Written Student Comments

3450:223 Analytical Geometry – Calculus III

Prof. Timothy S. Norfolk, Ph.D.

Fall 2014, 223-002

• “Even though I am unsure of whether or not I am going to pass, I do want to say that Dr. Norfolk was a good professor (sic) with an excellent grasp on the material.”

• “Visit xyz.newtonsssecretfunctions.com for hot math action!”

• “Dr. Norfolk did an excellent job this semester teaching a tough subject. I was very pleased with the promptness of graded material getting returned. I have recommended Dr. Norfolk to friends of mine.”

• “Norfolk did a great job of explaining where equations and concepts came from. He is a big reason I am going for and (sic) 2nd major with Mathematics.”

• “Makes test (sic) way to (sic) hard no matter how much I study I set lower averages. Very good teacher other than that.”

• “Dr. Norfolk, was a really cool teacher. He was pretty funny and witty. His accent helps make calculus less scary. I wish he would curve the tests, and not grade the tests as hard. Overall, he was a good teacher.”

• “Difficult class, great teacher. Just not for me. Still A+ for Dr. Norfolk.”

• “Comment: Dr. Norfolk was a good instructor but I feel like he talked down to us with degrading comments such as “of course you don’t get it”, “I doubt you’d understand” etc. It is hard to put in a lot of work and then get a a big dose of verbal criticism. Overall though he is a good teacher just somewhat insensitive.”

• “The only thing I can think of in regards to comments is that the course seemed to cover material faster than the Honors section. I have friends in there and they were always behind. I’m not sure if that is due to instructor (sic) or that you just taught faster. For a non-Honors section it seemed a bit fast paced.”

• “Dr. Norfolk was both a good teacher and extremely fair about grading. Would take again.”

• “\[ \int \int_{\text{my heart}} dA = \text{Norfolk (sic)} \]”

• “Great instructor, I Recommend (sic) him. He is a great teacher and also tells some funny jokes in the class. He grades fair and gives you all the opportunities you will need to pass this class.”
• “Very organized and knowledgeable of topics. 10/10, would take class again.”

• “I can only describe Prof. Norfolk as a wizard of calculus with an incredible accent. Highly enjoyed the course, especially the real world application included in his lecture.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is a great teacher. He is extremely challenging on exams but he has a great attitude & is always willing to help. He also has a great sense of humor. The exams are very thorough & he tests you with high expectations.”

Summer 2011, 3450:223-321

• “Excellent professor. I especially liked how he related the material to real world topics. Explains concepts at reasonable pace. I would highly recommend to any student.”

• “Phenomenal teacher. I’s highly recommend him to any student and I’d love to take another one of his classes again.”

• “Great teacher, makes class worth while (sic) and the material easily understandable.”

• “Dr. Norfolk was an outstanding teacher. His tests covered the fundamentals and he returned tests/quizzes the next day. I would recommend him to anyone.”

• “Prompt grades. Very helpful when asked a question. Makes you work through the problem yourself to help you understand material. Excellent.”

Spring 2011, 3450:223-003

• “Since you review these I’ll just state some things that may have helped the class as a whole.
  - Homeworks did not help me learn the material. I ‘attempted’ them and received (sic) very low score (sic), so I just copied to ensure better grades. Had they been a bit easier and more relevant, I would have spent more time trying instead of just copying.
  - Lectures went one of two ways:
    Copy what you wrote on the board
    -or-
    Listen to what you said.
  - I would have liked if my notes were more organized, and was able to listen to lecture (sic).
  - The exams/quizes (sic) were significantly harder than the assigned homework problems in the book. I would do all suggested problems, feel confident about the material, and get ∼ 70%.”
- Love the humor, I learned a lot and will feel very confident walking into Diff. Eq.”

- “Best teacher at the University of Akron. I felt like I should applaud after each lecture.”

- “Teach me the ways of mental martial arts Master Norfolk.”

- “If superman did math you would make him look silly.”

- “Once again an amazing class, taught very well.”

- “This was a great class. I feel honored to have had you as a teacher.”

- “It’s been a thrill to ‘re-take’ Calculus (‘III’ in USA) after a ‘long period’ of no formal academic endeavor.

  I am happy my neurons are very much active and highly efficient.

  I will carry ‘all’ I’ve gained in my next classes (Statistics & perhaps, something in the Math department).

  This comment is semi-anonymous, given the savvy of the reader!”

Spring 2010, 3450:223-004

- “Very helpful, goes a little fast sometimes.”

- “Test (sic) 1 and 3 were too hard. Test 1 was unlike what we learned on the practice test.”

- “A great semester of Norfolkian calculus! Hope to see you for Dif Eq!”

- “The exams had problems more difficult and involved than the practice problems assigned.”

- “Material was presented in an excellent manner.

