



Prof. Xavier Ramos Olivé (as private and confidential)

MA 1024 - A04Y CALCULUS IV for 202001_A

Prof. Ramos Olivé,

As part of WPI's student course report process, the results for each course section are distributed by email.

This email contains the results for MA 1024 - A04Y CALCULUS IV.

The responses to each question are shown in a histogram, with the number and average values of responses shown to the right. Students' comments can be found at the end of the report.

If you have questions about the student course report process, please contact coursereports@wpi.edu.

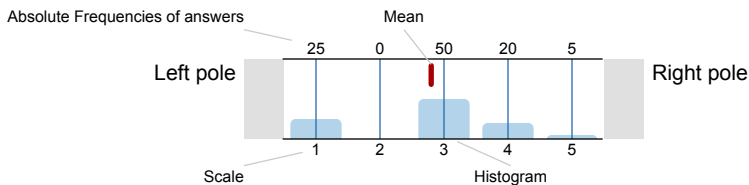
The Morgan Teaching & Learning Center Canvas site offers some suggestions for interpreting student course reports (https://canvas.wpi.edu/courses/1046/pages/tips-for-obtaining-helpful-feedback-from-students-and-interpreting-it?module_item_id=224096). If you would like to discuss these results confidentially with a colleague, please contact Prof. Chrys Demetry, Director of the Morgan Center, at cdemetry@wpi.edu or x5707.



Survey Results

Legend

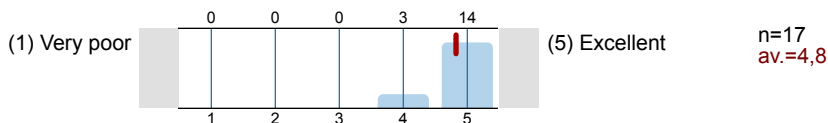
Question text



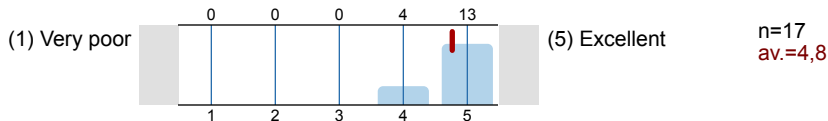
n=No. of responses
 av.=Mean
 ab.=Abstention

You can help improve the quality of teaching at WPI by providing your responses on this form. Please consider each reply thoughtfully. These reports are used by the instructor for self-improvement, by students during course selection and by members of the administration and faculty committees. Your responses are anonymous and optional. Your comments will not be returned to your instructor until after the grading deadline.

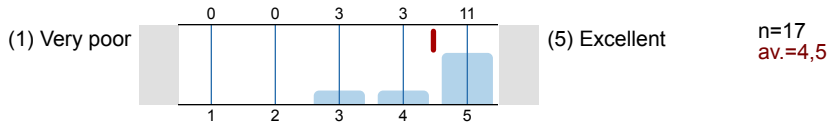
1. My overall rating of the quality of this course is



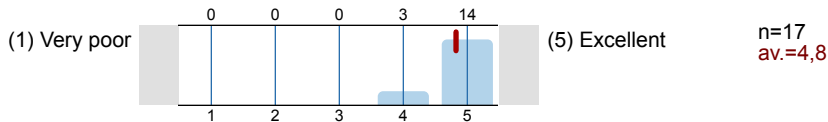
2. My overall rating of the instructor's teaching is



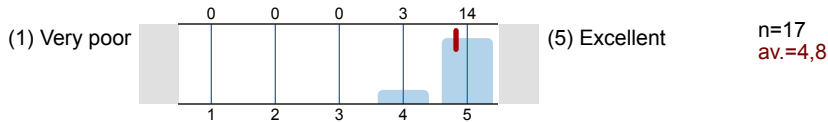
3. The educational value of the assigned work was



