



# Rutgers University Midcourse Surveys

Fall 2020

## Dougherty-Bliss, Robert - RWD49

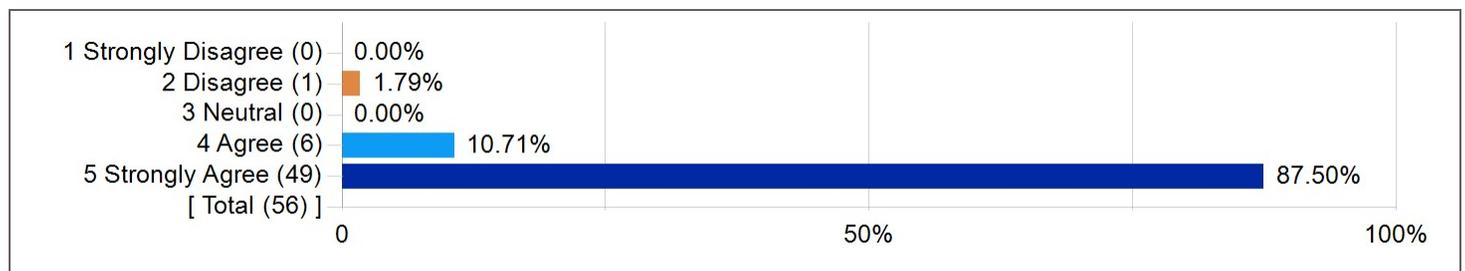
Calc I Life&soc Sci - 01:640:135:55, 56, 57

Enrollment: 86

Responses Received: 58

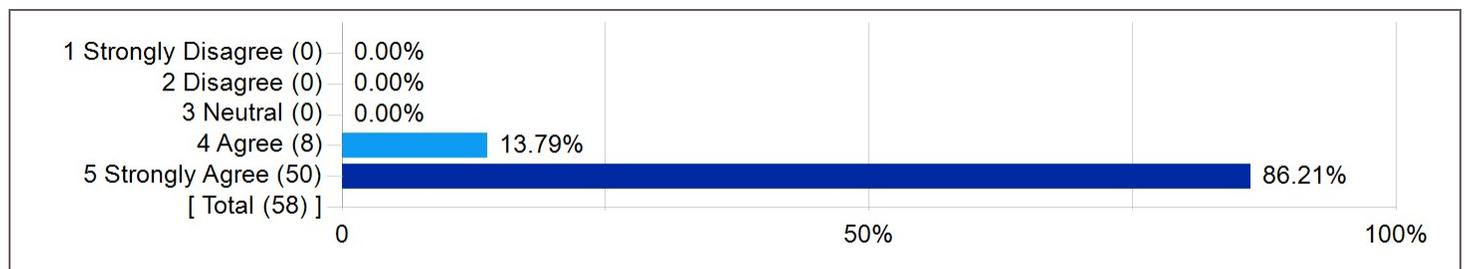
### Instructor Questions

The instructor Robert Dougherty-Bliss was prepared for class and presents material in an organized manner.



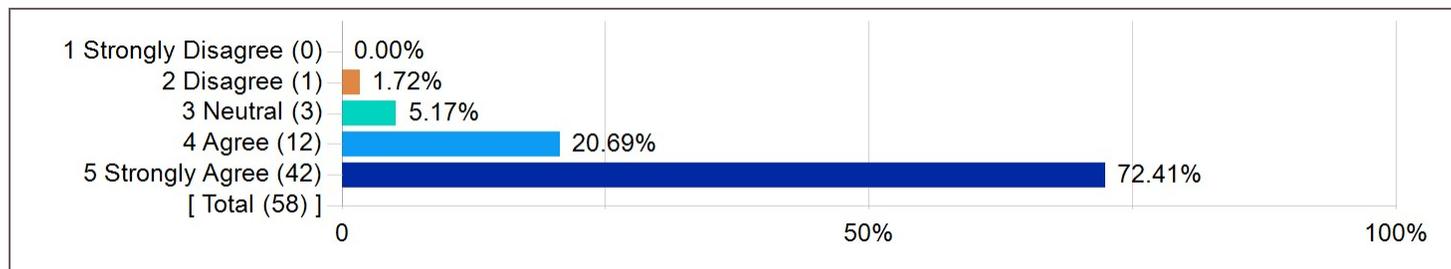
Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
0	1	0	6	49	56	4.84

The instructor Robert Dougherty-Bliss responds effectively to student comments and questions.



