

COURSE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT: PHYS

TERM: Winter 2021

RESPONSES: 38 OUT OF 95 - 40%

INSTRUCTOR: Schwartz, Peter

COURSE: PHYS-141 02 General Physics IA

QUESTIONNAIRE: PHYS168ALL

QUESTION GROUP STATISTICS

| INDICATOR | AVERAGE | MEDIAN | S.DEV |
|--|---------|--------|-------|
| Summary Evaluation Average (2.1 & 2.2) | 3.96 | 4 | 1.11 |

SUMMARY EVALUATION

| NUM | QUESTION | AVERAGE | MEDIAN | S.DEV | RESPONSES | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|--------|-------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | N = | (5) | (4) | (3) | (2) | (1) |
| 2.1) | Overall, this instructor was educationally effective. | 3.89 | 4 | 1.16 | 38 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 2.2) | Overall, this course was educationally effective. | 4.03 | 4 | 1.08 | 38 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 1 |

COMMENTS

1.1) Write any comments below that might help your instructor evaluate his/her teaching performance. What did you particularly like What improvements could you suggest

- The teaching style was much preferred compared to past similar courses I had taken. His approach helped me understand the process of solving problems much better. Additionally, the grading approach was very effective for encouraging learning over grades - which he expressed to be an important aspect of the class. I might suggest that students are allowed more time to fully develop discussion responses. Other than that, I'm glad to have taken the class.

- I liked the way that the professor tried to involve us by creating breakout rooms and getting us to discuss with each other. Although I would have preferred an environment that was more teacher-driven, the way that my instructor was still good none the less.

- This professor is a thousand times better than the previous professor I had for this course when I failed it last quarter. I love that he grades based on our knowledge of physics rather than removing all points for plugging an answer into the calculator wrong after solving the entire problem correctly. He actually taught physics in our class (unlike the previous professor who just used old lecture recordings). He graded fairly and taught us well. If I had him last quarter, I wouldn't be retaking this class.

- Very poor teacher, took many of his own personal issues out on the class during lectures by yelling at them or just acting out for no reason other than being slightly inconvenienced by students. His grading was super inconsistent, and many times, he graded students based on his preferences. It was a really unprofessional class, and I would not recommend him to anyone; it honestly makes you more confused about Physics than if you hadn't taken it in the first place... I took 2 years of physics in high school and got an A+ in both courses and couldn't understand half the bs he spat out, so if that doesn't speak to it, then I don't know what will.

- His expectations weren't clear and some assignments lacked direction.

- Pete is a cool guy and I can tell he is passionate about teaching kids. I would recommend he builds a more affect learning planner. It's a lot of anxiety when readings and video assignments are changed or when I do know the full schedule. Also, I am not very clear on the grading for assessments.

- I really appreciated the textbook that Professor Schwartz wrote for this course. It made the material much more digestible and made reading the text easier and more interesting being able to read other students comments. I do think that some weeks classes could be a bit unorganized or we didn't have enough time to get through everything. But Professor Schwartz really broke down the concepts and did a lot of demonstrations to help us visualize which I appreciated. I also really thought that the way of teaching of introducing the lenses at first and building on those concepts was a much much much better way to learn than my traditional high school physics class. You do need to get the students to buy in to the different way for it to work though which I think Pete is trying to do.

- I think there should be more transparency with the grading process. The fact that we can't know our grades at any given time adds a lot of unnecessary stress to the course. It also made it extremely difficult to decide to take the class credit/no credit. I think the amount of homework was too much, as we had to watch 3-6 5-10 min videos every night in addition to 5-10 page readings plus extensive weekly problem sets. I like the breakout room idea as it helped me meet a lot of people. I really like the constant polls in class it kept me engaged and forced me to take an active role in learning. At times I felt the professor was a touch nit picky (we turned in a video project no less than 4 separate times, each of which raised our grade

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by 0.1, additionally his feedback was confusing and often disagreed with something he previously told us).

I did however enjoy his clear passion for teaching and the subject. It was nice to see a teacher so invested in his students

- Out of class time and assessments are utilized efficiently. However, in class time is unorganized and the lessons that are being taught often seem rushed, unclear, and metaphoric. Following the professor is often hard as he doesn't verbalize connections and explanations beforehand, but rather after the fact.

