

Final Evaluation FACULTY (CTEF) for WEISS, Gregory Alan for CHEM 128 LEC A (41000), Winter 2009

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

What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

- knows his stuff. interesting subject
- Clear concept explanation, wants the best out of his students
- Displaying enthusiasm for taught subject. Lectures are fast paced and require students to remain involved. Encourages students to think for themselves.
- He explains concepts very clearly. He makes the class interesting and fun. He makes sure everyone gets a chance to ask a question.
- He is very enthusiastic about the topics he teaches in class. Seems approachable.
- very enthusiastic and very fun provided alot of examples in the form of disc sections very interested in teaching as well as his research(some professors don't care about much about their responsibilities as a teacher, just as a researcher. prof weiss does!)
- Gives relevant, up-to-date, and interesting information about the application of chemistry. Gives mechanisms information not in posted notes or book making lecture worthwhile.
- He is very passionate and enthusiastic about the class because it is primary what he's researching on. He's also very approachable and tries to help you in office hours.
- Professor Weiss delivers complex material in an clear and concise way. The metaphors used to describe cellular and molecular processes make foreign concepts relatable.
- He si good at explaining concepts and making them sound interesting
- clarity, explanations, enthusiasm, knowledge of subject matter
- Very enthusiastic and passionate about chem bio. Explanations are very clear. Tests were fair.
- Your the best chemistry professor on campus and your teaching skills are awesome.
- he's enthusiastic
- He knows the material very well and lectures on the material in a way that make it easier to understand, which helps.
- Prof. Weiss is very enthusiastic about the subject and is very straight to point.
- Dr. Weiss is a great lecturer he brings plenty of energy into the classroom and his passion for science really shows.
- The material is interesting and he teaches it well. He makes an effort to prepare us for the future (letters of rec, etc.).
- Very organized. Knowledgable on the topic. Has a passion for the subject, which makes him fairly animated and interesting in lecture. Will give you one-on-one time in office hours and gives everyone a chance to ask questions. Very willing to offer career advice, which is especially nice for third and fourth year students. He and his TA rapidly grade papers.
- His enthusiasm for the subject comes off in his lectures, making them interesting for students.

- He is very clear with his presentations and makes sure to answer any questions as they come up.
- helpful, thoughtful, friendly, passionate
- explains thoroughly goes over concept clearly gives examples
- He's very enthusiastic about teaching
- Powerpoint slides guide the class, but do not revolve around them. Mechanisms are clearly shown. Professor is very knowledgeable about the subject. Also very engaging with the class.
- Clear explanations, organized notes, introduces topics, and relates topics to real life applications.
- really knows his material, for a tuesday/thursday lecture - class passes much quicker than for most other classes writing a good book report was a VERY good preparation for the proposal really tries to learn student names questions are answered without digressing too much
- enthusiastic, well explanation
- He is very clear and concise, and seem very enthusiastic about the subject.
- Always smiling
- makes the class interesting and shows how the topics in class are related to medicine and experiments taking place at the moment.
- Lectures are well organized concepts are thoroughly explained
- He is really passionate about his teaching. You can feel the excitement, and at 10 in the morning, it is contagious.
- very engaging and making lectures very interesting
- He is very knowledgeable and articulate.
- Professor Weiss is so enthusiastic during his lectures that it makes the topic much more enjoyable.
- He makes the course interesting. He loves chemical biology, and he answer the students' questions the best that he could in an interesting way.
- The instructor is very enthusiastic about the material which sometimes manages to make the material quite interesting. Fairly clear on what he expects from his students. The only professor I've had that's forced me to come up with a brand new idea.
- Terrific enthusiasm for subject matter, thorough explanations. Awesomely written textbook; interesting reading. Strongly organized. Textbook index would be helpful, however.
- ^^^ Dr. Weiss' extensive knowledge and excitement about chemical biology are highly contagious. Since this class I don't think I've ever had a 9:30am course I looked forward to. What I liked about the class style was the setup of the syllabus; Dr. Weiss ensures students leave UC Irvine with practical skills necessary for success in the real world. Most classes have tested my ability to retain endless amounts of information, while this one tested my ability to understand the material, and to effectively communicate my knowledge. ^^^
- Best chem teacher at UCI along with Van Vranken.
- He is very enthusiastic about the subject.
- Profesor Weiss is clear about the specific and well defined the characters and features of chemical biology. He is also helpful, but this chem 128 is a really difficult class with a variety of complicated materials.
- Encourages students to attend office hours Very knowledge of the materials he teaches

