

Instructor: Christensen, Jens G.

Course: Real Analysis I

9 surveys / 13 enrolled in MATH 377 A (MWF 1120)

Student:1

Reason(s): Elective within major or minor

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: The effort required for this course was significant. The professor has homework assignments set up in such a way that in order to do well you have to be communicating with him, either through email or in office hours. A big chunk of your ability to do well seems to be dependent upon seeking him out to review material introduced in classes. That being said, he was very accessible and made it possible to put in the effort necessary. I myself have gone to office hours once or twice a week throughout the semester and have found it necessary to prepare extensively for exams in order to do satisfactorily.

Understanding & Appreciation: The course introduced me to the foundation of calculus. As an economics major I took the course in the hopes of better preparing myself for graduate work. For the majority of the course, it was difficult to see the direct applications and relevance to my field, but as we approached the end of the semester I started to gain more of an appreciation for what we were doing.

Intellectual Growth: This course challenged me quite a bit. I had to put in a significant amount of effort to understand material and perform well. This challenge enabled me to grow as a student, by forcing me to seek out time in office hours or try different study habits.

Quality: This is very clearly professor Christensen's area of expertise. I understand that, as a non-math major, my views may be a bit biased, but I did feel that the course and your learning was based heavily on trial and error to learn the material and methods. Professor Christensen was very accessible and does very much want his students to succeed, and is willing to work with them however he can to make that happen. I do think that the course could be taught in a way that dives a bit more into the "analysis" side of real analysis, the applications of what we're learning, but I'm glad I took the course.

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

Student:2

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: This course required a great deal of effort, primarily in terms of completing weekly homeworks. Further, I studied for exams and mini tests throughout the semester. In-class work required paying attention but little participation was necessary.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course contributed to my understanding and appreciation of the course subject by explaining the theory and rationale behind many of the processes that we take for granted in calculus. I have a newfound understanding of the complexity of mathematics, especially in its initial foundation.

Intellectual Growth: This course contributed to my intellectual growth in a similar way as number theory. This course encouraged me to think in a different way by completing proofs. This was much less analytical and much more theoretical which was a stretch for me. This allowed me to better understand and form arguments both in math classes and in other subject areas. Additionally, this course led me to ask for help. As opposed to other math courses, this course required a lot of assistance from the professor. This allowed me to grow intellectually by admitting that I need help sometimes and seeking that help out.

Quality: Strengths in terms of teaching include Professor Christensen's passion for the subject area which made lectures interesting. Further, he was very accessible and always ready to help on homework problems. He also adapted the homework throughout the semester to make it more manageable by having us only hand in certain questions. In such a way, he is responsive to feedback. Weaknesses involved somewhat dry lectures. This made the incentive to attend class low as one could easily get the notes from a classmate instead of attending. However, this is of no fault of his own as the course material itself must be taught through proofs and theorems must be proven before students can apply them.

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

Student:3

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement
 Exploration of possible major or minor
 Reputation of the instructor
 Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: Not very good at proofs, so studied notes a lot. Office hours and textbook.

Understanding & Appreciation: I love calculus and learning analysis has deepened my understanding of under what circumstances calculus works.

Intellectual Growth: I learned to really enjoy pure mathematics and proof writing.

Quality: Really like Professor Christensen's style of teaching: to recap last class, then explains everything and writes everything. The notes are thorough enough for preparing an exam or doing homework.

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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: 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

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: I put a lot of effort into this course and made sure I went to office hours every week. I studied a lot of hours before tests and mini tests, and rarely missed class.

Understanding & Appreciation: I liked this class much better than math 250, which I struggled in, and think that his teaching in 250 prepared me well for this class. I understand this material reasonably well, but if I had the choice I would not continue learning math theory.

Intellectual Growth: Learning math theory has really broadened my problem solving skills. I have an entire new set of skills and know when to ask for help and reach out to my peers for questions and support.

Quality: Professor Christensen cares a lot about his students and does whatever he can to help us succeed. The material for this course is very hard, and I think he could have done a little better to explain the material. He gives us a good foundation, but sometimes skips steps that are not so obvious to those not as smart as him. I think slowing down on the more difficult material would be helpful, such as the foundation of the integral, as well as going more in depth in the more abstract material. Overall Christensen is a good professor and I would take a course with him again.