- I liked my breakout room group a lot and it was nice getting to discuss physics with them because it's intimidating for me to speak up in front of a large class.

- Sometimes Professor Pete Schwartz was a little dismissive of criticism. As far as positives - Professor Pete Schwartz did a fantastic job of actively making the class participate and clearly cared about the mental health of students. Additionally, he took a lot of feedback about what the class wanted and worked well to move forward with this in mind. His assigned homework was helpful and reasonable. I really enjoyed this class because of Pete's enthusiasm.

- I loved his connection to students, especially during Covid. Always excited to teach. Can have issues understanding students' struggles on subjects, but overall encourages students to help each other out first and that is usually the best solution.

- This teacher was very passionate about physics and knew the content very well. The only thing I would suggest is for him to have more organized explanations.

- He is a smart man and is very good at physics but I feel he conveys his point more when he is in a smaller environment, like whenever I went to his office hours I was able to understand what he was trying to say while I would get lost during class.

- Pete was super energetic and passionate about physics- which I really loved. He also made it a goal to make sure that students understood physics, and could be stubborn about it at times, but for the better. I liked the PlayPosit videos and how they were graded on completion- it made it easier to learn without the pressure associated with having to get everything right. Pete cared a lot about grading assessments on time, which I really valued. I think that the format of this class could be better for a 2 hour block twice a week rather than 50 mins over 4 days a week, because we spent a lot of time with introductions and breakout rooms at the start of class.

- Really enjoyed this course and the flipped classroom style! only complaint would be around breakout rooms- sometimes only one or two of us would be engaged, and that was frustrating. If there was a way to motivate all students to participate, have cameras on, etc. that would be greatly appreciated by those who are fully present and want to learn. Similarly with the group project- maybe because of the online format, it fell majority on me and some on another member while the others did nearly nothing. Other than that though, I think Pete is a wonderful professor and is super engaging!

- Pete Schwartz is definitely passionate. However, he is not necessarily the most effective professor. I feel like in my next physics class I will not do very well just because the way that Pete teaches physics appears so vastly different from other physics classes it might as well be a totally different course.

However I will say that I feel like I have a decently deep understanding of physics, even if I don't understand it in the same way that most people will. I may just not do so well in future traditional physics classroom settings.

- Professor Schwartz was VERY enthusiastic about Physics and had online projects that were engaging and fun but informative. One thing I would suggest is that Professor needs to give straight answers. After I ask a question I usually feel like I didn't get the answer I was looking for. I say he "beats around the bush" when answering questions.

- I really liked the enthusiasm throughout the course and I think it was clearly filled with effort. I do think the participation could improve as it was chaotic to have to watch PlayPosit, read Perusall and do Problem Sets. Additionally there was never enough time for discussions in class and I felt like a lot of the class relied on figuring stuff out in breakout rooms rather than teaching

- Professor Schwartz in the end is a great guy. I love his character and he's an all around funny/good person. I can tell he loves physics and that he really cares for his students but he has a tough time transmitting all of the information. On multiple occasions he has run a poll in class to interact with the students and more than half pick the wrong answer and instead of stopping to make sure all of the students understand, he moves ahead leaving the majority to figure out what is going on. Also, his way of teaching physics through "lenses" is extremely confusing and by starting the quarter blasting us with every component of physics was completely overwhelming. I didn't even understand how to use these lenses until a few weeks ago and by then I was already waaayyy far behind. In the end, he needs to slow down a bit and if he wants people to understand how to use these lenses, give it to us in pieces, not all at once. Maybe one lens a week? I don't know, but after talking to a bunch of kids in his class, they also are completely

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overwhelmed by his way of teaching.

- Pete is very good professor who has a different take on physics and makes us explain our thinking to make sure we understand material very well. I really enjoyed learning in this class.

- Awesome guy. He is very passionate about teaching physics and makes you fall in love with the subject. Also gives many real world examples that help in teaching,

- My instructor takes a flipped learning approach, which at first feels like you haven't learned anything. Once the course continues, there is something about the way this class was setup that I feel I learned more at the end of the quarter. It takes your mistakes and you learn off them, which seems like any class but this class defeats false conceptions we may have towards a problem. I saw that my learning improved with this method although I may feel I did not learn anything in this class. I think this type teaching would have been more effective in person than over zoom.

