

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
STUDENT DESCRIPTION OF TEACHING**

COURSE: ME 133

PROFESSOR: Tongue, B.

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE INSTRUCTOR IN CLASSROOM PRESENTATION AND PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS, IF ANY, FOR IMPROVEMENT.

- Animated, enigmatic, and frankly even bouncy at times...for what more could you ask?
- Benson's style of teaching is excellent. He encourages questions, thoroughly explains the material, and is extremely organized.
- Use of props is excellent, but perhaps some more engineering related props.
- Does everything great! Great examples, great enthusiasm, great use of board space. He's at his "natural frequency"! (Ideal situation)
- Excellent presentation- very dynamic and enthusiastic. Keeps me awake!
- Wonderful professor. Goes a bit fast at times, but a pleasure to be in his class.
- Professor Tongue has this down pat. 2nd semester with him, worth it.
- Love the demos, the jokes, and knowing our names.
- One of the most entertaining professors on campus. Knows just how to make material easy. Felt kind of rushed with the MatLab part though. Too much math.
- His presentation style and enthusiasm is very helpful and making the student feel very comfortable during lecture.
- Very good lectures, engaging, uses great presentations (ie. Springs/masses) easy not to fall asleep!
- It would be nice if we could cut down on the trivial math. We could cover twice the amount of material of everyone was required to know all the stuff they were supposed to know from other division courses.
- Very enthusiastic. I stay awake.
- Awesome models/visuals that really demonstrate. Incredible enthusiasm that's contagious.
- Brings in real life examples, is enthusiastic about the material and makes everyone else a little more enthusiastic.
- Lectures have gotten a lot better since last evaluations.
- Sometimes you go over things too fast, I can't even copy it down in time.
- No complaining here! Maybe drop more hw assignments for us slackers.
- Needs to label graphs. Needs to have more graphs to explain stuff conceptually. Has good cookies.
- Writes legible, is easy to read, good use of boards.
- Gives good examples but I wish he would give more.
- Fantastic! As always...
- Superb.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE INSTRUCTOR'S EFFECTIVENESS IN INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS? ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT?

- Benson is great in class, and very good in office hours but I notice that one on one doesn't smile enough. Perhaps he is just too busy. But it makes him rather intimidating.
- A most high opinion indeed.
- He is quite to the point when he answers question. Gives a lot of insights.

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Spring 2005

- Is accessible through email any time of the day. Sometimes I email him at 11pm just to see if he'd respond, and he does.
- Memorizes student by name. I like that.
- Free food good.
- Friendly, always willing to speak with students and help with course work.
- Also responds very quickly by email.
- Very helpful to all students.
- Excellent teacher, very down to earth.
- He actually knows my name. Encourages interaction, willing to even let us invade his house and make BBQ.
- Free food good.
- Still somewhat intimidating during OH.
- See above. Excellent!
- Very helpful and unintimidating during office hours. Personable.
- Has always been friendly and helpful in and outside the classroom. Knows every student's name.
- Most effective teacher ever. It's a little scary when you have a question in office hours because you'd hate to embarrass yourself in front of him.
- Very good interaction.
- He is great outside of class as well. Very helpful in office hours and during breaks.
- He knows my name! (I'm so flattered). And of course, only the most special of students he calls by their last name! (wink wink)

PLEASE GIVE YOUR OPINION ON THE NATURE AND QUALITY OF THE EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS:

