

MATRIX & POWER SERIES METHODS (Winter 2019 (201902))

Instructor: **Pham, Tuan**
 Subject: **MTH**
 Catalog & Section: **306 020**
 Course ID: **31557**
 Objectives:

Enrollment: **93**
 Responses Incl Declines: **29**
 Declines: **1**

Course and Instructor

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The course as a whole was	28	30%	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.9	5.1
The instructor's contribution to the course was	28	30%	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.5	5.2	5.4
Clarity of course objectives or outcomes was	28	30%	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.3	5.1	5.2
Clarity of student responsibilities and requirements was	28	30%	4.1	4.9	5.0	4.1	5.1	5.2
Course organization was	28	30%	4.1	4.8	4.9	4.1	5.0	5.1
Availability of extra help when needed was	28	30%	4.7	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.3
Instructor's use of various instructional techniques to accommodate differences in learning styles among students was	28	30%	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.2	4.9	5.1
Instructor's interest in my learning was	28	30%	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.4
Instructor's ability to stimulate my thinking more deeply about the subject was	28	30%	4.2	4.7	4.9	4.2	5.0	5.2
Instructor's timely feedback to tests and other work was	28	30%	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.4	5.1	5.2
Instructor's ability to develop a welcoming classroom environment for all participants was	28	30%	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.5
Instructor's evaluation of student performance in accordance with course objectives was	28	30%	4.5	4.9	5.0	4.5	5.1	5.3

Note: 1:Very Poor; 2:Poor; 3:Fair; 4:Good; 5:Very Good; 6:Excellent; -1:Unable To Rate;

Instructor's Questions

Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Univ. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median	Univ. Median
The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.	27	29%	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6
The instructor treated me with respect.	27	29%	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8

Note: 1:Completely Disagree; 2:Mostly Disagree; 3:Slightly Disagree; 4:Slightly Agree; 5:Mostly Agree; 6:Completely Agree;

Narrative comments and suggestions (11 comments)

Q: Please comment about ways to improve instruction.

- 1 More clarity on the group project would be helpful.
- 2 This class is obviously very useful and information-rich, which I really appreciated. I have a couple gripes with it, however. For one, I have basically stopped going to lecture, because it is extremely difficult for me to get any information from it. With this style of math, it is best for me, (and for a lot of people I've talked to) to learn what a concept is and how to use it. WHY it is, and WHERE it comes from is interesting, and can help long term retention and overall knowledge - I get it. However, everyone's first priority is to understand what a concept is and how to use it, and this I felt like was never really touched on in lecture, only in recitation. I wish there was more examples. The only other thing I am really sore about is that there are homework sets and practice midterm sets on the course website, but almost no solutions! I'm very sorry, but that material does not help me whatsoever unless I can check my work, and I just cannot spare the time to go into office hours every time I want to check my work. There should have been more solutions on the website, especially

regarding the practice midterm... that was only useful for telling me what I should know, not if I knew it. (And that's what I sorely needed).

Other than these two gripes, I did enjoy the class and I did think the website material helped with my learning a lot.

- 3 TA timing was very flexible, could ask question during that time.
- 4 "One way of improving the class and student understanding in general would be to add more homework solutions from the given assignments. I would sometimes get stuck on a problem and see that it isn't posted." -- Emanuel Aguilar Ledezma
- 5 "The instructor was very engaging and easy to follow. He made the material and his expectations very clear and did an excellent job teaching." -- Brandon Rawson
- 6 "I would have like to be given credit for the homework completed. Not having points awarded for homework has made the tests and quizzes very stressful." -- William Garcia
- 7 I showed up to every class but already knew the material so my attention was lacking.
- 8 I would rather have homework that is for credit. It motivates me to do the homework more allowing me to understand the content better and it makes the class less weighted towards exams.
- 9 i found that this instructor was contradictory and unclear in his teaching. also he provided only part of the solutions in his homework feedback. it felt that there was an expectation that we should simply just understand the material in the one way he displayed. very poor teaching.
- 10 Very clear notes, good blend of theory and concrete examples. Great class!
- 11 "Great teaching, I do not know exactly what could be improved" -- Tyler Nielsen

Instructor's Questions (62 comments)

Q: What did the instructor do that most helped your learning?

- 1 Good combination of concept introduction and examples
- 2 Learning materials on the course website help a ton.
- 3 Provided many good information
- 4 "The instructor made weekly recitation quizzes that were influenced by the upcoming midterm/final. His teaching style also made the lectures easy to understand which makes him one of the best math professors that I have had on campus." -- Emanuel Aguilar Ledezma
- 5 N/A
- 6 "He liked to provided extra pieces of the detail that made the material very interesting to learn. Comments such as "This is a rather rare case though if we think of all functions" or "This is pretty neat that this works out exactly like this". It makes the student interested and appreciative of the material and math in general." -- Brandon Rawson
- 7 "Dr. Pham really knows what he is talking about, and can communicate it well, even for abstract math." -- Devon Sinclair
- 8 He clarified the teaching material as he went through.
- 9 Office hours.
- 10 nothing.
- 11 "Held good office hours and was very helpful in explaining processes and what they mean" -- Tyler Nielsen
- 12 He gave lots of examples.
- 13 Posted full notes online that students could go back and chek.
- 14 "I was pretty lost at the beginning of the term and the instructor got me back up to speed when I visited him during office hours." -- William Garcia
- 15 Answered questions if asked.
- 16 Example on lecture was helpful and posting lecture note after class.
- 17 Very clear examples that covered multiple concepts. Instructor was also extremely helpful in office hours.
- 18 "Gave multiple examples to explain each topic thoroughly." -- Joaquin Tolento
- 19 Constantly gave examples, which was very helpful
- 20 "had me to problems on the board during office hours" -- Samantha Wigham

21 "He hired Charles as his TA" -- Zechariah Peiffer

Q: How did the project help you better understand the subject?