- Pete is very passionate about what he teaches and he clearly loves physics. he has a special class structure where you start with everything at once and you do the learning outside of the class on your own. this structure really did not work for me. i was very lost and a lot of what I was doing was guessing equations and hoping it worked out. i feel like I did not learn as much as a could have because this "backwards" learning style just did not work for me.

- As much as I do believe in the benefits of this learning style, it can take a while to adjust to. I found it hard to keep up with this learning style towards the middle of the quarter when midterms began because it takes so much time to do readings and watch the videos outside of class. I do like that it teaches the students self-accountability. We are responsible for doing the work outside of class and so we must learn to manage our time. However, please realize that this is not easy for everyone. Also, the non-graded practice problems are helpful but too long, which is disadvantageous because it contributes to large part of checking for understanding of concepts. I particularly liked having group discussions everyday because it compelled the students to talk about Physics like you wanted us to.

- The "reverse" classroom does not work online, it was difficult to understand some material and it felt like there was less time in class devoted to learning since some lecture material was out of the class. The homework punishing you for not doing it but not rewarding you for doing it was harsh as well.

- Overall the class is fairly engaging and I felt that the effort put in was rewarded with a better understanding. While there is an anti-stress motive in the class to not worry about grades, I personally found it to be worrying to not be able to easily figure out my grade in the course. I did enjoy that the enforcement of concepts was not that time-consuming. I did find that during these virtual times it can be really hard to find people to group up with or study with, but that was personally more on me. I did struggle, that is mostly because I had a hard time investing time into optional assignments with my workload while I had more concurrent demands from other courses. I do want to mention that from my perspective, the students that did the problem sets, did well, and those that coasted, did not. While I don't believe my grade will reflect how much of my understanding and process of solving a physics problem, I feel I learned a better way of looking at physics. That was the point of this class and it did a great job online, I do wish I could have been there in person. I felt a virtual environment affected everyone and even the Professor, could get frustrated at times and I think it weighed down the class. Truly, a good class that set out to accomplish its goal.

- The teacher himself was very caring of his students. However, I did not prefer his teaching methods. The introduction of all physics concepts within the first week of the quarter was too much for me and most of the time in his class I was confused. I felt as though my questions were not answered and that my time spent outside and inside of class was not efficient (mostly because I didn't even know where to start when it came to asking questions).

- I loved the structure of the class overall. The repetition really helped with the overall understanding of concepts. However the in class polls were sometimes annoying as I felt it was a waste of time to wait for everyone to respond. The grading system is very fair. I wish there was more clarity on projects and more time in class spent on discussing them.

- The course was fun and I learned a lot. The only improvement I have is maybe grade the assessments out of 10 or some number that won't get us a C for missing one point.

- I particularly like the way he taught the class, as in, teaching everything at once. Also how he focuses on more of the general concepts instead of getting the right numerical answer. Also how he showed all the answers and work for the problem sets that he assigned after it was due so the class could check their work. The only improvement I could suggest is the way he introduced and explained rotational problems. It was a little confusing and needed a little more time to fully understand.

- I think his teaching style is good. His asynchronous videos were not too long, so I actually paid attention to them. I also liked that his grading system was based on your thought process rather than getting a right answer.

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- Pete was great! His teaching style was very difficult to adjust to in the beginning, but he gave ample time and grade forgiveness to make up for this time. He always made the videos very engaging and approachable.
- I can tell he means well, but he expects a lot out of students and unnecessarily assigns too much work.
- I liked the enthusiasm. The grading system could use some work. Most teachers are very solid grade establishing-wise, however, I never really knew my grade much this class, so I don't really know if I'm doing well in this class.
- talks a little fast, needs to slow down and be thorough. Were not as smart as you pete be simple
- I dislike the way this course was taught by his professor. I felt as if I taught myself the whole material and I have not taken physics before so I did not feel I mastered this material. I think our professor was passionate but I don't think he was a good teacher for this material. He was not very good at listening to his students needs. This professor never worked out a problem once but just showed us symbols. I just believe that his method of teaching was not the best, especially for a physics one class.