University of Pittsburgh
Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching

Dear Professor Bogdan Ion:

Student Opinion of Teaching Questionnaire Results

This form contains evaluation results for HONORS LINEAR ALGEBRA(MATH-1185)-1040.

Attached is a report in PDF format containing your Student Opinion of Teaching Survey results from last term. The report is best viewed and/or printed in color.

The evaluation results are broken down into three distinct categories. The first part of the report shows a breakdown of student responses to the quantitative questions. For each item, the number of students (n) who responded, the average or mean (av.) and standard deviation (dev.) are displayed next to a chart or histogram that shows the percentage of the class who responded to each option for that question. The percentages are above the number on the rating scale which increases from left to right, i.e. the number 1 equals the least favorable rating and the number 4 or 5 (depending on the scale) equals the most favorable rating. The sum of percentages will equal 100%. A red mark is displayed on the chart where the average or mean is located. To calculate how many students responded to each option, multiply the number of students who answered the question by the percentage for that option. For example, if 14 students answered the question and 50% responded to option 3 then 7 students marked option 3 for that item (14 x .50 = 7). The standard deviation is a common measure of dispersion around the mean that may be useful in interpreting the results.

If your school had previously calculated norms, they will be on OMET's website (omet.pitt.edu).

The second part displays individual comments to each question in the open-ended section of the evaluation. All the responses to the first question will be listed together after the first question and then the responses to the next question will be listed together after the next question, and so on.

The final part gives you a profile of the student responses to the quantitative section of the evaluation. This is a chart listing all of the means for the scaled items with a dashed red line connecting the means.

If the number of respondents for any of the scaled items is fewer than seven, please be cautious in interpreting the quantitative results.

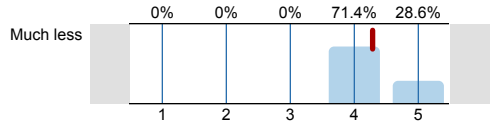
Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching (OMET)

Professor Bogdan Ion

HONORS LINEAR ALGEBRA(MATH-1185)-10402151_UPITT_MATH_1185_SEC1040
Fall 2014
7 RESPONDENTS = 58.33% OF NUMBER REGISTERED

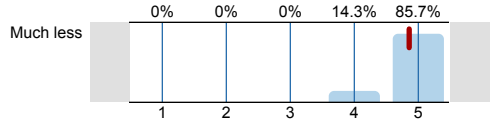
1. SELF RATINGS

1.1) Compared to other courses at the same level, the amount of work I did was:



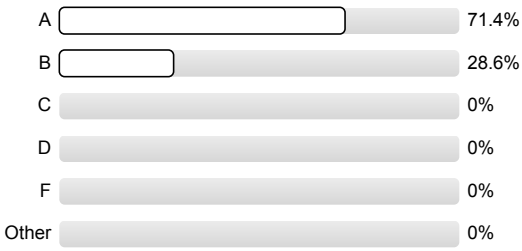
n=7
av.=4.29
dev.=0.49

1.2) In this course I have learned:



n=7
av.=4.86
dev.=0.38

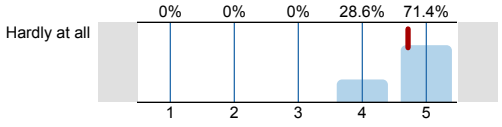
1.3) The grade I expect in this course is:



n=7

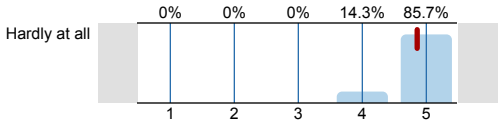
2. TEACHING EVALUATION

2.1) The instructor presented the course in an organized manner.



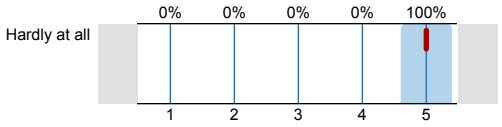
n=7
av.=4.71
dev.=0.49

2.2) The instructor stimulated my thinking.



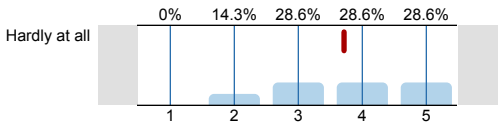
n=7
av.=4.86
dev.=0.38

2.3) The instructor evaluated my work fairly.



