



Office of Institutional Research  
and Strategic Analytics  
California State University, Chico

PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL

## Student Evaluation of Teaching Results - Fall 2023

Thomas W Mattman,

Enclosed you will find the results of the Fall 2023 Student Feedback on Teaching and Learning (SFOT) for your course:

2238\_MATH\_437\_01\_1 - Topology

The SFOT form administered was SET\_FORMU2.

In the analysis portion, the average values of all individual questions are listed.

Written comments (if any) will follow the individual question analysis.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact the Office of Institutional Research and Strategic Analytics .

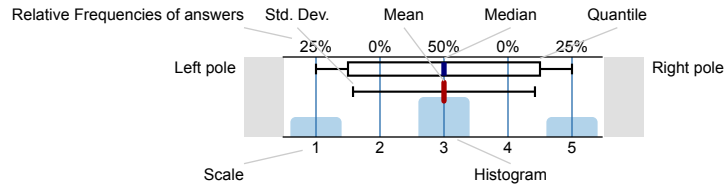


**Thomas W Mattman**  
 Topology (2238\_MATH\_437\_01\_1) Fall 2023  
 No. of responses = 8

Survey Results

Legend

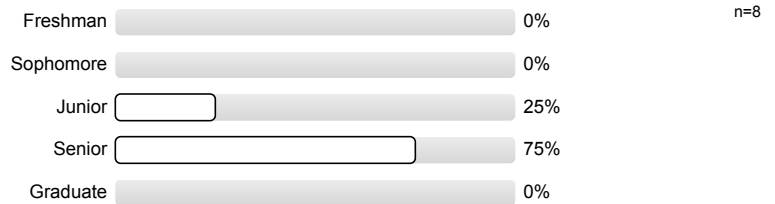
Question text



n=No. of responses  
 av.=Mean  
 md=Median  
 dev.=Std. Dev.  
 ab.=Abstention

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

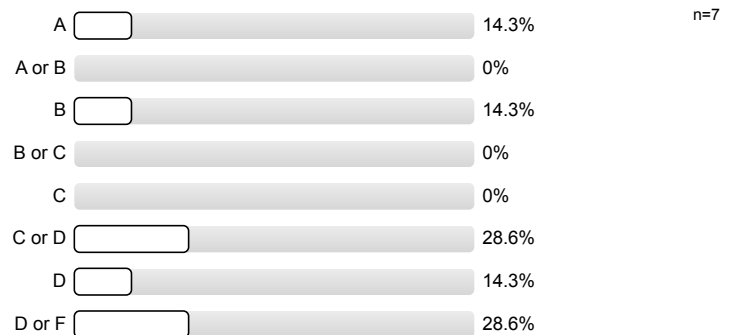
1.1) What is your current class standing at Chico State?



1.2) Was this course required or an elective?

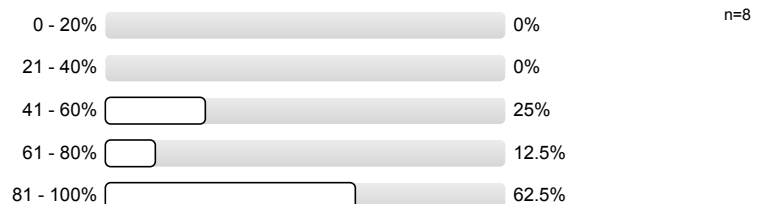


1.3) What grade do you expect to receive in this course?



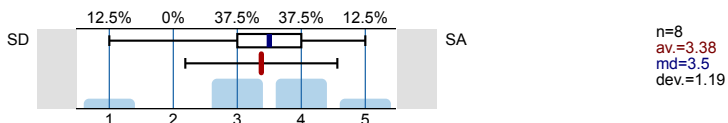
**2. KEEPING UP** Mark the answer that best applies

2.1) How well are you keeping up with the assignments and reading for this course? (Give a percentage estimate)

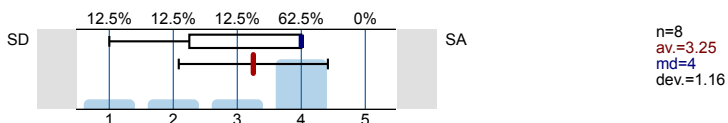


### 3. COURSE DESIGN AND SYLLABUS

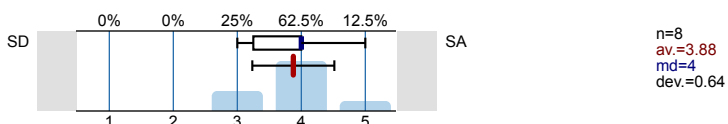
3.1) The instructor clearly explained the course design and its structure.



