

Hexi

In what ways is this class going well?*

I enjoy the diversity of assignments. I enjoy going outside as a class together from time to time. Brian is very accessible and always willing to help outside the class. The material of this class intrigues me a lot personally. I think it is a great class to be offered at Deep Springs given that it is a great place for stargazing.

In what ways can this class be better?*

I would like to have more students presentations. I would like to have more calculations and technical knowledge.

Mac

In what ways is this class going well?*

The textbook is quite good—the material we cover weekly is well-grouped and exciting. I also feel that the exercises we do such as making the sundial and using the armillary spheres are very illuminating on the actual concepts. Beyond this I feel that the personal presentations are a good way of making students understand concepts. Everything I have presented on I understand quite well.

In what ways can this class be better?*

I think that student presentations are not a good way of making other people understand concepts. Students generally are quite bad at explaining things in ways that are comprehensible to others. This isn't to say that these presentations are useless, but rather to say that it isn't safe to say we all understand something just because someone has presented it.

Walker

In what ways is this class going well?*

The discussions are always lively and we've kept a good pace covering the material. Brian is a supportive teacher who consistently pushes us to find the areas of the subject that interest us most.

In what ways can this class be better?*

The fact that the class occurs at 8 am means we often don't quite bring enough energy. We, as students, should be working on this.

Clara

In what ways is this class going well?*

This class is really cool. We're covering a lot of material, and the work is a good mix of mathematical calculations and more interactive/observational science, and the intersection of those is neat too. Everyone in the class is doing the work and the readings, and without any particular person or people behind, we can have productive classes. Brian is really excited about the material and has done a good job of emphasizing the interactive opportunities that come with the things we're learning.

In what ways can this class be better?*

For the large part, this class is going pretty well. The one thing I've noticed that's kind of weird is what seems to be a disparity in outside-of-class participation between different students, and a consequential confusion about expectations for the class. Rania and Hexi have, this past term, seemed to put in much more time into work for this class, and this has largely been super cool. They both bring really interesting presentations to class and encourage us to do cool work, but I think I have found myself confused about what it means to be a full participant in the class. The readings/assignments rarely take more than 3 hours, and observation adds maybe an hour or two a week. Giving good presentations takes maybe another hour on top of the three, and I guess I feel confused about how to know what more I should be doing. I don't feel like it is reasonable to be losing sleep when we don't need to. I'm perfectly willing to put in whatever time or effort is necessary to allow me to participate fully in class, but right now I feel confused about what the expectations for class participation.

Rania

In what ways is this class going well?*

Out of many textbooks, the one Brian selected is clear, concise, and interesting. Brian puts much time in explaining concepts in depth when I reached out to him. I also really enjoyed the student presentations. I've been able to comprehend the concepts better by preparing it and look at different methods of explaining the same concepts from my peers. There is a good balance between projects enforcing our knowledge and learning from the textbook/class. Out of all my classes, this class has balanced governance well, the direction of the class is to some degree dependent on us.

In what ways can this class be better?*

I'd really like more group projects as a class. I know we're going through more tricky concepts this upcoming semester so perhaps more lecturing will be necessary than presentations.