## **University of Utah**

Spring 2013, MATH 1080 Precalculus Section 1
Instructor: MacArthur, Kelly (Primary) Results rolled up with child course(s): MATH 108 1



	Question Text	N	RR	Avg	MATH	МАТН			Sch						
Grn	Instructor Questions (MacArthur)	IN	KK	5.62	Avg 5.13	SP13	Avg	SP13	Avg 5.41						
_	Course Questions			5.29	5.01				5.29						
										Str Disagr	Disagr	Mild Disagr	Mild Agree	Agree	Str Agree
1	Objectives clearly stated	42	50%	5.45					5.23		2% (1)			26% (11)	67% (28)
2	Objectives met	42	50%	5.36					5.20	2% (1)	5% (2)		2%(1)	29% (12)	62% (26)
3	Content well-organized	42	50%	5.19					5.12	2% (1)	5% (2)		10% (4)	31% (13)	52% (22)
4	Course materials helpful	42	50%	5.02					5.10	7% (3)	5% (2)	5% (2)	2%(1)	24% (10)	57% (24)
5	Assignments & exams covered the course	42	50%	5.29					5.17	2% (1)	5% (2)	5% (2)	2%(1)	21% (9)	64% (27)
6	Learned great deal	42	50%	5.36					5.10	7% (3)			2%(1)	24% (10)	67% (28)
7	Overall effective course	42	50%	5.33					5.09	5% (2)	2% (1)		2% (1)	29% (12)	62% (26)
9	Instructor was organized (MacArthur)	42	50%	5.64					5.22				10% (4)	17% (7)	74% (31)
10	Instructor presented effectively (MacArthur)	41	49%	5.46					5.13	2% (1)	2% (1)	2% (1)	5% (2)	15% (6)	73% (30)
11	Instructor created respectful environment (MacArthur)	40	48%	5.7					5.34	3% (1)				18% (7)	80% (32)
12	Demonstrated thorough knowledge (MacArthur)	42	50%	5.67					5.44	2% (1)			2%(1)	17% (7)	79% (33)
13	Instructor encouraged questions/ opinions (MacArthur)	42	50%	5.74					5.34	2% (1)			2%(1)	10% (4)	86% (36)
14	Instructor available for student consultation (MacArthur)	40	48%	5.55					5.30	3% (1)			5% (2)	23% (9)	70% (28)
15	Overall effective instructor (MacArthur)	42	50%	5.55					5.23	2% (1)		2% (1)	5% (2)	17% (7)	74% (31)
										V Discrim	Discrim	Avg	N Discrim	Careless	
	Discriminate by semester	52	87%							37% (19)	4% (2)	8% (4)	19% (10)	33% (17)	
										Very Easy	Easy	Avg	Hard	Very Hard	
	Rating tendency	52	87%							44% (23)	17% (9)	12% (6)	21% (11)	6% (3)	
										V Discrim	Discrim	Avg	N Discrim	Careless	
	Discriminate by semester	24	n/a							29% (7)	13% (3)	8% (2)	21% (5)	29% (7)	
										Very Easy	Easy	Avg	Hard	Very Hard	
	Rating tendency	24	n/a							42% (10)	29% (7)	8% (2)	8% (2)	13% (3)	
										V Discrim	Discrim	Avg	N Discrim	Careless	
	Discriminate by semester	49	58%							22% (11)	12% (6)	2% (1)	35% (17)	29% (14)	

					Very Easy	Easy	Avg	Hard	Very Hard	
Rating tendency	49	58%			39% (19)	27% (13)	10% (5)	10% (5)	14% (7)	
					V Discrim	Discrim	Avg	Slight Discrim	N Discrim	Careless
Discriminate overall	45	54%			27% (12)	16% (7)	9% (4)	22% (10)		27% (12)
					Very Easy	Easy	Avg	Hard	Very Hard	
Rating tendency	45	54%			33% (15)	11% (5)	16% (7)	22% (10)	18% (8)	

