

Representative comments from courses taught at UW-Madison from Fall 2005 to Spring 2007:

Math 171 (Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry I). Freshmen. Enrollment: 135

“I found the course very interesting and I have enjoyed it a lot surprisingly, as I have always hated math.”

“Dr. Jones is the best math teacher I have ever had... he is very organized and explains everything at a level that makes it easy to understand, which is amazing to me because math has always been the most difficult subject for me. Because of Dr. Jones, it is now becoming a subject I actually enjoy.”

“An excellent instructor. He can tell when students don't understand, and keeps giving examples until the students understand.”

“Rafe Jones was a great teacher. He had a good sense of humor and was always willing to help after class or in office hours. He is easy to understand and I like how he allows us to work on problems by ourselves in class instead of lecturing the whole time. I wish he was teaching 217!”

“Instructor was always very helpful whenever needed. I never felt scared or apprehensive about asking questions.”

“You kept math interesting.”

“The in-class examples really help.”

“I learned more from this prof than any math teacher I ever had!”

“I'm so glad I took this course. It helped me understand what I didn't know about algebra and trig.”

“Instructor was very patient and broke things down well.”

Math 240 (Discrete Math). Sophomores to Seniors. Enrollment: 70

“He thoroughly explained the subject matter in multiple ways and was always willing to answer questions.”

“I like when the class is given examples to work on. It helps me know if I am understanding the material.”

“He clearly presents the ideas of the course and makes the class interesting.”

“Explanations and examples were very helpful and cleared up uncertainties in the book.”

“I appreciated how available he was.”

**Math 320 (Linear Algebra and Differential Equations). Sophomores and juniors.
Enrollment: 100**

“...always asking if there are questions – can tell he is genuinely interested in the students learning.”

“The professor was amazingly effective. He encouraged class participation, which was VERY helpful.”

“Excellent instructor all around. Get him on a tenure track soon before some other university has the chance to get this great teacher.”

“I took Diff Eq. at a different university last year and found it extremely difficult. Prof. Jones explains these concepts extremely well and is the best math prof I’ve ever had.”

“Professor Jones is an extremely capable instructor who communicates both the ideas crucial to passing the course and the theory behind the ideas so that we’re not just memorizing equation types from a book.”

“Instructor made learning fun.”

“One of the best math profs I’ve had. Clearly conveys ideas and examples of complex concepts.”

“Great professor! Very clear, organized, concise, easy to understand.”

“I could go back through my notes and understand.”

“Thank you for both writing clearly and speaking an understandable language. Math is a difficult topic to explain but I actually really learned a lot. Office hours were definitely worth attending!”

“Writes clearly on the board, and his explanations were very helpful. He didn’t skip steps or jump around like a lot of professors do. Overall, a great class.”

“He was extremely available and responsive to the students.”

“I liked how detailed everything was. Good mix of examples and description/theory.”

“By far the best math prof. I have had at the university.”

Comment from a senior undergrad working on one of my Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) projects:

“Thank you for being such a wonderful advisor to me at [last summer’s] REU. My experience at the REU had a significant impact on my desire to go into math research.”

Math 748 (Algebraic Number Theory). Graduate students. Enrollment: 25

“This course was exceptionally well-organized and a pleasure to attend. Rafe is a great lecturer and offers very clear explanations. He should be hired in a tenure-track capacity by the department!”

“Without fail, the material was very interesting, well-presented, and entirely comprehensible.”

“He gave homework that was challenging but very helpful in helping us learn the material.”

“Best course I’ve had in grad school.”

“Rafe prepared a lot for teaching and this was extremely obvious.”

“His presentation was always clear and the arguments were well-conveyed. It was also nice to see the outline of many proofs before going right into proving things.”

“The teacher was extremely knowledgeable about the subject, thus he was always able to answer questions well.”