



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

Course: MATH 005 Section: 023 - 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.

- Mike was extremely helpful for students who were new to professor Weisbart's method of teaching. In the beginning he was intimidating to ask questions to and in general ask for help however after going to some office hours, I felt more comfortable sharing my knowledge with Mike and learned more from him since then. I still struggle with Prof. Weisbart's method but Mike is always there to answer any questions or concerns.
- Michael Pierce is an extremely helpful TA. He is always offering help and his teaching style is clear and understandable. He is very approachable and attending his office hours has helped me tremendously in the course. It is evident that he cares about his students and wants them to succeed. In assisting us, he also encourages students to think critically. When he clarifies information discussed in the lecture, he is very straight to the point and understandable.
- I do really enjoy having Mike as a TA, however this discussion was a bit sucky at times because we would play with blocks and do block worksheets on Thursdays. Doing those worksheets were boring and weren't all too interesting and so they kinda made students want to not come. However, Mike is very engaging and is willing to help explain a lot of information when asked. He goes over the worksheet well, I just would prefer two days to go over the worksheet instead of one day and the other to work with blocks. I really like Mike and I think he is an effective TA, he really does well, it's just the blocks that suck.
- Mr. Pierce is approachable and encouraging. The class itself is hard, discussions and lectures do not seem to correlate but Mr. Pierce is always available to answer questions. Office hours is very helpful.
- Mike was a great TA. At times he would be tough but he always would answer my questions to the wheat of his abilities. I found myself easily taking to him about my struggles in math and he would always comfort me and encourage me. While the class was tough, Mike did his best to give us all a great learning environment.
- Mike is a nice guy to talk to about random topics but was not that helpful in teaching math. He would often have us do our worksheets in class but would not guide us in how to do them. He would just let us do them on our own even when we didn't know where to start. When asking for help, he would just tell me my way was wrong without much explanation as to why. Also he graded homework harshly so it was sometimes difficult for me to get full credit on assignments. He would mark something as wrong without any explanation as to why and I would end up getting more confused in the end. During discussion he would try explaining to us how to do certain concepts but I would just get more confused.
- Mike's discussion class was a struggle because I don't enjoy math as much as I enjoy any other classes. He made the concepts being taught more difficult because he explains in a way that is hard to process. Sometimes when I ask questions, I get nervous because I feel intimidated by him. Mike makes me feel like I am not the best in math because his response does not answer my questions that are being asked. He explains a broader picture which is beneficial sometimes because he allows the students to solely find a better understanding through themselves. Since I struggle in math, I go to his office hours because the worksheets that are given are confusing. I think office hours are very helpful because he then addresses the point of confusion that the students are confused about. His office hours are extremely helpful because he does help me with the concepts that I don't understand. Overall, his class was
- Pierce clearly knows the subject and wants to do his best when explaining, but since the class was divided into two days a week, One where we turn in the previous worksheet also starting a new one, and the second where we continue the new worksheet, the time went by too quickly and we would almost never review the previous worksheets. Also the worksheets were very difficult even when attending office hours, I left confused and frustrated. Maybe starting a worksheet turning it in on thursday and going over it all on tuesday would be a better option.
- Mike is overall a good TA, but there were some issues trying to get to see him during his office hours. I went during the time he gave us but he was not there (it may have just been a bad day). However, during our discussions, he is very helpful with answering specific questions we have from lecture or the worksheet we are working on in class.



