

# ESCI ONLINE SURVEY STATISTICS

1/25/18

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## End of Fall Quarter 2017 -- ESCI Online

*Department and Campus Norms taken over time span: Winter Quarter 2013 - Fall Quarter 2017*

Abbrv: **MATH**      Instructor: **PFAFF C E**  
Department: **MATHEMATICS**

Rank: **Faculty**

Course: **MATH 108B 0100**  
Course Enrollment: **45**

Type: **Lecture**

*Guidelines for "Interpreting ESCI Data" and a description of the "Report Output" can be found at <http://oic.id.ucsb.edu/esci>.*

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**These two questions were determined by the Academic Senate Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) and Committee on Effective Teaching and Instructional Support (CETIS) to be appropriate for all student end-of-course surveys.**

(1)      **A.**    In rating a course, you should consider the instructor's teaching apart from the course materials or content.

Please rate the overall quality of the instructor's teaching.

(a) Excellent      (b) Very Good      (c) Good      (d) Fair      (e) Poor

	Response weighting:					Blank	Total	Total	Mean	Median
	1	2	3	4	5	Response	Students	Courses	Mean	Median
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)					
<b>This COURSE current quarter</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Student-weighted Norms (UG students)	<hr/>									
Dept MATH FACULTY current qtr	28%	19%	22%	16%	15%	2	3751	38	2.7	3.0
Dept MATH FACULTY over time	28%	19%	22%	16%	15%	2	3751	38	2.7	3.0
Campus FACULTY over time	43%	28%	17%	8%	4%	71	32846	706	2.0	2.0
Course-weighted Norms (UG courses)	<hr/>									
Dept MATH FACULTY current qtr	41%	22%	18%	11%	7%			38	2.2	2.0
Dept MATH FACULTY over time	41%	22%	18%	11%	7%			38	2.2	2.0
Campus FACULTY over time	49%	27%	15%	6%	3%			706	1.9	2.0

(2)      **B.**    Please rate the overall quality of the course, including its material or content, independent of the instructor's teaching.

(a) Excellent      (b) Very Good      (c) Good      (d) Fair      (e) Poor

	Response weighting:					Blank	Total	Total	Mean	Median
	1	2	3	4	5	Response	Students	Courses	Mean	Median
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)					
<b>This COURSE current quarter</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Student-weighted Norms (UG students)	<hr/>									
Dept MATH FACULTY current qtr	28%	25%	27%	14%	7%	7	3751	38	2.5	2.0
Dept MATH FACULTY over time	28%	25%	27%	14%	7%	7	3751	38	2.5	2.0
Campus FACULTY over time	40%	29%	20%	8%	3%	94	32846	706	2.0	2.0
Course-weighted Norms (UG courses)	<hr/>									
Dept MATH FACULTY current qtr	38%	24%	23%	10%	4%			38	2.2	2.0
Dept MATH FACULTY over time	38%	24%	23%	10%	4%			38	2.2	2.0
Campus FACULTY over time	47%	27%	17%	6%	2%			706	1.9	2.0

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(3256) **1. Comment on the instructor's strengths and weaknesses.**

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Amazing teacher, one of the best I've had at this school. She taught at a good pace and answered questions from students in a very easy-to-understand way. The TA was a pretty harsh grader, but it made us better proof-writers. Didn't like that there was forced participation in this class, I'd rather not participate if I don't have to. But doesn't detract from the amazing teaching.

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She is very enthusiastic and clearly passionate about teaching. Her infectious attitude makes the class more enjoyable and definitely makes the 50 minutes go by quickly, which is a shame sometimes. My only gripe is her structure of the class. While I understand the importance of wanting others to participate, I find that forcing people to speak may lead to a interruption of flow of her teaching. She sometimes stops and waits for someone to answer, which is fine, but it is done more than necessary to accommodate for her wanting everybody to participate. I find this to be a very minor inconvenience at worse, so this shouldn't devalue her overall score as a professor. I do hope she finds a teaching position she enjoys for people would be desperately missing out on an extremely knowledgable person.

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Prof. Pfaff really cares. More than any other math professor I've had at UCSB. I initially found her to be irritating (daily iClicker quizzes, compulsory weekly participation for class credit) but then I found that these ostensible annoyances enhanced the quality of the course for me, and helped me retain information better. Her class was a very relaxed environment where I could try and answer her questions without being 100% certain I was correct--I have never had a class like this at UCSB before. She is great at breaking down difficult concepts and making them easily digestible. I wish I could take her for the rest of my math classes here at UCSB. Weaknesses...? Probably her throwing abilities. Good luck Professor Pfaff, wherever you go, you have made a significant impact on me as a student of mathematics and for that, I will be forever grateful to you. Thank you! Please continue to do spectacular things!

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Strength: Very willing to help the students succeed, gives well-organized lectures, and the homework sets are adequate and reasonable. Weakness: The participation policy where students are required to answer questions greatly disrupts the flow of the class, since she is trying to dumb down the questions and also mark names down after the students speak. She also likes to write down colloquial and sometimes unnecessary comments on the board, which I think is unnecessary. The grading policy on homework and exams is the harshest among the five proof based classes I've taken so far.

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Professor Pfaff does well with organizing the lectures in a manner in which I not only am able to follow and understand but also connect to previous lectures. I personally enjoy the usage of Today's Outline or This Week's Outline as I know what we will be covering for the week ahead of time. Pfaff does well to explain questions via visual guides, specifically in regards to simplifying complex topics to familiar cases in R2 or R3. I found this very helpful as it is difficult for me at times to grasp abstract concepts in higher dimensions. My favorite technique that Pfaff used was turning a redo of our Midterm into a homework assignment. So often professors have their students take the midterm and never address it again, but by doing this Pfaff showed that she not only cares for her students academic success but also well-being as some (like myself) get anxiety taking tests which makes it quite difficult to finish them in time. The only problem I had with this class would be that more often than not Pfaff wouldn't

**PFAFF C E**

**MATH 108B 0100** ( M W F 1400-1450 NH 1105 )

Survey Number: **332422**

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reveal the answer to the iClicker questions in the beginning of lecture. Though some were relatively easy, some were not, and for cases when I could narrow the answer to be one of two choices it would have been helpful to spend maybe a couple minutes explaining the answer.

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She's very good at getting the whole class to participate, but I feel she does it in a way that makes it seem a bit forced and unnatural.

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she is very enthusiastic about her teaching and is decently knowledgeable about the subject. However, she extremely lacks teaching experience. She does not have a proper gauge on her students ability (shown in her frequency of assigning insane problems that take an hour and a half to explain the process of by the TA as regular homework problems), teaches the class like a high school class (shown in forcing in class participation enforced thru grading, no phones), and is a little bit naive in her methods of teaching (She prioritize intuition explanation over logical and proper mathematical definition and proof process. She also provides very hand wavy definitions, for nilpotent space, instead of saying Def:  $T$  is a nilpotent operator if  $T^n=0$  for some  $n$  in  $N$ , she said Def: Operator s.t. some power is zero.) She also often spends a lot of class time explaining her teaching outline instead of actually teaching). One time she spend 25 minutes going over her outline of the class instead of teaching the theorems and definitions. Lack time management skills a little bit as we were rushing through chapter 7 and 8 with just definition and theorem dumping without much proof.

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Was very enthusiastic about the course, which made for an enjoyable experience. Some explanations given about concepts were too abstract, however, the professor indicated that they might not make sense to some people. Excellent professor!

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Pfaff is a great lecturer because she tries to get everyone involved in the discussion. I like that she requires you to talk in class at least once a week, which requires you to stay on top of the material and stay focused in lecture. I also appreciate her no electronic policy, although she did not enforce this for some students as much as I would have liked. Sometimes she would go off on tangents which were irrelevant to math but were a necessary brain break. In terms of assignments, the homework was way too long. I feel like I spent more time just trying to produce something for every problem instead of really learning the material. I also think that the midterm was not representative of what she did in lecture (lecture examples were much much easier than exam questions). She was supportive of her students and always available for questions, but I found I was not as successful in 108B as 108A. Also, the TA graded way too harshly and was discouraging and Pfaff did nothing about this when we complained.

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The instructor was very organized and was a great lecturer.

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good

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Great at having a weekly guideline for students to be able to know what is next. Course material can sometimes get boring due to all the definitions and may become a bit uninteresting to simply go directly from the book. Great at encouraging student participation which can help with engaging.

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Good teacher. Very enthusiastic. I think that sometimes the participation points slow down the class. When she asks questions just for the purpose of getting people participation points and then has to look at the list and pick people who have not spoken.

Fantastic instructor. Forcing participation in class really help students fully understand concepts. Does a great job explaining topics and discussing how they are applicable. I see no weaknesses with Professor Pfaff.

I did not see any strengths of the professor. She teaches like a high school. She only covered half the material of that covered by other professor. She cannot explain questions in lecture very well. Her blackboard is exactly the same as the textbook.

they were ok, disliked the grading system, all hw problems should be graded not just a select few I think that just makes those trying to improve overall suffer in the long run of the course.

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(3257) **2. Comment on the overall quality of the course.**

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Very good content. I really enjoyed the class, I wish it covered more so I could learn more about Linear Algebra. At times the class was a little slow paced and could have been taught faster so we can cover more material overall.

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The course is very interesting, but I am thoroughly entranced by anything having to do with mathematics so my opinion may be slightly skewed. Thinking from an outside perspective the textbook lends itself very well to a classroom setting and, thus, I would say the quality of the material is exceptional and enjoyable.

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Solid class. I learned a ton about mathematics and also got to appreciate its beauty with the help of Prof. Pfaff. Very happy with Math 108b--one of my favorites thus far at UCSB.

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The overall quality is good, but could be better. I was hoping that the class would finish the textbook.

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Pfaff is by far my favorite mathematics professor at UCSB as she takes the time to explain topics, rather than regurgitating what is said in the book. Her lectures directly follow the course of the books chapters which is appreciated when it comes to prepping for class and exams. She is easy to talk to and unlike many other professors doesn't make me feel as though my questions are dumb if I'm genuinely not understanding a concept. I wish her the best.

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dope class, good intro to upper divs math.

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Course was excellent. Basing the course directly from a brilliant book such as Axler's Linear Algebra: Done Right made for a very enjoyable experience. I wish that more mathematics textbooks were like Linear Algebra: Done Right

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I like the textbook Linear Algebra Done Right, because there are many resources online to help with homework and exam prep, but I did not find much relevance of the course to my major, which made it less enjoyable (major: Econ/Math).

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The assignments and exams were not well organized.

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Good

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Course material is interesting and ambiguous. Makes you better at being thorough in your answers.

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good

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Quality of the course was amazing. Professor Pfaff made this my favorite upper division math class I've taken so far.

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all right

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meh, I found it useful but they did not provide reasons on how its applied to things  
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