Written Student Comments

3450:221 Analytical Geometry – Calculus I
Prof. Timothy S. Norfolk, Ph.D.

3450:221-005 (Honors) Fall 2013

- “Having taken AP Calc, I thought this class would be an easy A. Dr. Norfolk challenged me, and provided me with a more in-depth understanding of Calculus. The class was rad, dude.”

- “Dr. Norfolk has an amazing teaching style, and he’s so kewl (sic).”

3450:221-007 (Honors) Fall 2012

- “Comments: I firmly believe that, if born in a different era, this man would have been an interrigrator (sic) during the Spanish Inquisition. He revels in touturing (sic) kids with seemingly impossible problems that utterly baffle me. That having been said, his class is difficult, but he is fair, funny, and prepares you very well for the pain he will dish out. He knows his stuff, and teaches well. Though he will enjoy watching you squirm, it will make you better at math. He is a terrific instructor who will challenge you. Also: he has an awesome accent.”

- “Dr. Norfolk was one of my favorite professors of this semester for one of my least favorite subject (sic). He made the class entertaining and I learned a lot of the material. I would strongly recommend him to anyone.”

3450:221:381 Summer 2009

- “I really enjoyed the course especially how you made the concepts completely applicable to real-life situations. I learned a great deal from you, not only about the subject matter, but how to TEACH the subject matter to my future students and get them excited about mathematics.”

- “He was one the Best!!! Instructors I have had at Akron.”

- “The best professor I’ve had in college. Interesting stories and practical examples on why calculus, or more generally, mathematics is important.”

- “Great guy, shows a real interest in the subject and understanding in its inner workings. Very knowledgeable and funny. Summer course is just very ... very ... really fast for a first timer.”

- “After taking and dropping Calc I once, I dreaded taking it again. Now I find myself almost looking forward to Calc II. Thanks!”
• “Great. Really enjoyed the course. Excellent at relating real life situations.”

• “Dr. Norfolk did an excellent job of demonstrating the real world application of mathematics and sparked my desire to take more math class (sic).”

• “Good class, fast at times but good teacher.”

• “One of the best math teachers I’ve had so far. I recommend everyone to take a math with Norfolk; he relates all math to careers + situations; very helpful, not boring!”

• “Great teacher. Requesting him for Calc 2.”

• “Good, funny, interesting teacher. Challenged us, made math a little more interesting.”

3450:221:007 (Honors) Fall 2007

• “Good professor. Went too fast sometimes. Overall I learned a lot.”

• “I enjoyed how. Dr. Norfolk was able to relate the course to real life situations and was able to give examples.”

• “This course is more challenging than others offered for the same section.”

• “Cool guy, good teacher. Only criticism is be more thorough and slow down a bit (less examples - more understanding of those examples).”

• “Dr. Norfolk is a very good professor; however he does move quite quickly and skips over subject matter he just assumes the student knows.”

• “Good pace of teaching and I liked the idea of a quiz/test every Friday and homework every Weds. ... it helped me keep track of assignements due.”

• “All in all a good teacher, definety (sic) knows what he’s talking about and a lot about other subjects.”

• “Though the course was very difficult, I enjoyed taking it. Hopefully I will not fail and be forced to take it again. If I do, I’m positive that the material I learned will enable me to do much better taking this course a second time.”

• “This class made me actually believe that I could do math, plus, it helped w/ math anxiety - Im not really intimidated by math any more.”

• “You quite often come off as over-bearing and condescending and this can be intimidating and discourage asking for help. You also use difficult examples that make it harder to get a clear understanding of how to do the problem general. More simple examples along with the difficult ones would, it seems to me, make it easier to learn the concepts.”
• “Dr. Norfolk is a great teacher. He seems to go a little too fast at times, but overall he is very helpful on answering questions and relating math to real-life applications.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is a great teacher, with a great understanding of all math. I admit he teaches at a fast pace, but the knowledge I acquire from this class, and the way he presents the information is very enjoyable.”

