

Final Evaluation (CTEF) for Pantano, Alessandra MATH 4 LEC A (44710), Winter Qtr 2011

Responses: 106/175 (60.57%)

A. Please comment on the following areas and be as specific as possible:

1. What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

- Alessandra gives her students plenty of her time; she is always more than willing to help. Also, every time I have ever needed to get in contact with her, she has always responded in a timely manner.
- always very helpful. she is extremely nice especially in office hours. i went there once and she was so helpful and nice and caring. she is always there to do above and beyond and always suggesting students to come to her office hours. she helps a lot. her teaching is very clear as well. she always posts notes that are great and is not lazy at all.
- Clarity, Helpfulness, concise, open to feedback
- enthusiasm
- enthusiasm, organization, dedication, mastery of material
- Everything! She's great.
- Examples she gives
- explains problems very clearly, goes step by step, answers student questions
- Extremely detailed when teaching, goes above and beyond to offer help to her students, and has a genuine interest for her students to learn the material. Absolutely amazing math teacher.
- Extremely thorough notes Fair tests
- Flexible office hours, email communication and review classes.
- Giving Details and posting notes online
- going over theorems, explaining things well in class, answering questions
- Good examples and solved problems.
- good notes and puts notes online
- good reaction to class needs and feedback, lots of examples, good preparation for higher levels as well as for tests
- Good teacher if you speak russian
- I can clearly feel the professor's passion for the subject, which in turn triggers my interest for the subject as well. I really appreciate how the professor goes over the material by using the document camera and examples.
- instructor gives out a lot of examples and detailed procedure on how to solve difficult problems
- Know's the material very well.
- knowledgeable
- Knowledge in Mathematics.
- Knows material well
- Knows the subject very well
- Makes the lectures pretty clear, sitting in class never seems a waste of time because she actually explains the material pretty clearly. Only a few times (10%) of the time was I unclear. Also, she actually works out problems step by step, which is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT as a math teacher, because we learn step by step how to do problems and solve them. The TAs did not do this and I ended up feeling discussions were a waste of time, often.

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- Ms. pantano is an excellent teacher. She really strives to make sure the kids understand the material. She offers more than enough office hours and is a very nice person to talk to. You do not feel intimidated at all around her.
- Patient, willing to help, hosts review sessions, answers questions thoroughly, writes notes
- Professor Pantano is really dedicated to her students. She gives great examples and they always prepare me for the tests.
- Professor Pantano provides the steps for solving a complicated problem, then immediately solves several different examples. Also, by using different color pens and highlighters, it really does help make the math clearer and connects different parts of the calculations. She is very fair and willing to help the class with additional office hours. She is a committed professor and I would take another class with her. Thank you.
- Professor Pantano teaching style is one of the most easy-to-understand and thorough styles I have ever learned with. She made a relatively difficult topic interesting and learnable. Her style was efficient through the use of the document camera, thorough explanation during examples, careful organization, and outside sources that helped students to visualize the 3-D aspects of Multivariable Calculus.
- Provides lots of good examples of the different types of problems. I also like how she posts up all her notes online because it is hard to keep up with her notes in class.
- Providing notes, commentary, and plenty of help. Willing to spend the time with the individual until the criteria is learned.
- She's clear and thorough with the concepts she's teaching.
- She broke the material down into very simple terms for the students and gave us much encouragement. Rarely do I ever get the chance to have a professor as concerned with the success of her students as Prof Pantano.
- She caters to the needs of the student.
- She did various examples. She knew the concepts really well and she knew how to teach them to us. She was a really nice accessible professor.
- she explains very well
- She gives a lot of examples :)
- She gives good examples and is an effective communicator.
- She goes at a good pace and does a lot of examples to show us how to do it. She provides answer keys for the homework assignments. She responds to all emails within 24 hours which is one of the most appreciated things because questions are directly answered by the professor so she isn't distant to us. She always holds review sessions and extra office hours all the time.
- She goes over the material really well. She's very patient
- She goes over the material very clearly. She is very helpful during office hours and always stays late to help. When I don't understand something she makes it more clear. I really liked how she posted used the projector.
- She goes over things slowly and clearly to make sure we understand them and posts many examples online.
- She is an amazing teacher.
- She is always prepared, makes it very simple to learn and always relates it to real life situations. She knows her material very well excellent teacher
- She is very clear on the examples she shows. Everything is planned and organized for every lecture. The examples are helpful, and the document camera makes it so everybody can see. The tests are fair and truly tests if you understand the material that has been taught.
- She is very good at lecturing.

