

Instructor: Christensen, Jens G.

Course: Linear Algebra

10 surveys / 15 enrolled in MATH 214 C (MWF 1120)

Student:1

Reason(s): Exploration of possible major or minor

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: I came to every class I could and did most of the homework's. If I didn't do the homework and get it turned in I would still do the problems when I had time. I also studied pretty extensively for the tests and went to office hours a couple times.

Understanding & Appreciation: I feel that I've done pretty well in the class, and I think I've retained a good independent understanding of the material. The Professor did a good job linking some of our material to real world applications and other math classes which was interesting to hear.

Intellectual Growth: Its a pretty standard math class so it didn't blow my mind or anything, but I think any well structured math class helps refine your problem solving skills and ability to think about complex concepts.

Quality: I thought the Professor did a really good job and I liked the structure of the class. Sometimes the Monday or Wednesday lectures that were more theory heavy were difficult to get through, but the Friday problem solving sessions usually brought it all together for me.

Effectiveness Conveying Course Material	Teacher-Student Interaction and Rapport	Course Standards and Challenge	Grading and Evaluation	Student Self-Rated Learning	Other Aspects of Teaching
1: SA	3: SA	8: SA	5: SA	2: A	13: N
7: SA	10: A	14: A	17: SA	4: A	21: NA
9: A	15: A	20: A	19: A	6: A	22: N
12: SA				11: A	
18: SA				16: A	

Student:2

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement
Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s): Linear Algebra is very useful for physics even if it doesn't count towards the major.

Effort: I attended each of the lectures and completed all the homework. I did all the extra problems and homework again for test studying. I also attended office hours often.

Understanding & Appreciation: The course gave me an excellent understanding of linear algebra. When I had to use it in my physics classes, I was overprepared and fully understood the material. The topics themselves were very interesting and I highly enjoyed the lectures.

Intellectual Growth: The course helped me think critically on tests and extra problem sets. It continued my learning in the subject of math and made my physics understanding stronger.

Quality: The actual assignments were quite challenging, yet on Friday classes, he did practice problems, which helped explain the hard material. I found this method to be highly effective. Overall, prof. Christensen was an amazing teacher and I would definitely take one of his classes again.

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1: SA	3: SA	8: SA	5: SA	2: SA	13: SA
7: SA	10: SA	14: SA	17: SA	4: SA	21: A
9: SA	15: SA	20: SA	19: SA	6: SA	22: SA
12: SA				11: SA	
18: SA				16: SA	

Student:3

Reason(s): Exploration of possible major or minor
Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s):

Effort: This class required a lot of effort outside of the class to make sure I internalized the material and was prepared for exams. I feel like I put a lot of effort into the course.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course really made me love math a lot more and sparked my interest at a possible minor in mathematics

Intellectual Growth: This course opened my eyes to how applicable math actually is in every day life.

Quality: this quality of teaching was amazing. The professor was always eager to teach every class, explained concepts very well, and

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was very organized. Even though the material was tough conceptually it never felt that hard because of the quality of teaching.

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1: SA	3: SA	8: SA	5: SA	2: SA	13: A
7: SA	10: SA	14: A	17: SA	4: SA	21: SA
9: SA	15: SA	20: SA	19: SA	6: SA	22: SA
12: SA				11: SA	
18: SA				16: SA	

Student:4

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement
Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: I did all of the homework assignments, including the in-class and extras. I reviewed a lot for every test.

Understanding & Appreciation: I learned a lot about the subject and about some applications of it.

Intellectual Growth: It helped me learn to critically think and go through a problem step by step.

Quality: The teaching was good. Sometimes it was a little boring to sit there for 50 minutes and listen to a lecture, but that was sometimes necessary. On the lecture days, there was not that much opportunity for student contributions. I always felt like he prepared us well for tests, which helped a lot.

