

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 thoroughly 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 lectures 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 throughly 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 a lot 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 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.”

“Overall, 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.”

Math 10040 (Numbers and Functions), First Semester 2014:

“The module is unlike any other, very enjoyable. I found my frame of mind being bent and manipulated as I learned more about number theory. This skill extends into all areas of mathematics and problem solving. Osburn’s willingness to help students is commendable and I was very grateful to have this resource. It helped me clarify a number of small details that greatly improved overall understanding. Thanks for a hugely interesting series of lectures!”

“Numbers and Functions was undoubtedly my favourite module in the first semester. The fascinating content, terrific lecturer and the abundance of continuous assessment created a fantastic combination which encouraged me to both attend and enjoy every lecture except one. Your phenomenal enthusiasm and marvelous delivery of the material through clear examples and the use of the projector truly helped. Thanks very much.”

“I have no words to describe how great this module is.”

“I really enjoyed this module and found it very interesting. Professor Osburn as a lecturer is amazing, he keeps students engaged and interested in the module through his enthusiasm and love of maths. His attitude towards lectures is what what made this module so enjoyable for me.”

“Overall, it was an interesting module using concepts which I enjoyed. Your own enthusiasm was evident which is always great for students to see.”

“Overall, I enjoyed the module. The content was interesting. I thought the lecturer was fantastic and the problem sheets helped my learning greatly. I liked the fact that there was a lot of continuous assessment.”

“A challenging course which proved rewarding and very beneficial for my problem solving ability.”

“Oh, where to start. First and foremost, I would like to say how much I enjoyed this module, due (in no small part) to the engaging and interesting nature of the lectures. I can honestly say had I not had this module to come in for every week I would most likely have stayed at home to study myself. All in all, thank you for this experience. You have certainly whet my appetite for mathematics.”

“I absolutely think that the idea of not putting notes on blackboard is a great idea as it encourages students to go to lectures.”

“Really liked the lecturer, he made the lectures enjoyable even though the material was difficult. Definitely glad of the continuous assessment. It means I’m not as worried going into the final exam.”

“Extremely interesting topics covered. Great enthusiasm by lecturer which was invigorating and helpful to make the lectures fascinating. Very helpful and always available. Very dedicated and hard working. Kept lectures fun while maintaining steady learning and covering a lot.”

“The most interesting module for me this semester and one of my favorites. I loved the content and it helped me love maths again after the Leaving Cert. Couldn’t have had a better person to give the lectures. It was fantastic.”

“My favorite module of the semester. By far the most difficult but definitely the most rewarding. Thoroughly enjoyed the lectures and hope to study this subject in further detail in the future. Don’t change anything!”

“Enthusiasm was infectious. Couldn’t help but be drawn into the lecture material. Each lecture was a great performance and aided in my learning greatly. Very much enjoyed the module, regardless of difficulty.”

“Your enthusiasm was infectious. Course was challenging but interesting. A gentleman and a scholar.”

“The lecturer may well be some sort of alien. His superhuman energy and brilliant showmanship made my first experience of number theory so much fun that I wish I could do the course again next semester.”

“I really enjoyed this module and looked forward to the lectures every week. I loved the material and it only made me more interested in number theory.”

MST 10040 (Combinatorics and Number Theory), First Semester 2014:

“Robert was extremely helpful as a lecturer, he was always available to meet outside lecture time in order to give extra help to students. He responded to emails very quickly and overall was a great lecturer.”

“I really enjoyed this module, taking it as an elective outside my course (Computer Science). I thought the lecturer made the subject accessible and made it more easy to learn.”

“Very helpful when questions were asked. The lecturer always encouraged people to ask questions. The subject matter of the course can be tricky but I found it very interesting and enjoyable. This module has definitely helped my problem solving skills. The exercise sets were challenging and required a lot of extra work.”

“This module is by far the most interesting one I have studied this semester due to the lecturer’s easy ability in explaining different concepts throughout the semester. He kept the module very interesting and I looked forward to coming into this module.”

“The lecturer’s interest in mathematics is clearly shown throughout lectures. This allows the student to relate to the topic. Gives brilliant explanations and is always willing to give another example. Very fair teaching. Has a different style than most lecturers. I would like to complement this style.”

“I hated proofs in school and when I realized on the first day that the entire module was on proofs I was furious. However after about the 3rd week I started to click with it and I now prefer it to some of my other modules. Probably my favorite lecturer. Hopefully, I’ll have you in the future.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed this module. It was at times very challenging and some of the concepts took a few attempts to understand but I feel that is not necessarily a bad thing as after all we are learning to learn. As for Dr. Osburn, I thought he was fantastic! His enthusiasm towards what he was teaching really helped encourage myself and other classmates I have talked to. Great job!”

“Lecturer was very helpful in terms of availability outside of class via email and office hours.”

“MST 10040 was easily the best module I did this semester due both to my enjoyment of the course material and the quality of the lecturer. I found Mr. Osburn’s teaching style to be perfect for me and much preferred the use of the document camera to the powerpoint slides used in my other modules. The course itself was challenging at times, especially early on, but the material and explanations provided by Mr. Osburn was excellent. I found him to be extremely friendly and approachable. The continuous assessment is perfect. I would recommend the course to anyone interested in number theory, but I would recommend the lecturer to anyone. It’s a pity he’s not teaching again next semester or I would have chosen that course as my elective.”

