

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

COURSE ME 273

Professor: Tongue, Benson

Spring 2006

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

- He gives great physical intuition and has a very interesting style of presentation.
- blackboard use is disorganized, and current objective isn't always clear – perhaps a mini-agenda on the board at the start of each lecture would help. Handouts were rather unclear
- JUST NEEDS TO IMPROVE BLACKBOARDS A BIT.
- Totally Awesome
- Very entertaining and I like the visual aids and, of course, the cookies. Towards the end of the semester, I got a little lost and felt unclear about what we were doing and why.
- Awesome once again
- Boardwork can be a bit disorganized at times. I like it when professors use an outline format with headers describing what the calculations / drawings are doing. Very enthusiastic! Interesting style of presentation
- More bow ties! Overall good job. Funny lectures & interesting.
- visual aids are good.
- It would be very helpful for me if he write more titles and subject headings on the board to let us know what he is talking about.
- sometimes it's hard to tell what the big picture is – it would help to stop and clarify.
- sometimes was sloppy and disorganized on blackboard.
- The material uncovered by the provided text could use a little more literature

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

- GOOD CHAP FOR INTERACTION.
- Just GREAT
- He is the most effective at UC Berkeley
- Fantastic interaction – knows name of all students – encourages discussion very Friendly
- I think there are many things that would make the class more student-friendly. Many suggestions made by students over the course of the semester (relating to homework, quizzes, etc) were ignored. A mid-semester evaluation was given, and no visible improvements were made based on it.
- a lot of the time when people ask questions it seems like you blow them off and answer in a defensive way or just rush through an answer
- Professor sometimes seemed annoyed by questions and sometimes “ducked” questions, implicitly discouraging students from asking them.
- Very accessible, very helpful, wish the classroom had as much depth as in OH.

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

- The reader has a bad grading technique.
- Assignments were a touch on the easy side
- MINIQUIZZES ARE TERRIBLE FOR ME THIS SEMESTER BEAUSE I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO STUDY FOR THEM EVERY OTHER WEEK.
- The mini-quizzes are much better than midterms
- Mini quiz doesn't reflect hw
- Miniquizzes are good
- miniquizs were good and acceptable
- I did not like the miniquizzes! They were often very tricky and hard to do well on, even if one had attended every class and done all of the homework.
- miniquiz scores don't seem to reflect whether I study or not, and they come so often that I end up never reviewing anything. Homework problems are sometimes unclear, and grading is consistent.
- Miniquizzes did not always reflect students' understanding of the material – the were sometimes required “tricks” that made it possible to understand the material and still do poorly.

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

- BOOK NEEDS BESSEL FUNCTIONS.
- The workload is a bit more than usual, but Prof. Tongue makes it interesting, so this doesn't matter
- Book is sometimes vague and could have more examples.
- the course spent too long on easy stuff and not enough time on hard stuff.
- It might be nice to use a book written by someone else to get 2 different viewpoint – when I don't understand the lecture, the book is the same so I still don't understand.
- The book could be deeper & more comprehensive wirt material covered in class. Handouts on deep concepts were too brief.

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

- The miniquizzes were interesting – they required insight (the first few did) and not rote memorization, which was challenging. However the insight required is very hard to teach, and perhaps impossible to study for, so I can understand many complaints. That said, I felt the challenge was entertaining and rewarding.
- Thanks for another good course (5 of 5)
- No more miniquizes. They don't give enough time to go back and think about the problems.
- Excellent overall – conceptual emphasis (as opposed to mathematical is refreshing) More in class demos (spring machine) would be useful.
- The stuff on resolution was great (Bessel fons, etc) Had a great time Taking a grad class was an especially fun experience
- Great job. Thank You!!
- The course wasn't useful for me because it tried to do all of 133 and did only a little bit more of 273 topics. we didn't get into all of the cool stuff that we were supposed

to get into. I would have rather had 133 be required for this course and have less students enrolled.

- Thanks for being so enthusiastic – it's really great. But please stop doing fake accents! Please!
- The miniquizzes are my biggest complaint – they need to be more carefully written.
- One of the most worthwhile course material. Excellent instructor.