Effectiveness Conveying Course Material	Teacher-Student Interaction and Rapport	Course Standards and Challenge	Grading and Evaluation	Student Self-Rated Learning	Other Aspects of Teaching
1: A	3: A	8: A	5: A	2: A	13: A
7: N	10: A	14: A	17: A	4: SA	21: D
9: N	15: A	20: A	19: SA	6: A	22: SA
12: SA				11: SA	
18: A				16: SA	

Student:5

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: did all homework assignments, tried to complete as many extra homework problems as possible

attended office hours when had questions

Understanding & Appreciation: Made me very appreciative for mathematicians who used to spend hours and hours calculating math problems, especially after sometimes when I am tired and use a computer to do the row reductions.

Made me connect calculus 3 to the material in this class with the multiple dimensions.

Intellectual Growth: Made me think about how to prove I know mathematical concepts. It is one thing to learn the methods behind solving a problem and be able to simply regurgitate them, but actually having to explain the meaning behind that process and why it makes sense to do it that way really helped me in other classes to be better able to explain processes and concepts.

Quality: strengths:

- accessible outside of class and willing to go over any questions. If you did not understand their explanation of a concept, would go over in a different way to try and help.
- returned assignments back very quickly.
- always on time, prepared, and organized

weaknesses:

- I feel as though the method of notes was not the most conducive to learning. I know sometimes the proofs take up a lot of writing, but I feel like it maybe could have been organized in a different way as having so many words condensed together on the slides didn't really help me understand the material.

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1: N	3: A	8: A	5: A	2: N	13: A
7: D	10: A	14: A	17: SA	4: A	21: NA
9: N	15: SA	20: A	19: SA	6: SA	22: N
12: SA				11: SA	
18: SA				16: N	

Student:6

Reason(s): Exploration of possible major or minor

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: I put alot of effort into the assignments as I often had little examples of problems from lecture and learn best from doing math problems and not learning proofs. As a result I spent most of my learning trying to learn how to solve problems

Understanding & Appreciation: I now have a better understanding of linear algebra concepts and its applications

Intellectual Growth: The course challenged my understanding of algebra concepts by doing proofs that showed why they work.

Quality: I think this course does not have enough problem solving to effectively teach linear algebra. Also having students just annotate notes the professor has provided is not an effective teaching strategy because we aren't even writing anything down.

While I appreciate proofs it felt like they took away precious class time from learning how to do linear algebra. The professor also wasn't very helpful in answering questions as he only did them at the end of lecture when we have no time

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1: N	3: N	8: SA	5: A	2: D	13: A
7: SD	10: N	14: SA	17: SA	4: N	21: NA
9: D	15: A	20: SA	19: SA	6: D	22: N
12: A				11: SA	
18: SA				16: N	

Student:7

Reason(s): Exploration of possible major or minor

Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: For effort in this course, for homework assignments I usually put a good deal of effort in solving those independently, trying to make sense of what we learned in the week and attempting to solve the hand in problems, which could usually take a while. For test preparations, the my effort for studying was high in the third test, decent in the first test, but lackluster in the second test. All in all, I would say that I put a good deal of effort into this course.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course contributed to my understanding and appreciation of the course subject because it reminded me how fun math can be. I came into this course feeling unsure about whether I wanted to pursue something in mathematics, but this course was something I really enjoyed. But also, this class had a fair amount of proofs, which reminded me that proofs are also used in math, which can be occasionally really difficult to create, so I can say I respect those who really dedicate themselves to finding and creating proofs.

Intellectual Growth: This course contributed to my intellectual growth beyond my understanding of the course subject because it got me thinking about what I wanted to do with math again. As I said earlier, I really enjoyed this course, and I think that some of the material like proofs helped my critical thinking, and I was motivated to think about some of these concepts outside of class. So, I think the course helped with critical thinking.