“Hey Robert. I really enjoyed this course. I am a second year comp sci student. Taking this as an elective. Just wanted to say thanks for feeding my love of math.”

“The lecturer was extremely helpful and always going out of his way to help both inside and outside of class which was greatly appreciated. I would really like to thank Dr. Osburn for his continuous enthusiasm and constant efforts to help all students at every opportunity throughout the semester. Thanks Robert.”

Math 10040 (Numbers and Functions), First Semester 2015:

"I thoroughly enjoyed these lectures. The course material was challenging but doable at the same time. The questions often involved working in teams to solve them before the tutorials. The lecturer was very passionate which made lectures interesting and enjoyable."

"Enthusiasm almost unparalleled which made sitting through tough lectures much more enjoyable! Always quick to reply to correspondence and very accommodating outside of lectures. Great lecturer."

"Your excellent teaching ability and attitude towards mathematics has greatly improved not only my ability but also my confidence. Your humor, personality and ability are an inspiration. Thank you."

"It couldn't be clearer that the lecturer is uber-enthusiastic about mathematics and does his best to instill this same enthusiasm in students also. Much of the assessment is based on lecture attendance (indirectly) and it is clear that this is encouraged. In other lectures, lecturers tend to ask students to quiet down when starting and can often become irritated if this is not achieved promptly. However, during the Numbers and Functions lectures, when the class was started, people naturally focused immediately because of the need to pay attention to keep up and out of genuine respect (I am a full believer in respect being earned not demanded and the greatest teachers I have come across command respect with their knowledge and love for their subject) for the lecturer. The lecturer was very approachable and answered all questions with surprising speed and comprehension. Personally, I would very interested in applying for another module taught by the same lecturer."

"Although, I felt that the material was a bit difficult in parts, it was explained very well and the continuous quizzes and tests definitely helped a lot as well as the tutorials. I appreciate the quick response to emails and help outside lectures."

"Amazing lecturer. Style and delivery really helped to engage students. Made a traditionally abstract (and difficult) topic extremely interesting, unlike some other modules. The best lecturer (and teacher) I have ever had so far in my lifetime."

"Huge devotion. Very helpful all the time."

"I had no idea about what I was getting into when I signed up for this module, but from the first lecture I was hooked. The lectures were delivered in an excellent manner, always fascinating! Dr. Osburn always made himself available and answered all the emails. I can't wait for another module lectured by Dr. Osburn."

"This was the most interesting module that I studied this semester. The tests were difficult but the classes were really interesting, the lecturer was fabulous, always available to answer emails, etc. Can't wait to do his module (fields, rings, group theory) in 2nd year. It was definitely my favorite of semester 1. Thanks for being such a great lecturer."

"Lectures were very interesting and the content was intriguing and challenging. As I said in the online sisweb review, your lecturing is second to none. Your passion and love for the subject coupled with your broad and deep knowledge of the topics at hand led to quality teaching and dare I say possibly switch from a preference of physics to maths! Thank you for an enjoyable module. Hopefully see you in rings next year."

"The lecturer was very helpful and responsive when I asked questions. Continuous assessment and exams are well balanced. This module helps a lot with other maths modules, e.g., learning different types of proof techniques. I liked the use of examples of unproven conjectures. It was very interesting."

"The continuous assessment keeps you learning throughout. Very enthusiastic! Learning our names is a very nice touch."

"By far the most interesting lecturer I've had this semester. Great sense of humour and very motivating. Couldn't have asked for a better lecturer."

"You were fast but understandably so. There was a lot to cover and the examples clarified the parts that were unclear. Explanations of definitions and concepts helped. Effective use of camera. Enjoyed lecturer's enthusiasm. In terms of writing and theory, it was quite intensive but as before understandably so."

"Difficult subject but greatly interesting and rewarding. Fantastic lecturer. Enthusiastic and helpful. Document camera is very useful. Will take more classes by this lecturer."

"I think it's brilliant that Dr. Osburn approached the lectures with such enthusiasm. Though the module itself was difficult, I found the lectures were worthwhile and doing more difficult problems and theorems are the best way of improving standards of mathematics."

“I would strongly recommend this module to students I think are capable. I found it very challenging but also manageable. But I think it requires a certain frame of mind and a willingness to think in a different way from secondary school maths. The module helped me think about maths in a different way, rather than learning formulas I started to understand where they came from. The exit was amazing!”

“Numbers and Functions is probably my most challenging module. Robert is a very talented lecturer and kept me interested all the time which made it easier to work. He makes himself available 24/7 to help with questions and answer emails.”

“I find it really hard to complain about the module. I went to all the lectures so the notes not being online was no issue. Coming from secondary school the passion for the subject made the module so much better. That’s something I hope you never lose. Keep doing what you’re doing.”

Math 20310 (Groups, Rings and Fields), Second Semester 2016:

“Very well organised lectures. Lecturer was extremely good at explaining concepts in an easily understandable way. Absolutely no complaints overall.”