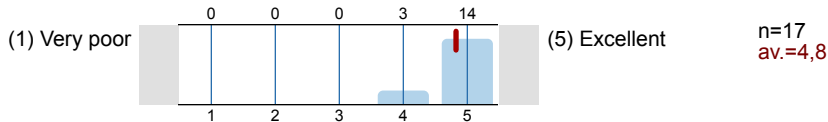
4. The instructor's organization of the course was



5. The instructor's clarity in communicating course objectives was

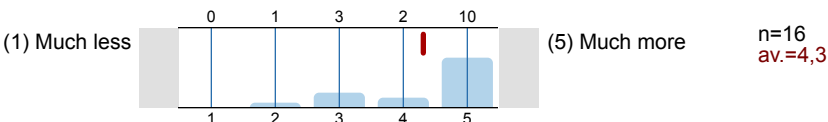


6. The instructor's skill in providing understandable explanations was

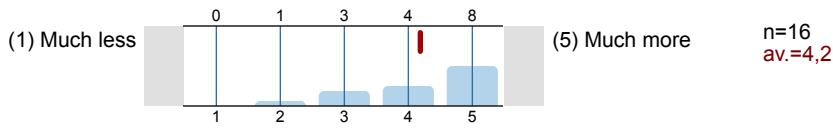


Relative to other college courses I have taken:

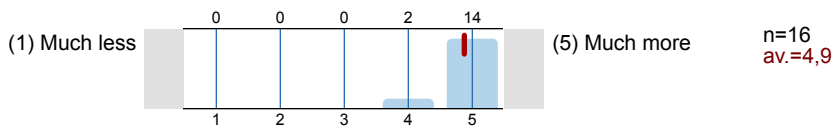
7. The amount I learned from the course was



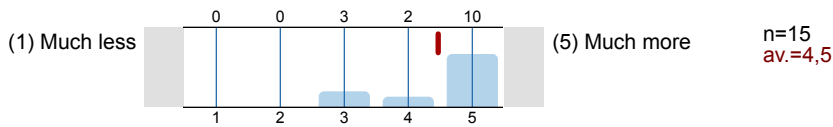
8. The intellectual challenge presented by the course was



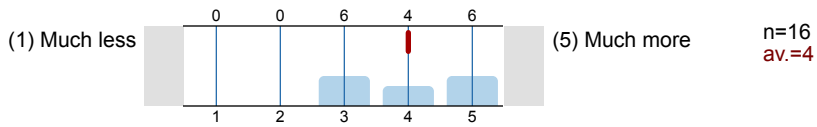
9. The instructor's personal interest in helping students learn was



10. The instructor stimulated my interest in the subject matter

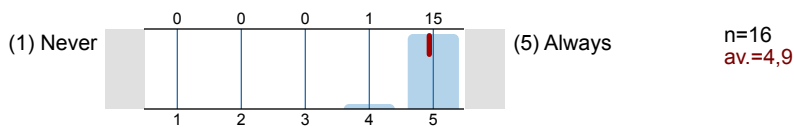


11. The amount of reading, homework, and other assigned work was

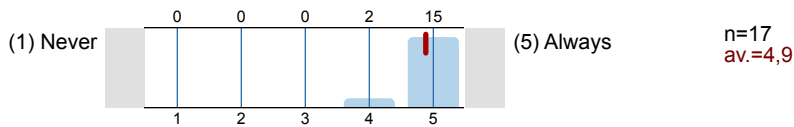


How frequently were the following statements true in this course?

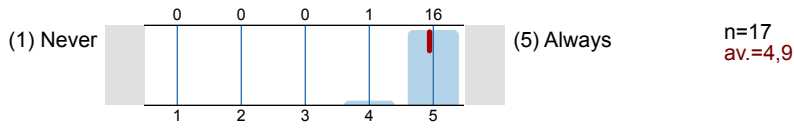
12. The instructor was well prepared to teach class.



