

Final Evaluation FACULTY (CTEF) for WEISS, Gregory Alan CHEM 128 LEC A (40894), Winter 2008

1. Please comment on the following areas and be as specific as possible:

What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

- enthusiastic
- excellent teaching, good explanation
- Well prepare, clear, accessible, friendly, and reasonable
- show enthusiasm in the subject. words are spoken clearly and concisely.
- Teaches the important aspects of a hard subject Awesome metaphors; Fed Ex truck as DNA polymerase; Protein recognition like a bar code. So much easier to understand. Thanks. Certainly improved from future years (yea, I looked at the past evaluations): Now every question is NOT a stupid question. Very friendly in answering questions. - Gives us help on all aspects of college not only in 128. ie courtesy email writing, teacher recommendations... etc. There is no course designed for things like this so I'd like to commend you for taking the time out of your busy lectures to tell us these things. Where were you when we were freshman!? These would really have helped.
- explains things very well. he also is very helpful during office hours
- Great speaker.
- He loves what he teaches
- Great variation in speaking and pacing around stimulate students to pay attention. Very knowledgeable, energetic, and friendly.
- explain concepts clearly
- he is a very interactive professor, always willing to help out the students, very knowledgeable and understands the demands of a college student
- ~ Goes over mechanisms ~ Slide makes lecture easier to understand
- Weiss is a great Professor! The infectious zeal he exhibits for a chemical understanding of biology really motivates students. He carries a genuine concern for the success of his students not only in his course, but in their life endeavors. He's very approachable and always willing to clarify difficult concepts presented in lecture. Pushes the students to excel in many areas, especially with respect to research and seizing opportunities afforded to students by UCI. There were seriously times when I left his class wanting to conquer the world! (academically) Overall excellent professor, fun course, and challenging material. Highly recommended elective for any chemistry or biology major!
- He knows the material very well. He is very excited about the material which translates to generating excitement among the students too.
- His enthusiastic personality made the class more interesting. His slides were well organized and interesting. I loved the images that were incorporated for better understanding of the subject matter.
- Dr. Weiss is very passionate about this subject which makes this class very interesting. He mixes up the lecture with slides and working on the board so we don't get bored.
- Dr. Weiss communicates the material very clearly, and is always willing to field questions about unclear concepts. It is clear that Chem 128 is not biochemistry, but rather chemical biology. Great lectures, awesome bike, and even nicer car.
- He is always very prepared for class. He used good, relevant examples during lecture to help capture and keep students' attention.
- interesting lectures. He makes the class fun
- He seems very interested in what he teaches. He is accessible and will do his best to help students.

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- People will always refer to Prof. Weiss as intimidating and hardcore. Deep inside I know he only appears to be that way to help us build character. I like his passion; it is uplifting but at the same time he expects everyone to have the same passion as him and that can never be the case for everyone. He's a great person and good professor. Don't change the way you teach professor but just be aware that school is not the only thing people have in their lives.
- He cares deeply that students learn and do well in his class. Additionally he is the only professor I know who expresses that he wants all of his students to succeed in their career and academic goals. His commitment to students is amazing.
- great lecturer, makes the subject material VERY interesting and overall, i just like listening to professor weiss lecture. you can really tell that he is enthusiastic about the stuff, and that he also wants to help us get the most out of the class.
- Clear, concise, and friendly. Very patient and really allows students to get to know the professor. Also, very enthusiastic in lecture and keeps students interested in the lecture topics.
- Very strong lectures. You can tell he is very passionate about what he teaches. Also has a genuine concern for his students, which is apparent through his setting time aside each lecture to thoroughly go over any student concerns with assignments. I do not think I have ever had a chemistry professor who is so thorough in answering all student questions.
- He makes things clear.
- The lectures are very interesting. He lectures with a lot of energy so that it attracts students' attention.
- Knowledge
- Very enthusiastic so makes the material interesting.
- Knows a lot, and can explain it well. Excited about it.
- very helpful to students. can answer students' questions clearly
- lecture slides are very helpful.
- he enjoys teaching the material. very enthusiastic about all material. goes over a good amount of examples.
- Enthusiastic lecture
- Prof. Weiss is very passionate. It is clear that he loves what he does, and he shares his enthusiasm with the class. He is very approachable and always makes sure that each and every student gets the help she/he needs.
- goes over some homo lumo theory.. tests are fair
- He is the most helpful and knowledgeable professor that I have had at UCI. He doesn't give up on you that easily so that gives you the strength to continue and try to improve because he looks at how much progress you've had.
- I like the real life examples he uses in class, it makes learning more the material more practical.
- smart and somewhat friendly...he knows more than me...
- Very passionate about the subject.
- he's brilliant
- knowledgeable and enthusiastic
- enthusiastic, responsive and interesting
- He's pretty cool. I took Professor Weiss for 51C and now 128- and I honestly think he's one of the better professors at UCI. He's the reason why I'm a Chemistry major... so I guess he's doing something right...
- Dr. Weiss is very clear during lectures as well as being very helpful in office hours.
- enthusiastic, energy, accessible

