



Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating

Spring 2020

Half of semester taught remotely due to Covid-19

Seidler, Blair - BAS312

Calc I Life&soc Sci - 01:640:135:16, 17, 18

Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 84

Responses Received: 38

The Student Instructional Ratings Surveys should be considered within the context of the global health emergency of Spring 2020. The considerable changes in instructional and pedagogical formats necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic imply that caution should be exercised when comparing these results to other instructors or terms. The course, level, and department means reflect the current circumstance and are still provided to allow a comparative measure within the conditions of the semester.

Rutgers University has decided that instructors have flexibility in choosing how or whether to include the Spring 2020 SIRS results in promotion and rehiring materials. Details may vary by campus, rank, or position; please confer with your department chair for more information.

University-wide Questions on Move to Remote Learning Due to Covid-19 Response

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
Despite the abrupt change to remote instruction due to the Covid-19 disruption, the instructor Blair Seidler offered an effective learning experience in this course.	0	0	0	16	22	38	4.58	3.98	4.14	4.20

Note: A low numerical rating for this question indicates the students do not perceive a negative impact on their learning.

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
The move to remote instruction, due to the Covid-19 response, adversely impacted my learning in this course.	2	1	6	14	15	38	4.03	4.09	3.77	3.63

University-wide Instructor Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
The instructor Blair Seidler was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	0	0	0	13	25	38	4.66	4.20	4.30	4.33
The instructor Blair Seidler responded effectively to student comments and questions.	0	0	0	10	28	38	4.74	4.12	4.24	4.29
The instructor Blair Seidler generated interest in the course material.	0	0	6	9	23	38	4.45	3.90	4.07	4.11
The instructor Blair Seidler had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	0	0	12	26	38	4.68	4.23	4.34	4.39
The instructor Blair Seidler assigned grades fairly.	0	0	1	13	24	38	4.61	4.05	4.17	4.22
The instructional methods of Blair Seidler encouraged student learning.	0	0	0	15	23	38	4.61	3.93	4.10	4.14

Teaching Effectiveness

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor Blair Seidler as:	0	0	0	8	29	37	4.78	3.99	4.12	4.17

University-wide Course Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I learned a great deal in this course.	2	1	9	19	7	38	3.74	3.66	4.04	4.14
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	9	8	11	7	3	38	2.66	2.84	3.25	3.50

Course Quality

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the overall quality of the course as:	6	5	9	13	5	38	3.16	3.23	3.81	3.96

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
n/a
The prof and the TA made the course really easy to understand.
The feeling of satisfaction I got when I felt certain that I understood the material.
I liked that there are 3 exams now instead of two. This makes it easier to learn the material and succeed on the exams.
Derivatives
the best part about this course were the instructors Kevin Noone and Blair because they were always willing to help any struggling student and made sure people always knew what was going on in the course to the best of their ability. They never left us in the dark when it came to exam grades, lesson plans, quizzes, and even the switch to remote instruction during COVID-19. This was the only course I took that seemed to make any sense during this time.
I was thankful for my particular professor and TA (although I felt that Professor Noone sometimes graded a little too harshly, but that's just my opinion). The course itself, which I know they do not have a say in, is ridiculous.
all
Professor Noone and Blair Seidler are great teachers.
The recitation involvement
there was a lot of flexibility in office hours
Nothing
nothing

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
more focus on what the exams are going to look like
Maybe less difficult tests and also on the online exams some questions were news to me.
Nothing.
I would make the midterms easier. They were very difficult and not what we went over in class. I think this is because our professor didn't make the 2nd and 3rd midterm.
let each professor make and grade their own exam except for the final.
Calculus 135 is structured horribly. Despite taking other notoriously difficult courses here at Rutgers (general biology, general chemistry, expository writing, etc.) it's really appalling at how horribly this course is executed. There is no emphasis on gaining knowledge and actually learning things because everyone is focused on just TRYING to pass.
loosen the grading rubric, I feel like the "all or nothing" questions on the exam are a bit harsh and make doing well in the class that much harder
The exams are much too difficult.
I would make textbook homework mandatory
Make the exams less tricky and more of what we learned about.
N/a

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor Blair Seidler encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?

These comments are unique to the instructor Blair Seidler.