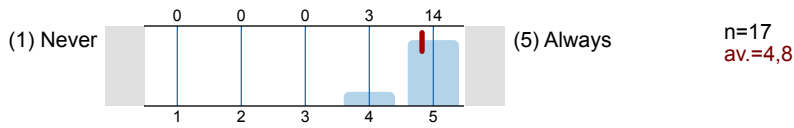
13. The instructor encouraged students to ask questions.



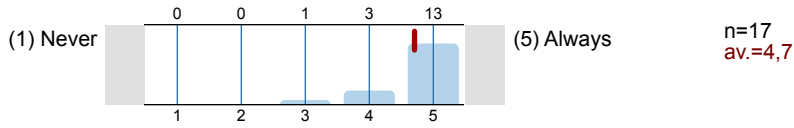
14. The instructor treated students with respect.



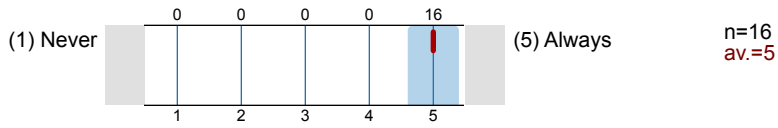
15. Instructor feedback on exams/assignments was timely and helpful.



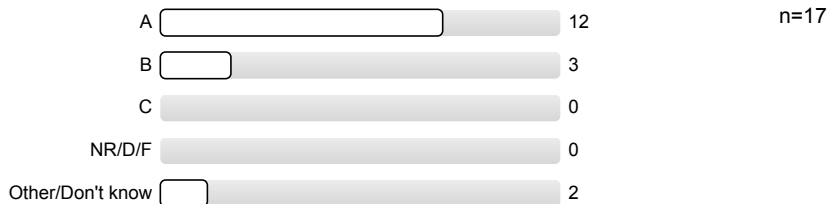
16. The exams and/or evaluations were good measures of the material covered.



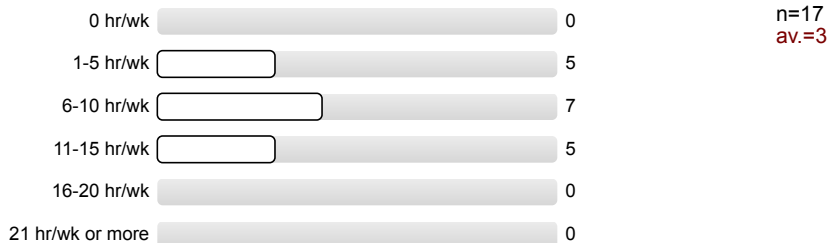
17. My grades were determined in a fair and impartial manner.



