

The Critical Review

MATH 0540

Honors Linear Algebra

Hulse, Thomas

Class Size: **28**
 Respondents: **17**

"Honors Linear Algebra" introduces students to modern, proof-based mathematics through linear algebra. Though multivariable calculus is stated as a recommended prerequisite, most reviewers found it unnecessary; in fact, many noted that this course required very little previous knowledge.

1.37 **1.38**

Course Prof

1.71 **1.24**

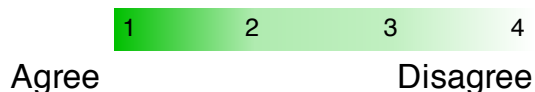
Loved It Learned a Lot

2.29 **2.18**

Good for Non-Concentrators Difficult

6.1 **9.9**

Hours, typical week Hours, maximum



Reviewers were overflowing with praise for instructor Thomas Hulse. According to responses, "Tom is a boss" who "explains things clearly and constantly checks to make sure the class is following what he's saying," possessed the "ability to acknowledge that not everything is 'trivial' or 'a priori'" and is "so hilarious." Moreover, Thomas Hulse created an environment in which students felt comfortable asking questions: "I haven't felt as comfortable asking questions in any other math class," wrote one. The primary opportunity for improvement was pacing: because there were two sections of "Honors Linear Algebra," Thomas Hulse was bound to stay on the same topic as the other section, which led to classes that ran long, were rushed towards the end of class, or were low on examples. Nevertheless, respondents were resplendent with praise and love for Thomas Hulse.

Coursework consisted of weekly problem sets, two midterms, and one final exam. Some were displeased with the length of problem sets. The textbook, "Linear Algebra Done Wrong," was written by the instructor of the other section, Sergei Treil, which most students liked except for the typos.

Students noted that from what they knew, [MATH0520](#) was often more work, and that [MATH0540](#) was suitable for anyone interested in learning about proof-writing; one respondent suggested that students take this course before [MATH0350](#). "Stop thinking and sign up. then resume thinking."