

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Department: Physics

Term: Spring 2016

Form: PHY211/PHY212 TA evaluation

Instructor: Gandikota, Mahesh Chandrasekhar

CROSS LISTED: Gandikota, Mahesh Chandrasekhar PHY212 M002, PHY212 M003, and PHY212 M004

Responses: 27 Enrollment: 65 Response Rate: 41.5%

	1 Strongly Disagree		2 Disagree		3 Neutral		4 Agree		5 Strongly Agree		Summary Stats		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	StD
1. The recitation meetings were important for my learning.	2	7.4%	2	7.4%	3	11.1%	5	18.5%	15	55.6%	27	4.07	1.30
2. The teaching assistant for the recitation meetings was an excellent teacher.	0	0.0%	1	3.7%	3	11.1%	4	14.8%	19	70.4%	27	4.52	0.85

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**What did the teaching assistant do well? What areas could the teaching assistant improve upon?**

- Do problems on the board and explain them to the class as an example before having us do problems on our own
- explained problems and answered any questions asked. eager to help.
- Going over problems more than just letting us sit and do them without help. Maybe it would be easier if we knew what questions we were going to do so we could work on them ahead of time and then ask questions in recitation.
- He is very approachable and kind.
- He is wonderful! Very Helpful and patient. Bring him back for next year!
- He really tried to help me understand the material and when he saw me struggling he did not give up until i got it. He doesn't have to improve on anything.
- He was good at explaining the material in multiple differs ways
- He was very friendly and was willing to go over any problem. He explained things well and provided a positive working environment. Overall, a great TA
- I have nothing bad to say.
- I often felt as though recitation was a waste of time and only went because it counted towards my overall grade in the course. Recitation should be optional to provide students a space to ask questions or further go over the material they learned during lecture.
- I would have liked to have more of a lecture style teaching instead of having us do group work, to me group work is ineffective
- Keep doing what you do Mahesh! You are a great teacher and have helped me so much in physics! If I had to make a suggestion to help you improve your teaching it would just be to not let people talk over you while you are teaching. I know there were many times where you were trying to go over a problem and people were being rude by talking over you. You are too nice to yell at them, but you should say something so then everyone in the class can have ou and learn from you. You have been a great TA!

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**What did the teaching assistant do well? What areas could the teaching assistant improve upon?**

- Mahesh showed that he wanted students to understand the material presented and took time to make sure that understanding was achieved rather than just showing how to solve problems. I thought that I would have been better off having all lecture time spent in recitation instead with Mahesh presenting the lecture material in the smaller class setting with the practice problems integrated right into the lecture rather than a separate lecture and recitation. The lectures were ineffective in presenting material in a logical and manageable fashion that would promote understanding of the concepts. I think this class would be much more effective if taught in smaller sections with lecture and practice problems integrated so that students could try their hand at problems relevant to the concepts just presented.
- Mahesh was kind and constructed the class around what the students asked for. He was a great teacher and taught me everything I know
- N/A
- Teach missed concepts very well. Wanted us to do well and stay engaged.
- The Teaching assistant was very good at addressing the topics that students were struggling with and interacting with students who need help. While most of the students were often hesitant to do problems on the board I believe it was mostly from a lack of confidence due to students not feeling the lectures prepared them for the work they were expected to do. I would highly recommend Mahesh to any of my friends taking physics courses in the future as he was a great TA. I had him last semester and if I ever take a physics course again I would hope to have him as my TA again as both times it has been a great experience.
- Very intelligent, related material to students well. Its hard to motivate students to want to learn physics, tough for anyone to teach