Student Opinion Survey

In addition to our interest in *how much* you are learning in this course, we are also interested in your perceptions about the course, especially in terms of *how* you are learning it. We are working to redesign the course, in order to make it more appropriately suited to students in non-technical fields. Please help us by taking a few minutes to give your careful, thoughtful responses to a few questions. We will consider your responses carefully as we work to improve the content and delivery of this course. Please note that this survey addresses the course itself and NOT the instructor.

1. We have made a deliberate effort to help you learn some fundamental concepts of mathematics *without emphasizing traditional algebraic manipulation and skill*. To what extent do you agree with this approach?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

2. In this class we have incorporated a *modeling approach*; that is, given some data, construct a mathematical model that "fits" the data, then use the model to address various questions of interest. To what extent do you agree with this approach?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

3. We have also tried to examine problems from a variety of viewpoints, eg., *graphically, numerically, algebraically, and with specific attention to what the model means.* To what extent do you agree with this approach?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree Strongly disagree

4. One way that we have changed our approach is to focus on *functions as a means of describing phenomena,* instead of the function as an abstract concept. To what extent do you agree with this focus?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

5. We believe that a *graphics calculator* can be a valuable tool in helping students to learn and to do mathematics. To what extent do you agree with this?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

6. In this class we have required students to *work in groups.* We believe that this is an effective technique for teaching and learning. To what extent do you agree with this?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

7. In this class we have required students *to write to learn.* You have been expected to describe, interpret, project, and summarize, as part of the homework, tests, and portfolios. To what extent do you agree with this approach?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

8. What is your assessment of the *level of difficulty* of this course, compared to your perceptions of the more traditional sections of this course?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Much easier Easier About the same Harder Much harder

9. Do you think you are *learning more, or learning less*, than comparable students in more traditional sections of this course?

_____ _____ _____
Learning more About the same Learning less

Additional comments: