





University of Denver
202310 Winter Quarter 2023

Course: MATH-2070-7: Intro Differential Equations
Instructor: Fei Qi *
Response Rate: 21/31 (67.74 %)

1 - I learned a great deal in this course.



Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	3	14.29%					
Disagree	(2)	3	14.29%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	0	0.00%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	1	4.76%					
Agree	(5)	3	14.29%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	11	52.38%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
21/31 (67.74%)				4.48		2.02		6.00

2 - Overall, this is an excellent course.



Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	5	23.81%					
Disagree	(2)	2	9.52%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	1	4.76%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	2	9.52%					
Agree	(5)	3	14.29%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	8	38.10%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
21/31 (67.74%)				3.95		2.11		5.00

3 - Overall, this is an effective instructor.

Fei Qi

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	5	23.81%					
Disagree	(2)	2	9.52%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	1	4.76%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	1	4.76%					
Agree	(5)	4	19.05%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	8	38.10%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
21/31 (67.74%)				4.00		2.12		5.00

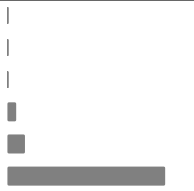

4 - Grades were assigned fairly.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	3	14.29%					
Disagree	(2)	2	9.52%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	3	14.29%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	2	9.52%					
Agree	(5)	2	9.52%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	9	42.86%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
21/31 (67.74%)				4.19		1.94		5.00


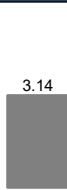
University of Denver
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5 - I found this course challenging.

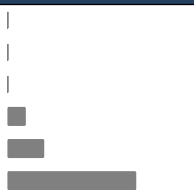

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	0	0.00%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	1	4.76%					
Agree	(5)	2	9.52%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	18	85.71%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
21/31 (67.74%)				5.81		0.51		6.00

6 - Labs were worthwhile. (Answer this question for lab courses only.)

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	6	28.57%					
Disagree	(2)	1	4.76%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	4	19.05%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	6	28.57%					
Agree	(5)	2	9.52%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	2	9.52%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
21/31 (67.74%)				3.14		1.68		3.00

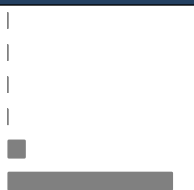

7 - The instructor was well prepared.

Fei Qi

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	0	0.00%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	2	10.00%					
Agree	(5)	4	20.00%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	14	70.00%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
20/31 (64.52%)				5.60		0.68		6.00

8 - The instructor seemed knowledgeable about the subject matter.

Fei Qi

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means			
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%					
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	0	0.00%					
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	0	0.00%					
Agree	(5)	2	10.00%					
Strongly Agree	(6)	18	90.00%					
				0 25 50 100	Question			
Response Rate				Mean		STD		Median
20/31 (64.52%)				5.90		0.31		6.00

University of Denver
202310 Winter Quarter 2023

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9 - The instructor was enthusiastic about teaching.

Fei Qi							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%				
Disagree	(2)	1	5.00%				
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	1	5.00%				
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	2	10.00%				
Agree	(5)	5	25.00%				
Strongly Agree	(6)	11	55.00%				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median	
20/31 (64.52%)				5.20	1.15	6.00	

10 - The instructor was readily available outside class for questions.

Fei Qi							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%				
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	1	5.00%				
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	4	20.00%				
Agree	(5)	6	30.00%				
Strongly Agree	(6)	9	45.00%				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median	
20/31 (64.52%)				5.15	0.93	5.00	

11 - The instructor communicated the subject matter clearly.

Fei Qi							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	6	28.57%				
Disagree	(2)	2	9.52%				
Disagree more than Agree	(3)	0	0.00%				
Agree more than Disagree	(4)	3	14.29%				
Agree	(5)	4	19.05%				
Strongly Agree	(6)	6	28.57%				
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median	
21/31 (67.74%)				3.71	2.10	4.00	

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Response Rate: 21/31 (67.74 %)

12 - What are the strengths of the course and instructor?

Fei Qi

Response Rate 18/31 (58.06%)

- Great professor, always available to meet, wants you to learn, kind to students
- Wow, he really cares about his students and will go to the ends of the earth for them. I greatly appreciate that in an instructor especially for a course as challenging as this. He was clearly knowledgeable and was able to answer questions easily and clearly.
- Fei is extremely knowledgeable. He is dedicated to his students, dedicated to being available outside of class, and excellent at responding to emails.
- I liked the grading method and it is clear that Fei knows a tremendous amount about the material. He also is funny and has interesting stories
- Fei is clearly very knowledgeable about the subject matter.
- Always there for students to answer questions. Very available outside of class. Gave students tools to succeed. Very strong application to engineering practices.
- Great professor, knew a great deal, helpful with questions on homework and quizzes, kind and courteous. Very understanding when the average is low, will drop something if need be.
- Fei is very knowledgeable about the content and its applications.
- The instructor cares a lot about his students and wants them to succeed.
- none
- instructor very knowledgeable, answers questions in class thoroughly, gave some good examples.
- I think Fei did a fantastic job. One thing I really liked about his teaching style was that he would assign homework problems but would not expect students to turn in their homework solutions for a grade and would instead have us take a weekly quiz with problems that were similar to the ones in the homework. The weekly quizzes gave me a helpful incentive to avoid falling behind with the material as the quarter progressed. Additionally, the fact that the homework problems didn't have to be submitted for a grade allowed me to focus my studying efforts on difficult problems and not waste too much time working through easier problems if I felt like I didn't need to. Another thing I appreciated was that Fei added an extra credit option for people who weren't satisfied with their grade on the first midterm. The extra credit assignment was very well designed and my completion of the assignment really helped me improve my understanding of the things that I did not do very well on during the first midterm.
- He tries to be "nice" or "fair" about second chances or dropping low grades.
- Fei was nice about corrections, as the class average on midterm 1 was a 64% and midterm 2 was a 70%. He did not curve the grades, but he provided a second chance notebook that was pretty extensive.
- Fei is incredibly passionate and knowledgeable about the subject and about us. He is able to convey a lot of information clearly and quickly, and if someone doesn't understand he's more than happy to stop and go over it again if they're willing to speak up. You can tell he cares greatly about our success.
- The professor is very smart and can answer any question that is asked. The course covers a lot of information and the textbook associated with it is good for primary/supplementary learning.
- The weekly quizzes helped me learn the material and plenty of extra materials were provided.
- Professor Fei Qi was very knowledgeable in this area of math. The professor was very helpful when it came to answering questions. I never had a bad experience with professor Fei. Additionally, the structure of the class was well designed and I thought the rate of content was reasonable. I thought the extra credit part of the class was very original and I rather enjoyed that part.

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202310 Winter Quarter 2023

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13 - What are the weaknesses of the course and instructor? What improvements can you suggest?

Fei Qi

Response Rate 18/31 (58.06%)

