



Individual Report - Fall 2014 for MATH 211-04 12521 Linear Algebra (Frans Schalekamp)

Arts & Sciences Student Course Evaluations Fall 2014 (2)

Project Audience 34

Responses Received 26

Response Ratio 76.47%

Creation Date Wed, Dec 17, 2014

Math Summary

Question	This Course				This Instructor				This Evaluation Form			
	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation
What grade do you expect to receive in this course?	4.58	5.00	26	0.50	4.58	5.00	26	0.50	4.28	4.00	1164	0.79
Rate this course, compared to other W&M courses, in terms of difficulty.	3.35	3.00	26	0.49	3.35	3.00	26	0.49	3.30	3.00	1163	1.02
The instructor presents concepts clearly.	4.42	5.00	26	0.76	4.42	5.00	26	0.76	3.65	4.00	1165	1.24
The instructor is well-prepared for class.	4.65	5.00	26	0.56	4.65	5.00	26	0.56	4.27	5.00	1164	0.98
The instructor is available for scheduled help outside of class	4.54	5.00	26	0.58	4.54	5.00	26	0.58	4.38	5.00	1159	0.82
The instructor communicates enthusiasm for the subject matter.	4.54	5.00	26	0.81	4.54	5.00	26	0.81	4.12	5.00	1156	1.10
The instructor gives meaningful answers to students' questions.	4.35	4.50	26	0.75	4.35	4.50	26	0.75	3.87	4.00	1161	1.17
Homework assignments enhance my understanding of the material.	4.50	5.00	26	0.76	4.50	5.00	26	0.76	4.13	4.00	1163	1.00
The instructor grades fairly.	4.69	5.00	26	0.55	4.69	5.00	26	0.55	4.31	5.00	1162	0.90
The instructor has enhanced my interest in mathematics.	3.96	4.00	26	0.92	3.96	4.00	26	0.92	3.24	3.00	1165	1.39
How would you rate this instructor's overall teaching effectiveness?	4.46	5.00	26	0.65	4.46	5.00	26	0.65	3.79	4.00	1164	1.15
Overall	4.37	-	-	0.76	4.37	-	-	-	3.94	-	-	-

GPA Category

GPA_CATEGORY	Count	Percentage
2.70 - 3.69	19	73.08%
3.70 and higher	5	19.23%
[Empty]	2	7.69%

Academic Class

ACADEMIC_CLASS_DESC	Count	Percentage
Freshman	2	7.69%
Junior	9	34.62%
Senior	7	26.92%
Sophomore	8	30.77%

Are you a major in this department or program?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Yes	1	7	26.92%
No	2	19	73.08%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	1.73
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.45

What grade do you expect to receive in this course?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
F	1	0	0.00%
D	2	0	0.00%
C	3	0	0.00%
B	4	11	42.31%
A	5	15	57.69%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.50

Rate this course, compared to other W&M courses, in terms of difficulty.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	17	65.38%
4	4	9	34.62%
5	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	3.35
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.49

The instructor presents concepts clearly.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	4	15.38%
4	4	7	26.92%
5	5	15	57.69%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

The instructor is well-prepared for class.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	1	3.85%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.65
Median	5.00

4	4	7	26.92%
5	5	18	69.23%

Standard Deviation	+/-0.56
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The instructor is available for scheduled help outside of class

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	1	3.85%
4	4	10	38.46%
5	5	15	57.69%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.58

The instructor communicates enthusiasm for the subject matter.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	1	3.85%
3	3	2	7.69%
4	4	5	19.23%
5	5	18	69.23%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

The instructor gives meaningful answers to students' questions.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	4	15.38%
4	4	9	34.62%
5	5	13	50.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.35
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-0.75

Homework assignments enhance my understanding of the material.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	4	15.38%
4	4	5	19.23%
5	5	17	65.38%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

The instructor grades fairly.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	0	0.00%
3	3	1	3.85%
4	4	6	23.08%
5	5	19	73.08%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.69
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.55

The instructor has enhanced my interest in mathematics.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1	1	0	0.00%
2	2	2	7.69%
3	3	5	19.23%
4	4	11	42.31%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	3.96
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.92

5	5	8	30.77%
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How would you rate this instructor's overall teaching effectiveness?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Below Average	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	2	7.69%
Above Average	4	10	38.46%
Excellent	5	14	53.85%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	26
Mean	4.46
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.65

Please enter any additional comments below.

