


7.5 Annexure 2B: MATH236:2010 - student evaluations

REPORT ON STUDENT EVALUATION OF DISCRETE MATHEMATICS WITH APPLICATIONS (MATH236) 1 st SEMESTER 2010-WESTVILLE CAMPUS					
					
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The following report is based on student evaluation questionnaire data, administered to students registered for the module. A total of about 136 students were registered for this module, 70 (51%) of whom answered the questionnaire. ¹					
In this questionnaire, students were presented with positively phrased statements (with one or two exceptions) to which they could respond on a five-point scale; they could either: A. strongly disagree, B. disagree, C. be neutral, D. agree, or E. strongly agree. For purposes of analysis, and to gauge a mean response, each category was awarded a numerical value, i.e. 1 for strongly disagree, 5 for strongly agree. Categories A & B were considered to be negative responses, D & E, positive ones.					
All student comments included in the report are quoted verbatim.					
MODULE					
Question	Total	Number of Respondents			Mean
		% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	
1 I thought this module was well organized.	68	91	0	9	4.5
2 A detailed and useful course outline was provided (which included details on course outcomes and how the course would be assessed).	69	93	4	3	4.6
3 It was always clear to me how the different topics and sections of the module fitted together.	68	81	12	7	4.1
4 There was a good balance between the theory and its application.	69	93	1	6	4.4
5 I found that I could apply things that I learned in this course in my other courses.	69	78	13	9	4.1
6 As a result of studying this module I have learned to think in new ways.	69	81	13	6	4.2
7 As a result of studying this module I have grown and developed personally.	69	61	28	12	3.7
8 I believe that I have been given sufficient guidance in order to cope with this module.	69	84	7	9	4.2
9 I found that the workload for this module was manageable.	68	76	13	10	4.1
10 I attended almost all the lectures in this course.	69	80	6	14	4.1
11 The teaching environment (lecture room) is conducive to learning.	69	86	9	6	4.3
LECTURER					
Question	Total	Number of Respondents			Mean
		% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	
12 I found that Dr. Mkwenti was always well prepared.	70	89	3	9	4.5
13 I found that Dr. Mkwenti's lectures were clear and well-delivered.	69	88	6	6	4.4
14 I found that the level at which these lectures were pitched was just right for me.	69	87	6	7	4.3
15 I found that I could always understand the language used in these lectures.	69	93	0	7	4.5
16 I found that Dr. Mkwenti explained concepts clearly.	69	91	1	7	4.5
17 I found that Dr. Mkwenti used examples that helped me to understand the concepts.	69	90	3	7	4.5
18 I found that Dr. Mkwenti emphasized important information.	69	91	1	7	4.4
19 I found that Dr. Mkwenti presented the material in ways that were interesting and stimulated my enthusiasm for the subject.	69	88	1	10	4.3
20 Dr. Mkwenti pointed links between the material and other areas in the field.	69	84	7	9	4.3
21 I found that Dr. Mkwenti used the data projector effectively.	68	88	6	6	4.4
22 I found that this method of teaching (lectures with data projector) increased my understanding.	68	82	10	7	4.2
23 Dr. Mkwenti encouraged questions in lectures.	67	85	7	7	4.4
24 I felt comfortable enough to ask questions in lectures.	68	74	19	7	4.1
25 I thought that Dr. Mkwenti had a good relationship with the class.	68	90	4	6	4.5
26 The lecturer was sensitive to the different cultural and social backgrounds of the students.	68	68	13	19	3.8
27 I found that Dr. Mkwenti was approachable.	68	91	3	6	4.7
28 The lecturer was available to offer guidance and support to students when needed.	68	87	6	7	4.5

¹ Low response rates reduce the reliability of the feedback. It is recommended that data be treated with caution when response rates are less than 50% for classes of 100 or more, less than 60% for classes 50-100, less than 75% for classes 20-50, and less than 80% for classes less than 20.

