



Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating

Spring 2021

Guadagni, Joseph - JG1314

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

Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 164

Responses Received: 78

The Student Instructional Ratings Surveys should be considered within the context of the global health emergency. Rutgers University has decided that some instructors have flexibility in choosing whether to include the Spring 2021 SIRS results in promotion and rehiring materials. Details may vary by campus, rank, or position; please confer with your department chair for more information.

Special University-wide Questions for Spring 2021

Due to the challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, three additional questions were added to the Spring 2021 survey.

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
Given the content and level of the course, the course workload was manageable.	6	9	21	27	15	78	3.46	3.21	3.76	3.96
The course site used for this course, whether in Canvas, Sakai, or Blackboard, was well organized.	3	2	9	27	36	77	4.18	3.89	4.17	4.21
The instructions given for assignments, exams, quizzes, and other course activities were clear and easy to understand.	10	10	7	30	20	77	3.52	3.22	3.86	4.03

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 Joseph Guadagni was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	3	2	9	25	37	76	4.20	4.12	4.22	4.28
The instructor Joseph Guadagni responded effectively to student comments and questions.	5	6	14	22	30	77	3.86	4.02	4.19	4.26
The instructor Joseph Guadagni generated interest in the course material.	6	4	16	29	23	78	3.76	3.87	4.00	4.07
The instructor Joseph Guadagni had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	4	4	18	22	29	78	3.88	4.09	4.26	4.33
The instructor Joseph Guadagni assigned grades fairly.	9	8	21	23	16	78	3.38	3.82	4.07	4.17
The instructional methods of Joseph Guadagni encouraged student learning.	5	10	13	26	24	78	3.69	3.89	4.02	4.09

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 Joseph Guadagni as:	7	10	11	21	27	76	3.67	3.89	4.03	4.11

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.	6	8	23	21	19	77	3.51	3.30	3.85	4.01
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	14	22	22	12	8	78	2.72	2.75	3.16	3.45

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:	12	17	15	20	14	78	3.09	2.70	3.60	3.82

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
I liked how Dr. G tried to help his students as much as he could. I also liked how he was able to teach effectively in lectures and was able to encourage student participation.
I liked recitation lectures.
The professor over the content any day of the week.
teaching style
The way this course is structured now with multiple midterms and a final is much better now especially with the difficulty of the material instead of the usual two midterms and final.
Very good at lectures, clean slides and wonderful drawings to help visualize material.
Business school requirement: DONE
MyLab homework helps to reinforce the material.
None
Lectures and topics felt better explained than my previous time taking calc
good
I learned a lot and i do feel prepared for calculus 2
I liked how everything connected in the material.
I usually hate math but Dr. G made it very easy to understand the material by explaining every step and explaining the conceptual side of the math.
Professor G was understanding of his students' workloads and changed due dates accordingly. I made me happy that there was a professor who cared about his students and tried to make a difficult course easier.
Dr G was a really good and fun instructor. He is also well organized and provide a lot of resources for us to use to study for the exams.
I liked that the recitation activities were similar to what we were learning in class
Interpretation of the sample
I can learn new knowledge in every lesson.
Again, the amount of youtube videos and extra materials sources the instructor provided for students to learn. I liked that the most of this course.
I liked that it was easy to communicate with the professor despite the course being online and that it was easy to find additional resources for help.
The use of accessible videos and lectures allowed me to learn at my own pace.
async option
The Canvas page was very organized and easy to follow. I liked that we could study from previous exams and worksheets. Also, there were a lot of opportunities for office hours and extra help.
n/a

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

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
I would make questions on the tests and quizzes more like the questions we go over in class. I would also have better

