

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Calculus I

21 surveys / 26 enrolled in MATH 111 B (MWRF 0920)

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Student: 1

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I put in the same amount, if not more effort into this class than my other classes.

Understanding & Appreciation: Since I have taken Calculus at a high school level, this class worked as a good review of material and has prepared me to take Calc II next semester.

Intellectual Growth: This class has helped me improve my skills in working towards deadlines and completing my work at an efficient rate.

Quality: If I had not taken this class before, it may have been harder to understand concepts since he seemed to gloss over some, but overall I understood the majority of what was being taught. A lot of things were not thoroughly explained, simply stated as fact, although this did not seem to be too much of a problem for the class as a whole.

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Student: 2

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I put in a significant amount of work outside of the class and prepare fully for every lecture, test and quiz.

Understanding & Appreciation: I am able to see the real world applications from the material that we learned.

Intellectual Growth: This course made me think critically and problem solve rather than simply memorizing information.

Quality: I thought the teaching methods were pretty strong. The classes consisted of mostly examples done out by the teacher which was good and bad. The one thing that was a little off putting was the grading method, some points are taken off for unclear justification.

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Student: 3

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I always do the homework and get 100% on almost all of them.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course strengthened my knowledge of Calc I.

Intellectual Growth: This course gave me the tools to more confidently think about mathematical problems.

Quality: The quality of teaching was good, however sometimes the material is shown very briefly and that same material comes up on the test. I would have liked to have a more thorough going over of some of the key topics for each test.

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Student: 4

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: Always attended class, had a tutor outside of class, and attended the group review sessions, went to office hours weekly along with studying.

Understanding & Appreciation: Made me realize how hard math actually is and understand the difficulty people face with upper level math courses.

Intellectual Growth: This class has made me work the hardest of any class I have ever taken, forcing me to understand the concepts completely.

Quality: The professor has been extremely accessible, I have made multiple appointments for office hours scheduled outside of the normal times. He is always prepared for each lecture and answers in class questions very well.

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Student: 5

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: A LOT. I had already taken Calculus previously, yet this course was extremely challenging and I had to spend countless hours studying with friends, looking up the material online, and practicing topics that I thought I already understood!

Understanding & Appreciation: I think Professor Christensen made me enjoy calculus more as he pushed the class to delve deep and really understand why things were.

Intellectual Growth: The course contributed to my intellectual growth as I now understand that even when I think I might have a strong grasp of topics at hand, there is always more to learn and I can always push deeper.

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---

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Quality: I think professors Christensen's strength were :

Easily Accessible

Nice/ Friendly man who is easy to get along with

Able to teach Calculus in a relatable manner to the students

Knowledgable

Happy to Help

I think the only weakness I would give is:

Excessively Difficult Grading at times

Overall Great Teacher!

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Student: 6

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Effort: Calculus is my number one priority class. I really understand the material, however my test grades don't quite reflect that. I got 100% on all the quizzes and homeworks, so getting lower test grades was quite a shock. I study for hours everyday on math and put all my time into math class. My friends in this class and I have a group chat where we help each other and ask questions. I also have a tutor and I go to the peer tutoring as well.

Understanding & Appreciation: I really love math now and I was able to understand everything in the course. It's made me want to consider a math major. I felt I understood this math class more than any math class in high school. The grading in college is much different, but I really do love calculus

Intellectual Growth: I think the course helped me to understand that calculus can be applied to many things. Like exponential growth and decay for example

Quality: He is a good teacher for the most part. A lot of the kids in this class have taken calculus before, and so being someone who has not is hard because I feel that he assumes I know things that I don't. He is really strong when it comes to office hours-it makes more sense there. Weaknesses- he grades the quizzes and homeworks pretty easily, however he grades the tests very hard. I do very well on homeworks and quizzes and then believe I am understanding everything, and then comes the test and I end up getting a C. it puts stress on me that the tests are worth so much more than the quizzes and homeworks, especially when the grading is so harsh. However, I really think professor is a great teacher and I have loved this course a lot, I just wish my grade reflected how much I actually know.

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Student: 7

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I made an effort to complete online assignments on time. Due to my heavy course load this semester, I found myself leaving calculus as the last subject to study for.

My time management skills during tests has always been poor, so I try to make up for it with quizzes and graded assignments.

However, since these two account for such a small percentage, I don't think my final grade will reflect my effort.

Understanding & Appreciation: I have always loved mathematics and intend to major in it. This course was a logical continuation from my high school Pre-Calculus class.

Overall, I enjoyed learning the material and concepts of this subject.

