

Cornell University
 Course Evaluation Response Summary
 Semester: Spring 2023 Course Owner: MATH
 Course: MATH 2940 LEC 002 CID: 3501
 Title: Linear Algebra for Engineers
 Instructor: Schalekamp
 175 Responses, 308 Enrolled, 56.82% 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	3.83	1.08	167	7	12	37	57	54	
2. Was the lecture presentation organized and clear? [L2] 1 = disorganized and unclear 5 = very organized and lucid	3.79	1.09	168	9	12	32	68	47	
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	3.96	0.99	157	3	11	31	57	55	
4. Rate the overall teaching effectiveness of your lecturer compared to others at Cornell. [L4] 1 = worse than average 5 = much better than average	3.73	1.07	165	6	17	37	61	44	
5. Was the homework returned in a timely manner? [G1] 1 = never 5 = always	4.18	0.87	163	0	9	23	61	70	
6. Were the grader's comments helpful? [G2] 1 = no help 5 = very helpful	3.48	1.17	142	8	26	29	48	31	
7. How valuable were the homework assignments? [C1] 1 = taught me little 5 = extremely educational	4.02	0.94	165	3	9	26	70	57	
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	3.68	0.80	165	1	6	65	66	27	
9. Rate the level of difficulty of this course. [C3] 1 = too easy 5 = much too hard	3.57	0.77	167	1	7	75	64	20	
10. How suitable was the textbook? [C4] 1 = lousy 5 = great	4.13	0.92	163	3	4	30	57	69	
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	2.31	1.10	166	41	69	27	22	7	
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	1.60	1.35	168	128	19	5	2	4	10

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

15531. funny sometimes, which makes class more interesting

43241. Great lecturer, always kept me engaged.

21186. SO SO GLAD I TOOK THIS WITH FRANS! WAY BETTER THAN KATJA!!!! Great Prof.

15392. Professor Schalekamp was a fun and interesting lecturer. However his tests had nothing to do with anything he ever taught.

15384. Very funny and very kind. Engaged students well.

43248. Sometimes, instructions and wordings on exams are unclear which can create difficulty in completing a question. Along with this, practice exams the instructor gave do not really reflect what the actual exam will be like in terms of difficulty. I think it would be very helpful if the instructor can create a practice exam that can reflect on what the actual exam would be like so that students can be better prepared for future exams.

43302. I like how he emphasized important topics multiple times throughout the lecture, so even if I missed it the first time, I always understood the topic by the end of the lecture. He also always tried to make lecture engaging and funny, which helps to keep my attention.

7116. I liked his colorful shirts.

43278. mid

15396. the lecturer was not good at explaining the concepts and lectures were not helpful.

43271. n/a

15415. Kind

43202. Professor Schalekamp was great! I liked his light-hearted humor, clear explanations, and good pacing of the course.

3967. He did a great job in lecture and prepared us to do well on HW assignments and Quizzes, but did not prepare us for his exams.

21264. Really enjoy his attitude towards teaching, all of the problems I have with the course have to do with the content that we learn.

15471. I absolutely love Professor Schalekamp as a person. He clearly is enthusiastic about the subject and deeply cares about his students. I think any issues I had digesting the material were just because of my personal learning style—he lectures and handwrites all of his notes without providing a skeleton. He is a very fast writer, and talks quickly as well, therefore I find it difficult to digest the material while also writing it down, which causes me to have to review the textbook afterwards to truly understand the material. Also, a student kept asking questions that were not very relevant during class, taking some class time and affecting lecture experience, so we felt behind in the curriculum (and had to skip Markov Chains, which I was excited for). Professor Schalekamp would often not finish one topic at the end of the lecture, and then would have to finish it the next lecture, causing him to not finish that lecture's topic, and so on. Overall, however, I felt that Professor Schalekamp was on the side of the students.

3990. I thought lectures were a little redundant—They followed the textbook too closely.

3109. great lecturer & person

38212. his notes not very easy to read/follow, his lectures were hard to follow and pay attention to

15339. I feel that the instructor heavily emphasized the theoretical/proof-based aspects of the course content, and to some extent this led to the focus of the course straying from the learning objectives.

38208. Lectures were a bit disorganized, textbook was far better.

3085. Frans has been my favorite math prof at Cornell!

38240. Frans is an icon :D

3969. N

15388. Lectures were not clear, the professor made the tests way too hard. He wanted to test "the understanding of the material" so there was hardly any computation on the tests and most of it was questions like we've never seen before. So that made it increasingly difficult to prepare for the exams.

43225.

22168. Professor Schalekamp clearly enjoys teaching linear algebra and explains concepts well. Thank you!

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15367. It was just boring in lecture hard to stay focused on it. The jokes were good though

22211. Do less arithmetic during lecture. Give some more proof stuff too.

3568. None.

15462. Fun person.

21265. n/a

15507. he's very enthusiastic instructor who seems enjoying teaching kids

4006. Engaging

3958. In general, I thought the lectures before prelin 1 weren't very engaging- maybe more geometric intuition drawings would've helped me to grasp the fundamentals and what was happening behind all the calculations. After prelin 1 though I thought the lecture were pretty good (although some topics could have been explained better)

3935. Great professor! Caring and educational. Enjoyed lectures and the class overall.

15523. Professor Schalekamp is an intersting teacher. Although his writings are sometimes hard to understand, but he explains everything perfectly clear.

