University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2018 - Matthew Barry MEMS 0031 - ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS - 1050 - Lecture

Project Title: **2184- Teaching Survey Spring 2018**
Total Enrollment: **125**
Responses Received: **123**
Response Rate: **98.40%**

Subject Details	
Name	MEMS 0031 - ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS - 1050 - Lecture
DEPARTMENT_CD	MEMS
CAMPUS_CD	PIT
SCHOOL_CD	ENGR
CLASS_NBR	14981
COURSE_NUMBER	31
SECTION_NUMBER	1050
TERM_NUMBER	2184
COURSE_TYPE	Lecture
CLASS_ATTRIBUTE	
First Name	Matthew
Last Name	Barry
RANK_DESCR	Assistant Professor
TENURE	NT

Report Comments

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Instructor and Course Survey Results:

- Numerical
- Comments
- Additional School or Department Questions (if applicable)
- Additional QP Questions (if applicable)

Creation Date: **Thu, Sep 13, 2018**

University Questions

Instructor Summary of Results - Scale: Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5)

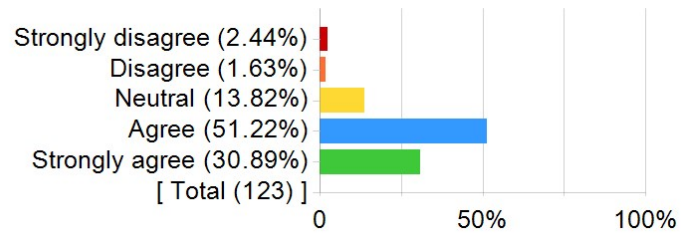
Question	Results		
	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
The instructor stimulated my thinking.	123	4.07	0.86
The instructor was enthusiastic about teaching the course.	122	3.52	1.12
The instructor presented the course in an organized manner.	122	3.98	1.02
The instructor maintained an environment where students felt comfortable participating.	123	3.74	1.14
The instructor maintained an environment where students felt comfortable seeking assistance.	123	3.75	1.15
The instructor provided helpful feedback.	123	3.87	1.06
Assignments contributed to my understanding of the subject.	123	4.22	0.83

Instructor's overall teaching effectiveness

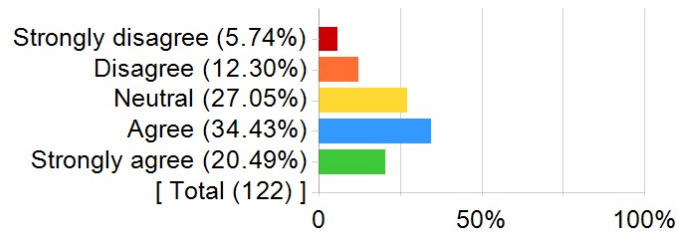
Question	Results		
	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
Express your judgment of the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness.	123	3.84	1.09

Instructor Items: Detailed Results

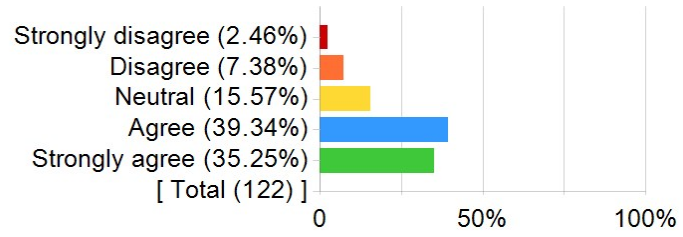
1. The instructor stimulated my thinking.



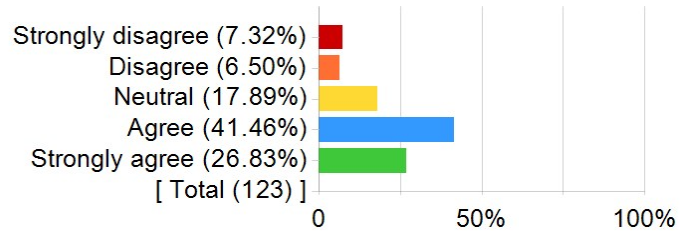
2. The instructor was enthusiastic about teaching the course.