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- Shows extreme enthusiasm for chem. bio., which helps us actually stay awake in class. Provides good answers to the discussion worksheets and practice midterms.
- he's smart. somethings he teaches really well.
- Great professor. Knows exactly what he's talking about. Gives real-life applications. Answers questions clearly.
- he is very good at describing details, he makes sure to explain the topic in such a way that a large majority of the class can understand it.
- Instructor does not waste our time. Instructor is enthusiastic and provides worthwhile lecture material. Slides are well-made, which is surprisingly rare. Tests are difficult but fair, which is ideal.
- He absolutely knows what he's talking about and is enthusiastic when teaching it.
- 10 blank answer(s).

2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?

- stick close on textbooks.
- Post correct uptodate lecture slides. That would help students alot in term of following your lecture discussion.
- slides need to contain more chembio notes and examples from textbooks.
- -5-10minute Breaks in the middle please. I feel too comfortable in the chairs in RH. I need some oxygen to the legs. I know we dont have enough time but a simple 2-3 minute break should suffice - Goes through the material a little fast; slow down please - Office hours are always crowded and I feel that I always have to hurry up because there is always someone after me. I know you cant alleviate this problem, but just to let you know because sometimes I feel I just dont want to be rushed. - Go though more of the application aspect for mechanisms. The first midterm blew mechanisms grossly out of proportion. If you are going to test of mechanisms, I suggest you focus on mechanisms on your exams. The second exam was straight forward though. Either way, let us know what you will be focusing on. :] -
- There are some grammtical errors in the course reader. Just f.y.i.
- An 'index' and 'selected answers' section would have been nice for the course book. This would have made using the book a lot easier but I guess this goes back to the old saying, "You get what you paid."
- None.
- lectures go too fast so please slow down a little bit
- nothing that i can recall
- Update lecture slides on the class website.
- If he wants to help us learn some of the most important reaction mechanisms, it would be helpful if he gave like a reaction summary every chapter about the most important mechanisms. Sometimes when reading, we concentrate more on one mechanism than another, and it would help to orient us better if we got some direction.
- He is a good professor.
- I wish the tests did not focus so much on mechanisms.
- There are a couple of little mistakes in the course reader, mostly spelling and grammar, nothing too big. Also, the lectures posted online were outdated. I noticed that the slides that were posted were from a previous year and didn't exactly line up with what we learned in class.
- Although Professor Weiss is willing to help his students, it is really difficult to coordinate a time to meet with him outside of class and office hours because he is so busy. Short of him having a less busy schedule there really isn't a way around this, but I felt that it was important to bring up.

