

Cornell University
 Course Evaluation Response Summary
 Semester: Spring 2023 Course Owner: MATH
 Course: MATH 2940 LEC 001 CID: 3500
 Title: Linear Algebra for Engineers
 Instructor: Schalekamp
 152 Responses, 308 Enrolled, 49.35% Response

Your responses to questions 1-4 and 13 should relate to the instructor of the lecture that matches your enrollment and whose name appears at the top of this form. If you did not attend lectures with this instructor, please skip questions 1-4 and 13 but respond to the other questions.

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Did the lecturer stimulate your interest in the subject? [L1] 1 = not at all 5 = stimulated great interest; inspired independent effort	3.55	1.17	149	9	21	34	49	36	
2. Was the lecture presentation organized and clear? [L2] 1 = disorganized and unclear 5 = very organized and lucid	3.74	1.02	149	4	13	39	54	39	
3. Was the lecturer willing and available to help you overcome difficulties in this course? [L3] 1 = was of no help 5 = was very helpful	3.74	1.09	139	7	9	37	46	40	
4. Rate the overall teaching effectiveness of your lecturer compared to others at Cornell. [L4] 1 = worse than average 5 = much better than average	3.54	1.03	147	5	18	45	51	28	
5. Was the homework returned in a timely manner? [G1] 1 = never 5 = always	4.13	0.89	144	1	3	34	44	62	
6. Were the grader's comments helpful? [G2] 1 = no help 5 = very helpful	3.25	1.22	129	12	23	40	29	25	
7. How valuable were the homework assignments? [C1] 1 = taught me little 5 = extremely educational	3.93	0.92	146	2	7	35	57	45	
8. Rate the examinations in this course as a test of your knowledge. [C2] 1 = too easy, not adequate 3 = adequate 5 = too difficult, not a fair test	3.69	0.80	147	1	4	59	58	25	
9. Rate the level of difficulty of this course. [C3] 1 = too easy 5 = much too hard	3.63	0.73	149	1	2	66	62	18	
10. How suitable was the textbook? [C4] 1 = lousy 5 = great	3.94	0.95	146	3	7	33	56	47	
11. How many hours each week (on the average) did you spend on this course outside of class? [C5] 1 = 0-4 hours 2 = 5-7 hours 3 = 8-10 hours 4 = 11-13 hours 5 = 14 hours or more	2.34	1.01	149	34	52	45	14	4	
12. What was your most important reason for taking this course? [C6] (Use the answer that is closest to correct.) 1 = field or major requires it 2 = prerequisite for further courses 3 = interest in the subject matter 4 = reputation of the course 5 = reputation of the instructor 6 = distribution requirement	1.44	1.18	148	122	12	4	2	1	7

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13. If you have any comments about the instructor, please include them here.

27057. i like him

44315. great instructor!

44410. Our professor keeps class very engaging and helps explain the content he's teaching through comprehensive examples.

27110. Professor Frans is sooo good at what he does. Its obvious he's passionate about Linear algebra and he delivers his lectures so well. He's also very lovable. Like I'm not a big fan of linear algebra but I enjoy his lectures regardless. Highly recommend

27077. Solid teacher, very engaging and funny! Sometimes a little too abstract and theoretical for me.

21388. Please get a new instructor

21331. The instructor is nice and straightforward.

21325. Very funny and engaging, definitely made boring topics interesting

44339. Franz is amazing at his job and an overall great person

33228. Professor Schalekamp was extremely engaging and dedicated to helping students learn. When I needed help, I always felt like I could reach out (even though it was a very large class) and the way that he presented information made me want to learn further on my own. He did an amazing job connecting topics with each other and with topics learned in previous classes, and homeworks / exams were always relevant and fair. One of my favorite math classes I've ever taken (not an exaggeration). Would absolutely recommend Professor and the class to anyone.

21314. Instructor tends to write too much of what he saying and not enough examples.

9587. He's a great professor but I wish that he would focus on doing more examples and less proofs. Some of his proofs were extremely long and confusing, but overall he was generally good at explaining concepts.