7071. The grading of the course just does not make sense. So much of the class is based on exams that messing up on one exam leads to a dramatic decrease in the overall course grade. Furthermore, considering that the average on exams has been a high 60, the requirement for an A being 94% is ridiculous.

15551. None

15469. Good. Mediocre. Very theoretical.

43252. Very nice and funny. My only complaint was that lecture moved too slow.

38184. i am really grateful to Professor Franz for all the help that he provided me with this seemster. I really struggled with this content and he really tried to answer all my questtions and help me to get a better grasp of things.

4025. Great instructor

15605. Good, coherent lectures, a bit too fast paced though

3953. Schalekamp is a very cheerful professor who was always willing to help and responded promptly to ED discussion posts. It frustrated me how he would not release solutions to practice prelims until a couple of days before the prelin/final.

15355. GREAT FUNNY PROFESSOR

4000. Fun Professor!

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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.)

-
15350. I found it hard to pay attention during lectures. I wouldn't really recommend this course to a friend.
-
15389. I wish there was a better pacing with the lectures and in particular, the number of in-class questions permitted during lecture time was more limited such that more time is allocated to the material being taught.
-
4010. lectures were too similar to the textbook, even had same examples
-
43241. The textbook was extremely helpful - I did most of my learning from it rather than the lecture notes.
-
15392. The lectures are completely from the textbook which is good but then the tests are not as simple so I would suggest that future students study really hard for the tests. Also, the homeworks help and the course content looks easy but can be tricky. I would recommend this course but I would also say - prepare to be surprised in the tests.
-
15452. nice!
-
43256. Exams' rubrics need to be more accommodating to students various approached when it comes to solving problems. This a problem across all math courses that I have taken (in this one it was especially emphasized) is that students are expected to solve problems in a particular way. This hinders students' creativity and critical thinking and it is trying to make students fit into a mold. I know TAs do not have time or they are underpaid but they need to review students solutions more carefully and understand that everyone has a different or unconventional approach which might be right and might lead to a correct solution. Instead, I felt I need to learn how to solve problems in a specific way and that I should not do even try to attempt to solve it in a different way because it will not be graded impartially. The excuse that I usually hear is the "No debate on rubrics" which does not make sense because rubric is usually discriminatory if you want to solve a problem in a different way.
-
38151. The professor is very enthusiastic about the course material and makes the lectures very engaging. I would recommend this course to a friend.
-
38164. Yes I would recommend it.
-
15384. The exams were too abstract. We would be doing simple problems for homework and quizzes and random problems for the exam. I did not know how to study for something like that.
-
43302. The homework questions were very helpful in reviewing the course content.
-
22209. I would recommend the course to a friend.
-
15418. Would recommend to friend
-
15396. the discussion were good way to review the concepts that we learned in class and helped me understand the class more than the actual lectures.
-
43271. n/a
-
21264. I don't think the content we learned was very good for engineers. It was so proof-based and I feel like I had to go out of my way to even learn how to do the homework problems. I just feel like the content had an extra level of abstraction (in all of the proofs and things we did in class) that are useful for math majors, but for engineers who just want to know how to use Linear Algebra for their own applications, the proofs make it much harder to follow.
-
15471. I think that the textbook was a great resource. Compared to my experience in MATH 1920, I wish that the homework was more relevant to course content beyond the recitation quizzes. Exams are fair, but seem to emphasize things that were not emphasized in lecture or in homework, so I wish that exams, homework, recitation activities, and lecture would have been more cohesive. Also, the lights were turned down very low in the lecture hall, making it hard to focus in such darkness.
-
3109. - hw being optional & quizzes based on hw made it less stressful but still required understanding which was great
- i would not recommend this course to a friend because my TA said the course will be curved to a B- median which feels unfair especially since many people in the course are not engineers anyway. most of my more difficult stem courses have been curved to B+ which i feel is more fair
-
38208. Textbook was an amazing resource and homework was very helpful, much more useful than lectures.
-
3085. I would recommend this course to my friends, yes.

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15388. Homework's were based on completion, the quizzes changed mid way through from being from the homework to whatever the TA wanted.

22168. Textbook is great for reinforcing material and provides a wide variety of practice problems. Homework assignments were reasonable, exams reasonably fair but definitely difficult.

15367. on exams it should be specified on which questions points just come from extra explanations not just the answer

3568. I thought that the lectures were sometimes tough to follow, but the textbook was very helpful in reinforcing lecture materials.

21265. would recommend

15507. Exams seem to be harder than the materials he covers during lecture.

3958. Good coverage, liked how course ended with SVD and its applications to tie the major course concepts together

3935. Homeworks were useful for reviewing material, as were recitations. I enjoyed the system with homeworks for completion, then being able to review the solutions before the quizzes. I think changing numbers on homeworks was a great change; it meant that students who actually understood the material were rewarded and students who just memorized solutions were punished.

15551. None

15469. Textbook is terrible. Franz just reads theorems.

43252. The textbook had good worked out proofs.

4025. No comments

15605. I would rec

3953. If it was not required for their major, no I would not recommend math 2940.

4000. Lectures are good but would be better if we are given time to think about the questions