ASSESSMENT

Question	Number of Respondents				Mean
	Total	% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	
29 The way in which we were going to be assessed (given marks) was made clear from the start.	67	82	9	9	4.4
30 I think there is a good link between what we learn in the course and how we are assessed.	67	87	1	12	4.4
31 I think that the time and effort required to complete the assessment tasks was reasonable.	67	63	16	21	3.7
32 The lecturer provided useful feedback on tests and tutorials.	67	87	7	6	4.3
33 I found that assessment tasks were returned within a reasonable time frame.	67	85	7	7	4.4

TUTORIALS (if applicable)

Question	Number of Respondents				Mean
	Total	% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	
34 I felt comfortable enough to participate in tutorials.	70	77	16	7	4.2
35 I found the tutorials helped me to understand the course material better.	70	89	4	7	4.4
36 I found that the tutor was always well prepared.	70	77	7	16	4.0
37 I found the tutor helpful.	69	80	6	14	4.0
38 I found that the tutorials related well to the content of the lectures.	70	89	3	9	4.4
39 I found that it was useful to work through the problems before the tutorials.	70	90	6	4	4.5
40 I attended (almost) all tutorials in this course.	70	89	6	6	4.5

NOTES AND WEBSITE

Question	Number of Respondents				Mean
	Total	% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	
41 I found that Dr. Mkwembi's method of posting material on the Website (Moodle) is helpful and convenient.	70	87	4	9	4.5
42 I found that Dr. Mkwembi's slide lecture notes were clear and understandable.	70	89	1	10	4.5

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COMMENTS

43. What aspects of the course did you find most useful?

- The way the graph is represented in graphical and converting it into a matrix that can be store in the computer or manipulated using linear algebra.
- Cryptosystem
- Cryptology.
- Dis and Graph theory.
- Tutorial, lectures and course website.
- The lecture was very nice in a way that he uses jokes for us not to get bored and he is very funny and he makes sure that we all understand lectures.
- Graph Theory, Encryption and Decryption.
- Tutorials.
- DES and how it works.
- Graph Theory and Encryption.
- Lecture notes.
- The Graph Theory section, shortest path.
- All the aspects. The entire course was useful.
- All aspects of cryptology.
- Dr. Mkwembi's lectures and lecture notes were very useful. His lecture notes are good enough to learn from instead of the course pack.
- RSA and basic Graph Theory.
- Tutorials.
- Cryptology and group theory.
- RSA encrypt system and Graph Theory.
- Lectures, notes!
- Cryptology.
- I like the way Dr. Mkwembi is lecturing and the way explaining concept about what is lecturing.
- Encryption and Decryption part was very useful.
- Cryptology and Graph Theory.
- Cryptology was useful as you can understand how it fits into reality. For those studying computer sciences we can see how cryptology would be useful.
- The course website provides easy access to the course material.
- Cryptology.
- Cryptology.
- Encryption, Permutations and Graph Theory.
- Graph Theory, it is applicable in real life situations. Data encryption, it has made me realize how data can be simply hidden.
- All aspects.
- All the aspects were useful.
- Dr. Mkwembi's notes.
- The section about Graph Theory and Cryptology I found to be the most useful in the course in real life situation.
- Tutorials and tutorials tests.
- Cryptography (public key etc) and graphs were good foundation for my course as I am interested in doing networks.

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- Cryptology and Relational Algebra
- All
- Lecture slides and tuts, except tut tests and notes on the yellow book
- I've learnt new skills to attempt problems
- The website was very helpful. Also the tutors at the tutorials helped a lot
- Cryptology.
- Tutors
- The cryptology is more useful aspect to me. It teaches me how to hide information using different types of crypto systems