21408. So many proof

44363. Neater handwriting. Exams too tough

21350. I think that he provided for an interesting lecture and genuinely enjoyed teaching which helped me engage more with the content.

44354. Prof. Schalekamp is very patient and helpful in office hours! He takes the time to meet you where you are in your understanding and go from there to clarify concepts.

38563. Great professor, great atmosphere in class, sometimes scrolls down notes slightly too fast during lecture

38449. A good chunk of students don't see linear algebra from the computer/cs/orie/info sci perspective. we see it as a math class so it was hard to connect with the content and it was hard to actually enjoy the course when it felt like it wasn't relevant to you.

21348. This semester's class focused a lot of proofs especially on exams which made the material much harder for me.

38539. Great instructor

38462. The instructor is very kind and passionate. If he were able to stop scrolling immediately after he writes something down in lecture, it would be amazing! Overall caring professor as well.

44764. The instructor, Frans Schalekamp, is a great guy, he honestly does want the success of his students. However, as an instructor, he had a lot to be desired. The course itself is MATH 2940 Linear Algebra for Engineers, however Frans teaches the class like a theoretical linear algebra class. He has, so far, not once given an example question with real world application. When students request such examples, he instead makes random matrices and asks for us to solve them without real world connections. His examinations have a huge focus on theoretical aspects of linear algebra rather than creative application. And, many students through the semester have noted to him that his current method of teaching does not match his audience, yet he has yet to make changes to his lectures.

21328. Prof Frans is the GOAT.

26990. good lectures, good notes

27096. The lectures sometimes became hard to follow by how much was written, if the lecture presentation/notes on the board were a more distilled version of what was being said I think this could be beneficial.

44759. nice shirts

21353. Very nice guy, very funny, not that good at giving good examples

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39636. Frans is very enthusiastic about the material and about helping us learn the course content!

27018. I like his way of teaching the material. He wrote everything down which was nice when going back to the lectures for review. His way of writing the material was clearer to me than the textbook despite clearly being the exact same material. Ultimately, I did find it unnecessary to write everything down in the lecture. We could have gotten through more material in class if he was able to move from point to point faster. As a personal preference, I feel that we could have moved faster and covered more difficult concepts and maybe some more geometric intuitions.

This class made me want to do an applied mathematics minor. I was disappointed to figure out that with the scheduling of classes for my major, there is not enough overlap. I would be interested to see more linear algebra applications to real-world engineering jobs. Particularly ones that are not ORIE or CS.

I think there could have been more abstract vector space examples in general.

39014. Professor Frans is one of the kindest professors I've had at Cornell. He is very willing to take questions during lectures and always answers them effectively.

44750. Great instructor! He kept the lectures interesting.

33241. Professor Schalekamp is easily one of the best professors I have ever had at Cornell. He is willing to help, very knowledgeable and works in the best interest of the students.

26993. He is a super friendly guy, however I believe he teaches the course a bit too proof like and really focuses on theory. This can make it extremely difficult to succeed if you have no background in solving proofs or working with theory

44378. Given the time limitation, I think avoiding proofs that are redundant, or doesn't improve understanding would be very helpful. Not only would it make the lecture more engaging (watching some proofs are a little boring sorry), but also give more time for the difficult stuff. For instance, I remember proofs of how vector addition adds and scalar multiplication scales. I know taking these for granted is an error since we are defining system perimeters, but I do not think the proof is worth the time. Perhaps a brief few sentences to explain, and uploading the proofs onto canvas for those interested would be better. After all, knowing some of these proofs doesn't help with course material like exams and hws.

37404. LOVED THIS CLASS! You sparked a love for math that I thought died away. You were so funny and provided a safe space to learn! Thank you so much, I am forever grateful

9577. Sometimes lectures may be fast, such that it is difficult sometimes to catch up and to write down all the notes being written. Overall, Prof. Schalekamp is a decent lecturer.

