



Rutgers University Midcourse Surveys

Spring 2021

Guadagni, Joseph - JG1314

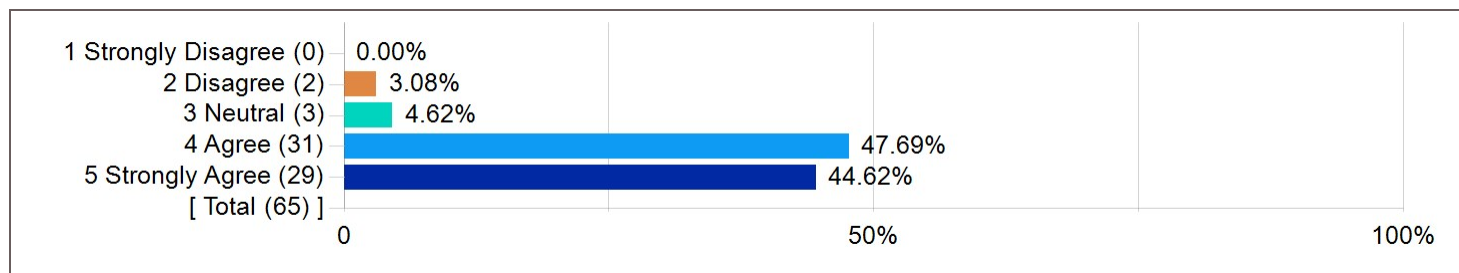
Calculus I For The Life And Social Sciences - 01:640:135:06, 07, 08, 47, 48, 49

Enrollment: 176

Responses Received: 66

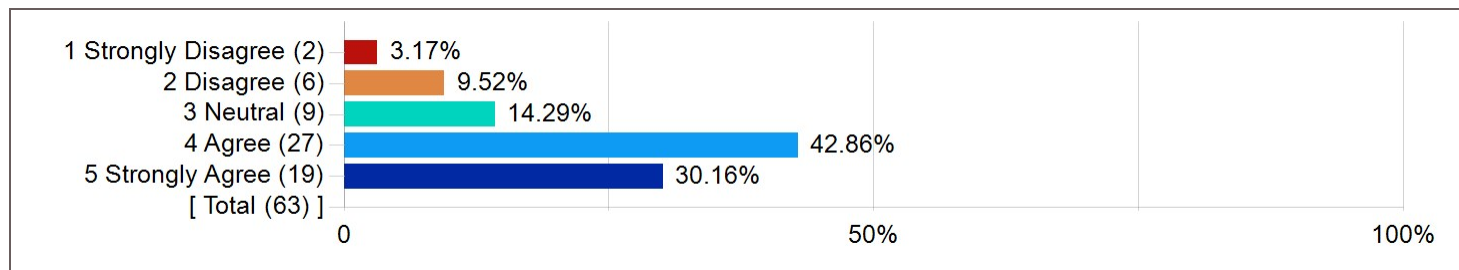
Instructor Questions

The instructor Joseph Guadagni was prepared for class and presents material in an organized manner.



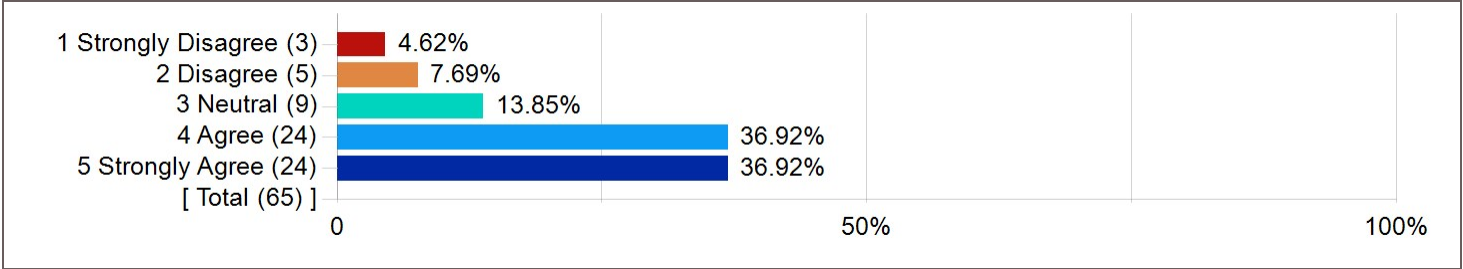
Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
0	2	3	31	29	65	4.34

The instructor Joseph Guadagni responds effectively to student comments and questions.