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

Course: MATH 005 Section: 023 - PRECALCULUS  
Instructor: Michael Pierce

Enrollment: 31  
Respondents: 15  
Response Rate: 48%

Enrollment: 5185  
Respondents: 2226  
Response Rate: 43%

Enrollment: 52260  
Respondents: 22340  
Response Rate: 43%

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.	5	6	2	-	2	-	-	-	5.80	1.3	38.50	5.99	1.4	43.36	6.17	1.3
2 Is well prepared and clearly organized.	7	5	-	-	3	-	-	-	5.87	1.6	45.50	6.04	1.4	44.66	6.20	1.3
3 Thoroughly understands the subject matter.	10	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	6.40	1.1	58.33	6.31	1.2	65.07	6.36	1.1
4 Explains the relevancy of the material.	4	4	2	1	-	3	-	1	5.14	1.9	20.87	6.05	1.4	20.39	6.20	1.3
5 Clarifies lecture and readings	2	7	1	1	2	2	-	-	5.00	1.7	16.67	6.05	1.4	20.85	6.16	1.3
6 Encourages me to participate and/or ask questions.	6	5	2	-	-	1	1	-	5.67	1.8	35.91	5.94	1.5	38.09	6.16	1.3
7 Uses language appropriate to the level of the course.	4	5	3	1	1	1	-	-	5.47	1.5	17.19	6.32	1.2	22.60	6.38	1.1
8 Gives useful feedback on assignments and exams.	3	5	2	-	2	1	2	-	4.73	2.2	13.43	6.02	1.4	17.98	6.10	1.4
9 Effectively manages the classroom environment	5	5	1	1	2	1	-	-	5.47	1.7	23.04	6.09	1.4	30.95	6.21	1.3
10 Motivates me to do my best.	7	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	5.67	1.8	43.69	5.87	1.5	40.86	6.05	1.4
11 Is accessible and helpful during office hours.	9	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	6.00	1.6	34.21	6.25	1.2	42.06	6.32	1.2
12 Is approachable - has a demeanor that encourages interaction.	6	3	2	2	-	2	-	-	5.47	1.8	26.24	6.14	1.4	28.41	6.28	1.3
13 Encourages and respects diverse perspectives.	6	3	3	-	1	1	-	1	5.71	1.6	23.37	6.30	1.2	25.00	6.41	1.1
14 Appropriately handles sensitive situations and/or inappropriate student comments.	6	3	1	1	1	1	-	2	5.69	1.7	24.03	6.27	1.2	27.78	6.39	1.1
15 Creates and maintains a tolerant learning environment.	7	5	1	-	1	1	-	-	5.93	1.5	39.67	6.30	1.1	37.99	6.40	1.1
16 Command of English language does not impede my learning the material. (This question is not applicable in foreign language sections.)	10	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	6.36	1.3	44.08	6.40	1.2	58.19	6.43	1.1
17 Overall, is an effective teacher.	5	6	1	-	2	1	-	-	5.60	1.6	30.41	6.12	1.3	33.28	6.22	1.3

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



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

Course: MATH 005 Section: 025 - 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.

- Mr. Pierce is probably one of my favorite TA's I've had. He's very easy to talk to, even on things that don't relate to math. Going to office hours is not intimidating at all and really helps, especially when studying for midterms. He pushes us to understand math ourselves which is better than just getting the answer. Great TA overall, very helpful and knowledgeable.
- Mike was at first hard to approach and a little bit unaccommodating, however after being able to provide feedback, he really was able to improve the work environment. Most of the stresses in the class weren't even because of him anyway, it was more from the class material itself. College Precalculus is just much more complicated than high school precalculus, which is a curveball that shocks most first-years and sets them off track at first.
- The way Mr. Pierce teaches during discussion is very attention grabbing and easy to follow. He is energetic, straightforward, and clear. He encourages student to think by helping them throughout the thinking process instead of directly giving the answer. He is most helpful during office hours. During office hours one can get help in topics discussed in lecture or discussion worksheets.
- I enjoyed my discussion group with Mr. Pierce. He was able to explain things when asked although he would give us tricky answers. He is also a friendly TA which makes him easy to approach. However, I sometimes feel like we spend too much time on one question instead of moving on when solving problems from worksheet.
- Outstanding TA. He helps explain the lectures if we have any concerns and walks us through the difficult worksheets for the class. He has a great personality and is able to understand students and get on the same level as them to not make them feel lesser to him. Especially dealing with the Zachs, who I as one of them gave great enthusiasm and respected him. He encourages creativity and doesn't put down any individual for showing their creative ways that are outside of the norm. I would recommend him to continue teaching.
- The TA is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. They are willing to help whenever possible, being sure that the student understands the material. Their teaching skills are good, because it gets the students to understand what they are doing, instead of just memorizing formulas, etc.
- I appreciate that instructor Pierce is always switching table groups to work with us one on one, then finishes off each problem with a clear explanation to the whole class. It really has helped me to better understand the math concepts because he makes sure that we thoroughly explain our steps. I had never had a math course with this teaching strategy and I believe it is very effective. Overall our instructor is very attentive and does his job quite well.
- Maintains enthusiasm for the subject, has strong character. Efficient in teaching style to review material.
- Mr. Pierce is very passionate and enthusiastic every class. He always has a smile on his face and is always joking with his students. He is both hands on and off which allows the students to learn the concepts on their own first before they get help.
- Good TA, helps a lot during office hours and takes time to solve problems with you one on one which is a big help. He acts like a teacher and a regular person with us in class, having a quick chat about our breaks and about anything we want to talk about. Chill guy



