

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Topology

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6 surveys / 6 enrolled in MATH 342 A (MWF 1320)

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Student: 1

Reason: Elective within major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I completed all homework and studied for tests.Understanding & Appreciation: I had previously been exposed to topology, minimally, but this course gave me a clear understanding of the actual work involved in pursuing topology as well as a thorough understanding of the theory behind it.Intellectual Growth: This course has improved my proof-writing skills tremendously. My proofs are more elegant and rigorous as a result of this course.Quality: Professor Christensen is my favorite professor at Colgate I've had thus far. His lectures are engaging and effective and he takes the time to ensure each student can succeed on homeworks and exams. Besides that, it is apparent in every lecture that Professor Christensen really enjoys what he is teaching, which makes the class even more fun.

Student: 2

Reason: Elective within major or minorReason: Reputation of the instructorEffort: This course requires diligent note taking as well as independent thought put into weekly problem sets. It was by no means easy, but it wasn't terribly time consuming either.Understanding & Appreciation: Topological references have always interested me (torus cannot be deformed into a sphere, etc) but I never imagined how that would be mathematically formed, so this class afforded me a glimpse at the math underlying statements like that.Intellectual Growth: Proof based classes are always good for problem solving.Quality: Professor Christensen is the reason I took this class. Having lost a good deal of my passion for math, Professor Christensen brings to class a personality that I really enjoy. Furthermore, the logic of the arguments in his class is always well-argued, so even without a strong passion anymore, following the arguments is manageable. Overall, Professor Christensen is the best math professor I've had.

Student: 3

Reason: Elective within major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I usually spend five to six hours per week outside classes in this course.Understanding & Appreciation: A idea of redefining a topology challenged the 'traditional' meaning of many concepts that I used to deal with in mathematical analysis, making me aware that there are ways to describe a space in different mathematical terms from what I knew before.Intellectual Growth: Topology developed for me a new type of mathematical intuition that transcends spatial continuity, and I am inspired to make similar developments of intuition in other contexts.Quality: Prof. Christensen welcomes questions inside and outside of class, and pays substantial effort to make students feel consciously comfortable about their understanding of each concept in this course. Prof. Christensen is also casually accessible, and I don't feel the need to limit a discussion to office hours, for example.

Student: 4

Reason: Major or minor requirementEffort: Doing weekly homework

Taking tests

Reading the textbook

Understanding & Appreciation: The course allows me to learn more about topology, a new mathematical topic which I have not had prior exposure.Intellectual Growth: The course helps me to see the connection between several different mathematical subjects, and how knowledge from one field (calculus, analysis) could be applied to another (topology) and vice versa.Quality: Some lectures could be clearer so that students could have an easier understanding of the concepts taught in class before doing the exercises.

Student: 5

Reason: Other requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I put average effort in this course.

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Understanding & Appreciation: Through this course, I was able to learn about some interesting concept on topology. This course allowed me to expand my knowledge and explore the field that I was not familiar with.

Intellectual Growth: Some of the concepts in this course can be applied to real world situation. Also, this course helped me further improve my problems solving skills.

Quality: The quality of teaching was very good overall. The concepts and materials were clearly presented and explained by the instructor. The instructor also handled question well.

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Student: 6

Reason: Elective within major or minor

Effort: Considerable

Understanding & Appreciation: Improved them

Intellectual Growth: It did not

Quality: Very knowledgeable professor, really passionate about course subject.

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