

## **MATH 133 : Vectors, Matrices and Geometry - Lecture Section: 3 CRN: 355**

**Term : Fall 2008**

**Instructor(s) : Dr Bryden Cais; Dr Ivo Klemes**

**These results are for : Dr Bryden Cais**

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### **Comments for question 1 : Overall, this is an excellent course.**

1. Excellent teacher who REALLY cares about his students by organizing for instance a tutorial
2. It is too difficult for first year students.
3. Well structured and quite interesting, I learned a lot.
4. Provides important fundamentals.
5. Up till now all the math I had seen was geometry and stats. This was the first time I saw math being used for information. We also took a much more theoretical approach than my other math courses. It was interesting.
6. good material
7. The course can include more practical problems and applications for students to easier understand some of the more abstract theories.
8. The course teaches the fundamentals of linear algebra and is a fun interesting course.
9. Interesting topics, great professor
10. no in-class assessments other than final exam make it extremely hard to gauge preparedness
11. It was a really difficult course, especially coming from a province where we don't do any vectors/matricies at all. It would have been better if the course went slower.
12. The course moves too quickly through the material. There is also too much material to cover in one semester; our assignments were continually pushed back, and the final three assignments will not appear on the final exam. I suggest re-evaluating the course outline and the curriculum. It would be preferred that less material is covered, so as to allow time to fully explain difficult concepts in class and for the benefit of the students. The course seemed somewhat disorganized and repeatedly behind schedule.
13. This course has many definitions and very little applications, therefore it is very hard to grasp the idea of the course.
14. This form of math is not in my interests
15. Too much for a student who has very little knowledge of this course prior to taking it.
16. The course content itself wasn't specially interesting.
17. The only thing missing is more application of the material to prove to me why it is so useful.

18. Honestly, I like the course, but the order it was taught in just got to me. Try and build off of the theorems in a more logical manner please.
19. It looks complicated by going to class and by the look of the questions, but once you get down to reading the stuff in the book it is pretty simple and lovely :)
20. I have learned some useful things from this course, but I am only required to take it as a filler. I do not think this course or the material from it will relate to me proceeding the course, so it seems a bit futile to me.
21. its a good course because i believe this is helpful for future engineering courses but the theorems seems abstract and hard to grasp. and the webwork problems we faced were much different from the ones in books and done during class. this course should have a tutorial session from the begining which would have been a big help
22. Most excellent.
23. This is the best math class I have taken at McGill, but only because of the teacher (Cais). Like all McGill math classes, the homeworks were unfair and unreasonably difficult and we were expected to work at a ridiculous pace that had to be continuously adjusted throughout the semester. Who plans these classes? They are always such a mess.
24. It is an interesting form of mathematics and it touched on a lot of new things.
25. i dont like the material itself, but it is presented in a good way
26. Doesn't seem extremely useful for a student in the sciences unless persuing math or computer programming
27. the teacher knows how to make us understand, how to reach us, in his own way. he doesnt mind repeting until his students fully understand the concept of his lectures, and despite this we are still in advance compared to other sections. Meaning we are understanding rapidly.
28. It helps students get a good, strong foundation of somewhat basic, yet important, mathematical concepts
29. I'm sure in later years I will appreciate having an understanding of the material covered in this course, however at this time i merely find the subject matter too dry and abstract to describe this as an excellent course. Otherwise, theres nothing wrong with it.
30. The course is not the most well organized course and jumps around with material and does not follow the required texts books in any particular order. The Prof however was very well organized and was always prepared for class and let us know prior to the class which section he would be covering from the book.
31. It was challenging and it is difficult to see where this material can be applied in real life.
32. The parts on vector geometry was confusing because we went back and forth. I hope in the future it can be covered more thoroughly before learning other concepts.
33. Should be stated that students under the OSSD should have taken a geometry course

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**Comments for question 3 : Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.**

**Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. Absolutly! One of the best

2. Very intelligent professor, but teaches in a style which does not help students understand the extremely conceptual nature of the course. The abstractness of his lecture notes gives students little understanding of the material.
3. Give Bryden a promotion or something! He's the best prof I've ever had hands down and I have taken 4 years of full-time courses. He really knows how to make people understand and every prof should learn from him.
4. Bryden Cais is easily the best professor I have had at college. He is a phenomenal professor, and appears to care deeply about his students. He teaches with great clarity, and as far as I can tell is a complete genius.
5. Obviously very smart. Personable and helpful.
6. He turns a course that could be boring into an entertaining class.
7. Amazing prof
8. I have seen a few other professors teach this course and Professor Cais is easily the best I have seen.
9. He was very clear, concise, and easy to understand. He explained the material thoroughly and effectively.
10. The professor was very enthusiastic about the course, interesting and made the material funny when it could be. He bought candy for the class which was cool. The professor was efficient in his usage of time and the way he devoted more time to the aspects of the course that were more important.
11. Great lectures, the teacher makes you want to learn. Even a \*not so funny\* subject is made accessible and interesting to come... I guess the additional people that came and stayed up to follow the class is a sign that this teacher is simply GREAT.
12. The best teacher i had this semester. What he could do to improve himself is asking us questions on the material we already covered during the lecture, so we can remember some notions more easily. Like when you do an example you can ask extra questions like "What is the rank of that matrix ?" That way we can build intuition with the previous things that we learned and therefore make links between things etc.
13. teaching style leads to a lot of confusion for the majority of class and then eventually when enough definitions have been learned, some insight is gained
14. amazing teacher; very helpful and encouraging
15. He explained the topics really well and consistently gave helpful, relevant examples, while still being interesting enough to pay attention to the whole class. I didn't even fall asleep once.
16. Despite the quality of the course, Bryden Cais is an excellent instructor. His methods of teaching and explaining things are well thought out and given at a level that the students can understand. He takes the time in class and out of class to answer any questions and help the students with any problems they may have. He even uses some of his personal time to organize a tutorial for our class on Monday nights, which has proved very useful to understanding the material. His enthusiasm and humour in class make the lectures enjoyable, and his dedication to the course and his students is evident in his teachings. Overall, Bryden Cais is an excellent instructor.
17. Very enthusiastic, loves what he is doing, cares about his students, but his method of teaching (maybe the course itself is required to be taught this way?) is very long winded and has many definitions and very little application.
18. Always available for help! Although i don't like the course material, this instructor is by far

the best professor i've ever had.

19. A very clear and concise instructor. Explains course materials well. Is patient and willing to explain a concept numerous times until students are able to grasp it.
20. He is concerned of the students understanding of the materials covered in class.
21. He is excellent at explaining and laying out ideas. Is able to teach in a very linear fashion which results in great notes and understanding. Clearly puts great effort into his teaching and really wants each student to do well.
22. Professor Cais is an outstanding teacher. He explains all concepts clearly, and will not stop explaining until he feels that everyone in the class has an accurate understanding of the discussed concept.
23. Best professor I've had so far, probably going to be one of the best I will ever have.
24. Amazing. Simply amazing instructor who can explain everything perfectly.
25. He does everything he can to help you learn. He actually cares about his students. The tutorials were a nice thing from him and also making sure we can contact him by email and in his office hours. He also replied to his emails right away. Basically he cared a lot. However, because he came from Harvard and knows a lot about this stuff, it made it very hard for him to explain the concepts in simpler terms. He usually made the content seem so much harder than it actually was. I hated coming to class sometimes because of that. He assumed that everyone was a genius in that class even though most people were so confused. It might be better to explain with less abstract terms and with more solid examples. Also, the tutorials were good but I noticed sometimes they'd get a little too complicated and we didn't need some of the stuff that was taught there. Also, it would be good to include an outline of when you're gonna be teaching what exactly and each day to include the sections and stuff so we can refer to the book as well. But overall he is a really good teacher.
26. Bryden is an extremely enthusiastic and caring professor. He really commits himself to the success of his students, which is something that is really lacking in every one of my other professors. There should be more professors at McGill who comply with the generosity of Bryden. One aspect that I would recommend to help students better would be to focus more on direct relevant examples, as opposed to concentrating mainly on the presentation of the theories themselves. Overall an excellent professor though.
27. good communication skills, able to convey message clearly. but he is a bit fast when he goes through the topics. he should give more emphasis on doing problems and examples more because i believe this will help students infinitely
28. When I go through my notes, I notice we jump around a bit, but it all ties together in the end, and we cover everything, so that was alright.
29. Wow, what a great teacher. He was so excited about math and just got so angry about it. Really a cool guy too. He made me care about the philosophy of math and all the abstract concepts related to our material. He changed my mind about math. Awesome!
30. He is very passionate about teaching and he is young and cool (if that helps!) and he is very concerned about his students and his teaching methods. He is also thorough and very easy to interact with-meaning he listens to all questions of students and tries to answer all of them.
31. he is interactive in class
32. Of all the instructors of this course, compared to other people I know he seems to be the best. Goes the extra distance to get things through to you

33. He presents concepts in a clear way with notes on the blackboard every lecture and he is always prepared to go through steps again to clarify things for students, even when the rest of the class would be thinking "how can you not understand that."
34. Very passionate professor. He involves students and does all he can to help them understand his material. I personally think he should be teacher a higher level of linear algebra as i felt amny students in this class were not able to fully appreciate his capacities due to the relatively "low" level of the course
35. Probably the best math prof i have had so far at mcgill.
36. very clear explanation about the concepts in this course.
37. Bryden is the best teacher teaching this year due to his enthusiasm in the classroom, it makes it easier to pay attention and understand the material. His notes are clear if I consistantly review them, or use them to complete webworks and assignments. However, at times I find myself a little confused during the lectures as I am still struggling to understand simple terms or definitions, yet we are progressing with more abstract concepts based upon these terms. Thus, I find myself frequently taking notes on subject matter I do not understand at the time, to be worked out later with the help of the text. So, it may be helpful, when teaching a new theorem, to state a simplified definition of terms which contribute to the theorem ("remember, a span is/ a basis is...."). Also, I would suggest we cover more examples with real numbers when first learning a concept. I find that if we learned long strings of theorems with the most general threoums, I do not always understand what is being represented by the many variables present, and it is considerably more helpful for my understanding to ALWAYS see a problem being solved with defined values. (for example, instead of writing a matrix as a series of rows and then writing definitions based on Row(i), I need to see an entire matrix with numbers, and then manipulate those numbers according to the ideas just taught.) After this understanding is established, then it may be best to write a general definition for future reference and studying. These are just some suggestions for further improving teaching methods. Otherwise, I have no complaints about the instructor, his writing is legible and I find myself able to pay attention.
38. Always prepared for class and was always willing to re-explain a concept, idea or theory to individuals who did not understand the first time around. Was also available during numerous times over the course of a week in which a student could go ask questions. In one on one encounters with him during his office hours he is always very open and easy to talk to and overall very helpful with the questions and concerns a student might have.
39. Dr. Cais was able to provide us with the answers to our questions in a clear and easily understandable manner which made the material much easier to understand.
40. Great interaction with students, Mr Cais seems very concerned by making his students understand all the material.
41. I've found that Bryden is well spoken and enthusiastic about the subject matter, easily to listen to and easy to follow. He will often repeat things and answer in depth any questions the students have.
42. His method of teaching is very straightforward, and encourages a strong grasp of basic principles in order to be able to use them to derive the applications of them. He also uses the blackboard very effectively, with large writing, yet efficient use of space, which optimizes the amount of time his notes stay on the board. Also, he speaks slowly and doesn't take any shortcuts unless he has repeatedly covered the shortcut. Also, any abbreviations he will write a key for as he introduces them. For anything he writes on the board, he will make sure we know where he is going with it first, which is very helpful, and not as common as one might think. He also writes definitions on the board, which is also

very helpful, yet uncommon, especially when most confident profs will assume you know the terminology. He teaches well enough and thoroughly enough to be able to learn the entire course from class time and notes alone. He also does a great job of anticipating and covering homework problems prior to their appearance, and in the case that he does miss one, he'll cover it in class if anyone asks about it, which he constantly encourages and does a good job of actually getting students to do. Judging by the number of "stupid questions" (which he ALWAYS affirms with a "that's a good question"), no one is afraid to ask a question in his class. At the same time, his thoroughness might be slightly overdone. Sometimes the encouragement of questions slows class to a grueling pace, and often times he ends up repeating himself because of these questions. Overall, he is one of the best math teachers/profs i've ever had, and a very approachable guy - he even answered my questions about making a gun out of an old microwave magnetron. His genuine interest in math drives his teaching method, and this enthusiasm shows in class. Besides, how could I not like a prof that brings in haloween candy for a 200+ person class?

43. Seemed to use more useful and concrete examples than other classes, covered the theory but also taught us how to apply it well (though could possibly use less complicated higher level-math terminology when clarifying a point)
44. Communicates effectively and in a friendly manner with students. Could have been a little stricter in getting fellow students to be quiet while others were trying to listen to the lecture, but apart from that fact great teaching.
45. a very hardworking and dedicated teacher. he did tutorials and his notes were very easy to be understood
46. The professor's enthusiasm over this course was really contagious and it helped me develop an interest in this course as well. Moreover the professor always welcomed questions no matter how trivial they were and he always encouraged us, saying that the questions were important and insightful. He also gave us an idea of how to think in an abstract level. At the same time, he also cited examples to show how what we were learning about linear algebra could be applied in/related to real life.

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## **Comments for question 5 : The instructor was well prepared for class.**

### **Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. Everything was ordonned a good plan with a good method EXCELLENT
2. He always had notes prepared for the class and perfectly linked the different sections in the syllabus so that it all seemed like a cohesive unit. He was always early for class and made great use of the time.
3. Was never unable to answer a single question. Always well prepared.
4. Very well prepared and always able to answer all questions.
5. He knows everything about this subject
6. Lectures were clear, organized, and healpful.
7. Every day he knew which sections of the book he was teaching that lecture and the following lecture. Always prepared with good notes and very good examples. Classes always went smoothly due to this.
8. The professor of the course always stated what we had done the previous class, usually did

an example to refresh our memory and then proceeded with his structured lesson plan.