“The structure of the course was far better than other modules. In this module, problems and questions were presented and then answers/methods to solve them. Whereas in other modules it is a lot of theory with little emphasis on how to use the information.”

“Interesting, well taught course. The lecturer’s interest and passion helps make the subject come alive.”

“Lecturer was always highly enthusiastic and motivated which made the 9/10am starts more bearable. Lecturer was always quick to answer my emails, giving even more help than originally asked for. Also very accommodating when I couldn’t make a particular class test. Would highly recommend any module taught by him.”

“Although the subject matter was difficult, being a pure maths module, and having to learn how to do proofs, Dr. Osburn was probably one of the best lecturers to help me understand it. Although tough, thank you very much.”

“The structure of the lectures was great and made it very easy to look back over past sections. I really enjoyed the module even though pure maths isn’t usually something I like.”

“A great module. Challenging, but very doable. Good mix of theory and examples. Very enthusiastic lecturer, explained things clearly.”

“I found that the lectures worked well, starting from basics and never getting too out of hand. The lecturer was entertaining as always and I enjoyed his constant battle with his arch nemesis, The String!”

“All in all, an excellent module! I will definitely recommend it to any friends that enjoy pure mathematics.”

Math 20320 (Quantitative Methods in Business), Second Semester 2016:

“I really enjoyed this module. I probably could have gotten a higher grade in one of the other option modules offered for my course (BComm) however I think that covering this material will be more useful to my studies and career in the future. After taking this module, I am a lot more likely to take another module taught by you. Thanks!”

“The lecturer was efficient and friendly. It was very easy to contact him if you needed him. He had no problem answering emails any time of the day.”

“You’re very responsive and interested in the topic which makes a big difference in our willingness to learn. Very good lecturer even if I struggled with the material.”

“Overall, the module was very good. For maths especially I like going to lectures and taking down the notes.”

“Really enjoyed what the course covered. A good balance of topics and examples. Very happy to do the follow on to this module.”

“Although the content was difficult, I thoroughly enjoyed attending your lectures and your general attitude.”

“Really enjoyed this module and the topics covered. Found the continuous assessment a good way to keep on top of material. Favorite module this semester. Enthusiastic and friendly atmosphere in lectures.”

“I was very happy with both the outline of the course and the contribution from the lecturer. Overall very impressed.”

“Really appreciated your enthusiasm and willingness to help with emails and questions.”

Math 10040 (Numbers and Functions), First Semester 2016:

“The lecturer was fantastic. An enthusiastic approach always makes students more engaged with the module. A 40% final exam is also very amazing. It takes a lot of pressure off students.”

“As a lecturer, you were great. With anybody else, I feel like I wouldn’t have been as interested in the lectures and I would have had less drive to study and do the exercises/problems. You were very helpful at answering problems outside class via email. The subject matter is very tough, but I think it is important in opening the mind of the student, so for that reason I would recommend the module.”

“I really enjoyed this module. I’m a physics student but I’m really interested in mathematics so I highly enjoyed the material. I thought the lecturer was very aware of the difficulty curve and was especially aware that the class was mostly 1st years who weren’t used to this kind of problem solving. I thought the problem sheets were helpful in the sense they reflected well what was being taught in lecture (although, I did think there were very difficult sometimes). I greatly appreciate a 40% final. Please never change this. I really engaged with the material with thanks to the lecturer’s enthusiasm and passion.”

“I have to say, overall. I thoroughly enjoyed this module and the challenges it presented. I enjoyed working through the problem sheets, especially. I found them extremely thorough and they were a great source of learning. As there was a considerable amount of continuous assessment, I have managed to keep up (relatively) with the module. Also, on a final note, I found the lecturer to be extremely helpful, reliable, clear and to have the students love of maths as a priority. The 40% final exam is an excellent idea. The practice exams were a great source of learning.”

“The most interesting module I’m taking this semester.”

“The lecturer’s enthusiasm and presentation skills made the course much more manageable and are a key part of the learning of the course in my opinion.”

“The enthusiasm showed by the lecturer was infectious and made what is quite a difficult and drawn out subject, rather interesting.”

“Love the explanations during proofs and taking time afterwards to check if we got it.”

“Overall, the lectures are very enjoyable. Clear and organized notes. Great explanations. Thank you.”

“The lecturer for this course was excellent, very organised and approachable with any problems. The course itself is quite challenging content-wise but the small quizzes and in-class exams make it manageable.”

“I really enjoyed your enthusiasm for the subject and that had a positive effect for the whole semester. Watching your methods of choosing the exact correct path to take to solve each problem was very interesting. I found this subject difficult at times, but due to your lecturing skills and love for your subject, I have enjoyed this module. Thanks for all the help, time and jokes. You’re a legend!”

“Always catered to students’ needs. Lecturer was very, very, very flexible.”

“One of the best modules I’ve done yet. Extremely enthusiastic lecturer made lectures fun to attend. Really enjoyed some of the sample questions done in lectures especially the Chinese Remainder Theorem questions.”

“I’m a second year student doing financial maths, who wishes I had taken this module in first year, especially before doing maths analysis. It should be made clearer to incoming first years that this is a programme core for most maths streams. Lecturer was very good and approachable.”

