Biology Department/York Federation of Students

Course Evaluation Questionnaire

Course: BPHS_2090 3.0_(Current Topics in Biophysics)_(fall, 2014)
Instructor:_Roger Lew

Please answer all questions as accurately and honestly as you can. Write your additional comments in the space(s) provided. Do not sign this form. The instructor will ask a student representative to collect the forms. Circle only one response per statement. A rating of 1 represents the *least* positive response and a rating of 5 represents the *most* positive response.

Motivation:

1. I took this course because it was: **Required** (8) **Elective** (9)

Rating of the Course:

	least			*most positive*		**mean**
2. The course fulfilled the description given in the syllabus	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(2)	**4**(11)	**5**(5)	**4.17**
3. The required course note(s) were useful	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(2)	**4**(13)	**5**(3)	**4.06**
4. The required readings were useful	**1**( )	**2**(2)	**3**(8)	**4**(5)	**5**(3)	**3.50**
5. The grading system was fair	**1**( )	**2**(1)	**3**(3)	**4**(8)	**5**(6)	**4.06**
6. I feel I learned a great deal taking this course	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(5)	**4**(4)	**5**(9)	**4.22**
7. The course content was interesting	**1**( )	**2**(1)	**3**(1)	**4**(4)	**5**(12)	**4.50**
8. Rate this course overall	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(6)	**4**(8)	**5**(4)	**3.89**

Comments: What did you like most/least about the course?

- *Most: The non-linear teaching method. How to apply physics to biological systems applicable to real life. Least: No comment.*
- *Most: It really gets you asking questions. Least: All the concepts kind of get intimidating.*
- *Most: Pace of the class and the way it was presented. Least: The theory behind concepts were lacking luster and fairly dull.*
- *Most: Learning about biological pumps and their diversity. Least: Too many formulas without guiding examples of their use.*
- *Most: Much more different than my other courses, more "thinking outside the box". Least: Difficult math involved.*
- *Most: Interesting topics and mechanics. Least: Too many new variables/constants introduced.*
- *Most: Open and available.*
- *Most: Interesting content and creative science. Least: Too much math.*
- *Most: The content overall was very interesting. Least: I am not used to open-ended types of questions but even that was not too much of a problem in the course.*
- *Most: Going into concepts in great detail is interesting. Least: Assignments were hard.*
- *Most: Interesting, thinking in a broader sense. Least: It was a little hard to grasp the concepts due to its absolutely new concept of thinking not provided in any other classes I have taken.*
- *Most: Interesting concepts. Least: A bit too abstract.*
- *Most: Biological molecule experiencing external/internal forces that leads them into doing various mechanisms to obtain nutrients. Least: The fact how an assignment of 10% was given short amount of time. Materials of the course were extraordinary INTERESTING.*
- *Most: The concepts were really interesting and kept my attention. Least: The amount of math associated with all the problems.*
- *Most: Learned biology from a different perspective.*

Comment on the Marking Scheme:

- *Fair marking scheme if you put in the effort and attend class • Fair • Normal • It's fair*

Rating of the Instructor:

9. The instructor's command of the course material was extensive	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(2)	**4**(9)	**5**(6)	**4.24**
10. The instructor's presentations were well organized	**1**( )	**2**(1)	**3**(3)	**4**(8)	**5**(6)	**4.06**
11. The instructor explained difficult or abstract concepts well	**1**( )	**2**(2)	**3**(5)	**4**(6)	**5**(5)	**3.78**
12. Graded material was returned promptly	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**( )	**4**(2)	**5**(16)	**4.89**
13. The instructor was available and willing to answer questions	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**( )	**4**(2)	**5**(16)	**4.89**
14. The instructor was able to stimulate interest in the course	**1**( )	**2**(1)	**3**(1)	**4**(8)	**5**(8)	**4.28**
15. Considering all factors, rate the instructor	**1**( )	**2**(1)	**3**(1)	**4**(7)	**5**(9)	**4.33**

Comment on the abilities of the instructor:

• Excellent instructor able to make a class informative as well as informative.
• Humorous and knowledgeable on bio and physics aspects but lacks the mathematical background to explain the equations in a way for people to easily grasp.
• Very good instructor, but it is evident that his main way of thinking is experimental, because sometimes the theory (math) did not work out completely. Overall, great job.
• Great prof, tons of information but able to get point across. Maybe add a little more general knowledge for those who aren't familiar with course. Easy to get along with. 10/10.
• Dr. Lew is really approachable! If any doubts, he tried his best to clear them.
• Even with extensive use of equations in the material, Dr. Lew was able to focus on conceptual aspect and generate intrigue.
• Very good.
• Lectures [were] fine; could be a bit more organized in terms of presentation and notes on moodle.
• I like how he explains concepts. The instructor is clearly familiar with our level of knowledge and tries to explain aspects of biological mechanisms accordingly.
• Excellent

Retake:

16. Ignoring any degree or professional requirements, would you have enrolled in this course knowing what you now know? **YES** (11) **NO** (5)

Advice to Prospective Students

• Take it! If you want to learn something new and different from most courses you are taking, then take this course. (This is for non-biophysics majors). For those who love understanding and applications (instead of memorizing) you'll love this course.
• Pay attention to the equations and make sure you understand what they mean. Understand the concepts.
• Learn to think!
• Make sure to think outside the box for this course. After all, there is no right answers, only strong explanations.
• Begin readings early and often; take detailed notes during class; pay attention to detail; avoid cramming at the last minute.
• Mathematical background is very helpful.
• Don't be afraid to ask questions because these are current topics, meaning research still needs to be done.
• Take the course even if it is not required, it will help any major choose future career/research path.