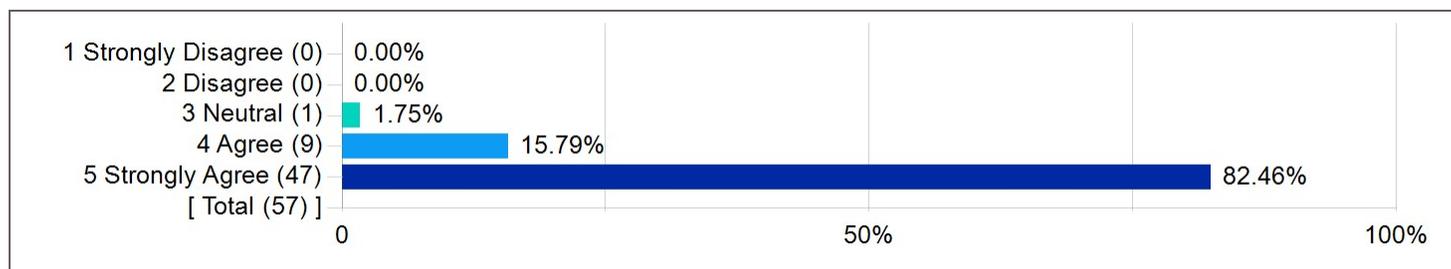
Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
0	0	0	8	50	58	4.86

The instructor Robert Dougherty-Bliss posted content that helped me understand the topics covered by the course.



Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
0	1	3	12	42	58	4.64

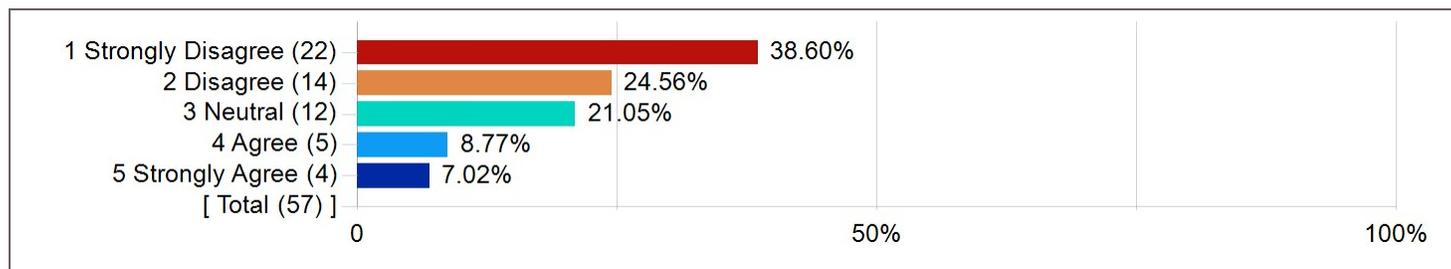
The instructor Robert Dougherty-Bliss has taught effectively in the course so far.



Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
0	0	1	9	47	57	4.81

## Course Questions

I was glad to take this course in an online format; for me it is the preferred format for this course.



Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Responses	Section Mean
22	14	12	5	4	57	2.21

What do you like most about this course?

Comments
I like how there are exams every two weeks since calc can be challenging. The frequent exams helps to prevent information from being forgotten which I really like. I also really like the recitations as they help to explain content learned in lectures.
Recitation with Prof. Dougherty-Bliss.

