

Mandelstam, Yelena (MATH 74 DIS 101 Transition to Upper Division Mathematics (EVAL FOR GSI)) - Fall 2022 (Instructor Version)

Project Title: **Fall 2022 Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **22**
Responses Received: **8**
Response Ratio: **36.36%**

Subject Details

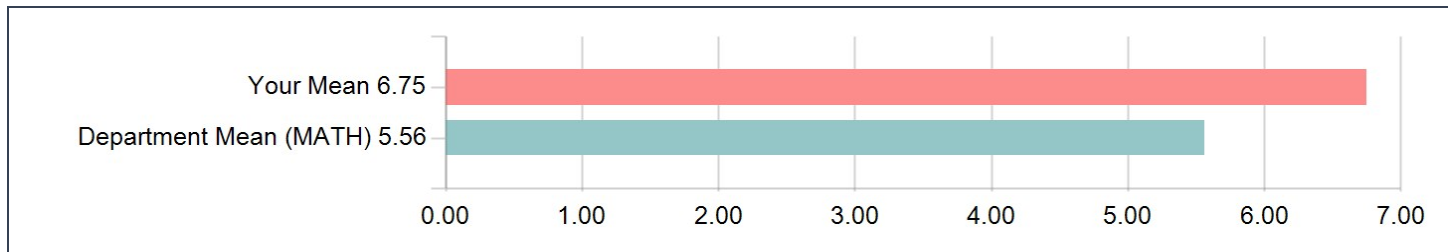
Name	MATH 74 DIS 101 Transition to Upper Division Mathematics (EVAL FOR GSI)
DEPT_NAME	MATH
DEPT_FORM	MATH
EVALUATION_TYPE	G
First Name	Yelena
Last Name	Mandelstam

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Please note that "Department Mean" for each rating question is calculated using all sections in your department. This may include both Faculty and GSIs depending on whether the department has selected a question item to be used for both.

UNIVERSITY WIDE QUESTIONS (QUANTITATIVE/RATING):

The items in this section are asked across all courses at Berkeley.

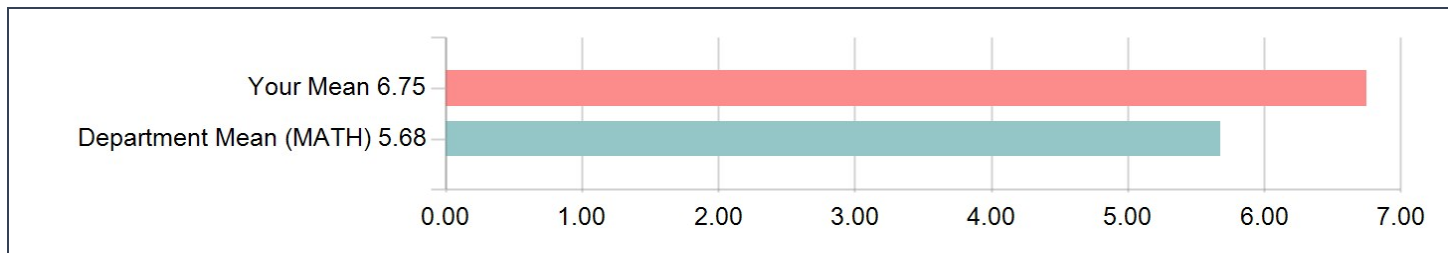
The instructor's lectures, facilitation of classes, and/or office hours and help sessions enhanced my learning. ("Learning" may include gaining mastery of course content and new skills, exposure to new methodologies and modes of critical thinking, and extending the ability to express oneself on the topics treated in the course).