- I already discussed this with Fei but 50 minute exams were not the best option for this course and in turn I do not feel like my understanding of the material was accurately represented by that grade. Other than that the course and Fei were fantastic and I learned a lot.
- I think that the lectures can go a bit fast and it created some confusion for me at times. I don't think there's a great solution to this as there is so much to cover, but I think transitioning from one topic to another could be improved.
- I love Fei so much and I think he's an amazing person. I want to make that very clear. He is so so so kind and awesome. With that said, this class was an absolute nightmare for me and my peers. The other class nicknamed our section "the struggle bus" because of how many kids in this section have no clue what is being taught, and because of how many students had to resort to teaching themselves the subject matter such as myself. The amount of failing grades per quiz, per test, and the general confusion during class was understandable for a high level math class, but unacceptable at a school like DU. During class he would write so much so fast, that students would get up and leave during his lectures throughout the entire class. He would teach theorem and do so few example problems that students started begging him to post the solutions to the homework problems. The homework problems were often unsolvable without the help of peers, math center tutors, and meeting with him specifically.
- Most of the time is spent staring at the board, eventually I would just yell out if I had a question but others would just raise their hand then eventually lower it back down.
- I learned more about diff eq from friends and classmates than I did from class time. On top of that the quizzes and exams were some of the most difficult I have written in college. Fei was also very robotic when interacting with students in a way that made it feel like he did not care to work with them. There was absolutely no wiggle room or desire to help students when extenuating circumstances came up outside of class and his typical response was "the department will be upset with me if..." Considering all of my other professors have had no problem helping their students in these situations I struggle to believe it is a department issue.
- Sometimes goes over topics too fast but was always willing to go back.
- Unfortunately, he had to go to China towards the last 3 weeks of class. Other than that, he had slightly strict grading policies and styles but he was a great professor and I really enjoyed having him for the past two quarters.
- This was the hardest course I have ever taken and it should not have been. Although Fei was knowledgeable about the content, he specifically targeted the class at engineers, which a decent amount of the class was not, myself included. The course material itself should not have been that difficult, considering how it was an expansion on Calc II. The lectures were fast and hard to follow and doing the quizzes felt impossible for this reason. The course looked at the small details for the majority of the time and I feel I lost sight of the bigger picture. Too much of the lectures covered details and algebraic procedures and not enough covered identifying strategies and the why of each of them. I had to attend office hours every week and I still feel as though I did not master the content. Overall this class was unnecessarily difficult and was not taught in an effective way to students.
- The instructor focuses too much on theory during class and not enough on regular practice problems.
- all
- Teach a little fast maybe, but there's a lot of material to cover so i get it. maybe more examples, and i think alot of the time the proofs for things arent really important and could be skipped. They maybe add to some peoples confusion, but i could be wrong.
- This course has a very harsh grade weighting. Homework is ungraded, labs are 10%, quizzes are 20%, each midterm (2 total) is 20% of our grade, and the final is 30%. The first change I would suggest is to make the homework worth 20%, dropping the midterms to 15% and the final to 20%. This is because having a final that can drop a student 3 letter grades is quite harsh, especially for the amount of content we are covering. Additionally, this will incentivize that students practice the material and do homework, and give them some padding in grades besides the 10% from labs. Having a grade hinge 90% on quizzes or exams is brutal on students. This course also has pacing that is quite unrealistic, especially for engineering students taking at least 3-4 other difficult classes at the same time. Fei lectures at an unreasonable speed for the full two hours of class with no time for students to practice the work we learn. At 8 in the morning, some students just aren't awake enough to keep up. He has a habit of not turning around frequently to check for questions from students, either. Given that he does not use slides or record his lectures (unless class is remote), students have to write notes for the whole class period, with no way to go back and view the lecture later through slides or lecture recordings. The content is hard enough as is, but having no ability to make up lectures if you miss a class is very stressful on students. Given that the pacing is so fast, Fei's quizzes and midterms tend to err on the harder side, since he asks questions that are a notch above what we do in class. This pairs badly with how quickly we cover content, and it feels like we haven't had enough time with a subject before we are thrown into a quiz. Overall, Fei is a very kind and knowledgeable professor, there's just a disconnect between his knowledge and his teaching.
- The class is set up in a way that you will struggle to maintain a good standing grade, even if you understand the concept. Quizzes, midterms, and a final exam shouldn't be the only grades to evaluate your understanding of the class; especially since something of that sort can give students stress and anxiety, which does not help at the time of the examination. Not to mention the grading of the quizzes, midterms, and final are to a point harsh. So, I suggest to have other type of assignments to evaluate you grade in the class (like the labs and other stuff).
- A big weakness was that we covered a lot of unnecessary material. Fei would teach us things that were not required by DU and thus had to be very quick with teaching, so much so at times if felt impossible to keep up. There were plenty of times where I felt like we had not practiced enough examples to do the homework. The quizzes also felt like a huge jump, and the grading did not help. There was no participation or homework grade. The closest was a pass/fail lab on Fridays that would only amount to 10% of the grade. The other 90% were down to tests and quizzes.
- The most glaring weakness of the course is that a lot of the knowledge conveyed will just never get used in real life because computers do it for us. The labs feel a little pointless, especially when they don't really relate to the subject that week. Also Fei can get a little carried away and then its a little hard to follow him, but if you ask him to slow down he will.
- Too much content is packed into one lecture and the professor does not give adequate time for the students to digest and understand information before moving to the next topic. The grades are too heavily reliant on exams so the grades I get do not accurately reflect how much I've actually learned. With how essential homeworks were for passing the class (I did every one of them at least three times in order to teach myself the content and barely pass the class) they should be part of the grading. The labs were not helpful in understanding the content either. Also, 2 hour long math classes that cover 3 chapters of differential equations in one day are not conducive for student learning. Student's attention span is about 1.5 hours so a 2 hour lecture is not productive after about an hour. More time in class should be spent on time when students can work through example problems. Also, it would be more helpful when teaching content to explain what will be covered before the professor jumps right in during the lecture so that students can organize/prepare their mind for the content they are about to receive. Overall, I attended every class lecture and did every homework and even extra work from the textbook outside of class and am still worried about not passing the class. This should not be the case and changes must be made to this class and its teaching instructor.
- The professor talks too fast during lecture and the exams are too long. It would be more engaging if we took a few minutes to work out examples of new content on our own. Additionally, the second chance club questions were too time consuming; there were 108 questions and it took 15 hours to complete.
- Honestly, I cannot think of anything to improve in this class. The tests and quizzes were reasonable and were too difficult where they were impossible.