

Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for Jens Oberheide teaching PHYS 322 001 during Spring Semester 2012
 Respondents = 8; Enrolled = 15; Response rate = 53%

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%)	1 (12.50%)	2 (25.00%)	5 (62.50%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.756	5	8		
Same Level	4.191	1.154	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.912	1.108	4	1926		

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%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8		
Same Level	4.404	1.097	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.930	1.106	4	1925		

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%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8		
Same Level	4.000	1.285	5	47		
Same Discipline	4.050	1.066	4	1921		

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 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8		
Same Level	4.277	1.347	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.931	1.166	4	1917		

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%)	1 (12.50%)	2 (25.00%)	5 (62.50%)		0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.756	5	8		
Same Level	4.021	1.242	4	47		
Same Discipline	3.541	1.303	4	1922		

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 (12.50%)	1 (12.50%)	6 (75.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.625	0.744	5	8		
Same Level	4.213	1.301	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.544	1.340	4	1927		

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%)	1 (12.50%)	2 (25.00%)	5 (62.50%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.500	0.756	5	8		
Same Level	4.277	1.246	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.869	1.186	4	1923		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8		
Same Level	3.894	1.165	4	47		
Same Discipline	4.096	1.090	4	1923		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8		
Same Level	4.021	1.343	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.637	1.263	4	1919		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (12.50%)	7 (87.50%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.875	0.354	5	8		
Same Level	4.298	1.250	5	47		
Same Discipline	3.778	1.207	4	1924		

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (37.50%)	5 (62.50%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations		
Class	4.625	0.518	5	8		

Same Level	4.085	1.265	5	47
Same Discipline	3.880	1.149	4	1914

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%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	3.404	1.262	3	47	
Same Discipline	3.720	1.012	4	1920	

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%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	3.085	1.316	3	47	
Same Discipline	3.756	1.055	4	1920	

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%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	5.000	0.000	5	8	
Same Level	4.894	0.477	5	47	
Same Discipline	4.583	0.854	5	1916	

G15. Was this course in your major?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
0 (0.00%)	8 (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	NR
1	2	3	4		
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	
Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations	
Class	4.000	0.000	4	8	
Same Level	3.468	0.776	4	47	
Same Discipline	3.285	0.793	3	1924	

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Dr. Oberheide is an excellent teacher. I especially like how everything was explained in both heuristic terms and immediately afterwards, the mathematical proof followed. Usually, professors either explain everything heuristically and leave it to the student to fill in the mathematical details or they explain everything mathematically, but then the student is lost on the general concepts. The occasional real world application of the material covered in class is also quite refreshing.
- #2 - Dr. Oberheide is awesome. He changed his lecture/note style from last semester, which has been a tremendous help (more organized), occasionally slips in funny comments (keeps you awake/listening), asks difficult, but excellent questions in class, and is ALWAYS available to talk/help you with his crazy hard homework. He is one of the reasons why I love the Clemson Physics department so much. Seriously consider giving him a raise!! and sexy German accent :)
- #3 - Very knowledgeable, makes himself readily available to talk, always gets papers back immediately, and really encourages students to have a deep understanding of the material.
- #4 - Professor Oberheide is a very tough teacher, he expects a lot. However, he also teaches a lot and he does a very good job. His homework, quizzes, and tests are very difficult, but not impossible. All the effort he demands is well worth it because you get so much more out of the course by really being tested. I believe this is his greatest strength because if you really try, then you will begin to master the subject.
- #5 - The class was very difficult, but I thought the expectations were reasonable in terms of the amount of homework we got and how the grading was done. Dr. Oberheide was also always available in his office to help, and was very understanding and encouraging if someone was struggling with a certain topic. I also appreciated how promptly he graded assignments and how he made it very clear what he took points off for.
- #6 - The instructor is always available for help outside of class and is open to feedback; he presents the material in a way that is instructive and relatively easy to follow. The course is set up in a way as to be challenging without setting up students to fail. If you are willing to put in the time and effort you will succeed in learning.
- #7 - I really liked the ratio of theory to examples this semester, it helped me to understand the material better. This was simply a really good presentation of the material of Classical Mechanics.
- #8 - Professor Oberheide taught the most in depth physics course I have taken thus far and I feel he did a fabulous job. He fully proved everything important involved with the class, but also spent a good amount of time on useful examples.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - No weaknesses to speak of.
- #2 - the material is very difficult/time-consuming; if there is any way to restructure the curriculum so students can devote more time to this class that would be excellent.
- #3 - Sometimes he goes so quickly through the material that it is nearly impossible to get to the level of understanding that he demands. This is not necessarily the worst thing because he curves the final grade, but it can have the effect of beating down students and making them have a negative attitude toward the class.
- #4 - I do not believe there are any weaknesses. Professor Oberheide did a good job of showing applications of the theory and building the theory up from what we already knew.
- #5 - I wish the exams were made so that a few people legitimately made A's on them... on the one hand, it's great to be challenged, but on the other hand, it's just discouraging when you start to feel like you're never going to be able to correctly answer a mechanics problem, and I feel like it would be better to be completely solving problems than aiming to half-answer everything. Along the same lines, I certainly benefitted from the somewhat ambiguous grading scale, but I think I would have worked harder if I knew that I had to make a specific numerical grade to make the letter grade I wanted.
- #6 - N/a
- #7 - Not enough tests! I would really like more opportunities to take tests in this course. I feel