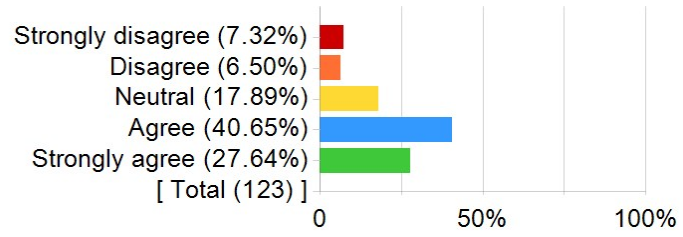
3. The instructor presented the course in an organized manner.



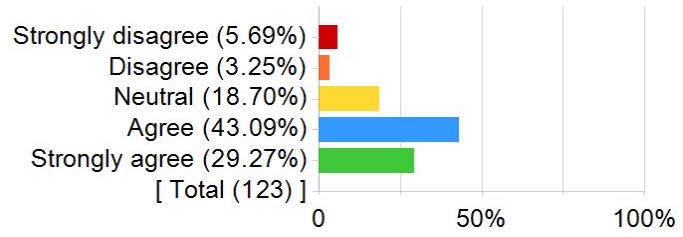
4. The instructor maintained an environment where students felt comfortable participating.



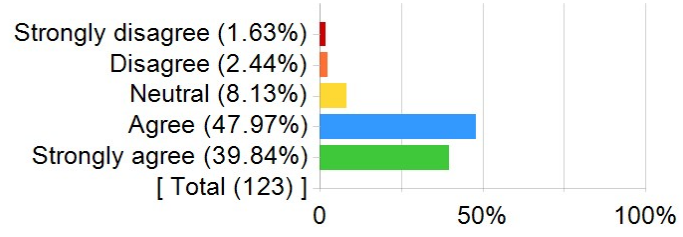
5. The instructor maintained an environment where students felt comfortable seeking assistance.



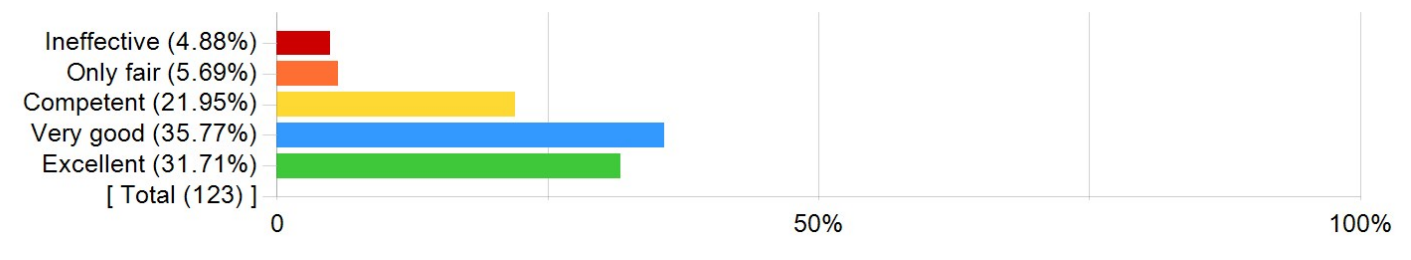
6. The instructor provided helpful feedback.



7. Assignments contributed to my understanding of the subject.



Instructor's overall teaching effectiveness:



Comments

What did the instructor do to help you learn?