• “I enjoyed this course even with my struggles.”

• “He is a really good teacher, always there to help, even outside of class.”

• “Has a cool accent, good teacher, makes his class fun.”

• “Could just be a little more specific when teaching things & go slower on examples.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is a great teacher whom I would most definitely (sic) recommend. Course was difficult, but he explained things well & didn’t drag them out. Would definitely (sic) take another class from Dr. Norfolk.”

• “Dr. Norfolk did an excellent job with our Calc I class. I am disappointed (sic) he does not teach Calc II, but look forward to possibly taking Calc III with him.”

• “A very good teacher. Very in depth and makes you work to get the right answers. Overall very good teacher made much better by knowlegdiblity (sic) and accent.”

• “Teaches in a manner suitable for those new to coursework because he is extremely knowledgeable, always helpful, and presents material in very concise, easy-to-understand style. Makes coursework relevant and fun relating it to real-world examples.”

• “I really did enjoy Dr. Norfolk’s class and his teaching methods. I learn best by doing example problems which he did on the board for us every day. Hopefully I will be able to take a course he teaches in the future.”

• “A good teacher; made class interesting with humor; sometimes confusing with higher-level math.”

• “Awesome teacher, not only learned a lot but also enjoyed myself in his class. His was the only class I ever looked forward to attending, even though the material was by far the most difficult.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent teacher. I really enjoyed my Hon Calc I class and I hope to take more classes with him as the instructor.”
• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent teacher. He provides real-life examples of the subject material and makes it easy to learn.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is the best math teacher I have ever had. He made learning the information interesting and also its application to real life situations. I have learned so many other tidbits of information from him as well which also made the class that much better.”

• “Cool guy ... brilliant ... love the accent.”

• “Tea time with Norfolk! But only with crumpets at 4:00! Yea he is a great teacher and will keep you interested in the class. Take him! I love teatime!”

• “I really enjoyed the class. Dr. Norfolk did an exceptional job teaching. I have enjoyed his class more than any other. He was willing to answer any questions and meet out of class.”

• “Spot on chap! jolly good time in class”

• “The only thing that could have made Dr. Norfolk’s class better is if we had set aside one day out of every week for tea time. (The tea being Earl Grey of course! :))”

  – “Applications to real world situations greatly appreciated.”
  – “material given in a manner that made it interesting and fun to learn.”
  – “Would highly recommend this professor to other students.”

• “Very good class. Will never take another Math instructor for the rest of the sequence.”

• “Great class taught by a great teacher. Keeps you interested by relating material you learn to real life situations. Dr. Norfolk is a very nice and funny guy who is always quick to help if you ever have a question. My favorite class this semester by far.”

• “This class greatly expanded on what I learned in calculus in high school. Dr. Norfolk always told stories relating to the material which kept the course interesting and easy to follow along with.”

• “Thanks for being a great teacher, Norfolk. It’s obvious you like teaching us and I like having you as a teacher. You’re picky, but depending on how you look at it, that’s a good thing. It helped me to improve. Look forward to having you next semester.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is a very fair, helpful and pleasant professor. He made calc interesting, as he was always making a witty comment or applying a real life situation. I would take another class from him. Excellent prof.”
• “Too smart for his own good.”

• “I would like to take another course with this teacher. He was hard but I like the way he taught the course. I rate this professor an excellent instructor, even though I’m failing the class.”

• “Excellent teacher, I learned very well. The material was made interesting, class was kept lively.”

• “Would take another one of his classes.”

• “Think you should spend a little more time with the idea of what’s happening, like the steps it takes to solve the questions. Good teaching skills and a better classroom & course than Discrete Math. I still don’t understand how Thanksgiving can be on a Friday.”

• “This class makes my soul bleed.”

• “I felt this class was easily the most challenging course I have experienced so far. Dr. Norfolk was very helpful if you took the initiative to get his help. His tests were very challenging and really made you understand the material.”

