

This material is intended for use by undergraduate students who are contemplating taking a course with me.

- **I have pasted, without edits, all Section C comments from my recent online evaluations from SIRS for undergraduate classes. On the old paper evaluations Section C consisted of the questions on the back of the sheet.**
 - **Typically only a few students in each class respond to these questions.**
 - **Each complete set of questions below contains all comments from one class.**
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What do you like best about this course?:

The professor is so willing to help. I was really scared about this course but she really took her time to be of help. I think she really made me comfortable with mathematical theory.

This course was what I needed to strength my proof thinking. I learned a great deal of skills that will be fruitful in the later math courses that I'm taking the future.

That it is, (was), for my major.

Know how to write in the right form of mathematics way

I loved professor Shelstad. One of the best instructor!

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

Nothing

Not anything in particular I would say. The professor was really considerate and knows how to get the information to the students, or at least that's how I personally feel. If anything, I think I would have added element of fun engagements like for instance asking mathematical questions and let the students say their thinking why this wrong or that right. I have seen a course of this sort in an open course online, which is was very engaging and kind of liked that.

Professor Shelstadt is very cool, however, we spend too much time memorizing in this course and not enough time learning how to write the proofs. The memorization of theorems and lemmas is important but writing proofs is the bread and butter of a proofs course. The course should therefore focus on how to think about the writing of the proofs.

N/A

I would the same as Professor Shelstad!

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

I was not able to write proofs before and in fact I hated anything proofs but now I know how to use given theorems and other information to form a proof

I have been in discussion with the instructor almost every lecture, she was really helpful and cleared my questions. I often ask her about doubt on some concept that we learned and tried to get that cleared, doctor Shesltad was very informative and helpful. In most of situations, she helped my mathematical thinking grow more.

Well, the memorization has given me a new perspective on proofs as a whole and it has given me a new set of skills, like being able to understand proof notation and how to think more abstractly.

Write more

The course encouraged me to take more math classes in near future.

Other comments or suggestions.:

Amazing class!

Professor Shelstadt is alright. I like her a lot. [comment removed for violation of privacy]

N/A

I enjoyed being in this class! Super easy! Professor Shelstad is always there to help!

What do you like best about this course?:

Dr. Shelstad is THE BEST. Exceedingly smart and an incredible teacher. LOVED her course. Her notes were helpful. Her method of teaching was straightforward. She was extremely open to discussions in class. No complaints!

Flow of class and its assignments.

Dr. Shelstad is a professor that will go the extra mile for her students learning. This professor will take all the resources about her topics and break it down into manageable pieces for her students to digest. I personally like how lenient she can be with her students.

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

I'd probably have worse handwriting. Seriously, she has the best penmanship I've seen.

-

I would speak up a little more. Very rarely Dr. Shelstad ends her sentence in a mumble (Usually if it were review material or out of the scope of the course)

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

I had sooooo much difficulty with topology during the course. Met a few times in her office and after class. After studying like a maniac, I was able to truly overcome some hairy problems and actually understand/appreciate them. I find math elegant and even beautiful now.

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It's always great to write too much than too little, even for a math class.

Other comments or suggestions.:

I LOVE MATH. Thank you, Dr. Shelstad!! Rutgers-Newark would be at a loss if she doesn't continue teaching upper level courses. Brilliant mathematician.

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I know the class isn't always the happiest place. I've looked around and seen some of the students nod off, be on their computer, be distracted, etc. But those of us who aren't distracted are very happy to be in your class witnessing the notes and topics you sweated blood to put together. Myself included.

What do you like best about this course?:

The concrete examples given to prove theories posed by the professor.

nothing

Thinking differently was encouraged

no calculator, logic and understanding of the concepts go very far here

The abstractness

Dr. Shelstad is hands-down the best professor I've had.

The teacher graded all assignments and tests fairly.

I did not like the course.

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

use ppt to replace handwriting

I would not do anything differently.

actually teach information to my students

N/A

not a single thing

Less theory more calculations

Nothing

I would take a little more time to explain material.

I would have provided a better textbook such as the Humongous Book of Calculus Problems as well as following the book. I will also have organized the materials presented to the class.

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

I have learned time management in this course when completing homeworks on time.

she has not. i dont know what is going on

Encouraged me to think outside the box

loved the proofs and the requirement to show and understand every step along the way

Made me think outside the box

Her after-class explanations really go above and beyond explaining difficult concepts in math. She's awesome.

The instructor provided challenging homework assignments and encouraged critical thinking.

Other comments or suggestions.:

Great course :P

i didnt even know we could do most of this in calculus. i thought i was good at maths. apparently not

N/A

love the no calculator rule

Stay awesome, Dr. Shelstad!

The professor has to have students open to different books that are helpful for students who didn't take Calculus before. Furthermore, the professor treated everyone as if they had taken a Calculus course prior to this course which was unfair to the rest of the students.

What do you like best about this course?:

I had free reign to decide a project I could gravitate to on my own. the deadlines were fair, and I was able to create something based solely on how much work and dedication me and my group put into it. I prefer this method of learning, setting my own pace, and making a project that went above and beyond initial expectations

Group projects. Those were fun.