Comments
Explain examples during office hours
Dr. Barry was very patient in answering questions, and took the time to explain the subjects in question thoroughly.
Provided detailed homework solutions
Did many examples in class of different methods to evaluate different circuits.
Provided daily notes that followed teaching
Homework assignments were very reflective of how well you understood the material.
Dr. Barry did example problems during class and answered any questions we had. Our homework was rather difficult, but prepared us for out exams.
Incredibly helpful at office hours, wants to see his students do well
Presented the lectures in a clear, organized manner with worked examples
How systems of energy work
posted slides and answer keys to all assignments
Barry taught the magic and sacred gift of engineering judgment, to be ethical, party on, and be excellent to one another.
Dr. Barry was great at conveying the material in its simplest form. His examples in class were always much more direct and clear than those in the textbook.
Homework and quiz solutions online, effective test reviews
Lots of examples
provide examples
Explained problems in detail
He was very good at explaining concepts.
Told jokes
The fact that he posted a blank copy of the notes before class was useful
homework assignments
Providing the notes for a this class was nice, so you could focus on what he was doing instead of worrying about drawing the circuit while he is explaining what is going on
Practice and practice
He is good at breaking down how to approach problems step by step, and repeating this process through several examples for each technique that we learned.
Gave very detailed notes that were easy to refer back to before the exams and for the homework.
Taught concepts in detail with many examples
hw sol
Homework was very helpful.
Did practice problem.
The instructor was very effective with conveying information and concepts in a logical way. He was also personally invested in the progression and development of me as a student engineer.
Had lesson slides available before class, used numerous examples and methods to attain the same goal, showing the diversity in solving circuits. Having a solution guide to many circuit problems allowed students to learn and verify what they have learned.
Gave us the notes and had a great blend of notes and practice problems
upload course slides
Homeworks are useful, but they can be a little frustrating. Office hours are better than others.
he was really good at showing examples
Provide homework assignments and solutions so I could make sure I was understanding the material effectively.
Posted notes before lecutre
went over examples we had questions about and covered topics

Comments
.
Circuits
Provide examples in class that mirrored what appeared on the final. In addition, you needed to show up to class to get the examples, which improved class turnout.
Went over examples in class
The lectures were very easy to follow and there were lots of examples we worked through to help solidify concepts.
He made us laugh at 5pm at night.
He has his deep understanding of this subject and very kind to every student. I love his dog.
A lot
Many practice problems
Dr. Barry made sure to reinforce why we needed to understand what we are learning using his previous industry experience. It made a lot of the concepts more straightforward.
I like how we did many examples for each concept. MCA and NVA were drilled into my brain and I learned a lot that way.
broke circuits down in a way that was easy for a mechE to understand
He presented material in a very organized and comprehensive manner; he's clearly a very adept lecturer. He included several examples in his lectures that greatly aided my understanding of the material. He was also very available during office hours.
He did many example problems and went through them step by step.
Good lectures and notes. Very thorough on all topics covered.
Dr. Barry helped me learn many important things about circuits, like operational amplifiers, capacitors, resistors, inductors, and the equations that govern them.
Assignments strongly reflected tested material and facilitated a solid understanding of the curriculum.
Printing the slides
Presented the material and the origin of the material and then emphasized with examples
he didnt help me learn at all – terrible teacher
Nothing. Please refer to my evaluation of Dr Barry's thermodynamics lecture for information on his ineffectiveness. If anything, he was worse in electric circuits. He canceled 2 weeks worth of classes simply because it was at 5 pm and did not feel like teaching it (Check the emails he sent out during the semester for proof). Even when we did have lecture, his interest in the subject and teaching them was laughably low.
Op–Amps can be used to model behavior for mechanical systems. Also, they behave like pipes.
Notes given were very effective
Did example problems during class.
providing the lecture slides was helpful and allowed me to focus on taking notes rather then frantically drawing the circuits
Office hours
Doing practice problems in class and presenting the material in slide format.
Good examples and relevant homework.
He gave us good homework problems each week along with excellent lectures.
Very clear and cohesive lectures, assignments that actually focussed on the material necessary
I felt that the lectures were very effective at teaching material
Excellent at breaking down the difficult concepts and how to apply what we know.
Organized
Worked out example problems by hand
Provided lecture slides
Easy to appraoch and answers questions
Helped me to run through examples of complex circuits pretty easily.
Circuit Analysis: NVA, MCA, Op–amps, RLC circuits, and related concepts
Presented the key concepts and gave good examples
Sufficient amount of hw, quizzes, practice
Put up homework solutions and weekly quizzes to make sure we were keeping up with the material.

Comments
Provided visual examples and real–life applications to such an abstract class
Very solid HW assignments that helped for tests and quizzes
When I went to office hours for a circuits question, Barry told me I shouldn't have a question and told me to leave
upload homework solutions and quiz solutions
the clear examples and homeworks
Many examples gone over in class, and relations to real world applications
Showing some examples after giving lectures.
Effective use of example problems
By having the notes ready before class, I was able to focus on the additional details without worrying about how I should draw this complicated circuit.
The professor provide a sufficient amount of homework required to learn the material. He also did a lot of example in class.
He helped with all the concepts
Having lectures posted to print out and annotate for class

What could the instructor do to improve?

