

Solicited Student Feedback

Rachael Norton

Calculus I (MATH 2300)

Spring 2020

Enrollment: 13 (in 01) + 18 (in 02) = 31

Response Count: 22

1. Did the course help you learn? Why or why not?

- Well obviously yes, it is a class after all.
- Yes, I have felt that I have actually learned a lot. The class felt well planned out how each topic flowed into the next and overall it felt very efficient.
- The course helped me learn a lot more calculus, we went much further in much less time than I had in high school.
- It worked just fine.
- Yes, but in a way. I personally take longer than normal students to grasp the material, in particular math courses, so I often found myself falling behind. Other than that, I felt that Dr. Norton taught the material and successfully prepared us for the exams through in-class work and homework.
- Yes, I found the class was hard, but, we were taught how to do every problem we had. Typically when I encounter a math problem I just panic, but, here I learned to calm down and recall the info I was taught.
- It did help me learn, very greatly. The sequence of concepts was intuitive and easy to take in, and I felt a thorough understanding of each concept. I was surprised by the easiness of calculus in this course.
- Yes. I didn't know anything about this subject prior to this course.
- Yes the course helped me learn. I got a good foundation on Calculus to use going forward
- Yes, I was able to further my understanding of Calculus.
- Yes the course helped me learn
- yes, the instructor was very educated on the topics taught in the course.
- The course did help me learn because of Professor Norton's structured design of the course, as well as answering any questions.
- Yes, the instructed was very knowledgeable about the field and was an effective teacher
- Yes, Professor Norton provided a helpful environment that allowed her students to work with each other, which benefited my ability to learn in the class.
- Yes. The pacing of the class as well as the understanding of the concepts helped to more easily grasp some of the harder concepts.
- Yes. Although the online portion was clearly more difficult. She did exercises in class, when we were still physically attending, that were more interactive and helped to practice the gained knowledge of the day/ week.
- somewhat because doing it online was very difficult to learn from
- Yes, it introduced me to parts of math I hadn't seen before
- Mediocre. It had ok information
- Yes
- Yea, the recorded lectures helped me a lot because I could go back to it at anytime

2. What are the primary strengths of Professor Norton as an instructor?

- She is very knowledgeable and understands questions well. She's good at rephrasing confusing concepts.
- Respectful, listens to questions, seems to have a really good understanding of the subject and knows how to break it down to make it easier to learn.
- Excellent use of examples to explain concepts in Calculus
- Good examples, helpful instruction.
- The primary strengths are Dr. Norton's ability to help each individual student work through any problems that may have arisen. I also think that Dr. Norton's implementation of partner/group work further reinforces and corrects any lapses in understanding that a student may have.
- It seemed like she cared about her students. There were countless reviews and opportunities for anyone who was struggling.
- Manifold
- Walking through the problems
- **She was very good at breaking down why something is happening in a math problem to make sure it makes sense that way you don't just have to memorize formulas you can figure it out yourself.**
- Professor Norton is very good at giving examples of problems to help you further understand a difficult concept or formula. She also is always available for extra help when needed.
- I think she is pretty good at explaining things clearly
- The course was structured very well and made it easy but mandatory to grasp the concepts.
- The primary strengths of Professor Norton as an instructor are having an in depth knowledge on the topic, being able to explain things clearly, and overall, being helpful.
- Professor Norton had an effective way of getting students to not only participate in class, but for students to have the rare desire to want to participate
- Being able to explain an example in a few different ways to further solidify the reasonings behind the example.
- Exercises. The practice problems were her primary strength, and she was also well with explaining to those who asked questions.
- office hours and the ability to help students
- she is very willing to go over the work again on her own time
- Thorough
- Being available to chat, and email back about webwork questions.
- Explanation/ breaking questions down to the students understanding

3. What are the primary weaknesses of Professor Norton as an instructor?

- She gave us a large workload, about half of this semester felt spent on her class compared to work for other classes combined.
- Sometimes class time is wasted with "worth with a neighbor" questions.
- High emphasis on group work clashes with individually focused learning styles. Perhaps make it optional?
- I think that Dr. Norton may move too quickly through material and/or tries to teach too much material in one class period. There were times where I felt as if there was too much material to master in a short amount of time.
- Few
- Time management
- Occasionally things that were either simpler or something learned in pre-calc were over explained earlier in the year. However, I can also see that some students may start at a different level and need that.
- Sometimes Professor Norton's definitions of new concepts can be too wordy or difficult to understand.
- Can't think of anything
- nothing comes to mind, she is very understanding and engaged, making sure the whole class is following along.
- The primary weaknesses of Professor Norton as an instructor are sometimes explaining topics too quickly and sometimes not following course schedule.
- Occasionally is too wordy when writing an explanation on board, although it is a necessary evil to being precise.
- Keeping the pace in the course. I couldn't find a sense of stability sometimes because she was extremely quick, and sometimes that became a problem with my understanding.
- Homework assignments does not match exams. Exams are different, she's not clear on what the exam is about.
- moves from topic to topic quickly and takes more than one homework to fully understand it, usually and extra explanation, a video, office hours or more problems solve this issue
- Rigidity
- Relating the subject to other subjects or real-life examples.
- Nothing I've noticed

4. Professor Norton is scheduled to teach Calculus I again in the fall, and it may have an on-line/remote component. What is one aspect of the remote instruction that was helpful to your learning this semester?