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

Course: MATH 005 Section: 025 - PRECALCULUS  
Instructor: Michael Pierce

Enrollment: 29  
Respondents: 16  
Response Rate: 55%

Enrollment: 5185  
Respondents: 2226  
Response Rate: 43%

Enrollment: 52260  
Respondents: 22340  
Response Rate: 43%

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.	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	6.44	0.7	71.50	5.99	1.4	75.15	6.17	1.3
2 Is well prepared and clearly organized.	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	6.53	0.6	77.03	6.04	1.4	78.19	6.20	1.3
3 Thoroughly understands the subject matter.	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.81	0.4	89.44	6.31	1.2	89.54	6.36	1.1
4 Explains the relevancy of the material.	6	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	6.19	0.8	56.80	6.05	1.4	60.27	6.20	1.3
5 Clarifies lecture and readings	5	5	2	1	2	1	-	-	5.44	1.6	30.95	6.05	1.4	32.80	6.16	1.3
6 Encourages me to participate and/or ask questions.	6	3	3	4	-	-	-	-	5.69	1.3	36.82	5.94	1.5	38.68	6.16	1.3
7 Uses language appropriate to the level of the course.	11	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	6.63	0.6	76.56	6.32	1.2	79.18	6.38	1.1
8 Gives useful feedback on assignments and exams.	6	6	2	-	-	1	1	-	5.69	1.8	35.65	6.02	1.4	41.54	6.10	1.4
9 Effectively manages the classroom environment	8	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	6.38	0.7	63.24	6.09	1.4	68.14	6.21	1.3
10 Motivates me to do my best.	7	-	6	2	-	-	-	1	5.80	1.2	47.30	5.87	1.5	45.58	6.05	1.4
11 Is accessible and helpful during office hours.	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.81	0.4	91.05	6.25	1.2	91.05	6.32	1.2
12 Is approachable - has a demeanor that encourages interaction.	12	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	6.50	1.1	73.76	6.14	1.4	71.92	6.28	1.3
13 Encourages and respects diverse perspectives.	9	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	6.33	1.0	55.98	6.30	1.2	56.95	6.41	1.1
14 Appropriately handles sensitive situations and/or inappropriate student comments.	9	2	1	1	-	-	-	3	6.46	1.0	62.99	6.27	1.2	65.71	6.39	1.1
15 Creates and maintains a tolerant learning environment.	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	6.53	0.6	69.02	6.30	1.1	70.14	6.40	1.1
16 Command of English language does not impede my learning the material. (This question is not applicable in foreign language sections.)	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	6.77	0.8	76.97	6.40	1.2	86.65	6.43	1.1
17 Overall, is an effective teacher.	7	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	6.38	0.6	58.25	6.12	1.3	67.31	6.22	1.3

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