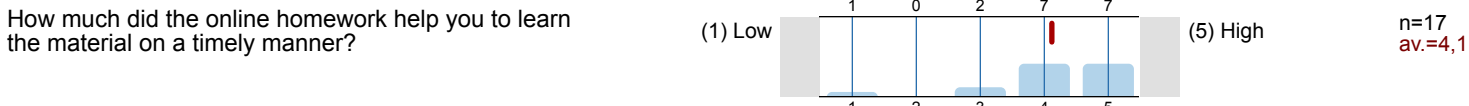
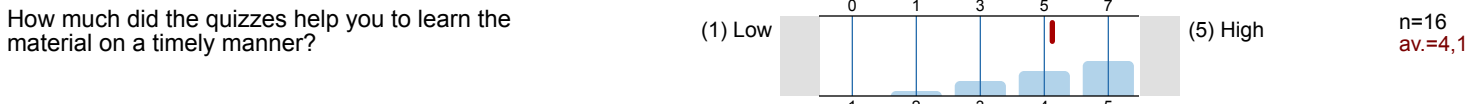
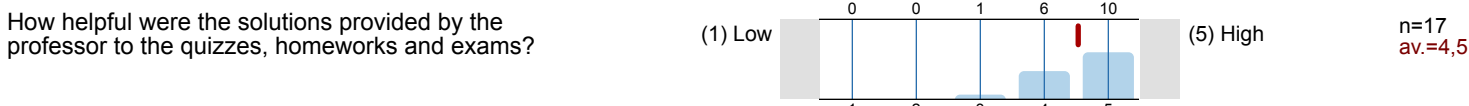
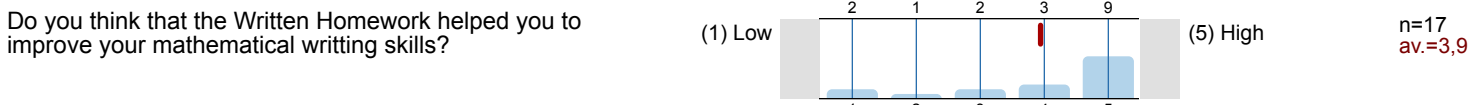
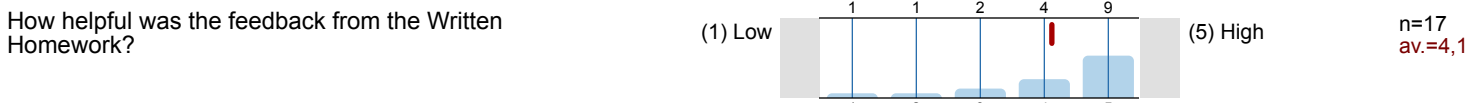
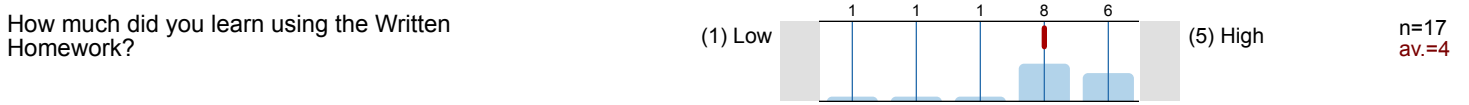
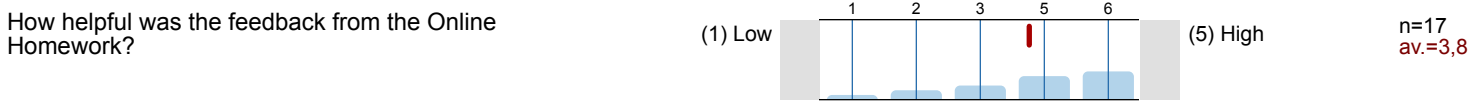
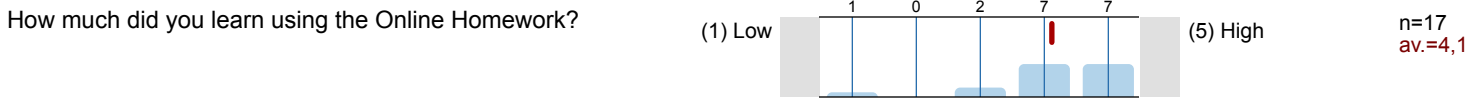
18. What grade do you think you will receive in this course?



19. On average, what were the total hours spent in each 7-day week OUTSIDE of formally scheduled class time in work related to this course (including studying, reading, writing, homework, rehearsal, etc.)?



If your instructor has added any additional questions, they will appear below



Comments Report

Your thoughtful answers to the following questions would be helpful to your instructor. (Please answer in the space provided underneath each question.)

What did you particularly LIKE about this course/lab?