9. All classes were prepared in order to give us some good examples
10. His lectures were prepared before hand with useful examples of each concept and emphasis on important or interesting ideas in the material. He appeared well-organized and ready to teach before each class.
11. Always able to answer questions and had excellent notes. my fellow students from other instructors used my notes to do webworks.
12. The instructor writes his own sets of notes. It is also visible that he prepares materials for each and every class well with ample explanations and examples.
13. He doesn't waste time in class, uses his time effectively and rarely(to my knowledge never) does mistakes.
14. His lessons were very well organized and he was always helpful, friendly and very easy to listen to
15. Always had his notes keeping him on track and never ran out of time or failed to come up with a workable example or prove a theorem.
16. Bryden is jotting notes on the chalkboard non-stop from start to finish. He is extremely well-organized with his lectures and always fits in time for questions.
17. always prepared to answer any questions in class
18. every class.
19. He seems very well-informed and educated in his filed of teaching.
20. yes, he always has his notes ready
21. The class content and lectures were always organized and effective.
22. He always backs up main theorems with pre-designed examples designed to present the concept in a clear way with simple numbers instead of messy blocks of working out.
23. sometimes, it is a little bit of a waste of time to spend so much time on calculation.
24. Bryden is always prepared with material.
25. Always had numerous examples prepared for class and was more then willing to re-explain a theory or problem if confusion arose.
26. The courses were very well organized; and Mr Cais used to present briefly the content of each lecture at its beginning.
27. Every class was well laid out, and the notes were excellent to fall back on.
28. he is always ready with his notes and he is very thorough in his teaching.
29. The professor always had well prepared lecture notes.His instructions were organized and detailed.At the beginning of the class, he would briefly review what we had covered in previous class and so jog our memory.He would then list down the topics and give a reference to the chapter of the book that we would be covering that day and the day after.

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**Comments for question 6 : The instructor was available to students outside of class.**

## Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais

1. Always answered to all our email ! Always here when we need him Organized a tutorial !
2. Very helpful when called upon. Commendable.
3. Amazing support outside class, he would even answer emails that were about other math courses!
4. He added extra office hours in order to accomodate the busy schedules of students, and even taught a 1:30 hour tutorial on his own time.
5. He even made an extra tutorial section.
6. He had a great commitment to help us.
7. He loves it if we come to office hours, he answers emails right away and he started a tutorial for us.
8. Not only was professor Cais available outside of class, he strongly encouraged students to come. Many professors give off a vibe that office hours are a burden to them and only have them because they are obligated to. Professor Cais shows that he really cares about teaching and makes seeing him outside of class very easy by not only having two days of office hours but also a voluntary tutorial.
9. Strongly urged us to come ask questions during his office hours and offered a tutorial himself.
10. The professor stayed after every single class to answer any questions that students had. He was usually bombarded by at least 10 people and even if they had to leave the class he would wait patiently to answer all of the individuals questions.
11. Really appreciate the help given without counting the time. Teacher really accessible and offering clear and useful help.
12. Tutorials are helpful
13. He had 2 office hour and an extra tutorial session he added himself.
14. He gave tutorials every week that really helped.
15. Bryden Cais provided office hours outside of class to students who needed help with the material, and he regularly advertised this in class for anyone who wished to attend. Furthermore, he organized a tutorial just for our class, in which he donated his personal time to help us with practical questions on assignments every Monday night. He also responds to emails sent to him, whether it be questions about the subject matter or about the course in general. Bryden Cais definitely makes an effort to be available to his students outside of the class.
16. Most available professor. He made his office hours around his students through a vote. He also took the time to make a tutorial to make sure all his students could get the help they needed.
17. The professor took his own time to give an extra tutorial weekly upon request of the students. Shows he is very committed to the learning of this students. He is easily reached by email as well as through his office hours.
18. I've never been to see him, but he often indicated his office hours.
19. The tutorial he set up was extremely useful. He was always so pleasant in his office hours and took every student and question very seriously.
20. Prof. Cais had us vote on two office hour slots and included a weekly tutorial when there

was demand for it, even though it wasn't part of the curriculum. He really went out of his way to accommodate us.

