	1	1	-	-	-	5.75	1.2	36.59	5.90	1.4	47.54	6.02	1.4
5 Clarifies lecture and readings	10	3	5	-	2	-	-	-	5.95	1.3	48.90	5.90	1.5	59.38	5.97	1.5
6 Encourages me to participate and/or ask questions.	9	5	3	2	1	-	-	-	5.95	1.2	56.34	5.81	1.5	59.80	5.95	1.5
7 Uses language appropriate to the level of the course.	10	7	1	1	1	-	-	-	6.20	1.1	44.31	6.17	1.3	59.01	6.22	1.2
8 Gives useful feedback on assignments and exams.	11	4	2	1	2	-	-	-	6.05	1.4	55.21	5.87	1.5	63.80	5.92	1.5
9 Effectively manages the classroom environment	9	3	5	2	1	-	-	-	5.85	1.3	39.02	5.97	1.4	50.12	6.03	1.4
10 Motivates me to do my best.	8	5	4	2	1	-	-	-	5.85	1.2	55.44	5.68	1.6	58.65	5.82	1.5
11 Is accessible and helpful during office hours.	11	4	1	3	-	-	-	1	6.21	1.1	54.74	6.12	1.3	64.53	6.15	1.3
12 Is approachable - has a demeanor that encourages interaction.	8	4	2	4	1	1	-	-	5.55	1.6	27.57	6.00	1.4	34.57	6.09	1.4
13 Encourages and respects diverse perspectives.	10	4	3	1	1	-	1	-	5.85	1.6	30.34	6.15	1.3	39.49	6.24	1.2
14 Appropriately handles sensitive situations and/or inappropriate student comments.	9	3	3	1	3	-	-	1	5.74	1.5	22.36	6.15	1.2	33.95	6.22	1.2
15 Creates and maintains a tolerant learning environment.	8	5	-	5	1	-	-	1	5.74	1.4	26.34	6.15	1.2	35.95	6.22	1.2
16 Command of English language does not impede my learning the material. (This question is not applicable in foreign language sections.)	13	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	6.45	0.9	50.47	6.34	1.2	71.60	6.28	1.3
17 Overall, is an effective teacher.	10	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	6.00	1.3	45.49	6.00	1.4	58.99	6.05	1.4

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



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Fall 2017

Course: MATH 005 Section: 007 - PRECALCULUS
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- Mike is very helpful. He helps out a a lot in office hours, and encourages us to think about the problems we are trying to solve. I only go to his office hours, because I understand the way he teaches more. Without him I would not be understanding this math class.
- You do a great job
- Mike was a very good T.A. He was very helpful to me during office hours and helped me understand hard material. He was easy to approach and could relate with the students.
- Clarifies the lecture and homework. Understands all aspects of the course and is very knowledgeable. Extends additional help through office hours that go in detail through the lecture, discussion, and homework
- Vey good ta explained the material well and helped all students.
- He knows the content very well, but is not very good at making it understand. But, he is very helpful, and has a good amount of office hours. He is always willing to answer questions and help when I do not understand something.
- He was very nice and helpful. He helped me understand the material way better.
- Mike definitely knows the subject well. I feel that his grading is a little too particular, and that maybe he should tone it down just a bit. Overall, although he definitely isn't my favorite TA, I still appreciated that he was caring and asked us how we were doing and if we were okay. He did a pretty good job and explaining things to us and he did make us learn by making us think before he fully explained something to us.
- Mike was really helpful during office hours and they way he explained the material really helped me understand concepts better.
- This discussion was, by far, my favorite part of every week. Mike taught me most of what I know. Dr. Weisbart (instructor) was extremely confusing, but Mike always understood everything and clarified. His office hours are great, even though I've only went a couple of times. He expects excellence when we write out our homework, and I really appreciate that. Even though it was a pain to explain my methods and logic behind each problem, it exemplified my understanding of the subject so much more, and I am thankful for that. I've learned about so many new rules and laws, and just have a generally deeper meaning of mathematics. Mike is always teaching us something new, and always openly accepts comments and questions. He fully answers every inquiry and makes sure that everyone is okay and comfortable with the material (given that the student contributes proper effort, of course). Something I loved about this class is that Mike would never give us the answer directly. He gav us hints, or shifted perspective and let us think about it for a little bit, however, he never did the thinking for us. This really helped me to grow. I will never be able to express how much I loved this class. As much as the odds are not in my favor, I hope my math TA is Mike next quarter. That seems very unlikely, but I can hope.
- It would have helped me a little more if you would have gon over the homework, and why we do problems the way we have to. Also, it would have been helpful if you went over what Dr.Weisbart taught during class.
- Overall, Michael Pierce was a very approachable guy and a character at that. He pushed us to think in his discussion sections and I appreciated that.
- Mike was an extremely helpful TA. Attending his office hours further assisted me in math. His grading was quite intense however I know he wanted the best for us. He was approachable whenever help was needed. The worksheets were a bit confusing, but Mike was always there to clarify and help.
- Mike was so helpful in understanding the course material. His office hours are the key to success in this class. I usually did not understand the material covered in lecture until I atteneded office hours. Mike is very approachable and will answer any and every question any student has. He