• “I’m still debating whether I liked you or Mr. Bolus as a math teacher. You are an excellent teacher and I’m glad I landed in your class.”

• “The evaluation is too long.”

• “Smoking’s bad for your health!”

• “Overall, I liked this class. At first, I didn’t know how well I could do the first couple of weeks but it changed and I feel better about myself. I feel that I learned a good amount of math.”

• “Class was very effective, and Dr. Norfolk did a good job of explaining the topics to the class.”

• “This is the third time that I took this course. I always understand the material it was a problem of taking the course to (sic) early in the morning. You are by far the most informative teacher. You gave excellent examples from real situations based on experience (sic) and not just out of the book.”

• “Good going Dr. Norfolk.”

• “Great class, it was very well presented.”

• “Thank you.”
• “This calculus class gave me the first clear understanding of the material I have ever had. It is certainly among my favourite classes, and I am considering taking another more advanced calculus course, even though I have changed majors to general, and may not even require it now. I would only take a higher course, though, from Dr. Norfolk. He is truly an outstanding professor.”

• “This is by far my favorite class this semester. Dr. Norfolk took a personal interest in each student. Teaching style encouraged interaction making it easy to pay attention and enjoyable.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is the best teacher I have. He makes class interesting and keeps your attention so you don’t want to fall asleep. At the end of the course there seemed to be more of a friendship between him and the students than a normal student teacher relationship.”

• “The random stories and jokes made the class interesting and enjoyable.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent professor.”

• “I enjoyed this course + looked forward to learning every day.”

• “Dr. Norfolk can be picky at times, but is a good teacher.”

• “The class was enjoyable and informative. The class was taught well as well in an easy to understand way.”

• “Great teacher.”

• “Great job! See you next semester.”

• “Excellent teacher, some material made harder than it should be. Challenging work. Overall, excellent instructor.”
• “Very good teacher. I felt very happy and comfortable in the class because he explains the lessons very well.”

• “Taught the class very well and took time to make sure the material was understandable.”

• “Most of the question on this did not apply to a Calculus class!”

• “It was a hard adjustment from one instructor to another. Just through the material too fast to comprehend it all. I would have done much better if I had him from the beginning.”

• “Once again, a great pleasure.
  By far favorite Math teacher ever.
  Thanx (sic) again.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent Instructor. I culd (sic) not learn well from XXX cause (sic) he has a strong accent and some kind of speech problem I think. I couldn’t understand what he was saying most of the time. Dr. Norfolk knows his stuff and I would strongly recommend him to future students.”

• “This was a great course. The instructor was an excellent teacher. he knew the material well and was able to get it across to the students so that they could learn. I would like to take another course from this professor.”

• “You are a great teacher, you make it fun to learn.”
• “You did a rather good job.”

• “It would be very helpful if you explained why we missed points/problems for future understanding. It would help us better prepare for tests if we could see what we did wrong on the homework. Overall you were a good teacher and always willing to answer any questions.”

• “I think it’s really good that you have students turn in homework. It helps them keep on track, otherwise many would not do it at all. However, the grading is somewhat tough. One should be rewarded, not penalized for doing their work. Even on completion there were many half credits.”

• “The class was taught very well. I am glad you showed enjoyment in teaching the class unlike my last professor.”

• “Best Calc teacher I’ve had.”

• “The class was easy to understand.”

• “I especially like the fact that you took the time to go over homework, since other instructors in the past have not done this.”

• “I liked that he showed how the skills would actually be used in life. I thought he was easy to listen to – and an excellent teacher.”

• “Don’t change anything. You are the most challenging and most entertaining Mathematics professor I’ve ever had. You make learning fun!”
• “This is the third time I’ve taken this course, and I feel that he was
the best teacher I’ve had at it. He didn’t only give us a certain amount
of class time to discuss the homework, and that was very helpful. Also
he gives good, not in the book, examples to help us understand the
content, and helpful on the homework.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an extraordinary math teacher. I will love to have him
again and recommend him to others.”

