

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
STUDENT DESCRIPTION OF TEACHING

COURSE: ME 104

Professor: Tongue

Fall 2006

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

- Very enthusiastic and makes the class interesting.
- Makes me want to come to class.
- He ought to use the Scottish accent more. More cool examples.
- Very good instructor, fun, interesting.
- It's great and interesting. Never a dull moment.
- Very entertaining. Presents material in a clear and easily understood manner.
- Deriving mathematics is boring to watch and only beneficial marginally. Class time would be better spent for examples.
- Really amusing lectures!
- Great enthusiasm and joy. Loves the subject which motivates us to love it.
- Very good lectures, very (!) enthusiastic, entertaining. Great!
- Very enthusiastic and excited about what he teaches. Makes everything more interesting.
- Enthusiastic about the subject matter.
- Strong.
- Very entertaining and keeps students attention.
- Very clear.
- Makes difficult subject matter very easy.
- Needs to be a bit more clear on showing which points are important instead of chugging through examples.
- Classroom antics very from being OK to very distracting to actually learn the material.
- The way he represents the material is so that nobody gets bored, and he keeps all the material interesting. However, sometimes I feel that he repeats himself too much.
- Good handwriting, sometimes mumbles a bit, skips steps that aren't always clear. Overall good speaker.
- Board work is confusing.
- VERY interesting lectures.
- An excellent instructor.
- He is very enthusiastic and makes the class interesting. However, sometimes he works too quickly and I lose track of what he is doing on the board.
- At times, lectures can move too fast as examples are worked out.
- Tongue is an engaging, dynamic, and effective lecturer.
- He makes students enjoying the subject which could be boring and hard.
- He cares a lot about his students. Always encourage you to do better and never embarrass you for not knowing the subject.
- Always keeps lectures interesting. If there was higher than 5's, I would give it to him.

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- This professor is effective in presenting the subject matter in a humorous as well as in a relevant manner.
- Very enthusiastic, always tries to make material approachable.
- Both very focused and enthusiastic on subject. Strength in presenting subject matter that will be important.
- Sometimes some intermediate steps in problems are skipped, thus making things confusing. Maybe slow down a tiny bit.
- Very enthusiastic and gives excellent lectures.
- Excellent.
- It's almost like he teaches with this sheet in mind.
- He uses time very efficiently, and makes the material fun.
- Professor has so much enthusiasm that it's impossible to not be excited during lecture.
- Weakness: sometimes felt confused with overall message.
- Strengths- teaches every lecture with the freshness and enthusiasm of someone teaching the material for the first time. No other professor can engage students as well as Benson.
- It was always an entertaining and interesting lecture.
- Benson Tongue is a really interesting person. I like he showed all the great videos during the class period, which is relate to out subject.
- Blackboard work can be monotonous. Videos relating our material to real world and comedy are great.

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

- He remembers all the student's names.
- He interacts will with all of the students.
- Adds personality and creativity to every lecture. The most effective at reaching students on campus.
- He memorized all of our names! Great!
- Memorizes students names within the first week.
- He really goes out of his way to make sure that we understand everything going on in class.
- Encourages the students to ask the questions.
- Should have, but didn't go to OH. In class knew everyone's name.
- Down to earth and friendly. Not intimidating.
- Very approachable. Always wants to help.
- He treats us an individuals, not as clientele for his job.
- Learns all of our names, makes jokes with us. I want to invite him to Thanksgiving dinner.
- He is a great teacher. He makes the subject very interesting.
- Very impressed that he memorized the student's names by the second meeting of class. He is very proactive about interacting and relating to students.
- Remembers our names and faces by 2nd lecture!
- Can be condescending.
- Great.
- First Prof. to learn my name.
- Funny guy but sometimes makes him less approachable.

