

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for Jens Oberheide teaching PHYS 2450 001 during Fall Semester 2015
 Respondents = 15; Enrolled = 94; Response rate = 16%

University Questions(3686)

G1. The instructor clearly communicated what I was expected to learn.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	2 (13.33%)	4 (26.67%)	7 (46.67%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	1.254	4	15		
Same Level	3.997	1.089	4	1146		
Same Discipline	3.989	1.070	4	1518		

G2. The instructor made the relevance of the course material clear.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	1 (6.67%)	3 (20.00%)	9 (60.00%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.267	1.100	5	15		
Same Level	3.942	1.128	4	1147		
Same Discipline	3.949	1.106	4	1518		

G3. The course was well organized.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	5 (33.33%)	8 (53.33%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.900	5	15		
Same Level	4.169	1.026	4	1145		
Same Discipline	4.179	1.004	4	1515		

G4. There was a positive interaction between the class and the instructor.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	2 (13.33%)	5 (33.33%)	7 (46.67%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.200	0.941	4	15		
Same Level	3.938	1.221	4	1139		
Same Discipline	3.924	1.202	4	1508		

G5. The instructor's teaching methods helped me understand the course material.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	7 (46.67%)	5 (33.33%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	3.933	1.163	4	15		
Same Level	3.664	1.280	4	1145		
Same Discipline	3.603	1.287	4	1513		

G6. The instructor's verbal communication skills helped me understand the course material.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
2 (13.33%)	1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	5 (33.33%)	5 (33.33%)	1 (6.67%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	3.714	1.437	4	14		
Same Level	3.637	1.346	4	1140		
Same Discipline	3.525	1.379	4	1511		

G7. The instructor clearly explained what was expected on assignments and tests

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
1 (6.67%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	2 (13.33%)	10 (66.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	1.175	5	15		
Same Level	3.938	1.143	4	1146		
Same Discipline	3.968	1.124	4	1516		

G8. The instructor kept me informed about my progress in the course.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	3 (20.00%)	10 (66.67%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.467	0.915	5	15		
Same Level	4.219	1.045	5	1138		
Same Discipline	4.219	1.031	5	1509		

G9. The feedback I received on assignments and tests gave me the opportunity to improve my performance.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
2 (13.33%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	3 (20.00%)	8 (53.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	1.414	5	15		
Same Level	3.608	1.247	4	1144		
Same Discipline	3.646	1.240	4	1513		

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
1 (6.67%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	4 (26.67%)	8 (53.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.200	1.146	5	15		
Same Level	3.896	1.191	4	1139		
Same Discipline	3.858	1.190	4	1510		

G11. The instructor's grading procedures gave a fair evaluation of my understanding of the material.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (20.00%)	3 (20.00%)	9 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.400	0.828	5	15		

Same Level	3.975	1.128	4	1144
Same Discipline	4.007	1.099	4	1512

G12. How much work did you put into this course relative to your other courses?

Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR
0 (0.00%)	4 (26.67%)	5 (33.33%)	3 (20.00%)	3 (20.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.333	1.113	3	15	
Same Level	3.870	0.997	4	1139	
Same Discipline	3.901	0.993	4	1511	

G13. How difficult was this course for you relative to your other courses?

Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR
0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	6 (40.00%)	3 (20.00%)	4 (26.67%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.600	1.056	3	15	
Same Level	3.850	1.033	4	1141	
Same Discipline	3.862	1.034	4	1512	

G14. To what extent was this course a requirement for you?

Type: How much

Not at all				Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR
0 (0.00%)	6 (40.00%)	5 (33.33%)	1 (6.67%)	3 (20.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.067	1.163	3	15	
Same Level	4.593	0.830	5	1141	
Same Discipline	4.598	0.821	5	1511	

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
1 (6.67%)	14 (93.33%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	15 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G17. Please indicate your satisfaction with the availability of the instructor outside the classroom by choosing one response from the scale. In selecting your rating, consider the instructor's availability via established office hours, appointments, and other opportunities for face-to-face interaction as well as via telephone, email, fax and other means.

Type: Satisfaction

Very Dissatisfied				Very Satisfied	
1	2	3	4	NR	
0 (0.00%)	2 (13.33%)	5 (33.33%)	8 (53.33%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	3.400	0.737	4	15	
Same Level	3.315	0.809	3	1145	
Same Discipline	3.340	0.791	4	1516	

G18. Please comment on the strengths of the instructor and the course.

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - He brought in current events (Hurricanes/rainfall in South Carolina) and tied them into the course.
- #2 - I thought this course was very relevant and presented a lot of very good information. Dr. Oberheide seemed very knowledgeable on the subject and presented the information in a simple and usually easy to understand way.
- #3 - He really knows his stuff! I can tell he really is passionate about this stuff. Loved it all.
- #5 - He seems to care a lot about this topic
- #8 - I enjoyed this course. At the beginning of the semester I was not sure that I would find the course interesting but thanks to the great teaching methods of the instructor I find myself engaged in the lectures and wanting to learn more about the subject at hand.
- #9 - he knows the material he is teaching, and he is helpful when you go to him and ask for help
- #10 - I enjoyed the lecture style of the classroom and that you know what to expect going into every class. I also liked the open book format of the midterms.
- #11 - The instructor followed the textbook very well chapter for chapter and clearly explained when we were moving on to the next chapter. The instructor was very good at not just restating what the book already says but adding in more information that he felt was relevant to the class. I really enjoyed the fact that our homework was online and I got instant feedback on most of my answers so I knew what I did and didn't do right in the moment. I would also have to say he was very good at adapting to the students needs. I know I had a hard time seeing the powerpoint in the back of the room and adding the lecture slides to blackboard helped me tremendously. I really appreciate that he answered emails back so quickly and was very direct about his answers he never tried to flip questions back on the students he had an answer for all the questions. The instructor was also very good at making the material the most realistic as possible even though we are talking about the environment, some things are understood like the atmosphere and so that was important too.
- #15 - The instructor did a good job relating the subject to other courses and demonstrating the importance of the material. He was willing to help whenever there were questions about the material.