Comments
communication with the asynchronous students.
I would incorporate more conceptual concepts in either lectures or worksheets that students use for practice.
I would go over exam material the way it would be presented to my students.
give more examples of conceptual questions because that is what is on the exam
make the midterms easier and reduce the weight of the final if there are so many midterms
be more transparent on the exams
Midterms often have questions that seem foreign because it is in a format that was never gone over before. I would do the best to go over all possible applications.
Exams tend to be on a different level than anything we cover in class or in recitation. I feel that if we are to try to critically think about to solve a problem we've never seen before. There should be some sort of partial credit given where applicable. Exams were the only thing that I had a sour thought about in this class.
I would alter the exams entirely
Make the exams less complicated. They are so hard to pass even when I score well on recitation activities and homework and feel confident with the material.
None
Not have Dr. G in charge of grading. With his styles you can get a questions wrong even if they were right. What I mean is, if a question had muliplte parts, he stops grading it once you get one part wrong and disregards the following. I understand this method, however with class being online and computers not being the most reliable source, a student might click on the wrong answer as he is scrolling down to the other parts or some other combination of issues.
Exams corresponding to material
Make the exams match the level of difficulty to the homework and quizzes
I feel as if both Dr G and Andre taught the best way considering the circumstances
Make the exams a bit more aligned to the types of problems assigned on the hw or given in class.
good
i would make the test questions more similar to what we learned, and the problems we did. i get that no professor wants to give out free grade, i get that we know everything to apply what we learned. But at least make the tests so there's a grade difference from the kids who go to class and the kids who don't. because the tests are nearly impossible for both groups which is very unfair. students should be rewarded with grades for the effort they put in. that being said, i'd do a main mix of questions similar to the ones in class, with 2–3 challenge questions. students wouldn't mind doing more than 7 questions on a midterm if they were more like what we did in class.
Nothing!
Nothing!
I would teach examples of exam questions in class rather than introducing new concepts on exams
I would provide more exam like questions during the review sessions so people can be more familiarized with exam level questions. Even if we do not have enough time to go over these types of questions, a 10–15 question worksheet that consists of harder level questions (for that particular exam) could be useful.
I would give more practice exams that reflect what we would see on the exam.
Exams were way too hard. Quizzes and homework were similar and the exam would be so difficult that it was impossible. If all students are getting poor grades shouldn't the department look into the curriculum or adjust how material is being taught?
Offer more recitations
less mylab assignments and more homework from the professor's course site.
I will. give students more practice questions.
I would not be sending emails discouraging students from the start of this course. And trying to make exam problems more close to how the homework/quizzes are would be a GREAT deal of help. Being thrown completely off guard on exams really hurt the grade, and did not encourage oneself further along the process.
I would provide resources for practice problems before the exam.
The exams are noticeably more difficult than what we were prepared for. Easier Exams.
The exams feel like rocket science...painful. This is a class that students of all majors have to take, it should not be as difficult as it is.
Change the structure of the exams. Possibly have more than 7 questions exams so that students do not lose a lot (i.e 16 or 18) of points should they get a question wrong/partially correct.

Comments

grading

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

These comments are unique to the instructor Joseph Guadagni.

Comments
Dr. G encourages his students to think and unfortunately he is a dying breed. I think that is part of why he gets so much hate – students have been trained to be robots and are really great at spitback and memorization. But he encourages us to take the next step. He hosts office hours three times a week, has endless resources, and is almost always available to answer questions.
This course has helped me realize that conceptual problems in calculus are very important to understand.
He has not encouraged my intellectual growth as he made the exams harder than they needed to be and did not go over the material the way they would be presented on the exams.
Dr. G is quite literally one of if not the best professor I have ever had at Rutgers. Although I probably am transferring from Rutgers after this semester because they too have followed "go woke, go broke", I have chosen my own way out. However, from my reasons to transfer, Dr. G has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of Calc I although my grade may not reflect so. He has so much more to share about mathematics and is a very sound and quality individual academics set aside. Although we may disagree on issues other than the course sometimes, I truly do see that I could be friends with him after this semester and even if I do transfer (again to prevent conflict of interests), as I do not even know to this point if I will pass Calc, or if I end up taking Calc at another school, I will forever remember Dr. G as being an influential professor while my two years at Rutgers. He has taught me a lot, outside of Calc as well, and really do think he should be qualified to teach other courses. Lastly, I could not thank Dr.G enough for all of the emotional support as well as keeping my mental fortitude even if I do not pass this course, I do believe he deserves a promotion pass 135 coordinator and I wish him all the best!
Dr. G is a good professor but the exams were unreasonably difficult.
Dr. G translated his extensive knowledge on the subject to his students by making us think critically about questions we had instead of just giving the answer.
Very good at lectures, clean slides and wonderful drawings to help visualize material. However, exams tend to be on a different level than anything we cover in class or in recitation. I feel that if we are to try to critically think about to solve a problem we've never seen before. There should be some sort of partial credit given where applicable. Exams were the only thing that I had a sour thought about in this class.
I mean he tried in the end of the semester? But I need that energy in the beginning. If you're entire course is failing, it's not the students.
Very helpful, you can tell he really wants his students to understand the material.
None
Made class enjoyable especially considering this is a pretty hard class
good
helped with lessons and practice
His various materials and extra reviews and videos were very helpful in the course. In addition, his lectures were fast paced but efficient and reviewed most topics before the exam. His lectures were very organized and was willing to answer any questions that I had!
If future asynchronous courses are held, maybe updating asynchronous materials would be helpful. Such as updated YouTube videos or making synchronous lecture recordings available.
Dr. G has been my only teacher this semester that made online school not feel so lonely. He was able to do this by engaging with the students constantly and creating an environment where kids were comfortable enough to be themselves
He is a good teacher who is likeable but exams ask much more of the student than what was taught in class and in homework
Dr G teaches the material well and he always answers our questions. He is always willing to help us whenever we need help and I love his sassiness, it adds a lot of fun during lecture.
By illustrating examples
He explained every question in detail.
I liked the youtube playlists that were provided for students to help with material learning.
He made sure that students understood the material, and in office hours, he was very patient concerning students' problems.
Guadagni honestly is a good professor, his reputation somewhat surprised me because he seems to be the most understanding professor in the dept. I only wish his exams were easier since this class is for people who pursue other majors, not math. Overall, he is a good professor.
n/a

