Robert Osburn

Some Comments from UCD Student Evaluations

Math 40090 (Algebraic Number Theory), Second Semester 2008:

“I really enjoyed this course. The lecturer constantly spoke while writing and in-between. This really helps all students to assimilate the info. Speaking around the material and elaborating/clarifying really makes the lecture ‘sink in’ better. The weekly quizzes were a great way for the student to keep on top of the material as otherwise it is very easy to passively attend the lecture series and be lost until you make time to study all at the end before an exam. I can’t stress enough how I enjoyed the layout. It was story-like, i.e. it had motivation (where are we going?), a beginning, middle and end and an excellent narrator. 

“I like everything about this course. It was based on very interesting subject matter which was clearly and enthusiastically explained in such a manner as to infect every student with a desire to know more. A clear and well-rounded picture of the area was given, including parts yet to be discovered. I found the continuous assessment great. One of the best courses I have ever taken. Excellently taught. 

“The lectures were clearly delivered and a lot of effort put in to provide for participation by way of exercises within individual sections.”

“Very clearly taught with very good explanations and motivation of what we were doing, what we’re trying to do next and why we did each step. Continuous assessment was good and made sure I kept up with the flow of the course. Excellent!”

Math 10040 (Numbers and Functions), First Semester 2008:

“Very interesting course which I did enjoy. Thank you for a pleasurable first semester!!”

“You are very enthusiastic and passionate about the course.”

“I really enjoyed the module. I think it improved my understanding of mathematics. We learned many Theorems and what I liked is that we were always proving them (in school, when we got the formulas and I asked the teacher why it is true, he said ‘Just take it as it is’). So I like that we were developing proof techniques. Lecturer was always available after classes so that we could ask questions. It was VERY helpful. You are a very good lecturer.”

“You’re very enthusiastic which makes the course more enjoyable.”

“The lecturer was very helpful outside of lectures and was very patience. Cheers for all your time and effort.”

“I really really enjoyed your lectures and the module. Although the material was quite difficult at times, I found you were very helpful when I had questions. Truly the most awesome lecturer I’ll ever have and I hope I’ll be in more of your lectures.”

“Along with Professor Unger’s class, it was by far my favorite module this semester. You’re awesome!!!”

“You’re probably the most enthusiastic lecturer I have.”

“An excellent and very interesting course which greatly helped my understanding of mathematics.”

“I found this module extremely enjoyable and I found the lectures very well planned (started/finished exactly on time, never left hanging in the middle of a proof!). At first I found that fact that the notes weren’t available to be a drawback but I must agree that it was a good idea not to post the notes as they need to be written and understood by the student. Lecturer’s email response was excellent and helpful.”

“Fun, enjoyable and interesting course. The way there were little to no notes online encouraged attendance. There was a recap of the last lecture in the following one, very helpful.”

“Enjoyed the course. It was an enlightened view of mathematics compared to second level study. The non-use of Blackboard was very effective in the learning process. The taking of your own notes and attendance of all lectures helped one to get more involved and familiar with the subject material and particularly suited this course.”

“Difficult, interesting. Needs a next semester follow up.”

“The lectures were stimulating, interesting and challenging which is definitely positive. Your enthusiasm with the
course was inspiring, the classes were all quite enjoyable (tough though!)."

“I thought this course was great. It definitely deepened my understanding of mathematics. Sometimes the contents of the course were tricky to grasp in class, but were fine when I went home and revised them.”

“Crazy intensity. Don’t know how the hell you manage it. Good hustle.”

“Very challenging course. Not complicated, but very hard.”

“I thought this course was very interesting and advanced my knowledge of maths. The course is well laid-out and assessment is fair. I believe writing on the board is essential to keep up and attend and it is a better method of learning. Thanks.”

“Dr. Osburn was very approachable and I enjoyed the module immensely.”

“Continuous assessment was excellent for making us learn the course. Love being taught by someone who is genuinely interested in his work. Challenging, hard, but rewarding.”

**MST 30010 (Algebra and Applications), First Semester 2008:**

“I am very happy with the course. Good speed in lectures. Overall, I enjoyed and now understand better the course of Algebraic Structures from last year. Thank you.”