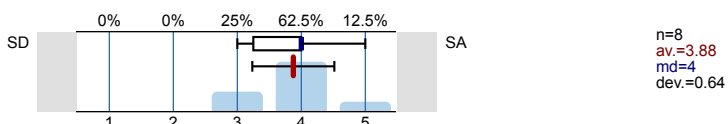
3.2) I am able to easily navigate the course content (lectures, videos, reading/viewing materials, assignments, resources, etc.)



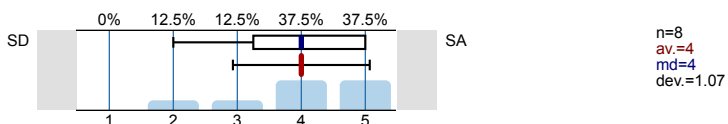
3.3) The syllabus explains course requirements.



3.4) The instructor follows the course syllabus.

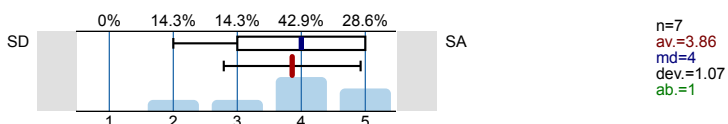


3.5) The instructor gives appropriate feedback.

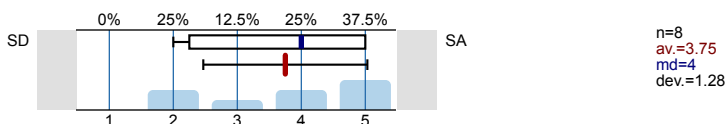


### 4. COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION

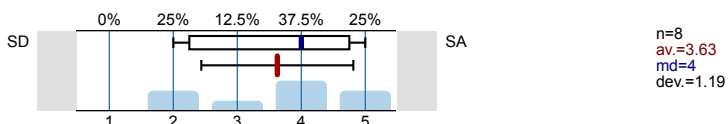
4.1) Course materials are made available by the instructor in a timely manner.



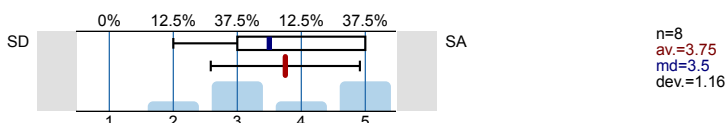
4.2) I receive meaningful feedback on my work in this course.



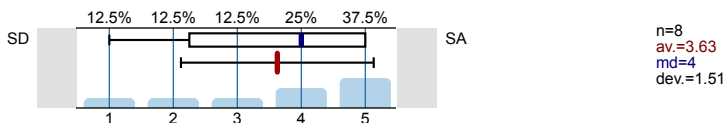
4.3) I receive timely feedback on my work in this course.



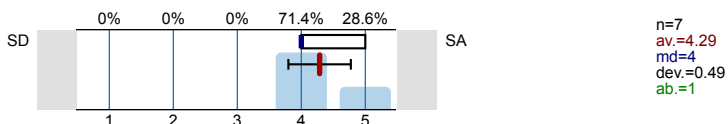
4.4) The instructor communicates high expectations for student achievement.



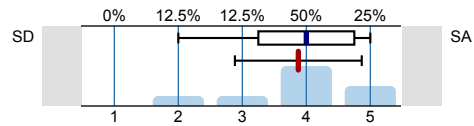
4.5) The instructor clearly communicates submission deadlines and processes for assignments, tests, and other course tasks.



4.6) The instructor is available during office hours.



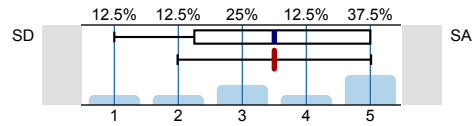
4.7) The instructor is accessible through other means of communication.



n=8  
av.=3.88  
md=4  
dev.=0.99

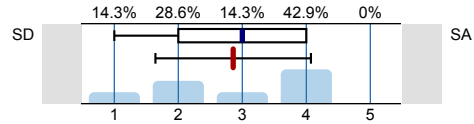
5. ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

5.1) My overall knowledge of the subject matter has increased due to the instruction of this course.



