



Survey Key: ZS90621

This is a validated survey.

[See Respondent Submission Report](#)

The number of people who took this survey by 5/13/2009 9:09:37 PM is: 53

DWU Student Survey - Former College Algebra Students

This is a short survey for students who have taken college algebra at DWU in the last several years. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on this course. The data will be used to evaluate the course and help us improve the course for future students. In addition, those completing the survey will be eligible for a \$25 cash prize.

For each of the first 10 questions, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, are neutral, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.			Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Are neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	Do you feel that you learned more in this class than in other math classes you have taken?		<input type="radio"/> [10]	<input type="radio"/> [20]	<input type="radio"/> [15]	<input type="radio"/> [6]	<input type="radio"/> [2]
2.	Do you feel that what you learned in this mathematics class was more relevant or useful than in other math classes you have taken?		<input type="radio"/> [9]	<input type="radio"/> [28]	<input type="radio"/> [9]	<input type="radio"/> [5]	<input type="radio"/> [2]
3.	Are you more confident in your ability to learn mathematics now than before you took the course?		<input type="radio"/> [12]	<input type="radio"/> [21]	<input type="radio"/> [13]	<input type="radio"/> [6]	<input type="radio"/> [1]
4.	Do you feel that the collaborative learning approach, incorporating group activities, helped you to learn better or more easily?		<input type="radio"/> [24]	<input type="radio"/> [17]	<input type="radio"/> [7]	<input type="radio"/> [2]	<input type="radio"/> [3]
5.	Do you feel you have a greater appreciation for the applicability of mathematics to solve real world problems as a result of the course?		<input type="radio"/> [15]	<input type="radio"/> [22]	<input type="radio"/> [7]	<input type="radio"/> [7]	<input type="radio"/> [2]
6.	Do you feel the use of technology helped you learn better or more easily?		<input type="radio"/> [14]	<input type="radio"/> [19]	<input type="radio"/> [12]	<input type="radio"/> [4]	<input type="radio"/> [3]
7.	Do you feel the technology assisted in enhancing your ability to solve problems?		<input type="radio"/> [10]	<input type="radio"/> [20]	<input type="radio"/> [19]	<input type="radio"/> [1]	<input type="radio"/> [2]
8.	Are you more confident in your ability to solve mathematical problems than before you took the class?		<input type="radio"/> [11]	<input type="radio"/> [18]	<input type="radio"/> [19]	<input type="radio"/> [4]	<input type="radio"/> [1]
9.	Do you feel the use of technology in the course improved your technology skills?		<input type="radio"/> [9]	<input type="radio"/> [25]	<input type="radio"/> [16]	<input type="radio"/> [2]	<input type="radio"/> [1]
10.	Overall, do you feel this course was a more positive experience than other mathematics courses you have had?		<input type="radio"/> [18]	<input type="radio"/> [19]	<input type="radio"/> [10]	<input type="radio"/> [2]	<input type="radio"/> [3]

11. Which of the following examples or topics from the course do you recall being most interesting or relevant? Check no more than three.

- ☐ [24] Hunger and poverty.
- ☐ [13] Energy and environment
- ☐ [13] Child mortality
- ☐ [19] Income inequality
- ☐ [14] Evaluation of risk (e.g. disease, terrorism)
- ☐ [5] Democracy and literacy
- ☐ [2] Social Capital
- ☐ [36] Financial topics (savings and retirement income)

12. What changes would you suggest in the course or the text in order to help students learn more or better?

[Absolutely none! This was a great course that I thoroughly enjoyed every single time I attended!]

[I would say that having the questions and the group activities at the end be part group work and part individual work so you can get the hang of how to do the problems then have some take home problems to further understand it.]

[none]

[I would say just doing problems hands on in class.]

[I really liked this class. Other than not having it so early in the morning I got nothing!]

[none]

[nothing, it is very self explanatory class and if you need help Dr. C has no problem helping you out]

[No changes needed.]

[I struggled with having to do my assignments on the computer. I am a kinesthetic learner and need to write things out and be able to move and be actively engaged in the math. I didn't feel that I fully ever grasped the concepts of what we were learning.]

[I am not sure if I liked the whole using computers all of the time to solve math problems. I am so used to the pencil and paper method that it was hard for me to comprehend on what to do.]

[Having to turn homework in individually that way students actually work on it.]

[not rely so much on the computer programs so students can get a better handle on the basics and to fully understand what is actually going on.]

[none]

[The pace of the class I feel most students struggle with. For students that struggle with math or that have been out of school for while this class just is too fastly paced.]

[none]

[Less "partner work" Partners usually means unequal responsibility]

[i think there is not much to change. but also if possible then provides more example and outside question.]