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Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
2-Disagree	0	0.00%
3-Disagree Somewhat	0	0.00%
4-Neutral (neither agree nor disagree)	0	0.00%
5-Agree Somewhat	0	0.00%
6-Agree	2	25.00%
7-Strongly agree	6	75.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.75	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.46	

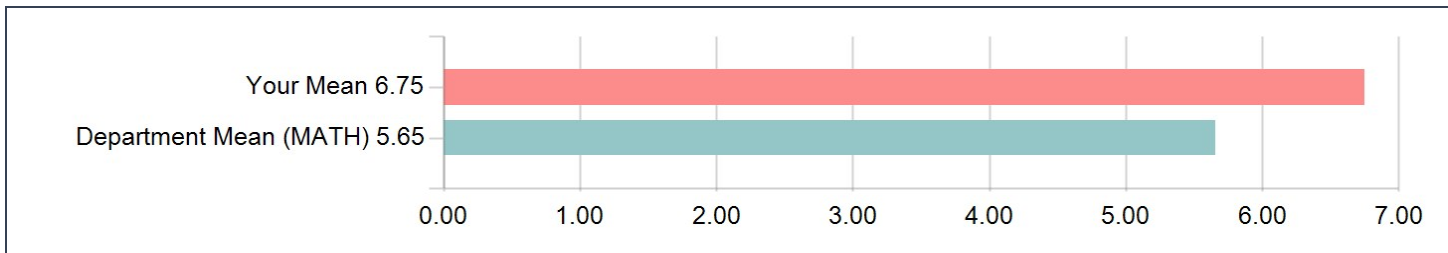
The assignments were well designed to help me understand the course material and gain a deeper perspective on the subject.



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DEPARTMENT PROVIDED INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS:

Items in this section were selected by MATH for inclusion on this evaluation.

What are the Graduate Student Instructor's strengths (i.e., preparation and organization, willingness to answer questions, attitude toward students, availability and usefulness of office hours)?

Comments
<p>Yelena is by far the greatest GSI ever! She has an incredible mastery of all of the topics covered in this course, as is evident in her ability to effectively communicate to students the many different ways—of—thinking that are necessary for bridging the gap between the relatively concrete mathematics most of us are familiar with, and the abstract concepts we were learning. Not only is she brilliant, but she's down to earth and relatable in a way that— in my experience— is seriously lacking in the higher mathematics community. I've never once felt afraid to ask her "stupid" questions— something I am almost always too afraid to do around other GSI's or professors.</p> <p>A lot of her relatability comes from the fact that she puts in genuine effort to reflect back on what she found particularly challenging when she was first learning these tough concepts as an undergrad. When we are clearly struggling with wrapping our minds around something, she reminds us that the frustration and confusion we're feeling is completely normal, and that she felt this way too when she was first learning it, before sharing the techniques/strategies that personally helped her grasp the concept.</p> <p>In the rare event that she's initially having a tough time answering a question or solving a problem— rather than freezing up, or dropping the problem and moving on— she instead walks us through her exact thinking process as she solves it, thoroughly explaining what ideas lead her from one step to the next. If she realizes that a certain problem solving technique is leading her down a dead-end, she tells us how she came to realize this, and why she's going to try whatever technique she tries next. Engaging with her in these moments of improv problem-solving has helped me significantly when it comes time to work through problems on my own.</p>
Organized and writes proofs nicely
Yelena is prepared, kind, well-dressed, thoughtful, etc. etc. Undoubtedly she was my favorite GSI this semester, and I looked forward to attending discussion each week. I felt like I learned a lot, was encouraged to participate, and could laugh at my own mistakes.
Yelena is a wonderful GSI; she has well-thought-out lesson plans for the section and is very patient with us during office hours. Yelena is always willing to go over problems or concepts we don't understand and is very responsive via email. She's a talented mathematician and a better teacher.
willingness to answer questions, attitude toward students, the usefulness of office hours, amazing energy every day
preparation, willingness to answer questions, good attitude toward students, very helpful during office hours
Incredibly helpful and clear when explaining topics. She understands the material and expresses great care when discussing and explaining important material.