“The ‘Last Time’ section was really helpful. The lecturer was a huge help and always responded to emails promptly.”

“This module is exactly what I was looking for when I came to college to study maths.”

“One of most enthusiastic, energetic lecturers I have had and probably ever will have. Robert was always so helpful and challenged us to an extent that would open our minds mathematically. I found the notation slightly difficult at first because of the volume of letters and subscripts but it was something that I got used to.”

“Great lecturer, very passionate about maths. This made me eager to do well in this module. The style of teaching

suited my learning style. Writing everything out helped me take in the information. Very good use of examples. Simple ones to ensure the students' understanding at first, then more complex ones."

"By far the best lecturer I had, really cared about the module."

"Amazing facial hair. Energy is incredible. Didn't degrade class after low exam results. Loved the class and sad I'm not going into mathematics."

"The lectures were made extremely entertaining and even when I didn't get a concept right away your attitude made things so much easier to understand."

"I loved this module. Every lecture was extremely interesting and helpful. This module was my most difficult one, by far, but never felt unfair. The lecturer was, simply, a legend. He explained everything effectively and with passion and cared about each student. I looked forward to this module every time and would recommend it to every maths student."

"Very good pace. Very well explained. Kept us interested in the module from start to finish. Brilliant!"

"Lecturer was excellent. Very inspiring and his enjoyment of the material was infectious. Even though I struggled, the module was very rewarding and enjoyable."

"This module was very interesting and very clearly explained in lectures and for anything that was unclear, a read over the notes after clarified it. I found I worked better on the problem sheets on my own (with the help of the lecture notes) or with friends who were also taking the module, rather than the tutorials. I found the problem sheets really helped my understanding of the module and helped with the first test along with the practice quizzes. I think this module is done very well. Thank you very much for everything!"

"Really enjoyed everything. Would love to continue with similar modules in the future. Couldn't recommend this module enough for anybody who loves maths. Overall just excellent."

"I really enjoyed this module. Beforehand I was usually wary of number theory and struggled with difficult questions (e.g., in the Irish Maths Olympiad). However, due to this course, I feel a lot more confident in this area of maths."

"Absolutely fantastic lecturer, interesting, eccentric, helpful. Found the content endlessly interesting to discuss and think about. Thank you. It was enjoyable and I only wish I attended more often."

"Best module this semester for me. Astronomy ranks second. The lecturer was great. I wish Robert taught more modules!! Got to learn a lot of new things!"

"I found the continuous assessment to be a massive help and a key component of the module. It made the workload a lot more manageable. The course grew more interesting and accessible over time and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

"The material covered in this module is difficult enough but necessary in order to continue studying mathematics at third level. The assessment spread out is a great idea and takes pressure off the final exam. An excellent lecturer, visibly passionate about mathematics and number theory which is more than can be said for other lecturers! Very accessible, always willing to answer any queries, etc. Great job!"

"Great, interesting lectures. Shame most other maths modules are mostly boring and dry material. Good student-lecturer connection, didn't feel like lectures as so much as conversations."

"First of all thank you so much for an amazing introduction to mathematics in UCD! Since a young age, maths has always been my passion. In secondary school I remember losing that passion for another subject (History) as a result of my teachers. This module has removed any worry of something similar happening in college. You and this module has brought much excitement to me and as a result I've enjoyed the hard work. This module has left me wanting to turn the page more and this is very important. Learning of the problems and challenges of mathematicians today is a great component! Thanks once again."

"This module is by far the most interesting for me. It is a perfect mix of problem solving, proofs, computations and of course fun! The lecturer is incredibly enthusiastic and always responds to any questions, no matter how easy or difficult the questions are (even if they're related to maths not on the course). We can see his enthusiasm for his teaching material every day and this has definitely been passed on to us. A brilliant module taught by a brilliant lecturer."

"Overall, I am glad I took the course. I thought the lecturer was great and was available to help no matter what it was with. If I saw that he was doing a module in year 2, I would sign up without hesitation. Thank you so much for everything."

Math 40240 (Combinatorics), Second Semester 2017:

“Good module overall, very enjoyable. Lecturer gives great insight into the history of the mathematics and where the topics covered span from. Thank you.”

“Lecturer was very enthusiastic. It was epic! Obvious that lecturer really enjoyed the subject. Overall, the module was a pleasure.”

“Very interesting module and taught well to further our interest. My favourite this semester. Thanks.”

“The lecturer was incredible. A clear love of the topic is evident which made learning from him very easy. Thoroughly enjoyable. The quizzes and other continuous assessment are a good idea as they take a lot of pressure off the final exam. Overall, the course could not have been any better.”

“Thoroughly enjoyed the course. Extremely interesting content and enthusiastically presented. Assessment was well structured and representative of the learning objectives. Thanks very much!”

“This was easily the best module of the semester. The lecturer, as always, was friendly, highly organized and incredibly dedicated to the students’ learning. The lecturer’s commitment to teaching is unparalleled and the assessment fantastically balanced.”

Math 10040 (Numbers and Functions), First Semester 2017:

“By far my favorite module and lecturer. Thank you!”

“Superb all around.”

“As someone who finds proofs quite hard, I enjoyed the module and think it improved my maths abilities. Also looking forward to Groups, Rings and Fields in Semester 2.”

“Well laid out lectures. Lecturer incredibly enthusiastic and helpful. Fast paced, but if you go to the lectures, good.”

“Lecturer was brilliant. Enjoyed lectures. Some of the content is quite difficult, mainly some of the proofs. Continuous assessment was great, especially quizzes.”

“Amazing module and lecturer.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed this module and the sheer excitement you brought to each lecture was so refreshing and I honestly enjoyed each and every lecture.”

“Inspirational, interesting and interactive.”

“Amazing lecturer. 11/10. Interesting content.”

“This lecturer was incredibly helpful, insightful and it was a pleasure to take this module.”

“Excellent and enjoyable lecturers. Hopefully will have for modules!”

“This was by far the most interesting module this semester.”

“By far my favourite module and favourite lecturer. Thoroughly enjoyed the content, although it was very challenging. Robert went above and beyond to help students. Thank you very much, I look forward to next year.”

“Some subject matter was hard, but was balanced with doable problem sheets. Really enjoyed this module. You made it fun with your charisma and engagement.”

“This was a great module. At the start of the module, I found the content hard and very difficult to learn. By using the notes and exercise sets and attending the lectures it became my favourite and most interesting lecture!”

“Lectures were interesting and informative, plus enjoyable.”

“The actual module was challenging. One of my more difficult ones but definitely by far my favourite, mostly down to Robert. Very helpful and engaging. Well done!”

“I really appreciate how accommodating you were in letting me take tests on other days due to sickness and me being at work during the actual tests. The work you put into this lecture/module makes such a difference and you are by far one of the most attentive lecturers.”

“Robert’s relentless enthusiasm for the subject matter helped to communicate the message and keep a subject that could be boring incredibly interesting. Easily my favourite lecturer.”

“Thanks for being so nice answering emails. Paul was great. Lecturer who cares the most. Thanks”

“Mr. Osburn showed great enthusiasm during the lectures. which helped to build a good atmosphere for learning. This enthusiasm and occasional comedy made what had the potential to be dull lectures, interesting. He was very helpful and made himself accessible for help with problems, which was helpful. His use of examples made things clear when it would be easy to get drowned in notation. Overall, Mr. Osburn’s enthusiasm and application towards his work made studying this module a pleasurable experience.”

“Robert is such a good lecturer! By far the most helpful and interesting lecturer that I’ve had so far. Cares very much about our understanding and it’s easy to see that by handing out these forms, he is constantly learning and perfecting his teaching ability. And that’s why he is a 10/10 lecturer.”

“A great module with a great lecturer. Very interesting content. Well explained.”

“Lecturer was very good at explaining the material and made the classes interesting! Lecturer responded very quickly and helpfully to student emails and questions. The continuous assessment format was very good as it did not place too much weight on one test and instead spread it out well. Lecturer was very friendly and made classes fun. Thanks for teaching us! I really enjoyed being in your class!”

“Great person and lecturer. Very passionate and good sense of humour! Found module difficult at the start but began to enjoy it immensely.”

“The lectures were always interesting and enjoyable and I’d highly recommend any first years to take more of his modules.”

“This module reminded me why I love Maths! Very useful module covering important topics and techniques delivered with enthusiasm.”

Math 20310 (Groups, Rings and Fields), Second Semester 2018:

“Fantastic lecturer. Only lecture I was motivated to go to a 9am for.”

“The content was very interesting and I feel fundamental to my future education.”

“The lecture notes were clear and very self contained and for the most part easy to follow.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed the module itself. While I do find it tough to understand, the way Robert lectures made it interesting. The lectures were fantastic and I cannot stress enough how well suited Robert is to lecturing this module.”

“Thanks for two great 9ams each week.”

“The lectures were very interesting and always upbeat. Never a dull moment! This was due mostly to the lecturer’s enthusiasm for the content which certainly passed onto us. I would recommend Groups, Rings and Fields to other students due to the content and lecturer. Although it is probably my hardest module, it is certainly the most interesting. The pace is just right and continuous assessment is regular enough, but not too often.”

“If only we had more time! Thoroughly enjoyed the course. The material in the course was interesting and well planned out: so much so that the questions I had in my head during a lecture were answered almost immediately by the Professor. He really followed a clear line of reasoning. Professor Osburn’s enthusiasm doesn’t need to be praised again, but it really contributes to the engagement with the material. Thanks again!”

“You were inspiring and passionate: the work you put into lecturing is obvious and powerful.”

“Felt that the lecturer genuinely cared about helping students to learn and manage the course. Felt that the lecturer had a passion for what he was teaching.”

“I liked the amount of continuous assessment. The problem sheets and tutorials were an effective way to learn. Very effective way of teaching and the lecturer’s enthusiasm about the subject is encouraging and helpful to learning.”

“The content of this course was challenging at times but the lecturer was very clear and helped me to understand the concepts more easily.”

“By far my best and favourite lecturer over the past 2 years. Very enthusiastic and extremely helpful. Thanks for another great semester!!”

