

Final Evaluation (CTEF) for Liu, Wencai MATH 3A LEC H (44480), Fall Qtr 2016

Responses: 44/47 (93.62%)

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

1. What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

- Can clearly explain theorems and give tips on comprehending them.
- Definitely knows what he's talking about since he rarely has to refer to notes to complete the lesson.
- detailed, thoughtful
- Encourage thinking in class and use examples to illustrate concepts.
- Engages the class and posts lectures online
- Enthusiastic about the subject Dedication to making sure students learn
- Explain each definition clearly through examples
- Explain the concepts thoroughly
- Explanation ok therom! And give examples.
- good
- Good
- He's able to lay out the steps on how to solve a problem very clearly and explain why. His exams are constructed very well and fairly so that even if a student forgets one concept or isn't as good at doing the computation, they're still able to answer the question.
- He always comes to class prepared and posts class notes on the website.
- He completely understand what he's teaching. ‘
- He focuses on explaining the concepts and theories needed to understand how to do a problem
- he gives examples for everything
- He goes over multiple examples for one section of the chapter so the concepts and formulas are really drilled into our heads. He also is kind enough to go back to concepts from previous chapters when a student or a majority of the class are still confused by it.
- He is good at explaining problems and how they work with proofs. He gives good examples and challenges us enough with homework and exams.
- He is very enthusiastic at teaching. He explains the goal of his exam (i.e., it tests our computational skills and other skills in the class). He knows, remembers, and cares about every student. For example, he even remembered one of the students answer when that student asks for clarification. He knows that he is not the best teacher, but he reads the evaluations and he is determined to improve himself. He improved a lot compared to the first lectures.
- He knows his subject and gives plenty of examples.
- Helpful
- He understands how students learn and teaches using methods that ensure student understanding. He cares for the students and motivates and supports students in learning the material and to become successful.
- He was very enthusiastic when teaching
- He went through every section of the course in explicit detail and we would often spend an entire class to make sure we knew the basics of each section.
- I believe professor Wencai does a great job at explaining some of the complicated theorems for this course. In the book, the definitions are very complicated, but professor Wencai simplifies everything so that his students may understand it easily.

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- Instructor gives solid examples and shows a clear understanding of the material. Wants you to understand the material as oppose to just memorizing the methods to obtain answers.
- Makes sure to explain the concepts and that we understand them.
- offer many examples
- Professor Liu teaches very carefully in detail. When there are students have questions, he always spend some time to help students clarify the problem in a patient way.
- Teaches in a way where I can learn and understand what I am learning. The homework assigned is very helpful.
- The instructor is extremely nice and kind. He is patient and explains things again if you need. He is also very disciplined and follows a strict schedule, the homework chooses good problems that test concepts. I think his strongest strength is that he is constantly wanting and willing to improve. Most professors are more focused on their research and less focused on teaching but the instructor is very nice and has made great improvements since last evaluation. If given the opportunity I would love to take a class with this professor again.
- The instructor uses many examples and always tries his best to answer all questions in a way that we can understand.
- The note
- using examples
- Very detailed and thorough in explaining concepts. Extremely willing to help students understand as well as possible.
- Very encouraging and enthusiastic
- Wencai helps me see through the equations, and not just do it mechanically. He takes time to lay the strong foundation for the concepts before he dives into the puzzles. I think a great strength of his is that he understands the underlying concepts of linear algebra. I can see that by the way he explain concepts and how he can show many different aspects of one concept.
- 7 blank answer(s).

2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?

- accent
- Be better study more on oral English
- Because lecture time is short and precious, maybe he can skip some basic calculation process.
- Be much more comprehensive and discuss applications
- Communication mainly, but it's not too much of a barrier.
- connect with students better
- Don't assume people know the lesson right away, and try to explain the theorems in your own words to avoid confusion from the book theorems.
- English speaking
- English speaking skill
- Even professor Liu is good enough to be an instructor, Liu still need to improve his oral presentation in English.
- Handwriting is somewhat illegible. Few algebraic mistakes may appear.
- He can improve by going slower when explaining any new concepts. Also, he should work on his English so that it can be easier for others to understand him.
- He can improve by writing larger on the board, sometimes it's hard to read because the content is too small.
- He can keep improving his English and more examples.