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- none
- i can't think of anything. the only thing that was annoying was the way the room was set up, but you can't really do anything about that.
- The lecture notes were not updated from last year so it was kind of hard to follow during lecture. Make sure to post the notes that are actually going to be lectured on.
- At times it might help to slow down a bit. Although there is limited time to get through the material, at times I felt rushed to copy down notes from the board before the screen would be dropped again and I would be left asking those around me about the parts I missed. I would also suggest posting updated lecture slides after class, and letting students know this at the beginning of the quarter. This can be helpful in two ways. 1. It is good for the environment and will prevent students from wasting thousands of pages of paper after the course is over. If the slides are going to be online, after all, then they do not even need to print them out. 2. Many students this year were confused when content presented in class was different than the material they had printed at home. For some reason, students always continued printing them, which is something I still do not understand. I think that posting lectures later in the week would solve these issues. Plus, it would help make us all a little more environmentally conscious, which, as we talked about in class, is important for all of our futures. :) Professor Penner presented this concept of not printing out lecture slides to the class, and his suggestion was actually followed quite well by the students. Also (and this is only for those who sit in the front of the class), there were times during lecture when it was difficult to see the screen when Professor Weiss was standing almost right in front of me. This may be motivation to sit a few rows back, but I just thought it was something minor to keep in mind for those who like to sit close the front.
- .
- He should talk a little slower so students have time to take notes.
- no need
- More arrow pushing practice.
- Don't spend so much time on the basic chemistry stuff. We should know it by this point, and if we don't, that is our own fault. That will add at least one more lecture to go more in depth on other areas.
- update the lecture notes so there is no confusion during lecture time
- should put new slides on the website not the last year one.
- give more homework questions.
- Give more examples
- I can't really think of anything.
- more help on the proposal?
- hmm.....give FINAL...no proposal...
- Discuss mechanisms more in class if the midterm will test on them so heavily.
- he should go teach at harvard, he makes his class too difficult. his standards are way too high.
- Office hours were way too crowded (not necessarily a bad thing...), but it sort of defeated the whole purpose of going, since each student only had a minute to ask a question and get a response back...
- clarity
- I would suggest listing specific pages to pay attention to in the course reader. When I say specific pages, I mean emphasize the pages of material covered in lectures. I would like to see some more examples, especially of the material not in the course reader, such as the side chain rotamers material. The internet doesn't really have much on learning about rotamers. Well, google doesn't have introductory material on rotamers at any rate. I would also suggest

mentioning specific things to review in the ochem textbooks. I suspect that most people have the same ochem textbook, so mentioning certain pages or chapters in the ochem textbook (Bruice) would be helpful.

- he's not that approachable. he kind of comes off as insincere. could give more insight on what is important to study.
- Slides should be updated for the upcoming lecture so that we're not following last year's slides.
- Provide more guidelines in the proposal project, such as holding more office hours after the abstract is passed back.
- The material in the course reader did not fully coincide with the material in lecture or the tested material. This would be fine (seeing as the material is interesting), but whole chapters are assigned to us when we are not actually responsible for them. Either provide more specific reading assignments or broaden the scope of tests to include course reader material.
- Should try to get students engaged by asking them questions because some people fall asleep in the class or daze off.
- 21 blank answer(s).

3. Any other comments about this course?

- this course is too hard because students have to do proposal at the end.
- Like the way it was organized.
- doesn't really stimulates my interest in chembio as i thought it would.
- Book report is good because in grad school, this will be a major aspect of our career Proposals are also awesome. I feel like this is something that isn't just "busy" work like all the other classes. Discussions sometimes are a bore because you just solve and check answers. There is no real "first you do..." I only go to sign in. If only we could make it a little better.
- love the course. challenging, but worth taking
- This course is hard, especially with all the synthesis! The lectures and the exams don't necessarily correlate. Lecture is more biology. Exams are more chemistry oriented.
- no
- Can be intimidating at times but very responsive to students.
- although getting an idea for the proposal is tough, once you get it, the project is unique to all of the other classes. something to help out the students with this could be a possible list of topics/ideas. some of us just did not know where to even start from.
- The material was challenging, but easily grasped with the help of the classmates, TA (who was also excellent this quarter) and the professor. It's an upper division course, you shouldn't expect anything else. However, there is a good balance of concepts and application. Strong background in organic chemistry and general biology is recommended.
- Very interesting material, especially since we see so much of the o-chem material in biological action.
- This course was very challenging for me especially researching for the propasal project.
- Office hours were great. Professor Weiss really takes time to interact one on one with each student, even when his office is full. I also took Bio98 at the same time as this class, and I've got to say, as a chemistry major I liked biological chemistry much better than biochemistry.
- The exams aim at concepts more than just memorization. IT's a fun class
- n/a
- None.