Comments
n/a
Very good teacher! Very good at explaining concepts and answering questions, he introduced different variations of problems for each topic to make sure we were prepared for any type of question that may have been given on a quiz or exam. Very organized and good teacher, I had a great time in his class.
He was always prepared and made sure we understood every topic. He encouraged us that we could succeed in the course if we tried hard.
one of the most effective math teachers/professors i've ever had
very understanding and always ready to help.
He frequently answered all questions and made sure that students understood the answers as opposed to just assuming they understood after a second explanation. He never judged anyone for any questions they asked and made sure students were comfortable with the material even after going into remote instruction.
Blair is a very good TA. He's knowledgeable and also completing graduate school at Rutgers and therefore gave very good insight and advice to Rutgers math. Retaking this course, I felt discouraged. But he made calculus make sense to me which was an amazing feeling.
He made learning calculus interesting by wearing mathematical related t-shirts based on the material we learned that week which was pretty cool.
He was always engaging students
He was an incredible teacher! He had a way of making complex topics really simple, and I loved having him as a teacher. He never made class feel like a chore, just something fun and collaborative.
Love Blair, I am not very good at Calculus and i am not a huge fan of the subject. However, Blair helped me out a lot throughout the two semesters i had to take this class.
N/a
Blair Seidler helped me to better understand what we were learning at the time.

Other comments or suggestions:

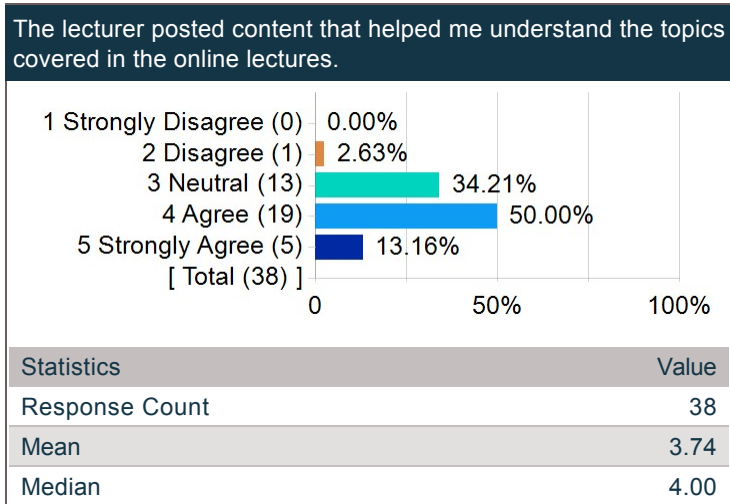
These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
The online exams were harder than the in-class ones making it harder to do well
Overall the course is pretty challenging but the two instructors I had were really helpful.
I think it was very difficult to learn calc online. The midterms were nothing like the questions we practice in lecture and recitation. Some of the question types couldn't even be found in the book. It would of been better if when we switched online our own professor was still able to make our midterms and not the course coordinator.
The only reason remote instruction adversely affected me was because I did not have the same access to the instructors as I did when on campus. Had we been on campus, I would have definitely felt more comfortable with the materials, but the adverse affect was not a result of the professors' responses
Professor Noone and Blair were wonderful instructors and did their absolute best given the circumstances. As far as the math department I think they did a terrible job dealing with switching to remote learning. Other professors and departments were more understanding/flexible in comparison. In addition this course is said to be for "life and social sciences" I don't think that accurately reflects the course at all. Business calc and optimization problems seems irrelevant for students just taking this course for fields that will never require those topics. I think overall the course needs adjusting or the overall issue of requiring this course needs to be addressed.
Has anyone in a higher-up position seen Dr. G's reddit page? I have never downloaded reddit itself, but from what I can see it's a page focused towards STUDENTS to ask questions regarding advice for mental health, dorming/residence halls, etc. It was truly a disappointment to see the complete unprofessional posts made by him. Although not a shock to see the things he was saying on this platform, because fellow classmates who have had him said, and I quote, "he's even worse in person" and have dealt with several rude and sarcastic emails from him after people simply trying to reach out for help. And then he claims he has "put 100% into this course." It's all just very disappointing and I cannot wait to be out of this class and hopefully have a more positive experience with professors from this point onward.
This is my second time taking this course and I feel as though the circumstances with covid really affected my learning. If it had not happened I think I would have done really well in this course—my teachers were amazing—but I do not learn well online and I think it really impacted me.
N/a
grading on exams is really harsh

