

Cornell University
 Course Evaluation Response Summary
 Semester: Spring 2013 Course Owner: PHYS
 Course: PHYS 2208 DIS 205 CID: 6635
 Title: Fundamentals of Physics
 Instructor: Dutta, Shovan
 11 Responses, 20 Enrolled, 55% Response

Please evaluate HOW THIS COURSE WAS TAUGHT. Evaluate each component of the course (lectures, Discussion sections, labs, assignments, and exams) separately. In particular, try to separate your feelings about the subject matter and exams/grading from your evaluations of lectures, discussion sections, labs, and assignments.

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
1. OVERALL rating of discussion section instructor: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.09	0.89	11	0	1	1	5	4
2. OVERALL rating of the DISCUSSION SECTION: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	3.91	0.99	11	0	1	3	3	4
3. Did discussion sections help you learn the course material? 1= helped very little; 3= helped somewhat; 5= helped greatly	3.91	1.16	11	1	0	2	4	4
4. Was the discussion section instructor (TA) knowledgeable about the subject matter? 1= not at all; 3= somewhat knowledgeable; 5= very knowledgeable	4.64	0.48	11	0	0	0	4	7
5. Did the discussion section instructor (TA) arrive on time and prepared for class? 1= rarely; 3= about half of the time; 5= always	4.82	0.38	11	0	0	0	2	9
6. Was the discussion section instructor willing and available to help students who had difficulty? 1= not willing and available; 3= somewhat willing and available; 5= very willing and available	4.09	0.89	11	0	1	1	5	4
7. How effectively was the discussion section instructor (TA) able to communicate? 1= not effectively at all; 3= somewhat effectively; 5= very effectively	4.09	1.16	11	1	0	1	4	5
8. Teaching skill of the discussion section instructor: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.09	1.16	11	1	0	1	4	5
9. Did the discussion section instructor (TA) grade and return work promptly? 1= rarely; 3= about half of the time; 5= always	4.91	0.28	11	0	0	0	1	10
10. If you were given quizzes by your discussion section instructor, rate the difficulty of the quizzes, relative to the coverage of the material in class: 1= too easy; 3= about right; 5= too hard	4.09	0.89	11	0	0	4	2	5
11. How well were the cooperative learning problems covered in discussion section? 1= not well covered; 3= somewhat covered; 5= very well covered	4.09	0.79	11	0	0	3	4	4
12. How well do you feel you and your co-op partners worked together to develop understanding of the physics concepts in the co-ops? 1= not at all well; 3= fairly well; 5= very well	3.18	1.26	11	1	3	2	3	2
13. Do you feel that you were given enough opportunities to participate in discussion class? 1= no, not at all; 3= somewhat; 5= yes, very much	3.82	0.71	11	0	0	4	5	2
14. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her impact on the section 1=not applicable; 2=made it worse; 3=no impact; 4=some improvement; 5=made it much better	2.71	0.88	7	1	1	4	1	0
15. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her preparation and understanding of the material you worked on. 1=not applicable; 2=unprepared; 3=somewhat prepared; 4=prepared; 5=very prepared	2.14	0.98	7	2	3	1	1	0

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16. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, how supportive and encouraging was he or she? 1=not applicable; 2=not encouraging; 3=somewhat encouraging; 4 = encouraging; 5=very encouraging	2.43	0.90	7	1	3	2	1	0
17. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, how well do you feel she or he helped to facilitate your understanding of physics concepts in section's activities? 1 = not applicable; 2 =not at all well; 3=fairly well; 4 = well; 5=very well	2.14	0.83	7	1	5	0	1	0
18. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her overall teaching skill. 1=not applicable; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=very good; 5=excellent	2.14	0.83	7	1	5	0	1	0

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1. Please write any comments about your discussion classes or your TA here.

313046. Really helpful and kind TA -- always open to requests and questions; gives clear explanations of questions and topics.

Also, one time I had to leave class because I was sick and he was very understanding and even emailed me later to ask if I was all right. Very caring person.

313042. shovan was great. super helpful. super knowledgeable. came up with very helpful examples outside of the co-ops. i really liked his example about how ac current is used with an inductor to levitate a platform (magicians use this)

313027. The quizzes did not test the concepts we were learning at the time, rather they were just testing on some trivial ideas.

313039. Very disappointing TA. Discussion was never helpful, and his quizzes tested us on the material beyond what the professor expected of us, that is to say, the prelims were easier than his quizzes. I often didn't feel comfortable approaching him to ask for help, and avoided his office hours to attend other TA's office hours instead.

