Evaluation Set #1

Title of Course: COMP METHODS IN ECE

Course Number: EECS22 (18056), fall11

What Level is this Course: Undergraduate, Course-for-majors

Name of the Instructor of Record: Rainer Doemer

What Rank is the Instructor of Record?: Associate Professor

My Duties: grading, leading discussion section(s), conducting lab, Holding office hours, keep course/student records

Approximate Enrollment in the Course: 19

Approximate Number of Students in Your Section/Lab/Studio: 19

Was Attendance at Sessions You Conducted Mandatory?: No.

What Did You Learn From The Students' Feedback? In What Ways, If Any, Did You Alter Your Teaching?:

This is a course for the computer engineering (CPE program) majored students. It is a brand new course that has just been added into the CPE program curriculum. We have a small class of 19 students. The students have some background knowledge for computer organization and basic programming languages, e.g. C, assembly, etc. In this course, they will learn some advanced topics for the C programming language and get preparation for the laboratory course EECS22L next quarter.

My responsibilities for this course are preparing and grading the assignments, conducting the lab and offering helps to the students for any concerns they may have for this course, e.g. answering questions on the course message board, holding office hours for individual appointments, etc.

We have 5 assignments for this course, two weeks each. The first assignment is a simple program to help the students refresh their memory about the basic C programming. The rest four assignments are related with each other. We asked the students to build a program for digital

image processing with different features added assignment by assignment which also requires to apply their knowledge for advanced programming techniques, and in the final assignment, they extend their program for movie manipulations.

As for conducting the lab session, we don't have additional lab assignments for the students. It is the time for them to work on their programing assignments. Since we do not have discussion session for this course, I decide to use the first half of the lab session for the discussions, and leave the second half lab time for the students to implement and ask questions. Therefore, my teaching is mainly focus on helping the students to understand the assignment and practicing applying their knowledge by writing programs. Most of the students in this course are computer engineering majored or graduate students. They do have great interests in the subject of this course, and they do have some background knowledge for programming languages. Therefore, there's no need for me to spend too much time on explaining those basic concepts to them.

In order to teach effectively and efficiently, I use the jigsaw learning activity for the lab discussion part. I usually design four sets of questions, each set has 3~4 related questions, regarding the design of the program and how do the new concepts presented in the lecture related with the assignment. The answers to the questions are not just to illustrate the facts or describe the concepts, but more about why we use these techniques and how to actually implement them. I believe these questions can help the students to think and fill the gap between knowledge and application. I first ask the students to work on one set of questions individually. Then discuss their answers with their classmates who work on the same set of questions. Finally, I reorganize them into groups with students worked on different sets of questions so that they can teach each other for the question they've been experts on. In order to manage the time, I usually show a countdown clock on the screen so that the students can be aware of the time. This may put some stress on the students. I think I can manage the time without showing the clock directly, but give them the notice for the last minute or thirty seconds. However, I don't grade their work for the lab discussion. It should not be too stressful for them to work under time restrictions. I also noticed that in the group discussion, some students took the lead all the time while the others did not participate very well. In order to make every student contribute in the group discussion, I give each group a flip chart paper and ask them to write down their answers to the questions as a group. Writing down something on the paper to some extent forces the students to go through all the questions thoroughly so that everyone can have the chance to make contributions. I think I can also ask the student to take the writing job for the question that they worked on individually so that everyone will at least take some lead once in their group discussion. After the group

discussions, I gather them together and explain some important parts as wrap ups.

The jigsaw activity leads to very good results for my teaching in this course. It helps me a lot for covering multiple parts of the assignment within a reasonable amount of time. It allows the students to learn actively and develop critical thinking. It also helps them to know each other and get prepared for the big team project they will do in the EECS22L course next quarter.

My teaching style in this course is pretty different from my previous TAed courses. It turns to be student-centered rather than teacher-centered. I can tell the students learn to think actively and be able to process the information on their own gradually. I am also very encouraged to see the positive feedbacks from the students regarding my way of running the lab. For example in the midterm evaluation, one student indicate that "I like how you conduct group activities in class to help us gain a grasp of the assignment", and another comment as "the way she runs the lab is very good". I am really excited to have this opportunity to practice what I've learned from the Advanced Pedagogy Seminar (UnivStudy 390A) for real life teaching this quarter. I think my teaching for the EECS22 discussion session is a successful experiment.

I will try different learning activities for my future teaching:

1) Integrating think-pair-share with jigsaw discussion so as to give every student the chance to participate actively;
2) Besides discussing the overall ideas (global learning style), working on small examples on the white board or providing sample examples (sequential learning style) on the course website so as to accommodate students with different learning styles;
3) Prepare some quizzes followed with think-pair-share as fast active learning in the classroom.

Which way to use dependents on the subject of the course and the time we may have for teaching.
I will also try to take some short surveys to figure out what the students are interested in and tried to design the homework or sample examples that relate to their backgrounds so as to motivate them for studying.
I should keep improving my communication skills to be more expressive in the classroom. And last but not the least, try very hard to remember the students' names to build the bond of trusts and have better connections.