44. What suggestions do you have as to how Dr. Mkwenthi could improve his teaching?

- None / he is doing more than I expected
- To use PC effectively.
- Dr. Mkwenthi is a perfect lecturer.
- He is the best and he should continue with how he teaches.
- NCP there is nothing he has to finish he is a super lecturer who enjoys his work
- Dr. Mkwenthi is an excellent lecturer. He can improve by making use of his tablet PC and news slides on tablet PC. Everything else is 100%
- He must not delay posting the lecture notes on the web.
- His teaching is ok.
- More examples done in class. Short quizzes at the end of the lectures, the more questions we get, and the better we understand. Definitely more tut tests should be considered
- He is doing a good job
- No suggestions. Dr. Mkwenthi is an excellent teacher!
- He is already a great lecturer.
- More attractive notes
- He is perfect. Not need for change.
- Increase test times.
- He can write the notes on to a new Windows Journal page instead of using previous years scanned slides. This would give students a chance to take notes while he is writing. Also he can fold the tablet PC screen backwards and flat
- Have more tutors that can explain
- He does it well enough, though helping more could be nice.
- No need to improve is excellent. Dr Mkwenthi is a good lecturer.
- A very organized, patient, respectful, wonderful lecturer. You know he is really qualified for this position and he don't need any more improvement. If I was in charge in the Maths department I would raise his salary up to the higher standard
- I don't think Dr. Mkwenthi has to improve his teaching because he is the best. Everything that he lectures is very clear, he is a good lecturer.
- He is good. No improvement at this point. We are passing, passing and passing like never before.
- Dr. Mkwenthi is doing very well. There is no need for him to improve. The department needs to hire people like Dr. Mkwenthi.
- No suggestions, he is good
- No suggestion his teaching is very organized and understood

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- None so far and above all he is an excellent lecturer.
- He is excellent, no improvements needed according to my point of view.
- Just keep on being the best.
- None. He is perfect. One of the best (if not the best) lectures I've been taught by at this campus.
- Dr. Mkwenthi's teaching is good.

45. Any other comments?

- The notes must specify in detail how the theory is related to real life application
- Cryptosystem must be improved
- Math 236 is fun.
- Time in test was not enough
- If he could extend the tests duration
- Always put him as the Math 236 lecturer. It fit him perfectly since he specializes in the graph section in his career.
- Please don't change him keep him to teach many more generations.
- Well done! Keep it up!
- Mkwenthi is the best lecturer I ever fond in this University.
- Please post all the tutorial solution earlier so we can start learn easier e.g. today is Monday, Wednesday we have test, but the tut solutions are still not there, a weekend wasted to learn for the test.
- Good useful course
- I think the time frame for the test is too short for the work load in the test and as a result we end up not finishing writing.
- Dr. Mkwenthi is a very good lecturer.
- RSA made the course interesting
- This course is just hard
- Do change this lecture in future.
- Very good course, well done Maths department!
- The time for the test must be increased
- He is perfect.
- Please give us enough time during tests and consider the time it takes to do certain calculations regardless of the marks.
- Increase tut time.
- Dr. Mkwenthi is a great teacher.
- Dr. Mkwenthi is an outstanding lecturer.
- Mkwenthi should teach other lectures his way of lecturing
- Time, time! For tests is very short whilst the work to be done is too much, so if you can add time maybe by 30 minutes for the tests. I found that there are too many steps for solving question and time is too short, please.
- Dr. Mkwenthi deserves an award.
- Kept it up Dr. Mkwenthi.
- The time for class test is very short.
- The time for class test is very short.
- Mark tut tests.
- Time which is allocated for tests is very unreasonable please increase time for tests and especially in the exam! Give us reasonable time.

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- Dr. Mkwerebi explains to the finest detail. Thank you.
- I think there wasn't enough time for tests.
- At least 2 Maths should be taught by this man, one from first year (e.g. Mth140) and one from 2nd year, every semester.
- I've enjoyed Mth236 from the word go.
- The time allocated for Test 2 was not enough. This is a big issue.
- Lectures are interesting. Keep up the good work.
- Tutors must be well prepared or trained because they seem not to have done the course themselves.
- I think he must give us a little bit of time in the tests and examinations.

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