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# Student Assessment of Instructors - Instructor Interface

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## Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

**Evaluation Report** for Jens Oberheide teaching PHYS 8150 001 during Spring Semester 2018

Respondents = 10 Enrolled = 19 Response rate = 53%

### University Questions (3686)

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

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (20.00%)	8 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.800	0.422	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	4.333	1.323	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.339	0.980	5	1132

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

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (20.00%)	2 (20.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.400	0.843	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.889	1.537	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.290	0.987	5	1131

G3. The course was well organized.

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	9 (90.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.900	0.316	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.556	1.740	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.397	0.947	5	1127

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

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	9 (90.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.900	0.316	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	4.556	0.527	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.348	1.009	5	1128

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

**Type:** How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	3 (30.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.500	0.707	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.444	1.740	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	3.994	1.198	4	1125

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (30.00%)	7 (70.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.700	0.483	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.444	1.740	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.020	1.215	4	1128

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (40.00%)	6 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.600	0.516	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.556	1.740	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.275	1.021	5	1127

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	8 (80.00%)	1 (10.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.889	0.333	5	9
<b>Same Level</b>	4.111	1.537	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.435	0.904	5	1127

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	4 (40.00%)	5 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.400	0.699	4.5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	4.111	1.364	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.023	1.177	4	1128

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
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0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (20.00%)	8 (80.00%)	0 (0.00%)
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Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.800	0.422	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.889	1.537	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.218	1.071	5	1124

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (30.00%)	6 (60.00%)	1 (10.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.667	0.500	5	9
<b>Same Level</b>	4.333	1.000	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.286	0.970	5	1130

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (50.00%)	4 (40.00%)	1 (10.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.444	0.527	4	9
<b>Same Level</b>	4.000	0.866	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.031	0.922	4	1128

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	1 (10.00%)	2 (20.00%)	4 (40.00%)	3 (30.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	3.900	0.994	4	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.556	1.424	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	3.989	1.001	4	1124

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

Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	10 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	5.000	0.000	5	10
<b>Same Level</b>	4.222	1.394	5	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	4.668	0.740	5	1121

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
10 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

**Type:** Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
1 (10.00%)	9 (90.00%)	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 (1)	2	3	Very Satisfied (4)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	10 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
<b>Class</b>	4.000	0.000	4	10
<b>Same Level</b>	3.667	0.500	4	9
<b>Same Discipline</b>	3.578	0.648	4	1130

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

**Type:** Essay

Student	Comments
<b>#1</b>	- He knows the material, and is excited to teach it. I can tell that he has worked in fields using this material to the fullest extent.
<b>#2</b>	- Dr. Oberheide is a great teacher. He knows how to lecture and his homework is very good for the course work. He is always available when needed in his office. The recitations where the most helpful thing offered to me for this class. Being able to work with other students on a problem really helped me understand the steps of solving a problem. His "recipes" for problem solving lined up exactly with my learning style.
<b>#3</b>	- The course is well taught and the homework and feedback helped a lot. The recitation sessions was extremely useful in understanding and doing problems.
<b>#5</b>	- Very organized, clear lectures and extra recitation sessions.
<b>#6</b>	- The instructor was well organised, made it very clear what is expected from us. The best part of the course is recitation classes. It really helps me to understand how to apply the course material to solve problems. I learnt the basic idea of approaching any physical problem beyond this course also. The way he organised the course makes me feel comfortable to find the correlation of the entire course.
<b>#7</b>	- Clearly explained the fundamentals of Thermodynamics. Gave understandable lecture notes.
<b>#9</b>	- Excellent organization and communication skills. Consistently available and willing to give constructive feedback. Great at helping a student through the thought process needed to find the answer they need without simply giving the answer. Everything written on the board is correct, which is immeasurably helpful for making coherent notes. By far my favorite instructor.
<b>#10</b>	- He is the best Professor in therns of teaching planing the course and every other things.