“It was explained very well by the lecturer and examples help a lot to illustrate theorems. Thank you very much.”

“Really well structured and good examples that were similar to tutorial ones so we could get through (or started) on tutorial questions on our own.”

“I found this module very good. Having struggled with Algebraic Structures last year I found the lecturer cleared up a lot of what I found difficult.”

“I really appreciated the lecturer’s enthusiasm for questions and never felt awkward about asking. I also enjoyed his apparent enjoyment in the subject.”

**Math 10070 (Introduction to Calculus), Second Semester 2009:**

“Great lectures, thanks! Explained clearly. Thanks again.”

“Thank you for a well taught, interesting course.”

“Very good lecturer. Explained everything clearly. Easy to listen to. You rock!!”

“You do a great job, very helpful. Don’t change a thing about how you lecture.”

“Very good module.”

“I found the lecturer for this module was excellent and presented the material very confidently. He was very helpful and ensured that students had a clear understanding of the topics. I found the use of the overhead projector and writing out the notes during the lecture was particularly effective as with maths it is important to follow problems step-by-step. I would recommend this method.”

“You are amazing!! Explained things so clearly making maths understandable. Also very approachable if we had any problems at all. Getting us to constantly write and work out problems in lectures kept us focussed. You are great!!”

“I found the use of the projector instead of the Blackboard very helpful as it made you pay attention in lectures. Homework and practicals were available promptly and this is very useful for studying. Great teaching!!”

“I think that the lecturer was very helpful and attentive when I had problems. He gave us a greater understanding of the subject and now I feel I can complete maths problems more efficiently and quickly.”

“It was good the way we had to take our own notes in class.”

“I think it was very beneficial to have to take down all the notes ourselves in the lectures. You were a very enthusiastic lecturer. The midterm exam was helpful in getting us to revise early on in the semester.”

“Fantastic lecturer. Very interested in students learning outcomes. Very helpful.”
“I think it’s good to continue NOT putting your lectures on Blackboard because it encouraged / made me come to the lecture and take notes. The notes you wrote out on the projector were clear. Thanks very much. Good luck in future lectures!”

**Math 40280 (Algebra for Graduates), First Semester 2009:**

“So much energy! He uses many examples, exercises, he was always available for students. He has a nice sense of humor and it is obvious that he loves teaching!”

“Weekly exams were a very good idea, my understanding of the course was greatly improved by them.”

“I found this course to be very interesting due to both my previous interest in the area and the excellent teaching ability of the lecture. The classes were well planned and contained good examples to demonstrate the theory. I found the weekly quizzes a good way of learning and keeping up with the course. All in all, this was an excellent course.”

**Math 10040 (Number and Functions), First Semester 2009:**

“Even though I thought the module was difficult, I throughly enjoyed it and found it very interesting. It is the only one of my modules in which I attended every lecture.”

“I have been pretty fortunate over the years to have had a lot of enthusiastic, inspiring maths teachers. I am glad to be able to add you to this list! One common feature on this list is going outside the strict curriculum to cover interesting things and give a wider picture of what’s happening in maths, how the material is relevant, etc. This is always welcome. Also, being available to answer questions/ take emails (approachable) is very helpful.”

“My favorite class. I thought you kept us interested and thoroughly explained everything really well.”

“Dr. Osburn is clear, concise and extremely enthusiastic. His availability outside lectures is a huge benefit towards his students. The way he encourages students to ask questions is a giant help. Numbers and Functions was certainly not the easiest module I took, but Dr. Osburn made it as doable as possible. Keep it up!!!”

“Extremely helpful lecturer. Really helped me when I fell behind. Always willing to give up time to help.”

“The fact that you did not put your notes up on the internet was a great incentive for me to actually come to college. Good thing.”

“My favorite module of this semester. Favorite subject given by my favorite lecturer.”

“This was without question my favorite module this semester. I checked the modules I’m registered for next semester and was very disappointed that none are taught by this lecturer!”

“While some of the concepts may have been difficult, Osburn’s enthusiasm never faltered. This made it an interesting lecture.”

