

Comments

Man, if there isn't a 5/5 on course evals this semester I will riot. Amitesh Datta is a fantastic lecturer and he went above and beyond with every single lecture. Like, I'd never thought I'd find myself interested in pure math in the slightest before taking this class, but he made it happen. It's definitely a challenging course with lengthy and involved psets, but there is 100% a sense of accomplishment after each one (grading can be kind of hit or miss though). He also makes exams fair and reasonable, and he doesn't try to throw curveballs; just tests you on what you know. Reading the comments he leaves after he finishes grading was some of the most heartwarming and encouraging moments in the class. I cannot recommend MAT204 enough, especially if Amitesh is teaching.

AMAZING! Amitesh's kindness fostered a love of math and a love of learning from his students. Especially when things were as stressful as they were in Princeton, there were times that I have cried over how kind Amitesh's words were, and I thought to myself, OK, I can do this. You are an amazing person Amitesh and you truly do make everyone feel safe and appreciated.

Absolutely the best instructor that I have had at Princeton. Professor Datta ticked all of the boxes, and I have never been this passionate about learning math until now.

This course is perhaps one of the best I have taken at Princeton. I had no experience with proofs going in, but Amitesh did an amazing job to commend each and every student. Amitesh made a great environment where you felt okay to fail, and he supported each student individually to their success. He is an incredible man, and if you can take a course with him I would HIGHLY recommend it.

I would definitely take this course over 202, especially if Amitesh is still teaching it— he is probably the best Princeton professor I have had so far. The psets are hard but fair especially if you have a group to work together on them. The difficulty in this course comes from it being intellectually challenging, not from overly messy or tedious work.

Amitesh is by far the nicest professor I've had so far and his class was always enjoyable. In class, he made a good mix of lecturing and posing questions for us to prove or observe things on our own, so there was always an opportunity to make connections on our own instead of just being spoonfed. At the same time, I was always comfortable asking for clarification or guidance when he did ask us questions, and he usually provided feedback when people gave their thoughts on something. Overall I think the class was very well done for the online environment.

In general, this was a phenomenal course. It really helped to capture the essence of linear algebra without becoming too overwhelming. Of course, Prof. Datta's instruction was instrumental to the success of this course. His pure passion for mathematics was evident from the beginning, and it helped contribute to an energetic environment.

Definitely take the course if the instructor is Professor Datta. Great experience and great instructor

AMAZING. Not one critique I could even possibly imagine. In fact, if you asked me to think of a critique of Amitesh' teaching style, I would get an F on that paper, as there is not one thing I could truly write down.

These classes were the highest quality classes I have ever been in. The professor explained every concept super well, and was very open to all forms of student opinions. Participation was also a big part of the class.

If you're wavering between this and 202, TAKE 204. especially if Amitesh is teaching it. He really cares how everyone is doing and encourages everyone to succeed. And in general, this class is a lot more intellectually stimulating if you are at all interested in proofs. The psets usually involve writing proofs with some simple computation mixed in, compared with 202, where (from what I hear) they were just hard but uninteresting problems.

I took this course because I wanted a challenge. I loved every single moment of it. Amitesh was an amazingly engaging and supportive professor

As someone with experience in competition/proof-based math, I really enjoyed this class. I've heard that the work in MAT202 can get repetitive/formulaic, so take this class if you're willing to put in a couple of more hours per week to get a deeper intuition of linear algebra itself. Also, Professor Datta is extremely understanding and flexible!

If Amitesh is teaching again, then you are in luck, as he is extremely kind and willing to help, clear and effective in his teaching, and stimulating in questions and problem solving. Regardless of if he is teaching again, do take a lot of time to understand the concepts and proofs on a very deep level.

At the beginning of the semester, Professor Datta made it clear what kind of course he wanted this to be. Theoretical, yet accessible. Comprehensive, yet stress-free. Indeed, on all these accounts the course completely delivered. The lectures are somewhat fast-paced, although there are a large amount of resources available outside (i.e., office hours, review sessions) if you need to clarify any certain concepts. The p-sets and exams are where the real learning happens, and while certain problems can be quite challenging they are also quite fun.

I felt that the psets and tests were hard but fair and incredibly satisfying to complete. Feedback was very prompt and complete while staying very positive.

Professor Datta is the single best instructor I have ever had. He is not only a wonderful teacher in terms of illuminating material, but is also the most encouraging professor I've ever had. I'm sure this class could have been better in person, but I can't think of a single tangible reason how since it was already such a great experience.

I really enjoyed classes. Prof. Datta explained the material clearly, and his positivity and encouragement gave me the courage to speak up during class (which I don't think I ever would have done without his help). The problems posed in class helped me understand the material, and Prof. Datta always made sure that we could follow his explanations.

