

Chemistry 128: Winter, 2006
Prof. Gregory A. Weiss

Comments from the students are presented here in this font (black, 10-point Arial). A few comments are edited to preserve the confidentiality of respondents, and are marked *** to indicate the omitted material.

Comments by Prof. Weiss are presented in this font (blue, italics, 10-point times).

Preface: Thank you very much everyone who took the time to evaluate the class. I really enjoyed teaching this course and interacting with you all.

1. Please comment on the following areas and be as specific as possible:
What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

Thanks for the positive comments below. Teaching Chemistry 128 is an incredible privilege and pleasure for me. I really appreciate your enthusiasm for the course and my teaching. The comments below will help me focus my teaching in the future.

* He knows how to lecture well. Loud and clear. His notes are informative and the information taught in the class was interesting. He applied a lot of what we were learning to real situations.

* He's very outgoing, vibrant and excited about chemistry. He seems to enjoy teaching and the subject and its catching.

* Extremely enthusiastic about Chemical Biology. Presents the material at a level that is both easy to understand, interesting, and does not lose its strength. Classes are always great to go to, and Dr. Weiss truly cares about the well-being of the students.

* He is very enthusiastic about chemical biology

* very enthusiastic, covers material at a good pace, approachable and responsive

* very enthusiastic in the material, very organized

* Prof Weiss is very interested in this subject, therefore it comes across in his lectures. This makes me want to learn the material, and actually be interested it for interests sake, not for the sake of getting a grade. He explains the concepts very well. I know what I need to do to get an A in this course. I know what he expects from his students. Overall, definitely one of the best chemistry professors at UCI.

* Enthusiasm, communication, pop culture references.

* His enthusiasm, vast knowledge, and lecture slides

* Chemical Bio Is easily understood Knowledge overflows Responsive to class Understands student concerns Acts on all of them

* enthusiasm toward the subject

* enthusiasm, creativity

* very enthusiastic about lecturing, clear in explanations

* prepared for lecture, availability outside of class, learning peoples' names, enthusiastic about the material he's teaching

* he know the material

* Very cordial and ready to help *everyone* in the class to reach their full potential

* He's very confident and interested in his lectures.

* The professor is very knowledgeable in many topics. Quite enthusiastic in terms of helping students learn basics and fundamentals. Encourages students to ask questions during lectures and gives a thorough explanation when questions are asked. Visual examples such as microarrays or other experimental techniques made the lectures more interesting in terms of being able to see the practical applications of theory. References to specific topic materials were helpful for those who wanted to read more in detail. The professor is very accomodating to students during office hours and is sincere in helping students learn the topics. He's very generous with his time.

* very enthusiastic and very clear in explaining the material, provides a very good course reader for reviewing the material presented in class.

* Lectures are filled with images

* He is very enthusiastic in teaching. He cares about his students' understanding of the class and how well they do in the class. He is very willing to help his students. He is easily approached as a teacher because he's friendly and considerate.

* Made the class interesting and easy to sit through.

* he's very enthusiastic about the material and seeks to help the students. His presentations are clear and detailed. He really gets you motivated about the subject.

* Lectures are dynamic, sparks interest in students

* Enthusiasm for teaching and the subject.

* I honestly believe Gregory is just a great Teacher. He teaches clearly and concisely, and makes it very interesting! Everything ive seen is a strength with this guy!

* clear with chemical processes.

* He is very enthusiastic about teaching the course. He is very concerned about our progress throughout the whole course. He is audible and understandable.

* enthusiastic

* Uber enthusiasm towards chemical biology. Clear, well-spoken and concise lectures. Very nice and couteous towards students. Willing to work with anyone. By far, the best chemistry professor at UCI!

* 17 blank answer(s).

2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?

Thanks for the suggestions below, which I'll implement next year (where possible).

* More clear writing when it comes to drawing the mechanisms.

Ok. Sometimes hard to do, when the arrows start flying.

* Not much, very good teacher.

* Have the lectures posted online prior to the lecture. It makes it difficult to take notes and keep up otherwise.

Will try. I'm usually scrambling to finish these 10-minutes before the lecture begins, however...

* Slow down with the powerpoints, the material is much easier to follow when he draws things out on the board.

Ok.

* cover the midterm material more in depth

* Answers to all of the homework problems would be nice, as well as explanations. Possibly in a PDF format that would be accesible online after a certain period of time after we have started that chapter. This would allow me to double check my work whenever I needed to instead of being rushed between work and school to get to office hours.

Ok. Will post some this year.

* Providing discussion worksheets that are more similar to the midterms.

Ok. Will post keys to the practice midterms.

* Better outline for what he expects the students to know. He loves EVERYTHING there is about chemical biology, and feels the need to talk about it all. I feel he needs to trim the info down, otherwise it's overwhelming.

