FEEDBACK REPLIES
(MATH 258, FALL 2006)

1. Do you find the mathematics in this course interesting? Circle one:
   YES  SOMEWHAT  NO
Replies: 13 YES, 6 SOMEWHAT

2. Do you feel confident in your understanding of most of the material so far? Circle one:
   YES  SOMEWHAT  NO
Replies: 6 YES, 8 SOMEWHAT, 5 NO

   a) If you answered YES to question 2, what are some activities you do which you think gives you this confidence (e.g., reading book before lecture, working a bit each day, solving extra problems, rewriting lecture notes, reading the homework solutions, attending office hours, working with classmates, working with a tutor, . . .)

Replies:
   • read book before lecture
   • reviewing lecture notes and doing all of the homework problems
   • reading homework solutions to see where I was wrong and why
   • working with classmates

   b) If you answered SOMEWHAT or NO to question 2, what are you considering doing in the direction of changing your approach to this course? (If you are considering doing nothing, then nothing will change.)

Replies:
   • Do more/all of the homework myself
   • Reread lecture notes more
   • Look over more examples on topics I don’t understand
   • Rewrite lecture notes and work out details on examples done in class
   • Usually don’t review what I’ve learned, should start doing this.

3. The prerequisite to this course is Math 213 or 214. Which of these courses did you take and what topics or techniques from Math 213 were helpful as preparation for Math 258?

Replies: Math 213, learned about induction, proof-writing, and modular arithmetic
4. Please make some comments on the following aspects of the course (both criticisms and compliments are welcome, to give a sense of what is working and what could be adjusted)

Lecture:

Confident:
- like that the homework proofs are explained in class
- reviewing *why* things work is a great help
- lectures are high speed but clear
- thrilled that you speak English

Somewhat or not confident:
- slow down
- emphasize what we *really* need to know
- let us do examples in class on our own

Office Hours:

Confident:
- some are afraid to bring up unspecific or “stupid” questions

Somewhat or not confident:
- it helps that one student can go and report back to the rest of the group

Homeworks (Problem Sets and Solutions):

Confident:
- exploration problems are irritating; they don’t reveal the relation to the class
- some solutions are confusing or vague
- some problems are on stuff we haven’t done yet
- great connection and extension of homework to lecture and text

Somewhat or not confident:
- explain them a bit more in class
- the hints on homework are helpful
- homeworks take an insane amount of time, but feel like I am learning a lot from them.
- they are more an inquiry project than a reflection of work done in class.
- could they be due on Wednesday?
Textbook:

**Confident:**
- provides a different flavor to the ideas
- straight and to the point, good examples
- only opened it once

**Somewhat or not confident:**
- pretty good, but some proofs difficult to read
- I understand RSA better
- pretty clear, useful as a supplement to the lectures
- waste of money

Course handouts:

**Confident:**
- Sometimes helpful, sometimes not needed
- helps to see how different concepts are related

**Somewhat or not confident:**
- useful for examples
- Might be beneficial to go over them in class

Web resources (course page, facebook, etc.):

Other: