

**Division:** PHYSICAL SCIENCES    **Department:** MATH

**MATH 19900-41 Intro to Analysis & Lin. Alg.**

**Quarter:** Autumn 2008

**Instructor:** Schmidt Ben

**Number of Responses:** 11

**Number Enrolled:** 30

**COURSE EVALUATION COMMENTS**

**Why did you take this course?** (circle all that apply):

Core requirement	0 (0%)
Instructor reputation	1 (13%)
Faculty member recommended it	1 (13%)
Concentration requirement	7 (88%)
Meets at a convenient time	1 (13%)
A student recommended it	2 (25%)
Topic interests me	8 (100%)
Concentration elective	0 (0%)

**In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course.** (circle one)

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (40%)	6 (60%)	

**How many hours per week did you spend on this course?**

Low Answer: 5    Average Answer: 10.5454545455    High Answer: 20

**What proportion of classes did you attend?**

None: 0 (0%)    25%: 0 (0%)    50%: 0 (0%)    75%: 0 (0%)    All: 11 (100%)

**Were the time demands of this course reasonable?**

Yes: 11 (100%)    No: 0 (0%)

**The Instructor**

	not applicable	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
The instructor was organized	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
His/her lectures were clear and understandable	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
His/her lectures were interesting	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
The instructor exhibited a positive attitude toward student	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
The instructor was accessible outside of class	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (9%)	0 (0%)	10 (91%)

I would recommend this instructor to others	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
---	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	--------------

**What were the instructor's strong points?**

Being great. Definitely the best teacher I ever had

Explains concepts SO clearly, and is all-around the coolest human being alive.

His lectures make a lot of sense, he told some good stories in class.

Very positive. Explained clearly. Homework definitely added to understanding of material. Very well written questions.

Ben is awesome! He was engaged, friendly, clear, organized and intelligent. He made a difficult class enjoyable and went at a very good pace.

Ben's funny and he has a math enemy, as well as knowing which authors of theorem's went crazy. Luckily Ben isn't crazy (another strong point).

-He was very good at helping students outside of class. -The lecture was clear -He's one of the best instructors I've had in UChicago.

He was very good at explaining things. His lectures were very interesting.

Great teacher all around.

Generally, his awesomeness, but specifically, he made a great effort to relate to his students and was well-balanced between being informal in class and teaching us a lot of material very effectively.

**What were the instructor's weak points?**

Seriously none

None whatsoever.

Didn't really have any...?

He had office hours that were very helpful, but his office was so small and crowded that it was not always as helpful as it could have been. I do not know why he didn't just make one of his office hours a problem session.

He's leaving!

sometimes went fast. But it was fun fast.

He has no weak point--this is the weak point.

None. Ben Schmidt is a god among men.

Often would give away too much during office hours instead of leading students along lightly.

**Assignments and Tests**

**How often were homework assignments due?**

Every Class: 0 ( 0%)    Every Week: 11 (100%)    Occasionally: 0 ( 0%)

	<b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
The homework assignments were useful, appropriate, reasonable	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	3 ( 27%)	8 ( 73%)
The exams were appropriate/reasonable	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	3 ( 27%)	8 ( 73%)

**What did homework assignments involve? (Problems, proofs, computation, explanations, etc.)**

Proofs

Problem sets with 6-8 problems, usually. Extrapolation from class lecture. Pretty hard stuff.

Mostly proofs, occasionally we had to find examples or counterexamples to something.

Proofs and some show this or explain this.

Proofs

all

Less than 10 questions with proofs and explanations.

Many proofs

Proofs

Proofs...many, many proofs

**How useful were the texts? (Please give author and title)**

Not very

Sally's Tools of the Trade is not really for explanations, it's really more a reference. Overall, probably not too useful, but lecture makes up for it.

The Tools of the Trade by Paul Sally. It's a good book, although not something to turn to if you're having trouble understanding a topic.

NOT HELPFUL! I hated tools of the trade. I thought the supplement Analysis With an introduction to proof was far more helpful.

Sally. Not useful at all. What's the point of writing a textbook where you expect the reader to do 99% of the proofs for you?

sally tools of the trade. When some proofs are only "easy" (that's the proof), you get a little fed up. But it was a good text I suppose.

Tools of the Trade: Introduction to Adv. Math" by Sally. It's a necessary book to have.

"Tools of the Trade" by Paul Sally was fairly useful, although it was hard to follow at times.

Sally, Tools of the Trade. The presentation of definitions was great, but the proofs in the book were abbreviated and hard to follow.

Sally, Paul. Tools of the Trade. It was good for reinforcing definitions and proofs given in class, but seldom went beyond just stating definitions and bare-bones proofs. Not very explanatory.

**How many exams were there? What did they involve?**

3, proofs. They were hard, but I they were fair

2 midterms and a final. They involved proofs that were pretty similar to the homework.

There were two midterms and an exam. They involved the same kind of stuff as our homework: proofs, some examples or counterexamples, and some true/ false questions. The exams were very fair, not too hard at all, but not easy enough to be boring.

2 midterms, 1 final proofs , definitions, true false, some explanations

2 midterms and a final. All proofs.

2 midterms.

2 midterms and 1 final. If you know how to do all homework assignments and know all the materials from your notes, you will do fine. (Taking a good note is more important than reading the text.) Questions are mostly proofs and explanations.

2 midterms and 1 final, and they involved stating definitions and doing proofs.

2 + the final, proofs.

Two midterms, one final. Proofs, true/false, proofs, recalling definitions and giving examples.

**How well were the labs coordinated with the rest of the course?**

**Did the experiments help you understand the course material? Did the experiments teach you useful lab techniques?**

**How well did the lab manual present the theory behind the experiments? How well did it explain experimental procedure?**

**What aspects of the course should be changed?**

There should be more practice given for people like me who have never done proofs before for tests. That may be too demanding and impossible, but I felt a little bit cheated on tests. I was the only one who didn't know what a blue book was.

Nothing, except maybe the couple of kids who manage to question Ben Schmidt's logic every single class. THE MAN IS A PH.D.!

Some of the grading on the homework was a little weird.

none

None. It's such a perfect course as it is now.

None

None.

**What aspects of the course should be retained?**

All of the subject matter is awesome and well taught

Ben Schmidt, though I hear he's not going to be teaching here anymore.

I was happy with pretty much everything about the class.

Everything

none

Everything

Construction of the real numbers--easily my favorite part of the class.

**Would you recommend this course to others? Why?**

Yes. Greatest class ever

Definitely, it is a necessary basis for taking the real analysis courses in this place. The class is very fast-paced, with like 10 new concepts every class. Really. But it's awesome. My favorite class this quarter.

Yes- it provides a good foundation in proofs and it's an interesting class.

Yes. Very good intro to analysis or doing proofs

yep. It's interesting!

I would if and only if they're seriously interested in higher math-level courses beyond single-variable calculus.

I would recommend the course to others because Ben Schmidt is a great teacher and the coursework is very interesting.

Highly. Wonderful introduction to proof based mathematics.

Very strongly. Take this course from Ben if you get the chance. He is a fantastic teacher and the material covered in the course is very interesting, especially to people like me who were never really taken beyond computational mathematics in high school.

## View another Evaluation:

Browse by department  or Course Number  or Instructor Last Name

- [UChicago](#) [Current Students](#) [Course Catalog](#) [Course Advice](#) [Course Evaluations](#) [Contact Us](#) •

Information on using this site | All pages on this site © 2009