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- She is very helpful and does lots of examples. Also, she is willing to help you outside of class.
- She is very organized and responsible.
- She is very passionate about her teaching. I love that aspect of her. Her notes is very thorough and complete, and she attempts to cover essential components of the course. I will definitely recommend her as a teacher, and plan to take her again.
- She knew the material very well. She spent a lot of time helping students understand the material via office hours and review sessions.
- She knows the subject very well and presents it in a way that is easy for the students to grasp.
- She knows the subject well and provides a lot of examples.
- she knows what she is talking about
- She makes subject interesting and relatable. Also, she is very good at making the lecture material abundantly clear in a timely manner.
- She posts lecture notes online, making it easier to study for midterms and finals.
- She prepares for the lectures very well, fully explains the materials, and provides the students with all the sources necessary for them to succeed. She is a wonderful professor.
- She provides a lot of examples and explains it in simpler terms.
- She provides many opportunities for help. She clearly explains content in lecture.
- She really cares and tries to help students as much as possible.
- Tells us what material she will cover in the class. Goes slow for the students to catch on. Provides many examples for her students to understand the application of the concepts she teaches.
- Thoroughly explaining the concept material in a clear way
- truly wants us to do well. very clear notes, thanks for writing down everything that you say & providing lots of problems for us to practice. you always make yourself available for help as well, which is appreciated
- Understanding and explaining material
- Upload the notes to website.
- very clear
- Very clear and concise lectures
- Very clear and engaging
- very clear and passionate
- very helpful, provides many resources
- Very helpful. Hosts review sessions for the students on her won time. Is VERY flexible with office hours even though she has young children she must take care of. Uses different color markers to make the problems aesthetically pleasing.
- Very helpful and enthusiastic and willing to help students learn as much as possible. Does not let students off with easy way out—truly encourages us to ask questions and seek help. Concise, straightforward, detailed, knowledgable
- Very nice professor who goes a lot out of her way to help us succeed. She really wants us to do well and spends a lot of time with her students.
- Very organized and teaches each chapter in different ways to facilitate learning the material.
- Very passionate about teaching and one of the best at teaching new concepts
- very passionate about the subject
- very responsive to students who question the steps that have any questions
- Wants to help students

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- well organized good use of the projector examples are well explained
 - 27 blank answer(s).
2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?
- accent and structure of lectures. not very organized, sometimes jumps around from question to question
 - Accent is hard to understand. Sometimes goes through the material too fast.
 - a little difficult to understand sometimes tests seem difficult
 - A lot of times the teacher writes too fast and just changes the paper without giving students an opportunity to write everything down. Perhaps you could ask if the class is done copying the material before you change the page.
 - A practice final would be a good idea. You provided many practice problems for the midterm, which was extremely helpful. Something similar to that would be very beneficial when studying for the Final :)
 - Be more organized and try to speak louder. Be more empathetic towards the students with grading and curves.
 - Continue to teach like she is doing now. Her teaching methods are perfect.
 - Despite what people say, her accent is not bad at all. People need to grow up and stop finding an excuse for why everyone of their teachers is 'bad' or unfair.
 - Dialect, accent
 - do more example problems in class
 - Enunciate more. It's hard to understand you at times, especially when you have a mic on.
 - Explain problems more specifically.
 - give more time for the midterm or make it shorter
 - Go a little bit slower at times.
 - go a little slower, i felt like i was always trying to catch up with her notes and didnt get to hear to explanation
 - Go through examples a bit slower.. she really blasts through them. Lectures are a little too condensed):
 - Have a better communication with the T.A.s.
 - I challenge the professor in incorporating realistic events to be part of her teaching. Such as adding scenarios and events to make it understandable about why I am learning this sort of math.
 - Improve on clarity and emphasis on what would be on exam.
 - In lecture, I think Alessandra could improve by doing sample problems that are more similar to what we would find in the homework or her exams
 - Instructor writes too many notes.
 - In terms of teaching styles, she's fine but she can learn to be a bit more lenient on students in terms of grades. An average of 71% on a midterm seems to be pretty abysmal as far as math courses go. See the below question for more suggestions to remedy this.
 - I personally found that she did the examples in the lectures too fast (I am a somewhat slow writer). So perhaps slowing the pace a bit might help.
 - i think she is amazng how she is.
 - I thought the professor taught well enough that there was no need for improvement

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- I would say during review sessions before midterms and finals go over the material more thoroughly and maybe have a more organized sample final and midterm. The template for both confused me.
- Make concepts a little more clear in class. Had to look through notes in order to understand the concepts more clearly The test was a little bit long for the given time period
- Maybe slow down the pace? Everything seemed to go by so fast
- more example problem
- More examples
- Ms. Pantano has no faults. Her accent is a bit hard to understand at times, but you cannot control that.
- n/a
- n/a
- N/A
- no comments
- None that I can think of
- No suggestions.
- no suggestions really, she does a great job, i've been learning a lot. maybe mix in a little more theory with the examples, but she teaches like how we asked in the survey she gave us
- Nothing
- nothing needed~!
- Not much, shes good.
- Not sure if this is possible but if she could slow up that would really help.
- Perfect
- Perfect.
- She can make some of her tests and quizzes a little more lenient because they are pretty hard.
- she could make the midterms shorter. i barely had any time to finish the final nor could i even check for mistakes.
- She could pronounce her words a little more clearly, since her accent sometimes makes it difficult for people to understand her.
- she goes to fast through lecture...and few examples, it will be very helpful if she would go through more examples
- She goes too fast, and leaves a lot of students left behind. She also repeats a lot of useless information.
- She goes very quickly, but this is probably because she has so much material to cover in such a short amount of time.
- She is a great teacher, doing her best to teach us a very hard subject.
- She is a perfect teacher.
- She should not make the exams so difficult. They are bit too difficult for content she covers in reviews and lectres.
- Shes perfect!!
- Slow down
- Slow down. Sometimes she gets a little too ahead and makes it difficult to keep up.
- Slow down a little.
- Slow down the pace.

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- Sometimes can be confusing
 - Stay a great lecturer.
 - the instructor can go over more problem sets in the book, so that we would be more clear on hw
 - The midterm was incredibly difficult in comparison to the weekly quizzes. She should maybe demonstrate harder problems during lecture so we know how to do them.
 - 44 blank answer(s).
3. Any other comments about this course?
- 50 minutes usually isn't long enough
 - All professors should take lessons from Pantano on how to instruct a class.
 - A lot more challenging than expected
 - challenging because of the amount of material crammed into 10 weeks.
 - Excellent instructor, difficult course.
 - Extremely hard
 - good notes
 - Great course. Highly recommend.
 - great professor!
 - great teacher!
 - i've really enjoyed it, very clear teaching methods, and even though her background is not economics shes still includes applications - very thorough
 - I had Patano twice and she has been pretty good.
 - I still don't see how it really correlates to economics.
 - It seems like the textbook (for linear algebra) for this course is difficult to follow at times, because it is revised (missing some chapters in between). I felt that some of the material could have been kept in the book, because otherwise, it is hard to follow the material thoroughly.
 - It seems that the math department gives her an unreasonable time to cover all the material. So she must go at a fast pace, but she slows down if students have questions. You can really tell that she is trying her best when she is teaching.
 - It should have better clarity of steps to solution.
 - It was a pretty good course.
 - It was not too hard but the last to sections 15.7 and 15.8 were very time consuming.
 - I wish I tried harder and appreciated her as a teacher more.
 - Lacking Organization
 - My favorite class this quarter!
 - n/a
 - N/A.
 - needs a little more relevance to economics since it is math for economists
 - Needs to be curved. As mentioned, the class average was 71% on the midterm and the only "curving" she did was subtract 3 pts off the total, so from 85 pts to 82. While this does help a little, the effect is also negligible and definitely not what students are looking for when they asked for a curve. At 71%, that means the average student is getting a C- in the class, with half getting that, a D or an F. Linear algebra and multivariable calculus are hard math courses for students, but to fail almost half the class is pretty crazy. At least curve to bring the average up to a C/C+ range. Also, the book used for Linear Algebra, by Leon, is horrible.

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The examples in the book are not really worked out at all, saying useless things like “We did this before, so we won’t show it” and skipping so many steps that students are completely lost as to how to work out similar problems. Even worse is that a lot of problems are proofs, and we don’t understand it because the book does a horrible job explaining concepts. It’s pretty worthless as a studying guide and it would be better to switch to a number of other Linear Algebra textbooks out there.

- No.
- No.
- none
- none
- None. She is a phenomenal teacher.
- nope.
- One of the best professors I have had.
- overall really great professor
- she’s a very patient, nice, and diligent teacher :
- She always stayed after hours to give her students help in her office. She was very supportive and truly wants her students to do well. She is not like any other teacher at UCI
- She is the best math teacher I’ve ever had. I really appreciate her genuine interest to have students learn and understand the material.
- Some of the material I do not understand how it relates to Economics.
- Thank you Professor Pantano for your dedication in this class. You showed me that complicated matrices and multicalculus problems can be solved by breaking them down by looking at them in steps.
- the handwritten notes are much more helpful than powerpoint used in some other classes
- The midterm was extremely difficult, and should have received a curve far greater than what was received.
- The professor was excellent and you can tell she tried to do her best to make sure the students succeeded.
- This class was a bit challenging but I feel I have firm understanding in the subjects covered. Great teacher!
- This course is called “Math for Economists,” but, until we got to the multi-variable calculus half of the class, I did not see how I could apply that knowledge to economics. The linear algebra section seemed like a complete waste of time
- This is a hard course, I don’t know why economic majors need to know these things. I think this class needs to be separated into two classes. This comment is in no way criticizing the teacher, but only criticizing the school.
- this professor is amazing, i used to attend her math 2b courses even though i wasn’t enrolled in her class because i love her attitude!
- This was a really hard course. With that said, Pantano made it very enjoyable.
- too much information in too little time. it’s difficult for the instructor to teach everything and hard for students to fully absorb and understand information
- Very good professor!
- Very good professor.
- Very great teacher
- 56 blank answer(s).

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B. Please choose the appropriate rating on the letter grade scale A to F:

'A' indicating an excellent and 'F' indicating a wholly inadequate performance. If you have no opinion on the question asked or if it does not apply, please select NA.

4. The course instructor shows enthusiasm for and is interested in the subject.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
70	21	5	5	3	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
1	1	0	0	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.79	4.00	0.40			

5. The course instructor stimulates your interest in the subject.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
37	22	19	14	4	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
5	0	2	2	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.45	3.70	0.64			

6. The course instructor meets stated objectives of the course.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
65	23	8	5	3	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
1	1	0	0	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.76	4.00	0.40			

7. The course instructor is accessible and responsive.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
76	14	7	5	1	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
2	0	0	0	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.82	4.00	0.36			

8. The course instructor creates an open and fair learning environment.

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A	A-	B+	B	B-	
70	14	7	6	5	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
1	0	0	2	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.72	4.00	0.55			

9. The course instructor encourages students to think in this course.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
56	24	10	10	1	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
4	1	0	0	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.68	4.00	0.47			

10. The course instructor's presentations and explanations of concepts were clear.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
48	25	16	7	4	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
3	1	0	0	1	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.60	3.70	0.58			

11. Assignments and exams covered important aspects of the course.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
56	20	13	8	3	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
3	0	2	0	0	1
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.65	4.00	0.51			

12. What overall grade would you give this instructor?

A	A-	B+	B	B-	
61	20	11	7	3	
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	
C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
2	1	1	0	0	0
Value: 2.3	Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value
Mean	Median	Std Dev			
3.70	4.00	0.48			

13. What overall grade would you give this course?

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A 33 Value: 4	A- 25 Value: 3.7	B+ 25 Value: 3.3	B 6 Value: 3	B- 5 Value: 2.7	
C+ 5 Value: 2.3	C 2 Value: 2	C- 2 Value: 1.7	D 1 Value: 1	F 1 Value: 0	NA 0 No Value
Mean 3.41	Median 3.70	Std Dev 0.70			

C. Please answer:

14. Based on completed assignments thus far, what is your current course grade or approximate standing?

A 21 Value: 4	B 42 Value: 3	C 29 Value: 2	D 5 Value: 1	F 2 Value: 0	NA 3 No Value
Mean 2.76	Median 3.00	Std Dev 0.91			

15. How much academic dishonesty seemed to occur in this course? If applicable, please describe the type of academic dishonesty that occurred (not the particular students involved).

1.

A lot	Some	A little	None I could discern
4	16	16	67

2. Examples:

- A student was caught taking quizzes under a false name. They were confronted in discussion and subject of academic dishonesty was brought to the class's attention in lecture.
- cheating on quizzes
- cheating on quizzes
- during the midterm since it was such a large class and students go t up at once to turn in their papers, i witnessed at least 6 or 7 students copying answers or talking about answers on their way to turn in the test because the TAs and professor were occupied with collecting exams. have everyone remain seated to ensure order and full view is kept. It was very frustrating knowing if i had done the same i would have gotten a better grade, but because i didn't, and so many others did, the average was greatly affected and many students achieved higher scores dishonestly
- From what Ms. Pantano told us kids have been caught cheating on quizzes. I've never seen it, so I have no idea.
- I don't know the details. But the professor and discussion leaders know.
- I heard that some academic dishonest has been occurring for the weekly quizzes.
- In discussion sections I know people have cheated on quizzes.
- It was mentioned that some academic dishonesty occurred with the weekly quizzes.
- Not sure exactly. If Alessandra did not mention it to the class, I would not have even been aware of it.
- Once, during math discussion, the teacher caught a student taking a math quiz for someone else.
- People apparently cheated on quizzes, according to the professor. Though I don't know the exactly details.
- People were cheating on the quizzes, apparently
- People would cheat during the quizzes and look at their notes.

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- Professor caught some on the last few quizzes.
- Professor Pantano expressed that there were instances of academic dishonesty but has not elaborated thus far.
- quizzes
- She mentioned that there was academic dishonesty occurring, but besides that I could not discern any. I assume that any class with multiple friends in it will have some academic dishonesty. We had a take home quiz, and it really is impossible to monitor everyone's academic integrity on things like that. For the midterm and final there are three different test versions, and those make up 75% of the grade, so there really is no way to 'cheat' your way to a grade other than an F or D perhaps.
- Students attended an earlier discussion section than the one they were enrolled in during quiz days to get an unfair advantage.
- students taking quizzes would use different ids but teacher took action
- Students was accused of cheating during one of Wednesday quiz.
- We were told of cheating on the quizzes but I never witnessed it
- 84 blank answer(s).

16. How helpful were the textbooks and/or readings to your overall learning experience?

Very	Adequately	Somewhat	Not at all
30	42	28	4

17. How challenging was this course?

Very	Adequately	Somewhat	Not at all
48	51	5	0