

Hi Everybody. Please find below your unedited feedback in black. There is a vast disparity in responses! I ask that you read them all and consider the experience of your colleagues. My response to some of your statements is in purple italics.

*Thanks for your comments, below
Pete*

I think this class is great. I study Energy in my engineering courses but never got the opportunity to discuss the consequences of our technology. I am taking this course as an elective and am enjoying the mix of society, economics, environmentalism and science. Keep up the interesting discussion.

I'm struggling with depression but this class helps because it's engaging and I get to interact with other people. It's also helping me in a different technically-demanding class because we're covering similar material.

I really love the at home lectures because I can process the info at my speed. I am terrible at math so I need to dive in more and study that but I am also dyslexic so again the lectures are more my speed. The Big Exams are a great way of seeing how I am doing and what I need to focus on.

I enjoy the ideas of the class, as a non-science major I'm struggling a little to keep up with the calculations. It might be helpful for me if you spend more time in class going over calculation examples from the videos. *I would be glad to do this more with you in office hours or at any time during activity section that we have some free time. Additionally, you can ask the others in your group (or myself) to go over these things before or during class when we have group work time.*

SCARED. I don't understand the scientific language. *Then this course is exactly for you. This is what the course is for. I ask that you speak more with your people in the class and develop this scientific language. Please also come visit office hours and we can talk.*

I've had a hard time with the nontraditional structure of the class. I thrive on routine and highly appreciate formal lectures.

I also have felt some lack of communication in terms of clear, written, and explicit expectations from you as the instructor. *Thanks for your honest feedback. I will rarely lecture in class, as this is time for activities. Yes, it's different, but this "flipped classroom" has been shown by education researchers to be a more effective learning strategy than lecturing. Thus, it is unlikely that I will change the education format. I'm sure you can find a way to make this work for you. Maybe you can view the videos as formal, well-prepared lectures? As for the expectations. Yes, it is reasonable for you to know my expectations of you. Your concerns about expectation and structure are frequently expressed early in the quarter by students in my classes. For what it's worth, there are rarely (if ever) concerns expressed at the end of the quarter about meeting expectations for a grade in this class. Part of the misunderstanding is the commonly-held priority of "excellence". Instead, I ask us to prioritize "goodness" and I ask your level of mastery of material to be "good enough". The class is not competitive. I am content with all students getting an A... but it's happened only once. I respect each student to read the syllabus*

and decide how they want to be in this class. My expectation of myself is to accept your decisions as adults. My expectation of you as students is to hold yourself accountable for the decisions you make and the result. Please let me know if there is any additional information you would like to see with regard to expectations.

I like everything we did so far, the videos in particular because we can pace ourselves and take our own time. The ambiance is also great.

Hi! *Cute drawing of ocean wind turbines with fish below*

I think this is shaping up to be a great quarter. I'm having lots of fun doing 1,000 things at a time but I'm very much looking forward to graduating. Nothing can get me down for too long. This class is not what I expected but I'm sure that I'll learn something that will better myself. Thanks for your teaching style. I think it helps foster independence. *Damn!! Now I'm so curious. What was it you were expecting from the class? I believe in "truth in advertising" so I'm wondering how the class was described such that this isn't what you expected. Any additional information would be appreciated.*

I like this class so far! I like how we combine discussions about how energy works, politics about the environment, and the social aspect of the environment. I am a little worried about the calculations for this class, but I think after more practice and homework sets, I should be OK.

I'm getting better at the class but the lack of structure and direction (especially in the activity) is hard for me and not how I learn.

Overall, I think the class is interesting. I just find myself worrying more about that I'll miss the little details or facts for the exam than enjoying learning the concepts as a whole. *It's a bummer to be worrying... it also has been show to distract from the learning process. People who are worried about their grade learn less effectively than people who don't worry. It sounds like you have both: you have genuine curiosity, and you are also worried. I can tell you that "details" will not sink you on an exam. If you would like to convince yourself, please look at old exams. You can access them from websites of past classes.*

I'm not enjoying this class very much so far. Lecture is unhelpful, it's a lot of time spent talking to classmates when none of us are experts on the subject yet and we don't really know what we're talking about. I would prefer if lectures were more focused, class-wide discussions. *This sounds frustrating for you. My objective is to foster the best learning environment I can. Education research has shown that people don't learn from "experts" near as well as they learn from peers. Hence the emergence of peer education and the flipped classroom. It's also true that students often reject this as an effective learning model, even when their performance would indicate otherwise. For instance, please see this video that I find helpful and very fun... please check it out: <https://www.playposit.com/play/95466/Say-the-Wrong-Thing> However, for sure, you need to make this work for you. If your group doesn't know what to do, then I want to know. I'm glad to go over things with class-wide discussions when it is called for. Please let me know.*

I need to study more. I like the class but I'm not grasping the concepts at all but I've come to find it's lovely and very eye-opening. I'm appreciative of the factors that contribute to the environment in the sense that it's made us aware. Also, being the only freshman in this class is

intimidating but I love the challenge & accept needing to learn a lot to fully understand the material.

This is my last quarter. I finished my senior project in June and took fall quarter off to work full time. I'm still working 30+ hour weeks and trying to work on my portfolio for grad school.

I need to be more interactive with the videos and take quality notes! But the assigned articles are super interesting ☺

- I think I am relatively bad at physics, but I love this class so far. The video lectures are very interesting and engaging. I am learning a lot and I like now I am free to talk about the stuff I learned in class.
- I would like more practice problems to develop my formula sheet, and a little bit more information on the project.

So far, the class is going fairly well. I am still adjusting to lecture outside of class & focusing on the videos as important. I do like how this class is structured though of how relevant it is to current problems today. As a math major, it can sometimes feel detached from the rest of the world. Sometimes I consider changing my major because of how much I like this class.

- I'm not sure if videos are being logged as watched.
- More direct instruction might be useful to gather/organize thoughts on what we're expected to know.

So far, the class is a lot of fun. It takes a lot of the general concept of physics and applies them to something that many people in the class are passionate about. There's a lot to keep track of, and sometimes I find it hard to keep up. However, not everything is graded, so I feel relaxed even if I may forget something. I've learned a but already and I'm excited to keep learning.

I plan on coming to office hours next week to go over stuff because I have felt a little lost.
Excellent, I'll be there.

Hey, so how about my experience? I've been responsible for this class since 2008 and it's changed considerably since then... largely through communication with students. Likely most of us, I'm over committed and there's stress (and conflict) at home. Maybe partly because of this, I enjoy every class. I am also grateful for how much I learn from you and with you as well as I appreciate your efforts to learn from each other, myself, and our materials.