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- He can try to speak a little louder and more clearly. Maybe slowing down the speed of his speech might help.
- He could be more clear on things he really want to emphasize. I noticed that during exams some students would fail to grasp an important concept he was trying to teach.
- His English ability
- improve handwriting
- improve oral English
- Improve speech
- I sometimes lost what he was saying because he was talking way too fast to get his point across.
- I think he can give more example on the class
- less proofs more examples.
- Maybe he can write more clearly because sometimes his handwriting on the board were not readable.
- Maybe slow down the tempo of talking to be more clearly.
- Maybe speak a little slower because you often stumble over your own words. Your writing is still a little too small and is often hard to keep up when we're busy trying to figure out what you have written.
- Maybe we could go over the proofs in class so that it is easier to derive them by ourselves later on.
- Notes could be written more neatly.
- Only improve his English. His English is actually already very understandable during lectures. I understand what he says just fine, but I think sometimes he has trouble understanding what some students are asking during questions.
- Practice more English. (vocabulary and pronunciation) I am an international student and I also have accent. Keep practicing! Answer (especially for true/false questions) is never more important than the process of thinking. Please spend more time explaining the thinking process/the solution, not just say that there are many ways to solve the problem. I don't know where to write this but here you go.. Question -> quest-shun (not quest-shin) Section -> sek-shun Go back operation -> backward operation I think -> (I think, not I sink) pronounce the TH sound Transfer the problem to linear system -> transform the problem to linear system Zero -> zee-ro (not zea-ro) know -> not low number -> not lumber X -> ex (just one syllable) (When $AC = BC$) We cannot obtain that $A = B$: We can't say that $A = B$ (A is not always equal to B) If you say "we cannot obtain", it means "there is no way"
- Professor Wencai is a great professor all around. He writes notes at a steady pace and has improved a lot on his hand writing.
- Providing more office hours since I wasn't able to attend most due to work
- Reading the notes when writing them on the board.
- Slow down, at times he moves very quickly through material with examples it is okay, but for other students it may be a bit fast.
- Work on clearer lecture notes
- Writing
- 8 blank answer(s).

3. Any other comments about this course?

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- already really great
- For a first time teaching and since English is not his native language, Professor Liu has a done very good job.
- For the first time I'm on track to get an B or A in a math class. I owe all my thanks and gratitude to Professor Wencai and the TA.
- good enough
- Great class great teacher
- Great overall instructor
- great way of teaching
- I am really happy to have Wencai as a teacher. Most of my math teachers were more on the mechanical side instead of always taking time to make sure the student sees through the mechanics and understands the concepts. Wencai is very informative and helps me with information regards to physics and mathematics. He inspired me as to how he approaches puzzles in mathematics and helps me grow as a physics student. I truly feel that Wencai is a gem in the math department.
- If we had more quizzes we could maybe score better since they are weighed so high
- I loved it
- it's pretty cool to learn how simple equations are everywhere in our world.
- It is good for students if TA helps us do review before we take a quiz.
- I would recommend this professor to someone who wants to take this course.
- Maybe try to curve instead of giving 10% for midterm 1 and 20% for midterm 2. That will be unfair for students who did well in midterm1.
- N/A
- No
- No
- No
- No.
- No.
- None at this time.
- Overall, this course was challenging but the professor was really helpful and passionate in making sure we understand the concepts.
- Overall, you did a great job in teaching this course. I like that you give weekly homework so we're constantly focused unlike other courses at this school.
- Professor Liu and TA Thu made the course very enjoyable. I was able to learn both concepts and computations very well from having both instructors paired together. It is also not very often that a professor takes the time to get students to truly understand the conceptual aspects of a math course, rather than just the computations. I really appreciate that Professor Liu emphasized the importance of such topics because it helped better my understanding of the material overall. Lastly, I believe that the exams and quizzes were written very fairly and by taking them, it was very obvious what topics I needed more practice in.
- Should upload solutions to quizzes and midterms.
- The good professor
- The pace of the class is a bit too fast. (I think we were 3-4 lectures ahead) I personally think that spending more time explaining the materials is better than quickly going through it and having review sessions at the end. This course's homework, quizzes, and exam is relatively easy, compared to my friend's Linear Algebra course at UCSB.

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- Very doable
- 15 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.

36	A	Value: 4
5	A-	Value: 3.7
3	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
3.92	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.19	Std Dev	

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

23	A	Value: 4
9	A-	Value: 3.7
6	B+	Value: 3.3
4	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
1	NA	No Value
3.72	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.37	Std Dev	

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

31	A	Value: 4
6	A-	Value: 3.7
4	B+	Value: 3.3
3	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
3.83	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.31	Std Dev	

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7. The course instructor is accessible and responsive.

32	A	Value: 4
5	A-	Value: 3.7
5	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
3.83	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.32	Std Dev	

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

32	A	Value: 4
7	A-	Value: 3.7
3	B+	Value: 3.3
0	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	
0.27	Std Dev	

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

31	A	Value: 4
4	A-	Value: 3.7
7	B+	Value: 3.3
2	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
3.82	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.31	Std Dev	

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

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21	A	Value: 4
6	A-	Value: 3.7
10	B+	Value: 3.3
3	B	Value: 3
1	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
3.60	Mean	
3.70	Median	
0.52	Std Dev	

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

34	A	Value: 4
6	A-	Value: 3.7
3	B+	Value: 3.3
0	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
3.87	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.31	Std Dev	

12. What overall grade would you give this instructor?

26	A	Value: 4
9	A-	Value: 3.7
7	B+	Value: 3.3
2	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
3.78	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.31	Std Dev	

13. What overall grade would you give this course?

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25	A	Value: 4
10	A-	Value: 3.7
9	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
3.79	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.28	Std Dev	

C. Please answer:

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

19	A	Value: 4
17	B	Value: 3
5	C	Value: 2
1	D	Value: 1
0	F	Value: 0
2	NA	No Value
3.29	Mean	
3.00	Median	
0.76	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.

2	A lot
1	Some
3	A little
38	None I could discern

2. Examples:

- Students cheating and copying during the test.
- 43 blank answer(s).

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

27	Very
14	Adequately
2	Somewhat
1	Not at all

17. How challenging was this course?

9	Very
26	Adequately
9	Somewhat
0	Not at all