

## Comments 2017-2021

### Students' comments on effectiveness of my classes and my attitudes towards them.

*Dr. Lia Vas makes Calculus fun and exciting. Her passion and confidence were a huge benefit to me and I feel like I have learned more from her in one semester than I have from any math teacher in a year. Not just about the concepts, but about having a fearless attitude towards mastering the material. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*She respects every one of us and understands when we are having a rough time regarding either our education or life. (Calculus 3, Spring 2021)*

*Your energy and kindness make me look forward to attending class every week. This has been one of two classes this semester that I have truly been enthusiastic to learn (Calculus 2, Fall 2020)*

*Dr. Vas truly knows the content of this course in-depth and can explain it in a way that ensures even the most mathematically challenged students understand course content. She always answered questions effectively, and she was always there to help those in need and would make time for students to ensure everyone was caught up on material.(Calculus 2, Fall 2020)*

*Dr. Vas has a very deep care for her students, she wants to see them succeed more than any professor I have had. (Differential Equations, Fall 2020)*

*Without a doubt, Dr. Lia Vas has been the best teacher I have ever had in my entire academic career. I say that free of hyperbole and struggle to put into words how wonderful of a professor she's been. Her cheerful and enthusiastic discourse in lecture makes coming to her class the highlight of my day. She's truly a mathematical genius and can take seemingly difficult topics and make them not only easy, but intuitive. Her course content is perfectly organized amongst a plethora of other resources and videos that make completing assignments a breeze. She's always available and eager to help during office hours. Learning with Dr. Vas has been truly inspiring and I look forward to taking more classes with her.(Calculus 3, Spring 2021)*

*All the ideas and concepts were covered in detail and with variation so that all potential obstacles felt familiar. Some of the more complex assumptions were proven during class so that we could get a deeper understanding of what we were learning. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*Dr. Vas is one of the sweetest people I've met. She genuinely cared about her students and always made herself available. Her lessons were easy to understand because she taught the material so well. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*Dr. Vas is an angel on Earth. What an incredible woman. Best math of my whole 22 years. I thought I wasn't a math person but turns out I was just missing Dr. Vas in my life. I am actually upset that because of schedule conflicts I cannot take Calc III with her. To be honest, I'd take any class with Dr. Vas. I want to put her in my pocket and*

*keep her with me for the rest of my life. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*How interactive and excited Dr. Vas was about the material. She effectively explained all the material and clearly explained misunderstood concepts. Dr. Vas is absolutely amazing! (Calc 2, Fall 2018)*

*Vas taught on a personal level, making learning both easy and fun, yet still encouraging us to try our best. (Calc 2, Fall 2018)*

*She is a very effective teacher and is genuinely concerned about our success in the course! (Calc 2, Fall 2018)*

*Cared immensely about the class and the individuals within (Calculus 2, Fall 2020)*

*Dr. Vas Really pushes you to do your best and the way she teaches makes it really easy for anyone to understand (Calc 3, Spring 2019)*

*The professor was deeply concerned with student success, offering a helping hand while ensuring students are effectively learning the content. (Calc 3, Spring 2019)*

*Dr. Vas is the most amazing professor I've had. She clearly explains the material and will bend backwards to help her students. She truly cares about her students and their success. (Diff Eq, Fall 2019)*

*She made me believe in myself and my abilities. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*To ask her to change anything about her teaching style would be a disservice to future students.(Calc 3, Spring 2022)*

*Dr. Vas is in a category all on her own with her teaching methods, and for good reason too. She has put a lot of time into this course, and it shows through the thoroughness of her notes, the detail in assignments, and the way she conducts lecture. She doesn't understand math – she speaks the language of numbers. During class, she rarely if ever refers to her notes, as the equations and proofs are already ingrained in her memory. We, as students, want to be good in her class because she believes we can do it. She always offers to help and meet after hours to guide us, and is very responsive to emails. When giving corrections, she provides exact details on where we went wrong so we know how to fix our mistakes in the future. Many students will take a class to get an A in order to have a good GPA. However, students try to get an A in Dr. Vas's class as to not disappoint her, or let her down with all the investment she's done into her students. These kinds of teachers are very hard to come by, and I feel extremely grateful to have experienced a class like this. The only downside is Dr. Vas has set my expectations in a professor so high that I fear I will never have a professor quite as organized, intelligent and encouraging. (Math Methods, Spring 2022)*

### **Students' perception of my enthusiasm and motivation.**

*Dr. Vas is a saint. She is the sweetest most caring teacher i have ever had. Thank you Dr. Vas. I really liked your review sheets and packets I love how Dr. vas is always*

