

Midterm Evaluation

Course: EE 459/559

Instructor: McCalley

Date: Fall 2016

1. INSTRUCTOR RATINGS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean Max=5.0
My instructor presents the subject matter effectively	15	11	0	0	0	4.6
My instructor stimulates my interest in the subject.	10	15	1	0	0	4.3
My instructor answers questions thoroughly.	11	13	2	0	0	4.3
My instructor uses effective examples to clarify concepts.	11	13	1	1	0	4.3
My instructor provides adequate assistance outside of the classroom.	6	15	4	1	0	4.0

	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Probably No	Definitely No	Did not answer
2. I would recommend this INSTRUCTOR to my friends.	20	6	0	0	0

3. COURSE RATINGS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean Max=5.0
The objectives for this course are clear.	13	13	0	0	0	4.5
There are no obstacles to my learning in this course.	5	16	4	1	0	4.0
My knowledge of the subject is increasing as a result of this course.	16	8	2	0	0	4.5
My work is being graded fairly in this course.	15	9	1	1	0	4.5
The amount of work in this course is appropriate for the credit received.	10	13	0	3	0	4.2
The textbook and other learning materials are contributing to my understanding.	7	12	6	0	1	3.9
The way this course is DELIVERED (i.e., classroom, online, both class/online) is appropriate for the objectives of this course.	11	15	0	0	0	4.4

	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Probably No	Definitely No	Did not answer
4. I would recommend this COURSE to my friends.	15	10	0	1	0

5. What do you like most about your instructor, or what specific behaviors, characteristics, or teaching styles of your instructor are best helping you to learn? (be sure to provide specific feedback so your instructor can act)

- It is very difficult to explain mathematics without a black board. I guess you do this in a very effective way. This allows us to imagine the physical quantities in space very well.
- What I like most is his expression and the way that he explain the course.
- I like how you can tell he enjoys the subject. This helps me to also enjoy the subject and want to learn more.

- He doesn't speed through a topic to get through it. Values quality over quantity.
- I truly enjoy watching the lectures. I appreciate how passionate you are about the subject matter.
- Dr. James is one of the most dynamic and enthusiastic mentor and teacher I came across in life. The intensity with which he tries to make sure that every single student should understand the concept show his commitment and passion towards his work.
- I like the passion he expresses for this course.
- None
- The instructor does a good job of keeping the class interested and engaged for an hour and a half
- The professor's passion for the subject matter is infectious and it helps me to learn. He also acknowledges that certain parts of the courses are pretty dry and tries his best to engage the students in that part of the courses. **I really wish he would use stylus and do some scribbles or markings when he explains. That would make presentations more engaging, as starting at slides after slides can make it bland, especially while explaining things that are pretty dry or really hard to understand**
- His strong knowledge in the theory concepts and its application to the industry. The classroom examples clarify the concepts and make easier the understanding of the topic. Thanks Dr. McCalley for your passion in teaching.
- understanding of commitments outside the class
- He clearly loves the material. This excitement and his real world examples make the material relevant and interesting.
- Slides are very useful. The professor's website is useful. I enjoy the professor's enthusiasm on the subject and industry in general. I enjoyed the programming assignment.
- His enthusiasm towards the subject matter makes lectures more interesting and helps the learning process.
- He's passionate
- Easiness of exams
- Dr. McCalley enjoys what he's teaching which makes me excited as well.
- Clarity in content and expression.
- The very well organized notes is very helpful, which reflects the significant efforts of the instructor. In addition, the instructor tells us what is the objective and points out the core of the problem, as well as he does excellent summary.
- Instructor genuinely appears to enjoy the topic being taught and teaching it to others. Lots of enthusiasm for topic. In my experience, this always makes a big difference in the quality of instruction.
- Sometimes when the lecture is boring and I am about to go into sleep mode, he would suddenly crack a joke or deviate the topic a little bit. I like it a lot

Am investigating this.

6. What do you like most about the course, or what components, exercises, or learning materials of the course are best helping you to learn? Are there any specific changes you would suggest to improve this course?

- The way the mathematics of the machine is explained, it helps me to understand the subject very well.
- What I like most are the homeworks, because I learn and I review for the exam.
- I enjoyed the lab video. This helped me to be able to picture what is going on in the machines
- I think the overall homework is reflective of what is being done in class. I wouldn't really recommend any changes.
- **I'd like to suggest for future years for the graduate students, to not add something as large as the paper on top of everything else (homework and tests). Trying to do all of this while still taking the time to digest the lecture material is more challenging in the time sense when compared to other graduate level EE courses.**

Is it true that this course is more challenging or more time-intensive than other graduate level EE courses?

- I would like him to going through more examples that will be on the homework more thoroughly.
- None
- I enjoy the challenge of the course being very technical and specific. It's a lot different than a general physics course
- The instructor adequately prepares his students for the homeworks with in class examples. I feel like understanding things in class and recreating them in homework problems helps me with understanding the material even better
- The relevance of the topic for the power system industry. So far my only suggestion is to provide a channel to the interaction with online students while the session is developing. For example, in the webex session the feature of chats between the participants is enabled.
- I find the homework assignments very helpful. There are a lot of derivations and a lot of formulas to keep straight and to understand what they mean. The homework assignments clarify things for me and bring things together.
- not sure.
- Grading is much harder and inconsistent to previous 59X courses with this instructor. Assuming this has to do with TA. 559 course project is not in line with my career goals and is just additional workload. I have no interest in listening to non-experts present at the end of the course. I would like more focus on control.
- The needs a more open form of communication for online students. We are not able to ask questions before and after class like traditional students. There are many instances where questions need to be answered in a timely manner.
- Wind energy
- HW are fun to do
- Finish the presentations before 4:55pm Mondays and Wednesdays. That way, I can print out the material for class.
- Learning materials are perfect. No suggestions.
- If on-campus student could also have access to class video, that would be great, then we can review the lecture in a better way.
- Presentations are very effective

Right. Examples are useful. It is a judgment call on how much in-class time to use on development and how much to use on examples and how much to have you work on "examples" outside of class.

I have requested this.

I can put my time into preparing or into grading, etc. TA allows me to focus on preparing. I have given him instructions; he may be more attentive to detail.

Will try.

Will do this, but if on-campus attendance drops below 15, I will revert.

Course project:

1. Any way to improve your presentation abilities should be warmly embraced!
2. Topics chosen by you so why would it not be in-line with career goals?
3. Non-experts can sometimes be the very best teachers because they may better understand what is difficult to understand.
4. Alternatively, I am willing to do this: post them all but include only a subset in-class.