Other comments or suggestions:

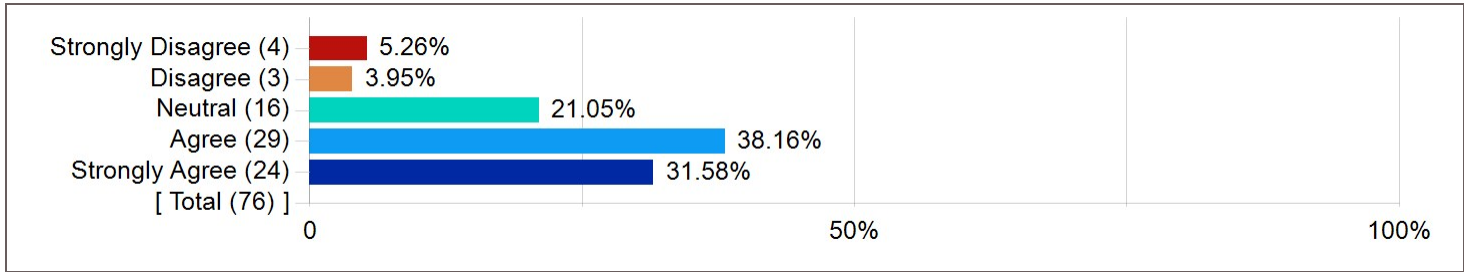
These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
Overall, Dr. G was a good professor, however I feel as though he did not want to see his students succeed and decided to make the exams very different from homework and quiz questions.
Have it in person, and in a regular education (not reduced size lecture halls and masks, or hybrid) setting and not trying to milk your students for room and board money (that you missed in the previous school year due to COVID implications) and force them to get a vaccination and manipulate them for the universities own economic needs (one of the reasons what made me on the verge to leave) and by completely flipping your decision for students to get the vaccine as THEIR choice which thank you for taking away our right to choose. And then make it optional for staff and faculty to get the right to choose whether they want the vaccine or not (as far as I'm concerned we are all Americans and all deserve the right to choose). Further, thank you again Rutgers by breaking a federal mandate:
"Federal law 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(III) requires that the person to whom an EUA vaccine is administered be advised, 'of the option to accept or refuse administration of the product, of the consequences, if any, of refusing administration of the product, and of the alternatives to the product that are available and of their benefits and risks.'"
Read More: Rutgers breaks federal law with vaccine mandate. Do they care? https://nj1015.com/rutgers-breaks-federal-law-with-vaccine-mandate-do-they-care-opinion/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral
Hope you don't get sued. Thank you President Holloway for promoting socialism and also making Rutgers extremely politically polarizing. Thank you for pushing your liberal ideology upon students, when one political ideology does not represent all students, even if it's not the majority. Rutgers speaks of being so inclusive and equal, then why do you go out of your way to indirectly silence those with the opposite opinion? Thankfully this is anonymous, because since I have spoken my opinion (clearly unpopular at Rutgers) I know that if my name was attached to this, my life would be absolutely ruined for exercising my 1st amendment right, which at this point I do not know what the University will do, now that breaking federal mandates without consequences makes them unstoppable. What's next, cancel every conservative on campus? As I know this response will probably will not be looked from the hierarchy of the University, or ignored and not taken seriously, I will finish with this, you will never be able to manipulate your students own thoughts and ideologies into a one size fits all, no matter what that may be for your own political agenda; education and politics are meant to be separate for a reason, stop forcing this upon your students.
Just very hard to learn online
Very good at lectures, clean slides and wonderful drawings to help visualize material. However, exams tend to be on a different level than anything we cover in class or in recitation. I feel that if we are to try to critically think about to solve a problem we've never seen before. There should be some sort of partial credit given where applicable. Exams were the only thing that I had a sour thought about in this class.
Use practice MyLab questions on the exams
None
n/a
Professor is rude and dosent offer effective help to students.
good
none
I enjoyed taking this course and learned a lot!
I do not believe that there should be an optional "asynchronous" course. I didn't expect to not be allowed to attend recitations. I truly believe if I had known how awful this course is asynchronous I would've not taken the course at this time.
The practice exams/ Homeworks were easy compared to the exams. The exams were extremely difficult.
No other comments
Mylab was not very helpful and honestly encouraged students to be lazy. Putting more emphasis on the course work and sheets that are linked on Dr.G's website and making it required for a homework grade instead of mylab would be a better option.
N/A
This course was beyond hard and mentally exhausting. As someone who won't be utilizing any of this material in my future, it further frustrated me to struggle so hard with exams and try to study and work hard, just to be met with poor grades due to the problems. What was most frustrating was that I was about to do well on quizzes and homework, and even went to tutoring, but still suffered greatly on the exams. This course caused me unbelievable amounts of stress on top of other things in life. If exams were more close to the material given to practice, then I believe a lot of students in general would see more improvement and encouragement to continue learning in the subject.