- I like the way he teaches
- He shows a great enthusiasm for the material. He explains most things very clearly and emphasizes what is important.
- Makes clear, practical demonstrations. Provides for student participation. Makes effective use of a variety of available materials. Provides motivation.
- n/a
- Native english speaker.
- He is very enthusiastic about chemical biology. He explains representation slides very well and stimulate interest in chemical biology. He is willing to help out his students.
- Extreme enthusiasm for Chemical Biology. Professor Weiss is ALWAYS (at least from what I have observed) welcoming to students during class, during office hours, and in general. His lectures are well organized and his exams were fair and covered necessary material.
- Very passionate about the class/topic. Very proficient in the subject of chemical biology.
- very enthusiastic. You can tell that he really wants you to get something out of the class.
- He is very enthusiastic about the topic. Problem sets provide good examples for exam problems.
- Enthusiastic about topics, very approachable
- Very detailed. Very clear and concise. Simplifies difficult concepts. Very accessible and friendly.
- THE INSTRUCTOR REALLY KNOWS HIS CHEMICAL BIOLOGY.
- Interest and enthusiasm in teaching the course.
- I really loved his way of teaching. He doesn't embarass students just because we ask questions that sound very foolish. I really enjoyed his teaching lectures. He is very enthusiastic about his interests and persuades, not forces, students to learn the materials.
- -Enthusiastic about the subject -Answer students' questions, knowledgeable
- he knows a lot about chemical biology
- Everything great.
- 16 blank answer(s).

2. How can this instructor improve as a teacher?

- n/a
- need to make more blocks for office hour, perhaps it's a little too much to ask but 20+ people in every office hour can be annoying since there is not be enough time for each students.
- Have make up office hours.
- I feel as if he isn't organized! The slides he uses are very vague and difficult to follow when reviewing for exams. Which makes it difficult to make sense of how all the material connects. Also power points would be helpful so we could take notes on slides since we can't with Acrobat Reader. But even better maybe using a projector would help! Its hard to take notes on paper and computer which makes everything very unorganized and therefore confusing!!!!!!!
- the proposal is a very good idea, but perhaps not have it as a final. most people stop caring about lectures after 2nd midterm, so the final is not really based on chem biology. although this does lighten up the student's load during finals, i feel that there is a lack of emphasis on chem biology in the proposal. yes, the proposal is supposed to be based on chem biology, but it varies largely from student to student and doesn't necessarily expand the student's knowledge of the chem biology learned in lectures. also perhaps the textbook could include answers to the problems

- more office hours?
- He goes a little too fast for the powerpoints and the book is too detailed so it makes it hard to read. And sometimes in office hours, he is not as helpful because he just tells us to figure things out ourselves by reading outside textbook. My only issue with this is that shouldn't relevant material of this class be found in the course reader rather than referring back to our chem 51 books or other textbooks? I thought the course reader was a waste of my money (especially since I bought the color version) but hopefully it will come in handy in 128L.
- The final project for the course is very difficult for those not well versed in the biological aspects of Chem/Bio. More guidance might be appropriate for those who don't fully understand how to set up a biological experiment.
- na
- He is a very busy man but it would be better if he were more accessible.
- No need for improvement.
- Keep up the good work!
- Extra credit? An exam study guide would be helpful too.
- More office hours.
- Sometimes he kinda skips steps in his mechanisms, and that can lead to misunderstandings. It'd be better to just draw the whole thing out.
- Sometimes he teaches by examples without teaching a general concept, but it could just be because he is teaching exceptions to a rule. Lastly, he is sloppy in his boardwork because he rushes his mechanisms.
- Add an index to the book; looking up information is wastefully time consuming without one.
- Try not to stand directly in front of the board when doing mechanisms. Also, going away right before the big paper was due made it a lot more complicated to do without your advise.
- Pinpoint more concrete ideas
- Lecture slides are a bit plain, perhaps add more text onto them.
- na
- show shorthand mechanism when teaching, but in answer keys and powerpoint slides entire mechanism should be written so that students don't write shorthand mechanisms on tests and lose points lots of lecture notes overlap technical: if lectures were posted as slides, it is easier to delete and modify for students, so slides aren't printed twice (being green by saving paper)
- give more examples, give some methods that support the abstract.
- Change the homework to be due.
- stay on topic more, class seems to jump randomly to different topics. Needs to be more structured
- Providing more examples of the type of writing expected in the course. The professor makes his expectations seem high but not all students are familiar with the type of writing expected
- There are times I feel he can be condescending to students. Given his impressive schooling, I'd almost give him a pass; he certainly knows more than his students but he will never let them forget that. Also times where he explains something in class and when asked about a particular mechanism he says that his solution works because it gets to the answer. If there is way too much in the course that we cannot understand at this level, perhaps it should not be taught to undergraduates.

- fix powerpoint pdfs
- He goes much too fast during lectures. Also, lecture material and exam material do not coincide. During lectures, it seems as though he just likes to hear himself speak but does not make an effort to really teach or to go at a reasonable pace.
- He's such a great professor that I doubt there's room for improvement.
- None. He's a good teacher!
- Because of my lack of knowledge in the study of biology it was pretty difficult to keep up with vocabulary. Maybe a slide or two could be put in the power points to list important terms.
- Super awesome; no comment :).
- I'm sure this isn't much help... but I thought everything was great.
- Slow down his teaching pace, sometimes lectures feel too rushed and speedy.
- Professor Weiss is good at teaching. However, he is a busy person so that he might not have enough time or office hours for students to consult. Also, he should indicate more detailed about the proposal instructions guidelines how to come up with the creative and original ideas, how to motivate mind to think intellectual or simple ideas about the proposal, and how to combine and use the understanding knowledge in the lectures and references to improve the proposal ideas. The instruction guidelines is not quite enough and clear enough to help us to pick the ideas for predicting own researchs.
- I think that the points should have a more appropriate distribution. The final proposal is very intimidating to write (it being the first one I've written) plus it's a huge portion of the final grade which combined makes it extremely stressful.
- His exams was extremely hard, only because the test was long.
- n/a
- His class moves very quickly so it would be if he could slow down little bit. Also, it was difficult to match his lecture slides with the textbook.
- The only thing that was slightly inconvenient during the course was the Professor's absence near the end of the quarter due to a business trip to India. Normally, this may not have been a big deal but with a key proposal assignment due during 10th week, it would have been nice to have Professor Weiss as an available resource during such a critical work-week.
- More structured lectures. I get lost in lecture and don't know what he's talking about sometimes.
- I would just hope that the slides posted online were in the order discussed in class. Sometimes multiple weeks have the same slides online.
- Differentiate the main concept of the bio aspect of the course for the midterm.
- THIS INSTRUCTOR CAN IMPROVE AS A TEACHER BY WRITING PROBLEMS THAT ARE MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND APPROPRIATE FOR AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE TO CHEMICAL BIOLOGY.
- Not expect everyone to know everything when they don't.
- I understand that professors are very busy people. However, I felt like he had to cancel many office hours.
- -Hopefully go through the lessons a little slower.
- 1) stop being a condescending jerk 2) treat students with more respect 3) stop acting like everyone want a letter of recommendation from him. we dont 4) actually post notes that are correct and dated correctly 5) stop posting last years notes 6) make the notes in color and not black and white 7) assign reading that actually helps 8) give more constructive

feedback when returning assignments 9) get a different textbook or at least shorten the current one. we didn't cover half the material in the textbook anyway 10) don't give students a hard time for writing slowly if they don't understand how a mechanism works

