

SELECT STUDENT COMMENTS

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COURSE EVALUATIONS

1. Ozgur is the most amazing professor I have had and **I can't believe he is only a PhD student**. It's so rare — give him all of the opportunities in the world because he deserves it.
2. The instruction quality in this course was good – all content was clearly presented and explained, and all important connections between content were emphasized. Questions were answered in a clear, helpful manner, and the instructor did his best to **keep the class engaged** throughout each lecture.
3. The prof was good, he **engaged the class** and always answered questions. He made the material more interesting.
4. The instructor've taught us linear algebra vividly, and he's such a great guy who can answer our questions **patiently**.
5. Ozgur Esentepe is a great man and instructor. He can deliver the material in an interesting manner and make **relevant nice jokes!**
6. I enjoyed this course a lot, the instructor was funny during class and **created a good atmosphere for us** to learn math which makes the boring subject funny to learn.
7. Ozgur made calculus **so much more engaging** to learn rather than just speaking at us. He definitely has been one of my favorite professors here!!

2017 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATIONS

1. Ozgur is always encouraging. He **creates an environment** in the tutorial so that even the most reserved students **feel comfortable contributing**, because he stresses that every contribution is worthwhile.
2. He makes the math **feel not-stupid**.
3. He makes the classroom **feel like a place for the students** by constantly polling us and asking for input and also by saying things like that he's there for us to learn. And he's just really entertaining which makes it fun to come to class and do math.
4. His attitude towards **learning with other people, respecting their proofs and mistakes, etc. is contagious** also and has made it much easier for me to work with people even when not in tutorial.
5. Students who had never spoken in class before were offering potential solutions, and **everyone felt like their contributions were meaningful**. Solving this problem helped all of us understand more clearly what it means to work through a hard problem together.
6. That's **classic Ozgur** I think, doing the obvious stuff slowly, so we can see it and really understand it, and then showing us how it can be useful and less obvious.

7. He gives us **true/false questions** about linear maps and for each one he picks someone who said "false" and asks for a counterexample, and/or someone who said "true" and asks for a proof, crediting the purveyors on the board, **and not making a big deal if they're wrong - being glad they participated anyway.**
8. He **encouraged everyone's input** (in the form of T/F polls) and applauded people who participated, even if they made mistakes.

EMAILS

1. Are you teaching the Thursday tutorials, or the Friday ones? I want to make sure I enrol in your section, since I was with you last semester (**and you're cool**).
2. Thank you for your reply. **The blog post had some great tips**, exactly what I was looking for. I'm looking forward to trying them over the summer.
3. When I was struggling at certain times this year, your tutorials made all the material seem so clear. And when I still had questions, you answered them; even the really stupid ones. So thanks.
4. I could **never have imagined learning so much** in one year, and I owe much of it to you.
5. Hi Ozgur,

I'm one of the students in your 240 tutorial, and I wanted to say I'm happy about today's tutorial. I think it would have been really easy for you to have just gone over homework or test problems, and it would have just been another tutorial. There's nothing wrong with that, but I do appreciate it when you go outside of what's required and show us stuff that's interesting, even if it's confusing for us.

I really **appreciate that you try hard to do your best**, and you really seem to care about the class, many TAs are not like this. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A student

6. Dear Ozgur

I am the old guy from the back of the room. I wanted to thank you for the tutorial today.

I am a biologist by training. I am studying (officially math/physics) to enrich my life but also because I think a long time ago my life took a wrong turn. I am too old to become a born-again mathematician but I am enjoying it nonetheless.

Last year I took 157 and felt like I was gasping for air at every tutorial, I never said anything and it generally took 2-3 days to digest the material. Today was the first math tutorial I attended since starting this last year, that I felt as though you started where I was comfortable, gradually brought us along and I felt a little more competent by the end than I did in the beginning.

I actually woke up this morning considering dropping this course. With 4 kids at home (in school), making school lunches and working 9-5 is tough let alone taking a course. I felt like I didn't even have time for the problem sets.

However I really feel much more comfortable after the tutorial, I came back to my office and banged off the remaining two questions from the problem set. Maybe it's all garbage I don't know but **I at least feel better about the material** and I felt compelled to let you know.

Many thanks please don't speed up :)

7. I didn't know if I wanted to study math when I came to u of t. Your tutorials really made a difference. You did a really good job. **Except now I gotta do math. So kinda all of this is kinda your fault.**