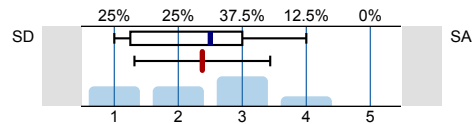
n=8  
av.=3.5  
md=3.5  
dev.=1.51

5.2) The instructor provides opportunities for multiple forms of student engagement in this course.



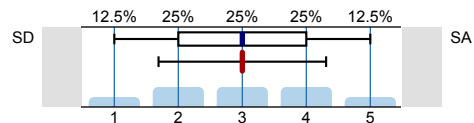
n=7  
av.=2.86  
md=3  
dev.=1.21  
ab.=1

5.3) The instructor presents the material in an understandable way.



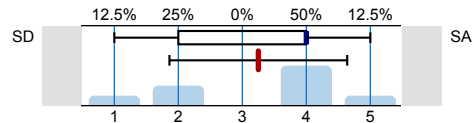
n=8  
av.=2.38  
md=2.5  
dev.=1.06

5.4) The course assignments contribute to learning.



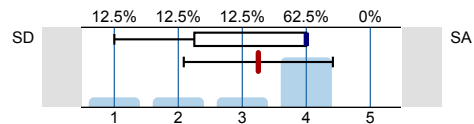
n=8  
av.=3  
md=3  
dev.=1.31

5.5) The instructor is well prepared for class.



n=8  
av.=3.25  
md=4  
dev.=1.39

5.6) The instructor monitors student learning throughout the course.



n=8  
av.=3.25  
md=4  
dev.=1.16

6. OVERALL/COMMENTS

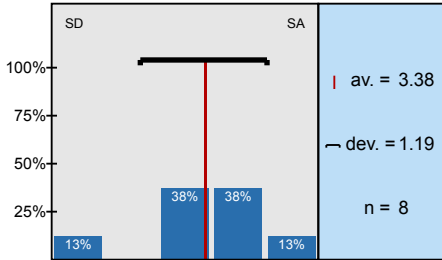
6.4) How do you rate the overall quality of teaching in this class?



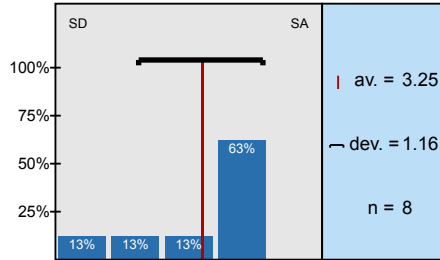
n=8  
av.=2.75  
dev.=1.49

# Histogram for scaled questions

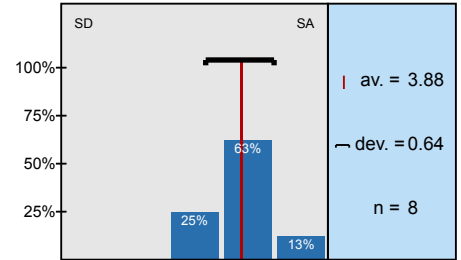
The instructor clearly explained the course design and its structure.



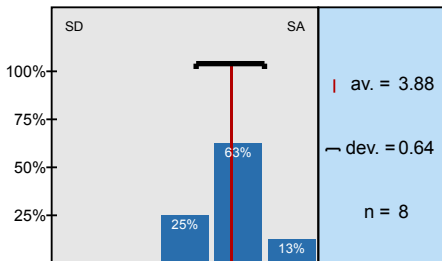
I am able to easily navigate the course content (lectures, videos, reading/viewing materials,



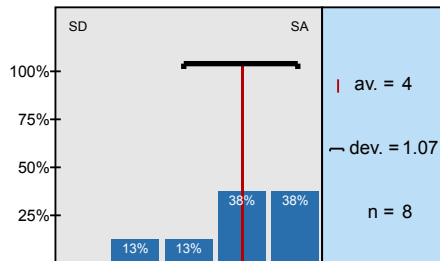
The syllabus explains course requirements.



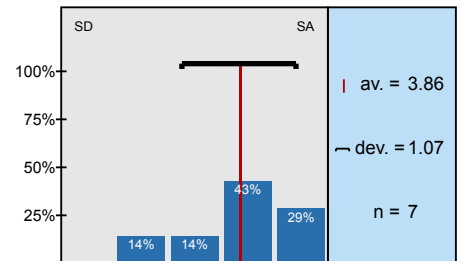
The instructor follows the course syllabus.