“My most interesting module this semester. The enthusiasm of our lecturer made this module enjoyable, even if the content is extremely abstract. Thanks Robert!”

“This was a great module. I found it very interesting and well taught. The lecturer was extremely helpful with any questions or problems that students were having.”

“I liked the quizzes every two weeks. They encouraged me to revise as we went along. The notes were laid out in a clear concise way to help my understanding. The lecturer was enthusiastic and interesting.”

“Clear and comprehensive notes. Competence and enthusiastic manner of lecturer, including speed of response to questions and emails. Relevant assessments and preparation via worksheets.”

MST 20040 (Analysis), Second Semester 2018:

“I really appreciated the large amount of continuous assessment because of the difficulty of the module. It made it a slight bit easier.”

“Robert is very enthusiastic and wants to improve (a trait most lecturers don’t have and are badly in need of). His lectures are greatly improved by his enthusiasm.”

“Good amount of continuous assessment. Allows you to walk into the final exam having already passed which always helps stressed out students coming up to finals. Overall, I enjoyed the lecture and your availability and engagement with students was excellent.”

“While this module was one of my toughest, it was also one my favourites. I liked that we took down all our notes by hand because it made me pay attention and attend class. I also liked the use of continuous assessment. It kept me on my toes studying the course and is nice going into the final with a good percentage already achieved. I thought the module was interesting. Professor Osburn was very accommodating and kind.”

“Prof. Osburn was very passionate and genuinely interested in the subject matter. This certainly helped make the course more enjoyable. The website with the course material was easily accessible and Prof. Osburn was good at keeping us up to date with everything. I liked how so much of the exam grades were based on continuous assessment. This takes much of the pressure off for the final exam. Despite its challenges, I have enjoyed this module. You have been a great lecturer. Robert, it has been a pleasure to have been in your class! Best wishes.”

“Very informative and enthusiastic throughout the course. Also, very considerate of students and always made things to best suit us. Great feedback and always answered any questions in class. Overall enjoyed the module and the layout and structure of the course was very effective for understanding difficult concepts. Thanks!”

“I thoroughly enjoyed this module. The lectures were very clear, concise and interesting. At some points, I found the pace a bit too fast, but other than that I’ve had a very positive experience. Thank you!”

“Really great lecturer. Very engaging with the students. Lecture notes concise and easy to follow. Any issues students had were dealt with almost immediately and the response was always extremely helpful. Overall enjoyed this module and would recommend it and the lecturer to others.”

“The lectures were made very interesting by your enthusiasm about what you were teaching us. I appreciate the effort to learn everyone’s name. Thank you.”

“Great style and personality that is conveyed throughout. Good, well structured lectures. Would love to have Robert again.”

“The continuous assessment for this class was excellent. Keeps me engaged for the entire year. Having no notes online really motivated me to come to class which I believe is the reason I will do decent in the final exam. All in all, I really enjoyed Analysis and your method of teaching. I appreciated you learning each of our names and replying to emails so quickly, engaging with all of us throughout the whole semester. I hope to have you again next year!”

“Fantastic lecturer, always willing to help, replies to emails like a rocket. Continuous assessment was excellent. Overall, the module was difficult but I’m not overly worried because I did enjoy it because of how nice and good Robert is. I also know he’ll help me in any way in the coming weeks. My favorite lecturer to date and I hope I do well for him in my exam.”

“Really enjoyed the module. Lectures were clear and never went off topic. I am a big fan of how enthusiastic the lecturer was of this module or maths in general. Huge passion for maths certainly made me attend more lectures.”

“Bring back the chalkboards to UCD! The lecturer is really good and passionate about maths and it makes the lecture way less boring than other subjects.”

“Lecturer gave a lot of examples along with providing the proofs of statements. I really enjoyed this module. Whenever I tried to approach him for problems related to modules, he responded immediately. He encouraged us to solve the problems ahead of going to tutorials. I certainly recommend him for this module next time.”

“I found the course to be very difficult, partly because I don’t have a pure maths background. However, the lecturer’s enthusiasm more than made up for this. Fantastic lecturer, one of the best I’ve had. Thoroughly enjoyed this course!”

“I really enjoyed my time with this course. I was unwell for most of the semester so I wasn’t able to attend all of the lectures and tutorials. However the lectures I attended were always informative and engaging. Robert did a good job teaching. Everyone could tell he was passionate about the subject. Although some concepts were difficult, the explanations and examples made it a lot easier to understand.”

“Interesting module. At times conceptually difficult. Well worth doing. Great lecturer. Very likable. His love and passion for maths was evident which led to a much more enjoyable maths module than others.”

“The practice tests and having a list of topics before exams was useful. Having the tests spread out was useful.”

“Lecturer was very good. He made the subject more interesting.”

“Robert Osburn as a teacher in general was fantastic and had his lessons planned perfectly. There is no doubt he puts a lot of time and effort into structuring the module and its content. I looked forward to each of my lectures in Analysis. Robert’s engagement inside and outside of the class can’t be faulted. He responds to each and every email a student sends and is very approachable, unlike many lecturers I’ve had in UCD. He worked with us from the foundations upward which helped my learning greatly. The continuous assessment kept me engaged with the material all semester and should be continued.”

