

Final Evaluation (CTEF) for Pantano, Alessandra MATH 120B LEC A (45040), Winter Qtr 2014

Responses: 27/31 (87.1%)

A. Please comment on the following areas and be as specific as possible:

1. What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

- -Alessandra emphasizes concepts in class, rather than emphasizing algorithms to solve specific problems. -Alessandra provides lots of helpful study session. -Alessandra provides an active learning environment. -Alessandra explains ideas much differently from the book and much more clearly than the book when necessary. -Alessandra provides weekly summaries about what goes on in class.
- Absolutely amazing. Integrates teaching with student participation. Different than all math professors at UCI.
- enthusiasm
- Enthusiastic about teaching, makes concepts easier to understand than what is in the book.
- Everything that I learn in education classes, she implements it. How is this even possible? The best lecturer ever!
- Explains thought process of proofs rather than simply stating. Very helpful. Homework is reflective of what is taught.
- Explorative lectures lead to strong understanding; High availability of extra hours for help
- Geez, where do I start? I feel like Pantano should teach a class to other instructors here on campus on how to teach. She breaks down difficult topics into manageable pieces, she writes up her own homework assignments instead of assigning problems out of the book, she encourages classroom interaction, and she was VERY knowledgeable not only about the material but which sections students had most difficulty with and spent a lot of time going over those to really solidify our understanding.
- Good explanations and clear instruction. Gives global idea of what the class will entail that day.
- GREAT enthusiasm. This instructor really cares about the material she teaches. Additionally, this instructor makes plenty of time outside of class to assist students.
- Her teaching method is very clear. She doesn't always tell us the answer; she makes us think. Her teaching style is interactive; people answer her questions and they are allowed to do problems on the whiteboard, which allows them to learn better.
- Interaction and theory.
- Pantano is amazing at explaining material and is always very enthusiastic about teaching.
- Passionate about the subject
- Professor is great at involving the class, and dedicating time to ensure the material is understood. Being a graduating senior, I am glad I got to take courses with Pantano. Any student can clearly see she has an investing interest and love for mathematics.
- She's highly interactive and ready to answer any question.
- she gives lots of examples and really tries to make you think about how we get the conclusion. also really puts in a lot of time to make sure students understand the material.
- She is such an amazing professor. She is very good at giving a good amount of proofs and problems. She also explains the material very well, and answers every question to the best of her abilities (no matter how silly the question may be). She is also willing to work with her students to find good times for study sessions and office hours, which are very helpful. She is so sweet, I wish she could teach all my upper division math courses!
- She is very enthusiastic and is always excited to be teaching in front of the class.

- Shows the material in a very intuitive way. Is dedicated to making sure that everyone understands the material and so is always receptive to questions and not afraid to go over something twice or adjust the schedule of the class to make sure everyone comprehends the more difficult material. I love the use of different colors, it helps me identify important concepts, or where something needs to be highlighted, etc. I think that the study sessions are amazing and I wish every class turned one office hour into a study session, I think it helps bring the class together and encourages people to attend the office hour.
- Teaching... like an axiom of math this cannot be defined further.
- Very clear and concise about what is needed in the course. Gives very fair grades. Very good at lecturing.
- Very clear class notes and her lecture is very understandable! Her homework is not easy but the contents of homeworks are very helpful for learning the material of this class.
- very clear explanations
- Very clear explanations and very thorough. If I went to class, I was guaranteed to come out understanding the material. I really like that she answers questions from the ground up, not assuming the students know what she is doing.
- Very enthusiastic. Very nice. Very helpful. Tries to draw students in.
- 1 blank answer(s).

2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?