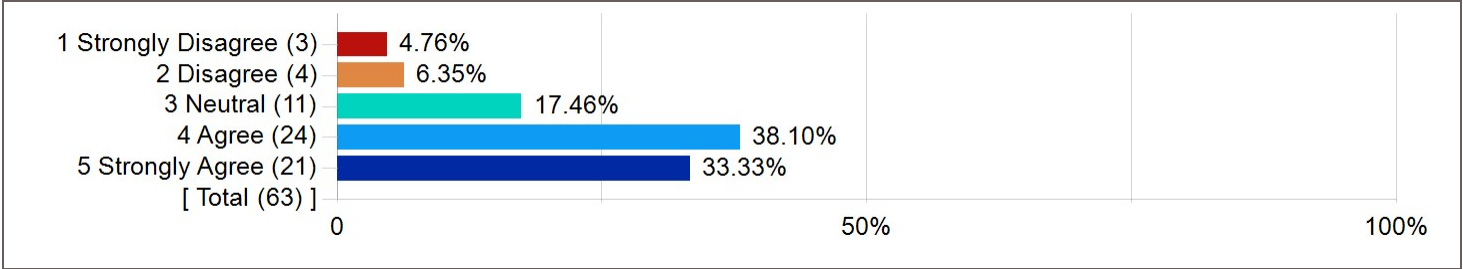
Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
2	6	9	27	19	63	3.87

The instructor Joseph Guadagni posted content that helped me understand the topics covered by the course.



Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
3	5	9	24	24	65	3.94

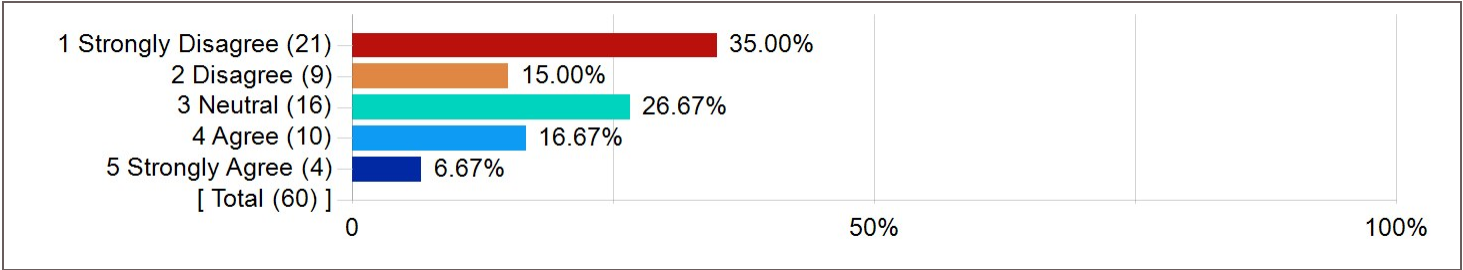
The instructor Joseph Guadagni has taught effectively in the course so far.



Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
3	4	11	24	21	63	3.89

Course Questions

I was glad to take this course in an online format; for me it is the preferred format for this course.



Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
21	9	16	10	4	60	2.45

What do you like most about this course?

Comments
unfortunately this is a hard question but not because of the instructors. I guess i like how well informed of a teacher dr. g is.
It is extremely challenging
The friendly banter of the zoom calls as well as Dr. G's nicely color-coded notes.

Comments
polls.
That everything was done on pearson.
good explanation on the questions
the engagement
Overall, this course is structured very well for an online format.
In the asynchronous sections, you are able to view the material and complete assignments at your own pace. I support the format of homework and recitation activities each week, along with more divided exams.
I like how the material in this course allows me to expand my mathematical knowledge past algebraic concepts.
I also enjoy doing breakout rooms its very effective.
Dr. G uses his ipad on zoom which helps us understand the material. He also uses polls which are kind of fun and encourages us to make wrong answers, so we can learn from them before the exam. Dr. G is the best professor I have had at Rutgers thus far. He also responds in a timely manner to emails and holds very helpful office hours. Dr. G also provides more than enough learning resources which have been very helpful for the exams.
André has been an incredible TA. He is very helpful and goes over ever step (including the algebra) if requested. André has been staying well after class to help us with material lately and encourages us to stay overtime. I really appreciate having André as a TA and Dr. G as a professor for calc 135
the professor
How easy it is to follow along in lecture
What I like most about this course is the way that Dr. G and Andre had taught and seemed very clear and coherent to me. When comparing this semester to last semester when i dropped the course I feel much more confident in my calculus skills than before.
I like how the professor makes it easier to understand the different concepts and rules.
The professor has a very nice Canvas page.
I like that the midterms are spread out more
There is an abundance of resources and practice methods available for students.
I like that the professor is interactive for this class.
Lecture video playlists on YouTube
I liked how Dr. G was in touch with his students and made class seem more normal.
nothing
There are a lot of online resources and practice problems to prepare for exams.
I enjoyed the YouTube page with all of the course lectures.
the multiple chances on homework
I can do work at my own pace and there are more exams than in person.
Nothing
It's interesting.
I like that there are many different things we learn.
The way most students have had the same experience as I had with this professor makes this class easier.
i like that there are worksheets and solutions with every section
I liked the interactiveness of the course
It's organized and it's very easy to find the material.
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The helpful resources for practice
I like learning math.
I like that there is a lot of available material for you to practice and prepare to understand the material.
recorded lectures so I can go back and review
I like that I have access to past notes and exams to be able to study from, as well as youtube links and lecture videos that I can watch.
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Comments
The course may be difficult as the exams really require the student to gain a deep understanding of the concepts within Calculus, although Professor Guadagni is very organized and provides a lot of material to practice off of which I really appreciate.
I like that it makes you actually think about what you are doing. The theory behind the math is interesting
the online form and how the homework, exams and quizzes are presented through mylab
I like the fact that the Dr. G provides a vast array of resources for students to use to succeed in the course. The format of the homework and online quizzes are simple and easy to understand.
I think Dr g's lectures are very helpful and easy to follow, definitely makes these difficult concepts seem easy.
there is nothing beneficial about it being asynchronous.

What do you think needs improvement and how should these improvements be made?

Comments
I think that exams really dont need to be that hard. its only 7 questions which can bring your grade down by a lot. the questions are really ALL challenging. i get that a student who understands concepts should be able to do that but im not like 100% lost — i can do what is taught in class but that stuff is never on the exam. There should be a few easier questions to determine whether a student is understanding at east basic concepts.
The exams seem to be really difficult. I (and many f my classmates) find it very hard to prepare for these exams.
Teaching assistants should hold office hours after their recitation activity in the week;(i.e. if rec. is on thursday, don't have office hours on Wednesday)
The tests are made to be much harder than the practice and homework we are given. It causes panic to set in over confusion and frustration. Because of this, I stress intensely over tests and have had my mental health decrease by a lot over this course and it's tests. If tests could be made to better reflect the practice and homework provided to the students, I believe there would be a lot less stress and more passing students than there have been. I'm not saying make it exactly the same of course, but not drastically more complicated and different either. Also more resources and encouragement should be made available towards the students. Getting constant emails about dropping or switching does not help a student psychologically to do better, it only makes motivation harder to grasp and more frustration to occur, especially for the students who may not have that choice to drop down.
Finally, the idea of taking 25 points off of the first exam over an RURT should be left behind. I do not believe it really makes any sense nor is fair to a student to do such a thing. It only further hurts the student and discourages them, and that's not what should be happening or the goal of a class/professor/department. If anything, change it to giving extra credit if you pass the RURT and don't give anything if failed. It just gives more incentive for students to study even harder for extra credit, while not drastically hurting or discouraging the others who may not pass the RURT. I fully believe if changes such as mentioned (and what others before have lamented about as well) happened, this class could be more engaging for students, more productive, result in better learning, and show more student successes.
Students SHOULD work hard towards a good grade of course! Hard work and dedication is something people should strive for, and not just expect easy grades. But having a class making students so stressed, so distraught, and so wrapped up in a decreasing mental health over it is wrong and shouldn't be happening. It doesn't help or benefit any student, it just harms them and effects their thinking process and motivation. It's a concern and a shame to see so many students effected in that way over this course. Remember, not all students in this particular math class are going on to careers heavily involving this kind of math. Some may not ever need it in the future but still must take it as a course requirement. I hope you really consider these suggestions and points, and actually take the time to understand and want to do something for the greater good of the students and not ignore it. Thank you.
nothing
a course like this in my opinion is better taught in person
Many of the questions asked on the exams are much more difficult than problems we have gone over in class or that have seen on the quizzes.
While it is understandable that being online facilitates cheating and even makes it desirable in some cases, the extent of preventing such actions through the use of foreign questions that are not gone over during lecture or review seems excessive. Students are familiar with the type of questions gone over in lectures and homework, but are not prepared for the way some questions are presented on the exams. Increased focus on the concepts rather than raw problems may give students a more accurate idea on what to expect.
I believe that there should be more reviews for the exams in this course that effectively prepare students to do well, in terms of understanding mathematical concepts.
I find the tests to be difficult but at the end of the day its a tough class.
I wish we did harder, exam-like, questions in class and in the homework. Sometimes the exam questions feel foreign but its because of a lack of preparedness by me.