313036. Shovan was very knowledgeable but it felt like a lot of the time the quizzes he gave on Tuesdays were basically new material which he covered after the quiz. I didn't like that they were an attempt to further our understanding, rather than evaluate what we knew thus far

313031. I am a junior at Cornell and through my time here, Shovan by far is the best of all of the TAs I have had in any subject. He is extremely knowledgeable about all of the physics covered in the course and could effectively communicate concepts. I was very impressed at how much he cared about his students and was always available to help. I really enjoyed the problems he presented on the quizzes and especially the ones he came up with by himself in discussion because they really challenged me to think critically about concepts and reinforced my conceptual understanding about physics. I would be absolutely excited to have another class with Shovan as my TA.

313037. very knowledgeable

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Please evaluate HOW THIS COURSE WAS TAUGHT. Evaluate each component of the course (lectures, Discussion sections, labs, assignments, and exams) separately. In particular, try to separate your feelings about the subject matter and exams/grading from your evaluations of lectures, discussion sections, labs, and assignments.

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
1. OVERALL rating of discussion section instructor: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.50	0.67	10	0	0	1	3	6
2. OVERALL rating of the DISCUSSION SECTION: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.30	0.78	10	0	0	2	3	5
3. Did discussion sections help you learn the course material? 1= helped very little; 3= helped somewhat; 5= helped greatly	4.30	0.78	10	0	0	2	3	5
4. Was the discussion section instructor (TA) knowledgeable about the subject matter? 1= not at all; 3= somewhat knowledgeable; 5= very knowledgeable	4.80	0.4	10	0	0	0	2	8
5. Did the discussion section instructor (TA) arrive on time and prepared for class? 1= rarely; 3= about half of the time; 5= always	4.80	0.4	10	0	0	0	2	8
6. Was the discussion section instructor willing and available to help students who had difficulty? 1= not willing and available; 3= somewhat willing and available; 5= very willing and available	4.80	0.4	10	0	0	0	2	8
7. How effectively was the discussion section instructor (TA) able to communicate? 1= not effectively at all; 3= somewhat effectively; 5= very effectively	4.10	0.83	10	0	0	3	3	4
8. Teaching skill of the discussion section instructor: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.22	0.78	9	0	0	2	3	4
9. Did the discussion section instructor (TA) grade and return work promptly? 1= rarely; 3= about half of the time; 5= always	5.00	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
10. If you were given quizzes by your discussion section instructor, rate the difficulty of the quizzes, relative to the coverage of the material in class: 1= too easy; 3= about right; 5= too hard	4.10	0.7	10	0	0	2	5	3
11. How well were the cooperative learning problems covered in discussion section? 1= not well covered; 3= somewhat covered; 5= very well covered	4.30	0.9	10	0	1	0	4	5
12. How well do you feel you and your co-op partners worked together to develop understanding of the physics concepts in the co-ops? 1= not at all well; 3= fairly well; 5= very well	3.60	1.49	10	2	0	2	2	4
13. Do you feel that you were given enough opportunities to participate in discussion class? 1= no, not at all; 3= somewhat; 5= yes, very much	4.40	0.66	10	0	0	1	4	5
14. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her impact on the section 1=not applicable; 2=made it worse; 3=no impact; 4=some improvement; 5=made it much better	4.00	0.66	9	0	0	2	5	2
15. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her preparation and understanding of the material you worked on. 1=not applicable; 2=unprepared; 3=somewhat prepared; 4=prepared; 5=very prepared	4.50	0.5	8	0	0	0	4	4

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16. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, how supportive and encouraging was he or she? 1=not applicable; 2=not encouraging; 3=somewhat encouraging; 4 = encouraging; 5=very encouraging	4.00	0.66	9	0	0	2	5	2
17. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, how well do you feel she or he helped to facilitate your understanding of physics concepts in section's activities? 1 = not applicable; 2 =not at all well; 3=fairly well; 4 = well; 5=very well	3.56	0.95	9	0	1	4	2	2
18. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her overall teaching skill. 1=not applicable; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=very good; 5=excellent	3.75	0.82	8	0	0	4	2	2

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1. Please write any comments about your discussion classes or your TA here.

313003. Shovan liked to create scenarios that were apparent "paradoxes" that were interesting and expanded the subject matter.