21. Professor Cais encourages questions to be asked, and any problems to be dealt with during his office hours. He has two different days with office hours and always encourages people to attend. He never is flustered by any questions, and does whatever it takes to make sure that the student is making progress in learning and comprehending the material.
22. He was ridiculously available, any time i needed to meet with him (even outside of office hours and tutorial) he was extremely helpful and available
23. Had both office hours and tutorials.
24. Does not take more than one hour to respond to emails
25. For sure.. he really cared and made a big effort
26. Had two different office hours and appointments if necessary, AND a tutorial that was 100% for the students and not required of him. The time of the office hours and tutorial were decided by vote of the class, not simply by his own discretion, which was very considerate. Bryden was extremely generous when it came to his availability to students.
27. he held extra tutorial sessions and office hours regularly
28. he goes out of his way to make himself available outside of class.
29. His office hours were usually very helpful, and the tutorials were often very helpful even though each problem would take about an hour.
30. I personally did not go to see him so I am making a guess here but he does seem very approachable.
31. i ve never asked him outside but i always see him with couple of guys(answering their questions)
32. Set up frequent office hours to fit everybody's schedule.
33. The Monday tutorials were extremely helpful, especially the ones toward the end of the term. I appreciate Dr. Cais' initiative to start these tutorials as they were beneficial to all.
34. He went out of his way to start up a tutorial class outside of normal lecture hours when he realised our class needed more time on example questions.
35. Bryden is always encouraging his students to seek his help whenever needed, and constantly advertises his hours of availability.
36. The Prof was always available during his office hours but would often spend extra time if you needed extra help with a problem or question. He was also very flexible and would do his best to fit you in if you stopped by at an undesignated time to help you.
37. Dr. Cais provided us with extra tutorials outside of class that helped clarify some otherwise confusing notions.
38. Usually, Mr Cais responds to mail within one or two hours. He stays after class to answer questions, and encourage student to meet him if they have any problem.
39. I never took advantage of this but i know that there were office hours in which he was available
40. Bryden was more available than any other prof I've ever had, and on top of that, he put more free time into extra tutorials and review sessions than every other prof and tutor i had this term, combined. He is the most dedicated prof i've ever had in terms of this.
41. Professor Cais, actually took the trouble of conducting tutorials outside of class hours once every week. These tutorials were question and answer sessions which I believe have been

really helpful to all concerned. Nearing the end of the term some question papers were also solved and indeed these sessions conducted by Professor Cais have been very helpful in aiding in our understanding of the material. Besides he had office hours where the students could go and ask him their questions.

42. Went above and beyond setting up tutorials and office hours outside of class.
  43. He has tutorials and always remind students in class about his office hour.
  44. The professor voluntarily held 1.5 hours of tutorial every Monday, where he would go over practice problems and solve past exam papers. He was also available after class and during office hours. Moreover he held a 2.5 hours of review session before the exam.
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### **Comments for question 7 : The textbook contributed to learning the subject matter.**

1. The textbook contributed to learning the subject matter
2. I did not buy the textbook and didn't need it to do well in the course.
3. There don't seem to be any good textbooks for this course. Perhaps if the curriculum followed the textbook more sequentially.
4. I had a different version that was supposed to be just as good. It didn't help a lot.
5. I find the class notes better
6. It would be better if there was an additional workbook such as that of last year's textbook.
7. I did not buy the textbook.
8. Textbooks are quite confusing when reading definitions but they are useful for practice.
9. I don't have the money to buy it.
10. textbook was very hard to follow and class topics were in a completely different order than the book
11. The questions were good as practice but the explanations didn't really help at all.
12. The textbook is generally difficult to understand and of not much use when it comes to studying. I have used the textbook on several occasions where it has provided examples that aid me in an assignment, but overall, it is of not much use. The language of the textbook is written so that of a masters student can understand it, but to a first year, the explanations appear as if they were written in ancient Greek. If I had to learn this course strictly from the textbook without a class or instructor, I would not understand anything. There are not enough concrete examples or clear explanations provided in the examples to help us understand how to apply the concepts to practical situations, and the language in the book is used with only minimal explanations and examples of what the words or symbols actually mean. Overall, the textbook has provided limited help toward learning the subject matter.
13. Barely read it, was not helpful.
14. The textbook does help to explain some theories as it has more examples and exercise to do.
15. When some of the chapters covered in class weren't clear it was necessary for me to revise in the textbook.

16. It might have, if I purchased it.
17. man seriously?
18. The textbook to this course SUCKED! A lot of people I knew ditched the Nicholson book and bought the David Poole book. That one explains a LOT better and made our life easier. You should change the official course text to David Poole.
19. I bought the textbook and only used it once or twice. It is way more convoluted than necessary and a big waste of money frankly.
20. but some aspects seems vague and difficult to understand particularly about spanning sets chapter and transformation
21. The few times I tried to use it, it seemed disorganized.
22. I was confused about which textbook to actually buy. Why doesn't this course have a real book?
23. The textbook was not concise.
24. i use both the notes and the book
25. More use of the textbook would be more helpful.
26. actually i never referred to the textbook, because the material covered in class were sufficient enough to wrtie the assignments and webworks, and hopefully the final exam.
27. Most of the wording made the theorems seem more complicated than they were.
28. the text book basically give great examples to the topics. however, it does not fully explain the importances of some sections such as span and subspace.
29. The Nicholson Text book is the worst text book I have ever read. Completely useless!!!!!!!!!!
30. I didn't really used the textbook: all the material is covered in the courses; and web-works are a good way to practice.
31. the textbook was complicated and lots of number and letters with subscripts which were hard to follow.
32. Didn't purchase the book.
33. Only useful when a class was missed.
34. It is a good supplement though not the best laid out textbook.
35. The textbook is very hard to be understood. Poole's book is much easier to understand. The Nicholson's is too rigid in explaining matters and the examples don't really help in explaining the material.
36. The textbook is detailed and well laid out(i.e the chapters in it have clear logical connection with each other).