Intellectual Growth: I have learned new methods of studying that will be beneficial to future classes.

Quality: Our instructor was always able to answer questions in detail. I found the online assignments to be unnecessary. A better alternative would be for our instructor to assign odd numbered questions from our textbook and review them at the start of class. Periodically collecting these assignments would give a better indication of the needs of individual students.

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Student: 8

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Effort: I worked very hard in this course. It was definitely the class that I spent the most time on and had the most difficulty with this term.

Understanding & Appreciation: I do feel like I have learned a lot and can solve many more calc questions than I could before I took this class. I have realized that calculus is not really my strong suit and I probably won't take another calc class for that reason.

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---

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Intellectual Growth: Helped me learn how to study and plan ahead. Also how to reach out for help when I need it.

Quality: I think he is a great teacher. He is very knowledgeable and he explains things well. To me the subject was just hard and difficult to understand.

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Student: 9

Reason: Elective outside major or minor

Additional Reason(s): med school

Effort: weekly homeworks, quizzes and three tests

Understanding & Appreciation: furthered understanding of derivatives

Quality: really nice guy, tried to make class interesting and get students involved, very organized. Easy to do well

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Student: 10

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put a considerable amount of effort into this course. The homework itself is pretty rigorous and the almost weekly quizzes insure that I study and review material at least once a week. Whenever I need extra help, I usually can't make it to office hours, but Professor Christensen is pretty flexible about meeting outside his normal office hours times.

Understanding & Appreciation: I took Calculus AB in high school and did not have a good teacher, so this semester has really enhanced my understanding of the concepts behind the theorems and equations.

Intellectual Growth: The course forced me to manage my time well to complete assignments and study for tests/quizzes, and it taught me that going to office hours can be very beneficial.

Quality: I think Professor Christensen really tries to engage every student and encourage participation. Class time is very valuable to this course and he usually explains the concepts very well. I do, however, think that the tests are unnecessarily difficult and many students struggle to even get above 70%. Some lessons are less organized than others, but he definitely takes the time to explain important lessons.

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Student: 11

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Elective within major or minor

Reason: Other requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: We had online homework every so often and quizzes on Friday, usually. I worked on those assignments almost daily, which helped build more knowledge on the field.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course helped refresh Calculus for me, as it has been some time since I last learned it.

Intellectual Growth: This course was particularly helpful because my major requires calculus and involves calculus. I believe my intellectually gains from this course will help in other courses.

Quality: The strength of this course was that we met four times a week and had a very intimate class, thanks to Professor Christensen. I enjoyed the atmosphere of the class a lot. The one weakness I think was the online homeworks, which we had to check every two days or so to check if there is a homework. However, in terms of helpfulness, I feel the online homework helped with understanding of the material.

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Student: 12

Reason: Elective outside major or minor

Additional Reason(s): An understanding of calculus is necessary in order to major in economics.

Effort: I spend a lot of time on the homework assignments and study harder for exams and quizzes than I do for other classes.

Understanding & Appreciation: I now have a better understanding of calculus than what I had in taking calculus in high school, but do not appreciate the subject any more than I did coming in.

Intellectual Growth: The course required me to use my critical thinking abilities.

Quality: The professor is obviously very passionate about the subject, but in my opinion, often makes quiz and test questions harder than what is necessary to show that we have gained an understanding of certain concepts. Exams count for too much (80%) of our overall grade.

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Student: 13

Reason: Other requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s): I took this course as a pre-med requirement.

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---

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Effort: I put in a lot of effort in this course. I have done all the assignments, including those online through Webassign. I studied for all my quizzes and did well on them. Before exams, I would prepare for them at least two weeks before the exam date instead of cramming all the material in a short amount of time.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course enabled me to realize how important and useful math (i.e. calculus) can be in the real world. By learning how to find derivatives and integrals, I saw many different types of problems that can be applied to many fields, including physics and economics.

Intellectual Growth: This course significantly contributed to my growth and education by giving me some source of appreciation to the struggles I've encountered throughout the course as it was very challenging.

Quality: Professor Christensen was a great teacher. He was very clear in his teaching and everything made sense. His style of teaching was great, and oftentimes was funny. Overall, I enjoyed his class.

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Student: 14

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Effort: I put a lot of effort into passing this course. I attend office hours, tutoring sessions and have been appointed a personal tutor as well.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course was extremely challenging for me, with that said, I do not have much appreciation for this class.

Intellectual Growth: This course taught me to reach out for help when I am in need of it.

Quality: I think my professor was attentive, understanding, patient, and flexible which made going to him for help a lot easier. I wish he had made the class slightly easier by giving ways to remember certain methods, etc. I do believe he is a tough grader. However, if someone had already taken calculus, this class would not have been so difficult.

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Student: 15

Reason: Other requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: Completed homeworks on time, studied before quizzes and tests.

Understanding & Appreciation: Did not affect my appreciation but did improve my knowledge of calculus.

Intellectual Growth: I think the course helped keep critical thinking skills on point.

Quality: The professor explains concepts clearly but could maybe make the content easier to grasp by relating mathematical concepts to real life situations.

The professor looks to help students with their questions by beginning the classes with homework questions, which is useful.

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Student: 16

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Reputation of the instructor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s): I want to be a math major and I have never taken calculus.

Effort: I put lots of effort into homework, taking at least an hour or two for every assignment to make sure I absorbed the information. For tests, I'd study for countless hours but the studying paid off.

Understanding & Appreciation: I am confident in my decision to pursue a degree in math after taking this course.

Intellectual Growth: I learned how to study for math, I used to not have to study for it in highschool. Furthermore, the abundance of homework taught me to manage time and how to learn from homework in the best way possible.

Quality: Christensen is a very nice guy, and he understands what he's doing. However, I found myself teaching myself the material the majority of the time, I just found Christensen so unclear. I can't really say what exactly he did that wasn't clear but I just couldn't understand his explanations. Grading was very very strict and one minor mistake could lower your grade from an A to a C, which really lowered the confidence and interest level of some of my peers.

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Student: 17

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: There was a lot of assignments which were graded so I felt that I had to put in a lot of effort to make sure they were correct and that I would get a good grade.

Understanding & Appreciation: I think this class was helpful in my calculus learning and that we went a lot more in depth than I had gone when I took calculus in high school.

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Intellectual Growth: I think calculus is something you need to learn in college and this class really helped me to understand material in a lot of my other classes.

Quality: I think the quality was really good overall. We were expected to do a lot but always offered the help we needed to achieve that. He taught a lot by using examples which can be helpful at times but once in a while can get confusing. I think the weekly quizzes helped to keep the class on track and was helpful when studying for the more major assignments.

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Student: 18

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Effort: I put a lot of effort into this course, whether it was going to office hours or studying alone.

Understanding & Appreciation: It was very interesting, but at times, very difficult for me who does not want to be a math major.

Intellectual Growth: I can apply some things I learned in here to my daily life and studies, like toward an econ major.

Quality: I like how Prof was available to help with questions, but disliked how he did not have time to meet individually. I don't think exams were too difficult but Prof. graded too harshly. Overall, Prof was a great in teaching BUT should not have been so strict/harsh with grading. That really dampened my interest for the subject.

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Student: 19

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s): I thought it was likely to be a requirement for whatever major I choose.

Effort: I read the textbook, showed up and paid attention to all classes, and completed all the homework on time.

Understanding & Appreciation: The high school Calculus I had was very shallow. This class gave me a better understanding of why calculus works.

Intellectual Growth: Challenging problems made me think. Word problems forced me to use what information I had to find relationships and solve the problem.

Quality: The teaching was very good. Professor Christensen was well organized and explained concepts clearly. What I really liked about Professor Christensen was that he would make jokes engage us. Professor Christensen has been one of my favorite professors this semester.

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Student: 20

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s): If I didn't have to I definitely wouldn't have.

Effort: I put a lot of effort into this course. I've been to office hours, tutoring sessions, have organized group study sessions with my classmates, we have a running group chat to help each other try to understand the homework, and I've studied a lot for tests and quizzes.

Understanding & Appreciation: I understand things more clearly than when I took Calc in high school, however, this course has been incredibly frustrating for me and a source of anxiety. I dislike math to begin with and the stress of the course definitely did not help. There were homework problems assigned that the tutors had a hard time figuring out and even he admitted were a little much. However, we were still graded on them, but after that they were never talked about again, so I don't see the point of all that stress if its something that we don't have to know. I spent many nights up late desperately trying to figure out some of these problems in any way possible and found myself giving up more than not due to frustration and exhaustion.

Intellectual Growth: I learned more about calc, which will help me in other subjects such as my science classes, but I definitely do not care to take it again.

Quality: Definitely refer to question 3a. In class, he's glossed over some concepts and I found myself trying to learn solely from the online homework and the tutor. I went to office hours when I could, but the times conflicted with my schedule more often than not. He's very willing to help out outside of class however, which is great, but I just don't have time to get there.

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Student: 21

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Intellectual Growth: The instructor approached concepts in great depth.

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