312996. The discussion is very helpful.

312990. The discussion was good, the TA was very knowledgeable and always available for help. I felt like some of his explanations were too quick, so I wouldn't be able to follow the line of thinking. It would help if we were placed into groups, since the majority of the time I worked alone and it made it more difficult to do the co-ops.

313005. Discussions were useful - learned a lot of interesting material, although the material sometimes wasn't on exams. TA put in a lot of effort into helping us learn.

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 7 Responses, 11 Enrolled, 63.64% Response

Please evaluate HOW THIS COURSE WAS TAUGHT. Evaluate each component of the course (lectures, Discussion sections, labs, assignments, and exams) separately. In particular, try to separate your feelings about the subject matter and exams/grading from your evaluations of lectures, discussion sections, labs, and assignments.

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
1. OVERALL rating of discussion section instructor: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.29	0.88	7	0	0	2	1	4
2. OVERALL rating of the DISCUSSION SECTION: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.29	0.88	7	0	0	2	1	4
3. Did discussion sections help you learn the course material? 1= helped very little; 3= helped somewhat; 5= helped greatly	4.00	1.06	7	0	1	1	2	3
4. Was the discussion section instructor (TA) knowledgeable about the subject matter? 1= not at all; 3= somewhat knowledgeable; 5= very knowledgeable	4.86	0.34	7	0	0	0	1	6
5. Did the discussion section instructor (TA) arrive on time and prepared for class? 1= rarely; 3= about half of the time; 5= always	5.00	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
6. Was the discussion section instructor willing and available to help students who had difficulty? 1= not willing and available; 3= somewhat willing and available; 5= very willing and available	4.57	0.49	7	0	0	0	3	4
7. How effectively was the discussion section instructor (TA) able to communicate? 1= not effectively at all; 3= somewhat effectively; 5= very effectively	4.43	0.72	7	0	0	1	2	4
8. Teaching skill of the discussion section instructor: 1= poor; 3= satisfactory; 5= excellent	4.43	0.72	7	0	0	1	2	4
9. Did the discussion section instructor (TA) grade and return work promptly? 1= rarely; 3= about half of the time; 5= always	5.00	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
10. If you were given quizzes by your discussion section instructor, rate the difficulty of the quizzes, relative to the coverage of the material in class: 1= too easy; 3= about right; 5= too hard	3.71	0.88	7	0	0	4	1	2
11. How well were the cooperative learning problems covered in discussion section? 1= not well covered; 3= somewhat covered; 5= very well covered	3.86	0.63	7	0	0	2	4	1
12. How well do you feel you and your co-op partners worked together to develop understanding of the physics concepts in the co-ops? 1= not at all well; 3= fairly well; 5= very well	3.83	1.06	6	0	1	1	2	2
13. Do you feel that you were given enough opportunities to participate in discussion class? 1= no, not at all; 3= somewhat; 5= yes, very much	3.71	1.27	7	0	2	1	1	3
14. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her impact on the section 1=not applicable; 2=made it worse; 3=no impact; 4=some improvement; 5=made it much better	2.00	1.73	4	3	0	0	0	1
15. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her preparation and understanding of the material you worked on. 1=not applicable; 2=unprepared; 3=somewhat prepared; 4=prepared; 5=very prepared	2.00	1.73	4	3	0	0	0	1

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16. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, how supportive and encouraging was he or she? 1=not applicable; 2=not encouraging; 3=somewhat encouraging; 4 = encouraging; 5=very encouraging	2.00	1.73	4	3	0	0	0	1
17. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, how well do you feel she or he helped to facilitate your understanding of physics concepts in section's activities? 1 = not applicable; 2 =not at all well; 3=fairly well; 4 = well; 5=very well	2.00	1.73	4	3	0	0	0	1
18. If you had an undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) in your discussion section, please rate his or her overall teaching skill. 1=not applicable; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=very good; 5=excellent	2.00	1.73	4	3	0	0	0	1

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1. Please write any comments about your discussion classes or your TA here.

312960. The grading of the homework was unfair; it was called an "effort based grade" but although I put in as much effort as I could, I didn't always receive full credit.

312964. Shovan was literally the BEST TA I'VE EVER HAD. I want to impress upon you how great he really was. His questions were better than the homework questions. His explanations were better than the professors. His quizzes... Well I'll be honest, they weren't a ton of fun because they were tough, but he always made sure to explain them and any difficult homework questions at the beginning of the next lecture. Shovan deserves TA extra credit or brownie points or good karma or something like that. Props.

312958. Shovan was a little condescending when you asked him questions but he was able to answer them