“Prof. Osburn is a brilliant teacher, very helpful but sometimes fast. ‘Recall’ session for first 5 minutes was great.”

“Really helpful outside lectures! Thanks.”

“Sound lecturer, enjoyed his classes. He’s obviously very motivated when it comes to mathematics and is very good at explaining it. Hope to have more with him in the future.”

“I really enjoyed your lectures. You’re very funny and the course was so interesting, not too strict. You always said a few jokes and the atmosphere in the class was great. You’re an absolute genius, a legend. Thanks.”

“Dr. Robert Osburn is clearly passionate and enthusiastic about his work. His commitment to teaching the science of number theory is second to none. He helped me greatly over the course of the semester, replying promptly to my emails with detail. Overall, I wish him the best and I thank him for giving me a rewarding experience of Numbers and Functions.”

“This lecturer was very enthusiastic, dynamic and interesting. I have never before had a lecturer or teacher who has piqued my interest in a subject so much. The main positive point to take was his energy and enthusiasm.”
Math 10110 (Math for Business II), Second Semester 2010:

“I think the quizzes are an excellent idea, to pick up marks along the way. Also I think you are a great lecturer, one of the best we have had. Very clear and available after class to help with any problems/questions we had.”

“The lecturer was fantastic and explained things very well. Thank you very much.”

“The lecturer was the best maths lecturer I have had in UCD apart from maybe Sean Dineen.”

“The lectures were very good. They were well explained and very interesting. It was interesting to learn. The quiz every week was a good idea. It meant that you kept up with the work.”

“The lecturer was very helpful and willing to work outside of hours if you were in difficulty. Although the material was hard, it was very clear and easy to follow. The test every week was very useful for keeping on top of the work and for revision. The lecturer was excellent and I would definitely recommend him.”

“I actually really enjoyed this module. I have to admit that in the beginning I found the course content quite difficult, but by the time of the midterm everything clicked into place. I think Robert is an excellent lecturer and would definitely take a module he is teaching in the future. Thanks for everything.”

Math 10040 (Numbers and Functions), First Semester 2010:

“Use of the blackboard was much more effective than with a projector with slides.”

“The best lecturer I had this year. A difficult course but was well explained and enjoyable because of the lecturer.”

“I found that the module itself was challenging but the frequent quizzes and tests definitely helped a lot.”

“Great module!”

“Very enthusiastic lecturer and really interesting lectures.”

“Lecturer was extremely clear, helpful and approachable.”

“The fact that notes weren’t on the web gave students more incentive to come to lectures which I thought was good. The topics covered were very interesting and gave me a different outlook on maths.”

“Lecturer’s enthusiasm for maths really came through. Very interesting, but very difficult. Extremely enjoyable.”

“I am grateful to the lecturer for the help that he gave in and outside of lectures.”

“‘Last time ... ’ at the start of lecturers helps you learn and remember. Like the enthusiasm. Best Lecturer!”

“The lecturer was very good at explaining the module. His notes were clear and examples were helpful. The module is quite difficult and with any other lecturer I would be a lot more worried about the final exam.”

“It was an honour to be a student in his module.”

“As seen on the previous page, your lectures and this module overall were extremely difficult to fault. Possibly my favorite module!”

“The way the notes are written on the blackboard is the best way to deliver the lectures I think. Only this module and Dr. Unger’s module use the blackboard. All my other lecturers use slides and the lectures are more difficult to follow and especially in maths it can be difficult to see the link between one slide and the next.”

“Always interesting and enthusiastic. Good fun and down to earth.”

“Great module overall. Great topic, interesting and challenging. Very stimulating. Easily the most interesting lecture all semester.”

“I found the lectures interesting overall and the lecturer was very good at explaining. Topics covered were interesting and different to most maths I have done before. It was clear that the lecturer was really interested in Maths and it made him very easy to listen to and learn from. I would strongly recommend this lecture and lecturer to other students. This module was one of my favorites this semester even though Maths was never a favorite topic of mine before.”

“Very clear in explanation and does what is possible to make sure students understand. You’re a legend.”
“I thought it was a very enjoyable module. I found the continuous assessment to be a very effective way of ensuring I understood the material.”