- I like that the teacher was well prepared and was knowledgeable about all the topics that they taught. I also liked that the teacher used OneNote to take notes and do examples because everyone could see it clearly. Plus the notes are able to be shared online so that students can access them easily.
- I liked the way that Xavi used conceptual examples, and examples and intertwined them into lectures to make use realize the topics and why they happen instead of just telling them to us
- Professor Olive is an amazing teacher. Other than being a certified meme (just peruse r/wpi), Olive covers every subject in depth and with mathematical rigor. He is clearly passionate about the material and teaching it to us well. The written homework is engaging and fun (if you have the right mindset, and start it early).
- Quizzes were pretty nice to make sure that I am learning the material provided in this course. Also, the infinite tries on the homework was greatly appreciated and helped lower the amount of stress such that there was not always the incentive to revert to an online calculator and rather to keep trying by yourself. I also liked using one-note for your presentations
- The class is clearly organized, and Prof Olive explain the concept throughly. He is always pleased to help student.(I sent an email to him at 1am, he replied to me immediately.)
- The course presented abundant material to the student, which was then separated and organized in such a way that every piece of information made sense and fit together quite nicely; I highly enjoyed my time in lectures.
- The instructor and presentation of the material were helpful and friendly.
- The lectures were extremely helpful and straight to the point. I learned the material very well and very timely.
- The professor did an excellent job teaching the material and explaining the concepts of the course. He was timely with his grading, and seemed to genuinely care about the students and their studies. Overall fun class and great prof.
- The professor was always willing to answer questions and help. During lecture it was very helpful how the professor would first show the definition of a concept and steps to answer questions and then would do out a specific example. Although the homework was very time consuming I thought it was very helpful. The quizzes were extremely helpful to show me how I was doing in the course and forced me to study a little bit each week so I was more prepared when the exam came around.
- The professor was extremely kind and helpful whenever I expressed difficult with a particular subject.
- The subject. I like calculus a lot and this course presented the material well.
- The teacher was very well prepared to teach, and interacted with students in such a way as to put students at ease. The lecture notes were clear and posted online so it was easy for me to fill in any gaps in my notes. The teacher taught the class in a very engaging manner and was clearly as enthusiastic to teach the subject as I was to learn it (that is, very, I love calculus)
- Xavier was a legend. He was definitely my favorite professor I have had at WPI. He was really funny and he taught the material in a clear, obvious way.
- really really liked the use of one-note as it's easy to learn while in lecture with the visualization but also really helpful to reference outside of class

What did you particularly DISLIKE about this course/lab?

- I did not dislike this course.
- I did not like taking the quizzes during conferences because it makes the conference focused on the information on the quiz instead of going over confusing topics.
- No
- Some of the online homework questions seemed overly time-consuming but understandably so as they were necessary for a good basis of concepts.
- The lab was pointless and taught me nothing except perhaps how to pretend you know your lab partner's name when the lab instructor asks who you're working with. I also wasn't fond of the online homework because it was tedious and sometimes just felt like a waste of time, or alternately sometimes felt disproportionately difficult

- The labs are not great. If you're anything like me DO NOT pick the 8am lab.
- The online homework was too long at times. I would suggest that these assignments be shortened. The written homework was ok. The problems were a little weird, but I feel like the written homework strengthened my knowledge for quizzes and exams. I also felt the written homeworks were a little too long at times.
- The online homework was very long.
- The paper homework was a too easy compared to the online homework which was a bit long and tedious. A more even mix would be appreciated. Also, the focus on explanation made no sense and felt like a strange arbitrary waste of time.
- n/a
- nothing

Can you suggest anything that the instructor could do to improve the quality of teaching?

- I can not suggest anything to the instructor.
- I cannot.
- Just keep going, maintain the quality right now.
- No, Xavier was the best. A complete legend.
- No.
- The way he taught was great, the only thing I would change is not have the class in fuller because the atmosphere in fuller is at the right temperature and humidity that whenever I sit in the perrault upper lecture hall I automatically want to fall asleep (this problem is not specific to this course, it also applies to physics)
- You don't need to spend so much time teaching the proofs and background for each chapter. A brief explanation is sufficient, and unless we will be tested on proving a specific rule in calculus, then i generally do not want to spend much time learning it's background.
- n/a
- no

Would you encourage a friend to take a course from this instructor? Why or why not?

