

A Selection of Responses to Math 302:

Math 302: Introduction to Proofs via Number Theory

Instructor: Professor Stephanie Treneer, Stephanie.Treneer@wwu.edu

Student comments from course evaluations:

I enjoy the format and feel like this teaching method really fostered a sense of community in the class. I wish more classes were taught this way in the department.

This class was fantastic. The format of the class was very effective for learning number theory. It was challenging, but I feel I learned a lot and had a lot of fun doing it.

This class really helped me to think about math in new ways. It was challenging but because we were required to do the work on our own or only with the people in our class, I learned more. Stephanie always asked good questions when we became stuck to help us come to an answer on our own.

I have learned far more in this course than any class I have ever taken.

The emphasis on intense student collaboration [...] I found unique and refreshing in my education experience.

This class has really changed the way I look at all math problems. This course has probably improved my development in math more than any other course.

I hated the process, but I'm excited by how much I learned and remember.

I have never had a math class taught in this way before and I thought it was very effective. The worksheets were a great introduction to the theorem sets.

I felt I benefited from group discussion the most. The subject matter was difficult so I felt getting others thoughts was very helpful.

I enjoyed the atmosphere and the structure of the class regarding working with others in the class on a regular basis. This class was without a doubt one of my favorite classes here at Western.

For not really "teaching" much during the course, Dr. Treneer was invaluable in my understanding of course material. The worksheets did an excellent job of building foundational knowledge and an intuitive understanding of the concepts before trying to get us to prove that those concepts were true.

Having to struggle through the material was both the best and worst part of this course, but it was nice to be able to bounce ideas off other people in the class.

Comments from colleagues who have adopted my materials:

Based on my experience, as well as feedback from students, the approach is more successful at facilitating an understanding of the architecture of basic number theory than a lecture based version.

My experience is that Stephanie's redesign of Math 302 has been a resounding success - student feedback is overwhelmingly positive.