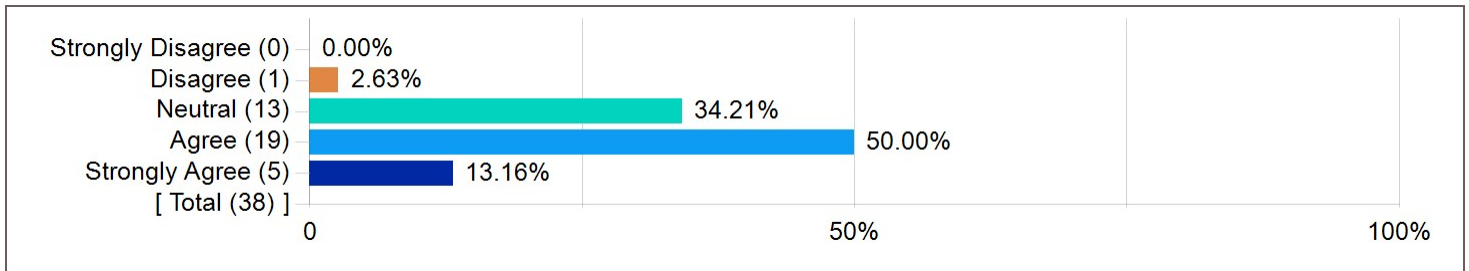
Questions added for: *Standard SIRS

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

The lecturer posted content that helped me understand the topics covered in the online lectures.:

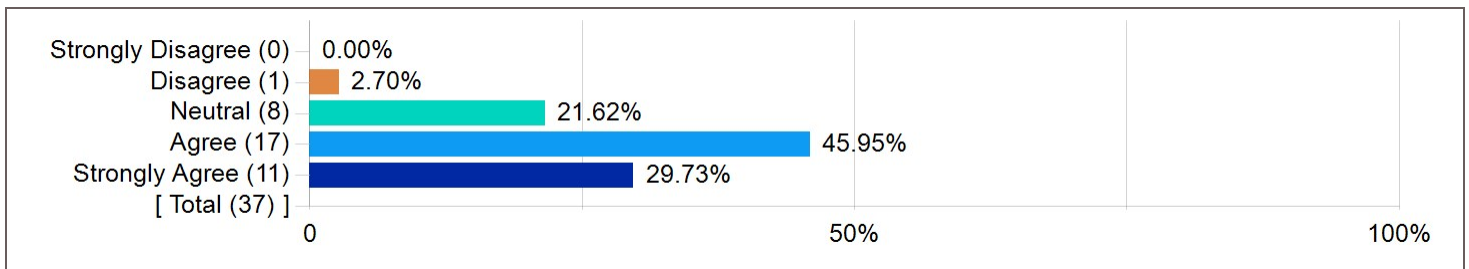


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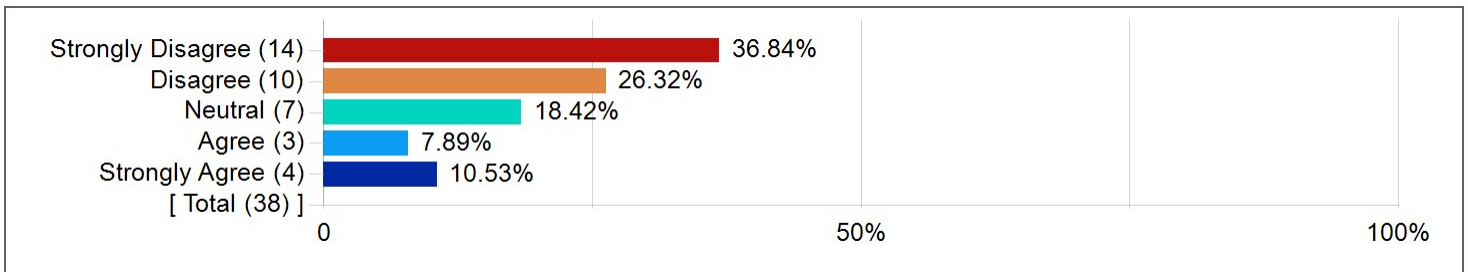
Section	Course	Level	Dept
3.74	3.95	4.14	4.19

The recitation/workshop instructor posted content that helped me understand the topics covered in the online recitations/workshops.



Section	Course	Level	Dept
4.03	3.60	3.89	3.95

I found it easier to participate in this course once it became an online course.



Section	Course	Level	Dept
2.29	2.60	2.84	2.92