MATH 30030 (Advanced Linear Algebra), Autumn Trimester 2019:

(Please note that the students were asked “Identify up to three aspects of the module that most helped your learning”)

“Robert Osburn was approachable, receptive, and enthusiastic, as well as being fully competent as a lecturer. He was also very prompt in replying to emails, which was nice.”

“The organisation was extremely helpful. Before we even commenced the course we were given details of dates of assessment which helped for planning ahead. The assessment was based on work we had done and thus we were given a fair chance to reflect what we learned about in class and by doing the homework sets.”

“This course was taught with wonderful energy and enthusiasm. Osburn’s passion for the subject was infectious. He expected us to think independently and gave us the time and space to grapple with the material ourselves and to find our own way around it. The course was structured in a very intentional way - a bit like a poem I thought - each piece built on the last and the final lines offered a wow moment and made deeper sense of everything that came before.”

“The problem sheets worked well to cement and sometimes extend my understanding of the material from the notes. The quizzes were also fair and helped a lot in preparation for the exams.”

“The enthusiasm in class, help from lecturer, problem sheets.”

“The lecturer was very clear in his explanations and would further explain if anyone had any queries. The content had a very clear layout, in separate chapters, making it very easy to follow and understand the progression from one topic to the next. Solutions to the exercise sets allowed a full understanding of proofs.”

“The fortnightly quizzes/tests ensured I kept up to date with the material. The lectures being presented on the blackboard instead of pre-written slides/notes. Heavily weighted continuous assessment helped me to learn the subject instead of just studying it for the final exam.”

MST 30030 (History of Mathematics), Autumn Trimester 2019:

(Please note that the students were asked “Identify up to three aspects of the module that most helped your learning”)

“Having quizzes throughout the semester. Giving example exams. Being able to email questions and getting full detailed explanations.”

“The lecturer was very helpful, when we asked questions. The content was interesting, also. The lecturer was enthusiastic about the content, which improved our enthusiasm.”

“Final assessments were very fair.”

“Clear and concise lecture notes, straightforward and comprehensive continuous assessment, and engaging lectures.”

“The take home quizzes were helpful to review concepts from class, and the possibility of in class quizzes made me stay up to date with the material at all times.”

“The topics covered in the course were self-contained which made classes easier to follow as any one lecture was not fully dependent on everything covered in the course up until then. The move to the classroom in Science North was good because the 6 blackboards makes faster paced classes easier to follow.”

“Practice questions for midterm and for final. Lectures enthusiasm of the subject.”

“The lecture style was very enjoyable and informative. The lectures were very detailed, but never felt drawn out. It was apparent that Dr. Osburn was passionate about the subject.”

“Lecturers’ aid via emails, good notes. Take home quizzes.”

“The lectures were very well taught. The information presented was clear and digestible.”

“Enthusiastic and engaging lecturer! Randomised tests which made attendance mandatory! Problem sheets.”

“The topics were cool and interesting. As always, the lecturer is very good.”

“The lectures were excellent, perfectly paced. Robert is a very enthusiastic, funny lecturer. I always loved going to class, I really enjoyed the content, which all made it so much easier to learn. Robert is very easily approachable, so any exercises left in class, I emailed about most (if not, all) of them, and he got back to me quickly, always eager to help, which made the entire module much easier. Having the quizzes (in class or take home) was nice as it made me constantly keep on top of my study for this module, which greatly benefited me overall.”

“Blackboard teaching. Applications of theories.”

“Excellent in-class notes and very helpful lecturer.”

“Lectures were excellent and covered the relevant topics. Very informative and clear explanation given in notes. Random quizzes helped me push myself to revise lecture notes and what I have already learned continuously rather than last minute.”

“The lecturer made the course very well structured and his use of quizzes and question sheets really helped with understanding the lectures. I was sceptical of the use of blackboards at the start but they are much, much better than using a digital screen/whiteboard. Great to have a lecturer that is very passionate about what they are speaking about, makes it much easier to learn from.”

“The lecturer is the sweetest man on the earth. He made it clear that he will respond to all emails as soon as he reads them. Which was clear that he checks his inbox multiple times a day to cater to all of his students’ needs. This made the professor very approachable and it made me feel at ease to ask him questions. The quizzes received in lecturers were on topics and questions that we have clearly done before. So this raised my trust in the lecturer that he cares about his students and wants us all to do well. The lectures themselves were enjoyable as it was very evident that the professor really, really enjoyed talking about the topic. This in a way makes the topic easier to listen to during class.”

MATH 20310 (Groups, Rings and Fields), Spring Trimester 2020:

(Please note that the students were asked “Identify up to three aspects of the module that most helped your learning”)

“Prof. Osburn’s method of lecturing is really helpful and the enthusiasm he has when lecturing made his classes really enjoyable. He was always really helpful and was happy to answer any questions.”

“Dr. Osburn’s love for the subject and his excitement towards teaching was something I felt resonated with everyone in the class. I often resent waking up for a 9am but when I knew it was Groups, Rings and Fields it made it worthwhile. His hands on approach with tutorials and hand written notes really aided my learning and his thorough explanation. His ability to read the room on whether or not he should further explain this was something I admired and quite frankly was astounded by.”