[I think possibly allowing students to pair up on their own for group activities would result in higher learning. In some group settings it seemed as if only one student was doing the work rather than everyone as a group.]

[I would make no changes. I feel that I learned well in this class and its settings.]

[none]

[I honestly can not think of any suggestions at this time. I feel that Dr. C did a very good job in the class.]

[I am not sure what you would be able to change... I took it a long time ago and it is hard to remember!]

[make sure each group member participates equally]

[I felt this class was a good class. I am not sure I would change anything about the approach.]

[More technology usage.]

[Just making situations more related to college aged kids.]

[not to work so much in groups. to do more homework yourself and not rely on other people in your group. you have to take the tests by yourself so you should be doing homework by yourself too.]

[help students out instead of just handing out binders and expecting everyone to know what to do without examples or directions.]

[Be able to take more notes off of the board because the book didn't really help at all]

[More lecture time in class.]

[I would suggest having the students pick their groups for the group activities instead of changing them all of the time because some people in your group dont show up and your left short-handed and sometimes the activities are saved on one of the group members H-drive and they dont show up for class and then theres nothing you can do.]

[The text was good no changes there. But the way it was taught was hard to understand. more examples would be nice if they were explained out an put into terms where we can understand them.]

[none. i liked the way the class was put together.]

[I would suggest going through a few of the reading review questions (at the end of each chapter) together in class, so before tests some kids realize how you get the answer for some of them!]

[I would suggest that you give more time to work on the quizzes beacuse I personally felt really rushed to get through them.]

[have chapter assignments, instead of just chapter activities but include a few questions for homework.]

[The group stuff i didnt like because one person ended up taking over and the other two didn't do anything.]

[More review of what we are learning]

[have the students do the questions at the end of the chapter for credit that way they are doing both group and individual activities]

[Give more time for the student to do an assignment that pertains to their degree that may benefit them on the job!!!!]

13. What changes would you suggest in the course in order to help students gain more confidence in their ability to do mathematics, or solve problems?

[I would suggest to students that they request the help of students who are around them. Getting help from the professor, Dr. C., was never an issue for myself. I found him easy to speak to and he was a great teacher with every question that I had for him. For students, their main job is to get a good grade in the course and in order for them to achieve this, the task is really quite simple: do your homework and if you are struggling, connect with someone who might be an upper classmen and ask them for advice.]

[Again, just having a few problems a day would help the students...practice practice practice!!]

[Maybe more time not using the computers and technology and a little more time spent on teaching the task more.]

[I would also say just doing problems hands on in class.]

[I really believe that Dr. C helps students and allows them to fix there mistakes I deffiently was not confident in my abilty to do math.....this class made me learn soo much and his teaching skills really made this class fun.]

[none]

[maybe a little more examples on the board to understand the steps]

[No changes needed.]

[I think that one thing that could be changed in the course to help confidence in the ability to do math is to have the option of using the computer and using pencil and paper.]

[Along with working in groups have them work individually outside of the classroom as well.]

[See above]

[Possibly more independent assingments.]

[Try alternative ways to teach the materials. In math a lot of students what to know why they have to

do this? Or they don't understand why you subtracted this and not that. Give them a reason.]

[possibly present problems and solutions to class]

[Less dependence on a program they will never have access to again. Seems odd.]

[teach more tricky method and short cut methods.]

[Possibly review some simpler math problems in class and incorporate some of those into tests and quizzes for students to gain confidence in knowing some of those simpler questions on the tests/quizzes.]

[I think that as in most classes confidence comes when a teacher takes interest and lets you know when you are doing positive work.]

[none]

[I am not sure what you would be able to change... I took it a long time ago and it is hard to remember!]

[just slow down and pay more attention to what the questions are asking]

[Take more notes maybe]

[More hands on stuff or doing problems on the board.]

[Make sure everyone in the class is participating not just the students who always get it.]

[more availability of the answers of the homework to be online. or have extra questions online that a student could do if they want extra practice.]

[Explain and help students more, give examples in the book]

[n/a]

[Have the teacher show us how to do everything on the program frequently in case we forget how to do it because it takes awhile for our questions to get answered because there's only one teacher and lots of students with questions on the activities.]

[More hands on!!! not just the computers but actually doing the chapter questions in class together.]

[maybe have out of class problems be mandatory.]

[I would suggest keeping the activities group oriented because that's not as overwhelming and stressful like it would be if you were working alone (which would lead to more positive outlooks about problem solving).]

[More explanation of how to do the problems and more examples that are easier to follow.]

[hand out a study guide or review of what's going to be on the tests.]