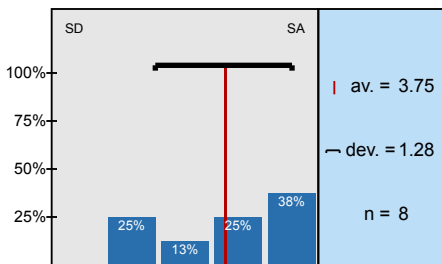
The instructor gives appropriate feedback.



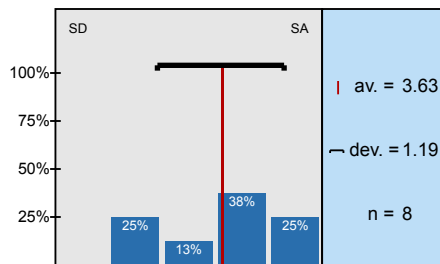
Course materials are made available by the instructor in a timely manner.



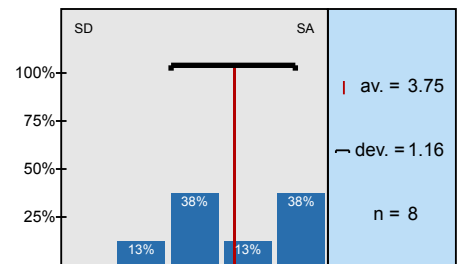
I receive meaningful feedback on my work in this course.



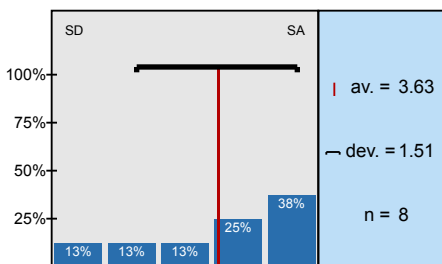
I receive timely feedback on my work in this course.



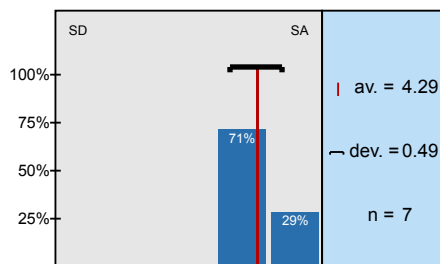
The instructor communicates high expectations for student achievement.



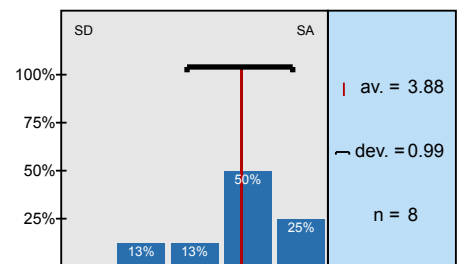
The instructor clearly communicates submission deadlines and processes for assignments, tests, and



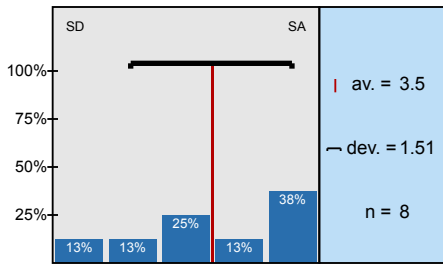
The instructor is available during office hours.



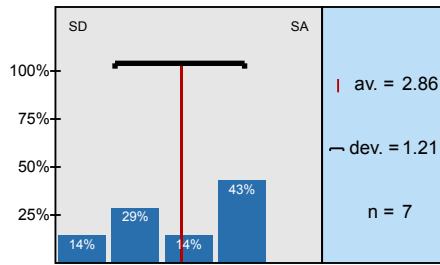
The instructor is accessible through other means of communication.



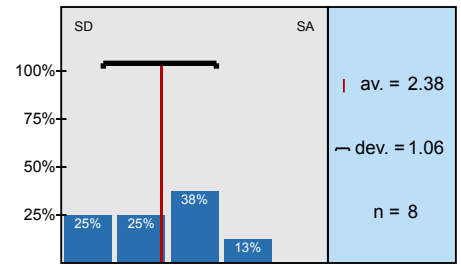
My overall knowledge of the subject matter has increased due to the instruction of this course.



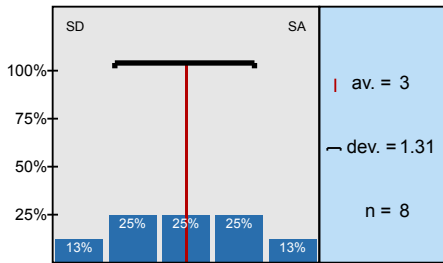
The instructor provides opportunities for multiple forms of student engagement in this course.