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

I would fail the kids who were lazy and not dedicatied

Give a little visual flair to the presentations.

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

I want to know more about how Fourier methods affect the world

Not everything is based on performance, creativity and passion will get you far.

Other comments or suggestions::

Professor Shellstead is awesome!!

What do you like best about this course?:

Theory based math is very interesting

the topics

I love her accent and teaching style!

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

Make class a little more fun that way people can be more involved.

not a thing

Nothing!

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

this course has improved my abstract thinking.

taking on foundations and i'm excited

She taught me that I can prove theorems!

Other comments or suggestions.:

Loved the class

Shelstad is the greatest! Keep her for Honors!!

What do you like best about this course?:

I liked that most of the graded material was assigned at the beginning of the course.

The teacher is very nice and genuinely desires for the students to learn.

That professor provided materials online.

all concepts tested on was covered

The idea of rings and morphism.

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

The is very little room for improving this course. Dr. Shelstad does an amazing job at teaching a very complex subject.

I really like how the professor makes so much of the class involved in Blackboard. I think this is a great direction and what I would do differently is involve blackboard even more. Make even more of the learning happen exclusively on blackboard. This would strongly encourage participation on the forum which encourages outside research and building of interest for the subject matter.

I would assign a book for the course and explain material more clearly and provide the background information.

nothing

No. I would not because I think Shelstad taught it well.

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

The instructor has motivated me to pursue my mathematical studies even further.

she was very knowledgeable of the subject and answered in class questions

Other comments or suggestions.:

Dr. Shelstad is an amazing professor. She always prepares very well for her lectures, and the material is presented very clearly. As a student at Rutgers-Newark, I feel priveleged to be able to take a course taught by Dr. Shelstad. Thank you professor.

none

Amazing organizational skills. She is Always very well prepared for class and very knowledgeable.

What do you like best about this course?:

What I liked best was that Professor Stelstad was always engaged in what she was teaching. Whenever someone had a question or didn't understand she always made sure they understood before continuing. She is one of the best teachers I've had and she's very fair with grading and the time in which assignments are due.

The course prepared me for advance courses

The first half of the course was very interesting and helped me learn a lot of basic stuff for future more advance mathematics courses.

I like that i was able to use this math to figure other things out.

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

Maybe be a little more organized with the examples being put on the board. Many times it was kind of sloppy or small and very hard to read.

Nothing.

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

She has taught me so many things that I didn't know and of course all the material was interesting and at times fun to actually do.

The course encouraged me to review past math course and to prepare me for future courses. It provided a bridge

She has helped me wit the understanding of abstract math.

Other comments or suggestions.:

I think Professor Stelstad is one of the best professors at this campus. She loves what she does and everyone know it. I like that she gives us many opportunities to do well in her class. I would love to take another course with her.

Overall she is a very nice lady that is willing to help students to the best of her abilities. She was always available through blackboard, office hours, and gave us plenty of opportunities to succeed in this class.

What do you like best about this course?:

I liked writing proofs by mathematical induction.

The Professor prepared quizzes which ensured I was learning the material.

The professor made the material very easy to understand

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

The way Professor Shelstad taught the course was great. However, I would try to find a book that had various examples for the same lesson and explained it better. Sometimes I found myself not being able to find answers to my questions in the textbook.

Either change the textbook or not use one at all. While it's a fairly interesting book, it wasn't used much during the semester.

Other comments or suggestions.:

I felt that sometimes the professor was too nice and that some students might have been taking advantage of it.

What do you like best about this course?:

The instructor's enthusiasm made the course more interesting and easier to understand.

The method of using only class lectures and homework assignments or projects on blackboard and the encouragement of group learning and research on the internet.

the material gave me a better understanding of mathematics.

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

Nothing.

The home work felt too hard to do alone. It was easy to follow the method of answering the question while the professor showed us, but some of us felt lost when attempting it alone, many times scrambling to look for the answers in other Abstract Algebra textbooks. While I prefer the class without textbook, I feel that some added structure or guide is needed.

nothing, since the course was perfect.

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

The instructor has encouraged me to continue my mathematical development further.

The instructor broadened my horizon to the point of me wanting to learn more and understand more abstract algebra.

Other comments or suggestions.:

I feel very fortunate to have Dr. Diana Shelstad as my professor; it's a privilege to learn Abstract Algebra under her tutelage.

so far since coming to rutgers this has been the best professor i have ever had and i thank her for the time she took to teach me and mold me into a better mathematician.

What do you like best about this course?:

The class overall was very fun and enjoyable.

I enjoyed the enthusiasm the professor had for the course material. It encouraged student learning.

Working in groups because I learned from my classmates.

very little homework assignments

This class allowed for a better feel of budgeting ones time and focusing on self study to prepare for the presentation, to cover all aspects of the chosen problem.

Great job

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

nothing

I cannot think of any way i could change this course

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

This course encouraged me to review my pass mathematics courses to help me succeed in this course.

team work is helpful

The attention spent was a great factor in the choice of my project, and the level of preparation i put into it, not only for my own understanding but to ensure at least a base understanding of fellow students listening during my own presentation.

Other comments or suggestions.:

Thank you Professor Shelstad for your assistance with homework and my group project.
