

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

COURSE: ME 170

PROFESSOR: Tongue, B.

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

- I would appreciate a more systematic approach to the problems presented in lecture instead of making the problems primarily insight-based.
- Wow, just wow.
- Talks a little fast sometimes, but I love the jokes and fake accents.
- Movies created were wonderful visual aids. Toys were good visual aids. Those visual aids were much better than 104 visual aids.
- Enthusiastic does not quite begin to describe how Tongue approaches teaching... ecstatic or passion does slightly better justice.
- Prof. Tongue did an excellent job teaching. He has great enthusiasm for the material and makes the material more fun to learn. Sometimes I thought we could learn more material per lecture with less breaks.
- The short films on rotations were helpful.
- Excellent, extremely animated lectures.
- Tongue is awesome!
- Maybe a bit more numbering would be appropriate.
- Tongue makes any class a worthwhile class! He encourages questions and related well to students.
- Strengths: tinker toys, weakness: kryptonite.
- You cannot improve Tongue, he improves you.
- After 3 semesters of class with him, he never ceases to amuse me.
- It is the only class that I sometimes go to (I don't go at all to few others) and- its at 9am- This is a really big deal. There must be something good going on here.
- Amazing use of physical demonstrations.
- He is extremely enthusiastic about the subject matter makes the material more interesting.
- The professor is approachable, and every enthusiastic about topic. Does a great deal to help student understand the material.
- Strength: enthusiasm about the subject matter.
- Keeps subject matter very interesting, shows a real passion for teaching. Sometimes a bit hard to follow, but always comes back.
- Dr. Tongue is probably the single most engaging teacher I have had in my time at Berkeley, in the department or elsewhere.
- Always lively, but his random tangents sometimes draw away from material, distracting.
- He was great at keeping the students interested but sometimes lacked structure. There were times when he wouldn't present material or equations that were needed for the HW.

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

- He was generally very good at interacting with students.
- Makes a very sincere effort to get to know students and succeeds. Great classroom atmosphere.

COURSE: ME 170

Professor: Tongue, B.

Fall 2005

- He's very nice and friendly and patient.
- I learn more from Prof. Tongue's class than any other classes at Berkeley.
- Sometimes at office hours, he may not see that I am struggling.
- He's really very down to earth and easy to relate to.
- Very effective!
- Prof. Tongue is one of the most personable professors that I've had.
- The level of personal attention is unparalleled: Prof knows everyone's name.
- Great.
- Great! Thanks for learning all of our names! Answered Qs effectively.
- Really a very effective instructor → Berkeley should look for more teachers like Tongue.
- Only professor who goes so far as to take students' pictures to learn their names. Interesting in OH for class related and other topics alike.
- Going to his office hours is like a prostitute entering a church, you just feel unworthy, unprepared, and ashamed of yourself.
- Despite this being my third semester with Professor Tongue, I am still very intimidated. No choice but to make extra sure your material is studied and take a deep breath.

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

- It was kind of hard to have to study every other week for a quiz, but in the end I think it helped to solidify the material in my mind.
- Homeworks are hard.
- How about giving investigative projects? Perhaps analyzing "complex-enough" system of the student's choice?
- Some assignments were too hard to compared to the lecture or textbook.
- Mini quizzes are very good.
- I really like the mini quizzes. They provide a chance to be tested on most recent material and really test your understanding of it.
- Mini quiz system definitely a good idea.
- He uses a system of HW and quizzes every week. This system takes too much time. I rather have one or two midterms.
- Tough but fair.
- Very fair in his grading and challenges the student to obtain a thorough knowledge of the course material.
- Mini quizzes are the way to go.
- Tricky, but worth it. He elicits knowledge you didn't know you had.
- Mini quizzes are great. Challenging enough that you really have to know the material but straight forward.
- MQs are better than midterms! However, we should have more since we have more "big days."
- Assignments are do-able but "stimulating." Exams are equally tough- good balance.
- Some assignments can be really tough, but are still fun to do.
- Assignments are perfect size (not too long). Mini quizzes are excellent, much less pressure than midterms.
- It would be beneficial to ask some conceptual questions on the homework as well- many student, I think, just crunch #'s.
- I liked the 7 quiz system- it enabled me to really grasp each subject. Perhaps more real world application problems could have been included in assignments. Although, I have enjoyed the hw so far no real complaints.