- The voice chat office hours multiple times a week were extremely important, I wish there was more of that time.
- Seemed to shift to online instruction extremely well and efficiently. I believe the recorded videos are extremely helpful because you can pause and take the class at your own pace while you can still attend class and ask questions if you need to as well.
- I think having the lecture visible after it was delivered really helped me review concepts.
- Recorded lectures.
- One aspect of remote instruction that was helpful was that Dr. Norton recorded the lectures, which allowed students to go back and watch the lecture when they came into any issues or needed help with anything.
- I liked that if she was going too fast during a lecture I could just rewind a recording.
- I found it extremely helpful that the virtual lectures were recorded and posted for me to view at my leisure if I didn't make the class time. When watching a recorded lecture, I could pause when I needed to think, back up, and otherwise manipulate my lecture experience for the best effect possible.
- Recorded lectures
- Because there were far less students in class it was easier to ask questions more efficiently over the video call. The fact that the classes were recorded was also good because I often looked back at them if I needed a reminder.
- One aspect that was extremely helpful was having the lectures available on google meet and the recorded videos available after class.
- Time flexibility
- I personally was not a fan of the online instruction. Her live lectures were very helpful.
- One aspect of the remote instruction that was helpful to learning this semester was the format for teaching the rest of the material for the semester.
- Not having required class times to meet. This allowed me to still work a normal schedule and do the classwork when I could make the time for it. However, if I desired an in person class session that was still an option.
- Detailed worksheets in her own writing and teaching style, allowing one to replicate the steps of the problems given as examples in the worksheets. Another aspect that helped was online exam reviews being part of the exam grade itself, lessening the worry of test taking.
- The fact that we could do the course on our own time and didn't necessarily have to be at the computer at the exact moment the class took place.
- Her office hours, when you ask questions she helps and you can book one on one meetings for further help.
- being able to rewatch lectures
- Having the lectures recorded
- Live Lectures on google meet.
- Recording the lectures and keeping them on blackboard

5. What is one aspect of the remote instruction that should be changed? What suggestions do you have for improvement?
- The style was fine, I'd say the quantity was an issue but that's not specifically an issue with the online parts.
 - It seems the online homework is intentional much harder than quiz or test work so it becomes easier to do the tests but I believe there should also be some easier problems on the homework just to help cement the concepts and practice the theory and math.
 - I think attendance for the lectures should have been mandatory 75% of the time. While it's nice to sometimes put off watching it, I think it allowed many students to neglect the class.
 - Higher emphasis on attendance. Perhaps make it part of the grade?
 - I think that more time should have been given to complete quizzes, exit cards, and homework, considering we are in the midst of a pandemic. Although we technically have more "free time" to complete assignments, I found it to be a lot more difficult to grasp the material and then complete the assignments.
 - She could probably go a little faster in the online lectures since anyone can just pause if they need to stop and think.
 - It's difficult to think of one.
 - More activities
 - It overall worked very well I have no complaints.
 - One aspect that should be changed is the quizzes. The quizzes were difficult to take with the limited time of 20 minutes. I think 25 minutes should be given to complete the assessment.
 - Can't think of anything
 - The Exit Card information should be posted in a separate assignment link. It was difficult to find some of them in the lecture videos.
 - I can't think of anything. More detailed example problems? One can only ask for so much from a person.
 - Reminders. There was very few reminders and I believe that would be an excellent addition to those whom are forgetful.
 - N/A
 - I don't see how it could be better
 - It would be improved by moving away from no notes, proctored exams. Cheating is still so easy, even under these circumstances, and all of my other instructors have already moved away from
 - not sure, the whole remote learning thing is odd. My eyes hurt from looking at this computer screen for so long
 - Students should get more time with assignments

6. Any other questions, comments, or suggestions?

- A lot of the problems on the homework were extremely complicated and required rules we didn't need for tests. While in the long run I think this helped my learning, allowing me to improve my skills with previous concepts, it greatly contributes to the workload. It seems the work was designed as quantity AND quality, and it may be more on par with other classes if it was narrowed down to quality.
- No
- Great professor and well knowledgable on the subject, quick to answer any questions that may arise.
- N/a
- No
- nope!
- No