

CHEM-601, Introduction to Laboratory Instruction, Fall 2006
Final Course and Instructor Evaluations - HAROLD B. WHITE – Instructor

Narrative Responses

Question: Comment on the course.

Helpful for my TA duty.

The course is a good idea, but likely to not be taken too seriously by some.

Good but some topics not relevant according to me. Others might disagree.

Students didn't always take something practical away from the lecture.

Course is a good thing for many reasons. You get used to fellow TAs, you can have a talk with people about your problems. But it would have been better if the course time was changed. It's hard to get up so early.

The course was very helpful in presenting the continuous nature of education. I gained a good appreciation for the process and found much use of this class when I would instruct the laboratory. Overall, I found the course to be very beneficial.

This course is useful, anyway, not only in teaching but also in life.

was a good course to start as TA

Useful for TAS

It's fine. But the time is too harsh.

The course is helpful to some yet hackneyed to others who feel confident in teaching.

It takes too much time.

This course is really helpful for a new graduate students.

I enjoyed most aspects of the class. I learned quite a few new things while taking the course about teaching and the way students think compared to the way that I might think. I learned that a lot of TAs encounter similar problems in the teaching their labs.

Because of the time of the course some material felt too much like review from the TA conference which made that class hard to want to stay actively involved in. Though parts were very helpful it seems like it could be a 6-week course rather than the whole semester if material is covered in the conference as well

Course was interesting, and at times could be tedious. Overall there was valuable insights the course brought to light.

Question: Reread the course syllabus and provide some thoughtful feedback. e.g. Did the syllabus adequately describe the course? Are there aspects of the syllabus that are unclear or misleading that should be revised? What is missing that should be included? Feel free to discuss this question with your classmates.

The syllabus is good but I just hope it would be more brief (sometimes it looks like an article to me) and separate the duties and introductions, which may be more clear to me.

I thought that the syllabus described the course quite well. Nearly all of the topics/issues mentioned were covered in class in some form or another. I can't think of any aspect of the syllabus that needs to be changed at this point.

Well, The syllabus is not misleading, but some of the things were not very clear to me personally. Example the 'personality type'. If you ask me it varies from time to time and also according to situations, a person who is polite can be very aggressive, it all depends on the situations and circumstances and I don't think of any criterion by which anyone's personality can be defined exactly.....

The syllabus did describe the course accurately. It is fine as is.

Syllabus described the course pretty well. I thought all the information given online or even in class is MORE useful for teaching in major sections. In non-majors classes there are a lot of other problems. It would have been better if they were included MORE (there is some information there though). Maybe there should have been some advices for them.

The syllabus followed the course for the most part, and I found it useful to reorient myself to what was going on in the class. What I enjoyed the most were the vast number of relevant references pertaining to my role as a TA and science in general. I know for sure I will be back to that section of the syllabus in the future.

I think this course is well-organised.

The syllabus is fine.

The course syllabus was followed well.

I suggest more case study and more presentations.

I think the syllabus is well organized and I can not tell anything unclear or misleading.

I think the syllabus is very descriptive and gives a good overview of the class.

The syllabus was accurate and helpful.

Question Open Mic. Reflect on the course and identify those aspects that you like or think could be improved. Please suggest ways for improvement.

Just three small suggestion: 1, I believe if the course is not at 8:00a.m the whole class will be more active 2, I think the time for discuss a single topic is a little long and some of us just start to talk something else. 3, Maybe less theory and more practical thing.

Overall, this course did not have that large of an impact on me. However, it did give me some insight into teaching and how I can try to be a better TA. It was also a good way to get to know the other TAs. The only improvement I can think of is to have more assignments and exercises that require students to examine, discuss, and/or evaluate their current performance as a TA.

as written above the personality type.

More cooperative activities in class/thought questions.

I like discussions of various problems a lot. As I said above, I think some suggestions or/and advices would be helpful for each problem that we face in lab. Also there should be more attention to the problem "chem. for nonmajors". Chemistry majors at least understand that they need it, but nonmajors...

The course was a great way to orient me to my role as a teaching assistant. The summer before coming to UD, I had no clue in the world how I would even begin to instruct students in the laboratory. However, with the help of this course and Dr. White's wisdom, I found my views completely change. I must say I am surprised that something I feared so greatly turned out to be my greatest passion and joy of the entire semester. I look forward to using all that I learned here in future laboratory sessions and in my career to come.

I think the grading aspects is quite useful. It told me how to grade reports in the same standard which is fair to all the students.

I like the personality test, but I hope that we could have the detailed interpretation of the results.

The class is suited well for its objection.

I have no idea.

So far I like this course. Probably can change the time for the class. Not to be so early in the morning.

Less reading, and analysing words on a page.

I didn't get much out of this because I didn't teach an actual lab. It would have been more useful if I had been.

Question: In a sentence or two, describe or characterize CHEM-601, Introduction to Laboratory Instruction, to someone who has not taken the course.

A friendly environment to share experience, troubles and thoughts.