- The mechanisms for the most part I feel are correct in class. There are just minor errors that sometimes throw me off, such as the incorrect number of bonds to carbon, not drawing formal charges, tri-molecular interactions while showing a mechanism on the board, or multiple proton transfers in one step. I only bring this up because I have been conditioned to show all of these, as they are suppose to accurately represent how the reaction is taking place on the molecular level.
- 28 blank answer(s).

3. Any other comments about this course?

- fun. but mechanisms makes it hard.
- Not much of an "introduction" in course; much biology discussed throughout quarter even though there are no biology prerequisites. I probably would have understood and enjoyed more of this course had I taken bio 98 and 99.
- I really enjoyed this class.
- thoroughly enjoyed the class and very glad to have prof weiss.
- Excess information in the book, causes reading to go by slowly.
- The book is kinda useless
- Probably the most interesting and informative upper division chemistry class I have taken at UCI.
- Prof have high expectations for his students so I feel like sometimes those that are not doing so well are afraid to come for help because they feel intimidated.
- The course was very stressful. It was a mixture of Chem 125, Bio 98, bio 99 and a writing course. It covered a wide variety of concepts and the textbook had a lot of information and the lecture didnt follow the text so it was hard to decide what info was important what was not.
- na
- Very much enjoyed this class! :)
- The only thing I would have to say is more of a technical issue. If possible in the future try to put the slides on a powerpoint and a format in which PCs can read the exact chemical structures. I had to print off my roommates MAC computer to get the full structure of chemical compounds so little tiny black boxes wouldn't come up where "N" should be. ALSO your my hero.
- No
- I found the class to be very enjoyable and challenging. The proposal is especially challenging. Thank you for teaching this quarter and this class!
- This was a very challenging course, and Dr. Weiss did a great job of tying together chemistry, which describes the interactions that occur between tiny atoms and biology which illustrates the impact that those interactions have on a large scale. Thank you Dr. Weiss!
- It seemed like some of the material after the first midterm never really showed up on the second midterm. Not a big problem though.
- A great course for anyone considering going into the chemistry of biological systems. Talks about modern pharmaceutical research. Also, a good course for anyone considering graduate school.
- As far as chemical biology goes, Weiss made the subject bearable and I was happy to

have him as an instructor. Some of the test questions and assignments are biased towards those who have a strong background (or any background at all) in biology.