- Extremely good at knowing students and interacting with them.
- Very great interaction. I like how he knows all our names. I've never been to office hours though.
- Very effective.
- Effective. No.
- Very effective. Reaches out to help students do well and is very enthusiastic.
- Very friendly and helpful.
- Prof. Tongue is a very people person.
- Unbelievable personality. Best teacher at UC Berkeley.
- Kind of scary at first that he memorized everyone's name but it is effective for teaching.
- Very impressed and content (me).
- Flippin awesome.
- Wow. Awesome.
- I did not attend any of his office hours, so I'm sure about his accessibility, but he seems very approachable.

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

- Given the possibilities for assignments, the professor goes out of his way to keep the material relevant to our experience and keep it interesting.
- I like he gives us a miniquiz each time right after the material covered.
- It was structured differently than other courses because we had weekly quizzes instead of midterms. I would have liked to have gotten credit for homework rather than the overall grade being based only on quizzes and the final.
- Encourage learning. Exam material is easily retained.
- The exams tend to require a lot of physical insight (which I need to work on) but the math and material is more than fair.
- Taking weekly quizzes are helpful and assignments has problems that correlate to real life which is interesting.
- Miniquizzes + no homework = good. Matlab assignment = bad
- Find some questions which closes to our life. Excellent quiz, exam schedule.
- Require graded homework. Don't like quiz system or fact that final is 50% of grade or higher.
- The weekly mini-quizzes keep me on my toes on subject-matter and no midterms allow for less stress. Enjoyed very much.
- All are applicable to material.
- Because everything is based on quizzes and the final and no midterms, I'm really worried about my final. Since I don't really know what to expect.
- Great.
- HW's are not required to turn in, which I don't like, and don't like the mini-quizzes also because they are too frequent.
- Quizzes are sometimes rather challenging for the given time.
- Sometimes, problems and mini-quizzes are awkwardly worded or have very roundabout way of either explaining the problem or defining what is to be solved for.
- The caber toss assignment is too open ended. The quizzes sometimes rely too much on a little trick that, if you miss, you get everything completely wrong.
- No midterms.

- I hope we get at least 1 midterm aside from mini quizzes.
- Problems are usually poorly worded and need to be proof read. On many occasions people lost points not b/c they didn't know the material, but the question was unclear.
- Mini quizzes are a good idea! Questions ambiguous at times.
- Great.
- Use mini quizzes instead of MT is good.
- Mini quiz system hard to work on to get a feel for all material.
- I like the quizzes. He should make HW due. It's too easy to fall back in class.
- Easy to fall behind bc homework not turned in.
- No midterms allow for better understanding of the material.
- Miniquizzes are great. So much less stress when compared to midterms. My blood pressure salutes you.
- A bit weird with no midterm but I like it.
- Grading is fair!
- Maybe have set miniquiz days.
- Periodic mini quizzes are good for keeping us up to date with the material.
- I wish that homework would be part of the grade. For a class of this nature to depend so much on the final is kind of scary.
- Miniquizzes are great.
- I really dislike the extreme emphasis on the final exam for grades.
- I love mini quizzes!
- The matlab project was somewhat vague. Would appreciate some direction on how to approach.
- Some quiz material and HW assignments could have been a bit more closely related to the lecture.

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

- Course moves a little quickly, but workload is reasonable.
- Book does not always have examples of HW problems.
- Great book, easy to read, good pace.
- Good organization.
- Book is fun to read, teaches also.
- Great book, great lectures. One of the best lecturers in the College Of Engineering.
- Good.
- His textbook is helpful.
- Excellent texts and notes.
- I don't like that homework is not turned in because I almost never complete it.
- Textbooks fine.
- Great textbook.
- Great.
- Pace is just right.
- We need more time for matlab assignments.
- Textbook covers topics more conceptually than in lecture.
- Examples in class do not match the difficulty level of the hw.
- I like the book and how it talks to the reader. I wish there was an answer key in the back though.

- The book is great literature.
- Very good class organization and good book.
- The course is very helpful. Interest us to go to the course.
- The text is hilarious. The course moves very quickly and its easy to get lost. Fast.
- Logical and conducive to learning/retention.
- Pace of course was alright, a little swift at times but in general ok.