Yeah, this is probably true.

* Professor the best Stimulates my attention Damn right I can say Improvement is hard For the exceptional ones Keep up the good work

* every single time without exception that i approached the dr. weiss with a question i was greeted with various levels of sarcasm. that's never appreciated by studends and dr. weiss would improve as a teacher were he to address this.

Well, I usually reserve sarcasm for particular scenarios (e.g., trying to weasel out what's going to be on the midterm, etc.).

* n/a

* sometimes too complex in explanations- hard for students to understand

* not talk quite so quickly so we better absorb the material

* he needs to slow down his pace

Ok. Thanks.

* none

* He should slow down his lectures and review informations learned from previous classes

* Due to the broadness of the material being covered, some of the lectures were difficult to understand in terms of having a specific theme. At times, it was difficult to follow the interconnectedness of the material(s) being presented during a particular lecture. Overall, the professor made up for some lack of cohesion by clarifying important details which he may have missed previously on subsequent lectures. In regards to the paper topics, the professor can be overly critically as to the language used i.e. using an active voice rather than a passive one. The primary importance of the paper topics should be based on the ability of the student to convey the logic, significance and importance of the subject in a clear and concise in order to show that the student has a more advance level of understanding/expertise on the matter.

I agree with the first part, but disagree with the second. Will start each lecture with a brief review illustrating the interconnectedness. However, your ability to communicate your ideas – including their logic, significance, and importance – will be absolutely critical to the advancement of your career. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate, and, in fact necessary and mandatory, for faculty to consider the writing in evaluating written assignments. Since you will be judged in part based upon how you write for the rest of the career, shouldn't you start writing well now?

* Provide more guidance on writing the proposal, for example by showing a sample average proposal and by giving suggestions on how to improve it and what to avoid. Of the various discussion sections that were canceled, some could have been used to go over proposal writing requirements and tips. Fix typos and remove the use of passive voice in the course reader. Give an explicit list of mechanisms that we need to practice for the exams.

Ok. I'll have a sample proposal next year.

* Keep up what he is doing.

*

* Tell students more clearly what is expected in his assignments

* Nothing! I think he is my favorite teacher thus far at UCI! I think the nerd-core thing Gregory has going has got to stay! (The high pants, poofed out shirt, purple bucket of sidewalk chalk, glasses, hair color, vegetarianism, comments relating online RPG's and chemistry....) It all makes for one great Chemical Biology experience! (Dont change Greg, your the man!)

Heheh! Thanks.

* more examples with assigned problems.

* N/A

* i dunno

* 22 blank answer(s).

3. Any other comments about this course?

* Really interesting course! I looked forward to going to the class and learning!

* Sorry about my abstract, and maybe my proposal... I think I fell asleep during the ethics part of biosafety and ethics 194S

* Loved it! Really inspired me to go into Chemistry.

* I was really worried about this course when I signed up for it. I really hated biology in high school, and I disliked bio 97 so much I dropped it. Even though I had worries about this course at first, I can say that I don;t anymore. I really enjoyed going to lecture and reading the course reader. I really liked how the course reader followed lecture, and everything we would need to know was basically outlined in the reader. This is much better than flipping through pages of a large book.

* Great..very interesting.

* Enjoyed the midterms Final exams are helpful Proposals are not Please make proposal just like a simple haiku short and easy task

Sorry, but that is not the goal of the proposal assignment. It's supposed to be challenging, and it's supposed to prepare you for what you'll encounter in the real world. Think about this for a second. When it comes time for you to get a raise, your boss isn't going to ask you to take an exam. Instead, the quality and effective organization of your ideas will determine whether you get the raise. You do want to advance in your career, right? The proposal is perhaps the most important assignment you'll have at UCI.

* none/

* a final exam would make the other assignments not worth quite so much, give us examples of the proposal for those of us who have not written any such scientific papers before

See comments about proposal above.

* very difficult

* very challenging class, difficult to study for midterms

* The biggest challenge for students will be in writing the proposal topic since extensive outside reading, independent of the class, will be required. It would be helpful for the professor to give references to technical manuals such as "Molecular Cloning" so that students will have a source of experimental designs/procedures from which they can get ideas.

Ok. Not a bad suggestion. Thanks.

* It was an interesting class. The topics covered generated my interests. The teachers made them even more enjoyable.

* This was one of the most interesting courses I have taken at UCI. I very much enjoyed it, thank you.

*

* The proposal should be worth less points...some of us are just better at tests and having the final grade rest on a proposal just isn't fun!

See comments about proposal above.

* very happy about chemistry.

* Interesting and challenging course.

* very riveting

* 29 blank answer(s).