Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating
Spring 2021

Zhu, Songhao - SZ446
Differential Equations For Engineering And Physics - 01:640:244:17, 18, 19
Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 81
Responses Received: 29

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.	0	0	5	11	13	29	**4.28**	4.27	4.12	3.96
The course site used for this course, whether in Canvas, Sakai, or Blackboard, was well organized.	1	0	0	10	18	29	**4.52**	4.29	4.25	4.21
The instructions given for assignments, exams, quizzes, and other course activities were clear and easy to understand.	1	1	3	10	14	29	**4.21**	4.13	4.15	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 Songhao Zhu was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	0	0	2	5	20	28	**4.67**	4.32	4.36	4.28
The instructor Songhao Zhu responded effectively to student comments and questions.	0	1	1	6	20	29	**4.61**	4.29	4.34	4.26
The instructor Songhao Zhu generated interest in the course material.	0	0	3	10	15	29	**4.43**	4.11	4.18	4.07
The instructor Songhao Zhu had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	2	2	8	16	29	**4.36**	4.34	4.41	4.33
The instructor Songhao Zhu assigned grades fairly.	1	0	2	11	14	29	**4.32**	4.21	4.32	4.17
The instructional methods of Songhao Zhu encouraged student learning.	0	1	2	9	16	29	**4.43**	4.16	4.21	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 Songhao Zhu as:	0	1	1	7	19	29	**4.57**	4.21	4.26	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.	0	1	2	11	14	29	**4.36**	4.22	4.19	4.01
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	2	4	6	8	8	29	**3.57**	3.71	3.72	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:	0	1	2	13	11	28	**4.26**	4.01	4.03	3.82

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
–prelecture and post lecture quizzes helped me to grasp the material –recitations included a summary of the lecture notes –exam questions were very fair and mirrored the recitation quizzes
It was an interesting course. Definitely different from most previous math courses.
It makes you think differently.
The pre– and post–lecture assignments were helpful, and I feel that the exams given were very fair. Questions required thought but I never felt they were beyond the scope of what was covered in class.
I really liked how the professor made exams that were realistic and were dependent on the content of the lectures. Unlike previous professors that I have had, the exams were reasonable, but were still difficult in a way that required you to critically think.
Teachers were very friendly and assisting to students
the exams– easy af
The definite approach and step by step method of introduction of material which gives better understanding.

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

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
–in the beginning of the course, the professor went a little slow, which resulted in him speeding up towards the middle/end because he was a week behind the projected semester schedule. I would suggest he paces himself a little faster in the beginning for future semesters. I do not think the post–exam meetings are necessary. It is a little difficult to recall your work a week after the exam, and the questions asked were often just regurgitating the work we already wrote. Instead, the exam should ask us for written explanations to confirm how we got our answers. –better documentation for matlab functions used frequently in the matlab assignments
No Matlab!
Breakout rooms suck. Don't do them
I would do more examples; rather than droning on about the theoretics behind the math, I would do the math over and over to properly show students how to do it. I would also do more than just one example per problem subject.
Nothing
Nothing, I think everything was great
I think that I would remove the breakout rooms. Even though it is important to work with others, in the online format, breakout rooms end up being silent with nobody talking, basically wasting 10 mins of recitations. I preferred asking and answering question with he class as a whole.
Do it at a faster pace
I would not give matlab assignments!!!!
Uh...just work on making the MATLAB problems doable, or have a step by step guide on what to do or maybe a video on MATLAB assignments

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

These comments are unique to the instructor Songhao Zhu.

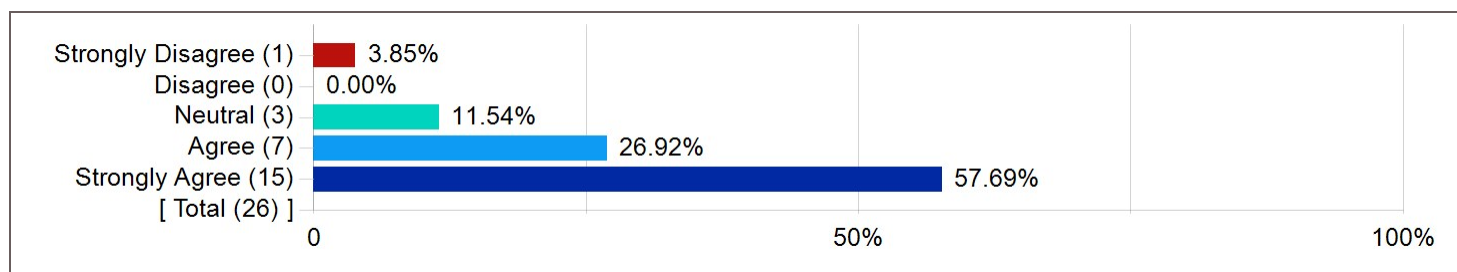| Comments |
| --- |
| I liked that the recitation assignments had a brief summary of the lecture material. It was easy to back to those summaries when studying for the exam. Songhao did a great job explaining the recitation problems; his work was thorough and he went at a slow pace. |
| The recitation was a great summary for the previous lectures and I learned the most from them. |
| A great TA! Can explain concepts very well and is a very fair grader in terms of recitation quizzes. |
| I felt he explained things well and gave helpful feedback on the quizzes. |
| He was an excellent TA. Before recitation, he would release a release the workshop problems in advance which gave us to chance to work on them beforehand, which allowed us to ask question during recitation. He also made notes that summed each recitation, and gave us hints and tricks to help us solve problems. He was always willing to answer questions. An excellent TA! |
| he always explains stuff better than professor |
| If the professor helped me 80% I would say the TA helped me 1000%, what an absolute pleasure to have a TA like this gives key points after every quiz, encourages questions, gives us a new ways to look at problems, just an absolute CHAD!. I scored highest on midterm 2 only thanks to TA's approach and his step–by–step breakdown made the problem extremely clear. I cant thank the TA enough for his contributions ;) absolut pleasure to have a TA like that. This guy is the best TA I've ever had. |