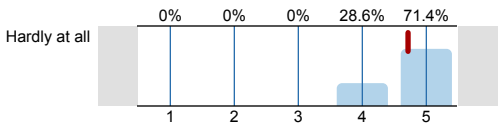
n=7
av.=5
dev.=0

2.4) The instructor made good use of examples to clarify concepts.



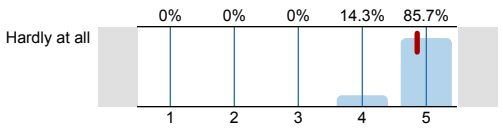
n=7
av.=3.71
dev.=1.11

2.5) The instructor maintained a good learning environment.



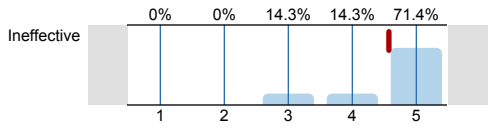
n=7
av.=4.71
dev.=0.49

2.6) The instructor was accessible to students. (Do not answer if no basis to judge)



n=7
av.=4.86
dev.=0.38

2.7) Express your judgment of the instructor's **overall teaching effectiveness:**



n=7
av.=4.57
dev.=0.79

2.8) Would you recommend this course to other students?

n=7

Probably not	28.6%
Probably yes	14.3%
Definitely yes	57.1%

2.9) Would you recommend this instructor to other students?

n=7

Probably not	14.3%
Probably yes	14.3%
Definitely yes	71.4%

3. UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE ADDITIONAL ITEMS - select only one answer for each item

3.1) Your year in school:

n=7

Freshman	42.9%
Sophomore	42.9%
Junior	0%
Senior	0%
Other	14.3%

3.2) How much did you learn in this course?

n=7

Much less than in most courses I've taken	0%
Somewhat less	0%
About the same	0%
Somewhat more	14.3%
Much more	85.7%

3.3) Did you discuss the course or collaborate with classmates outside the classroom?

n=7

Hardly at all	28.6%
To a small degree	42.9%
To a moderate degree	14.3%
To a considerable degree	14.3%
To a very high degree	0%

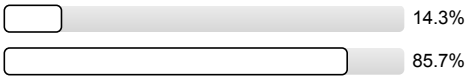
3.4) Would you take another course with this instructor if you had the opportunity?

n=7

No	28.6%
Yes	71.4%

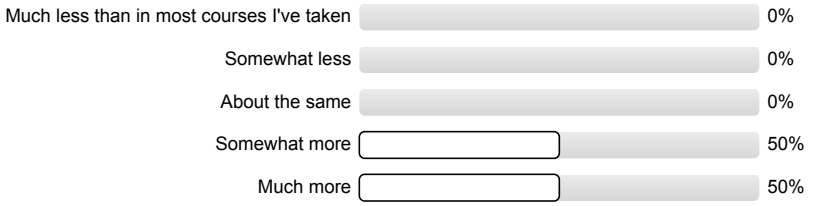
3.5) Would you take another UHC course if you had the opportunity?

n=7



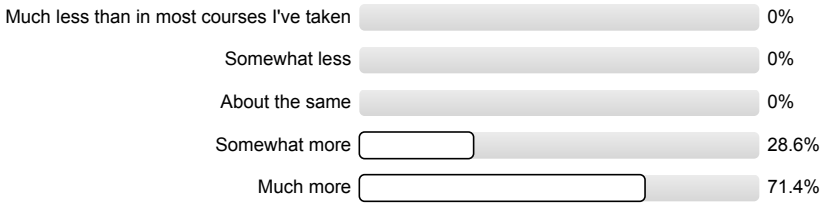
3.6) How motivated were you to do your best work in this course?

n=6



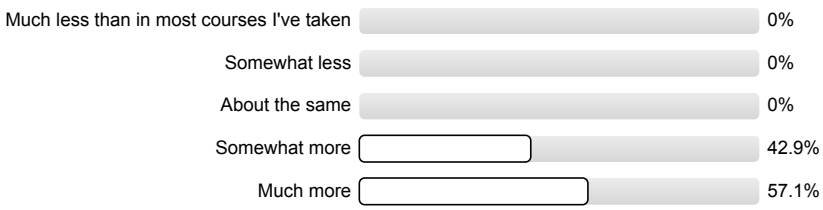
3.7) How challenging did you find this course?