Midterm Feedback Form (TLTC) for Chen, Weiwei EECS 22 LAB A1 (18057), Fall Qtr 2011

1. Please provide any comments that you'd like to make about this instructor's effectiveness as a teacher.

    - Explains everything clearly, makes amazing use of the power point AND the white board.
    - good TA
    - He is a good TA.
    - I like how you conduct group activities in class to help us gain a grasp of the assignment. You are also a great help when I am stuck or confused.
    - She is a nice TA and professional one.
    - she is very clear and helpful. she is patient. she knows the material pretty well. she spent enough time for students in office hours and she is very responsive and quick. she is very motivated in helping students.
    - Very helpful. Makes sure students get concepts down. Good visual aids. Very patient with students no matter how much they are struggling with homework/learning concepts.
    - You have quick responses on the message board. This is helpful.
    - 1 blank answer(s).

2. Is there anything specific the instructor might do between now and the end of the course that might help you?

    - Everything is great as is.
    - I think they should design homeworks a little better.
    - No he is doing great.
    - Please continue with the quick responses.
    - 5 blank answer(s).

3. What teaching methods has this instructor used that you feel are helping you to learn the course material? (Check all that apply.)

    7 Small group work
    9 Discussion
    6 Visual aids
    5 Worksheets
    6 Homework assignments
    4 In-class practice
    0 Field trips
    0 Guest speakers
    2 Practice quizzes
    0 Role plays
    0 Close readings
    6 Lab work
    5 Problem-based learning
    3 Projects
    0 Research papers
    3 Demonstrations
    0 Community service or internship

4. What other methods has this instructor used (other than those listed above) that have helped you to learn?

    - effective response outside class/office hours.

- Powerpoint presentations, reading through source code so their experience can spot problems faster and more efficiently than if the student spent long amounts of time trying to debug or find a solution. Dedicating more time than scheduled to make sure students are helped.
- Solving small little problems on the board.
- the way she runs the lab is very good.
- 5 blank answer(s).

5. Which methods do you feel have NOT been effective in helping you to learn? Why do you feel they have not been effective?

   - none
   - 8 blank answer(s).

6. I feel that this instructor comes to class well-prepared to teach.

7	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
1	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
1	Not Applicable	No Value
3.88	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.33	Std Dev	

7. I feel that this instructor's presentations are well-organized.

6	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
2	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
1	Not Applicable	No Value
3.75	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.43	Std Dev	

8. I feel that this instructor's explanations are clear.

5	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
4	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
0	Not Applicable	No Value
3.56	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.50	Std Dev	

9. I feel that this instructor provides helpful examples to illustrate points/concepts.

6	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
2	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
0	Not Applicable	No Value
3.75	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.43	Std Dev	

10. I feel that this instructor allows enough opportunities for students to ask questions.

7	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
2	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
0	Not Applicable	No Value
3.78	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.42	Std Dev	

11. This instructor's handwriting (i.e., on the board or overhead) is legible.

4	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
3	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
2	Not Applicable	No Value
3.57	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.49	Std Dev	

12. This instructor speaks clearly.

3	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
6	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
0	Not Applicable	No Value
3.33	Mean	
3.00	Median	
0.47	Std Dev	

13. This instructor speaks loudly enough for me to hear.

3	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
6	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
0	Not Applicable	No Value
3.33	Mean	
3.00	Median	
0.47	Std Dev	

14. I feel that the pace at which this instructor presents information is appropriate.

5	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
4	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
0	Not Applicable	No Value
3.56	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.50	Std Dev	

15. How many times have you contacted this instructor outside of class for assistance (i.e., gone to office hours; sent an e-mail; called on the telephone, etc.)?

2	Never
2	1-2 times
3	3-4 times
2	5-6 times
0	7+ times

16. I feel that this instructor is helpful during office hours.

5	Strongly Agree	Value: 4
1	Agree	Value: 3
0	Disagree	Value: 2
0	Strongly Disagree	Value: 1
3	Not Applicable	No Value
3.83	Mean	
4.00	Median	
0.37	Std Dev	

17. Estimate how often you participate in class each week (i.e., ask or answer a question, participate in group activities, work problems at the board, etc.).

0	Never
3	Once a week
4	2-3 times a week
0	4-5 times a week
1	6-7 times a week
1	8+ times a week

18. What might you do personally to improve your learning in this course? (Check all that apply.)

1.

5	Come prepared for class (i.e., complete the homework before class)
4	Participate more in class
4	Go to the instructor's office hours
1	Go to the Learning & Academic Resource Center (LARC) for assistance
4	E-mail the instructor with questions
4	Study with my classmates outside of class
0	Other:

2.

- define projects for myself and do more practice implementing codes
- 8 blank answer(s).

19. Overall, what grade would you give this instructor?

A	**A-**	**B+**	**B**	**B-**	**C+**
7	2	0	0	0	0
Value: 4	Value: 3.7	Value: 3.3	Value: 3	Value: 2.7	Value: 2.3
C	**C-**	**D**	**F**	**Not Applicable**	
0	0	0	0	0	
Value: 2	Value: 1.7	Value: 1	Value: 0	No Value	

Mean	**Median**	**Std Dev**
3.93	4.00	0.12