Other comments or suggestions:

These comments are intended for all instructors.

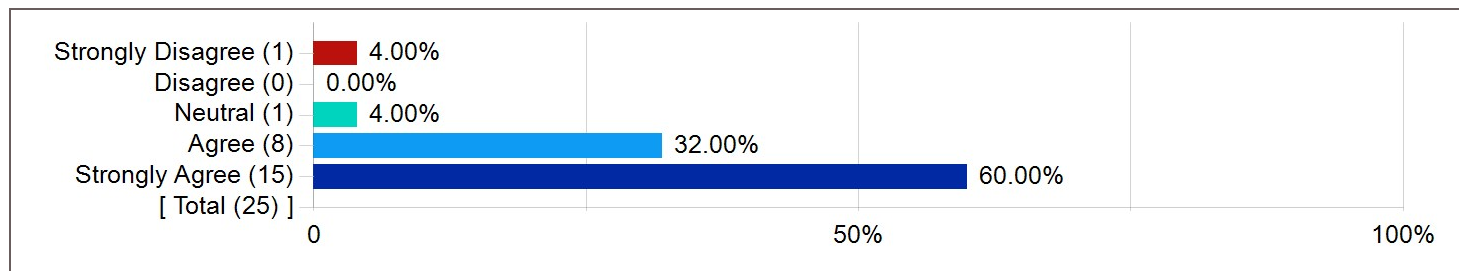| Comments |
| --- |
| lecture notes/lessons are unorganized and difficult to follow |
| BEST PROFESSOR EVER!!!!!!! |
| I feel nothing was really reinforced in the class, it was always 5 seconds spent on each idea and onto the next. Every new thing learned gets replaced with something new every few minutes. |
| None |
| Special thanks to the TA and the Professor for making Calc absolutely enjoyable. Thank YOU |

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.
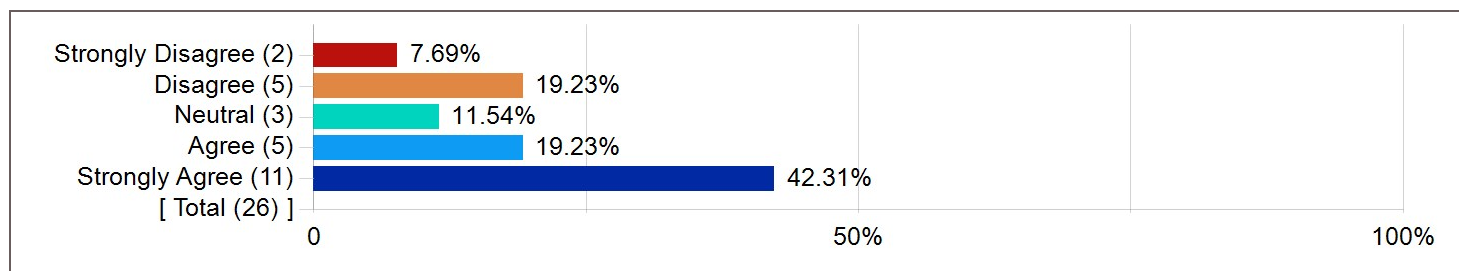

Strongly Disagree (1) — 3.85%
Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (3) — 11.54%
Agree (7) — 26.92%
Strongly Agree (15) — 57.69%
[Total (26)]

Section	Course	Level	Dept
4.35	4.11	4.13	4.05

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

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (1)	4.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (1)	4.00%
Agree (8)	32.00%
Strongly Agree (15)	60.00%
[Total (25)]	

Section	Course	Level	Dept
4.44	4.11	4.07	3.89

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

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (2)	7.69%
Disagree (5)	19.23%
Neutral (3)	11.54%
Agree (5)	19.23%
Strongly Agree (11)	42.31%
[Total (26)]	

Section	Course	Level	Dept
3.69	3.25	3.25	3.10