Comments
It is easy to understand and not too heavy in terms of coursework.
Recitation and the resources available for all sections
Review days before the exam are good.
Posted zoom recordings
The Pace of the course
I like how My Lab Mastering is given as homework to force students what has been learned in lecture.
I am especially glad we have an instructor for this class for some extra help and practice. My instructor makes it easy to understand and apply what I learned in class for homework and exams.
The many examples we learn
The professors/instructors
Recitations
I like how the homework enables you to keep trying the problems until you get a 100%.
Robert Dougherty–Bliss. The man is a literal saint, teaches slowly yet effectively, and will genuinely take the time to explain a concept to you if you don't understand. I end up watching Dr.G's videos because I learn almost nothing from the lectures by Vaksman.
Accessibility and being able to connect to do work on my own times.
It's pretty straight forward it's definitely a more chill class which I like there's homework and quizzes but not too many it's a good balance.
Recitation is beneficial. There's plenty of work to do as practice and review.
I like the recitations and the amount of material we have accessible through the different instructors and lecture videos
I like recitation, I am able to learn a lot during it.
The course is a an ok course but I usually learn the material while doing the homework because I am not able to understand what is happening during the lectures. Many do ask questions but the answers still don't help. I also look forward to the recitations so I ask for help there or any other tutoring services offered by Rutgers.
The lectures are very clear and concise. Easy to understand and the online homework is on a very user friendly program.
I have helpful instructors who can answer my questions about this course.
I like most how Robert is able to explain it to us in a more understandable manner.
that it isn't too impossible to do
The professor and instructor are very understanding.
the concepts
I like that we have recitation classes.
I like how I have 3 classes per week so I can learn the material better.
My professor and recitation teacher worked hard to make sure e we understood the material and were very compassionate when helping their students learn especially as we were trying to get used to a virtual setting.
I like the way the material is taught and then reinforced with the homework and workshops.
Recitation is well run and effective
THE THING I LIKE MOST IS THE RECIATITON DAYS I FEEL LIKE THAT IS THE DAY I REALLY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MORE OF BREAKDOWN OF WHAT WE JUST LEARNED
The breaking up of exams allows for wiggle room
Robert Dougherty–Bliss and Sofia Vaksman are kind people who are passionate about math and I'm glad to learn from them.
I am not sure.
Absolutely nothing.
N/A
I like that I can see the examples being hand written. Also I like recitation days because then I get a real understanding.
I enjoy the way the course is taught.
I like my TA
Recitation
So far I have been enjoying this course to an extent. My favorite part is definitely the recitation with Robert, I look forward to it every week. He reviews the material very thoroughly and in a way that I best understand. He also has a nice sense of humor and makes

Comments
me chuckle sometimes, which is always nice to have during these dark times. Overall, I believe this course has a nice online structure that still allows us to learn.
The amount of resources that were made available for me. Not only do we have access to lecture notes, we also have access to Dr. G's videos and notes which have been helpful. My professor also takes the time to create reviews and kahoots that help me solidify my understanding of a concept.
It was okay.
I like the course as a whole because it effectively teaches the contents of calculus in an organized but efficient manner.
I like how the questions are taught thoroughly and they respond to specific questions asked while in lectures
Recitations help explain information a lot

What do you think needs improvement and how should these improvements be made?

Comments
I think the content of the midterm exams need to be improved. With exam one this semester there was a problem with Proctortrack. I understand that the exam had to be changed to prevent students from cheating, however, the exam is harder than content we learned in class. I think it's unfair for students to be tested on questions that are harder than the homework and reviews that are provided. Since the exam was made to be harder, I think the time limit of the exam should be changed as well. There is not enough time to answer a question and type out the answer in the exam. Another problem I had with exam one was MathQuill. That was the first time I had heard about it all semester and there was no time to try and use it because of the time limit. I think to improve the above problems, the time limit on the exam should be longer, the reviews and homework assignments should reflect the exam better and/or the exam questions should be changed to not be so challenging and there should be a practice assignment for MathQuill as there was for uploading written work for the exams. Another improvement I think should be made for the course would be to make recitation quizzes due at midnight. For me at least, I have a class right after recitation on Wednesdays which I find stressful to get the quiz done and get to my next class. There can still be a time limit on the quiz but I think if students had a larger time frame to take the quiz in, it would help with stress and also give the student time to understand recitation work especially if they are having trouble with the content.
Hard to focus in Prof. Vaksman teaching style of going from slide to slide.
A PDF or OpenSource format of the textbook could have been made available for those who prefer paperback versions.
Actually creating a fundamental conceptual understanding of concepts so that we understand the mathematical and logical bases for topics
It's a lot harder to grasp concepts through a computer screen. As for the tests, it feels like the whole point of the exam is to try and trick you, instead of testing you on what you've been taught.
Recitation lectures should be recorded too
The online course is absolutely without a doubt hurting my education
More time spent on learning material, rather than example after example
I think the lecture and the exams should be more cohesive. Many problems on the midterms I am not prepared for and I do not know to how to study in order to solve these questions.
I believe the teaching for this course is placed so that the professor teaches the students the basic concepts and the students themselves have to adapt to the broad AND specific topics on the exams and homework, which have been hindering some students' progress. I would like for the professors to help students understand what would be on the exams and homework, such as specifying that possibly these topics will be on homework, which would not only make students improve but help understand the overall concept of the specific topic we are on.
Presentation of lecture
Maybe varying office hours
More supplemental lecture videos
The lectures should incorporate the information similar to the exams.
Sofia Vaksman. She is a nice person, I guess, but she simply moves too fast, barely explains anything, always has tech issues and can never genuinely explain a topic or why something works. Dr.G's videos are the only thing genuinely or somewhat preparing me for the midterms we have every other Monday.
Transparency at the start of the course about the expectations for the course and where to find things.
There should be supplemental videos like there is for chemistry which basically goes over the main topics and overview.
Lectures are rushed and can differ from methods used in the practice questions and homework. Recitation only able to cover one lecture per week. Difficult to clarify on confusing elements of the section