- Alessandra is such a fabulous instructor. It's difficult to say what she can do to be a better instructor because there are so few things she can do to be better. She's practically perfect! The only thing I can think of that she can do better is to be more thorough on the proofs while writing on the white board along with creating the sketches for the proofs.
- Emphasize a few ideas more clearly. Go over more examples that would make the homework more clear to work with.
- Get the midterms back faster
- I can't think of a way.
- I cannot think of a meaningful criticism of this instructor's teaching.
- i think that the professor thought she was guaranteed to teach part c and was relaxed the whole quarter and then after finding she was not gonna teach part c she rushed through the last couple of sections and did not explain so well. so i think keeping up with the pace or keeping a pace. also the whole participation points is kind of unnecessary most kids in our class our shy and this means very opinionated people always talk and usually over complicate concepts and confuse the rest of us
- It took quite a while to get the midterm back, variable intensity of homework was hard to predict
- make more clear on when we move onto different concepts
- Maybe make it a requirement or give a better incentive to go to office hours/study sessions.
- N/A
- N/A
- None.
- One of the best math professors, honestly can't think of anything.
- Perhaps more structure in the lectures would be better. It's sometimes nice to have the continuous flow we have now, but sometimes it's difficult to determine if we're talking about something else/new. Consistently emailing the hw assignments at least 7 days in advance would be nice. Some people may be busier at certain times of the week, so some of us prefer finishing the hw early.

- provide more application examples, a little more structure to the lectures (let the students know ahead of time exactly what material will be covered)
- She doesn't think tennis is super important.
- She panics too much! The last week was crammed with information!
- Sometimes she goes over material too quickly.
- The explanations that she gives in class are very difficult to understand at times. Some of the time, she may assume that we know something, when we do not.
- The only thing that was kind of tricky this year was the amount of homework given. Sometimes it felt like we didn't have enough time to finish the problems assigned. Either longer deadlines or shorter problem sets would have helped.
- There's no possible way she can. She's too awesome as is.
- 6 blank answer(s).

3. Any other comments about this course?

- After having lots of difficulty with Math 120A, I'm finishing this course with so much more confidence than I ever thought would be possible. Math 120B has been such an amazing course. It may in fact be my very favorite course!
- Excellent course by far. Although abstract algebra is not my thing, I still thoroughly enjoyed the course throughout.
- Fun course.
- I always enjoy the classes I take with Pantano
- i do enjoy taking courses with her because she is super fun and a good teacher but her classes are pretty hard and a lot of work.
- I had no interest in the course before coming to the class. Dr. Pantano is phenomenal.
- I really liked how you tried to engage us not only about the material in the class but other math related things going at UCI. Math club, telling us when we had guest speakers on math topics being given on campus, etc.
- It's been fun!
- I took your course last quarter for 120A and in that course, since you had no grader, you made HW optional but study sessions mandatory. THis helped me way more than the HW has done this quarter, because I was forced to go to study sessions. I know this is really my decision, but I think it helped a lot that the study sessions were mandatory last quarter.
- Likes to go over conceptual concepts, which is beneficial, but we struggle a lot on homework.
- Overall, I really enjoyed this course. The study sessions are EXTREMELY helpful, I wish we had this system for all my math classes. It's nice to get the participation points, but it's also worth it to go and be able to talk through problems with classmates.
- overall pretty good
- Pantano and Leesa is the best combination ever. Ever.
- Professor Pantano, you're a very cool, relaxed professor. Your students are lucky to have you!
- Professor Pantano is the best professor ever. We wish she is teaching Math 120C.
- She is the best instructor I have ever met! I am definitely a fan of professor Pantano~ and please let her teach 120C next quarter:)
- Study sessions are very helpful, provide an area students can work together and discus problems and other concepts. All classes should have them.
- This course alongside 120A have been my favorite here at UCI with Pantano. It was awesome having her.

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- was nicely paced
- When we went over polynomials and irreducibility the examples presented in class were extremely easy while the homework problems were challenging. I would have liked the professor to go over more challenging reducibility problems in lecture as well. I would have liked to have incorporated the book for more practice with suggested problems.
- YES! She is a very good teacher so I cannot understand why she wants study hours to be more hands off or student led. She... *knows the material inside out (able to run with the different reasonings given by each student) *knows the essential features of a topic (to focus the students attention towards) *comes up with good examples on the spot *explains pretty well How could learning from students possibly be better than that? Most of office hours are spent by students fumbling around trying to solve hw problems and then barely knowing what they did solve. A good example of the difference is here. I barely learned section 13/14 when I took math 120A. So, before doing section 26 from 120B I started reviewing section 13 by reading the book, doing some proofs, and doing some examples. I expected this review to take an hour. She what I was doing, interrupted, and taught me that section in about two minutes... maybe its me but I would much much rather someone who is knowledgeable point out important things to me, which doesn't mean I don't do self learning. The office hours this year could be replaced by plain old study groups which are at least smaller.
- 6 blank answer(s).

