

# McGill University Course Evaluation



## MATH 371 : Honours Algebra 4 - Lecture Section: 1 CRN: 614

**Term : Winter 2010**

**Instructor(s) : Dr Bryden Cais**

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### Comments for question 1 : Overall, this is an excellent course.

1. I started off not being sure about how much I'd like yet another algebra course, but in the end I found it to be both challenging and rather interesting. I think the course allowed me to look at algebra in a whole new light.
2. Covers so much material, but does it in a natural and enjoyable way.
3. Great material, great teacher As an aside, we spent quite a bit of time studying rings and domains at the beginning of the semester because the teacher who taught Algebra 3 last semester did not cover them (she preferred to teach us a relatively obscure area of group theory related to her research instead...). I feel we could have gotten a bit more out of this course if we did not have to spend as much time on ring theory.

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### Comments for question 3 : Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

**Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. I think you have to be born with an ability to teach and Bryden's got it! He's mastered the teaching formula. By presenting the material in a structured way and giving many examples and motivations for the material being presented as well as many suggested exercises, I never felt lost and was always able to follow easily though a subject which isn't. What I'm trying to say is that Bryden makes algebra look easy and fun which in the end really helps.
2. Hands down the best mathematics professor I have EVER had!
3. One of the best teacher I have had so far.
4. I don't really know what to say except that he is an excellent teacher... He explains the material very clearly and often motivates the results by telling us how it is applied to more advanced subjects of algebra. He introduced the basic language of modern algebra (ideas of categories, universal properties, etc) which I feel will be extremely useful when we come across it later in our algebraic life. He is available both inside and outside class. He would often send an e-mail after class if he felt that one of the proof or example he just did during the morning lecture wasn't clear enough to give more details.

**Comments for question 5 : The instructor was well prepared for class.****Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. Some teachers ask what we were doing last time or where were we at. Bryden is on top of things and knows what we were doing. His notes are very structured and organized and make for easier studying later on.

3 blank comments were skipped.

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**Comments for question 6 : The instructor was available to students outside of class.****Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. I've never gone (at the time I'm writing this) to his office hours, so I can't quite comment, but he has taken the time outside of class to write us e-mails about stuff we did in class, correcting or adding to the proof, which I found really cool (I mean he could have gone over it the next lecture, but getting a message 2 hours after class about a correction makes it a lot easier to figure out what he's talking about!)
2. Could spend hours in office hours discussing problems

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**Comments for question 7 : The textbook contributed to learning the subject matter.**

1. It was the first time using Dummit and Foote and it is a great book. I would have liked to see some hints or partial solutions to the exercises, but other than that the book is great: well written, well structured, well presented.
2. Although the notes were better I think.
3. The textbook (Dummit and Foote) was not strictly necessary (or even mandatory), but the teacher followed it closely so that reading the chapters before and after class strengthened my understanding of the material. Also, the teacher often gave recommended exercises to do from the textbook, which were useful for learning.

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**Comments for question 8 : The assignments contributed to learning the subject matter.**

1. As in math in general, one learns through the assignments. These might have been on the longer side, but in the end you end up learning a lot and solidifying what you already

know.

2. However, they are often unrealistically long
  3. Maybe some were too long, but they were very useful in the learning experience
  4. They were very long to do, but sometime we would know in advance which problems were to be marked so that we could decide not to do the others if we had no time. I always found the problems relevant, both for their intrinsic interest and in the tools we needed to use to solve them
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### **Comments for question 10 : I would like to nominate the instructor for a teaching award.**

#### **Instructor : Dr Bryden Cais**

1. Absolutely. Bryden's got such passion about what he is teaching and teaching itself and it really shows. He could probably make and architect like algebra. He's got a great teaching method and is organized and really cares about the students understanding what is being taught.
2. This instructor was outstanding throughout the semester, both in and out of class through his clear teaching style and availability. By far one of the best math instructors I have ever had and I would without a doubt nominate Bryden for a teaching award!
3. Yes

1 blank comments were skipped.

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