

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Calculus II

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20 surveys / 22 enrolled in MATH 162 B (MWRF 1020)

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Student: 1

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I put in significant time and effort into the Webassign, Written HW, and TestsUnderstanding & Appreciation: This course helped me understand series better.Intellectual Growth: Helped expand my knowledge of the courseQuality: The teaching is good, but the grading on HW and Tests is cheap. I lose points on HW and Tests because I either pivot away from a mistake or forget to write down insignificant information while doing the problem, even though I get the answers right. My thought process should not be part of my answer and should not have to be perfect if I get the answer right.

Student: 2

Reason: Major or minor requirementEffort: The effort I put into this course is enough to pass with a very good grade. I don't think I've had to put an excessive amount of work in but I do definitely have to put a decent amount in. I think I was more stressed about this class at the beginning of the semester and it has chilled out a bit (or maybe I have) which is nice. It is definitely a grind to remember all of the material covered because we move on so quickly but I understand that's the nature of this course so it's okayUnderstanding & Appreciation: I think taking this class gave me a different perspective on Calc 2 since I had previously taken the class in high school. The teaching methods that Christensen uses are different from my teacher in high school so it keeps old material new which is nice.Intellectual Growth: I don't think I can answer this question well because I haven't had calc applicable to anything outside of my classroom so far though I do believe this will be a more fair question down the line when I am taking more real world applicable math courses that still involve calcQuality: I think strengths wise, Prof Christensen is always will to help or answer questions and reexplain things when we need it. If we are in class and asks questions he answers and then asks you if that made more sense and if it didn't click he finds another way to explain this which is super nice for us. The one thing I would consider a weakness is sometimes I feel like he gives too many examples without explaining the base concept first. I feel like if we had a very very basic concept of what we are learning and then went to basic examples then too complex examples it may be easier to understand some of the material. This has gotten better however as we go into sequences and series, so maybe he has already realized this

Student: 3

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I spend many hours completing homework assignments and studying for tests.Understanding & Appreciation: This course did not make me appreciate the subject any more or less. I do, however, feel a greater understanding on Calculus after learning the course material.Intellectual Growth: The course developed my critical thinking skills and my ability to analyze given situations.Quality: There is not a lot of class discussion, but that makes sense for a Calculus II course. The teacher explains topics in a clear way and makes sure that the class is not at all confused. The professor sometimes gets flustered when asked questions, but he then emails the class elaborating on the question if this happens.

Student: 4

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: This has been the first mathematics class that I have felt a need to spend a significant amount of time studying and preparing for exams. I completed all required homework assignments and extra practice problems before tests to prepare.Understanding & Appreciation: This course allowed me to continue my education in mathematics. Math has always been one of my favorite topics and this course has helped me continue enjoying it and given me new puzzles to analyze.Intellectual Growth: I've enjoyed this course because it showed a deeper level of mathematics where answers might not sometimes be black or white.Quality: The instructor was very accessible and friendly. Easy to reach out for help. Tests are very straight forward in terms of grading and representation of material covered in class. Lectures were occasionally unorganized, yet always useful and important.

Student: 5

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Effort: Throughout his semester I worked hard to understand the course material which, at times, seriously challenged me. I did, however, feel some of the homework assignments were not valuable as they evaluated our ability to obtain very specific decimal answers in a class that is primarily conceptual. I focused on book problems more than and assigned web assign.

Understanding & Appreciation: In the past (high school) I never had a clear and articulate math instructor. In calc 2, Prof Christensen was able to clearly explain concepts to me in a way that I was able to understand. I feel I have a much better understanding and appreciation of mathematics after taking this course.

Intellectual Growth: Besides realizing the amount of effort it takes to excel in a college level calculus class, this course primarily focused on mathematics and did not influence me very much outside of that realm.

Quality: I feel Professor Christensen is a very articulate mathematics professor who has the ability to clearly state his lessons and portray the course material. He is very good at taking confusing material and presenting it in a calm, clear way so that we as students both understand it and are not intimidated by it. However, at times Professor Christensen would not be in touch with the specifics of the homework he assigned, often taking substantial class time to work through the problems which were not very useful to our understanding (requiring mostly calculator entry). Once he began to lecture though, the class was eloquent and very well planned. Professor Christensen is a very qualified professor who I would choose to have again, especially in a much higher level math class where his eloquence and disposition would be even more appreciated when covering complex material.

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Student: 6

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I have tried really hard to excel in this course and Prof. Christensen has appreciated my effort and facilitated it. While I started out rough, he has made himself very accessible so I can ask more questions and be the best student that I can be.