Instructor	Text Responses
	Question: Comments on course effectiveness
	I enjoyed having the pre-printed out notes on hand, very helpful.
	Things were very organized.
	I didn't really go to class much so sorry I don't know what to tell you.
	Homework was reviewed in class before it was due. The homework questions were very helpful in what we were learning.
	The online book is awful, it was down most of the time and the pages wouldn't load properly when it was working.
	Three Midterms is nice, obviously you have the course figured out.
	Great class, very organized
	The material was organized well from the very beginning, and so it wasn't hard to follow the lectures. I liked that we were able to ask questions every class period when we struggled with the homework.
	This was only the second class of math 1080 so it was not the most well organized class, and we did not finish everything we needed to. But I felt I had learned a lot in this class and that i am ready to move on in math. The online Webassign needs to be more helpful by giving students more examples on how to solve problems. Also the textbook was full of errors not not the best in organization.
	the course material was spread out very well and the opportunity to do well was open and easy too get to.
	The homework was handed in during the time that we were required to take online quizzes, preventing any reference to the homework which would have been very helpful in getting better grades on quizzes and in reinforcing the material we had recently learned The lectures often felt incredibly rushed. It felt more like watching someone do math problems than being taught math concepts. The review material wasn't as helpful in preparing me for the midterms as I would have liked. I often felt that I had spent hours studying material that wasn't on the test and no time studying material that actually was. A suggestion for improvement for math courses, in general, would be to make them worth more credit hours. This class was worth five credit hours, slightly less than the equivalent of two other classes (the average amount of credit hours for a class seems to be three), yet it consumed far more time than two other classes would have (time spent doing homework and quizzes, and studying for tests). Math is definitely one of the hardest subjects in college, and that increased level of difficulty should be compensated by more than one or two credit hours over the average class. This class should have been worth over six credit hours (I would say around eight), making this one class itself a half-time courseload. Making math classes worth more credit hours would allow students the time to really understand and remember the material without sacrificing their other classes in the process. And I think the number of students who complete math-intensive degrees would be much higher if students were given much more time to study for their math classes. I understand that this increase would cause math-intensive degrees to require far more credit hours to complete; however, to compensate for that increase, students pursuing math-intensive degrees could simply have their non-degree-related-elective credit hour requirement reduced.
	The book was very good at covering the concepts taught and having weekly assignments from the book helped to practice the concepts.
	THe note handouts really helped a lot. The online quiz really brought down my grade and had me fearing them every thursday rather then look forward to them for practice. The book assignments were brutal especially since almost all the material in the book was incorrect to what we would do in class. Really threw me off. Disliked paying so much for the online book and webassign and then get screwed over by not being able to open it up when needed.
	1. WebAssign could be improved so that there are no more malfunctions. 2. Online textbook made it easier for homework and learning the course material.

I liked that Kelly sent us weekly emails to keep us updated.

My experience with instructors of mathematics has not been pleasant; at least, not until I met Kelly MacArthur. While other instructors have presented an understanding of the rules of mathematical principals as the goal of education, Kelly utilizes those rules as stepping stones towards a greater level of understanding. I have learned more in this class than in any class I have ever had. That being said, I do have one critique. Because all of the instruction in this class came from lecture and from notes provided on the class website, the textbook was really just an expensive packet of review problems. In this, it's only utility, the textbook was an impressive failure. I spent hours recalulating solutions to review exercises trying to make my answers match answers in the back of the book that were wrong. This problem was surprisingly prolific in a commercial text that has already been reprinted in several editions; I encountered this problem at least once per assignment, usually more often than that. When we would bring these problems up in class, Kelly would apologize and ask us to send her an email listing which problems were flawed so that she could pass the information on to the publisher of the book. I fell that it is not my responsibility as a student to proofread the expensive textbook that I was required to buy. Also, I feel that a student has a reasonable right to expect his or her instruction materials to be accurate, and to ask the students to do extra work to correct the errors that shouldn't be there shows a blatant disregard for the students' reasonable offense. I am willing to proofread the text if the publisher is willing to pay me a salary.

The worst part of the entire class was the Ebook. I have mac with a giant screen and I even had a hard time viewing the material. And I've never encountered more mistakes in a textbook. We had to spend 70 dollars on a piece of crap textbook that had multiple mistakes in EVERY chapter. When you are trying to learn new material and are unsure of it, the textbook SHOULD NOT have that many mistakes. WebAssign and the online quizzes also had multiple mistakes. I encountered multiple times when WebAssign or the ebook wouldn't even load. The people at WebAssign were also not very helpful when it came to trouble shooting. Hard to say anything good about them. Also when taking quizzes, there were multiple mistakes. If the answer wasn't completely right most of the time, you would get it completely wrong with no credit at all. Graphs wouldn't load, or you couldn't find the right buttons for entering your answer. WebAssign and the eBook were not user friendly at all. In my opinion, there should be an in class quiz or if not, maybe still turn in process work and get partial credit for some of the problems. Horrible way to teach new material.

-I like the fact that we have one day a week to turn in the homework, so that if we are busy, we don't have to worry about doing the assignment for the following day. -The book...there has to be a better book for this class....just too many mistakes.

The homework The lectures

It was nice to have all the lecture notes already set up and all that needed to be done was fill in the steps. This class, however, was crazy fast. I completely underestimated the course content and speed that it was delivered. Not suggested for people with weak math skills.

Webassign could be a little stressful but other than that the class was perfect.

Webassign quizzes and assignments can be difficult to use, trig and college algebra in one class was a great option

The lecture notes are provided. I've always struggled with note-taking. Focus too much on the notes, and you miss the character of the content, focus too much on just paying attention and understanding, and you have no way to study for the test. The notes MacArthur provides and the way they're structured have been a great way to manage this for me.

