

Selected evaluations at Rutgers

Joseph Palmer

Below are some highlights from my evaluations since I have been at Rutgers. There is at least one evaluation from each class.

- “The advanced pace of the course demands that topics be covered curtly and systematically. However, Palmer’s gait through the area of study allowed not only thorough observation of each topic and its numerical calculation, but also its underlying intuition and even its application in higher maths. Palmer is able to give the subject depth in a way that other instructors cannot.” (Multivariable Calculus, Fall 2016)
- “The instructor was very clear and explained the subject material well, and he was easy to understand and excited to teach. He explained everything he did very thoroughly. [...] this professor both wrote a lot of explanatory notes and made sure that the class was following him. He explained things he noticed we did not understand and had questions about, and as a result the entire class seemed to attend every lecture, which was not the case in my previous calculus class.” (Multivariable Calculus, Fall 2016)
- “Dr. Palmer was great. You can tell he really loves what he does and his passion about the material makes it seem more important and therefore makes it easier to pay attention and learn.” (Introduction to Math Reasoning, Fall 2016)
- “Explaining applications of the material covered in other fields (other fields of math, quantum mechanics, etc.) and bigger picture ideas of how topics were important/profound at a higher level were very effective motivators for understanding the material. In general, the instructor’s attempts to motivate topics before introducing them (inner product, determinant, etc.) were very effective, and topics that were motivated more on an abstract level (e.g. the determinant, in which the entire chapter was all motivation and discussion of what we ‘want’ from such an operator) were much easier to think abstractly about.” (Linear Algebra, Spring 2017)
- “This class, starting from the first few lectures which introduced vector spaces and abstract algebra concepts, introduced me to a way of thinking that I never knew existed. This course was a very effective introduction to linear algebra, and overall an excellent introductory mathematics course.” (Linear Algebra, Spring 2017)
- “I liked how this course was structured and organized well. The material was presented in a way that I could learn a lot and succeed. The professor was great, and his teaching style matched perfectly with my learning style.” (Multivariable Calculus, Spring 2017)
- “Everyday Palmer walked in with such a good attitude that coming to class wasn’t a chore like other classes. He made it so we would walk out of class happier and in a better mood than we talked in.” (Multivariable Calculus, Spring 2017)
- “By giving consistent feedback and encouraging participation, I felt eager to answer questions in class and wanted to improve.” (Multivariable Calculus, Fall 2017)

- “Palmer actually explains math, doesn’t just make you memorize.” (Multivariable Calculus, Fall 2017)
- “Calculus was one of my favorite courses this semester: Dr. Palmer always had such a nice perspective on math and just talked like it was so interesting that I bought into it. [...] Also, there’s this one student in class who frequently asks obscure and often very loosely related questions, but Palmer is very patient and moves him along quickly with answers and always has control over his time. Similarly, Dr. Palmer is very conscious to point out anything on the board that he may have changed for any purpose for our sake, which I think is a very respectful and ego-less thing to do.” (Multivariable Calculus, Spring 2018)
- “Great professor who made the course clear and easier to understand, despite it being a relatively hard course.” (Linear Algebra, Spring 2018)
- “I liked his personality and how he didn’t take anything personally but used it to make the student comfortable and admit everyone makes mistakes and what is more important is to learn the concept. He was also available every time after class and didn’t mind staying later to talk to you and make sure you understood the lecture.” (Introduction to Linear Algebra, Summer 2018)
- “I was able to learn things by learning arguments versus memorizing facts.” (Introduction to Linear Algebra, Summer 2018)