Comments
I think the slides should be more organized and there should be more explanation of the process rather than it just being presented to us
The Midterm exams are too difficult. It is too hard to grasp information online and I believe that professors need to understand this and make the midterms a level where we are able to understand them a lot easier.
I think that the course should be taught in a different way. I have looked at some youtube videos by the coordinator and they seem to help me a little better. So maybe teach in that way, where he asks for more participation.
I wouldnt really change anything
I wish my lectures were less crowded. I also wish to take this course in a classroom, in person, when this outbreak ends.
It is sometimes hard for me to understand Professor Vaksman
Practice questions similar to the exam
I feel like the general instructor for this course should make a study guide for each midterm.
more review questions and sessions
I think that the content that we learn should be more similar to the exam questions that we receive on the midterms. All the practice questions that we learn during the class as well as the homework questions are much easier than the exam and are not questions that help us prepare for the exam.
Make the midterm exams a bit easier. Make the tests less conceptual and more on the things we go over in class.
I am fine with the work my professor is doing.
The exam is way too hard compared to the material we were taught. I understand that this was done to prevent cheating but I do not believe that making exams harder is the right option. The average of the first midterm is really low and that should have been a huge red flag.
there is a disconnection between my class/course material and exam material; review of concepts/how to approach some problems and how to read/interpret directions using specific parameters like unknown variables would me more than helpful, but mainly a review of the conceptual material would be appreciated prior to exams... It is frustrating when you know the material and your exam grades do not reflect that, because you feel constantly blindsided by each exam
IT'S A GOOD CLASS I FEEL LIE THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER IN PERSON, LEARNING WISE. IMPROVMENTS I THINK NEED TO HAPPEN WITH GRADING EXPLANATION AS WELL AS REVIEWS FOR MID-TERMS THEY HAVE MISSED THE MARK ON BEING REMOTLEY SIMILAR TO THE ACTUAL MID-TERM ITSELF.
Unfortunately, the technology has been a little finicky, and that resulted in a few problems. At the end of the day it came down to trust in the student. But any student who wants to take their education seriously can be trusted.
Professor Vaksman often misunderstands our questions.
This class online is absolutely awful. The professors never answer questions to the fullest and the tests are ridiculous. They are nothing like the study guides or lectures and majority of the class doesn't do well and the coordinator and the professors don't see that as a problem. It feels like they want me to fail and retake the class. This class has made me genuinely dislike math when I used to love it. I think this class needs to be re-evaluated.
I feel as though the professor could give more examples pertinent to the exams taken every two weeks. Along with this I feel as though the material could be presented in a more organized matter. Maybe reviews with conceptual questions as are in the exams would assist in learning the material better. The announcements are everywhere and there are too many platforms to keep up with for this one class.
During lectures if the handwriting was more clear and if their was more explanation on why the answer is that and not just going off the notes.
I think the lectures need to also incorporate how to solve certain problems in a conceptual way in order to be more like the actual problems on the exam. The exam problems are conceptual and ask you how you got the answer, and I think the lectures need to also incorporate this and show us how and why you get the answer instead of only just solving the question.
I know it is hard to prevent cheating and Dr. G and the whole math department is working hard to accommodate students as well as prevent cheating. I think there should be more questions where you can show work and have explanations as well as proctors for each exam in separate rooms. I would even prefer to take my exam in person as well.
Lectures
The tests. I understand that they are made in a way that we cannot look up the answers or plug it into a calculator and call it a day, but please the structure is only setting us up to fail. Everyone would really appreciate it if the test questions were worded in a way that actually makes sense, and in a way that we have seen with practice questions in our lectures.
I think the only real issue I have with this course is the exams. They seem a lot more conceptual than I am used to seeing. While I understand they have to be that way, I wish we were given more conceptual questions in class and on our homework just so we can get used to answering them.

## Comments

There were a bunch of tech problems onlibe. Always you made some versions harder than others which was unfair

I believe that during lectures, there should be more interactive activities with the students or more explanations of difficult content.

I do believe that there could be a better way to give out detailed announcements about tests and quizzes because sometimes they mention it but as a student with multiple classes, I end up forgetting about assignments, so if there were better, clearer announcements, it would help not only me but other students as well

More explaining during the main class