

Hello all,

Starting April 26, Teacher Evaluations will become available inside of courseware. The math department will only have evaluations active through courseware, so if you are filling out evaluations for different subjects, this will not be in the same location as those. Once you log into courseware, (either through www.casa.uh.edu or through the www.access.uh.edu portal), you will see a bright yellow tab to complete your evaluation above the list of courses. If you do not see it, you will need click the word "Courses," in the upper left corner of your screen to see the course list.

First, don't click on the tab just to "check it out" and actually do the evaluation another time. You will only access to this once, and it cannot be reopened after you have done that. Second, the deadline for completing the evaluation is 05/05/2022 at 11:59 pm. After that deadline, you will no longer have access to do this. Third, completing the evaluation is optional, but greatly encouraged. You will receive 5 additional points on your final exam just for completing it. If you are planning to opt-out of the final exam (more information about this in the other email), you are required to complete the evaluation prior opting-out (which is available on 05/04). So if there is even a small chance that you are opting out of the final exam, complete the evaluation as soon as possible. (If you are opting-out of the final, you do not get the additional points for completing the evaluation; your "bonus" for doing this is that you get permission to skip the final exam.)

The evaluation is anonymous. All I see is whether or not you completed it (listed next to your name as a TE = yes or TE = no) in the Gradebook. I do get tabulated results of these evaluations at some point during the early Spring semester (still anonymous, with percentages listed for each answer option), and I do read all the comments in an effort to improve in future semesters.

A few other things to keep in mind. This is an official document. Please treat it as such.

Be honest: there have been instances in the past when students fabricate things to put in the evaluations, both towards and against my benefit. It defeats the purpose of doing this.

Keep your language clean: why some students feel the need to write streams of profanity in this (whether it is meant as good intentioned or not) eludes me, but it happens quite often. Also, slang terms may be lost on the audience reading this. (In the past, "He is the bomb," was taken in the wrong context by certain administrators.)

Do not reference other professors in my evaluation: whether it is done favorably or unfavorably, it creates an awkward situation for me and the other professor. These are people I work with.

Do not critique UH or math department policies: you are just wasting your evaluation by using it to complain about tuition hikes, campus closures, or homework deadlines. (Someone once described me as being a horrible professor because the campus was open on Columbus Day.)

This is not American Idol or Survivor; you are not voting on my continued employment. This is a tool to help me improve in future semesters.

Evaluate my teaching: not whether you like the colors I dress in or the way I do my hair or if you think/don't think I would be fun to hang out with outside of class. No one cares.

(And yes, I have seen all of these things in past evaluations.)

Have fun!

--Dr. Matt