

# Mandelstam, Yelena (MATH 74 DIS 104 Transition to Upper Division Mathematics (EVAL FOR GSI)) - Fall 2022 (Instructor Version)

Project Title: **Fall 2022 Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **22**

Responses Received: **12**

Response Ratio: **54.55%**

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## Subject Details

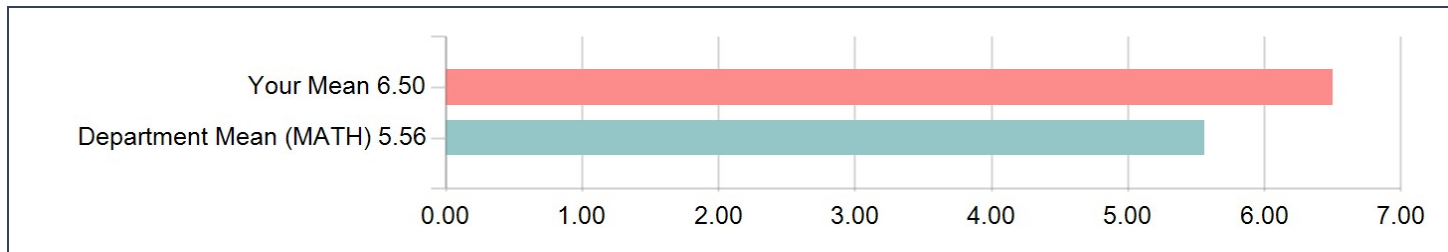
Name	MATH 74 DIS 104 Transition to Upper Division Mathematics (EVAL FOR GSI)
DEPT_NAME	MATH
DEPT_FORM	MATH
EVALUATION_TYPE	G
First Name	Yelena
Last Name	Mandelstam

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.*

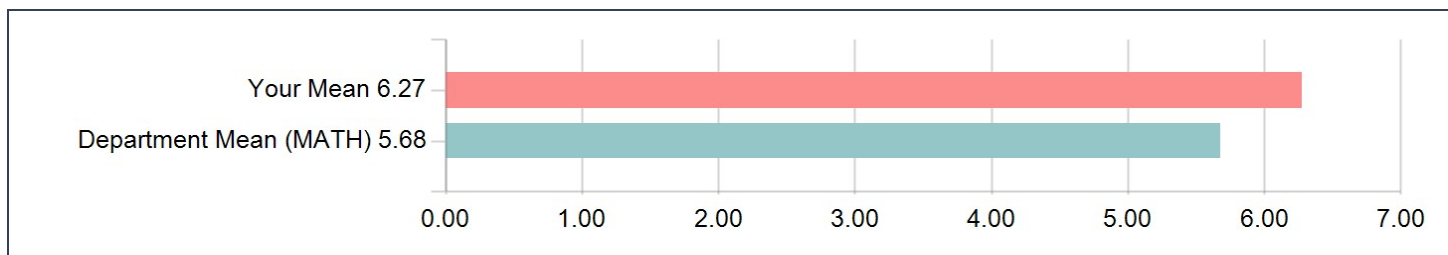
The instructor's lectures, facilitation of classes, and/or office hours and help sessions enhanced my learning. ("Learning" may include gaining mastery of course content and new skills, exposure to new methodologies and modes of critical thinking, and extending the ability to express oneself on the topics 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	2	16.67%
6-Agree	2	16.67%
7-Strongly agree	8	66.67%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
Mean	6.50	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.80	

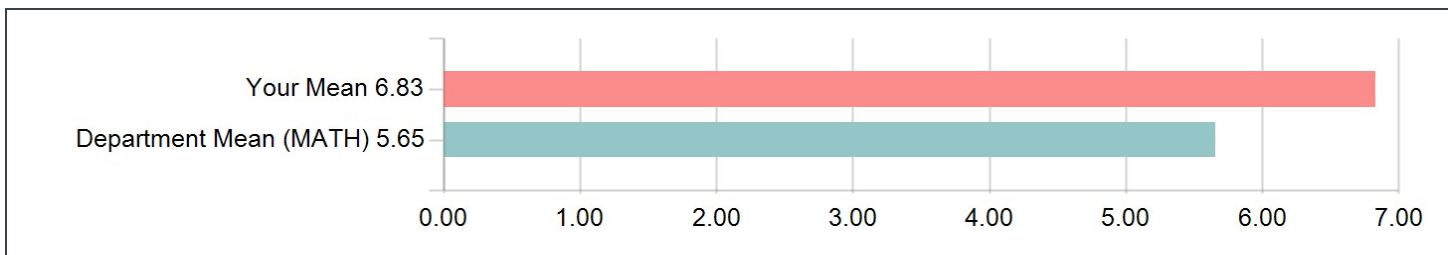
The assignments were well designed to help me understand the course material and gain a deeper perspective on the subject.