Understanding & Appreciation: I did not like Calculus very much, and I still don't, but Prof. has made it better.

Intellectual Growth: The academic challenges this course has posed me definitely makes it the toughest course I have taken here, and as a result has expanded my intellectual capacity and improved my work ethic.

Quality: He is a very knowledgeable teacher, but I would personally recommend that he gives students more time to try out examples for themselves in class so they can practice while the Prof. teachers. At least for me, solely writing notes is not that effective in a mathematics learning environment. I still think he is an excellent teacher and I am glad he is my professor.

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Student: 7

Reason: Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s): I took this course initially as a refresher on calc 2 after taking it in high school. Throughout this course I have gain an appreation for the working of calculus by deriving the formulas and I feel like I understand the subject matter much better after taking this class.

Effort: I would consistently do the homework assigned both written and online and come in with questions. when studying for exams I would pratices problems in the back of the book and try to work though the more difficult problems with classmates.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course contributed to my appreation of the subject matter by not only in calc two but also a continued intrest in the subject. In class Christensen would provide examples of how the metrial we were working on continued into higher level math classes which make the class intresting and forshaddowed growth in the subject.

Intellectual Growth: This course helped mostly in growing as a studetn who is now intrested in contiunuing into upper level math courses.

Quality: I think that the qualty of teaching was excellent! Professor Christensen provided great examples and additionally was very helpful when walking though questions. While walking though questions something other onfusions would arise and he was happy to go about answering questions on top of questions.

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Student: 8

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Additional Reason(s): I originally took this course because I intended, or at least wanted to try out math at the university level. Although I have since changed the direction of my academic interests; this course and Dr. Christensen's instructions have not had a negative effect on my perception of math. He is a great teacher and truly cares about the students.

Effort: I have put the most effort into this class than my other three courses. After my first test where I did not do so hot, I have since put more effort in and have markedly improved after each exam.

Understanding & Appreciation: Dr. Christensen has greatly helped my conceptual understanding behind calculus and I have since appreciated some of the beauty behind it. Although I am not super into math in of itself, I enjoyed parts of this course.

Intellectual Growth: This class forced me to improve my study habits and to reevaluate how much effort I need in order to succeed at the university level. I have since worked on accepting why something is, but trying to understand the mechanics behind something.

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Quality: Dr. Christensen is an excellent teacher. He explains concepts very well and knows the material. A couple suggestions for improvement and/or gripes are that were especially present at the beginning, he has since improved on this front, is that he would assign online math problems that he himself would take fifteen minutes in class to explain which is clearly too complex and time-consuming for a student to do. Also sometimes, only has happened a couple times, he would sort of get himself into niche explanations of very specific cases regarding mathematical topics that he'll talk about for 5 minutes and after the first minute no one will know what he's talking about. I think either way he should have ensured the students knew what he was saying or not began the tangent in the first place because it is above the level of the course. Otherwise I have only high praise for Dr. Christensen. He cares about us dearly and works hard.

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Student: 9

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Exploration of possible major or minorEffort: Many hours are put into doing online homework assignments, begin studying for tests at least 4 days in advance, sometimes require outside resources to gain good understanding of materialUnderstanding & Appreciation: Has advanced my calculus knowledge considerablyIntellectual Growth: NaQuality: I think professor Christensen does a good job giving examples and going through problems, but sometimes I feel that the initial explanations can be jumbled and confusing.

Student: 10

Reason: Major or minor requirementEffort: I studied hard for each exam, completed all web assign homeworks and made sure I was taking thorough notes in class.Understanding & Appreciation: This course helped solidify some of the core areas of calculus and gave me much more insight into the course subject than any of my high school courses.Intellectual Growth: The course helped me become a more thorough nite taker.Quality: One of Professor Christensen's best strengths is that he always takes sufficient time to clarify each mathematical idea that he introduces. In addition, he provides various ways to come at an identical conclusion.

Student: 11

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minorReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: Initially I did not put in a lot of effort but increased the amount of work I put in when I realized my earlier efforts were not sufficient. The former was partly because some material had been covered by the courses I took in high school.Understanding & Appreciation: I learned more about the practical side of math, which I have always been interested in. We started each unit by going over a "motivation" for why to learn a certain technique or theory.Intellectual Growth: We focused more on the theoretical aspect of math at school, so this was a nice change in approach.Quality: I thought the instruction could have been somewhat clearer as I was sometimes confused during class. However, Professor Christensen was very accessible and willing to meet both during and outside of office hours.