  Tests, however, seemed overly tough, as questions were presented in ways not even covered in the book.”

- “Works very quickly and sometimes assumed we knew more than we did. Great teacher though.”

- “Well, Norfolk is a really good teacher. I wish I could have had him for all my engineering classes. He actually explains things.”

- “Would take instructor again. Recommend to other students. Hard course but explained material well.”

- “Very good professor, difficult class.”

- “Great professor, would take another class if I get the chance.”

- “Well, he is a jolly British man. His accent reminded me of my great-grandfather. I feel that British people are better in math, so therefore his speaking encouraged me to be a better student. His teaching really showed me how Calc is applied in the real world.”
• “Crazy. Funny. An excellent teacher. Insanely hard, but also insanely interesting. If you put forth the effort you are bound to do well.”

• “Fast.”

• “Hard class, but Dr. Norfolk is excellent.”

• “The course is a little fast paced, but Norfolk is an excellent teacher.”

• “Tests were a bit tough and rigged but he taught the class well. Good job Dr. Norfolk.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent instructor who really vitalizes the subject matter of Calculus.”

Fall 2008 (Honors)

• “Dr. Norfolk is an awesome teacher. You can’t go wrong.”

• “A little too fast, but overall good.”

• “Material was a little rough, but another good class thanks to Dr. Norfolk. He’s the man.”

• “The teacher should be in Man vs. Wild where he kills the wild so really it would be just man.”

• “Another great semester w/ Dr. Norfolk - see you in Dif Eq (sic).”

• “Pigs will eat anything. Norfolk should have his own show on the Discovery channel. A TI-89 is a good thing!”

• “Great teacher, presented material in a clear way, gave tests and homework back the next day. Very helpful outside of class.”

• “I enjoyed this class. The only thing is, I would slow down a bit. I understand there isn’t that much time to slow down, but only a little would still help.”

• “Demanding of the student, yet an excellent professor.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent instructor in mathematics, one of the best I’ve had. He is very entertaining, keeps you awake and applies concepts to real-life often. I look forward to his ODE class next semester.”

• “Excellent class as always! Looking forward to differential equations next semester.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is a genius & I learned a lot. I really felt challenged, plus his accent is awesome.”

• “Awesome. One of my favorites as far as instructors. Showed interest & was always willing to help students. Kind and gentle. Compassionate man.”

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• “By far the best teacher I have ever had. Very clear and concise. Shows how subjects apply to real-world problems.”

• “Great class, it was challenging but I enjoyed it.”

• “The course it’s self (sic) is challenging but Dr. Norfolk does an excellent job explaining the material and preparing us for the tests. He is by far my favorite college professor (sic) to date & I am taking Differential Equations with him. He is hilarious and can inform you about other material besides mathematics.”

• “Very good professor. Would recommend (sic) him to anyone. Challenges students.”

• “Great teacher, I have had him for 3-semesters and am taking him next semester. Is extremely outgoing and cares for his students. He is a mathematical genius and has inspired me in Math. Thanks.”

• “This course/instructor has led me to heavily consider adding Applied Mathematics as a second major.”

• “Dr. Norfolk has proven himself to be my favorite and possibly the best professor at this university. His intelligence on everything is amazing and inspiring. Definatly (sic) made Calc 3 bearable. He really is rogh (sic) on spelling words correctly.”

• “Excellent teacher. He was always interesting, was very helpful and understanding.”

• “Great course from a superb teacher. I put more effort into it. You can’t pay this guy enough - great faculty member!”

• “Yay Calc.”

• “I came; I saw; I integrated.”

• “Norfolk kicks ass. Highly recommend you take this course with him.”

• “Great class.”

• “Best teacher I have ever had. He has respect beyond belief in his students and not only expects us to do well, but helps and encourages success. Deserves to be promoted to a teacher of professors to explain and help other teachers in the department teach more efficiently. Overall, awesome teacher.”

**Fall 2006 (Honors)**

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent teacher! He makes class interesting and fun. I would definately (sic) recommend taking him in any math course.”

• “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent professor. He is always there to help you when you need it and wants to help. His goals are to help us really understand and learn.”
“Excellent teacher, great stories. Easy to understand.”

“Good class! Test (sic) were very fair. Wish I had you for Differential Equations.”

“Nice guy, poor teacher, too many unrelated stories, not enough math.”

“The best teacher I’ve had in college by far. I’d recommend taking his classes even if your major had nothing to do (with) mathematics. Yes, it’s that fun!”

“If you like karate ... take this course.”

“Smart, knows his math. Knows the theory behind most everything he taught. Downfall was got off subject too easily & too much. Could have spent time doing more examples. Was entertaining.”

“This course has made me an avid crystal meth user ... but in a good way!”