I think Kelly should look at using a different ebook, because the one she assigned was ridden with errors, but that didn't stop her from being one of the best math instructors I've ever had.

Lectures were helpful. Exams were unexpectedly difficult compared to homework and quizzes. The book was not helpful.

Having the notes available online before we took the in class.

## Question: Comments, suggestions on instructor performance

MacArthur Kelly was very helpful and extremely knowledgeable in this subject. She was also very prompt at responding to emails and questions.

MacArthur This was the best math class that I've taken at the U

MacArthur I didn't really go to class much so sorry I don't know what to tell you.

MacArthur Super organized, knew exactly what she was talking about, and is an amazing teacher. Focused on teaching students, not the material. Would take the rest of my math from her if I could.

MacArthur Kelly was awesome. She loves questions and she loves math. She recognizes math is not easy for everyone and encourages her students with that in mind.

I appreciated that Kelly kept the class focused and on task. In too many other classes it is hard to hear the lecture because of so much side chatter by students. Kelly took extra time to teach a couple review sessions outside of normal class time. I think she worked hard at teaching the class and is an effective instructor.

MacArthur Great lecturer and good at explaining.

MacArthur	Kelly was great at answering questions and following through with things that she said she would do. She updated her website a lot, and would communicate with us. There were never any surprises in her class, and I always felt that I understood the material. However, if we didn't, she allowed for questions to be asked and would take time to explain certain principles.
MacArthur	Very direct and very good knowledge. Great teacher
MacArthur	MacArthur is a great math teacher with a clear passion for the subject. She is very effective in communication the main points and very knowledgable. Re-orginize the course in the way she thinks it should be taught not the book because the book is really in a bad order and it made it very difficult for the students. (ex. solving triangles chapter).
MacArthur	Her passion for the subject made learning about it much easier, also she seemed very keen to helping students individually.
MacArthur	The instructor had a tendency to make concepts even more complicated when students asked questions about them. I often felt more confused after a more thorough explanation, but I didn't want to waste class time to try for another explanation. The instructor would often skips steps when explaining new concepts or solve the equations in a way that was faster for her, even when doing so made the brand new concept much harder to grasp.
MacArthur	The instructor was wonderful as a human being but since the class had so much to cover in so little time it was tough when lessons were rushed and note taking was rushed as well. I understand its not her fault the circumstances she is placed in with online quizes and online problems but her teaching and the online work simply did not work well together and i actually feel like i know less in math than what I knew going into it because of that.
MacArthur	Kelly was fantastic at explaining the mathematic concepts and she most definitely knows what she is talking about. She was very good at answering questions on the homework and in lectures.
MacArthur	1. When we were confused on certain problems, she showed us multiple ways to solve the problem and gave us reduced ways that have been simpler for both her and past students. 2. Kelly explained in detail assignments and what she expected from each assignment. Which helped us narrow down which formulas to use for which problems.
MacArthur	Kelly has a method of instructing that leads to true comprehension of the material. Her lectures were clear, energetic, and often incorporated multiple interpretations of the same concepts in order to accommodate diverse learning styles among the students. I found this type of instruction to be highly effective in a subject in which I had previously shown little talent.
MacArthur	I prefer that they teach us the correct way of doing things instead of having us guess if something was right or wrong before she let us know the answer. That was a little confusing for me.
MacArthur	She did a good job of making sure you understood the content. If somebody was a little bit slow on the materiaL, she would spend more time in class on certain areas. Also, when there were problems with WebAssign, she was quick to get involved and help out.
MacArthur	Very clear explanations Went over the previous nights homework
MacArthur	-She was strict(in a good way), she took math seriously, and helped those that had questions; when she made a rule in her syllabus she followed throughShe was also kind and would joke around, answering questions that were asked and helping with homeworkbasically a great teacher. :D
MacArthur	Best math teacher ive ever had
MacArthur	Kelly was well organized and fair in her teaching and evaluating. I always felt that she was on my side. Nothing against her, I think that the class was a little too fast paced for my learning style.
MacArthur	The pace is quick but appropriate. Kelly's enthusiasm for math is perverse, but endearing and slightly contagious. She's willing to slow down and repeat herself until people get figure it out. This is a big lecture class, so generally a student must have the initiative to say something if they're not getting a concept. Kelly does as good a job as can be expected polling the class for are we ok with this? Can we move on? 10/10. I hope to have more classes from Kelly in the future.
MacArthur	Kelly is fantastic at making sure students understand the materials before moving on, and can clarify even complex principles very quickly.
MacArthur	Her lectures were helpful.
MacArthur	She cycled through using all of her boards so that information stayed up for a while for us to see. She wrote big and clear.