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

Student:5

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

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Additional Reason(s):

Effort: I definitely dedicated a large amount of time to studying and do homework for this class. I went to office hours multiple times a week to make sure that I had a good understanding of the course material and studied far in advance for any tests or mini tests.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course made me appreciate the course subject less. I had a lot of trouble understanding the type of approach that we learned to answer questions and the whole course just made me question why this is a requirement for applied math students. In the end, I have a better understanding of the course subject, but I still feel that there is a lot that we covered that I can answer by memorization of the type of answer rather than using knowledge to come up with an answer on my own.

Intellectual Growth: This course helped me learn how to answer the specific types of questions that we encountered in this class. I learned that these are the types of questions that you cannot answer quickly, you need to brainstorm and figure out the specific theorems or definitions to use and which order to do so to determine the path to take and come to the right answer. This was very difficult for me because it contradicted what I typically love about math classes - that there is one right answer and one way to get to it.

Quality: Professor Christensen was a very good professor in office hours and I found that most of my learning and best understanding of the course subject came out of when I would go to his office hours. I think that he should give more in class examples that reflect the homework. I always had a very difficult time on the homework because it presented questions that we had never been shown how to answer - therefore, it was impossible to complete them without going to office hours. If we had more similar examples during the class period, students would have a clearer understanding of how to approach homework questions and would probably be able to achieve higher homework grades in the end. I also think that regardless of whether it follows the curriculum exactly or not, a course MUST always have a textbook to go with it.

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9: A	15: A	20: SA	19: SA	6: N	22: D
12: SA				11: N	
18: SA				16: N	

Student:6

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: This course kept me on my toes through regular exercise problems and some supplemental readings which came down to about ten hours a week.

Understanding & Appreciation: I think that the topics covered are potentially very interesting and have applications that extend beyond the scope of the course.

Intellectual Growth: I engaged with a new way of problem solving. The class is quite unlike other courses at Colgate in the way that we go about proving various theorems.

Quality: I have very mixed feelings about Professor Christensen. He is clearly very intelligent and always extremely approachable. Office hours with him have actually been very positive experiences. When it comes to class though, it seems like he lacks a certain passion and it shows in the way that he teaches. Although he is clearly knowledgeable in the subject, he oftentimes seems unprepared and clearly improvises or tries to recall on the spot. This has led to some times of frustration when we wait five minutes for him to remember how to do something because he clearly didn't do specific preparation before the class. His lack of preparation also shows in the homework assignments that we receive. Professor Christensen has during the semester swung largely between the amount of work that he assigns and whether the work is mandatory. This makes the workload for the class difficult to predict which is also frustrating. He also seems to be annoyed with the class when no one answers a question and his bitterness has visibly increased over time. Overall, it feels like he has all the necessary qualities to be a great professor, but he refuses to apply himself in class which made the class more frustrating than it should have been.

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

Student:7

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

Exploration of possible major or minor

Additional Reason(s):Effort: I didn't miss any class and did all the required work.Understanding & Appreciation: I got a good understanding of the topic coveredIntellectual Growth: I think the topic is difficult and interesting, but I also realized I probably don't want to dig deeper on this.Quality: I think Prof Christensen is a good teacher overall. However, I wish the class could be more interactive, like having some handout to work through, for example. Most of the time it's copying down a proof on the board, which does little to help me understand anything. I only understand the material after reading my notes, but I think as the concepts get more difficult, some interaction would help.

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

Student:8

Reason(s): Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):Effort: I did not have as much time to devote to this course this semester as I would have liked but I did give the weekly homework's my best effort and spent a lot of time studying for each of the exams.Understanding & Appreciation: This course has taught me that I really do not enjoy this course subject.Intellectual Growth:Quality: Professor Christensen presented the material clearly in class and made himself available outside of class however the system for booking office hours could be improved. I was often unable to book a slot in a timely manner when I had a question to discuss.

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9: N	15: A	20: A	19: A	6: A	22: N
12: A				11: A	
18: A				16: N	

Student:9

Reason(s):

Additional Reason(s):Effort:Understanding & Appreciation:Intellectual Growth:Quality:

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12: SA				11: A	
18: SA				16: SA	