“The presentation and layout of the notes were well presented and this made it much easier for me to follow the course content as compared to other modules this semester. I found regular quizzes based on non-graded exercise sets to be more beneficial rather than being assessed on assignments. I also found it beneficial when we were asked to check various claims/properties while going through the notes. This allowed me to take a step back and think critically about what I was learning and how would I show this claim/property was true.”

“The format of presentation of material is perfect for getting a quick, but thorough understanding of the course content. The professor’s infectious enthusiasm!”

“The lecturer was very engaging and clear. There were regular tests to ensure you were keeping up. The lecturer was very organised.”

“Clear and well explained proofs for all theorems and lemmas, regular examples to further explain concepts, continuous assessment provided motivation to stay on top of course material.”

“Helpful and understanding lecturer that is open to questions and emails. Enthusiastic teaching.”

“The module was excellent during the semester where we had face-to-face contact with the lecturer and were taught in class. The lectures were clear and concise, the in-class tests relevant and a good indicator of understanding and overall I was thoroughly enjoying the module.”

“The teaching style was really, really engaging and enjoyable. I really liked how the assessment was weighted and the emphasis on continuous assessment.”

“The lectures were incredibly helpful and clear. The format of the lectures was especially nice. The problem sets were great practice. Professor Osburn was always so willing to meet. His openness and accessibility for answering my questions helped me succeed in the class.”

“The lecturer was very good and enjoyable to listen to. I can find it hard to listen in lectures sometimes but this was not a problem here! The tutorial sheets were relevant to the material, reinforced the learning and were fun to do and the fact that there were regular rests made sure I actually did them. The lecturer was approachable and responded quickly to any emails. I sent him more emails than all my other professors put together. My favourite lecturer/module this year!!”

MATH 30030 (Advanced Linear Algebra), Autumn Trimester 2020:

(Please note that the students were asked “Identify up to three aspects of the module that most helped your learning”)

“The notes were the perfect balance of concision and clarity. There was no danger of getting lost in long paragraphs but there were nonetheless plenty of examples to make sure the topic was really understood.”

“The prerecorded lectures were really good and I found it useful to be able to replay parts of the lecture. I also found the problem sheets were a really good way of keeping on top of things and appreciated the tutorials and solutions provided. I really loved the assessment structure of the module. I really appreciated that we finished the assessment for this module early compared to others as it helped take some of the pressure off going into exams knowing that at least one module was finished!”

“The prerecorded lectures were an excellent idea.”

“The format of the lectures were really helpful: the prerecorded lectures were easy to follow and the live tutorial meant that we would ask questions. I liked the format of the assessment, it was really helpful in a pandemic year where I’m finding it really difficult to study for timed assessments.”

“The module was fantastic! An in-depth look at linear algebra and an accelerated pace really banded together the key concepts and theorems. All proofs were explained in great detail and it was clear to follow and understand. I found the small phrases to be very insightful, in particular when explaining ‘what’ or ‘why’ in the use of a proof allowed the insight as to why certain steps were necessary. The tutorials and live sessions were also again very helpful, just re-enforcing the knowledge and practical examples really brings the lecture content alive.”

“The notes and lectures were well delivered. The tutorials were comprehensive and interactive.”

“I found the written out notes posted helpful. Going through the homework sheets in the tutorials and putting up solutions for them was also great help.”

(Please note that the students were asked “Relative to your other modules, how does this module compare? Please explain further.”)

“It was one of my favourites in recent semesters. Despite covering a comparable amount of content to other modules I found it much easier to absorb than some others.”

“The content of the module would be on the more difficult side relative to my other modules. However, the way the assessment was carried out made the module extremely easy to do well in as we had a full week to do the midterm and final each.”

“This was one of my favourite modules this semester. I felt that I have learnt a lot and the lectures for this module were some of the more enjoyable online lectures I have watched. I also liked that there was a clear plan of what we were going to do from the start and I thought the module was structured in such a way that made it approachable and not overwhelming. I found that the lecturer was engaging, approachable and enthusiastic which added to the enjoyment of the course!”

“It was definitely a big help to have pre-recorded lectures, especially due to the timetabled lecture slots. I also enjoyed the use of a personalized website. Sometimes, Brightspace can have technical difficulties.”

(Please note that the students were asked “Would you recommend this lecturer to other students? Please explain further.”)

“Absolutely, Robert is very enthusiastic and approachable.”

“Yes, Robert teaches in a fun and engaging way! If you’re unable to attend an assessment, he’s perfectly happy to schedule around it (I know that from previous modules). He responds incredibly quickly to emails, in a way that makes it very comfortable to email him again. Genuinely one of my favorite lecturers.”

“Yes, I really enjoyed the lecture style of this module. I found the lecturer to be engaging and enthusiastic especially given the online format. I also really liked that we were able to see the lecturers face as well as the writing as it feels more personal and more similar to an in person lecture.”

“Yes, he is very energetic and expressive and therefore genuinely interesting to listen to.”

“Yes. Robert was always available to help and seemed to put significant effort into preparation of the notes.”