

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for Jens Oberheide teaching PHYS 875 001 during Fall Semester 2011

Respondents = 7; Enrolled = 13; Response rate = 54%

University Questions(3686)

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (42.86%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.400	0.548	4	5		
Same Level	4.732	0.501	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.125	1.000	4	1596		

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (28.57%)	3 (42.86%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.167	1.169	4.5	6		
Same Level	4.756	0.538	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.090	1.014	4	1593		

G3. The course was well organized.

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)	2 (28.57%)	3 (42.86%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.816	4.5	6		
Same Level	4.561	0.673	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.234	0.949	4	1592		

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

Type: How much

Not at all					Very much	
1	2	3	4	5	NR	
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (42.86%)	3 (42.86%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.548	4.5	6		
Same Level	4.707	0.602	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.134	1.043	4	1587		

G5. The instructor's teaching methods 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%)	1 (14.29%)	3 (42.86%)	2 (28.57%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.167	0.753	4	6		
Same Level	4.659	0.656	5	41		
Same Discipline	3.772	1.256	4	1589		

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		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)	2 (28.57%)	3 (42.86%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.816	4.5	6		
Same Level	4.585	0.631	5	41		
Same Discipline	3.706	1.307	4	1591		

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		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	0.894	4	6		
Same Level	4.561	0.709	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.139	1.048	4	1588		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	0.894	4	6		
Same Level	4.585	0.631	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.288	0.960	5	1593		

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		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	2 (28.57%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.000	0.894	4	6		
Same Level	4.525	0.751	5	40		
Same Discipline	3.897	1.165	4	1585		

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.

Type: How much

Not at all		Very much				NR
1	2	3	4	5		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)	2 (28.57%)	3 (42.86%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.333	0.816	4.5	6		
Same Level	4.683	0.687	5	41		
Same Discipline	4.003	1.115	4	1586		

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%)	1 (14.29%)	1 (14.29%)	4 (57.14%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.837	5	6		

Same Level	4.564	0.788	5	39
Same Discipline	4.120	1.018	4	1584

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	
3 (42.86%)	2 (28.57%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	1.833	1.169	1.5	6	
Same Level	4.150	0.921	4	40	
Same Discipline	3.750	1.054	4	1587	

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	
3 (42.86%)	3 (42.86%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	1.500	0.548	1.5	6	
Same Level	3.425	1.107	3.5	40	
Same Discipline	3.663	1.118	4	1590	

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%)	1 (14.29%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (71.43%)	1 (14.29%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	4.667	0.816	5	6	
Same Level	4.537	0.778	5	41	
Same Discipline	4.566	0.829	5	1587	

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
6 (85.71%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (14.29%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
4 (57.14%)	2 (28.57%)	1 (14.29%)

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	NR
1	2	3	4		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	6 (85.71%)	1 (14.29%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	4.000	0.000	4	6	
Same Level	3.756	0.582	4	41	
Same Discipline	3.411	0.706	4	1595	

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - The course was very useful in learning about the areas of research of the professors in the department.
- #2 - I found the seminar helpful. It definitely introduced me to other fields that I was not considering prior.
- #4 - Did you find the seminar valuable? It was valuable in that it exposed us to some other fields, however, the symposium was much better so perhaps do two of them instead of this course
- #5 - Course exposes new graduate students to research opportunities in the department
- #6 - Given the nature of this course - i.e. to promote the different types of research offered in the Physics Department, with the intention of aiding those who have not decided on an advisor / and accompanying research field, I thought that I learned quite a bit. However, I have one issue - hereby elaborated below. I think that it is in everyone's best interest, especially the incoming graduate student class to have access to the PowerPoint lecture presentations in some way. There are three primary reasons why I believe that this is necessary. One, since throughout the course of the semester, we are continually introduced to different research areas / specialties. Being irrevocably human, chances are that we may forget something. So, having access to those materials, aids in such a process. In addition to this, I think that having offline out-of-the-classroom access to those materials could invoke what I consider to be a yet unexploited advantage - the effect it will have on a wide-eyed, undecided (for the moment), incoming graduate student, of which I think on average, represent at least half of the incoming Physics graduate student body. That effect is the ability to look over what was covered, think some more about those topics, and in time act on those impulses and find an adviser to whom they think they are better suited - as well as a sub-field that they would appreciate given what research topics have been presented. It is for this reason alone, and none other, that I think access to such materials should be given in future. And, lastly - if anything, even if a such said incoming graduate student has already decided on an advisor - the course at least also invokes and promotes a deeper sense of camaraderie since everyone will have a better idea of what his/her peers are doing. Nevertheless, disregarding this detail, I think the course was very informational and exposed me to the different facets of research being undertaken in our department. I vote to continue this course in its current paradigm with strong consideration being made to accommodate issues similar to what was outlined in this assessment.
- #7 - I like it very much, the seminar are very useful.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - I wish that the guest professors spoke more generally about their area of research and less of the specifics. It was hard to understand what I could do in terms of research with a professor when they were speaking so specifically of their most recent project or research area.
- #2 - If the instructors communicated what their expectations were of their students, that would be a little more helpful in determining whether they would fit well with a particular student.
- #4 - What should be changed to make the seminar better? less focus on the teachers background and more on current research and introduce what current or past students have done for research with that professor.
- #5 - The course generally has a great deal of overlap and repeat from the start of the year department conference. It is also not very useful for students that have already found a research group. For that reason I would personally be an advocate of it no longer being a blanket requirement in the future, but maybe a requirement for those who do not already have a research group.
- #6 - Given the nature of this course - i.e. to promote the different types of research offered in the Physics Department, with the intention of aiding those who have not decided on an advisor / and accompanying research field, I thought that I learned quite a bit. However, I have one issue - hereby elaborated below. I think that it is in everyone's best interest, especially the incoming graduate student class to have access to the PowerPoint lecture

presentations in some way. There are three primary reasons why I believe that this is necessary. One, since throughout the course of the semester, we are continually introduced to different research areas / specialties. Being irrevocably human, chances are that we may forget something. So, having access to those materials, aids in such a process. In addition to this, I think that having offline out-of-the-classroom access to those materials could invoke what I consider to be a yet unexploited advantage - the effect it will have on a wide-eyed, undecided (for the moment), incoming graduate student, of which I think on average, represent at least half of the incoming Physics graduate student body. That effect is the ability to look over what was covered, think some more about those topics, and in time act on those impulses and find an adviser to whom they think they are better suited - as well as a sub-field that they would appreciate given what research topics have been presented. It is for this reason alone, and none other, that I think access to such materials should be given in future. And, lastly - if anything, even if a such said incoming graduate student has already decided on an advisor - the course at least also invokes and promotes a deeper sense of camaraderie since everyone will have a better idea of what his/her peers are doing. Nevertheless, disregarding this detail, I think the course was very informational and exposed me to the different facets of research being undertaken in our department. I vote to continue this course in its current paradigm with strong consideration being made to accommodate issues similar to what was outlined in this assessment.

#7 - No, I just hope there are more professors introducing their work.

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

#2 - Definitely think this is worthwhile for new grad students

#4 - Do you think it is worthwhile to continue with this seminar, for next year's new graduate students? no, the symposium was much more helpful, and most professors especially those who do astro did not give talks

#7 - The seminar helps me learned a lot.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

#2 - yes

#3 - yes

#6 - Yes, because of the plethora and variety of research topics presented over the course of the semester.

#7 - Yes, it helps us understand different areas of physics.