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- 1 I liked being able to see practical uses for the mathematics. I did the third problems using matrices, but in a different method than what was apparently wanted. I feel my way should have still been acceptable.
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- 2 It taught me what it could be applied to, which was kinda cool.
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- 3 Project gave me a better understanding how to solve math question using math lab.
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- 4 "The group project gave me a better perspective on how I could apply matrices/power series in new ways." -- Emanuel Aguilar Ledezma
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- 5 I didn't find a lot of value with the project. It didn't add a whole lot of understanding to the course topics and ended up as just one more thing that needed to get done.
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- 6 "There were a couple concepts that I had not fully understood prior to the project. The project helped solidify these concepts because I got to see them in a new context. The project also encouraged me to reach out to Charles during office hours to understand the material better." -- Brandon Rawson
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- 7 "The project helped me by forcing me to explain my thought processes in certain concepts and collaborate with my team." -- Devon Sinclair
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- 8 This project helped me to learn matlab and improved my understanding on eigen values and eigen vectors.
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- 9 Through the use of matrices, I appreciate all of the extra help that was included in the project packet information.
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- 10 It showed me how to apply what we were learning in class to real life scenarios.
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- 11 no.
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- 12 "It helped me experience Matlab more and understand how we can use our math problems on a computer to simulate real life studies and get accurate results. It helped me practice the form of equations and operations as well" -- Tyler Nielsen
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- 13 It gave me some hands on work with the material.
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- 14 It gave you "real" scenarios to apply the math to
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- 15 "As a future engineer I do enjoy relating math to real world problems. So it did help give substance to the stuff we are learning." -- William Garcia
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- 16 It did not, at all. Weekly required homework would have helped more.
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- 17 It did not help me understand the subject better.
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- 18 The project helped me think about using math in real-world applications instead of just solving homework problems. It was also cool to use Matlab.
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- 19 "It was a nice way to think of the math at a more practical level." -- Joaquin Tolento
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- 20 I think it showed me what applications what we were learning has other than what was being taught in class, but it didn't really help me understand the subject any better
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- 21 "it didn't whatsoever, the requirements were extremely vague and the format was unclear, because of that it dropped my A to a B-." -- Samantha Wigham
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- 22 "It ind of helped me use matrices with real life problems. Other than that I dont know." -- Zechariah Peiffer

Q: If there is one or two things about the course (textbook, assignments, environment, instructor, etc.) that could have been done differently, what is it?

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- 1 Slower pace, please. Less proofs, more examples, and please pleeeeee put more solutions on your website. I best learn when I have solutions to MANY problems - that way I can check my work and make sure I understand it.
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- 2 "1) More homework solutions" -- Emanuel Aguilar Ledezma
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- 3 If possible writing out all of the solutions for the homework worksheets and not just a few of the questions.
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- 4 "I would have liked the see graded homework assignments to distribute the course points more. It would have been nice to have one or two homework assignments each week to test our knowledge rather than a single quiz in recitation.
- Other than that, the course was very excellent and Tuan was a knowledgeable, approachable, and engaging professor." -- Brandon Rawson
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- 5 "I wish the textbook had more immediate relevance to our learning. It seems to be a few years out of date and did not always use the same terminology for concepts." -- Devon Sinclair
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- 6 One thing that would have been helpful would be to see an example of the project that showed the layout expected. To my knowledge

there was an example given, but, it wasn't shown until the time of submission.

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- 7 I just felt that I had to write very quickly between examples and did not really have ample time to let the concepts set in.
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- 8 Make homework for credit.
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- 9 yes better solutions for the homework instead of just giving the solutions to 1 or 2 of the problems. it doesn't help to practice problems if we don't know if we are doing them correct because we could just be enforcing bad habits
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- 10 "No comment." -- Tyler Nielsen
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- 11 More clarity on the project and the midterm expectation. Also more clear transitions between subjects so they are not as blurred together.
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- 12 "Lecture notes posted before class instead of after." -- William Garcia
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- 13 Weekly required homework for grade percentage, better day to day structure of the class sessions (less jumping to different definitions and verbal discussion of what things are and more writing down exactly what is meant by certain things). More visual representations (graphs, etc.) of what things mean and more day to day connection to real world applications.
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- 14 The lecture was pretty info heavy so it was hard to understand and keep up with all the information that was given to us all at once.
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- 15 I wouldn't change anything, I think the amount of homework was good and lined up with the material nicely.
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- 16 "Use the textbook a little more with example questions and more past exams to look at for Final and Midterm." -- Joaquin Tolento
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- 17 I feel like the tests are weighted very heavily. I would rather have mandatory homework that counted for a part of my grade than have my entire grade dependent on 2 exams.
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- 18 "group project shouldve been explained much better/not called a group project at all!" -- Samantha Wigham
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- 19 "I would make a required homework, and maybe had more solutions to the homework so that way we can see how some problems are done compared to others." -- Zechariah Peiffer