• “I loved your teaching style (superb).”

• “He was an excellent teacher (humerous yet always got the point across).
I would study for several hours to take his tests yet I still found it ex-
tremely difficult to get an A on his tests, I’m not used to that - but I
sure learned the material. My only suggestion is for him to keep the
tests more simple, instead of incorporating little tricks. Other than
that I loved him.”

• “I thought this was a good course taught by a good professor. I have no
problems with the course and the professor. Good luck in the future.”

• “I thought you were very good at teaching Calc I. I appreciate the
extra time you gave me in your office; each visit helped me tremen-
dously. I recommend that you add one or two odd problems (most
even) in the homework. It is a confidence booster and the student
doesn’t feel he/she is wasting their time. I would recommend you to
other students.”

• “Well-placed humor made learning much easier. Your relations of
course material to applications in industry provided motivation to learn
calculus. It’s obvious that you know how to speak our language and
therefore teach us effectively.”

• “Even though the jokes were lame they did lighten the atmosphere.
The class was about as fun as calculus can be. The tests were hard but
doable. Note: My opinion may change after final.”

• “Dr. Norfolk in my opinion is an excellent instructor and I would take
him for all the rest of my calc classes if possible.”

• “I enjoyed the explanation of practical applications of the covered ma-
terial. I was also pleased with the homework always being handed back
the next day.”

• “This course helped my understanding of, and confidence in, mathemat-
ics a great deal. Thanks for putting in the real world applications
of the material; it really helped to know how this information is useful.”

• “Good sense of humor. Great explanations of difficult material. Excel-
lent real world models and examples.”
• “1. When material is difficult to understand to the majority of the class slow down and explain it step by step (i.e. like you did with the area problems)

2. When grading written responses to questions be a little more willing to accept an answer. Also try to clarify exactly what you want in these written questions.

3. The course was very enjoyable and I look forward to having you as a professor in the future. I learned a lot.”

• “A wonderful class. I understood more from this class than all four years of math at Walsh High School.”

• “I thought that it helped when you gave the further history of theorems, and people that derived them. The real life cases that you gave for learning were interesting.”

• “I thought the class was well taught. I found it difficult but I think it was just the material not the teacher. One thing I wish we would have had was some sort of weekly or every other week quiz, because I think it would have helped me to understand the material better.”

• “He could be easily understood. I could understand what he was saying unlike many other professors who speak gibberish and you have no idea what they are saying. He knew his stuff and was easy to pay attention to.”

• “The class was enjoyable but homework was graded a little too strictly.”

• “I thought you did a very good job of explaining. I really didn’t like the homework every day to be collected. I think if you give a few problems from each section to be collected weekly and left the rest up to the student it would work out better.”

• “Very good job teaching the course, it I studied once in a while I would have gotten an ‘A’, but as it is I will probably get a ‘B’. You explained things very understandably, and kept the course interesting. Also, your accent rocks! I hope I get the pleasure of having you as my professor again.”

• “I felt that you did an excellent job teaching this course. Your tests were fair and homework assignments reasonable. You presented the material in a way that I could easily understand and I had little difficulty following your reasoning through the problems you did on the board. This is the second time I’ve taken the course and I feel I got much more out of it this time around. Although that is probably always true.”

• “I thought you were an excellent instructor, I would like to have you for a class again. You always tried to answer all questions, both in class and during office hours.

Thank you.”
• “I think that you are a really good teacher. The book is very hard, but you were able to explain the material very well. You made this course fairly easy for me.”

• “I think you are a great teacher, I would be happy to have you as my teacher for my other calculus courses. I know that I did not do too well but other circumstances deferred my attention from my studies. Overall you are a great teacher and I hope to see you in the next few classes. I plan to take Calc 2, 3.”