as though I had a really bad day for the midterm and that, that has had a huge influence on my overall grade in this class. It has been shown by the guest instructors that losing one or two more days to tests will not lower the amount of material that is covered in an appreciable way. More tests, more opportunities to do well and show what we have learned, would be appreciated.

#8 - N/A

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 - I found the homework to be a nice addition to the lectures. They reinforced the material in a very elegant manner.
- #2 - clear/organized notes, asks questions, funnyonly improvement is the time crunch; taking mechanics, E&M, MM,etc all at the same time prevents you from devoting as much time to this course as seems necessary for complete mastery
- #3 - His enthusiasm for theoretical physics. He is always more than happy to discuss class material and anything related theoretical physics. More conceptual questions would help during the lecture.
- #4 - I thought the structure of Professor Oberheide's notes and lecture really helped me.
- #5 - I liked that Dr. Oberheide was always available in his office, and the homework this semester seemed to be more manageable than last semester (even though it still took a lot of time to do). I also liked the days when he brought in his laptop and showed us simulations or videos, because it made me more interested in learning the material if I saw its relevance to real-world applications.
- #6 - I found that the professor's availability outside of class time was particularly helpful as was the difficulty level of the homework.
- #7 - I thought the presentation of the material was really well done.
- #8 - Professor Oberheide is available all of the time, so if you had any difficulty with the subject material, he would be willing to help you better understand it.

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

Type: Essay

Student Comments

- #1 - Most certainly. Dr. Oberheide is a very qualified and motivated professor.
- #2 - yes. see strengths.
- #3 - Yes. He is the most demanding teacher I've had thus far, but I have learned so much from his class.
- #4 - Yes, before Professor Oberheide I was a fool when it came to physics. The physics with calculus series we were taught was not rigorous enough to be considered physics. I am much better now because Professor Oberheide stressed the importance of problem solving using the theory we were taught. It was very tough at first but the learning curve he required was worth it.
- #5 - Yes... he was very helpful, and even if I didn't understand the material right away, after doing a lot of homework problems and taking quizzes and exams, I now feel like I have a fairly solid understanding of mechanics... so I guess I also like that the way this class is done (with only 2 exams), you don't necessarily have to get the material right away, as long as you figure it out before the end of the semester. I also think Dr. Oberheide is very understanding, and is very encouraging even when you feel like you're hopelessly unable to do mechanics, so I think that makes him a great instructor for this class specifically, since this is the hardest class we're taking this year, and is such a big step up from the introductory physics classes we've had in the last two years.
- #6 - Yes, if that friend wanted/could put in the amount of time required.
- #7 - Yes. Dr. Oberheide is one of my most respected instructors. I think he is a very good teacher.
- #8 - Yes, this was one of the most intellectually enjoyable course I have taken.