Comments
Be more consistent with having lectures, and maybe offer some partial credit
Dr. Barry made it fairly clear that he wasn't really interested in teaching this class, which made it hard to be motivated myself. Also, while I understand needing to cancel classes for sickness, canceling classes just because the professor and/or students aren't really feeling it that day leaves me feeling that I am missing potentially useful material.
Be more organized in class and provide the PowerPoints ahead of time so there is time to print it out. Also provide extra suggested practice problems/ practice exams to study with
Not cancel class so often
Post all of the lectures not just some
Give structured homework consistently. Return homework shortly. Maintain curriculum schedule and not move exam back five days before date. Provide an environment where students aren't afraid to be picked out.
Answer questions with more patience. Hard to follow sometimes, more explanation during in class examples would be helpful.
Partial credit would be lovely :)
More structured notes. More consistent methodology and terminology.
Not cancel class so much....haha just kidding, I appreciated getting to go home early a few times, and I don't believe it impacted my grade.
Be nicer
Provide more detailed online lecture material.
provide practice exams
where the book falls short, just point to an explanation/example you think satisfies the lesson/problem better.
Dr. Barry seemed to lose enthusiasm for the course as the semester went on, to the point where the class seemed to suffer.
more homework help in class
Not much
Gets mad at students when they ask questions. Why? Just calmly explain things to students instead of getting an attitude and yelling at them and making them seem stupid. We are not experts. You are. Chill out.
no
Answer emails
Maybe do more examples during class.
Put the slides up earlier before class
If he posted a copy of his slides with his notes and work on them after the class would be useful for reference
explain the work he goes through, not cramming stuff in
Give examples comparable to what we have to solve for tests.
cancel class less

Comments
Move on slowly when opening new topics
Dr. Barry could benefit from being a little more prepared with his assignments and notes so that students could follow along easier. Also, it may be helpful to make some practice problems to help students prepare for exams so that they can understand what the most important topics are about.
Having the notes put on courseweb at a certain time.
Put notes on courseweb more than 20 minutes before class
Nothing
Examples in class could be more useful by not being so simple and reflecting the homework more.
Not cancel so much class and make the homework more like what he does in class.
actually stick to the schedule that he told us he was going to. and give back exam grades quicker because it's outrageous that it takes over three weeks
From time to time the instructor could be excessively critical and or sarcastic, which was discouraging
The book on Courseweb was old, with missing visuals, making it difficult to apply the text to an actual circuit. In this aspect there could have been better material present.
Do more real life problems
improve hand writing and pay attention to the details of answers.
Understand that teaching requires attention and dedication from the students, but it also requires equal amounts of passion and kindness from the professor.
do more example
Provide study guides or practice exams, provide homework assignments that were more relevant to the material that would be on the exams.
spend more time on difficult problems
.
He mocks students and this created an environment that I was not comfortable participating in. He also was disorganized and made the concepts unnecessarily difficult. He clearly did not care about the course and even said as much.
I don't know, I was pretty satisfied.
Be more receptive to questions. He was often hostile when students asked questions about subjects they didn't understand.
post notes earlier
I wish we had more classes. Class was cancelled at least seven times, often for reasons that just felt like laziness.
Stick to the schedule
Nothing, Matthew Michael Barry is a god among men.
Try to give us more lecture instead of canceling them.
better ppt
No
Provide more practice for exams.
I didn't understand why he purposely intended for the average of the second exam to be much lower than the first. I would think that professors would enjoy seeing their students succeed. It kind of defeats the whole purpose of coming to class, taking good notes, studying, asking questions, mastering the material, and then having an exam that lowers your grade.
be accessible in office hours because it is your job. don’t complain about how much you hate your job and pitt and our class because it just doesn’t help anyone
Try not to take such a lax approach towards lectures. The fact that he canceled lectures or cut them short on such a frequent basis made the material feel fragmented and made it seem as though he didn't care.
I think he could go at a slightly slower pace– when he talked and wrote together at the same time it would be hard to follow the steps he was making sometimes while listening to what he said. It worked when he was talking about the steps, but sometimes he would be writing the steps and talking about the theory behind the problem or something and it would get hard to follow along.
Slow down a bit during class.
Delve into more detail than that which is presented in the text.
More example problems
Less percentage on hw and quizzes
be a decent person and maybe consider taking anger management courses