- Absolutely I loved this class, it was by far my favorite of the three
- Absolutely because Xavi brings an excited air to the classroom that makes you excited to learn and really makes going to class enjoyable
- Absolutely, great presentation of course material. Not too much work out of class, quizzes and tests were on par with the course material. Overall the class provided a good understanding of multi-variable calculus. Additionally the instructor showed interest in the course material and seemed to enjoy teaching the course.
- I would encourage my friend to take this class because the teacher was really good at teaching the information and making sure that students understood it.
- I would highly encourage my peers to take this course, from this particular instructor. The instructors far reaching knowledge of the courses content was evident in his lectures and his assignments were carefully conceived so that students always gained profound insight into the material. The professor further displayed a genuine interest in mathematics and took pride in his career as a mathematician; such passion undeniably inspired his students to venture into the higher-level mathematics courses offered by the department. Almost immediately, the instructor exceeded my expectations, through his unique ability to connect with his students and highlight the intuition behind the material. He would explain things until both he and his students were satisfied with his explanations, diligently pondering every question asked. I would consider myself extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from this professor yet again.
- YES, I already told some of my friends to try to get this professor
- Yes -- Xavier is great.
- Yes! Olive is the best math teacher I've ever had, and none of my math teachers have ever been bad. The written homework takes a while but it's fun, the Pearson online homework can suck sometimes though.
- Yes, absolutely. Xavier was really funny and a really good teacher. I think my friend would actually learn a lot from taking a course with Xavier and would enjoy the material with him as a professor.
- Yes, this instructor taught extremely well and I enjoyed the class

- Yes. I feel that I very solidly learned the material of the class, and looked forward to going to lecture every day.
- Yes. They are easy to approach and teach clearly.
- Yes. This class is very interesting. I learned a lot in class.
- definitely, really organized (and entertaining) course
- yes! the professor is extremely helpful and nice!!

If your instructor has added any additional questions, they will appear below

Do you think that the problems in the Written Homework would be better if done as a worksheet during the Conference section?

- I do not believe that the written homework would be better as a worksheet because then students would not be able to go over confusing material taught in class.
- I do not like this idea. I like the current structure of conference where we review the material from the week for 35 minutes and take a quiz for the last 15 minutes.
- I greatly enjoyed the written homework and would hope that it remains a week long project, rather than a conference section assignment, to ensure sound mathematical reason and the highest possible quality of content.
- I think having some of the problems from the written homework as conference problems could help but some should be left to the HW as figuring the problems out was a worthwhile experience
- I think the conferences were helpful for refreshing what was going to be on the quiz. I do not think the conference should be take up with written homework
- It could be an interesting idea that would help add meaning to conference.
- No I think the online homework was good as it was, though sometimes I wish that it were due later because sometimes the last part couldn't be finished until late and then I felt a bit rushed but it is understandable as to why and I never actually had trouble finishing in time
- No, part of learning the material is failing at the questions, if the answers are done out and shown to you, the concepts are not learned as well as when you try and fail to solve a problem.
- No. Having to do the homework problems under a time limit would stress me out immensely. Although I spent many hours doing the written work, I felt that every one I turned in was my own work, and contained nothing I didn't understand. I enjoyed doing the written homework at my own pace, and it was the second favorite part of the class for me (after lecture, of course).
- No. I like the format of homework that can be done collaboratively outside of normal class hours.
- No. The conference should be used to review, not to do homework.
- Not sure what you mean, but if they were done as a worksheet where TA/PLA could walk us through each of the problems that would be really helpful instead of letting us try to figure out on our own
- Perhaps, but I think that the quizzes do just fine at having student do the problems. Perhaps ask for more explaining on the quizzes?
- no I liked trying to solve the questions myself and then getting help if I needed. I liked how the conference was a time to ask a few questions and then take a quiz to see how well you were doing. Also since the quizzes were weighted very high it wasn't a stressful situation.
- yes

Do you think that using OneNote in class instead of using a whiteboard/blackboard is beneficial to your learning?

