Carnegie Mellon University

Fall 2018, MSC 21301 COMBINATORICS Section B Instructor: TAIT, MICHAEL (Primary)

There were: 21 possible respondents.

	Question Text	N	My Avg	SD	MSC Fall18	College Fall18	Univ Fall18
1	On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this class, including attending classes, doing readings, reviewing notes, writing papers and any other course related work?	12	11.33	3.5	9.19	8.47	9.70
2	Does the faculty member display an interest in students' learning?	12	4.67	0.89	4.19	4.30	4.39
3	Does the faculty member provide a clear explanation of the course requirements?	12	4.08	1.24	4.17	4.20	4.26
4	Does the faculty member provide a clear explanation of the learning objectives or goals of the course?	12	4.33	1.23	4.14	4.19	4.3
5	Does the faculty member provide feedback that helped students improve their performance?	12	4	1.28	3.80	3.92	4.09
6	Does the faculty member demonstrate the importance and significance of the subject matter?	12	4.67	0.65	4.09	4.19	4.37
7	Does the faculty member explain the subject matter of the course (e.g. concepts, skills, techniques, etc.)?	12	4.67	1.15	4.00	4.09	4.25
8	Does the faculty member show respect for all students?	12	4.92	0.29	4.46	4.50	4.57
9	Overall how would you rate this faculty's teaching?	12	4.58	1.16	3.96	4.07	4.23
10	How would you rate the overall quality of the course?	12	4.5	1.17	3.90	3.91	4.14

Question Averages



MICHAEL TAIT Teaching MSC 21301 Undergraduate COMBINATORICS Lect sec: B 2018 Fall



Text Responses

Comments

Possibly one of the best math courses I've taken at CMU. Course material was challenging yet figuring out homework problems was extremely rewarding. Dr. Tait shows a genuine interest in teaching students high level math. Lecture material was highly correlated with homework and exam questions, and learning concepts and when to apply them fully often translated into doing well in the course. Homework constitutes about half of the course, but I would have liked more emphasis on exams. In class quizzes were kind of infrequent, which I didn't really like - you could attend 90% of the lectures yet miss all of the quizzes (unlucky). It would be nice if there were semi-regular quizzes in class to reward students who attended lecture frequently. Maybe just more quizzes in general.

Rarely have I had any idea what was going on in this class. Primary problem is that lectures move very quickly and never repeat information. So if you're trying to take notes you're not going to have any idea what the notes you're taking actually mean, and once you fall off the train of logic there's very little opportunity to get back on. But then if you don't take notes so you can actively pay attention to what's being said then you might conceptually understand the homework but you'll have no idea how to mechanically follow through. Combine that with very few office hours and it's... not great. Also, pretty minor, but I couldn't for the life of me tell you what "combinatorics" actually is. It seems to involve a lot of limits of what you can/can't do with graphs, but as for a definition I've got nothing.

Really engaging lectures, I feel like I've learned a lot from this course and I'm glad I chose to take it.

Great class! Really appreciated the frequent references to the methods used to give certain results, and the best results available. Really gave the impressions that methods we were learning were at least to some extent "state of the art." One problem I had was that the class seemed a bit disorganized at times; often a proof would be shown on the board with barely any motivation. Homework, while generally fairly challenging, was engaging and completing it was a rewarding experience.

Really good at explaining concepts in an intuitive way.

I really enjoyed lectures in this class and the professor was really good at teaching all this complicated material. I feel that I really learned a lot by taking this course. The only bad thing is that homework grades and feedback are slow and while the teacher encourages us not to worry about the course due to a curve, it's hard to really gauge how well I'm doing if the average grades are very low on the exams.

Fun and interesting course

This is a difficult course but Dr Tait did provide concise notes trying to explain the materials as best he could. I wish homework could be graded sooner before next homework was due,

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