This course showed me the importance of having a professor who cares about their students. From what I've heard, the structure of this class shifts depending on the professor. For example, Professor Datta mentioned he made the class focus on more proof based and theoretical aspects than the past. So all in all, I'm not sure how much my feedback can apply to the overall quality of the course as opposed to the quality of the course with this specific professor. Nonetheless, this was a highly rewarding class, and uniquely told me to prioritize learning over a grade. The support system and the teaching itself were amazing, and I'm grateful I took this class.

This course is very rewarding, as you will gain a greater appreciation for math and its beauty. This was my first proofs course, and I will admit proof-writing took some getting used to; I recommend you attend all the available study sessions—they will help you get through the psets, which are difficult (expect 10–12 hours if you are new to the material). Professor Datta is a great guy and always willing to help out / meet with you 1–on–1. The curve for this class is also quite generous, so it is relatively easy to do well as long as you put in the effort.

If Prof Datta is teaching this class, PLEASE PLEASE TAKE IT. He truly cares about his students, and he is super responsive and attentive. I honestly don't think I really like math, but Amitesh made the content interesting and bearable.

This is literally the best class I have ever taken. It is the opposite of a weeder course; I like to call it a "fertilizer course". Let's start off with the course material itself. You will learn a lot more in 204 than in 202. Having a more fundamental and conceptual understanding of linear algebra will mean even for stuff not directly taught in 204, having that conceptual understanding will allow you to easily teach yourself that concept. But interesting material is only half the course. Amitesh Datta is possibly the best professor here at Princeton. For starters, he is the nicest person ever: he is extremely understanding and accommodating. If you are extremely busy, or just having a bad week, just send him an email and he WILL grant you an extension. The amount of feedback forms he asks for us to fill out throughout the semester is astonishing (and he actually listens to what the forms say). He grades super leniently on the tests as well. As long as you put in the effort in this course, he WILL give you a good grade. Couldn't possibly ask for a better professor. 1000% of the time, I would take this course. Please take this course, I promise you will not regret it.

This is a great course! I can't stress enough how AMAZING Professor Datta is. The problem sets are difficult, but there are so many resources available to help you, and the material is incredibly interesting!

Professor Datta made this course one of the most enjoyable parts of my Princeton experience this semester.

The classes were overall incredible. Amitesh did an amazing job at creating a supportive environment for both all the students. It was genuinely a very welcoming experience where you felt okay to fail.

The problem sets and exams were an integral component to this course, and is where a lot of the learning happened. We were typically given difficult problems on the written work, which took time to understand and write up. A valuable resource were Prof. Datta's office hours (for p-sets). These would help to clarify problem specifications, along with provide illuminating hints on how to effectively approach the solutions. For exams, Prof. Datta prepared review sheets with relevant problems to study, which we went over thoroughly in review sessions. Reviewing problem sets was an effective method for exam preparation, and helped with consolidating all the information.

I took this course because I'm planning on concentrating in physics or astrophysics, and linear algebra is a prerequisite for both. I really enjoyed this course! Prof. Datta made this course really engaging, and I think his encouragement and positivity really helped me stay engaged through the semester.

Professor Datta is truly a genius, both in the depth of his mathematical knowledge and his teaching ability. Throughout the semester, his class was engaging and thought-provoking, and helped to communicate a theoretical motivation for the principles of linear algebra in an accessible way.

I've heard that the profs for 204 tend to be better—still hearing about the infamous Prof Christine Taylor from seniors here. If Professor Datta is teaching though, ABSOLUTELY take this class. I strongly wavered between this class and 202 (since I took 201 in the fall and have virtually no experience with proofs), and the material is difficult, but this will be such a better experience if Amitesh is teaching.

If Amitesh Datta is teaching this course, TAKE IT. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn under such a talented, understanding, kind, and supportive professor. I had a bit of experience in linear algebra coming into the class, but I know many students who did not and succeeded in this class. If you want help, you can get it and your grade in the class is ultimately determined by how hard you work to take advantage of the resources around you. It would help to have a bit of proof experience, but it is definitely not necessary to do well in the class.

I attribute the quality of the class to Professor Datta. I think he really encouraged an environment on learning the material and enjoying math in itself, as opposed to the toxic competitive nature of many classes. I truly appreciate him as a teacher, and I don't think the level of care and attention he gave to his students is truly unparalleled.

I took this course because of the professor's great reviews and a distribution requirement for my major.

This course was amazing!

Amitesh what was the secret sauce for this course. He created an amazing environment that I genuinely loved to partake in. I honestly think it is perfect as it is, as long as Amitesh keeps teaching it.

the most perfect professor to ever exist no question

If Amitesh is teaching this course TAKE IT. Most AMAZING man that has ever walked the Earth. He teaches very well, and he is genuinely kind and caring both for his students and what he is teaching. We love you so much Amitesh you have legitimately changed my life.