G19. Please comment on the weaknesses of the instructor and the course.

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Basically everything. Taught to the board a lot, which made it very difficult to hear him even in the front, let alone the back of the auditorium, especially with his accent. Lecture had little if anything to do with tests/homework, and the text was minimally helpful.
- #2 - A lot of the homework relied on computer models and it was sometimes unclear how those problems were connected to the lecture material.
- #3 - The math and calculation parts (the hardest parts) were kind of briefly skimmed over and I didn't get a real feel for it. My main complaint was the homework. It took hours to do every time, and seemed to be way more difficult than what was covered in class/tests. If the homework was just easier or more relevant, this class would be perfect! Just those two small complaints. Other than that, it was a great course.
- #5 - He is extremely hard to understand at times. He is not very good at explaining the materials. I had to teach myself the materials most of the semester. The powerpoint were unorganized and didn't make much sense. Class was often a challenge to attend since I didn't understand what he was talking about most of the time. The class book was pretty much useless. The Homework often had very little to do with what we were taught in class (though I didn't know what he was talking about half the time so it might have been on what was taught and if that is the case, refer to earlier issues).
- #8 - I noticed some students grew bored of the lectures every class. Maybe if you asked the students more questions and engaged them more.
- #9 - it is hard to understand him in lectures, and most of the time he uses charts and graphs to explain certain topics, which is not always helpful
- #10 - I think the first homework assignment should be made a little easier, so students are not intimidated and drop the class.
- #11 - The only weaknesses of the instructor and the course would be something that he can't really change but at times it was difficult to understand or hear him because of his accent. The slides being on blackboard helped more and it wasn't an every class thing. The only other thing would be the first homework assignment where we had to graph the data points that was very difficult for

someone that doesn't know how to use anything other than excel so if possible maybe not do that assignment again or less data points and still the point across.

G20. Please comment on any teaching methods you found particularly helpful, and suggest alternative methods that you feel would improve the course.

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - N/A
- #2 - I think the material lends itself well to a PowerPoint based lecture. However, I would have like to see more mathematical examples of the physics.
- #3 - Cover the math and calculations more please. Make the homework more calibrated to conceptual stuff like the tests, rather than models and calculations (homework didn't help at all, honestly). Please show how to use the models in class. Those tripped me up all the time. Other than that, great teacher!!!
- #5 - I like that he tried to implement images and videos at times to try to explain things.
- #10 - I liked working with the models, but more time could be spent relating the models to the work in class.
- #11 - I found that the key points at the end of the slides really summarized everything we learned that day and help to pull some strings together that may still not have been understood 100%. All the graphs and diagrams and charts were extremely helpful as well because they gave you a better idea of how a cycle works or comparisons for other countries or materials. It was very beneficial to have all that information available it was easier to understand a lot of the topics.
- #15 - The use of graphs and images was helpful in developing a better understanding of the material. Also, providing access to the PowerPoints online before each lecture was very helpful.

G21. I would recommend this instructor to a friend. Yes or no? Why?

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - No. I thoroughly regret taking this course. I never knew what to expect on tests. I could never understand him in class. Lecture was pointless. I hated this class.
- #2 - Yes, because Dr. Oberheide is a fair instructor and presents the material well.
- #3 - Yes. Just small things wrong with this class. IF they were fixed, this class would be perfect. Overall good class.
- #5 - No unless you are extremely interested in weather and climate and they don't mind teaching themselves. The professor is really hard to understand and is not very good at explaining things.
- #6 - Yes
- #8 - Yes. He does an excellent job ensuring that all of the students are enjoying the course.
- #9 - Yes and No. Yes because he knows a lot about Climate Change. No, because it is difficult to understand him and his homeworks do not prepare you for the exams.
- #10 - Yes, because he truly cares about the success of his students.
- #11 - I would definitely recommend this instructor and class to a friend in a heart beat. I loved this class and I really enjoyed going to class. I found it very interesting and intriguing. There was so much I didn't know about the world that I live in and so much more to learn. It opened my eyes to so much more than just trees and the ocean it all has a purpose and meaning. The instructor really made the class enjoyable by not forcing us to write papers and explain all these theories and everything. I found it more enjoyable and I wanted to learn the topics more because I wasn't being forced to write papers on them. I really liked the fact that we had essay style questions on the homework but never a full paper on anything. He made the class a really fun class to take and I just feel a lot more informed about the world after taking his class.
- #15 - I would recommend this instructor to a friend because he was willing to work with students to help them understand the course material. He was also able to relate the material to subjects outside of physics, keeping non-physics majors interested and demonstrating the wide impact of the course material.