



## COURSE EVALUATIONS

### Brief Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208) - Instructor Cioaba,Sebastian Marian

Brief Responses		Total = Responded / Enrolled					
QID	Question	Response Statistics					
1439	Was the instructor well prepared for class meetings?						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.83 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.39
15814	Please rate the instructor's ability to communicate clearly.						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.58 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.52
15815	Please rate the instructor's ability to write legibly on board/slides.						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.17 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.58
15816	Please rate the instructor's ability to explain ideas and techniques.						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.58 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.67
1443	During the scheduled office hours, was the instructor at the scheduled place for the scheduled period of time?						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.67 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.49
1444	Was the instructor available at other times e.g. by appointment?						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.33 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.78
1445	Were rules, grading policies and other requirements explained carefully at the beginning of the course?	Yes					91.7%
		No					8.3%
		<b>Total responded/enrolled:</b>					12 / 14
1446	To date has the instructor been following his/her announced rules and grading policies?						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.75 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.45
15817	Overall, I rate this INSTRUCTOR as a teacher:						<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.83 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.39



## COURSE EVALUATIONS

### Essay Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208) - Instructor Cioaba, Sebastian Marian

#### Question ID: 1117

Additional Comments:

#### Responses (8 of 14)

It was sometimes frustrating when office hours were cancelled due to the Discrete Math Seminar. The turnaround time on graded assignments was too long. The course instruction was excellent! I feel like I learned a lot and it was very interesting.

Professor is very knowledgeable and provides good intuition and insight into the theorems and proofs.

I think Dr. Cioaba is an excellent professor- I specifically am grateful for the feedback I've received on proof sets and exams, as it has always been very helpful, and his willingness to discuss problems in office hours.

Very good at explaining concepts.

Hand-written class slides are hard to follow. I prefer type-set slides.

Dr. Cioaba is an excellent teacher. He explained things well and clear. But the speed of the class sometimes is too quick for me to follow. The hw is also a bit long and requires some serious work. But overall a good course.

In the beginning of the semester, Dr. Cioaba's answers to questions could come off as condescending, e.g., "Just think about it." This got better as the semester progressed, though.

No additional comments.



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### Brief Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208)

Brief Responses		Total = Responded / Enrolled				
QID	Question	Response Statistics				
1447	Given the class size, did the instructor return written work/exams in a reasonable time?	Never		Always		<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 3.75 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.75
		1	2	3	4	
1448	In general, rate the class meetings for this course.	Poor		Good		<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.67 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.78
		1	2	3	4	
1449	Rate the textbook for the course.	Poor		Good		<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.33 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.98
		1	2	3	4	
1450	If the instructor prepared additional material and/or gave extra help sessions for the course, please assess their value to you.	Poor		Good		<b>Total:</b> 11 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.73 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.65
		1	2	3	4	
1451	Indicate your anticipated grade in this course.	A or B				66.7%
		B or C				33.3%
		C or D				0%
		D or F				0%
		<b>Total responded/enrolled:</b>				
17152	I am confident in my math ability.	Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree		<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.42 <b>Std Dev:</b> 1.00
		1	2	3	4	
17153	I enjoy doing math.	Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree		<b>Total:</b> 12 / 14 <b>Mean:</b> 4.75 <b>Std Dev:</b> 0.62
		1	2	3	4	
18307	How many hours on average per week did you work on the course material outside the class ?	>14 hours				25%
		7-14 hours				75%
		4-7 hours				0%
		1-3 hours				0%
		<1 hours				0%
		<b>Total responded/enrolled:</b>				



## COURSE EVALUATIONS

### Essay Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208)

#### Question ID: 1116

Additional comments:

#### Responses (4 of 14)

This course was very enjoyable and I liked the variety of different areas that we covered, and the connections we made through homework assignments and exams between different topics.

The course was rather enjoyable.

The topics in this course were very interesting, and I'm glad we got a chance to see so many different applications of combinatorics. The unexpected applications were my favorite part, like the geometric uses for the Turán theorem and the batting average calculation with Pick's theorem.

Text book was rated low not because of its content, but because of its unfinished nature and because we did not have access to the materials ahead of time. It feels like there are many ways to teach a graph theory course because of the large number of topics there are with minimal prerequisites and so I'm glad that part of the journey this class took involved linear algebraic properties of graphs (like the spectrum of the graph). I'm also glad that it didn't go too overboard in this direction in this sense that one only needed to use the essential stuff from linear algebra that most everyone remembers, along with a few advanced theorems that were spelled out and applied to graph theory (like theorems about real symmetric matrices). It actually helped me rebuild some confidence in linear algebra. Related to this, eigenvalue interlacing was really interesting and it was amazing being able to see it applied to the sensitivity conjecture. I see being able to teach a proof that new and important as really valuable and should definitely be kept in future versions of the course if possible.



## COURSE EVALUATIONS

### Essay Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208)

#### Question ID: 22276

What were the best aspects of the online format?

#### Responses (10 of 14)

The classroom environment felt comfortable and I appreciated having office hours immediately after class. I liked the structure of having assignments and take home exams, rather than having timed, in class exams. The change to being able to work with others on homework assignments part way through was helpful and made me feel more connected with my classmates while being in the online setting rather than in person.

With the online format, it was easy to read the slides and ask/answer questions during class.

Ability to record and watch lectures again later.

Being able to re-watch the lectures.

I thought the wealth of material Dr. Cioaba posted online was fantastic. There was a lot of additional information in the papers and textbook chapters he sent out for us to look through that built off of what we discussed in class.

It was convenient.

being able to rewatch lectures

One of them is that I could attend classes even when I was physically tired, which happened quite a bit in-person because of the usual grad student study/work loads.

The ability to watch past lectures was extremely useful. Being able to look back at the slides was nice as well, but hearing the explanations that weren't written down made a big difference.

Easy to hang around after class for office hours for further discussion of topics covered, homework hints, and general discussion.



## COURSE EVALUATIONS

### Essay Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208)

#### Question ID: 22277

What aspects of the online format most needed improvement?

#### Responses (9 of 14)

Sometimes the pace was a bit fast since the lecture notes were already prepared. It was helpful when the notes were partially complete and things were filled in along the way, the notes were being written as we went, or there were more frequent pauses.

I thought the online format was successful on the whole. I think there was a missed opportunity for in-class collaboration on short problems using breakout rooms.

Handwriting was occasionally sloppy due to limited screen size.

I don't have any suggestions.

It was fine as is.

Just needs to be slowed down a bit more

The exams took a long time to complete. I think shorter exams are needed. Compared to other graduate math classes I've taken, it was just a lot.

It is one of the obvious ones for me, the lack of communication with other students. I was new to combinatorics and even though I had taken grad level math courses before, talking to people about my ideas would've helped fast track my progress even in terms of grades.

Can't think of anything specific. I like the online format.



## COURSE EVALUATIONS

### Essay Responses for MATH688010 for 2020 Fall (2208)

#### Question ID: 18309

What advice would you give the students that will take this course next semester ?

#### Responses (9 of 14)

Take advantage of office hours and don't be afraid to speak up and ask questions. Also attend the discrete math seminar because you can make many connections to the course material and other areas of combinatorics.

Go to office hours and ask questions (or just listen). Start work on the homework and exams early so that you have questions to ask (and know what you don't understand).

Be prepared to sweat, cry, and probably bleed for the course, but the professor will do everything in his help you.

This might be a problem specific to me, but ask questions often, especially if you are unclear about anything. I am working on getting better about asking questions, and Dr. Cioaba is a great resource. Make sure to do work ahead of time and have questions to bring to every office hour.

Start on the homework as soon as you can.

Start the home-works as early as you can, and if the course is with Dr. Cioaba, talk about problems that you're stuck on. He's approachable and I regret not conversing about these problems on time.

Don't be afraid to work with other students or to ask for help.

Prepare a lot of time for the homework/exams. Start the homework ASAP and spread out the work. It will give your mind more time to rest and process the problem subconsciously. Cramming all of the work of a tough problem in the last couple of days doesn't work great. I learned this the hard way after I pushed a problem to the last few days and failed to finish it in time only to wake up the next morning with a solution to my problem. Had I started the problem even a day earlier, my brain would have had more time to process and I might not have wasted so much time trying to force a certain approach which could have made the difference for me.