- The mini quiz system helped in solidifying the subject matter throughout the course, instead of only once or twice with midterms.
- Matlab assignments should be introduced earlier in the semester and should follow us throughout the semester.
- I blame him in part for my weird sleep schedule, but its cool to realize what I can calculate at the end of the day.
- The moments and products of inertia assignment was really tedious; other than that the work was good. Likes to challenge students.
- The assignments are uninteresting, but effective. The miniquiz idea was unorthodox, but worked fine. Grades don't really matter with Tongue.
- I love the concept and pedagogical quality of the miniquizzes, but in 'practice' I can't stand them since I have an ungodly amount of lab work that must be done during the week. Thus midterms would be far more convenient to me personally.

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

- I dislike Ginsberg strongly, especially after having had Prof. Tongue's book.
- Tongue's book should always be used for this course.
- You could improve the class by having it at 10. 9 is just a little bit too early. In fact, the afternoon would be nice too.
- The notes for the class are just out of the 104 text. There needs to be notes that cover more 170 material such as rotation matrices and frames of reference.
- It would be nice to have just one text, but not a big deal to have 2 required. I thought the reader had good examples and was easy to follow.
- It would be nice to have a section in the book, or some handouts, on rotations.
- The use of Ginsberg text is slightly inconvenient, Ginsberg material should be covered in reader or required text.
- Great to use a textbook written by Tongue.
- The reader was well collated. Perhaps there will be a section on body and space fixed rotations in the next edition of the reader?
- The texts could use more useful examples (Ginsberg, too).
- It would be helpful to have some extra notes in the reader for the end of the course. A two hour reserve isn't long enough to read/learn the material.
- Perfect.
- We learned a lot. The stuff in this class is interesting, but the last part of this stuff isn't in the reader. I wish Benson could add a section on the last part of class.
- The course moves fast, although he is very thorough and does not waste time. Very efficient.
- Very well organized.
- He doesn't give complex examples which focus is to struggle s little doing the homework.
- Both texts are very useful- glad I have them.
- Could have more in the reader to supplement lecture.
- Textbook lacks sufficient examples.
- It will be helpful to make lecture notes for Ginsberg text.
- Homework is hard.
- Overall the text/notes were helpful. However, there was a homework on material that wasn't in the text. It would have been helpful for him to hand out supplementary material on that subject.

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

- Thanks for an interesting semester!
- Great enthusiasm and teaching skills. I enjoyed the class so much. Thank you.
- My favorite professor at Berkeley. This is the 4th class I've taken w/ prof. Tongue, he is awesome!
- Professor Tongue is the greatest Berkeley professor ever. His courses are the best at Berkeley.
- Love this class!
- Where does he find his energy? A lecture with Benson sports more electricity than a Kiss concert. Overall the teaching efficiency is flawless, even though the mix math and fun has always been a risky business.
- Gotta love Prof. Tongue.
- The mini quizzes are great. They are less stressful than midterm and require students to keep up with the material. I would suggest mini quizzes to every professor in the ME department.
- Benson is the best professor in the ME department and there are several students who have followed him from 104 to 133 to 170 and to 273 next semester. Only a great professor would have students follow them around to their courses, just because of the level of teaching, A+++.
- Also, mini quizzes are good!
- Tongue is a great teacher and he honestly just loves teaching. I think even if the building started burning down he'd scramble to finish the last equation on the chalkboard.
- Best professor I've had so far at Cal by far.
- Simply put, professor Tongue is amazing! You can't go wrong in one of his classes. He can make any student feel intelligent and proud of his school and of what he is learning, and makes an effort to demonstrate faith in his students and in their abilities. Although it is tempting to insert her some wry comment about his eccentricities (and what not)- since he basically asks for it- I feel that this time I should write something more meaningful. Professor Tongue has been, and continues to be, my favorite teacher at Berkeley. His enthusiasm and support have inspired me in many ways to try to reach my potential at Cal. Thank You, Professor. You will be sorely missed. P.S. I know you know who this is.
- As always, Professor Tongue presents very worthwhile material in an uncharacteristically entertaining and careful manner. Although its not always the best method when first learning the material, his insight based dynamics is invaluable when you've come to terms with exactly where the equations come from. I always enjoy classes with Professor Tongue, and go out of my way to include them in my schedule every semester. As a non-ME, I find it to be the perfect method to enter into and retain material that might have been difficult to grasp from other professors. Needless to say, I'm quite sure I'll be back to take another (3 down, 1 to go) class to complete my collection. Another note: one of the best things about Professor Tongue is his relationship with his students. Honestly, liking the personality of a Professor is one of the most pedagogically salient features of a class. Going to office hours with him is intense, but extremely motivating. Plus there is the rare (in the Berkeley sense) sentiment that he really and truly cares about helping his students learn at all costs. There's no way I would work so hard for this class if his personality wasn't what it is. In retrospect, I'm sure I've written all those sparkling comments before, but reiteration probably underscores the notion that I remain impressed by his commitment to excellent teaching and constant care for his students.