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

**Type:** Essay

Student	Comments
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- #1** - Often the physics is drowned in the math. It may be helpful to reiterate the point of the long derivations throughout the session.
- #2** - There were very little applications of the course material to the real world. I often found myself wondering why we were learning course material. There are so many different applications of this topic (Stat Mech), but we barely touched the surface of real life applications.
- #3** - There's not much, though I wish the project could have been done away with.
- #5** - Not much.
- #6** - I felt a bit confused about the approach he takes to teach us quantum statistics. I felt like there is something missing in the transition from classical theory of statistical mechanics to quantum stat mech. Even though I know how to solve problems for quantum statistics, I prefer more insight about density matrix and other phenomena regarding the formalism of quantum statistics.
- #7** - He didn't explained the Quantum Statistical Part more specifically, density matrix which I was expected to learn effectively.
- #9** - Homework and test questions are very different and difficult in unique ways, so one doesn't entirely prepare students for the other. Expectations, in my opinion, are a bit high. Not to the point of being unfair, but to the point that I question if it's a reasonable level of understanding to expect from one semester of work. Occasionally expects a baseline knowledge of other topics in physics that, to me, isn't common knowledge (for example, the order of magnitude of temperatures at which certain internal degrees of freedom become relevant). Tends to focus more on the math than a physical understanding of the system. The amount of detail in the mathematics is fantastic and helps me understand the material, but a physical understanding is more important for setting up the problem which is known to be the most difficult part. Also tends not to repeat things even when asked. But, on the whole, no major issues.
- #10** - Not such kind of weakness to be mentioned.

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
<b>#1</b>	The beginning, "last class" portion helps to get my mind on track for the day. Also the recitations are quite helpful. It is nice to get real-time feedback while working problems.
<b>#2</b>	Recitations. I loved recitations. Those helped the most. Some times I got so focused on the math, I would forget the physics. I understand that physics is applied mathematics, but I would have liked to see more applications of the theory to the world.
<b>#3</b>	The recitation sessions by far and also homework feedback.
<b>#5</b>	Recitation sessions were helpful.
<b>#6</b>	Again, I'll say recitation is really helpful.
<b>#7</b>	Recitation classes are the best, please continue this technique.
<b>#9</b>	The degree of organization in lectures was invaluable and I appreciate the leading question approach to helping students work through problems. The recitations were a very good supplement. I would suggest taking a moment to speak about the physical meaning of the topics of the lecture and occasionally explaining why, on a physical level, we take a certain mathematical step/approach in a derivation. I sometimes get lost in the

math, especially in a long derivation, and lose sight of the purpose of it. At this level of mathematics, it's easier to understand the logical approach to the problem and mentally connect it to the mathematical steps than it is to memorize a list of steps in order and attempt to reproduce it.

**#10** - Recitation and course plan was very helpful.

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

**Type:** Essay

**Student**

**Comments**

**#1** - if you want to learn, take Dr. Oberheide. If you want an easy A, DO NOT!

**#2** - Yes, Dr. Oberheide is good. His classes are very structured and he is clear with what he wants. He writes a lot on the board (which I found very helpful) which helps with note taking. He is available in his office most of the time and if a student has a question, he is there to help.

**#3** - Yes, The course seems tough especially trying to figure out what seems like billions of equations but once you understand the concepts and done a few problems it doesn't seem that bad.

**#5** - Yes.

**#6** - Yes. Any physics graduate student should have a clear idea about statistical mechanics no matter what the research field is.

**#7** - Definitely recommend because of his well organized way of teaching. He is very strict grader though.

**#8** - Yes

**#9** - Absolutely. By far the best instructor I've had at this school. The courses are comparatively easy to follow and there's no shortage of problems assigned for practice. He's always available for questions and meetings are always helpful in some way.

**#10** - Yes

**Departmental Questions (5809)**

D1. I have significantly improved my critical thinking and problem solving skills during this course.

**Type:** Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
10 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Ok