Questions added for: *Standard SIRS

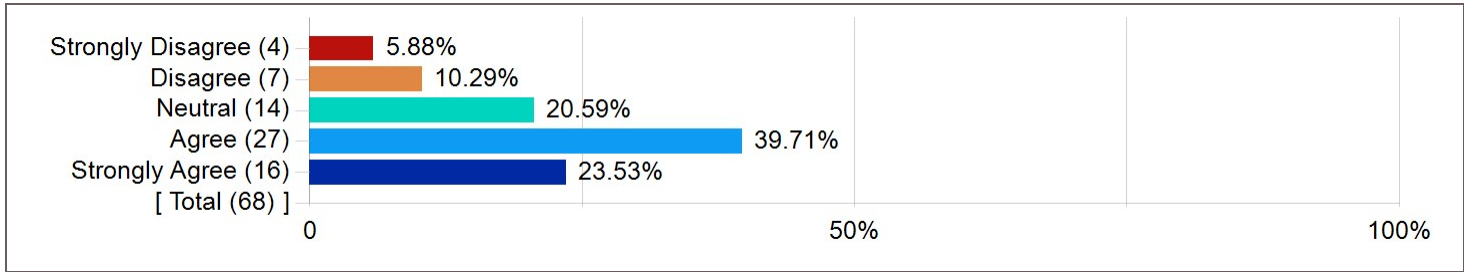
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

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



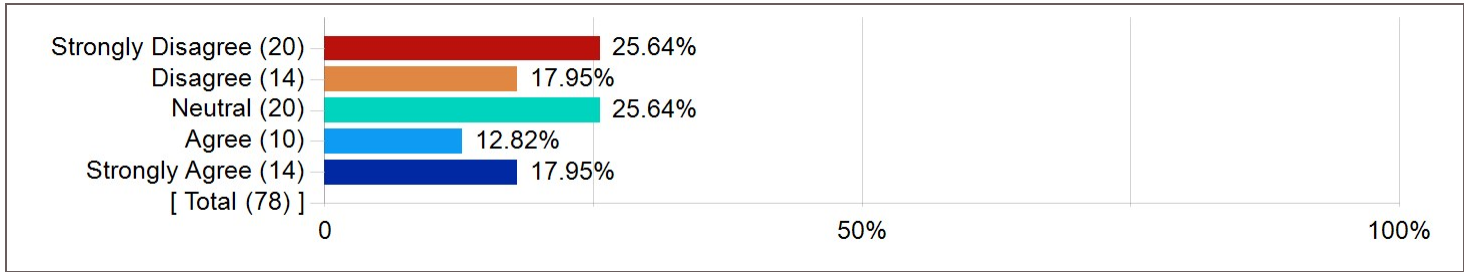
Section	Course	Level	Dept
3.87	3.66	4.00	4.05

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



Section	Course	Level	Dept
3.65	3.61	3.81	3.89

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



Section	Course	Level	Dept
2.79	2.61	3.00	3.10

