

PLEASE IDENTIFY WHAT YOU PERCEIVE TO BE THE REAL STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THIS INSTRUCTOR AND COURSE.

Probably the best use of class time for the amount of material learned. Probably the most practical as well. I'm not sure I would change anything about the course. Every class was a different learning experience.

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I seem to ~~to~~ have lost any skills I may have once had in writing and public speaking. Including those elements in this course was very useful. It's not simply the practice that helps, but the constructive criticism that is absent in other courses. I thought I was aware of my flaws, but now I have a better idea of what aspects I should improve.

I also really enjoy the class discussions. Sometimes going off on a tangent feels like wasted class time, but in this course it was always productive.

My one criticism of the course is that we get our assignments (writing/presentations) further in advance.

We sometimes received the assignment on a Friday with it due on Tuesday. If I happened to be out of town that weekend or had other obligations it was tough to ~~turn~~ turn in my best work by Tuesday.

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Really liked the type of OOMPS problems. I think it would have been good to spend the first week or so "developing intuition" by doing simple calculations. For example, today we estimated the amount of energy needed to go up a flight of stairs. Knowing the amount of Joules it takes as a reference is a good approach for making future guesses/checking the validity of answers. Also appreciated ~~giving~~ giving a talk in front of "non-scientists" to ~~to~~ get practice in giving talks and making them more understandable.

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Very fruitful class discussions on basic scientific concepts related to problem-solving but also on general issues/aspects of science as a profession. In the end, I think the times when we just talked about "being a scientist" were the most enlightening and engaging. Obviously you can't fill a class with those kinds of discussions, but I think the one thing I might have liked to do more was read other Scientific American type articles and talk about them in class the way we did with colloquium speakers. We get great practice speaking and problem-solving, but I still feel the writing is not here. I understand there's only so much time and writing may be a different kind of beast, but I think that doing more reading could help and also foster the kinds of discussions that you make so engaging. There are very few classes [none, actually] that actually teach how to do science and so this is a great opportunity. I think it absolutely succeeded - I just wanted more...

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