Quality: The quality of teaching in this course was great. In terms of strengths, the professor presented the material well, and the topics were interesting which benefited my learning greatly. He is respectful to the students and occasionally funny. He is thorough in answering questions and if he doesn't know something, he will get back with the student on that. For weaknesses, some of the homework problems can occasionally go for too long, and not all in class problems are solved.

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1: A	3: SA	8: SA	5: A	2: SA	13: A
7: SA	10: A	14: N	17: A	4: A	21: A
9: A	15: A	20: A	19: A	6: A	22: A
12: A				11: A	
18: A				16: A	

Student:8

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement
Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s):Effort: The effort needed to succeed in this course required me to study and complete assignments every week. While the class time helps to build knowledge and practice using it, it is simply not enough time to learn the material alone. Thus, I needed to consistency practice what I learned outside of class to ensure that I kept up.Understanding & Appreciation: This course introduced Linear Algebra in a way that was interesting and was able to show students why we should appreciate it. After spending a semester learning about Linear Algebra, I definitely am glad I took this course as the material was very interesting and I know will help me as a math major.Intellectual Growth: The kind of thinking it takes to solve these problems is unlike previous math courses, in the sense that problems require comprehensive approaches and can be abstract at times. While this was very useful for solving Linear Algebra problems, the skills that were built in this course are valuable in other aspects of one's life and education. Analyzing issues and ways to tackle problems have become easier or even more intuitive after Linear Algebra.Quality: Professor Christensen is clearly knowledgeable and passionate about what he teaches. He is able to convey this to his students and motivate them to give maximum effort to learn the material. He leaves time for questions and is accessible outside of class, which is a strength in teaching as the material can be somewhat confusing at times. While lectures can get *extremely* dry at times and even hard to understand what is happening, I believe this is a byproduct of difficulty of what is being taught, which Christensen handles well. He also has fair and clear grading standards, and takes time to make clear what one should do on an exam. Overall I thought the course was well taught and a pleasure to be in.

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1: A	3: SA	8: A	5: SA	2: A	13: A
7: A	10: SA	14: SA	17: SA	4: A	21: N
9: N	15: SA	20: A	19: SA	6: A	22: SA
12: SA				11: A	
18: A				16: A	

Student:9

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):Effort: Class time. About 5 hours a week for homework. Around 10 hours studying for each test.Understanding & Appreciation: I feel comfortable with applying the material on my own.Intellectual Growth: Greater understanding of proofs.Quality: A strong point of the class was the time we had to do practice problems in class, and the review classes that we had before exams. The material was explained effectively.

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7: A	10: A	14: A	17: A	4: A	21: N
9: A	15: A	20: A	19: SA	6: A	22: SA
12: A				11: A	
18: A				16: A	

Student:10

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Reason(s): Major or minor requirement
Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s): I took this course for the applied math major tracts, but also out of interest in the subject and for possible applications in computer science.

Effort: I did all of the available problems, went to office hours when necessary, and researched material on my own via books and the internet when necessary.

Understanding & Appreciation: I feel I have a better understanding of matrices and vectors and I have grown to have a particular interest in abstract vector spaces.

Intellectual Growth: It helped me realize that I am capable of achieving and pursuing strictly 'logical' subjects, as long as I put in the appropriate effort.

Quality: Prof. Christensen is a great teacher that really cares about the success of his students. He is funny and makes class as interesting as he can. I would definitely take a class with him again, and in fact hope I do, because his style of teaching goes from the abstract to the concrete, so it really makes you engage with the theoretical material before making any calculations. All of the different 'stories' of linear algebra—the different methods and concepts—I found to be very interesting, and Prof. Christensen tries to bring real world applications of the subject matter to really emphasize how useful/crucial what we are learning really is.

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7: A	10: SA	14: A	17: A	4: SA	21: A
9: A	15: SA	20: A	19: SA	6: A	22: A
12: SA				11: A	
18: A				16: A	

Likert Key: SA=Strongly agree, A=Agree, N=Neither agree nor disagree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly disagree, NA=Not applicable