Math 10070 (Introduction to Calculus), Second Semester 2011:

“I found this module interesting. I thought that the lecturer was interesting and kept me engaged through his enthusiasm.”

“Overall, the course was excellent.”

“Dr. Osburn is clearly a very good lecturer. His enthusiasm and willingness to help is excellent.”

“The lectures were excellent. The subject is hard, but was very clearly and in understandable manner explained. It is not a subject that I wish to study, requirement for my degree, but the lectures were excellent. That helped me to learn and get high marks. Thanks a lot.”

“Overall, I found his lecture very interesting and informative. The lectures went at a perfect pace and accommodated students of all levels. Robert Osburn is an excellent lecturer and I would recommend him to anyone.”

“The continuous assessments during tutorials were extremely helpful in ensuring I kept up to date with lectures.”

“I liked how the lecturer was genuinely happy teaching maths. Thanks!”

“Brilliant man, great lecturer and ability to explain.”

“The structure of the course is excellent. Well illustrated definitions, ideas and especially the examples. Explanation and presenting lectures are well showed and discussed. Tutorials and homework problems are helpful.”

“I had you for two modules, this semester and last and although this module was easier than the last I found your teaching consistent and strong with a lot of content covered each lecture, but still well explained. Thank you.”

“Lecturer was brilliant and helpful. He was very approachable and was so willing to help students after classes.”

“I thought that Robert Osburn made this lecture more interesting and even exciting. He is a brilliant lecturer and I hope that I’ll have other lectures with him next year!”

“Maths for me is a difficult topic, however Dr. Osburn’s delivery style was excellent and this has helped to make calculus interesting and has made me determined to keep at it. Keep up the good work!”

“Professor Osburn, you were very helpful throughout the year to any queries I had and were prompt with your solutions, emails, etc. Thank you for all your help. Good Luck!”

“Dr. Osburn is an excellent lecturer and overall he’s a bit of a hero! He’s very responsive, dedicated, flexible and open-minded with his students.”

“I found the lecturer to be extremely helpful and interesting. The lecturer’s enthusiasm for the subject made it very easy to listen to and learn from. The course was very interesting and the lessons moved at a good pace.”

“I just want to say thank you so much for this brilliant module. The Irish Leaving Cert maths teachers in general explain ideas and problems vaguely with no application, but this course has strengthened my abilities in not only calculus, but algebra, etc. as well. Your notes and examples were extremely good and the idea of working the problem in real time on the document camera was excellent. I can definitely see applications for this in my Computer Science degree and will look for further modules next year taught by you. Every aspect was great and I hope to see you in the future.”

“Overall, I believed the module was a success. I believe I now have a greater understanding of the fundamentals of calculus as a result of this course.”

“This was probably the best module I have had. You somehow managed to make, what seemed like a very difficult topic, interesting, innovative and very precise. All in all thank you so much for teaching us this topic.”

Math 30010 (Field Theory), First Semester 2011:

“Notes were very clear and easy to follow. This made it much easier to understand the subject. Quizzes were also
very helpful as preparation for midterm and final exam.”

“Once again, a well delivered course. Clear and concise with lots of examples. You are very passionate about the subject which makes attending lectures and learning the material easier.”

“I enjoyed the course on the whole and thought the structure of lectures/tutorials were very good. This was my favorite class and my notes from it are very clear (due to your use of the blackboard, etc).”

“Good motivation. Clear explanations (very clear). Rigorous proofs, but the lecturer gave us the intuition in his spoken words. Exercises clarified everything.”

“Very enjoyable. Improved in my ability to think abstractly and be more creative when writing proofs. Problem sets were very helpful and examples during lectures gave good guidance for them.”

Math 30070 (Advanced Calculus), First Semester 2011:

“I found this module very well laid out. Liked how it goes from step to step.”

“Great lecturer. Very passionate and open to any questions. Subjects covered were interesting and built upon previous knowledge. Very well structured. Every day was planned out in detail.”

