
Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating

Fall 2023

Spiro, Samuel - SAS703

Intro Topology I - 01:640:441:01

Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 15

University-wide Instructor Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree),
 Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
The instructor Samuel Spiro was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	0	0	0	2	9	11	4.82	4.82	4.27	4.28
The instructor Samuel Spiro responded effectively to student comments and questions.	0	0	0	0	11	11	5.00	5.00	4.23	4.24
The instructor Samuel Spiro generated interest in the course material.	0	0	0	4	7	11	4.64	4.64	4.06	4.13
The instructor Samuel Spiro had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	0	0	0	11	11	5.00	5.00	4.34	4.37
The instructor Samuel Spiro assigned grades fairly.	0	0	0	1	10	11	4.91	4.91	4.35	4.29
The instructional methods of Samuel Spiro encouraged student learning.	0	0	0	2	9	11	4.82	4.82	4.04	4.13

Teaching Effectiveness

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor Samuel Spiro as:	0	0	0	1	11	12	4.92	4.92	4.09	4.08

University-wide Course Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree),
Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I learned a great deal in this course.	0	0	0	4	7	11	4.64	4.64	4.23	4.11
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	0	1	3	4	3	11	3.82	3.82	4.08	3.49

Course Quality

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the overall quality of the course as:	0	0	0	2	10	12	4.83	4.83	4.08	3.88

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
I very much appreciated that all of the material was brought back to being related to other fields of mathematics, making this an excellent springboard into other studies.
The interesting topics and how it generalizes and builds on what we learned before.
I like the way it generalizes and reinforces concepts that are taught in analysis.
The teaching style.
It does a good job introducing topology
The fact that he constantly asked questions and got the class talking. This was the most talkative, and laugh-filled class I've ever taken.
I liked how interactive the class was, and how it wasn't awkward to not have an answer when called on. Also I guess part of it was that the students in the class were very responsive so the atmosphere was nice. It was actually relaxing to come to class.
I loved the active learning method employed by Sam. Everyone participated in this class. Each class was a brainstorming math session; with each step of a proof guided by Sam. He could truly tell when we were stumped, would "read the room effectively" and then take the time to explain the more difficult concepts.
Topology pushes the limits of your ability to abstract. It is challenging, but not overly so, and it is very interesting.

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
N/A
Talk about more counterexamples (i.e. lower limit topologies, etc.)
Introduce examples first and then introduce the formal definition instead of the other way around
I don't think I would do anything different.
More examples of weird and strange spaces, and also maybe going a little faster with some proofs, because various details got repetitive sometimes.
I had mixed feelings about being put on the spot. I think it worked in that I had to be more engaged, but it was mildly stressful. If I were to take another class with Professor Spiro, I would prefer that he not put me on the spot again. But if I had a choice between taking some future class with Professor Spiro and another professor, and I knew Professor Spiro would be using the same method of calling people at random, I would still very likely take the class with Professor Spiro, because I enjoyed having him as a professor overall.

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor Samuel Spiro encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?

These comments are unique to the instructor Samuel Spiro.

Comments
Samuel Spiro is the best professor I have ever had. He encourages us to make mistakes and ask questions, and takes great care to ensure that his class is not overwhelming. The material is difficult, but the amount of work he assigns is fair and tailored to ensure we get the most out of the class. He is prepared, informative, and an engaging speaker, and I would absolutely take more classes with him in a heartbeat.
Providing motivation about the topics and assisting in office hours but not directly giving answers to problems.
Professor Spiro constantly asks the class questions and turns each lecture into a discussion. In this way he quickly addresses gaps in understanding and ensures that everyone has absorbed the material thoroughly.
He I introduced different topics from outside the course and related them to the content we learned
He provided an engaging lecture that helped me understand the material in the course. He asks questions of the class very frequently and had natural back and forths with the class which I really enjoyed.
Sam ran an open class with everyone expected to participate and contribute each class. Each proof was a guided brainstorming session among the students who were asked to contribute each step. It fostered a real creative environment for actively learning the material. The students also began to know each other, be more open and ask more questions. It was truly a fun way to learn math. Sam has very strong interpersonal skills and was able to pull it off. I loved this class.
Professor Spiro was an engaging lecturer who made learning topology enjoyable. He was always helpful outside of class.

Other comments or suggestions:

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
Humor kept the class light and fun. Really need more of that at RU.
None