B. Please choose the appropriate rating on the letter grade scale A to F:

'A' indicating an excellent and 'F' indicating a wholly inadequate performance. If you have no opinion on the question asked or if it does not apply, please select NA.

4. The course instructor shows enthusiasm for and is interested in the subject.

24	A	Value: 4
1	A-	Value: 3.7
1	B+	Value: 3.3
0	B	Value: 3
0	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.96	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.14	Std Dev	

5. The course instructor stimulates your interest in the subject.

16	A	Value: 4
3	A-	Value: 3.7
4	B+	Value: 3.3
0	B	Value: 3
2	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.75	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.40	Std Dev	

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6. The course instructor meets stated objectives of the course.

22	A	Value: 4
1	A-	Value: 3.7
1	B+	Value: 3.3
0	B	Value: 3
0	B-	Value: 2.7
1	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
1	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.81	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.55	Std Dev	

7. The course instructor is accessible and responsive.

22	A	Value: 4
2	A-	Value: 3.7
1	B+	Value: 3.3
1	B	Value: 3
0	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.91	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.24	Std Dev	

8. The course instructor creates an open and fair learning environment.

21	A	Value: 4
2	A-	Value: 3.7
0	B+	Value: 3.3
2	B	Value: 3
0	B-	Value: 2.7
1	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.83	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.41	Std Dev	

9. The course instructor encourages students to think in this course.

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21	A	Value: 4
3	A-	Value: 3.7
2	B+	Value: 3.3
0	B	Value: 3
0	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.91	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.20	Std Dev	

10. The course instructor's presentations and explanations of concepts were clear.

16	A	Value: 4
5	A-	Value: 3.7
3	B+	Value: 3.3
1	B	Value: 3
0	B-	Value: 2.7
1	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.76	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.41	Std Dev	

11. Assignments and exams covered important aspects of the course.

17	A	Value: 4
6	A-	Value: 3.7
1	B+	Value: 3.3
1	B	Value: 3
1	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.82	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.33	Std Dev	

12. What overall grade would you give this instructor?

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20	A	Value: 4
4	A-	Value: 3.7
0	B+	Value: 3.3
1	B	Value: 3
1	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.87	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.31	Std Dev	

13. What overall grade would you give this course?

14	A	Value: 4
6	A-	Value: 3.7
2	B+	Value: 3.3
1	B	Value: 3
2	B-	Value: 2.7
0	C+	Value: 2.3
0	C	Value: 2
0	C-	Value: 1.7
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
0	NA	No Value
3.73	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.40	Std Dev	

C. Please answer:

14. Based on completed assignments thus far, what is your current course grade or approximate standing?

6	A	Value: 4
13	B	Value: 3
7	C	Value: 2
0	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
1	NA	No Value
2.96	Mean	
3.00	Median	
0.71	Std Dev	

15. How much academic dishonesty seemed to occur in this course? If applicable, please describe the type of academic dishonesty that occurred (not the particular students involved).

1.
 - 0** A lot
 - 0** Some
 - 1** A little
 - 26** None I could discern

2. Examples:

- I don't know if this is cheating but I know quite a few students rely pretty heavily on online solutions. Even for proofs apparently. But I don't even know if this is cheating. When

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it comes to homework we already look at the book and work with others who actually solve it for us. Homework is a learning tool; grading homework in terms of correctness or completeness is never fair! Some students solve problems, some meticulously reason why a solution is correct, some reflect more on what they do send so forth. Then again, I believe homework should not be a part of the grade. I also suck at turning it in.

- 26 blank answer(s).

16. How helpful were the textbooks and/or readings to your overall learning experience?

- 4 Very
- 12 Adequately
- 10 Somewhat
- 0 Not at all

17. How challenging was this course?

- 9 Very
- 14 Adequately
- 2 Somewhat
- 1 Not at all