n=7



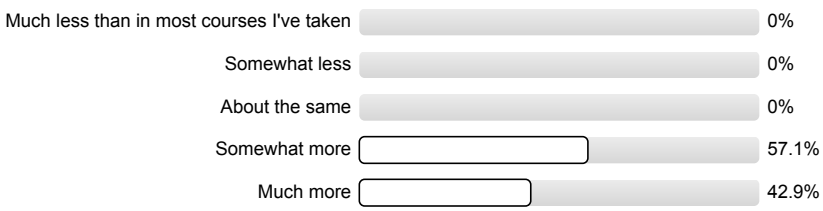
3.8) How in-depth was the subject matter covered in the course?

n=7



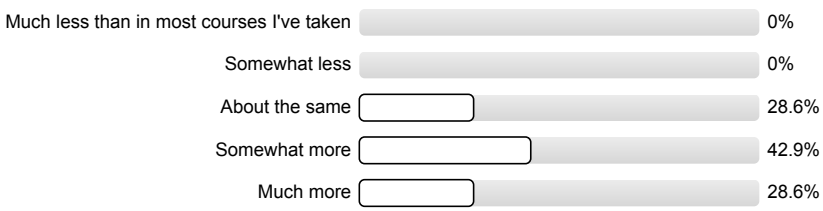
3.9) How much work or effort was demanded by this course?

n=7



3.10) How well did you get to know your fellow students in class?

n=7



4. UHC COMMENTS

4.1) Your instructor would like to know if there is something you believe he/she has done especially well in teaching this course.

- He has been incredibly considerate when it comes to grading assigned material, providing manifold opportunity for extra credit as well as meeting with students individually to ensure that they understand the concepts in the course.
- He presented concepts at an exceptional depth, provided cogent examples; he was an excellent instructor on all fronts.
- I like the style of teaching and method of explaining for the understanding of concepts rather than blind calculation. This helps stimulate understanding and interest in the subject. I gained a thorough understanding of the material and Dr. Ion is always helpful and ready to answer question either in or out of class. This is truly a great instructor and I would definitely recommend his class. This instructor makes math fun.
- Professor Ion did a fantastic job covering material that we would not have normally seen in an introductory linear algebra class (such as the elaboration on the scalar product, and the discussion of Hilbert Spaces).
  The homework assignments (particularly the additional questions) challenged me to think more, and expanded my knowledge and understanding of linear algebra. I would say that Additional Question 5 on the third homework is a perfect example. ("Show that for any two subspaces W1, and W2 of a vector space V there exists a basis for V that contains bases for each of the Wi as subsets.") This problem increased my understanding of subspaces to a great degree.
  Professor Ion wrote the important material on the board, which made taking notes much easier. I found that the notes I took during class were extraordinarily helpful.
- Professor Ion did a great job in both keeping matching his teaching to the needs of the class and the results of the course. He eschewed specificity in examples in favor of generalizations in order to uphold the value of proofs over patterns, and used his source material quite effectively. He moved quickly but steadily, was very consistent in notation and methodology, and provided us with the question before the answer, the reason before the result.
- The lectures were extremely organized and I was pleased with how often he was available for extra help.

4.2) Your instructor would also like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve the teaching of this course.

- A bit more examples would be helpful--although I understand that the idea is to understand the concepts rather than how to solve problems, sometimes examples might have been useful to understand how the concepts work. Also, since the lecture diverges from the textbook (the lecture is sooo much better), maybe more notes on the board would be helpful. Most of the explanations are verbal but the downside of that is that you might miss something. I know that some professors post notes online, that might be helpful because the textbook is useless and its explanations are not satisfactory compared to the lecture.
- Due to the depth of the material of this course, it would be very beneficial if the instructor could go over more examples after presenting each major concept. For instance, I felt like I often had to go back and read the book to even understand what the instructor did so easily on the chalkboard.
- If some less rigorous but more voluminous homework were assigned, or perhaps some specific amount of reading to preface or follow a class were asked, I think the course would become more important / significant to the student.
- Perhaps cover slightly more material or move at a slightly faster pace. Pacing was great so far, but I don't know if we will cover the spectral theorem and related applications.
- Perhaps make the distinctions between "m" and "n" a little clearer.
  Maybe work out the reduced form of a matrix (or its inverse) beforehand in order to spend more time on the new material.
  Perhaps more frequent homework assignments.
- Some concepts which I found difficult were explained in a very confusing manner in lecture, which could have been explained more simply and outright. Examples of this are: uses of the concept of similar, diagonal matricies.

