

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for Jens Oberheide teaching PHYS 4650 001 during Spring Semester 2015
 Respondents = 5; Enrolled = 13; Response rate = 38%

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		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.929	0.267	5	14		
Same Discipline	4.032	1.119	4	1199		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.929	0.267	5	14		
Same Discipline	4.009	1.131	4	1199		

G3. The course was well organized.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.786	0.579	5	14		
Same Discipline	4.118	1.077	4	1196		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (20.00%)	4 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.800	0.447	5	5		
Same Level	4.929	0.267	5	14		
Same Discipline	3.988	1.196	4	1191		

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		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.714	0.611	5	14		
Same Discipline	3.694	1.326	4	1188		

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (20.00%)	4 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.800	0.447	5	5		
Same Level	4.714	0.611	5	14		
Same Discipline	3.668	1.391	4	1185		

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.786	0.426	5	14		
Same Discipline	4.028	1.141	4	1193		

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.643	0.633	5	14		
Same Discipline	4.216	1.015	5	1192		

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	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.571	0.756	5	14		
Same Discipline	3.763	1.249	4	1192		

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5		
Same Level	4.929	0.267	5	14		
Same Discipline	3.921	1.232	4	1195		

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (20.00%)	4 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.800	0.447	5	5		
Same Level	4.786	0.579	5	14		
Same Discipline	4.054	1.102	4	1189		

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

Type: How much

Not at all	Very much				NR
1	2	3	4	5	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (20.00%)	4 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	4.800	0.447	5	5	
Same Level	4.571	0.646	5	14	
Same Discipline	3.914	0.960	4	1184	

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

Type: How much

Not at all	Very much				NR
1	2	3	4	5	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (20.00%)	4 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	4.800	0.447	5	5	
Same Level	4.000	0.784	4	14	
Same Discipline	3.877	1.010	4	1188	

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

Type: How much

Not at all	Very much				NR
1	2	3	4	5	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	5	
Same Level	4.214	1.311	5	14	
Same Discipline	4.547	0.867	5	1191	

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	5 (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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.000	0.000	4	5
Same Level	3.929	0.267	4	14
Same Discipline	3.377	0.769	4	1199

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

#1 - Professor Oberheide is an outstanding teacher. It is obvious that he puts a lot of effort into the class and he really wants his students to do well and succeed. He goes above and beyond just teaching the required material for the course. He doesn't just want us to learn how to use a formula to solve some problem but understand the more fundamental elements of thermodynamics and the

practical uses of the material he teaches. More so he wants us to make a lot of realizations for ourselves and have us actually think about what we are doing rather than just telling us. In his office visits this was very clear as he really strives to have us understand as physicist why these topics are important. He helped me greatly in understand how I should be thinking about a problem from a physicist's perspective which is an invaluable thing to learn. On all the assignments he gave excellent feedback and showed that he didn't care so much for the numerical grades we were getting but more so how much we were understanding. He is a very nice professor who is understanding and takes notice when I student tries to improve their performance in his course. I think the general organization of the course was excellent and I especially thought the oral quizzes were a great opportunity to discuss the material and get some feedback into how he thought we were doing in his class.

- #2 - Very knowledgeable, easily approached.
- #3 - The professor desired to see students succeed, was helpful inside and outside of class, and lectured very well.
- #4 - The instructor knows the material perfectly and makes sure that his lesson plans are planned out ahead of time so that he can be neatly organized which is something you rarely see. The instructor also is very clear about the material and is a very effective teacher making the material seem accessible. I like how one time when there was a mistake or misunderstanding in the derivation, the professor stopped to make sure we all (including himself) understood the derivation and that helped make the whole concept much more clear.
- #5 - The instructor clearly knew the material and was easily able to present the material to the class in an efficient fashion. He made class notes very easy to interpret and understandable. His tests were comprehensive of the course material and tested you on the knowledge you were expected to gain. Homework counted as a disproportionately large fraction of the course grade; this allowed students to focus on learning the physics through doing the exercises rather than worry overmuch about cramming for tests.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - I think when it comes to Professor Oberheide's ability to teach a subject, there were no weaknesses, he does an exceptional job. The only weakness of the course, which the Professor was aware of, was that a lot of the homework problems selected from the book were very unclear. Some of the questions were very poorly written and it's not always apparent what they are asking. Luckily the Professor was always willing to talk to students and had an open door policy so any questions were answered in a very timely manner. In addition there were a few instances throughout the semester where it seemed that the lectures and homework were out of sync by a day or so and the topics on the homework wouldn't be taught until the class before the homework was due. If there was thing that I would have liked to see was more of the Professor's own homework problems as those were always much more interesting and thought provoking than the problems from the textbook.
- #2 - none.
- #3 - Being a Tuesday-Thursday class, and thus having longer class periods, it was difficult to maintain focus throughout the lecture.
- #4 - I would say that there aren't many weaknesses. The only one that I can think of is to realize that all of the students have different skills in physics, some of us took the physics major courses, others had to take the general engineering and therefore might not have as strong of a background in the physics. Saying that I believe it would be nice to go into the details of the basic physics of a concept before going into the complicated parts.
- #5 - Sometimes the homeworks were a little ahead, content wise, of the lectures by about 1-2 days making it a little more difficult (no necessarily a bad thing) to do the homeworks early. He didn't give us all a million dollars and acceptance letters to Caltech. Not many other major complaints. Also he didn't teach Classical Mechanics. Actually, come to think of it--let's just create an Oberheide Academy of Physics.

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 - As stated previously I think the oral quizzes were great and they really gave the students and

opportunity to show they understand the material or get feedback from the professor. I think it was great how the Professor took what the students thought into account and adjusted things accordingly such as changing the day the homework was due such that we would get more of an advantage of doing it on the weekend. This really showed that the professor listened and cared about what the students told him.

- #2 - Recapping the last class in the beginning of each class was useful and helped reinforce the take-home message from each class.
- #3 - I loved the derivations of various equations and results during class. Perhaps it would be easier to focus throughout if there was something to break up the lecture a bit.
- #4 - I found it particularly helpful to have the oral exams in office with the professor. I think if at all possible, more of those would have helped because it allows for some straight forward discussion about the material.
- #5 - All of his methods were helpful. The quick review he did at the beginning of each class, reviewing the previous class material, was extremely helpful.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - I would definitely recommend Professor Oberheide to a friend. He has been one of the best professors I've had at Clemson. He goes above and beyond teaching the required material and he does an excellent job doing it. He always willing to help if you need it and is overall just an exceptional professor.
- #2 - Yes, he knows the material well.
- #3 - Yes. The professor teaches very well, and is very fair to his students.
- #4 - Yes, the professor is very knowledgeable about the field, makes the material accessible and relatively easy to learn, and is a fair evaluator.
- #5 - Yes, not only is he the best professor I have had while I have been at Clemson, he is one of a few professors I feel are qualified to teach this course.