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

- Professor Tongue is a unique man. Kilts, superhero costumes and an array of accents have accompanied his lectures. (appreciate his enthusiasm for the material and sensitivity to students limitations (break time) and comfort levels (mini quizzes) in the class. Thanks for making this dreaded ME class less painful.
- The professor had a unique teaching style that made the class enjoyable and interesting. His lectures were good and helpful.
- Benson Tongue is to mechanical engineering what John Holmes was to the adult film industry! He simply is the KING!
- I enjoyed the class, I loved the teaching style, the humor and the visuals.
- I enjoyed the class, I loved the teaching style, the humor and the visuals. I really learned more than just the ME 104 stuff. Oh and I loved learning the ME 104. I've never had a great professor like Benson since elementary school. That's a good thing! Thank you, professor for everything.
- Overall awesome teacher. Miniquizzes are sometimes a bit too long for me, but that isn't saying much.
- Overall I think that this course would benefit from mandatory homework due dates because I find myself not doing it to save time in other classes. Eli is sexy.
- Very interesting course and very effective.
- Prof. Tongue is very enthusiastic, showing his love for this mat'l. He also cares for his students performance too.
- Nice class presentation! I like the miniquizzes: dump the matlab assignment and the matlab examples in the homework though. This is not E 77! Also, making it due lab after Thanksgiving...sucks! Otherwise, great instructor, great course.
- Very enthusiastic with a student centric approach to teaching. This guy should write a book illustrating dynamics from a simple real world perspective.
- Excellent lecture. Funny. Helpful material.
- Please make homework worth points (part of grade) in the future. Otherwise bad students, like me, fall behind easily.
- Enjoyed course greatly. Great professor and keep up what you do.
- I like the breaks half way through lecture. They definitely help in keeping attention.
- Benson Tongue is my hero.
- Great job. Very difficult course but Tongue makes me want to succeed. Great additions of seemingly random video clips that link up with the material keeps us on out toes. Benson, you are the man.
- Professor Tongue makes the class really fun and enjoyable.
- Tongue is very enthusiastic about the subject matter. I like having miniquizzes instead of midterms because it less stressful than having one or two midterms that determine your grade.

- He remembers all/most of the students' names!!! That's amazing. Love it. Would be better to post out quiz solution.
- He is the coolest and most enthusiastic professor I have ever seen.
- Tongue is a great professor.
- Professor Tongue makes a very hard subject digestable.
- Tongue is the best/quirkiest prof. I know. I love how he memorized all our names.
- Mini quizzes are a good idea, but I think having the homework be due would be good. Also, on a personal note, I felt it was rude to barge in on the class before us when they ran overtime. Just because they are an art class doesn't mean they don't deserve a little respect.
- HW questions are good and challenging, but can be unclear. Same for mini quizzes. Most of them are clear and concise. Lectures interesting, professor interesting – should have gone to office hours.
- One of the top 3 prof's I've had at Berkeley. Amazing teacher, fun class. Tongue FTW.
- Entertaining and educational, professor Tongue is a professor unlike any other.
- His car is ugly yellow!
- One of the best professors I've ever had. Very clear, interesting, and enjoyable to attend class.
- One of my best professors.
- What do you call the leader of the fish army? Worse than p boat? The sturgeon general.
- Fun professor. Helpful and enthusiastic.
- What a G!
- Great professor.
- Please set the disc times before the class starts. A 5 hour break between classes is not something I look forward to.
- The material was great at first, but it is starting to not get to me right now, towards the end.
- Great professor. Makes lecture interesting and enjoyable.
- Really fun presentation style – interesting.
- Thanks for your hard work and passion for the material.
- Super/great... material is hard...matlab stuff especially.
- Good teaching, great course, my real complaint is the grading system.
- The effort you made to learn all our names was quite remarkable. Very enjoyable course.
- You are an excellent instructor and your enthusiasm for the material is contagious. My only suggestion is that you make homework solutions more readily available for the students.
- Had no idea that course could be so interesting. Amazing professor.
- Great energy! Makes me feel that Berkeley Prof's aren't just robots.