Students
Professor Schalekamp has made learning math more comprehensive than any other class I've taken. Usually I feel like I have to teach myself the material in math courses, but not in this case
This was my favorite class that I took this semester. Professor Schalekamp is very enthusiastic about the subject, and presents the material in a clear way. Although there was a large amount of homework, it was worth the time because it helped me better understand the material. Very few professors at William and Mary explain concepts as well as Professor Schalekamp, and I would absolutely be willing to take another class with him. There were several weekly opportunities to go to office hours. The tests were difficult but fair if you put in the work. While this class did take up a lot of my time this semester, it was worth it and would highly recommend this class and professor to others.
There are only two things better than Frans's teaching: his sense of humor and his style.
Frans is a nice approachable guy
The course was very well structured. Homeworks and quizzes were used strategically to incentivize students to learn the material at a consistent pace, which proved effective.
I really like having Professor Schalekamp as an instructor. There is an area in his linear algebra instruction that I think he could improve on though. Since linear algebra often uses the same techniques to find solutions (even in different sections), it can feel tedious and repetitive to students. I know that I then didn't focus as much on new material as I should have. I think that if Prof Schalekamp really stressed to his students to be precise with new terms and theorems, this might help students focus on the importance of new topics and thus have a better understanding about what it adds to the material that we've already learned. For example, I struggled with the comprehension of what it meant to be a linear combination for a while. This was largely due to me being lazy as a student and being able to complete the problem sets without really having to think about it. That being said, I think that if Prof Schalekamp would stress precision to his students, I (and other students) would be more engaged in the material and focus on the importance of new topics covered in class.
Strengths: Enthusiasm and clear knowledge of course material. Always available to help students.
Weaknesses: HW assignments do not adequately prepare students for tests. Perhaps having problem sets, as well as suggested homework assignments, would be useful.
You're the best!
Professor Schalekamp injected a sense of humor and liveliness into the stereotypically "dry" subject of mathematics. He was a very polite and engaging professor, and the structure of his classes was designed to allow students to succeed. His homework assignments, though hour-consuming, were effective in forcing me to review the material and concepts outside of class so stuck with me for extended periods of time. Furthermore, his weekly quizzes ensured that I really studied the material. His policy of dropping the lowest two quiz grades also relieved much anxiety and stress when it came to these weekly quizzes, which were designed to help students learn rather than assess their knowledge. The exams were overall fair and manageable. Professor Schalekamp is an excellent professor!
Professor Schalekamp is one of the best mathematics professors in the Math Department at William & Mary, and to whomever wishes to take a math class I would recommend taking it with him.
The class could have been enhanced with more outside examples (as the professor tended to use direct examples from the textbook as well as present notes from the textbook and not veer away from that...)
I've taken two classes with Professor Schalekamp and he is by far one of the best teachers I have had at William and Mary. His class is also one of the major reasons I am considering to major in math.
It was a great class!
great class, great professor!! don't think homework should be graded so harshly. but overall, really wonderful class!
Professor Schalekamp is overall a fantastic professor who shows enthusiasm about the subject. His lectures are very clear and organized, and he is extremely good at explaining the course material. Homework assignments were fairly graded and helped me a great deal in better understanding the material. Exams were fair and reasonable. This class has prepared me well for future classes, and it has greatly increased my interest in mathematics, largely due to Professor Schalekamp's outstanding teaching.
I think it would be beneficial if students could access solutions to the homework while doing the homework. In Calc II with Frans homework was not graded, so the solutions were all available in the back of the book. I found it much easier to learn the material if I could see which problems I was getting wrong and keep attempting them until I figured out the correct way to find the solution. In Linear, the homework is graded and so solutions aren't available. I got a lot less out of the homework because I couldn't tell if I was

doing the problems correctly, and by the time answer sets were available I was busy learning new sections or doing other classwork. Some students might use solution sets to cheat or just not do the homework if it's ungraded...but as William and Mary who have taken an honor code, I think we should be trusted enough to have answers on homework assignments and decide how to use them (I think 95% of students would use them in an honest way).

Frans is the bomb though, great teacher, great course.