“I feel that the quizzes are an excellent idea as they kept me constantly engaged in the material throughout the semester as opposed to leaving all revision until the end. The availability of the lecturer outside of lectures was excellent and a real help.”

“Really enjoyed this module. Excellent lecturer.”

“This was my most interesting class this semester due to a combination of the lecturer’s clarity and the fascinating subject matter. The lecturer’s enthusiasm and ability is beyond reproach. He did well to assume no prior knowledge of the subject. A+”.

“I thought the module was structured very well. I hadn’t taken a course like this before, but I found it easy to follow. I wouldn’t have attended as much if lectures notes were available online. So I think I benefited from there being no online lecture notes.”

“The notes are complete and very well structured so that they’re clear enough to be used almost independently.”

Math 40090 (Algebraic Number Theory), Second Semester 2012:

“Enjoyed the course. I found it challenging, but rewarding.”

“Excellent lecturer. Very enthusiastic. Lectures very well organized.”

Math 40240 (Combinatorics), First Semester 2012:

“Once again, great lecturer, very passionate, keeps things moving and subject matter fresh.”

“A very enjoyable class, very different to anything I had done previously. Lecturer highly enthusiastic with great clarity and good humor. Easily approachable. Tutorials helpful and interesting problems provided.”

“The best part of the course was that everything was presented in front of us in class on the blackboard. The quizzes and exams were straightforward and fair.”

“I found this module quite difficult but very interesting. The lectures were clear. I would recommend this course to someone who doesn’t mind a challenging subject matter. The examples in the tutorials and the quizzes were the most helpful part in understanding the material. The lecturer was very approachable and I would have no problem asking something I didn’t understand.”

“I would classify this module as one of the more difficult modules this semester but the lecturer’s dedication to his students and his enthusiasm for the material was beneficial to my learning experience. It was extremely helpful meeting with the lecturer outside of class times. Although I still hard to work hard I instantly saw an improvement
in my understanding and my ability to approach the problems. I am extremely grateful that Dr. Osburn took the
time to assist me. I would recommend this classes to any student.”

“The lectures, board management and the explanation (including motivations) were great. Overall, I’m glad that
I took this course.”

“I really enjoyed this module. In terms of the structure of the notes and the module as a whole, I don’t think
there was much room for improvement. Overall, the most interesting module so far this year.”

“Solid Osburn module. Good material and anecdotes too!”

Math 20310 (Groups, Rings and Fields), Second Semester 2013:

“Very good lecturer. Very accessible as well.”

“Unfortunately, I did not get to have this lecturer during second year but was thrilled to find out he was teaching
this module as when he taught me Math 10040 in first year it was my favourite module over the first two years
in UCD. The structure of the course was excellent. He gave good examples and constantly linked together different
parts of course material together. One of my favorite things about the module is the way the continuous assessment
is structured. Instead of small problem sheets that were only worth 1% , giving us 5 problem sheets and having a quiz
every two weeks, I was much more engaged as each quiz was worth 4%. Overall it was my favourite module this
semester and as a result I put more work in. I missed a week of lectures at the start of the semester and the lecturer
did everything in his power to assist me catching up. Much appreciated! Hopefully, I’ll be lucky enough to have him
again in 4th year!”

“One of the more enjoyable lectures in maths. I found the fact that I had to come in for notes a good incentive to
come to lectures. I felt the continuous assessment was fair and feel that if you put in the work from the start it
counts as a massive advantage and takes pressure off at the end compared to modules with 80% final exams. All
in all, one of the better modules. I will be looking out for this lecturer when picking future modules.”

“I liked how this course had a lot of continuous assessment. I thought the lecturer spoke very clearly and
understandably and explained everything, really well. I thought this course was excellent. My ability to understand
and write proofs has improved.”

“I really found the content of this module very interesting, if a little challenging at times. I think waiting until the end
of term to put up notes online was a very good idea. If I had known notes would be online, my attendance at lectures
would definitely have dropped. Having only 40% of the grade going for the final exam really takes the pressure off at
the end of the year. Love the beard.”

“Excellent lecturer. Favourite module so far at UCD and favourite lecturer I’ve had.”

