

Summary of student responses to question “Please comment on the effectiveness of this instructor” in evaluations of large lecture courses

Below is a summary of characteristic student responses to Question 912 “Please comment on the effectiveness of this instructor”. This open-ended question was added to regular course evaluations during the two semesters when I taught large lecture courses last year – in Spring 2011 (Physics 135) and in Fall 2011 (Physics 140). Responses selected are those that have more specifics, details, and examples compared to just “Good professor” or “Excellent instructor”. There are literally dozens and dozens more comments that just say “Very effective” or “Outstanding” without any additional information; they all have been omitted.

Original spelling and punctuation are preserved in all student responses. The emphasis (bold font) is mine.

Physics 140 – Fall 2011

Yuri is **an amazing physics teacher**. I wish my teachers for other classes were as **smart, concise, and organized** as him.

Outstanding professor. Approachable, explains well in class, meets the students needs.

Really good -- overall explained things well, plus added humor to keep the class interesting

This instructor is **excellent**. He really makes sure students understand the material, and watches students' reactions to see if students are still confused.

Yes, he was **fantastic**. In the future if I ever am looking to take a course that he is teaching I would try to have him as a teacher.

I like that the Professor was **interested, committed, and engaged** in the class. He didn't just "come to class". He was **EXTREMELY well prepared** for each class and was willing to answer questions. There is a lot of material to cover in the class and the Professor did well of staying on track.

Yuri Popov is **the most amazing teacher I've ever had**.

I loved having Yuri Popov as a lecturer. He made physics so much more fun, and he's **a really animated speaker**.

He is very good at **engaging** students' attention and explains things **very clearly**.

Professor Popov is **unbelievable** and even though I am not good at physics in the least, **he made me really like the subject**, and look forward to the physics classes further on down the line.

the instructor was a very effective teacher who taught with **enthusiasm** and was very good and conveying not only the material but conveying how to deeply understand the concepts behind the material

Professor Popov is **very effective**. He explains everything **clearly and well**.

Yuri is an **excellent teacher**. He did a very good job at breaking down some difficult concepts into smaller pieces that were easier to understand. I also really enjoyed how he made lecture material more memorable through jokes and stories that he would tell.

Yuri Popov is **the best teacher I have ever had**. A great man with a great sense of humor too. He encourages questions, and answers them to the best of his ability. He never says, we don't have enough time to answer that let's move on, or that it's not related to class. **He cares about the natural curiosity the students have** and strives to nurture it. For example, when he taught Bernoulli's principle and how the plane's wings are shaped to induce flight, I asked "then why can planes upside down." He didn't feed me the bullshit that there was no time, or feed his ego and say that it was too complicated to explain to me. He explained that other things contribute to the flight of planes, such as conservation of momentum in jets, and the Coanda effect, something that I later researched when at home. He's a **brilliant man and a brilliant teacher**.

I find it hard to conceive of the possibility of there existing, anywhere in the multiverse, a Physics professor as clear and effective in teaching as Dr. Yuri Popov. I recently came to the realization that, if I am not mistaken, Dr. Yuri Popov made about zero mistakes, give or take zero mistakes, throughout the whole semester. That takes skillz. That takes major physics skillz. If you doubt me, take Physics 140 with Dr. Yuri Popov. If you think Dr. Yuri Popov didn't make room for questions, you'd be wrong. If you also think Dr. Yuri Popov didn't give ample time for iClicker questions, you'd be dead wrong. If you, G-d help you, think that Dr. Yuri Popov doesn't engineer humor into his lectures, you'd better run before Dr. Yuri Popov comes after you with a hard hat and an air gun in order to demonstrate that horizontal acceleration is independent of vertical acceleration.

I enjoyed coming to class because of this Professor. He has a sense of humor which makes students feel at ease and willing to learn/keeps the class awake. The Professor was helpful and willing to help at Office Hours. He knows what he is doing and is engaged with the students. The students respected him because he had knowledge and was willing to reexplain topics. I have recommended this Professor to other students taking 140 next term. While I'm not getting the best grade in the class, I didn't dread going to the class because it was taught well, with humor, and interest.

Total boss. Good at presenting the material in an interesting way. **Kept the class interesting**.

Yuri is **awesome**. Very funny and explains things clearly and does enough example problems. Great accent, not hard to understand at all. *Hi 5*

He was **great**. He made the class interesting and entertaining while still teaching us the necessary material.

He is **very helpful and patient** during office hours. He is very good at explaining the difficult material.