- I love them both... exams are always tricky, but doable, and homework slows good stuff. Might consider saying though what the simplified models we solve could approximate.
- Nice HW problems but I'd like to see more modeling of real systems.
- Pretty simple midterms, at least covered in lecture.
- Exams are well planned. I think that testing the exam on the GSI's is a good idea.
- It's all good.
- Some exam questions were more confusing than necessary.
- Drop more hw.
- I don't like how there is always a "trick" into solving every test question. If the problems can be more straightforward, that would be nice.
- Sometimes the conceptual material can be difficult to info, esp. on tests.
- Exams are very fair and always have a hard question.
- No complaints- HW is always interesting and reasonable.
- Tests sometimes are based on luck. They aren't really that hard, but they always ask me on stuff I don't know.
- Lots of hw → I keep up. → lots of work.
- Homework/exams not on lectures.
- Assignments make you think, as do tests.
- Good homework. Tests were a little on the easy side.
- Assignments should introduce the use of matlab earlier in the semester and should be a tool used throughout semester.
- It's amazing to see how many of our problems actually analyze real systems.
- Very fair and straight-forward for the most part- however, I felt that there were a few times when the answer was one of them "you see it or you don't," the kind with which I faithfully don't.

PLEASE GIVE ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE AND THE TEXT/NOTES:

- I feel that a little bit more time should be spent covering the theory and methodology of matrix manipulations in the latter parts of ?? four like the [UT]M[U] stuff, and normalization of ergensolutions because that stuff is conceptually difficult for many of us.
- It's all good.
- Course is well organized.
- It's a tough class, but just as much work as other ME courses. I think all ME courses should be 4 units.
- Excellent text- I wish all my textbooks were written in this beginner-friendly style. Covers material at good pace.
- Sometimes I feel like the book can explain a bit better, but it is fun to read because it sounds just like Prof. Tongue.
- He wrote the book, so he should know what's important or not. Also, sometimes the homework assigns were too long.
- The only gripe I have is how the book is geared more toward MATLAB than it is general linear algebra. Otherwise, everything is great.
- Textbook could be better. Examples in book short-cut too many steps sometimes.
- The textbook is very well written.
- Dopey Dog is great but at times the blocks of text are overwhelmingly large and slightly difficult to get through.
- Excellent textbook.
- Book could have more examples, and be more condensed.
- Book and notes were helpful is doing the hw, studying for midterm.
- Text is sometimes not detailed enough. More examples would be nice.
- Great book, great course. One of my favorites, besides 104 with Benson.

YOUR ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE AND/OR INSTRUCTOR:

- Benson is so perfect he becomes intimidating. Never makes mistakes or shows he is human. Perhaps in attaining perfection he introduces perhaps one flaw...perfection itself. Don't be afraid to show flaws 1 on 1, smile... we all love you, and want to please you, its just hard to please someone so perfect. You always just manage to feel inferior. Excellent as a teacher!!!
- Keep it up professor Tongue! Nothing else to say really, except thank you for one more great semester.
- Excellent course, difficult but worth the journey, more rewarding this way. Test a little difficult and intimidating, tend to freak out but that's more me than you. Bravo Tongue, keep it up.
- Review sessions before exams. More accents. Earlier final exam date.
- Very good class. I wish I had taken ME 104 with this guy.
- Would like to have a more applied class. Really enjoyed how all that stuff from math 54 makes sense now!
- Favorite Professor.
- Another great class at Berkeley, but I did like 104 better. Overall the homework was quite challenging but it was helpful for understanding course material. I just wish the exams could be more like our homework problems. The course also sped up a lot after the 1st midterm and I got lost around that point... Well, thanks for making a great class though.

- Would never have even considered taking this class were it not for the excellent instruction. I highly appreciate the time and effort he puts into helping students learn, right down to the personal comments on the tests.
- Thanks for making the material in this class seem “real” ie applicable. Easily my favorite class this semester.
- Yay Professor Tongue!
- Best professor ever.
- I took this class because Prof. Tongue was teaching it, and I was not disappointed. Great enthusiasm- loves to explain this- makes me want to come to class each day. I wish Prof. Tongue’s dynamic style would rub off on other Prof’s in the department.
- Excellent course! Well done. Benson makes vibrations less dry.
- Just keep teaching this way. It works, very well.
- This class has truly helped my calculus mature to the point where I recognize analogues to our material in my other classes. And of course, Mr. Tongue is pretty much awesome.