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### **Comments for question 8 : The assignments contributed to learning the subject matter.**

1. Yes but the correction was kind of weird
2. Questions are either carbon copies of examples given in class (does not add to understanding of material) or too difficult for the level of understanding of the students in

class. Some questions are much too conceptual for students to answer.

3. Yes they had a good difficulty curve and provided ample practice for the exam.
4. They were helpful, but the webwork questions could certainly require more thought.
5. Please STOP extending deadlines for assignments! It is incredibly frustrating to cut back on other commitments to work on a 133 assignment, only to find it could have waited a week. Also, to have all the webwork assignments due in Nov. made no sense. Why not just have them due once a week, but slide each back one or two weeks? Also, please try to keep the assignments better synced with the lectures. For example, one proof on the written assignment 2 was very difficult with no knowledge of determinants. Also, please try to return the first written assignment before we hand in the second one. We were given no chance to improve the way it was this term.
6. The assignments made me practice problems, therefore they were very helpful.
7. Helps practice the material
8. Because there was no midterm exam, the assignments are very important because they made me keep up to date with my work. If there were no assignments I most likely would have done nothing until the final exam, and not done very well. The assignments followed the course material very well.
9. When students have to think and apply their knowledge then what they learned definitely gets instilled in their heads better. As well the fact that the assignments covered the material throughout the course makes sure that the students are on top of the material. The one bad thing about the assignments is that they were all due in november I think that it would be better if they were due every 2 weeks or so. Because if they are due periodically then one actually keeps up with the course otherwise many students leave it to the last minute and forget what they learned by the time they have to do the assignment.
10. The assignments helped to learn the subject matter through repetition and providing opportunities to apply the material learned in class. A few questions on the assignments were quite difficult, as they required further knowledge into the concepts that was either not covered in class due to the lack of time or could only be found in the textbook. Other than that, the assignments did help to learn the subject matter.
11. I learnt all the content through practice and therefore the assignments were extremely helpful!
12. The written assignments are a good way of practicing for the finals. WebWork due dates were pushed back which allowed students more time which was good but it should be more effective if it was due every week instead.
13. Obviously.
14. Hard to understand
15. Nobody is a better teacher than yourself, and I couldn't have learned the material without doing the problem sets.
16. the webworks I found helpful except for the fact that there were limited tries since once i had used up all of my tries i wouldnt know if i got it right or not. thats not helpful. This course already is so heavily weighted on the final.....why not have there be infinite tries on hws that are worth only 15%? seriously stop trying to fail us. The written assignments were horribly graded and i hope you take that seriously cause the written assignments werent helpful. Only grading the three hardest questions doesnt help anyone.
17. If it were not for the assignments forcing me to look through my notes and come up with solutions, there is no way I would learn the material as effectively as I have.

18. assignments were a big help in knowing how to solve future problems
  19. yes.
  20. SO HARD!! WHY? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
  21. it is a good practice
  22. Webworks and written assignments fairly helpful tools of learning the material
  23. More written assignments would be more helpful for applications of the concepts.
  24. I think rather than moving the webworks all to a later date, they should be maintained as a consistent assignment. I found it was only after reviewing notes for the webworks that I fully understood course material, and think that if it were not possible to leave them untouched until mid november I would have had a much better understanding of the material being taught in lectures throughout the entire course.
  25. Most of the assignments were much more difficult than one was gone over in class, so they were difficult to complete without a thorough understanding of the material.
  26. The assignments covered all of the material very straightforwardly, and were timed well with the course.
  27. They forced you to actually do some examples and learn the subject matter.
  28. i personally would prefer the webworks to have a weekly deadline cause it helps in maintaining the students up to date with the materials taught in class. the written assignments are good but counts too little in the finals that made it not so significant.
- 60 blank comments were skipped.

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## **Comments for question 10 : I would like to nominate the instructor for a teaching award.**

### **Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. I would fully support nominating Prof. Cais for a teaching award. He is always well prepared for class, and genuinely seems to want to help us: he has set up several office hours based on a vote we did in class, as well as a tutorial session once a week, and is always open to questions about the material. He is an excellent instructor overall.
2. I really would like to nominate the instructor for a teaching award because he shows that even if he is a young teacher he got all the abilities to make us understand everything.
3. I surely would. He is the most helpful and friendly teacher i have come across at McGill. Not only is he crystal clear on what he is explaining but he encourages questions and works with the class. All in all Bryden Cais is an excellent teacher.
4. No.
5. Definitely deserves an award. I have never seen teaching of this quality. He does everything right that a professor should do, and he really makes you understand. Great job!
6. Absolutely...refer back to previous comments.
7. he is awesome and really cares about the well being of his students. devoted alot of time too make sure we understood the concepts.
8. Good teacher, very smart and funny, lots of office hours and even created an extra weekly

tutorial session. Made me think math was interesting.

