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Clemson University Student Evaluation of Teaching

Evaluation Report for Jens Oberheide teaching PHYS 8210 001 during Fall Semester 2016

  Respondents = 11 Enrolled = 11 Response rate = 100%

 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%)	1 (9.09%)	3 (27.27%)	7 (63.64%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.545	0.688	5	11
Same Level	4.667	0.832	5	27
Same Discipline	4.158	1.001	4	1586

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%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (45.45%)	6 (54.55%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.545	0.522	5	11
Same Level	4.593	0.971	5	27
Same Discipline	4.132	1.026	4	1579

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%)	1 (9.09%)	2 (18.18%)	8 (72.73%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.636	0.674	5	11
Same Level	4.593	0.844	5	27
Same Discipline	4.262	0.978	5	1583

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%)	2 (18.18%)	9 (81.82%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.818	0.405	5	11
Same Level	4.556	0.974	5	27
Same Discipline	4.145	1.080	5	1579

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 (9.09%)	5 (45.45%)	5 (45.45%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.364	0.674	4	11
Same Level	4.556	0.892	5	27
Same Discipline	3.777	1.225	4	1576

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%)	3 (27.27%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (45.45%)	3 (27.27%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	3.727	1.191	4	11
Same Level	4.481	0.935	5	27
Same Discipline	3.790	1.258	4	1581

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 (36.36%)	7 (63.64%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.636	0.505	5	11
Same Level	4.583	0.881	5	24
Same Discipline	4.138	1.057	4	1574

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%)	5 (45.45%)	6 (54.55%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.545	0.522	5	11
Same Level	4.370	1.043	5	27
Same Discipline	4.294	0.971	5	1580

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%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (27.27%)	8 (72.73%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.727	0.467	5	11
Same Level	4.630	0.884	5	27
Same Discipline	3.863	1.177	4	1581

G10. Overall, the instructor is an effective teacher.
    Type: How much

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR

Not at all (1)	2	3	4	Very much (5)	NR
0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (9.09%)	2 (18.18%)	8 (72.73%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.636	0.674	5	11
Same Level	4.741	0.813	5	27
Same Discipline	4.047	1.102	4	1581

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%)	1 (9.09%)	2 (18.18%)	8 (72.73%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.636	0.674	5	11
Same Level	4.577	0.902	5	26
Same Discipline	4.164	1.004	4	1582

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%)	1 (9.09%)	2 (18.18%)	8 (72.73%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.636	0.674	5	11
Same Level	3.889	1.188	4	27
Same Discipline	3.908	0.967	4	1580

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%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (9.09%)	4 (36.36%)	6 (54.55%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.455	0.688	5	11
Same Level	3.407	1.394	3	27
Same Discipline	3.857	1.021	4	1578

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%)	2 (18.18%)	9 (81.82%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	4.818	0.405	5	11
Same Level	4.231	1.210	5	26
Same Discipline	4.520	0.939	5	1580

G15. Was this course in your major?
    Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
11 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

G16. Was this course team-taught?

Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
1 (9.09%)	10 (90.91%)	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%)	3 (27.27%)	8 (72.73%)	0 (0.00%)

Focus	Mean	Stdev	Median	Observations
Class	3.727	0.467	4	11
Same Level	3.630	0.742	4	27
Same Discipline	3.437	0.728	4	1583

G18. Please comment on the strengths of the instructor and the course.
Type: Essay

Student	Comments

#1 - He worked really hard for this course. He was available in his office most of the time, which helped a lot.

#2 - I think the homework costs us too much time. The reasons for that, as far as I could say, are first, the homework needs some knowledge we do not touch at that time, which means, we need to read more chapters or sections of the material to finish the homework. Second, when I was doing the homework, these kinds of questions are unfamiliar. So if Prof. Oberheide could give more examples on class, that will be of great help.

#3 - The example problems worked in class were often helpful, as were the derivations that the book failed to describe.

#4 - The homeworks and recitation sessions were very instructive and helpful. The grading and feedback given on homeworks was also very helpful. Overall the course was structured very well. One negative is the class participation during lectures, which is very low due to difficulty in understanding all the steps on board. Steps are skipped often and one can understand the lectures only after going through the relevant section in the book later on.

#5 - Clear expectations for classes and well organized timetables for assignments and tests.

#6 - Proffessor Oberheide is well prepared for the class. He always encourage to read the text book and understand the concepts better.

#7 - The teaching style introduced material in a way that often led to "aha" moments or times where something clicked and made more sense, even in the more abstract or theoretical portions of the class. The recitation sessions and the way interesting results were presented just seemed to work.

#8 - Very rigouress

#9 - I thought that Dr. Oberheide did an excellent job of conveying the material in a clear way. He made himself easily available after class to answer questions which helped tremendously. Though I took advantage of this open door policy a lot I think doing more of the scheduled talks would be very beneficial.