is the best TA ever!

- Initially, I thought that Mike was a bit harsh in the way he taught the class. But after week 2, our class eventually came to realization that he's a very approachable person who was fair to us. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have been able to understand the class as well as I do now because he was able to teach the material in a way that was easy to grasp for me.



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1 Provides goals and objectives in presentations.	13	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	6.30	1.1	71.79	5.86	1.5	74.88	5.97	1.4
2 Is well prepared and clearly organized.	13	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	6.45	0.9	80.22	5.90	1.4	80.39	6.01	1.4
3 Thoroughly understands the subject matter.	18	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6.80	0.7	90.08	6.20	1.2	91.69	6.22	1.2
4 Explains the relevancy of the material.	11	4	2	2	1	-	-	-	6.10	1.3	56.88	5.90	1.4	64.99	6.02	1.4
5 Clarifies lecture and readings	12	1	3	2	-	-	1	1	6.00	1.6	51.10	5.90	1.5	61.30	5.97	1.5
6 Encourages me to participate and/or ask questions.	13	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	6.40	0.9	80.97	5.81	1.5	79.19	5.95	1.5
7 Uses language appropriate to the level of the course.	13	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	6.45	0.9	63.01	6.17	1.3	73.98	6.22	1.2
8 Gives useful feedback on assignments and exams.	12	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	6.45	0.8	80.21	5.87	1.5	82.07	5.92	1.5
9 Effectively manages the classroom environment	12	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	6.35	0.9	71.59	5.97	1.4	74.30	6.03	1.4
10 Motivates me to do my best.	11	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	6.15	1.1	69.73	5.68	1.6	71.47	5.82	1.5
11 Is accessible and helpful during office hours.	11	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	6.40	0.8	68.53	6.12	1.3	74.74	6.15	1.3
12 Is approachable - has a demeanor that encourages interaction.	9	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	6.10	1.0	53.31	6.00	1.4	58.49	6.09	1.4
13 Encourages and respects diverse perspectives.	11	6	1	2	-	-	-	-	6.30	1.0	62.82	6.15	1.3	65.56	6.24	1.2
14 Appropriately handles sensitive situations and/or inappropriate student comments.	10	6	-	1	-	-	-	3	6.47	0.8	71.95	6.15	1.2	76.56	6.22	1.2
15 Creates and maintains a tolerant learning environment.	11	5	1	1	-	-	-	2	6.44	0.9	71.37	6.15	1.2	75.39	6.22	1.2
16 Command of English language does not impede my learning the material. (This question is not applicable in foreign language sections.)	14	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	6.67	0.8	73.11	6.34	1.2	83.38	6.28	1.3
17 Overall, is an effective teacher.	13	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	6.40	0.9	67.29	6.00	1.4	77.64	6.05	1.4

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