He explained things very well. I loved how he solved the general problem first so that the concepts can be applied outside of class. **Very good teacher**.

Yuri is a great lecturer who provided clear, coherent examples and slides. **I really liked his style of teaching** and I learned a lot from him. He always asks if people have questions, which is a very good thing. Yuri's lectures were never boring for me and I enjoyed learning from him.

I liked Yuri, he was a good professor. He was always willing to hold office hours later or accommodate if you could not meet during his regular office hours. In class, he always answered questions and presented material in a good way.

Yuri Popov was a very good instructor. He clearly explained all concepts, and spent time answering each question, making sure that whoever asked it completely understood the concept before moving on.

He was a **very good professor**. He explained everything clearly and walked us through every problem step by step to ensure that we understood it.

He was **extremely helpful and clear** and took time to answer students' individual questions. **Great professor!!**

GREATLY appreciated Dr. Popov; I was terrified to take physics after experiencing an awful high school physics teacher, but Yuri made this class instructive and fun. Thank you for the semester.

Physics 135 – Spring 2011

He was **clear, easy-to-follow, and fun**. I enjoyed his style.

One of the best instructors I have had so far at Michigan. He was very smart yet understanding and I felt that he genuinely wanted his students to do well.

Effective, clear, funny, personable, open.

Yuri was **an amazing teacher**. I enjoyed every lecture and his extensive knowledge on the subject is clear.

Dr. Popov was great! He explained everything clearly and didn't rush it. He was patient and **interacted with the class instead of just talking at us**.

Great. He was entertaining enough that **this 2 hour physics class was less torturous than a 1.5 hour sociology class** I had another semester.

Yuri Popov is in my opinion **the best instructor I've had yet!** Though some professor's accents seem to hinder, his seems to help his teaching ability. Of course this is a trivial matter, he understands the needs of his students right away and addresses them, clearing them up usually during lecture. If not during lecture then through email or during the next class period. He was light and funny, **all professors should strive to be more like Yuri**.

I think he was **an exceptional teacher**. Not only did he come prepared for class each day, he was **enthusiastic and extremely helpful**. I would definitely take another course with this instructor.

Yuri was a **great lecturer**. he's the only physics teacher I've ever had that wasn't monotone or had no sense of humor whatsoever....that made the class fun to attend.

Very good professor, who **taught enthusiastically** and explained material very well.

Many of us were satisfied with the teacher, who often **made the lectures interesting in his own way**, perhaps something about his style rather than anything very specific. He was helpful, did his job, and overall, a good teacher.

Professor Popov was **an amazing instructor!** He always made such an effort to explain everything very clearly in class. What was especially striking to me was that he stayed and helped students after each lecture, and was very patient with everyone's questions. Many professors I have had in the past would not have taken the time to personally answer all of these questions. In addition, his lighthearted sense of humor during lectures really exemplified his efforts to connect with the students.

Yuri is **an excellent professor**. You can tell that **he really cares about his students** and there comfort/familiarity/understanding of the material. **He wants you to do well** and is there for help whenever you need. he makes himself available and is always very easy to contact.

Yuri was clearly **very enthusiastic** about the material, and did his best to give extra examples when he saw that the class was struggling. Awesome job Yuri, I loved learning all the new physics tricks to show my friends on friday nights!

I generally understood Dr. Popov when he was presenting material in lecture, which was very nice. I liked when **he used analogies**, such as the analogy of a mole being a bag of apples. The analogy made an unfamiliar concept more understandable. I really liked the powerpoints Dr. Popov used. The powerpoints are a better alternative to the chalkboard. He was also pretty funny and willing to help students after class. Thank you for a physics class that was more understandable than it may have been with another instructor.

The instructor clearly explained difficult physics concepts. The instructor often gave students multiple explanations and methods of thinking about particular concepts so that students could better grasp concepts that were non-intuitive. Class time was utilized very effectively. Lecture slides were very organized with information that was easy to digest. The instructor was also very willing to help students out at office hours and encouraged students who were struggling to see him for additional help. The instructor also listened to the students when they asked for materials that they believed would help them to more effectively learn physics. For example, students requested that more class time would be devoted to solving practice problems, and the number of practice problems were subsequently increased.

Yuri was **an excellent professor**. He cared a great deal about his students, and he spent time with everyone if they needed it.

I thought **he did an excellent job**. He was clear with his explanations and did a great job at keeping students interested in his lectures by adding some demonstrations and even some comic relief from time to time. I would recommend him to any friends interested in taking the class.