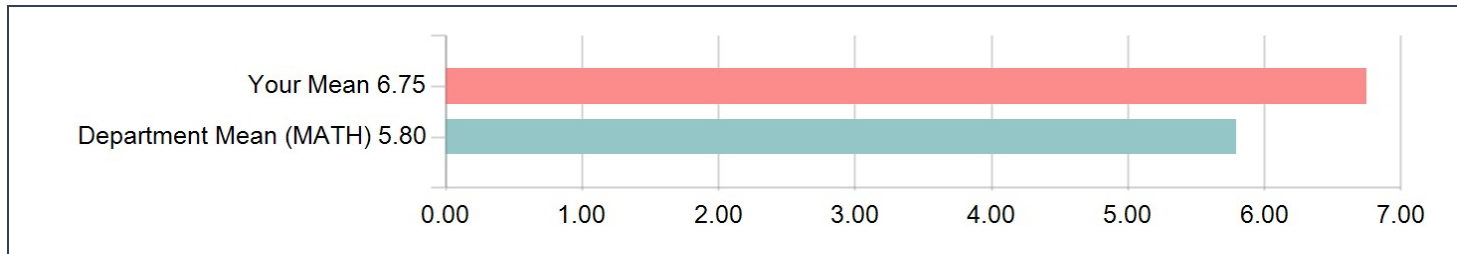
What suggestions for improvement do you have for the Graduate Student Instructor? How could the instructor improve their teaching?

Comments
Nothing! She's doing everything perfectly!
Change nothing.
Honestly, I can't really think of anything. I had a wonderful time with Yelena!
Just being more comfortable with teaching
I think she is doing fine. There is nothing more that needs to be improved on.

Any other comments about this graduate student instructor?

Comments
I cannot emphasize enough how invaluable Yelena's instruction and advice has been to the development of my own understanding of mathematics this semester— not just in this course, but in my other two math courses as well (Math 55 and Math 110). I utilize the problem solving techniques and skills she's taught me basically every day, no matter what class I'm working on. Yelena is awesome, she is my inspiration for the kind of instructor I hope to be some day, and I am super thankful to have had her as a GSI this semester.
Just that she is very smart, kind, and cares a lot about us students.
Best GSI I have ever had

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this graduate student instructor?



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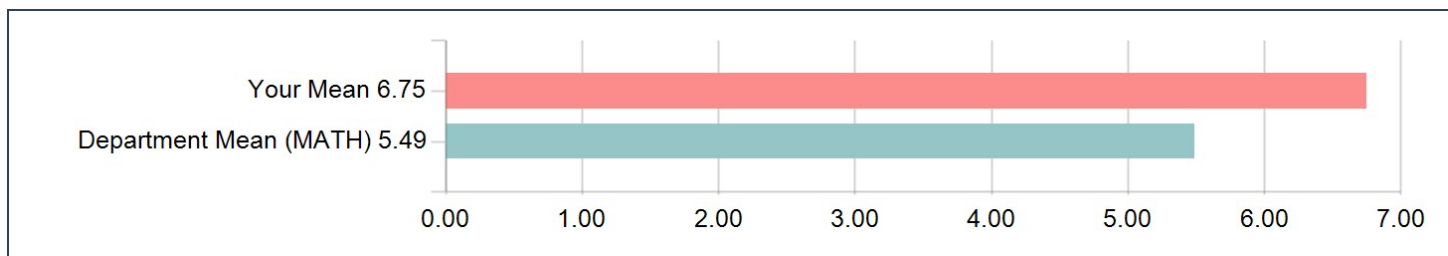
DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COURSE QUESTIONS:

Items in this section were selected by MATH for inclusion on this evaluation.

Any other comments about this discussion section?

Comments
I really enjoyed section. I liked the pace, frequency, and times it was set.

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DEPARTMENT PROVIDED STUDENT INFORMATION QUESTIONS

Items in this section were selected by MATH for inclusion on this evaluation.

Your Major? (List All)

Comments
I'm intended for astrophysics, but I'm planning to declare as pure mathematics soon.
Applied Mathematics
Chemistry, Math
Economics
Mathematics Pure
math
Pure Math