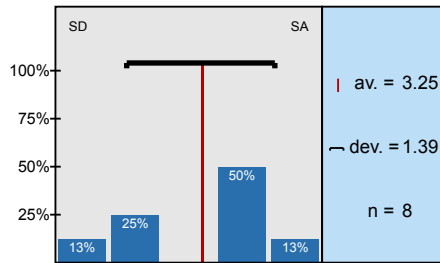
The instructor presents the material in an understandable way.



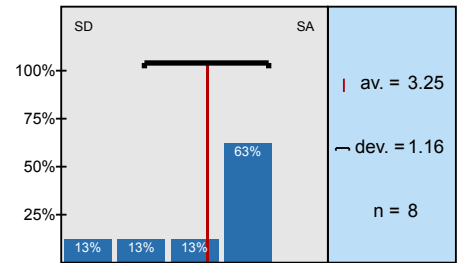
The course assignments contribute to learning.



The instructor is well prepared for class.



The instructor monitors student learning throughout the course.



# Profile

Subunit: NSC - Mathematics and Statistics  
 Name of the instructor: Thomas W Mattman  
 Name of the course: Topology  
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

## 3. COURSE DESIGN AND SYLLABUS

3.1) The instructor clearly explained the course design and its structure.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.38	md=3.5	dev.=1.19
3.2) I am able to easily navigate the course content (lectures, videos, reading/viewing materials, assignments, resources, etc.)	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.25	md=4	dev.=1.16
3.3) The syllabus explains course requirements.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.88	md=4	dev.=0.64
3.4) The instructor follows the course syllabus.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.88	md=4	dev.=0.64
3.5) The instructor gives appropriate feedback.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=4	md=4	dev.=1.07

## 4. COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION

4.1) Course materials are made available by the instructor in a timely manner.	SD		SA	n=7	av.=3.86	md=4	dev.=1.07
4.2) I receive meaningful feedback on my work in this course.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.75	md=4	dev.=1.28
4.3) I receive timely feedback on my work in this course.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.63	md=4	dev.=1.19
4.4) The instructor communicates high expectations for student achievement.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.75	md=3.5	dev.=1.16
4.5) The instructor clearly communicates submission deadlines and processes for assignments, tests, and other course tasks.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.63	md=4	dev.=1.51
4.6) The instructor is available during office hours.	SD		SA	n=7	av.=4.29	md=4	dev.=0.49
4.7) The instructor is accessible through other means of communication.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.88	md=4	dev.=0.99

## 5. ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

5.1) My overall knowledge of the subject matter has increased due to the instruction of this course.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.5	md=3.5	dev.=1.51
5.2) The instructor provides opportunities for multiple forms of student engagement in this course.	SD		SA	n=7	av.=2.86	md=3	dev.=1.21
5.3) The instructor presents the material in an understandable way.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=2.38	md=2.5	dev.=1.06
5.4) The course assignments contribute to learning.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3	md=3	dev.=1.31
5.5) The instructor is well prepared for class.	SD		SA	n=8	av.=3.25	md=4	dev.=1.39

5.6) The instructor monitors student learning throughout the course.



n=8

av.=3.25

md=4

dev.=1.16



# Comments Report

## 6. OVERALL/COMMENTS

6.1) What did your Instructor do to make this class a good learning experience for you?

- -I like when you curve the grades
  - I like being able to redo problems that are less than 5/10
  - I like being able to do precheck
  - I like being able to email my work in
  - I like being able to do the assignments with other people
- He's very approachable. Late policy is forgiving and reasonable.
- He allowed us to ask questions throughout lecture.
- not much.
- Professor Mattman was very helpful during office hours and at the problem session. I appreciated that he would explain things further during those occasions and help me with homework problems. Also, I appreciated the way that Professor Mattman would answer questions in class to help clarify things during lectures.
- The instructor gave the class some opportunities to resubmit our work to improve our grades.
- There were only two midterms, and those split the material pretty evenly. This allowed for better understanding of what was taught in the class.
- Topology is a difficult math course, I think, but this has been one of my favorite math courses I've ever taken. The professor teaches from the book, so accessing the material in the book is paramount to understanding it, but I was easily able to get a free copy of the book through the library, and digital versions of it exist online as well. This professor will probably get negative feedback from some of the students, but that ultimately is because, I think, they don't really care about it. I spend probably upwards of 10 hours a week on the homework for this course (I'm privileged in that I don't have many other high-demand classes this semester and am able to focus more on this class), because that's what it takes to write proofs and understand them. I also think I had a much better and different perception of the class because I was often one of the only ones participating and asking questions/seeking clarification. Overall, the subject matter is difficult, proofs are difficult in general, but this class followed what it set out to do and I thoroughly enjoyed it, and literally every time I ever raised my hand to ask "can you explain why you're doing this" or "why does that follow from this" or any other question Mattman happily went back and covered it again, and it never seemed to interrupt his flow of teaching. Another reason for the potentially negative feedback is that if nobody raises their hand to express confusion, there's no reason for the professor to assume people don't understand what is going on. This is a level 400 upper division math class, we've all had proofs classes and modern algebra classes, we should be familiar enough with the material and with general math to be able to pivot into another field of study. I just wish there was an advanced topology course available.