“The module is excellent overall. The material was very enjoyable, challenging and the lecturer was certainly the best
we have had in second year.”

“Excellent lecturer and very well constructed module. Please teach more modules.”

“Excellent lecturer. Please lecture more modules! Lecture notes were really good. The use of examples helped a lot.”

“Really good module. Really interesting and fun. Definitely my favourite lecturer so far.”

MST 30020 (History of Mathematics), First Semester 2013:

(Please note I asked the students “Why did you take this course?” and to give specific comments)

“I thought this module would be easier than my other options. I also had this lecturer before and found him
to be very good. The subject topics are interested me. Great module, very interesting. Entertaining and enthusiastic
lecturer made attending and learning much easier”.

“It sounded more interesting than the other option modules, in particular after I heard that it would be a proper
maths module. Also, I wanted to have you as a lecturer again.”

“Liked the lecturer from previous times. A lot of continuous assessment is a good opportunity to do well. Enjoyable
and entertaining lecture. Keep up the enthusiasm. I loved it!”

“I enjoyed your lecturing style and method of continuous assessment from previous modules so I knew it would be an enjoyable module to take. The amount of C.A. takes a lot of pressure off the final exam which is quite helpful around the end of the year.”

“Excellent presentation and very fair lecturer.”

“I found the proofs we were learning to be interesting and I knew the lecturer would make this a better learning experience for me as opposed to my other lectures. I really enjoyed this module. To be honest, I hated proofs before the class started but I really do enjoy them now which is a massive complement.”

“I enjoyed the course and found it gave me a greater understanding in solving mathematical problems. I also rather enjoyed the lecturers enthusiasm for the course and found that the quizzes improved my attendance.”

“Had the lecturer before and throughly enjoyed his way of teaching. Continuous assessment worth a high percentage of grade. Really enjoyed this class! Found the theory really interesting, even ended up looking at news articles about primes (infinitude of primes, etc), which is something I never do! Pop quizzes and mid-term are fantastic ideas. Really helped me remember more easily. All in all, good job! Thanks!”

“I picked this module when I saw that Dr. Robert Osburn was the lecturer. I did numbers and functions in first year and enjoyed it so thought I would enjoy this module too. The lecturer was really helpful.”

“I thought it would be interesting and different to other maths modules. Excellent lecturer and notes. Fair, good assessment methods.”

“One of the few math modules I was genuinely interested in. Like the lecturer. I like the amount of continuous assessment. Quizzes made sure you would always look over your notes after class. Midterm test was great to catch up on everything too, so not as much work for final exam. Also, liked the material covered.”

“My favorite module of the semester. I especially enjoyed the third section of the course because it was a whole area of maths that I had never seen before.”

“Because you were lecturing.”

“Honestly, because probability is horrible and everything else was full. I am extremely glad I took it now though. It gave much more insight into mathematics. The lecturers were interesting and although the subject matter was quite tough, I found it well explained and would recommend to other people who are willing to put in work. Anyone who wants to skate by would find this module extremely difficult.”

“I enjoyed the challenge of the course and it made me think a lot more about mathematics.”

“Lecturer was so enthusiastic and genuinely interested in the subject and made it as enjoyable and interesting as possible. Quite detailed course but notes were so clear. Overall, really enjoyed this subject.”

“We would like to see you in other modules. Thank you very much for your help.”

“I heard that the lecturer will be Dr. Osburn, so definitely took the course since I’ve taken his classes before and really enjoyed the lectures.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed your lectures and I would like to see you more. You were so responsive to our questions and requests and I love the way you knew our names, first time I’ve seen that. I loved this module. Thank you.”

MST 10020 (Calculus II), Second Semester 2014:

“Robert is a great teacher who is passionate about the subject of mathematics and teaching it. Taking this module really triggers my interest in mathematics. During the lectures, he always gives a nice, balanced mix between theories and examples, which greatly improved my intuitive understanding and ability to tackle difficult exercises.”