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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	2	18.18%
6-Agree	4	36.36%
7-Strongly agree	5	45.45%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	11	
Mean	6.27	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	0.79	

The instructor created an environment in which I could feel included (for example, encouraged multiple voices/perspectives, welcomed questions and critiques, responded to student feedback).



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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	16.67%
7-Strongly agree	10	83.33%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
Mean	6.83	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.39	

## 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
She was very welcoming and open to students' questions. Even if a student would think their question was perhaps "stupid" or "silly" she offered reassurance and ensure that the questions were valid, really creating an environment that was compatible with learning.
Yelena is very kind and understanding when explaining the subject matter and answering questions. She makes me feel more comfortable asking questions and for help. She makes the classroom feel warm, welcoming, and less intimidating. I wish I had gone to her more often for help. She made the class much better overall.
Very welcoming and approachable!!
Yelena has a very keen understanding of all the content and thus can find a plethora of ways to break down the content in a digestible manner, apart from that she is always very kind and excited to help students. She is extremely available and present in office hours.
Organized, explains and breaks down the topic really well.
Had lots of office hours and was very helpful in them, always came to section prepared, encouraged us to ask questions and work together and was very willing to answer questions. Example problems and mini-lectures in section were super helpful. The review session before the final was insanely helpful. Honestly, it's hard to say anything that doesn't sound generic because she really was just that good of a GSI. She also did a great job at furthering the goal of 74, i.e., explicitly saying the little hidden things that upper divs mention or expect to be known but don't explain and aren't covered in lower divs (like what it means for something to be 'well-defined', or how to approach problems, or that there really isn't much of a difference between strong and regular induction, and so forth).
Has consistent office hours and was willing to answer any homework questions during the strike. Very respectful towards others and created a comfortable environment that encouraged many people to not be afraid to ask questions.
Smart and super friendly.
This GSI's strengths include willingness to answer questions, a positive attitude towards students, and had significant availability outside of class as a supplement for student learning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One of Yelena's many strengths is her approachability. Even students who are usually too timid to approach professors/GSI's are not afraid to approach her to ask questions or get clarification. She answers questions and provides explanations without making the other person feel dumb. There is absolutely no hint of judgement from her even when I feel like my question is too simple. I've spoken to many other students who agree. There was a student from the same discussion section as me who had a habit of qualifying their question with "This may be a dumb question but...", and I overheard Yelena encourage her in private to be more confident because their questions are never 'dumb.' That's just the type of person she is. :)</li><li>- Yelena's ability to convey difficult/complex topics/ideas in an extremely digestible and creative manner is truly exceptional. She is very good at simplifying ideas/definitions, a testament to her own mastery of the subject. She always tries to give a lot of visual aids and provide useful analogies which help me and other students a lot. I have years of experience tutoring Math and other subjects and wish to become a tutor here at Cal. I will be incorporating some of her teaching style/techniques to become a more effective tutor.</li><li>- Yelena always asks if students have any questions. She has called on me many times before I could even fully raise my hand. It's amazing how she can immediately tell/notice when a student is about to raise their hand to ask a question. She is very good at reading people's expressions to gauge their understanding and anticipating possible moments of uncertainty from students.</li><li>- Yelena gives other students chances to participate. She always waits for other students who haven't said anything that day to raise their hand to provide their thoughts.</li><li>- Yelena's passion for Math is contagious. Her discussions are never boring and always keeps me engaged. I always look forward to going to her discussions. I never failed to miss a discussion except one, but that was because I was extremely sick and just incapacitated. On average, I yawn about 10-15 times in a 1 hr lecture. I don't think I've ever yawned once during her discussions. But in all seriousness, having her as my GSI helped develop my interest in Math further.</li><li>- Yelena is effortlessly funny. She never fails to make the class erupt in laughter and elevate everyone's mood.</li><li>- Yelena enjoys teaching and genuinely cares for her students. She always stays several minutes after discussion time has ended to keep answering questions. She constantly reminds us that, despite whatever grade we get, we have learned a lot and have come a long way, which is the most important.</li><li>- Yelena is great at helping others develop a more positive attitude toward Math. She would keep reminding us that 'intuition' is simply a synonym for 'experience.' I held tightly to these words throughout my first semester as a transfer here at Cal. It was a source of strength whenever a concept/problem seemed too challenging or elusive upon first impression. It helped me get through a lot of challenging concepts/problems in my first Math class here at Cal, and it gave me the confidence to continue pursuing the Math major. It also helped me a lot in my Data 8 class, as someone who does not have much prior experience in coding. Yelena's positive influence extends beyond just Math 74.</li></ul>
She is the greatest GSI that I have ever met in terms of preparation, organization, willingness to answer questions, good attitude toward students, and availability of office hours.