[No suggestions]

[everything was actually pretty helpful that you already did]

[i believe the course did a very good job in helping students gain confidence]

[Let them do an assignment that pertains to their degree!!]

14. What changes would you suggest in the course in order to help students make better use of technology to solve problems?

[None! The technology was great and the students were well informed of any and all technology that they would be using throughout the semester. Again, Dr. C. was a great instructor with every program and all of the software that we were using.]

[I would say the technology portion of the course was fine, it helped a lot and it brought more "up to day" feelings in the math course]

[none]

[I would say if the technology is there, students should be taught how to use that more than on paper. I think that is what the world is heading towards.]

[I don't really remember using a lot of technology...Just a calculator.]

[none]

[nothing]

[I thought the computers were a definite asset, changes are not necessary.]

[N/A]

[Use computer programs that are more available on our home computers, excel, etc.]

[nothing]

[none]

[Excel would be a good program to use. And much more relevant.]

[the notebook computers were great]

[Use the general technology-not a specialized program.]

[thats fine]

[Some students were not confident in using their T-9 calculators in various aspects that they could and should be using for the class. Possibly make handouts on how to use the calculators for the different problems that could be easier if used.]

[I think the class gave most of the information needed to use the technology.]

[none]

[I am not sure what you would be able to change... I took it a long time ago and it is hard to remember!]

[??]

[Including a Step by Step direction sheet explaining how to do the calculator steps or computer steps]

[Doing more problems online as a group.]

[Nothing- we used technology in class and was good]

[not to use technology such as computers. there are too many answers online that students can access. i think that math classes should stick to textbook and paper and pencil.]

[i think using Fathom was perfect for the course]

[It might be easier if there were step-by-step instructions on how to do the different calculating and graphing programs saved somewhere on the computer. That way it would save the teacher time in explaining how to do that program every time we have a story problem that involves us using that application.]

[I dont see any changes for this, but then again i dont no what other technology there is to use!! i think the computer and calcujlator is enough for class.]

[i believe the use of technology was greatly utilized and taught to help me understand math better.]

[I would suggest going through everything on Fathom at the very beginning of the course, because when I first started I had no clue about that program. After I asked a lot of questions I felt more comfortable and figured out that technology can be really useful when trying to make graphs, ect.]

[I would personally block sites such as facebook, or myspace on the computers, because use those instead of working on the assignment.]

[i can't think of any. the computer helps out a lot.]

[Maybe show by example before we start]

[I like the program we were using but more direction would have helped]

[make students copy and paste work into their word document and turn it in with their group work to ensure they are doing the problems correctly]

[Show the nontrads how to use the computer to their advantage at a job!!]

15. Please suggest any other changes or improvements you think would help future students learn better or have a more positive experience in the course.

[I am not sure how you could change something that is working so well. I learned a lot from this course and I am sure others do as well.]

[I enjoyed this class alot. I am always telling people that College Algebra with Catalano is fun. They look at me weird but i am telling the truth! I liked this class and learned a lot!]

[I would say incorporate everything I said in the questions before.]

[I liked this class and would suggest anyone to take it.]

[I like the option of bonus points or a cheat sheet like you offer now.]

[it is good as it is right now]

[I thought the class was a great experience! I do not believe any changes need to be made.]

[N/A]

[I took this course two years ago and it is difficult to remember what improvement I would have made.]

[More opportunities for extra credit. Many students struggle with math and since most students have to take this course I am sure many would take the opportunity to do extra credit.]

[none]

[make them try to solve from outside question . not letting focus in one book.]

[No other suggestions]

[I can not think of any changes.]

[none]

[Found the financial topics very useful]

[This is a good course I am not sure I have any suggestions]

[None that i can think of]

[I think maybe a little more learning on the graphing calculators but other than that its a good class]

[i enjoyed this class, but i think that it should be not so slack, more homework and reviewing would be helpful.]

[n/a]

[I would suggest maybe not having the classes too big.It takes a really long time for the teacher to come answer your questions when they have just about every student raising their hands for questions.This would also give the students more one on one time with the teacher,that way we could learn even more and possibly get through more information.]

[i think you should make time to meet with each student and check up on them, because you would be surprised at how many people wont ask questions in class if they need help.]

[none.]

[I have no further suggestions! :)]

[I would suggest that you let the students decide who they want to work with that way they know the person and it is not awkward. I was in a group where I did not talk to my group mates and when i needed to speak up I did not because I did not feel comfortable with them.]

[make it required to do a few of the homework questions, so when students get to the tests they have done some of the same type of problems.]

[Group activities is a great way to assist the student to learn more and make friends in class. More time to the activities would be appreciated.]

End of Survey