9. Yes, he is an extremely helpful, delightful, well prepared professor.
10. He is excellent at explaining concepts and giving concrete examples.
11. I have never seen anyone so smart in my life. There was no question that Bryden Cais couldn't answer. His attitude and his willingness to answer questions greatly improves the learning.
12. Mr. Cais was one of the most patient math teachers I've had. There are times that he repeated the same thing over and over again and explained the simplest things very patiently. Throughout the lectures, I'm sure all of the students can feel his compassion for the subject and he tries to make math fun. There are people who are very smart in the subject but can never really teach it well because it just clicks for them. Whereas Mr. Cais tries to break the algorithms down so that it is easier to understand. He even avoided to use too many notations because he thought it would be intimidating. In addition, he is very available outside of class. He added the tutorial when demanded. For him, it was like an extra two hours of lectures. In all, Mr. Cais is a very patient and considerate teacher who is passionate about his subject; therefore, he deserves a teaching award.
13. I would like to nominate the instructor for a teaching award. He goes above and beyond the expectations of a professor. Professor Cais shows his determination to teaching by providing extra tutorials, plenty of office hours (which he strongly encourages students to come to), and clear well organized lectures. He is by far the best math professor I have had at McGill.
14. I would like to nominate the instructor for a teaching award. This professor was completely devoted to his teaching. He made sure everybody understood the concepts and if they did not he would stay behind class to explain to multiple students which took away from his own time. He would explain in a very efficient and patient manner both in and out of class. The professor made the course fun by making nerdy jokes, smiling and laughing during class and he spoke with a very clear and understanding voice. Even though there was no microphone the professor could easily be heard from the back of the class. The professor also bought candy for halloween at the request of the class which showed how he has a fun side. There was an instance where there was a problem during class between two students and the professor stopped the class and gave a short concise but meaningful lecture saying that it is totally unacceptable for one student to hinder the concentration of another student or to make it uncomfortable for the other student. It was important for the class to see that the professor did not disregard the issue at hand. All in all the professor is a cool guy who knows his stuff and has the ability to make the material interesting and fun to learn. But at the same time the material was easy to understand because it was taught in a structured and understandable manner. Bryden Cais is the best mathematics professor I have had at McGill.
15. Definitely. I enjoy every single math class, and even if my grade on the finals is not that high, it can't be his fault. Enthusiastic, smart... what can I say? Great teacher, one of the best i've had so far. One more, linear algebra is not necessary the funniest subject to study, but with him it gets interesting, and you want to sit in his class. Clear explanations, available and open to any suggestions. As long as you work, everything is understandable, and if you still don't get it, his office hours are great for questions. Great great great teacher\*\*\*\*\*
16. yes definitely!!! he is young and dynamic, always ready to help you.
17. Professor Cais is a perfect (or almost) teacher for this subject. He tries to make things as clear as possible even though it's abstract and difficult for everyone to understand; he answers any question in a great way. As a U0 course, he is very friendly with us and

makes learning linear algebra fun! I personally enjoyed his class.

18. I took three math courses this fall, and he's the best teacher I had this semester. His explanation are clear, the words he uses are clear. He's very available to his students. He has a great personality too, he makes jokes etc during the lectures.
19. He always gave very clear and detailed instructions, and was always willing to help. Made this class much more interesting and easy to understand. There was never any space to sit in the class because everyone in math 133 wanted to be in this class.
20. Yes, he was definitely best professor I've had so far.
21. I would like to nominate Bryden Cais for a teaching award. His teaching style is enjoyable and effective, and he is respected by his students. He also dedicates much time to helping his students with the subject matter. He is dedicated to his students and to the course, and his enthusiasm and down-to-earth personality make him an enjoyable professor to listen to. His lectures are excellent and well-attended (it is usually standing room only because students from other sections come to our class), and his teaching style and communication is effective and easy to understand. Overall, he is a great teacher.
22. Yes. Prof Cais is the best math professor I've had at McGill. He added extra tutorials as requested by the class and always answers questions in a very effective and clear manner. Very funny and always prepared for lecture and tutorials.
23. Very enthusiastic, loves what he is doing, cares about his students
24. I would definitely like to nominate Bryden for a teaching award. He is an excellent teacher who always takes the time to make sure his students understand the material. No one was ever embarrassed for asking a question and he answered all questions with ease. There was a situation where a student in my class was causing it hard for another student to learn and my instructor did not let it slide by. He ensured that it was made clear no student should ever feel unable to learn in the lecture. Also, to ensure that the material was being well comprehended he took it upon himself to set up a tutorial. Not only do I find my instructor amazing, many of my friends in other math 133 classes went to my class and never went back to their respective intructors because they could only learn Math 133 from Bryden Cais. Clearly Bryden Cais is an extremely gifted instructor and I would take any class taught by him. As a result, I would nominate the instructor for a teaching award.
25. Yes, I would. He is one of the nicest professor. He makes learning Math a little less painful and fun although the concepts are still tough to grasp sometimes. He is one of the best professors I've ever had.
26. Indeed. He is a very good teacher.
27. Bryden Cais is one of the best teachers that I have had in my entire life.
28. Best instructor at McGill.
29. I would like to nominate this instructor for a teaching award because he revived my love for mathematics. He thought the course content thoroughly and with enthusiasm. He seemed to really care that we understood the material and enjoyed the class. Bryden Cais made me want to come to class (as well as many others not even registered in the class). He created a tutorial outside of class on his own time and would stay late after every class answering questions. He is definitely the best mathematics professor I have ever had.
30. Duh. (Yes, I would like to nominate the instructor, Bryden Cais, for a teaching award.)
31. Of course. It's not for any reason that more people than the ones registered come to his class...

