Hexi

In what ways is this class going well?*

Students are all always well-prepared. Students are collaborative. The amount of assignments is appropriate. Brian's participation class is adequate but not excessive.

In what ways can this class be better?*

I would like to have more tests or exams. About the future courses, I am happy about the science and math classes offered this semester. I hope we can keep having these fundamental courses in the future.

Will

In what ways is this class going well?*

The class sessions themselves are super great; everyone comes together and works through a set of problems, helping eachother out and presenting their answers. Brian is good at stepping back and letting us reason things through ourselves, but he also has a developed sense of when to jump in and help us along.

In what ways can this class be better?*

I think that the midterm exam was quite difficult. I think most (if not all) of my classmates will agree. I agree with Brian that the problems he presented were things that we should be able to bang out relatively easily, and they are key concepts, but the way the class is functioning does not lend itself to this style of problem solving. We often move very slowly through problems, whereas most other science classes I've been in are very focused on drilling in (both through practice and through rote work) key concepts, equations, and frameworks. I think we need more of this "drill work." I hope that makes sense. Right now, I don't feel like my intuition is as automatic as it should be, which is why I did so poorly on the exam. In other words, we need to work on our bench press and our squat before we start power cleaning.

Emma

In what ways is this class going well?*

We have succeeded in developing an accessible physics class to beginner students (like myself!). The text is easy to work through, and class is collaborative. The sessions fly by, in a good way! I like when Brian lectures and shows us proofs of the problems. I want to shout out Hexi, who has been well prepared and has been a beacon for us less-experienced physics students. She is a role model to our classes. I feel that I personally have a decent understanding of the material, and I am excited for term 3.

In what ways can this class be better?*

Presenting problems should be either more formal or less formal than it is. I think it would be good to structure problem presenting like so: 1. we each are assigned a problem to prepare outside of class. 2. we spend 10 minutes working through each problem in class (that we did not do). This process would be collaborative, and we would work towards getting an answer. 3. The presenter would then show us how the problem is done. I feel like this formal process would help me better grasp the material and show my knowledge better than the way we currently do things. Right now, I can get away with preparing presentation problems less thoroughly than I should because I know that if I don't understand something, I can come to class without having a good knowledge about it because someone else will step in for me. If we did things this way, I would have to understand the problem I was assigned to present it well. I am fine if we pick presentation problems, but I would like if Brian picked our weekly homework problems. He could give us a better sample of the chapter we were assigned because he actually has read and studied the chapter prior to us! I felt like us randomly picking problems is less effective. Overall, Brian always has great things to bring to the conversation, and I wish he would share his thoughts more often! I also think that we should be more focused in our out-of-class sessions. I realize we have only had two, but I think we should each bring a question to work through in these sessions.

Trey

In what ways is this class going well?*

This class has been going well. The problem demonstrations are a good structure. I usually know what I'm doing right and what I'm doing wrong, which is the most important thing in a science class. Brian's demonstrations are always welcome and illuminating.

In what ways can this class be better?*

I think the class could benefit by more Brian intervention. For example, an in-depth walkthrough of a problem everyone missed on the homework could be helpful.

Rebecca

In what ways is this class going well?*

I've had a terrific time with everyone in this class. Brian has been doing a spectacular job of supporting us as we choose how we want the class to look. The textbook is great, the material we're covering is interesting, and the classroom environment is lively and energetic.

In what ways can this class be better?*

Brian could do a better job of clarifying, when he wants to present something to us, whether that thing is essential to our understanding of the textbook or whether it's an extra connection. Both are interesting, but if it's an extra connection we might sometimes want to skip it in favor of getting through all of our problems.

Jack

In what ways is this class going well?*

I'm quite happy that we get to shape the class and how we spend class time. Going over problems in class helps clarify snags that we've encountered in working through them on our own, and the presenting element distills what's important or crucial to understand. The class size is also nice, as it allows us each to bring up questions and present. It's an exciting class, even when it takes until the early hours of the morning to finish the problem sets.

In what ways can this class be better?*

The problem sets are quite time-consuming, but it's helpful that we choose them as a class, balancing the longer modeling problems with the basic ones that review the material from the text. The pacing of the course, though exciting, is quite rapid, and there are sections that I'd like to spend longer on or portions of the text that I only understand a week later, but that we don't have time to go over in class. Otherwise, all's well.