



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Winter 2015

Course: MATH 004 Section: 014
Instructor: Xavier Ramos Olive

Question # 18: YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR'S TEACHING SKILLS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE TEXTBOX BELOW. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO 2000 CHARACTERS.

- This class was a research class where the professor was trying to change how we learn. I felt that I did learn a great deal with the worksheets that we did but I still think that there should be a little more of a lecture from the TA's because some people don't learn as well on the internet as they do in an actual class room. Nonetheless Xavier was an excellent TA that worked with what he was instructed to do and always tried to help his students when they were confused.
- Good TA but needed to make worksheets easier to comprehend.
- Xavier is an effective TA, he is always willing to answer our questions, and will go over any problems on the board no matter their length. He is very nice and easy to understand and gives us a good review for finals and midterms. He will go over problems on the board when he notices multiple students struggling. He always does whatever he can to help. Sometimes however it seems like he is unsure of the material on the worksheets we are given in class. He is always able to help, but it sometimes seems like he is looking at this material for the first time, which is okay because we still get our questions answered, it just takes a little longer sometimes.
- Very helpful in explaining lectures and answering questions. Always provided clarification; office hours very useful
- Xavier is one of the best TA's I've had, he is personable, kind, and puts a lot of effort into making sure his students have the skills to complete the assignments. He is always pleasant and willing to review any topic to assist a student. He is always punctual and goes the extra mile to help students for example sending out via email an explanation of how to graph a certain problem. His grading was always clear and fair. As a non-math person Xavier is exactly the kind of TA I need to have to be successful.
- The TA was always eager to help and knew their content very well. They was organized and took their time to answer a question thoroughly. They did have an accent though, and it was occasionally hard to understand but this, in no way, impeded my understanding of the material.
- I'm horrible at math but he always explained things so that I could understand them. Seems like a super nice guy too.
- Xavier was an amazing TA. He showed full understanding in the subject and was super friendly and helpful. I attended his office hours on a day of a midterm and I did exponentially well on it. Xavier really wants to help his students and is concerned with his student's well being, understanding, and feeling in the class. He is very self-conscious with his accents and thought that it impeded the class' learning, however the class came to a consensus that it does not. He was very clear and his teaching was very helpful and effective to me.
- Xavier was sort of thrown a curve ball with the pilot run of this learning style, but he gave it his all and was helpful.
- Accent a little tricky at times, but overall not an issue at all. However, sometimes he shows other methods than the professor which got confusing. I think moreover he is a great TA and he genuinely cares about his students and helps them as much as he can. Besides the rare confusion, he is a great TA and very helpful.
- Xavier's teaching skills were great, even though the new set up of this math discussion didn't allow for him to display them a lot. He was very helpful with difficult subjects, and gave useful tips that later helped in quizzes/midterms. His accent was never a problem, and never led to any misunderstandings. He was very knowledgeable of the subject.
- very good instructor. very helpful.
- I liked that the material was patiently explained to us when we weren't completely sure on how to handle a problem. I really appreciated the solving of the problem step by step on the board to help solidify the entire process needed for that type of equation. Sometimes I would lose track of steps and need to stare at the board for a while but eventually got a good understanding since the instruction was so clear. The only thing I didn't like which was expressed in class was the time limit on the quizzes. Being quizzed on fresh material that sometimes required self-learning via iLearn was unnerving but I appreciated the mini refreshers before we took the actual quiz to polish our understanding of the material.