32. Indeed. The award for prof i want to drink with most
33. He deserves a teaching award
34. Bryden deserves a teaching award solely on his enthusiasm for the subject of mathematics and for his generosity towards his students. If every professor in McGill was like Bryden, the tutoring business here would go down the drain quickly.
35. yes
36. That would be nice.
37. Yes i would like to nominate him. He was extremely dedicated to his students. He replied back to all questions via email, was available during his office hours and held a tutorial for his students to help students understand the material. He even helped practice previous finals and helped out whenever he could.He is a brilliant teacher.
38. Yes, definitely.
39. Of course. He DESERVES it. He was favourite instructor for this semester and I enjoyed going to his classes and felt like I was learning a lot.
40. compared to other undergruate teachers he is one of the best
41. He is a excellent teacher with a great sense of humor as well as a great range of decent professional knowledge. He contributes a lot to students and does his utmost to ensure everyone's success.
42. yes of course, this teacher deserves the right for a teaching award.
43. Prof. Cais' way of teaching is definitely one of the best I've seen especially for a complicated subject like math. He presents the course material clearly, backed up with examples that are designed to show the key points of the concept. His lecture talk flows well and he's always ready to help students whether during or outside of office hours. The fact that he started up a tutorial to go through more example questions that the class themselves pick is evidence of this. Most of the other students I know who also take this course, but with other professors ended up leaving their lecture slots to come to mine because they all heard that Prof. Cais' teaching was both more interesting and informative. That is definitely justified in my opinion and towards the end of the semester, we had people who had to stand up during our lecture cause there weren't enough seats for the new 'incoming' students.
44. Yes.
45. Why not?
46. yes?
47. Bryden is enthusiastic and genuinely concerned about the learning experiences had by his students, which is something that truely makes a difference to students, especially with such difficult subject matter. He has made my experience with this course as painless as I believe possible, and I would not hesitate to nominate Bryden for a teaching award.
48. 100%, he is the most qualified Algebra prof McGill will ever take on staff. Bright future for himself, and his students
49. Sure.
50. Mr Cais is one of this very rare teacher who is able to transmit his interest for mathematics to students. Combine that with a very effective communication with students, a great way to present mathematics, and a strong sense of humor: you have a teacher that every student wish to have.
51. Yes, he has taken time to go outside of the class and prepare tutorials to help us prep for

the exams.

52. Although i am not sure what awards are available, he would receive a nomination from me for any that involve dedication, patience, or working with students.
53. Yes, I would nominate Professor Cais for a teaching award. The reason i believe is that he has fulfilled all the criteria of being a good teacher. He explains the course material very well. He ensures that everyone has understood it. To accomodate for everyone who may not have been able to ask questions in class he had held question and answer sessions as well as office hours. He is very responsive to questions in class and is not bothered by even the most basic and trivial questions. Something that I am particularly appreciative of is that he encourages every question by saying that its a good question before he starts answering it. All of these lead me to nominate Professor Cais for a teaching award.
54. Sure.
55. Yes. He is very charismatic that it made the whole class to be attentive. There are a lot of students from other slots of classes that attend the class and the class is always full. he has the ability to make people understand and actually have some interest in math
56. I would like to nominate Professor Cais for a teaching award. He is an excellent professor. He makes his points clear and justifies any assertions with significant proof. He also encourages the students to have multiple perspectives on a single subject matter.
57. The professor made the course very interesting. If it were not for his clear instructions and additional help during tutorials and after-class, I would have found this course quite difficult and frustrating.He should be recognized for his brilliant job.

31 blank comments were skipped.

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