Comments
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More questions like the ones on exams done during lecture and recitation
As of right now, considering all the conditions with the pandemic it seems like everything is being done for the most part so i have no extra recommendations.
We should practice problems similar to the ones on the exams during the lectures and review.
Easier tests
I think the midterms do not accurately represent the material we learn in class and are way harder than they need to be
The content we learn in class is best reflected by the homework and quizzes we take. However, when we take exams, the exam material rarely ever reflects the content we learn in class. My peers and I feel the exam material is made more to prevent cheating than actually test us on the material we have learned in class. We also have a High Pass/Low Pass/Fail method when we get our exam grades back and I have done poorly for the past two exams. When I ask how to better prepare for my exams, the answer is to go over conceptual questions, however we never learn how to review conceptual questions from the content we go through in the class.
Maybe posting supplemental or additional problems to the material being taught
I think we should have in person classes
The exams are very challenging and many students feel that it is too difficult of a course for a course we all need to move onto higher major courses. The curriculum needs to be adjusted. The lack of proctoring makes the exams that much harder. This extra stress is the last thing students need. Also I do not understand why the course has 4 midterms now instead of 6 and dropping the lowest. Seems disadvantageous.
test layout
professor is rude and makes students feel uncomfortable to reach out for help
Nothing.
the professor's attitude and the way he answers certain questions make it seem like you're dumb for not knowing the answer and makes it harder to feel comfortable asking a simple question
The exams do not reflect the homework or recitation quizzes.
How there were usually different questions and concepts than the homework which made it very confusing when the it was exam time
The exam question is always hard and so different with the question I reviewed from textbook and last semester's exam. And the time is not enough for me, so when I do new type of questions in the exam I can't figure out at time. It might because of i'm so nervous, but i hope we can have more hard questions in homework or similar questions.
more problems in lecture
I think that there needs to be more challenging problems maybe for the homework that kind of reflects what the exam would be like.
The exams are not at all the same content that is taught in class. When trying to have a discussion about it with the professor, he complains about it on the class discord and implies that we've been cheating instead of accepting the fact that the issue could be his teaching. Class is also completely a boys club. If the majority of the class is not doing well, there is no way it is only the fault of the students
exams are way too difficult and questions are not gone over in classes. unable to see what our final grade is
The assignment formatting on mylab should be asjusted
The exam should be more similar to the quizzes and homework.
I think the exams don't reflect what's been taught in the course. The homework's and notes are relatively simple and doable but when it comes to the exams, they're extremely challenging. I would like if it we were given practice exams of the similar difficulty or taught how to do the exam problems so we have an idea on what to expect.
N/A
No improvements need to be made.
I think that the information to be known for the exam and then the exam itself is a little different. I think it would help if we were given more problems that would help us understand the harder content and questions, it would help.
for some reason I found the exam was pretty tough compared to the practice questions.
I do believe that the subject itself needs to be explained in a more detailed manner, as it is both complex and confusing for most people.
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The only thing that may need improvement is Recitation Groupwork as the majority of the time, students do not engage or work with

Comments

one another on the problems. In this way, recitation can often be not as effective as students just do problems by themselves, and then with the TA, and that's it. Also, I would wish the exams were a bit more similar to problems we do in lecture, although I will say much of the exam problems purposefully require the student to master all the concepts of Calculus, and that is how math should be taught. However, I still find the exams difficult, even with practice and a conceptual understanding of Calculus.

I think the tests cover a lot of material at once

overall feel good about this course

More test prep

I believe the exams should look similar to questions on the homework and quizzes

Many people think that this course is unnecessarily difficult, and although I haven't been performing all that well, I can definitely do more to improve, such as doing more practice problems. However, I do feel that the exams are quite difficult and that 75 minutes is not a lot of time even for eight questions. The questions on the exams themselves require a lot of application, even more so than the problems we do during lecture, so it would be nice to go through exam-level application problems in class as well as potentially reviewing the exam questions after everyone has taken it. All in all, I think Dr. G and the math department have done an amazing job providing us with plenty of resources for us to succeed, but it still requires a lot of effort especially for students who are taking many other demanding classes.

the class material is far off from exam material

I think the biggest flaw of the course is the difficulty of the exams. The exams never seem to match up with the examples done in class or the homework. Questions seem vaguely familiar, but the wording and format is done ever so differently in a way that leaves me wasting time trying to figure out what I am being asked. This trend of putting never before seen material on the exams makes it discouraging, as everything leading up to the exam is relatively straightforward and easy to follow. I think the course has been made harder than previous courses as a way to prevent cheating on the online format, but I'm not sure the caliber of difficulty is justified. Studying old exams is hardly any help as they just do not seem to match up at all to the real exam. I think if this overly difficult exam format is addressed and fixed, the course would be much higher rated by me. I think Dr G is a great teacher, but I don't think that this teaching has allowed me a deep enough understanding of the concepts to figure out the meaning of new question formats popping up for the first time on the exam.

Calculus classes shouldn't be asynchronous.