- His lecture topics are all over the place. I don't learn much.
- The course reader was not very useful in the course of this class.
- interesting course
- I wish the proposal was not weighted more heavily than each midterm. textbook was not too helpful in studying for tests, probably good for the proposal if one is absolutely pressed for ideas especially since: - worksheets with answers from the book were given - powerpoints and lectures were also given if anything, the color copy is not necessary. The color images look really nice but will not be helpful to learning the material. textbook makes a good souvenir, but the color was really just an unnecessary luxury
- great knowledge
- At first Dr. Weiss seemed a little intimidating, but after going to his office hours, he is very nice and extremely helpful.
- Difficult class in terms of proposals.
- The reading material for the class was troublesome at times. Although it is the main source of knowledge of the class the reading material contains many subjects and concepts not covered in lecture. Also, many times the lecture does not follow the same order as the reading material making it hard to study. Furthermore, while the course guide offers a wealth of information it does not seem to help with the actual problems of the class.
- It's a good course. There is too much emphasis on the proposal. How there are 120 original proposals each year is astounding.
- proposal and final paper instructions need to be more clear, esp for ideas already taken
- This course was challenging; however, the material tested on was all reasonable and fair.
- Chemical biology is fun, but you actually have to practice doing the mechanisms a lot and study for hardest.
- Exciting course that managed to make biology interesting to me (I usually avoid bio courses). The book was the probably the weakest aspect of the course. It was very difficult to read compared to other textbooks I've read and sometimes it uses terms that it hasn't defined yet.
- Thank you :)!
- ^^^ UC Irvine is extremely lucky to have Dr. Weiss as a member of its faculty! I'm sure he could have chosen any college to do his research/teaching at, but for one reason or another he chose UCI. Things happen for a reason, and the way he stimulated my interest in the field of chemical biology has had a profound impact on the my future plans, and I'm sure occurred by no accident! I thank you Dr. Weiss for a great quarter, and wish you the best of luck in the future of your research and life. ^^^
- Do you listen to electronic music???? I remember one of the extra credit answers to Spring 2008 Chem 51B being Chemical Brothers. I never understood the connection.
- It was a pretty fun and interesting course. I learned a lot about foreground fields and about how to be extremely creative.
- The lectures and the homework mechanisms are different because the mechanisms are like advanced organic chemistry. If you have advanced Ochem class, you can understand more and know how to figure out the problem, but it is very difficult to study without this class because mostly lectures are concepts and definitions relates to chem-bio, and not alot of practice like in the ochem class we have as professors help to drive and guide how to draw and strive mechanisms.
- He should spend more time with student and talk about research proposal. Very limited

office hours and too many students.

- I really enjoyed this course. Weiss is one of the best professors I've had at UCI. The class is hard but well worth the effort.
- n/a
- If you're interested in chemical biology or application of chemistry into bio, you should definitely take this class.
- Excellent class to take as a Biological Sciences major! Being able to understand my field at "the level of atoms and bonds" (as Weiss likes to say) is a necessary skill that all bio majors should attain.
- Make sure reading is relevant to lectures. The textbook has a lot of material not related to lecture.
- Don't go to India for a week. Makes students miss you too much.
- Very challenging.
- nope.
- i'm not very impressed. the overall material was very interesting, but the course itself was not taught in such a way that I felt like I learned all that I should have learned. for example, we should spend at least one lecture reviewing biology that's relevant and have a worksheet on it with corresponding reading material (key word definitions, diagrams, etc.). also, there is no need to spend 30 minutes of a lecture period discussing how to get a letter of recommendation. not everyone wants a letter of recommendation from this professor. if we did, then we could just get all the info off the website, instead of listening to him go on and on and on and on and on and on about it...
- 32 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
61	10	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mean	Median	Std Dev								
3.85	4.00	0.49								

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

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
37	21	9	5	1	1	2	1	0	1	0
Mean	Median	Std Dev								
3.60	3.70	0.65								

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

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
48	13	11	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Mean	Median	Std Dev								
3.75	4.00	0.42								

7. The course instructor is accessible and responsive.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
43	15	10	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.65	4.00	0.61

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

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
49	12	3	8	2	0	2	1	0	0	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.71	4.00	0.52

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

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
50	11	8	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.77	4.00	0.41

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

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
38	17	10	5	2	0	1	2	0	2	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.55	3.70	0.77

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

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
41	15	9	9	1	0	0	1	1	1	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.61	4.00	0.67

12. What overall grade would you give this instructor?

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
44	19	8	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.71	4.00	0.52

13. What overall grade would you give this course?

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	NA
37	16	9	9	3	1	1	1	1	0	0

Mean	Median	Std Dev
3.58	3.70	0.59

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
13	37	13	2	0	11	2.94	3.00	0.72

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

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

Very	Adequately	Somewhat	Not at all	Mean	Median	Std Dev
11	20	34	12	1.39	1.00	0.91

17. How challenging was this course?

Very	Adequately	Somewhat	Not at all	Mean	Median	Std Dev
47	29	1	0	2.60	3.00	0.52

[Return to Top](#)