Comments
Go talk to the department and get them to have someone who actually cares about the course teach it. It is very clear to everyone who took this class that Dr Barry has very little interest in teaching it and therefore was an ineffective teacher. I have a very mature nature which is keeping me from unleashing childish comments toward this class and the professor. But do not be mistaken, DR BARRY WAS AWFUL, he engaged very little with students, talked monotonously, his attitude made it seemed like he hated his life and circuits and was only here because it was his job. Absolutely no drive to his teaching ways and truly did not care about the success and knowledge of his students
More enthusiasm.
No issues
Post materials like lecture slides and homework to courseweb in a more timely manner.
more detailed examples prior to homework may be helpful
Cancel class less often as long as health permits.
Get better TAs.
Improve the notes a little. Instead of powerpoints, try to use like a word document as the examples usually go over more than one slide.
Nothing
Although I enjoy when class is cancelled, we seemed to have too many classes cancelled. As a result, lecture seemed rushed at times.
Review sessions if possible
Enthusiasm
Write on the board instead of using a slide show
Nothing
Be more consist ant with the syllabus and providing the lecture slides
Stick to the syllabus schedule, schedule office hours when he's actually available, more welcoming attitude to students seeking help.
Drop a quiz grade as sometimes you can not make all of them
Slow down a little bit in the beginning chapters, since not everyone starts from the same spot.
Use the whiteboard. Matt doesn't save the notes written in class anyway. Writing on the lecture slides is usually illegible and there is limited space to write stuff on one slide. Scrolling back forth between slides is annoying.
Make the completed lecture notes available on Courseweb
Practice exams
Sometimes the examples he went through in class had incorrect answers. It's important for me to study the correct examples so it would be useful to check that his lectures are accurate before getting to the class. Also the class was canceled a significant number of times.
More office hours
Have a class day as review for a test
Be more understanding that someone may not understand a concept. Students are paying to have topics explained to them, don't shoot them down or make them feel bad
More example problems
upload annotated notes
make exam more similar with homework
Better handwriting, and less buggy software.
Be more open to students asking questions, even the bad ones
Do not cancel too many classes. explain the content better with better examples. go through more basic concepts and explain more.
Slow down a little. Unfortunately, I'm not an EE. Circuits aren't my strong suit.
I know you have a lot of classes to teach and this is the last one, but if you aren't excited to teach, I sure as hell am not excited to learn.
Spend more time covering the theory behind the material.
Nothing

Comments
nothin much

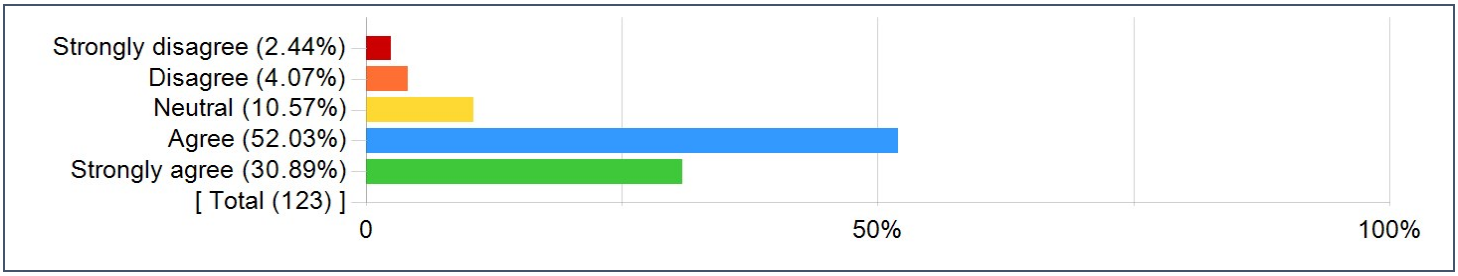
Do you have any other information that you would like your instructor to know?

