

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE SUMMARY

COURSE: ME 495

TITLE: Thermal Fluid Science Lab

INSTRUCTOR: Scott Thomas

TERM: F08

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 18

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

A	B	C	D	F	I	M	X	W	Drops
5	8	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

TEACHING EVALUATIONS:

of Evaluations Scanned: 17

Q #1	Q #2	Q #3	Q #4	Q #5	Q #6	Q #7
4.76	3.31	3.50	4.00	3.81	4.63	3.50

STUDENT COMMENTS (FROM CLASS EVALUATION FORMS):

Question #1: Please comment on aspects of the instructor's teaching, such as clarity of explanations and examples, handling of questions, stimulation of thinking, and respect for individuals and their differences.

- "Dr. Thomas answered all questions asked."
- "I think some example reports of bad, good enough, and great should be used so that going in we can get a sense of how we will be graded."
- "Instructor needs much greater detail added to the syllabus. Class seems poorly organized and student expectations were not well defined."
- "I really liked the class and I learned a lot, but if the plan is to do more labs then you are going too far with it. As a 2 hour course, this was enough material to cover. Unless all other labs are abbreviated, I don't believe that you will be ask to do it without pissing people off."
- "Syllabus is terrible. There is no guidance in the syllabus for what is expect or required for the class. This top 5 on the most frustrating class list."
- "Good"
- "So much time and work! Felt like a 4 credit hour class. Took the time to look over my lab report and make suggestions. Helpful, w/o holding our hand."

- "I understand that he wanted to push us, but it was frustrating when someone would point out a mistake with a lab, and then he would not relay the message to others. Example: final lab only needed analysis of one unit according to another student's email with Dr. Thomas, The lab handout wanted both units tested. I didn't find out until afterwards."
- "Class was tough, but I did learn a bit. Was nervous at the start because of 8 labs and 8 lab reports, but the 2 week per lab worked out great."
- "Was not very explicit in directives making experiments arduous at best."
- "The overall structure of the class was very. Two weeks to finish a lab seemed appropriate. It may be a better process to define what should be included in every report for the quarter in the first class, and then slow ween the instruction off the lab reports."
- "The grading in the course was very harsh. Sarcastic comments such as 'get real,' 'are you serious,' and 'this is crap' were extremely unmotivating after spending 12 to 15 hours completing a lab and report. Explanations of expectations should be given in grading."
- "The instructor's grading was extremely harsh."

Question #2: Did the instructor aid in your understanding of this subject? Please give specific examples consistent with your response.

- "Yes, although it was trial by fire. I felt I gained a lot of knowledge about running experiments."
- "Yes"
- "I think the real-world use of calibration is good knowledge to have. Technical writing is also good to have."
- "Yes, the labs are always better than the lecture classes. Calibrating hands-on is very helpful."
- "No, as stated above, minimal instruction."
- "A better discussion of the what is important for technical writing and technical report formats."
- "Yes, he is very knowledgeable about the subject. Expectations should be better defined in the syllabus for lab reports at the beginning of the quarter. Give an EXAMPLE REPORT or something!!!"
- "Very knowledgeable about the subject. Just needs to keep in mind that engineering is not necessarily what he has done."

Question #3: Please comment further on any items which you were asked about in this evaluation.

- "The first lab was difficult due to not having experience with any large data files in a computer program."
- "Long, long hours of data collection."
- "Great lab."
- "I know this class is just being developed, but it is stupid to have to do it as a separate requirement (instead of a co-req) of fluids and heat. It makes no sense to try to have to recall things you've learned 6 months ago like it was yesterday."
- "This class is a good class that needs a lot of work. The real side of this class is very refreshing. However the lab times need to be broken up better."
- "With time conflicts it is hard to find the large amount of time needed to do the lab correctly knowing that the grade would unlikely reflect the hours worked."