*willing to sit down and help explain things. (Calc 2, Fall 2017)*

*My favorite part of this course was the passion that Dr. Vas had when teaching. This is clearly a field that she is very interested in, and it comes across well in her teaching. She has a total mastery of the content, and she always seemed totally prepared to lecture on it. (Differential Geometry, Fall 2018)*

**Students' perception of my ability to make topics they consider to be difficult accessible to them.**

*This was an amazing course overall! Dr. Vas has an infectious personality as she is extremely happy and cheerful all of the time. I genuinely looked forward to her class every day. She really cares about her students as people and is invested in our academic success as well. The course had some difficult topics but Dr. Vas explains it in a way that everyone can understand. The assignments and review sheets really help prepare for the exams. Dr. Vas is amazing! (Diff Eq, Fall 2017)*

*I don't know how Dr. Vas does it, but she always knows how to communicate the material effectively. I never feel lost, and she always makes it easy to understand. And then even if I think I am confused, I'll just go back through her steps and they always make sense. All her tricks makes things so easy. And I will say that probably since grade school, completing the square never made any sense and her little box and square trick makes it so easy. She just has a gift for teaching and she always makes learning fun because everyday she always has a smile on her face. I really appreciate everything she has taught me and she really is one of usci's best. (Diff Eq, Fall 2017)*

*An amazing professor, one of the best I ever had. Absolutely everything has explained crystal clear. The professor simply makes math a piece of cake! Amazing! (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*She always made things very clear and her lectures were always very easy to follow. I was really nervous to take this class because I usually struggle with math, but Dr. Vas did a great job making this class manageable and even fun. (Calculus 2, Fall 2020)*

*She has a way of making a daunting subject like Calculus come to life with energy and enthusiasm. She exudes passion and knowledge and it makes mastering the material both easier to do and easier to enjoy.(Calculus 3, Spring 2021)*

*I was a bit nervous going into the course, but she was very encouraging towards all of us and made me feel like I could handle the material. (Differential Equations, Fall 2020)*

*Dr. Vas has really clear lectures that make Calc III seem like elementary math! The contents were really clear and her handouts are amazingly helpful. (Calc 3, Spring 2022)*

*The class notes are extremely helpful. The pacing of the class was done very well, making difficult material easy to digest, and the notes provided online were extremely*

*detailed providing several visual aids to understand concepts. The best part of the class was not being able to compute difficult upper level math, but being able to understand it fully because of the way it was taught. (Math Methods, Spring 2022)*

### **Students' perception of my availability and willingness to help them.**

*Dr. Vas made calc 2 very enjoyable, she taught the concepts so they were easy to understand and her teaching motivated me to do well. Additionally, she went out of her way to help students. It was easy to see that she wanted all her students to truly have a grasp on the material and succeed in the course. (Calc 2, Fall 2017)*

*Dr. Vas was so helpful and so sweet! She would explain the material until you understood it, stayed late in her office hours to help, and was just overall a great professor. I am looking forward to having her again! (Calc 2, Fall 2017)*

*Dr. Vas will always make time to answer your questions. Her office is always open (as long as she's here!) and she allows groups of people to come in at once. She is incredibly knowledgeable (Calc 2, Fall 2018)*

*I felt as if Dr. Vas was always willing to go the extra mile to help me if I did not understand the material. (Calc 2, Fall 2018)*

*She is amazing!! She truly cares about how you're doing. She has a lot of office hours to help (Calc 3, Spring 2019)*

*She is the number one teacher who cares about her students academic success as well as well-being. I'm so thankful she is my minor adviser and that I have had so many classes with her throughout my years at USciences. (Diff Eq, Fall 2019)*

*Dr. Vas is absolutely amazing. She made sure we were always on track with material, assignments, and MATLAB. She makes sure that we understand the material to the fullest extent and if you ever need help she's always there no matter what. (Diff Eq, Fall 2019)*

*It was really exciting to understand calculus, learn material properly, and have a professor that actually wanted you to learn. I couldn't say enough great things about Dr. Vas. She is a diamond. I hope she is treasured for all of eternity. I brag about her to all my peers at other schools. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*Dr. Vas did an excellent job teaching course content as well as answering any questions I had. I appreciate how Dr. Vas included lecture videos on her website so that we could watch them in case we missed class or wanted to take the time to relearn something. (Calc 3, Spring 2022)*

### **The organization of my classes and the effectiveness of the handouts and assignments.**

*The worksheets are very useful. Also, Dr. Lia Vas website is extremely helpful! She gives you all the tools you need to be able to do well in her course, all the student's*

