

Hi Everybody,

I trust you are finding value in your summer experience. I'm writing one last time to let you know what's up.

40 of the 68 students evaluated me and our class a 4.25 and 4.28, almost exactly the physics department average. I've posted the comprehensive evaluations on our main class website.

There was considerable diversity in the student comments from regret to gratitude. Am I allowed to pick one I liked?:

"...I love when my classes get me to see the world in new ways, and this one did..."

It was commonly expressed that I should answer questions during office hours. My intention was always that if you didn't understand something, you should call me out to talk about it, but I agree that I should be more accessible. I think in the future, I'll sit out with the students during office hours and participate in the discussions.

Some people pointed out that the videos could be improved, and be shorter. I may work on this during the summer.

A number of people suggested that we switch groups in the future so that everyone will work with a bunch of people. My reluctance has been that I want to leave as much to the students as possible, but I will try this suggestion fall quarter.

34 of you responded to the SurveyMonkey survey. The printed results are on our main class website. However, I was not able to print out all the comments so they are listed at the end. The strong take away from this is that I should continue to have projects, but not increase the number of projects. I think I still have some development for the class to complete (like improving the textbook and videos) before I start to revamp other parts of the curriculum. I would like to increase the number of projects, but will instead first try to improvement them. In particular, in the fall, I'll have corrections back much sooner so students have more opportunities to improve mistakes in the videos.

Question #6 asked for your general comments with respect to the textbook. The responses were very diverse. I may provide one guided example solution for each problem for each chapter.

Here are the responses:

I might suggest an answer key?

6/15/2017 12:44 PM

It was short and articulate and did a good job explaining. More practice problems with full drawn-out solutions would also go a long way in helping understand the concepts.

6/14/2017 11:14 AM

Maybe do it more example based with answers, we do a lot in the class that is more open ended and I understand why but sometimes concrete examples with answers really help so I have something to model my responses to.

6/14/2017 11:01 AM

It would be nice to have a more in depth explanation of the questions that were asked in the textbook

6/14/2017 10:22 AM

I enjoyed the way the textbook was set up. Not having to read large amounts of text coupled with examples similar to the videos kept my focus and helped me absorb and retain information. I think a major reason I didn't always read the textbook though was because there were times I would read the text, try and work through a problem, and just not be

able to get anywhere. Then I would watch the video and have you explain exactly how to do a problem so the videos cut out the time it would take to struggle with a problem. Not sure if that's a good or bad thing really.

6/14/2017 9:48 AM

I liked the textbook you wrote because it simplified the information in the OpenStax. But a lot of it was too simple, especially having no background in physics. It was hard to get what you were throwing out because it seemed like you thought we would already know what you're talking about.

6/14/2017 9:46 AM

I thought it was fine.

6/14/2017 8:47 AM

It basically summarized the videos.

6/13/2017 4:47 PM

I think it would be more helpful if you actually showed worked out examples so we have an idea of how to do them

6/13/2017 4:45 PM

I liked the shortened text book although i utilized the videos a lot more

6/13/2017 2:38 PM

Sometimes the chapters did not have a great set up and just went straight into problems

6/13/2017 9:40 AM

A list of all the formulas/ ideas at the end of the section summary.

6/12/2017 7:07 PM

It was nice that it was short and to the point

6/12/2017 5:30 PM

Should include a link for other examples of the concept or for a deeper explanation of the concept.

6/12/2017 12:05 PM

I felt that I was much more likely to read your textbook than the long OpenStax chapters.

6/12/2017 9:03 AM

simple and short is good

6/12/2017 12:23 AM

I think the textbook should have some answers so we can know if were doing the problems right.

6/11/2017 9:38 PM

I liked it a lot better than normal text books

6/11/2017 6:55 PM

More practice with answers to it.

6/11/2017 5:16 PM

The textbook would be more helpful if there were solutions to the examples

6/11/2017 4:58 PM

Textbook was great I just never read it

6/11/2017 4:07 PM

Question #7 asked for comments about your experience in office hours. Again, likely in the future, I'll sit out with the students during office hours. Here are your responses:

I thought office hours were very helpful and pushed me to work more with my peers.

6/15/2017 12:44 PM

I rarely came to office hours because I could find most information I needed online.

6/14/2017 11:14 AM

There was a lot of time in class to ask questions and talk to peers

6/14/2017 11:01 AM

Helpful, but most of the time frustrating because no one knew the answer at times.

6/14/2017 10:22 AM

It was basically just an extra class if we went because we would just be put into groups. So there were times I didn't want to go to office hours if I had a question because if there were other people in the class there I would have to just ask them and they might not know the answer either.