“Dr. Norfolk is an excellent teacher. He keeps our attention by providing fun stories which he somehow relates to the course material. I’ll be looking forward to future courses he teaches.”

“Excellent class, as always. What makes Norfolk a great teacher is that instead of just reading off of notes on an overhead like my other teachers, he explains where the material is coming from, rather than just putting up formulas and expecting us to understand it. My only regret is that he’s not teaching Diff Eq. next semester.”

“I really enjoyed this course. You kept class a little less serious so we would all keep our attention and learn better.”

“Dr. Norfolk made this class worth while (sic). I would not have made it through the calc classes without his teaching style.”

“Norfolk, where do I begin? Calculus God could be a start. This man could has (sic) the solution to all the world’s problems. He is an amazing piece of work. I had to self-medicate to get through this class. Alcoholism is the answer.”

“Dr. Norfolk is an amazing teacher and he makes calculus fun!!!!!!!!”

“Dr. Norfolk is a great prof. I enjoyed having Calc I, II, and III with him.”

“Dr. Norfolk is the antidote to the terrible flesh-eating disease that is my life. Also, I like salad.”

“Dr. Norfolk is very intelligent and nice. He makes class fun and I learned a lot.

In the future, please collect homework at the beginning of class. Also, please don’t leave the room during exams. Thanks. Dr. Norfolk is an excellent instructor.”
“Thank you for an awesome 3 semesters.”

“Although wars come and go, my soldiers stay eternal. Norfolk you’re the man.”

“Excellent teacher. Enjoyed the class.”

“Overall, I rate this instructor an excellent teacher.”

3450:223:005 (Honors) Fall 2003

“My attitude was inconsistent throughout this course. At times I wanted to hate this course and teacher, but I couldn’t because of my own progress. Dr. Norfolk is an interesting man to say the least, but Calc III was just difficult for me. He’s just as picky as he was in Calc I, but overall a good teacher. He gives a different meaning to the word ‘education’.”

“This was a very well-taught course. Dr. Norfolk has to truely (sic) be the best professor I have ever had. In addition to learning the material completely, you learn other things including but not limited to world history, projectile weaponry and how to defend yourself in situations. Dr. Norfolk is a very interesting professor and actually makes his students want to come to class. A++ teacher.”

“Who knows what kittens in a blender sounds (sic) like?? With the exception of the incredibly odd and sometimes scary information he gives us (while still interesting and informative) we obviously think he’s doing something right to ask for him semester after semester. Keep up the good work.”

“The course was great. Very hard tests, but just needed to work hard. Need to spend more time on Squeeze Theorem by using special cases!!!!! Special case! Look forward to Diff Eq!! Less bugs!!”

“More quizzes would be useful or more bonus opportunities.”

“Great job on the 3rd semester Dr. Norfolk. I’m looking forward to another exciting semester of mathematics next year.”

“Great teacher great class. Look forward to Diff Eq. Would have been interesting to discuss the Squeeze Theorem again. We need a classroom that is not in a basement and that does not have flies in it. Also need more bonus opportunities. Overall, great class, see ya (sic) next semester. SPECIAL CASE!!!!!!!!!!”

“Superbrain Norfolk does it again. The corse (sic) was hard as hell, yet I still enjoyed it. I don’t know if it is because of Dr. N’s interesting stories on how to take over the world, or the actual subject itself but it was an intersting (sic) ride. I think more time sould’ve (sic) been taken on the Squeeze Theorem by using special cases.
I also haven’t seen any cigarettes in Dr. N’s pocket, so if he quit
smoking, I hope he took up drinking, like the rest of us after this
class."

- “The class, though classified as a mathematics course, was very much
  focused on applications. Applications are wonderful extensions of course
  content, but the original concept should not need to be explained in
  the context of them.

There is some inconsistency in the examples as well. The instructor
seems to enjoy researching chaos theory; he mentioned that original in-
vestigations of said theory involved studies of cigarette smoke. Smoking
is detrimental to one’s health as well as the health of others. It is also
terribly counterproductive, and expensive. This example did not seem
to be founded on rational thought.”

- “Had fun learning about Squeeze Theorem and special cases!! Need
  more extra credit. Otherwise an awesome class.”

- “Again, an excellent prof. Copy any comments from the past two
  semesters and paste them here.

  Why do we have a whole math department, anyways (sic)? We have
  Dr. Norfolk.”

- “Can’t wait for next semester!!!”

- “Dr. Norfolk is an amazing prof. He’s exciting and insanely intellec-
tual. He grades tough which can be frustrating. However, his teaching
methods and personality are worth the tough course work and grading.”

- “Dr. Norfolk is an excellent instructor who is very approachable and
  willing to help.”

- “TELL MORE USELESS INFORMATION.”

- “Yay!”

- “NO MORE CALCULAS (sic)!”