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- I was very happy to hear Professor Weiss talk about green chemistry practices. I know this is a concept that is still new to many students and some may not even fully understand the implications. I think that great leaders such as Professor Weiss have the ability to promote these sorts of practices to their students and I was very happy to hear him mentioned this in lecture. Unfortunately, this is a rarity among other chemistry professors, because it is not something they usually take time to discuss with their students. Thank you Professor Weiss, it was much appreciated!
- .
- none
- I enjoyed it but I did think it was very difficult.
- The TA was really helpful and tried his best to engage everyone in discussion. I applaud his efforts, he really helped people grasp the material. My only concern was that the final quiz was not fair. There was a question on the quiz from the lecture that day and not everyone is able to remember lecture material as efficiently as others. Those who have learning disabilities, ADHD or other disabilities are at a great disadvantage since they did not have the time to absorb and study the material before hand. That question was considered a "pop quiz" and in this current society, there are too many different learning "abilities" that pop quizzes are unfair and discriminate against the students who are not the normal mainstream.
- Great course. Learned a lot. It is rare that a course makes the students ACTUALLY THINK, and this one does. Thank you for making us use our brains for once.
- no
- very hard.take biology before taking this class. the biology part of this class is the only difficult part.
- Proposal is somewhat hard!
- As a person that has no love for biology in particular, I found Prof. Weiss's lectures were captivating. I can say that I would have not liked this course if it were taught by anyone less gifted than Prof. Weiss.
- proposal is very time consuming. although it is a unique class requirement.. i'd rather just take a final.
- hate proposal!!!!!!!!!!!!
- -upgrade the slides used in the class as the ones on the site because they werent always the same and when i looked for something on the slides i remembered from class i wouldnt be able to find the slides online
- Nothing much... I just want to come back in a few years and read this up on his website :)
- no more chem 128 by Weiss Please!
- AMAZING PROFESSOR.
- I really enjoyed this course. This is one of my favorite courses that I have taken at UCI.
- this course is very interesting and sparks a new light into science.
- The research proposal assignment is extremely hard. I'd rather have a final.
- it's one of those courses where it matters more on how smart you are instead of how hard you work.
- I anticipate the proposal drawing flak from other students due to it being a daunting assignment. I would like to counter that. The proposal offers a chance to practice science writing, and it offers a chance to exercise creativity. These are rare opportunities in a course and I'm happy to have them.
- I enjoyed learning about the chemistry that occurs in our body. It's probably one of the most interesting courses i have taken as an undergrad. However, i did not enjoy the Proposal

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because coming up with an original idea is a hard task to undertake especially if your not an experienced scientist. I found myself reading articles for endless nights and being unsuccessful in the search for an original idea. It's not that i didn't put any effort into the task at hand, but it was just difficult to come up with something different than whats out there.

- 24 blank answer(s).

4. Please choose the appropriate rating on the letter grade scale A to F indicated below, with A indicating excellent and F indicating wholly inadequate performance. If you have no opinion on the question asked or if it does not apply, please mark NA.

The course instructor shows enthusiasm for and is interested in the subject.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
49	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.82	4.00		0.63							

5. The course instructor stimulates your interest in the subject.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
36	12	5	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.59	4.00		0.86							

6. The course instructor meets stated objectives of the course.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
42	8	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.75	4.00		0.67							

7. The course instructor is accessible and responsive.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
38	13	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.68	4.00		0.83							

8. The course instructor creates an open and fair learning environment.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
40	8	8	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.69	4.00		0.72							

9. The course instructor encourages students to think in this course.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
43	10	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.74	4.00		0.69							

10. The course instructor's presentations and explanations of concepts were clear.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
36	14	4	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	0
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.65	4.00		0.73							

11. Assignments and exams covered important aspects of the course.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
33	12	10	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Mean	Median		Std Dev							
3.63	4.00		0.69							

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12. What overall grade would you give this instructor?

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
39	9	7	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
Mean	Median	Std Dev								
3.66	4.00	0.75								

13. What overall grade would you give this course?

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
28	12	6	6	4	2	1	0	2	1	0
Mean	Median	Std Dev								
3.45	3.70	0.82								

14. Please answer:

Based on completed assignments thus far, what is your current course grade or approximate standing?

A	B	C	D	F	NA	Mean	Median	Std Dev
16	26	11	1	0	6	3.06	3.00	0.76

15. How much academic dishonesty seemed to occur in this course? If applicable, please describe the type of academic dishonesty that occurred (not the particular students involved).

1.

A lot	Some	A little	None I could discern
0	0	2	59
Mean	Median	Std Dev	
0.03	0.00	0.18	

2. Examples:

- the teacher said so himself that there is some plagiarism going on during the report assignment
- 61 blank answer(s).

16. How helpful were the textbooks and/or readings to your overall learning experience?

Very	Adequately	Somewhat	Not at all
6	22	24	10
Mean	Median	Std Dev	
1.39	1.00	0.87	

17. How challenging was this course?

Very	Adequately	Somewhat	Not at all
39	19	3	1
Mean	Median	Std Dev	
2.55	3.00	0.66	