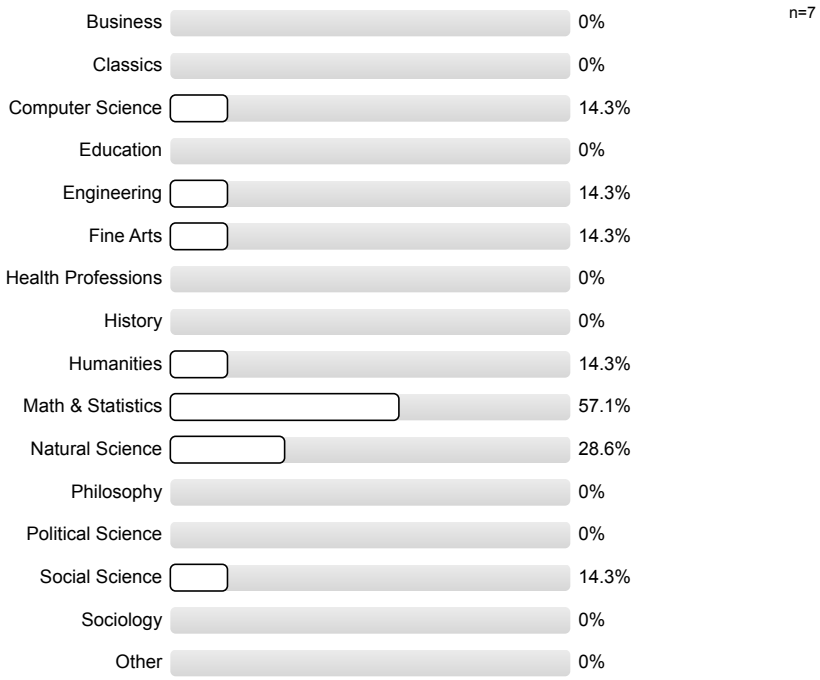
4.3) How hard did you work in this UHC course?

- A good amount harder than I had expected to, but I believe the course (and my instructor) deserved more.
- Extremely Hard
- I have worked much harder in this course than I have in any other course that I have had this semester.
- I worked a lot--this class is quite demanding and the homework is extensive even though it is rarer than in other courses.
- Rather hard; I feel like the work level was appropriate to an honors course, though. The homework assignments were intense, but there were only five of them. I have not yet begun to study, but I estimate I will spend more time than average studying for this final.
- Very. It was tough.

4.4) How satisfied are you with the amount that you learned in this UHC course?

- Very Satisfied
- Very much so.
- Very satisfied. This course gave me a full and thorough understanding of linear algebra.
- Very.
- Very. I'm glad I took the course. It was incredibly informative, although I would be hesitant to recommend this course to someone who didn't absolutely love mathematics.
- very satisfied.

4.5) Please indicate subject areas in which you would like to see additional UHC courses.



Profile

Subunit: HONORS
Name of the instructor: Professor Bogdan Ion,
Name of the course: (Name of the survey) HONORS LINEAR ALGEBRA(MATH-1185)-1040

Values used in the profile line: Mean

1. SELF RATINGS

1.1)	Compared to other courses at the same level, the amount of work I did was:	Much less	Much more	n=7	av.=4.29 md=4.00 dev.=0.49
1.2)	In this course I have learned:	Much less	Much more	n=7	av.=4.86 md=5.00 dev.=0.38

2. TEACHING EVALUATION

2.1)	The instructor presented the course in an organized manner.	Hardly at all	To a very high degree	n=7	av.=4.71 md=5.00 dev.=0.49
2.2)	The instructor stimulated my thinking.	Hardly at all	To a very high degree	n=7	av.=4.86 md=5.00 dev.=0.38
2.3)	The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	Hardly at all	To a very high degree	n=7	av.=5.00 md=5.00 dev.=0.00
2.4)	The instructor made good use of examples to clarify concepts.	Hardly at all	To a very high degree	n=7	av.=3.71 md=4.00 dev.=1.11
2.5)	The instructor maintained a good learning environment.	Hardly at all	To a very high degree	n=7	av.=4.71 md=5.00 dev.=0.49
2.6)	The instructor was accessible to students. (Do not answer if no basis to judge)	Hardly at all	To a very high degree	n=7	av.=4.86 md=5.00 dev.=0.38
2.7)	Express your judgment of the instructor's **overall teaching effectiveness:**	Ineffective	Excellent	n=7	av.=4.57 md=5.00 dev.=0.79