Comments
N/A
I appreciate how organized the information is, and the detail with which you explain everything. I know many students don't engage much with the class, but the detail is appreciated for the rest of us.
not use a sub that doesn't really know what he's talking about
The grading scale seems to be pretty unconventionally harsh. I'm not one for easy points, but exams and quizzes are all or nothing it seems.
NOPE!
He is a cool dude
In regards to exam 2, the material that you assessed included a lot of material that you gave very little emphasis on in the homework, if any at all. Even though you gave us adequate material to study for the exam and perform well, I don't have a clear picture of what is important to take away from this course, which is frustrating. Also, when professors stop caring (I doubt you genuinely stopped caring, but your frequent tiredness came off as not caring), students reciprocate. And vice versa. It's a hard cycle to break, but students won't do it.
N/A
Nope, he did a good job
Purposely asks bullshit question to lower the class average and admits to it. Why? Why can’t you just teach and then give fair examinations on what was taught. Instead you trick students and want people to struggle in the class. Not a good foundation for teaching. Would never take a class taught by Barry again.
no
I need those slide a little sooner
Like that you teach the impedance way of solving RLC circuits instead of just the derivative way which takes along time to solve
Overall, Dr. Barry is a good professor that is better at illustrating concepts and providing motivation to learn particular skills than a lot of other professors, and I would recommend him to others.
I believe this class built a solid foundation for me to build upon for the rest of my engineering career.
Seemed to get frustrated when students didn't understand things, which discouraged asking for clarification in class
No
nah
I really enjoyed having you as a professor for two of my classes, and I feel like you pushed me to really apply myself. Thanks for everything, hope to see you in the future
no
upload slides on time, please!
I liked you as a professor
No
.
Op–amps suck. That is all.
no
You are amazesauce.
I like your teaching style! I think you love students all! Thank you!
nope
No
Have a bit more patience with some of the students in the class. They may not understand a concept at first and need a little bit more explanation to grasp it. Everyone learns at different rates.
I think a lot of people would appreciate it if exams were graded in a more timely fashion.
N/A
no

Comments
I hate this man
I think i have said enough.
"All that Mechanical Engineers need to know about circuits: Don't touch the wires."
Tell students to use the textbook more, homework is very difficult just from notes
Nah
One of the best mechanical engineering professors I've had at this school.
Overall, the class was informative and the tests were representative of the class matieral
Great professor, very fair exams/homework/grading.
No
Review days or practice exams would be helpful
nope
You're still a cool cat.
YOU ARE THE ABSOLUTE GOAT
no
Skipped 7 lectures, didn't assign homework and didn't take quizzes even though these assessments were in the syllabus. Lectures were repeated, covering the exact material. I felt like I was set up to not to do well and the attitude from Barry that we were all going to fail regardless didn't help.
I like the organization of the class
no you are awesome
No, thanks.
I was bothered by the fact that solutions to example problems in the slides were not available as they were done in class. If I happened to miss a class and wanted to catch up, I wouldn't be able to effectively do so unless I go to office hours.
I feel the course went smoothly and was very organized.
Nope
nah

Swanson School of Engineering Items

The instructor was accessible.



Please provide advice to future students: What could you have done to improve your learning in this course?

Comments
Go to office hours
The best things you can do are do additional examples in the textbook, and work together with other students before going to office hours. That said, don't be afraid to go to office hours or email Dr. Barry if you're really struggling.
Collaborate more with other students
book problems
Do the homework early and seek assistance regarding any questions you may have.
Complete homework assignments in groups to minimize the time figuring out how to go about a problem.
If you go to the lectures, do the homework, and ask Dr Barry any questions you have along the way, you'll do fine.
Looked over lectures after class. It is fairly fast paced
gone to office hours more
be an active participant both in class and outside.
As with every other engineering course you take, everything builds on what you previously learned. Admittedly, some of the stuff didn't make sense for me the first time, but since everyone else says circuits is easy, I delayed addressing it till it was too late. So if you hit a trouble spot, work it out before it causes you trouble.
Study quiz solutions for exams
Go to office hours. Please do it
no
Read the book more
Do the homework assignments many times.
Open your door during office hours
Be sure to read the textbook and go over the notes before class
more practice problems
Try to do as many practice problems as you can, so strange circuits don't look intimidating.
Involve more in class
I could have reached out for more help when needed, Dr. Barry was usually very accessible during office hours.
Study for the quizzes before class.
Read the book and do your homework
do hw carafully
Seek help when you get to op amps. Nobody gets it.
You need smart friends because he is not very accessible and class is really useless regarding the questions he asks you.
do the homework, study for the quizzes. redo homework to practice for tests
Study hard, understand concept, and how to derive V=IR into everything else needed.
Do the homeworks early
finish hw on time