6/14/2017 9:48 AM

I kept putting off going to office hours. I went the last week and it was helpful. I didn't work with other student although I feel I should have come throughout the quarter to practice problems.

6/14/2017 9:46 AM

When I went I found it to be worthwhile, especially since you had us hash out our problems with each other before helping us directly.

6/14/2017 8:47 AM

I didn't feel a need to come. I felt like I understood most of the concepts from the videos and talking to other students.

6/13/2017 4:47 PM

Conflicted with my schedule sadly

6/13/2017 4:45 PM

I went to office hours twice and they were helpful. although i found it more helpful talking things out with my peers.

6/13/2017 2:38 PM

I came to office hours once since they conflicted with my classes. It was a good experience however I still didn't feel confident about the material.

6/13/2017 9:40 AM

I wish that you took over instead of me having to rely on my classmates because sometimes we'd have a hard time figuring something out and needed you to take over.

6/12/2017 7:07 PM

A little helpful but would be a lot more useful if we'd get more answers than questions because chances are, we are already lost when we get there.

6/12/2017 12:05 PM

I often came to office hours and found them very helpful.

6/12/2017 9:03 AM

I attended office hours once or twice a week and found them very helpful.

6/12/2017 12:23 AM

I thought office hours for the most part were not too helpful and instead relied on watching the videos again.

6/11/2017 9:38 PM

Allowed me to study with other students

6/11/2017 6:55 PM

I did not feel as if I needed to attend them because of the way the class was set up. My questions were typically answered in the class period by either the lecture or my classmates.

6/11/2017 6:18 PM

If I come to office hours it's because I have put in the work to figure it out on my own, now I need your help. I don't need to hear that I should work with others, I tried that but it doesn't make sense. It's not their job to present the information to me or help me understand it, and frankly when I get different forms of the same answer from different people, I get even more confused. So I only came to office hours twice because I saw that it would be useless.

6/11/2017 5:16 PM

I never went to office hours

6/11/2017 4:58 PM

I wish Pete would answer specific questions we had that required short and quick answers before turning to the peers.

6/11/2017 4:28 PM

I went once and worked on problems with students. It was helpful

6/11/2017 4:07 PM

Question #15 asked for comments with regard to the projects:

I enjoyed not having a lot of guidelines for the projects, i made my group and i think more.

6/15/2017 12:44 PM

Though I liked my group, I feel like changing the groups up would be good, as you are exposed to different ways of thinking about certain things. When you stay with the same people for ten weeks, you get used to how they think, and the process of thinking differently becomes stale.

6/14/2017 11:14 AM

Maybe force a group switch because I liked the people who I sat next to/who were in my group but sometimes I really needed their help to finish the project and they didn't really acknowledge that or they didn't really communicate well with their schedules outside of class... I think switching up groups or even assigning groups may be a good way to get students to work with more people and improve on their communication skills

6/14/2017 11:01 AM

The projects were fine, no change necessary.

6/14/2017 10:22 AM

I liked how you allow the students to feel their way out into the project rather than throw out how you exactly want it. It leaves room to actually use imagination which isn't used in school much anymore.

6/14/2017 9:46 AM

I feel like the feedback for the projects was too isolated, I didn't feel like you were actually engaging with us for project 2.

6/14/2017 8:47 AM

A little more structure would be appreciated

6/13/2017 4:47 PM

I liked the projects a lot and think they really helped me apply the physics i was learning in class

6/13/2017 2:38 PM

The projects are great

6/13/2017 9:40 AM

I think that it's good that instructions aren't super concrete because we, as students, can determine how to make up our own projects. Love the feed back and when I asked for help, I got it. I think more projects would be better.

6/12/2017 7:07 PM

Kind of broad on the instructions for project #2 but it was fine anyhow.

6/12/2017 12:05 PM

I felt that the projects were unnecessary, and didn't help me learn very much.

6/12/2017 9:03 AM

I understand that the projects are supposed to be very broad and up to the students, however providing a very simple deliverable list (certain graphs/tables) would help give groups a place to start.

6/12/2017 12:23 AM

I think there should be a few more projects for us to learn a little better.

6/11/2017 9:38 PM

I feel like we needed more guidance

6/11/2017 6:55 PM

please lecture more. I need to learn from you because my group was just wrong half the time and we never got a straight answer to questions. The in class practice was great, but if our whole group was doing it wrong, we didn't know why and we couldn't figure out why

6/11/2017 5:16 PM

The project, especially the last one, added much more stress to my life.

6/11/2017 4:58 PM

I don't think that the video is completely necessary with the projects. Tracker is very hard to use for me and the second project could just be a written report I think instead of a video attached with a script. .

6/11/2017 4:39 PM

Projects were fine. Nicely open-ended

6/11/2017 4:07 PM