Student: 12

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Exploration of possible major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I always came to class, as new material was presented everyday. I sometimes put effort into webassigns, usually if I wasn't time crunched. If I was rushed, I would use a calculator when possible to get the answers. I would study extensively for tests, practicing problem after problem.Understanding & Appreciation: I took this as a review course because I took BC Calculus in high school. My understanding for the material I've seen before certainly grew. However, there were some new concepts that took me a little bit to grasp. I don't really appreciate mathematics anymore than I did when registering for this course.Intellectual Growth: This course didn't really contribute to my intellectual growthQuality: The teaching of the course, I felt, was solid. Our professor could have explained things a little bit better; sometimes I felt like he told us to memorize things rather than explaining why they work. I like how he was always open to questions and available outside of class. He's super kind, understand, and willing to help you learn.

Student: 13

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Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I show up to every class, do all the homework, and study for all the tests.

Understanding & Appreciation: It didn't.

Quality: I think that Professor Christensen has a lot of knowledge about the subject, but I do not think that he explained things well. He would often backtrack or start an example problem again (after deciding to do it a different way), which was very confusing. His teaching style was a bit scattered and disorganized, which made this class more difficult to follow for me. He taught the class as if we already knew the material.

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Student: 14

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: This course challenged me and I put in effort with every homework assignment

Understanding & Appreciation: This course made me realize how much calculus I didn't know

Intellectual Growth: It made me reach out to my professor when I knew I was falling behind

Quality: I think that my Professor was OK at teaching the course material only because at times it was clear the entire class was confused, but he continued to move on and not make sure everyone knew what was going on. Other than that I think that he does a fine job with testing/homework and being fair with grading and timing of assignments.

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Student: 15

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I have always worked hard at the homework for the class. I begin studying for tests two days before hand and study for a total of roughly 4 hours.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course furthered my knowledge of calculus and continued my desire to pursue a math-related major.

Intellectual Growth: This course taught me how to manage my time better and study effectively.

Quality: Overall, I think that this has been a well taught course. Professor Christensen is very well organized in terms of lectures and corresponding homework. A few topics I felt that he taught very quickly (without a ton of examples), but I think that this is understandable considering the relatively short time period we have to discuss certain topics.

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Student: 16

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s): N/A

Effort: This course was very challenging and a lot of learning took place outside of class. Notes were clear but sometimes lacking and I had to find other resources to fully understand the material.

Understanding & Appreciation: I was challenged by this course and have learned a lot, but there are still many holes in my understanding that prevent me from truly understanding the course and it's applications to the real world.

Intellectual Growth: I did a lot of self-teaching in this course.

Quality: The professor was well prepared and knew his material well. He handled questions well. Tests were returned later than usual. Sometimes examples were unclear and could have been improved if more context were given. The professor was also approachable and flexible.

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Student: 17

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I put a lot of effort into studying and doing homework for this course.

Understanding & Appreciation: I learned new methods for solving calc problems.

Intellectual Growth: It is an important foundation and prerequisite for other classes I want to take. I feel it has prepared me.

Quality: Prof. Christensen is very approachable and open to questions. He assigns a reasonable amount of homework and grades fairly. Sometimes he does not explain reasoning behind a method but he will elaborate if asked.

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Student: 18

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Effort: I regularly completed homework on time, attended office hours, and studied extensively on tests

Understanding & Appreciation: We explored new topics in Calculus. Not much else to say

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Intellectual Growth: He explained a bit how this ties in with Real Analysis, a course I hope to take in the future

Quality: He covered all the material, but lectures were hard to follow at times. The material also felt very formulaic, there wasn't a ton of critical thinking involved. Grading standards were clear

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Student: 19

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I paid attention in class and complete my homework with diligence.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course made me realize that calculus is indeed an interesting subject.

Intellectual Growth: By leaning calculus, I bettered my logic ability.

Quality: The teaching in this course is not extremely good, but it's excellent. I couldn't find any weakness. The professor's humor is the cherry on top of the ice cream.

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Student: 20

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I put forth much effort into this course. I made sure to be in every class, spent much time studying and completing homework assignments, as well.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course was very helpful to furthering my understanding of calculus. I am interested in pursuing a math major, so I believe this course was very beneficial in directing my decision.

Intellectual Growth: I think math courses are helpful in learning how to study, so this course was helpful in furthering useful ways to study for exams.

Quality: Professor Christensen was very effective in presenting the material of the course, and he was always open to any question, which was helpful. I enjoyed how we would go over homework at the beginning of each class before heading into the new material for the day. Homework assignments were fair as well as the exams. Overall, I thought the quality of teaching was great.

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