Comments
Khan Academy has some good videos on circuits, and there are other good tutorials especially for opamps on youtube. Falstad is great to check homeworks.
helpful in office hous
Look for problems other than the homework problems for practice before exams.
Eh. Just do the work.
Put more effort into quizzes
.
Show up to class and do your homework. Make sure you understand the homework, it's more than just getting the right answer.
I would have read the book more than I did.
more office hours
Homework
Try to review the knowledge in time.
Listen carefully at class
No
Definitely go to his office hours and go early. Dr. Barry is very helpful 1 on 1. However, you shouldn't be going there just looking for answers. He wants you to understand the material and be able to apply it as an engineer.
very cumulative course, make sure you understand each thing when you learn it because you will need to know it later
Do lots of book problems!
It would probably be more helpful to look over the powerpoints beforehand rather than after.
Definitely take all notes that he writes in class. Most helpful, also, practice extra problems out of the book.
Do more example problems
Reading the material before class makes the course much easier.
Use the office hours
Go ask questions in his office hours, actually try
Take somebody else if you can.
Practice drawing circuits and using equations/analysis. Also, differential equations are useful.
Textbook use
Read the textbook.
go to office hours
There are homework solutions out there. Don't rely on them and give an honest attempt at the homework.
Get help on the homework if necessary and pay attention in class
Get the homework done ahead of time
Be proactive in doing homework and start early.
Do all the practice problems/homework/ask questions.
Go to class
Nothing
Start studying early
Do the homework
Do practice problems in the book!!
You can read the textbook parts on the lecture content, skip the lectures except for the ones with quizzes, and you'll be fine.
Know your stuff
Go to office hours.
Do extra problems from the book
I wouldn't have taken Barry. He was rude, had a bad attitude, got mad when students asked questions, and wouldn't be available during office hours.
go to office hours and pay attention in class
take notes!!!

Comments
Print and bring power points to class
Please learn by yourself.
Practice. Practice. Practice. Circuits is a harsh mistress.
Always go to class!
Read the book and study the theory behind the problems.
taken it in the morning instead of at night

ENGINEERING UNDERGRAD

This course has improved my:

Question	Results				
	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	Min	Max
Ability to use math concepts to solve engineering problems.	122	4.06	0.85	1.00	5.00
Ability to use chemistry concepts to solve engineering problems.	120	1.85	1.23	1.00	5.00
Ability to use physics concepts to help solve engineering problems.	121	3.61	1.05	1.00	5.00
Ability to use engineering concepts to help solve problems.	121	3.83	0.92	1.00	5.00
Ability to design an experiment to obtain measurements or gain additional knowledge about a process.	119	2.75	1.39	1.00	5.00
Ability to analyze and interpret engineering data.	119	3.18	1.18	1.00	5.00
Ability to design a device or process to meet a stated need.	119	3.39	1.23	1.00	5.00
Ability to function effectively in different team roles.	121	2.14	1.38	1.00	5.00
Ability to formulate and solve engineering problems.	121	3.54	1.12	1.00	5.00
Ability to use laboratory procedures and equipment.	121	1.71	1.21	1.00	5.00
Ability to use software packages to solve engineering problems.	121	1.60	1.15	1.00	5.00
Ability to use CAD software.	121	1.50	1.14	1.00	5.00
Knowledge of professional and ethical responsibility.	121	2.84	1.34	1.00	5.00
Ability to write reports effectively.	121	1.69	1.26	1.00	5.00
Ability to make effective oral presentations.	121	1.59	1.22	1.00	5.00
Knowledge about the potential risks (to the public) and impacts that an engineering solution or design may have.	121	3.36	1.18	1.00	5.00
Ability to apply knowledge about current issues (economic/environmental/political/societal/etc.) to engineering-related problems.	121	2.75	1.29	1.00	5.00
Appreciation of the need to engage in life-long learning.	120	3.43	1.16	1.00	5.00