“Amazing lecturer. Very clear and concise. Holds his students as his highest priority. Offers himself to the module, available to help at any point needed, unlike alot of lecturers I have. I think another aspect that improves your ability to connect with students is your enthusiasm for Calculus. It is evident how in love you are with the subject and the positive vibe rubs off on your students. This ‘positive vibe’ is incredibly effective, you have no idea, as opposed to a boring lecturer that is depressed about what they teach.”

“I found this module very interesting. This coursework flowed well as each new topic was a logical progression from
the last which gave a strong structure to the module and a strong sense of the module being an overall package rather than random different topics. I thought the lecturer was fantastic. His enthusiasm and passion for the subject was clear and help spark interest in the coursework. I would definitely take modules that he is teaching in future years."

"Great lecturer, great lectures, interesting and I would choose a module in the future if he was the coordinator."

"Lectures were very interesting and were delivered at a good speed. The course material was good and not too difficult."

"The lecturer was easily the best lecturer I’ve had so far at UCD. Very engaging and at times entertaining."

"Good lectures. Clear and well structured. Made the material more understandable. Kept it interesting. Would definitely recommend to other students."

"You made 9am lectures worth coming in for. Your energy and enjoyment of calculus actually changed my perception of calculus (I didn’t like it). Easily the best lecture and lecturer I have."

"Lecturer explained this module very well. Examples of questions really helped understand. Midterm practice exam extremely helpful."

"Very enthusiastic and cheerful, has a passion on your teaching. Approachable."

"Brilliant lecturer, explains very well. Makes concepts easier to grasp."

"An excellent lecturer. Clear and precise and always available when assistance is needed."

"I found the course structure very interesting. Every theory was explained with an example which helped build understanding. The course was structured very well and I wouldn’t say it needs any changes."

Math 20310 (Groups, Rings and Fields), Second Semester 2014:

“Layout of continuous assessment is very fair and takes pressure off final exam. Lecturer’s enthusiasm about the subject adds to lectures greatly. Willingness to spend time answering questions outside of class was also very good.”

“I do not like abstract math but somehow I found myself enjoying this class. Lectures were well organized and concepts were explained thoroughly. Teaching wasn’t stale (It is a rarity in math courses, unfortunately). This was my most difficult class because the material was more conceptual and harder to grasp. Professor Osburn used thorough examples and was very responsive to student queries and concerns. Overall, I really enjoyed the class and learned more in the course than in any of my others this semester. Thank you.”

“Lecturer’s engagement with class and genuine enthusiasm for the subject made for a great learning environment in class.”

“I thought the structure of the module and the continuous assessment made a difficult subject much easier to understand.”

“Very good maths lecturer. Quizzes structure encouraged understanding of course as opposed to just copying from lecture notes. Engaging lectures.”

“Lecture notes were very easy to follow. Lecturer was very available, especially when you’ve missed lectures or in-class test. Very approachable and friendly which made it alot easier to ask questions. Lectures were really interesting which made attending nine o’clock much easier. Tutorials were extremely helpful. Having the midterm be worth such a large percentage helped to study continuously. Quizzes were appropriate for the material we had covered. Exercises given in lecture notes forced you to practice skills learned in the course.”

“Lecturer was very good at explaining and keeping the lectures interesting by engaging with the students. Lecturer was very understanding to sports commitments and was available to carry out missed quizzes. Also I felt I could ask questions if I didn’t understand and email if necessary at any time. Having the notes to be be written in each lecture is good because it keeps the student engaged and the quizzes every second week definitely improved my knowledge and understanding. By far, the best MATH lecturer I have had because you made the course as easy as possible in all ways.”

“I found the content of this module quite difficult, however the lecturer was always willing to help when possible. Lecturer always responded quickly to emails which I found extremely helpful.”
“I found the content of this lecture extremely difficult, especially the proofs as I am still unsure how to begin and tackle these. However I thought the lecturer was excellent throughout the module. I especially liked the fact he made me feel comfortable emailing him when I had problems and explained things excellently when I went to his office when I was having difficulty. This is the first lecturer I have done this with. I thought the quizzes were useful throughout the course. I liked that the notes were not put on Blackboard as it encouraged me to attend lectures which benefitted me. The lecturer was understanding if you missed a lecture.”