6.2) What could your instructor do in the future to make this a better class?

- -There are too many homework assignments to where it is almost impossible to keep up with all of the work
  - There is too much to memorize for the exams
  - There are too many problems on the homework (especially since most of them are proofs and sometimes all of the problems on a homework are proofs)
  - I would prefer a lot more computation and a lot less proofs
  - There was not enough time between a homework due date and the next precheck making it very hard to get a precheck in
- assign an appropriate amount of homework.
- Assigns far too much homework that takes too long. If the assignments were less frequent or the homework were less time-consuming, it would be fine. Also, his lectures leave a lot to be desired. Spending all class figuring out 2-3 proofs that he should have prepared beforehand rather than building an actual intuitive understanding of the material is not great.
- Give less homework. There was way too much for certain assignments.
- I don't think there is much to be done, it is just one of those courses that people will often struggle with. Topology already invokes a certain level of intimidation due to its nature. I am better equipped than others at remembering definitions and theorems and being able to use them on things like exams or homework. The problem sessions were a MASSIVE help as well, being able to be more atomic in our examination of the material is really what helped me reach an understanding. Mattman allows for people to do homework as groups, which I think ultimately reduces the understanding of the material as certain people in the group may never, say, deal with separation axioms or with classifications of surfaces, but allowing for group work is still a valid choice to make as it acknowledges the fact that a lot of his students are busy with other classes and sharing workload makes sure that were able to get stuff done on time. I opted to not do group assignments, even though there was often quite a few homework problems that took me a long time, for that very reason. I wanted exposure to every aspect of the homework, and I am glad I did. Mattman is an incredibly understanding professor, as well. Allowing for make-ups on exams and homework, as well as allowing group work.

- Present the material in a more understandable way.
- The instructor could have took more time to go into detail such that the entire class could understand instead of rushing through some of the examples, as well as rushing the deadline for our homework.
- Topology is a hard subject. My classmates and I discussed that if an easier to understand textbook was available, that could have made the subject matter easier to understand. Professor Mattman could also draw more pictures in class when they are relevant to proofs/ definitions we are going through.

6.3) **IMPORTANT:** Please give at least one reason to justify your rating.

- If the homework and lectures weren't in the state that they are, this rating would be much higher.
- I have never felt so overworked by a class in my life, I find his workload completely and utterly unacceptably large. it was worse than 4 entire other classes combined. many of which were upper-graduate math classes as well. I plead to whoever sees this, this needs to be fixed.
- Prefer that he explains things in a less complicated way.
- Professor Mattman is very smart. When there are students willing to ask questions in his classes, his teaching style works just fine. However, when we can't think of questions, it's difficult to grasp a subject like Topology when it's presented as Definition, Theorem, Definition, Theorem, etc.
- The reason why I would make my justification for my rating is because most of the class is failing the class because most of us have a hard time understanding what the instructor was teaching.
- This was my favorite math class I've taken so far. Mattman was available to ask for help, gave very good feedback and examples of how to do proofs correctly on my homework, and though his teaching style was different from what I've usually had with math teachers, but I was able to adapt to it and I really appreciate it.
- Though I did not understand as much of the material at first, the feedback from assignments helped for improving.
- Way too much homework and I do not like having to memorize 50+ theorems and definitions for exams. The teaching made no sense especially when you mess up proofs multiple times and never actually proved them. There is not enough time to get anything done (especially since we have other classes), especially since the precheck is due 3 days after the previous homework is due. Sometimes the homework had stuff we had not previously discussed in class which is not fair. This class gives me a lot of stress and I do not appreciate that at all.