21358. Very kind, willing to help, and clear

44686. One of the best professors ever

35200. Lectures were always enjoyable and Prof. Schalekamp taught very effectively.

27098. Frans was a spectacular lecturer and I really enjoyed his course! He made lectures entertaining and tried to connect us with the material. When I fell ill for a week I was upset that I had to miss his lecture. We need more professors like Frans!

38484. none

33212. Sometimes there were super long chunks of writing written down in lecture that seemed unnescesary and would have sufficed if they were just said aloud and not written down.

21380. Very nice and kind, fun in lecture, however he is really bad at actually teaching material.

21432. Was extremely easy to see the connections between Frans' lectures and the content in the textbook which I did utilize as it was strong. Wished his lectures veered slightly more away from the textbook with his own content to widen the resources I had. Although the consistency for notation and stuff for the homework was nice. His enthusiasm and fun shirts made classed much more entertaining; I ended up attending almost every single one!

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14. Please comment on any other aspect of this course, including the lecture, textbook(s), homework, exams, course content, etc. Would you recommend this course to a friend?

(No comments about the instructor in this box, please.)

27057. I have liked the homeworks

44410. I would recommend the course to a friend. The textbook is very clear and the homework and exams are generally a good mix of challenging and comprehension questions.

38944. more examples of problems that would be seen on the prelim

27110. I recommend the textbook for this class and its very easy to make mistakes in linear algebra so be careful in exams. Its one of those math classes where you think you got it, but you dont. The textbook is very helpful. I recommend the class in general.

44286. This was the dulllest math class I took at Cornell.

39019. Some of the exams were much more difficult than expected.

21388. Better to skip lecture and teach yourself from the textbook.

38925. The exams were extremely proof-based and not at all similar to HWs and in-class materials, which made for low averages. This should have been a red flag to the staff after the first prelim, but the second prelim followed the same mold. Engineering math classes have never been proof-based, so the examinations (which were nothing like the practice materials or HWs) were an unfair evaluation of our understanding of the class material.

21331. The exam are difficult and tricky, and the grading on the exam is harsh.

9587. Homeworks were good for practicing content, the textbook was usually very helpful, but the exams felt pretty difficult.

44332. I would recommend this to my friend.

38563. No

38449. The first prelim was very confusing

44385. I dont feel this class is fair because in past years cheat sheets were provided. Test averages are also lower than past years so I feel like this reflects the professors teaching. I didn't like the style of teaching and dont feel like I got as much out of this course as I wouldve liked.

38539. Prelims were graded very harshly, as if they were taking away as many points as possible as opposed to giving students as many points as possible.

44764. This courses textbook was actually very helpful for learning linear algebra.

21328. N/A

39636. The lectures were really fast-paced and often difficult to follow. I think it would be more effective if we went slower but covered a little less material and had to watch videos/read the textbook to get the rest of the information. I think we spent too much time on proofs and derivations and not enough time on example problems.

27018. I personally found the exams to be a good representation of my knowledge in the course. I was surprised by how low the medians were and would be kind of disappointed to see the course change because of that. I wanted to learn more and have more asked of me. The homework was nice because it wasn't graded. This decreased the challenge level of this class a lot.

44750. The textbook is very good, and I found the exams very fair. I would recommend this course to a friend.

26993. I think the exams are much too difficult

27063. I felt the exams were much too conceptual and was graded too heavily on conceptual understanding which made exams very difficult

37404. I already have recommended this course with specifically this professor. He was engaging and amazing!

9577. More motivation and applications of the course content would help. Linear algebra can be an abstract topic, so diagrams and visualizations would aid in the understanding of concepts. A stronger emphasis should be placed on building geometric intuition.

35200. I think there could have been less emphasis on the proofs during lecture.

27098. The textbook is superb! It wasn't too overly complicated and was easily digestible.

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38484. Yes, I would recommend it because linear algebra rocks and is very cool even though the class can be difficult.

33212. Prelims were difficult

21380. Textbook is fine. Exams are not very well written.