“Continuous assessment was good. Having tests (quizzes) every two weeks keeps work going. Not making the lecture notes available is also a good idea. It makes us go to lectures and stops us becoming too lazy. Writing out the lecture notes in the lectures is better in maths. Don’t use powerpoint.”

“Very capable lecturer. Very engaging. Good personality (sense of humour). Enjoyed the craic.”

“The most engaging lecturer I have had so far. Demands your attention in class. Notes are great overall.”

“I liked the course in general. Thanks for being so helpful with any questions after lectures and in emails. I found your explanations very clear and concise!”

“Very friendly, dedicated lecturer teaching an interesting subject. Simply knowing the students’ names can make a class be more positive and motivated to work with a lecturer. I left like we were working together as a whole. I find pure maths harder to pick up than any other field in my course (TP) but this module helped me see another side of it, which isn’t that bad! ”

“The lecturer’s preparation and the format of the course were its strong points as well as the enthusiasm of the lecturer.”

“One of, if not the, best lecturer I’ve had so far in UCD. Very enjoyable module.”

“All of this module has been one of the best that I have taken in my 2 years as an undergrad so far. I’ve enjoyed it so much that it has made me commit to doing to joint major with pure mathematics as one of the subjects where as previously I thought I would specialise in theoretical physics.”

“Very good lecturing style, very helpful. Found the course challenging, but definitely benefitted greatly by Robert. He was helpful, clear and very approachable.”

“The only module I have done where no online notes actually worked! Robert holds your attention for the whole lecture. Very approachable and gets ideas across very clearly. Large percentage of continuous assessment is great! Thank you.”

“I enjoyed the module alot. It has made me much more enthusiastic about my choice to study pure math degree.”

“You are by far the best lecturer I had this semester. You are very good at explaining things I was confused about from last year. Thank you.”

“While the lectures were fast, they were delivered with an infectious enthusiasm. My attendance may not have been exemplary, but any gaps in my knowledge are my own creation. Thank you very much. You shine in a sea of lecturers and I hope we meet again.”

“This module was taught really well. This is going to be my last MATH module but after this I’m thinking of changing my mind. The top 3 if not best lecturer I ever had. The quizzes were hard enough, but they made me try harder on the problem sheets. Quality Beard!”

“I enjoyed this module but more importantly the lecturer. It is a pleasure to have someone who understands the content and communicate that to the students. A+”

“One of the most enjoyable modules I’ve done so far in terms of engaging with us. The tutorials were a very helpful form of assessment due to you going through problems before them. It is clear that you really enjoy teaching and want people to learn and also that you are very enthusiastic about and interested in the subject. Thanks for everything!”

“The course went at the perfect pace for me. Topics that were introduced in previous modules made much more sense after they were covered in this module, even if they were covered in less depth. This module was one of the more interested and engaging modules I took this year. Thank you.”

“I thought the continuous assessment was really good. I really enjoyed the module. The examples really helped. And even while giving the proofs, explaining them in non-mathematical ways really improved my understanding of the
material. This is one of my most favourite modules and I genuinely believe it is because of the enthusiasm and attitude of the lecturer.”

“Very engaging with the material. In my other abstract algebra modules (or the more pure math modules in general) I never particularly engaged with the material, but I developed an understanding in this module I hadn’t before. It is also the only module in which the lecturer didn’t put the material on Blackboard. I still felt this was fair and definitely was a module you benefited more from being in the lectures. I wouldn’t recommend changing this.”

“I had not been looking forward to this module at the end of semester 1. Once it started I was delighted I had taken this module. The extensive use of examples is one of the best pieces of this course; so many Maths courses are Theorems followed by corollaries and lemmas-the abstraction never gets to become intuitive and applicable. Overall, this was a highly interesting module, taught the way Maths should be-in a fun, engaging, intuitive way. Thank you, Dr. Osburn!”

“The enthusiasm and methods of teaching really aided my learning. I’m now considering switching from Applied to Pure mathematics, so I’ve been successfully converted. I’m enjoying maths a lot more now and I’ve a better understanding of these abstract algebra concepts and so I just want to show my appreciation. That is all.”