*have to do is practice, practice, practice. I also like how she relates the things we are learning whether it's triple integrals or series to other courses like pchem or physics. (Calc 3, Spring 2020)*

*The lectures were always very clear and the homework and review packets made sure I was prepared for every exam. (Calc 2, Fall 2017)*

*I appreciate Dr. Vas' dedication to helping her students! Her website has all the notes and information about calc 2 that anyone could need, so that was a great resource as well. (Calc 2, Fall 2017)*

*Well organized, effective assignments/material reviews, and especially the exam/assignment solutions. Side note: mat lab was much more helpful (compared to calc 2), it helped me visualize the problems the we were doing and realize how changing variables/bounds would change the resulting graph. (Calc 3, Spring 2019)*

*Allowing time in class for assignments such as homework packets and matlab projects was very helpful and appreciated. I felt like Dr. Vas was always making sure we felt confident in our work and gave us time in class to ask any questions. (Calc 2, Fall 2017)*

*Everything about this course was well-designed, well-taught, and informative. Dr. Vas is an amazing professor who is always prepared, organized, and effective. This was one of the best courses I've taken at this university. (Diff Eq, Fall 2017)*

*Not only does she teach the material extremely well, she also uses homework assignment and projects that do a great job of reinforcing what's taught in lecture. (Calc 3, Spring 2018)*

*I liked knowing that I had all the materials necessary to prepare me for the exams. Dr. Vas really made sure that I knew what I was doing prior to the exams (Calc 3, Spring 2018)*

*Examples in class and on the packets were extremely helpful for the assignments and exams Content was delivered clearly and thoroughly during lecture (Calc 3, Spring 2018)*

*The notes were very helpful, and I, of course, liked that we had take home exams. I felt as though, through take home exams, I actually learned a lot in this course. (Differential Geometry, Fall 2018)*

*Assignments directly related to exam material which really helps with preparing us for exams. (Calc 3, Spring 2019)*

*Dr. Vas teaches really well, the review sheets actually reflect the exam, and the assignments help prepare us for the exams. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*Explanations and additional assignments are available readily at Dr. Vas' own web page, all assignments are well-paced and feedback is readily available for all responses. (Calc 2, Fall 2019)*

*I liked that assignments were done a week before the exams to help prepare us for exams. I also really enjoyed the Matlab projects. (Calc 3, Spring 2022)*

*The course is formatted flawlessly, having clear direction from beginning to end. Notes posted online not only followed the lecture very well, but enhanced the material and provided insights that weren't required for the course, but provided a richer understanding of material. (Math Methods, Spring 2022)*

*Dr. Vas did an outstanding job as always. She was always there for office hours if needed, the homeworks and assignments very closely related the exam problems and nothing felt out of the blue. Whenever we had a question they were promptly answered in an effective way, there was not an unnecessary amount of work but enough to make sure the topics were understood. (Math Methods, Spring 2022)*

### **Students' comments on their perception of the course relevance.**

*I love that this class made sure to show real world application of the problems we learned by the end of each chapter, although I already knew, it really reassured that what I was doing was more than just wasting my time but actually learning stuff that will be useful in my career. (Diff Eq, Fall 2021)*

*(What did you like best about the course:;) Seeing the way this high level math can begin to be applied to life and academics. (Calc 3, Spring 2022)*

### **Students' comments on specific topics.**

*Real life applications! This was the first time I saw the connection between the real world and the math world :) (Diff Eq, Fall 2017)*

*1. Dr. Vas 2. Laplace was pretty cool 3. The phase plane graphs were fun too (Diff Eq, Fall 2017)*

*Learning about the different oscillations and how similar diff eq was to linear (algebra) (Diff Eq, Fall 2017)*

*Learning about point groups and seeing how they can be used in math and chemistry. (Math Methods, Spring 2021)*

*This is not a very typical math class, and the content learned was very cool relating the content to the actual world. (Diff Geometry, Fall 2018)*

*The Matlab (projects) were a lot shorter this semester and I felt they were more effective and directly related to course material. Office hours are always super helpful and really help me truly understand the course material. Dr. Vas, you are an incredibly amazing teacher. (Calc 3, Spring 2019)*

*I love learning the application of what we're learning as it helps me understand where I can use the things I learned in this class (Diff Eq, Fall 2019)*

*The section on Fourier transform, groups, and symmetry point groups because it*

*related the most to my work in chemistry Also the videos were a fantastic supplement to the course (Math Methods, Spring 2022)*

*Learning new techniques to solve problems and seeing them pop up in my physics courses is really cool and very helpful which I greatly enjoyed seeing. (Math Methods, Spring 2022)*