Comments
The sessions were really engaging with instructive examples. Yelena really cares about teaching. She gives us tips on how to approach and think about problems and is always willing to answer questions.

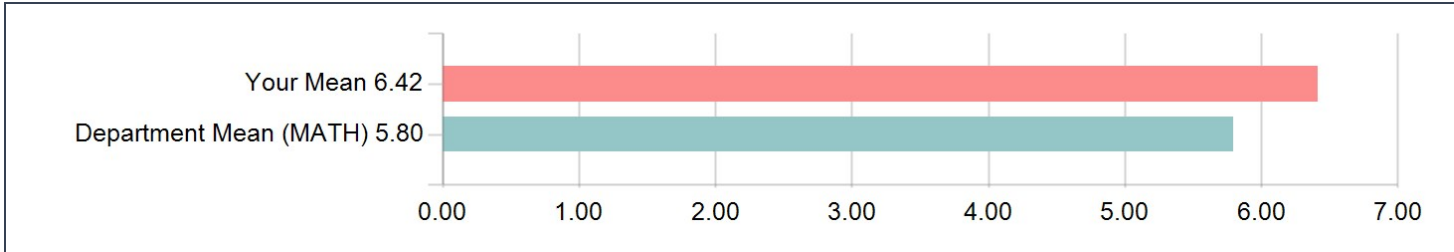
**What suggestions for improvement do you have for the Graduate Student Instructor? How could the instructor improve their teaching?**

Comments
I'm not sure
I think that the course should not focus on proving a bunch of examples and rather use other methods to improve proof building techniques,
I would have liked mini lectures about the material before jumping into proofs and examples.
No suggestions for improvement; loved section.
No suggestions thus far
No.
N/A
I don't know Yelena's plans for her professional career, but she can't go wrong pursuing a teaching profession and becoming a professor.
No suggestions at this time.

**Any other comments about this graduate student instructor?**

Comments
Please pay the GSIs well. Our GSIs are teachers and they work really hard to help us. We need them.
It was a privilege to have Yelena as a GSI, she was always approachable and encouraging to her students.
Very helpful and easy to approach
I found this GSI more helpful than the main professor for the course and discussion section more useful than lecture.
She is the BEST GSI I ever met in Berkeley, PERIOD.
N/A
I usually don't bother providing a lot of thoughtful comments when doing evaluations because they take too much time or it's simply too hard to come up with them. My experience having Yelena as my GSI makes it easy, and I figured it's the least I could do to thank her for helping me a lot in my transition to upper division Math. I don't think even think my account of her teaching does her justice. Yelena, including other student staff in my other classes, made my first semester here at Cal a lot more enriching. They were the most instrumental in helping me understand/master course content.
N/A

**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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Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	2	16.67%
6	3	25.00%
7-Extremely Effective	7	58.33%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
Mean	6.42	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.79	

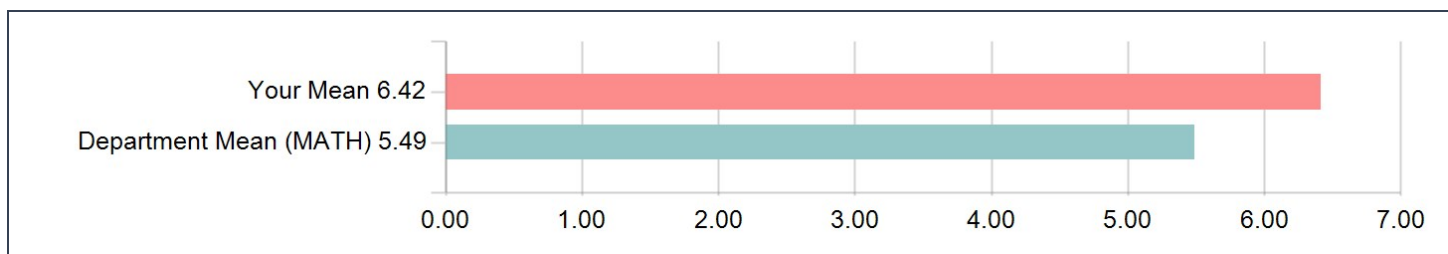
## DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COURSE QUESTIONS:

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

Any other comments about this discussion section?

Comments
n/a
The discussion section is FANTASTIC! I really enjoy the learning.
N/A

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



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1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
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4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	2	16.67%
6	3	25.00%
7-Extremely Effective	7	58.33%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
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Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.79	

## DEPARTMENT PROVIDED STUDENT INFORMATION QUESTIONS

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

**Your Major? (List All)**

Comments
Applied mathematics
applied math
Data Science
Applied math/intended cs
Applied Mathematics
Engineering Physics
Applied Math – Data Science concentration
Applied Math
Applied Math and Data Science
Applied Mathematics w/ Data Science minor
Mathematics
Mathematics.