- I didn't really utilize the lecture notes so I don't have a strong opinion on this.
- I prefer the use of a blackboard. I feel that this offers a more cohesive note taking strategy, allowing students to better translate the professors notes into their own.
- I think OneNote is beneficial compared to a whiteboard/blackboard because it allows for more flexibility in presentation and gives us easy access to notes if we need to check them
- I think using OneNOte in class was really helpful and is better than using a whiteboard.
- It was extremely beneficial to my learning. The first few days while using the whiteboard, I could not see what was on the board while the constructor was writing it. The OneNote was clear and was available to each student.

- OneNote was a very good media for presenting the material in class. Additionally, the instructor's presentation, examples, and explanations were exceptional.
- Yes it is very beneficial, there's lots of colors, which the instructor enjoyed using, and they made the lessons easier to understand. Also sometimes definitions and stuff were already written from the textbook in onenote before the class even started so we could see them side by side with the notes without the teacher having to take the time to write them on the board. Also if he wrote faster than I wrote, I could always fill in gaps in my notes later
- Yes. I can see the note clearly in any position, it really helps me a lot. Also, OneNote could be shared online, so I can check the note after class.
- Yes. It made everything much easier to see. I sit near the front and still have trouble reading what the previous hour's teacher wrote on the board. It also allows for the books text to be copied which is good as it means that if students are looking for a theorem from class it will look the same in the book as it did in class.
- Yes. It was easy to follow and access later for review.
- Yes. It was much easier to see throughout the lecture hall and it allowed for me to review the lecture notes after the lecture.
- Yes. OneNote worked really well. I liked that I could clearly see the notes during class and then look at Xavier's notes after class.
- Yes. The ability to use different colors easily in OneNote made some difficult concepts much more clear, and made concepts easier to understand. It was easier to see where certain pieces came from and how they fit into whatever they were being used for. Very helpful and efficient.
- most definitely, please keep doing that
- yes
- yes, it was easy to follow

Would you like to see a project as part of the grade in this course? If so, which kind of project?

- Don't put a project in math please, I like theoretical math not applied math
- I do not think a project is necessary for this course
- I don't think putting a project as part of the grade in this course is a good idea because it would be too stressful.
- I don't think so.
- I liked the theoretical focus and feel like a project might squeeze something important out of the curriculum.
- I would not like to see a project. I feel that the written homework satisfies this already.
- No
- No -- the course is far too introductory and too brief to have a project
- No, I liked the class as lots of problems and computations, and I feel that is the best way to learn math.
- No, I think that the written homework assignments serve as a sort of projects.
- No. I do not think a project is necessary.
- No. I just don't think that Calc 4 has many interesting projects around it. If one was required perhaps some kind of 3-D modeling?
- honestly no, the time commitment that projects require probably isn't worth the time that could be spent studying
- i do not know, but if it would be a grade-booster then i'm sure it would be greatly appreciated
- no

If you had to teach this course, what would you change to improve the learning experience of the students?

- Delete some parts of Online HW that are hard to calculate, since they waste students' time.
- I don't know I learned a lot and I thought the tests projected what we were doing in class and on homework
- I would not change anything other than the quizzes in the course because I really enjoyed the class.

- I would quit and demand Xavier to be rehired because he is an excellent teacher
- If I could implement a viable alternative to Pearson online homework, I would.
- Nothing much. The projector as opposed to the whiteboard was a good choice and the teachers voice carries well in the room. Perhaps have the homework a separate place or time to pickup and turn in homework to save time, but that could backfire and cause more problems and time-loss if done incorrectly.
- Nothing, I thought that the class was exceptionally well taught. Both the instructor and the TA's were very helpful in their respective sessions.
- Nothing. I really thought this course was taught in an excellent manner. I think the homework assignments were too long, at times, but otherwise I would change nothing about the way the course was taught.
- teach less proofs