#10 - I wish there were more professors that taught like Dr. Oberheide (and Dr Meyers). I really liked having more problems to go through in the recitation session. It was very nice that Dr. Oberheide was always available for questions and that he also elaborated on other topics where the information that we were learning can be relevant in various research fields.

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

Type: Essay

Student	Comments

#1 - sometimes his voice is a little bit hard to listen.

#2 - 1. I have been struggling with the accent of professor.
2. we use much time on deriving some equations and formulas on class. I think these kind of derivation could be done by ourselves after class. During the class, I want to obtain more physics pictures or physics concepts and more examples.

#3 - Sometimes the hints on the homework weren't helpful or it was difficult to see how we should make use of them in the problems. I think there were a couple times when there was material on the homework that we hadn't yet covered in class, which made the problems even more challenging.

#5 - None

#8 - Very poor writing of the instructor

#10 - not applicable for the course as a whole.

[[(Physics PhD program wise it would be better if the first year was split into two years where the students could really dig into all of the subjects and gain a better understanding of each course instead of just having some courses (not this course) where the course was just about getting ready for the quals. I understand the importance of quals but if you have a class that is practically just for the quals it really derails the point of the class and being a student in general.)]]

#11 - too much homework. I hope you can teach us how to compute our homework. It is a better way for us to study.

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 - Open door policy for office hours: that helped me a lot while doing homework.

Hints: sometimes he used to provide hints for some problems. which helped to solve/start problems. But, i feel like my thinking was constrained in one direction (the way hint is given). Instead of writing hints in question, if he can upload hints in blackboard in a separate sheet of paper that will be great. That way I can think of problem by myself and if i couldn't figure it out, i can use hint later.

Recitation: was really helpful to do extra problems.

Midterm: I usually feel confident in doing problems after homework. I thought we would do homework first for small oscillations and then we will have a midterm. Though as a PhD student, i need to do problems by myself, still if i solve some problem as homework and get some feedback before the exam that will boost my confidence to do other related problems.

#2 - I like the way we do the lecture notes.
I appreciate that professor could give us so much time after class. And professor could correct our homework very quick.

#3 - Although I didn't enjoy extra work outside of class (e.g. oral hw, class notes, and recitation), I felt that it was very helpful in better understanding the material. Recitation problems were often useful/similar to homework problems, and having to type class notes allowed me to go more in depth on the material I had to describe. So although the extra stuff wasn't necessarily enjoyable, it was definitely beneficial.

#4 - Homeworks, recitation sessions and extensive feedback as well as solutions on the homeworks returned were very helpful.

The lectures can be made more interesting by not skipping steps as one loses track of the lecture midway then. This has happened several times to me.

#5 - None.

#6 - The recitation class is very effective and it helps to understand the subject better. The discussions with the teacher regarding how to approach the problem and how to solve the problems is very helpful. The oral homework presentation is also helpful.
I think it is better to have the oral homework presentation earlier in the semester.

#9 - I really enjoyed the open door policy and the clear connections to real life physics was also very informative.

#10 - I liked the working in groups in the recitation session so that we could pull ideas from each other for tackling a variety of problems.

I think another method, if time is available, would be to have some of the students pick a topic to teach for a class period or half a class period. This would help the student learn that information better as well as present a different style of teaching across all of the students taking the course. (I think this idea would be very demanding for a first year program but would be an excellent idea for an elective class.)

#11 - the lecture should be improved since you teach us too much but actually we can not understand all the things.

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

Student   **Comments**

#1 - yes.

#2 - yes. Although this course is really though, I believe I learn a lot, far more than what I learn from my undergraduate. I really appreciate what prof. Oberheide have done.

#3 - Yes; very helpful and really stresses the course material.

#4 - Yes. Because of problem solving skills learnt.

#5 - Yes. He cares deeply about his students' success on a professional level, not just as a student.

#6 - yes

#7 - Yes; I would highly recommend Dr. Oberheide. He seems to always be willing to take walk-ins to his office for both help on homework and for deeper conversations about physics which have made the class a highlight of my semester. Additionally, his emphasis on getting an understanding of the physics of problems beyond just seeing the math makes the homework

sets rewarding to work on (even if they sometimes take what feels like forever).

#8 - Yes

#9 - Yes

#10 - I would wholeheartedly recommend this professor to a friend. (Yes.) He lays out the foundation for each subject in class very well and clearly, is always available when you have questions in regards to the coursework, creates additional opportunities outside of the scheduled class time to go through more class work, applies the subject material to courses/research that helps make the student really get behind the material, always maintains a calm demeanor regardless of the type of question posed, and really dedicates himself to the students and the class. (who wouldn't want a professor that is like this?)

Departmental Questions (5809)

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

    Type: Yes - No

Yes	No	NR
11 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

Ok