CHEM-601 is a course for graduate students who are first-time chemistry teaching assistants. It is designed to help them get used to being a TA in a lab setting as well as to learn about education concepts that will help improve their teaching skills. It also provides an opportunity for TAs to share and discuss their experiences.

It's a good platform where you can discuss your problems as a TA and can learn a lot about 'How to improve yourself as a TA'.

This is a course where TAs can share their teaching experiences and gain insight as to different teaching methods and ways to enhance their teaching abilities.

It's a course early in the morning. You really don't want to go there when you get up. And you're inactive for first 20-25 minutes, you feel sleepy and you want to eat something. But after initiation stage it gets more and more interesting. Once you get into the discussion, the time flies as fast as you can imagine.

Everything you wanted to know about your role as a TA, but were afraid to ask.

You should take this kind of course at least once in your life.

It's a must course for a fresh TA.

This course is quite useful for the first-year TAs. You can learn a lot from this course to be a good TA.

This course provides you with a chance to communicate with other TAs, but you need to get up early.

It is overall a good class to prepare you for becoming a good TA.

It talks about how to be a good teacher.

This course helps you understand the role of TA, and helps you learn useful TA skills.

This course is really helpful for a New Graduate Student.

CHEM-601 is a course that helps TAs better understand their responsibilities and roles in the lab. It has sessions of discussion for lab problems or issues. It helps TAs better understand their own thinking and compare it to how their students think, so that they can better teach their students.

An introduction to teaching students for those without experience in the teaching/mentoring/tutoring field.

Educational theory: introducing TA's to the "new learning" strategies.

CHEM-601, Introduction to Laboratory Instruction, Fall 2006 Final Course Evaluation - Numerical Responses HAROLD B. WHITE – Instructor

4652 - I would have gotten more out of this course if it were graded.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	4	6	5	2	1	18 of 20	2.44	1.15
Percent	22	33	27	11	5			

4689 - On average I spent ____ hours each week preparing for my laboratory and/or recitation sections.

Scale text	more than 8 hours/week	6 to 8 hours/week	4 to 6 hours/week	2 to 4 hours/week	less than 2 hours/week	Total
Total	2	0	2	4	9	17 of 20
Percent	11	0	11	23	52	

4690 - When I had questions about the laboratory I was teaching, the most helpful source of information was

Scale text	Other	Course Instructor	Experienced TA	Lab Coordinator	Lab Manual	Total
Total	4	3	6	0	4	17 of 20
Percent	23	17	35	0	23	

4653 - The students in my lab got a lot out of the labs I taught.

Scale text	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	1	2	4	9	1	17 of 20	3.41	1.00
Percent	5	11	23	52	5			

4654 - I applied the ideas I learned in CHEM-601 in my laboratory sections

Scale text	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	1	3	6	5	2	17 of 20	3.24	1.09
Percent	5	17	35	29	11			

4694 - I used the course website as a resource beyond that required for assignments

Scale text	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	3	5	6	2	1	17 of 20	2.59	1.12
Percent	17	29	35	11	5			

4655 - I found the class handouts useful.

Scale text	Hardly Ever	Occasionally	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	2	1	10	3	2	18 of 20	3.11	1.08
Percent	11	5	55	16	11			

4656 - Students usually completed the laboratories I taught with lots of time to spare.

Scale text	Hardly Ever	Occasionally	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	1	4	5	3	2	15 of 20	3.07	1.16
Percent	6	26	33	20	13			

4657 - I gained confidence in my teaching abilities this semester

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	1	0	3	8	5	17 of 20	3.94	1.03
Percent	5	0	17	47	29			

4658 - There should be an assignment due for each meeting of this class.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	3	9	6	0	0	18 of 20	2.17	.71
Percent	16	50	33	0	0			

4659 - I would have liked Dr. White to observe me teaching a lab.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	1	5	3	5	4	18 of 20	3.33	1.28
Percent	5	27	16	27	22			

4660 - I enjoyed discussion about what other TAs were experiencing in their labs.

Scale text	Hardly Ever	Occasionally	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	5	3	10	18 of 20	4.28	.89
Percent	0	0	27	16	55			

4661 - I put the course handouts into a binder or folder where I could find them.

Scale text	No	Yes	Total
Total	7	11	18 of 20
Percent	38	61	

4662 - This course was too abstract to be of much use to me.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	1	7	8	2	0	18 of 20	2.61	.78
Percent	5	38	44	11	0			

4663 - I enjoyed being a TA this semester.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	1	1	9	6	17 of 20	4.18	.81
Percent	0	5	5	52	35			

4664 - My supervisor expected me to do things that were not listed among my TA responsibilities.

Scale text	Hardly Ever	Occasionally	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	14	1	1	1	0	17 of 20	1.35	.86
Percent	82	5	5	5	0			

4665 - In the future, I would be interested in attending workshops and other activities to help TAs.

Scale text	No	Yes	Total
Total	5	13	18 of 20
Percent	27	72	

4331 - The course examinations emphasized understanding of the material.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	8	5	2	15 of 20	3.6	.74
Percent	0	0	53	33	13			

4329 - The course was well organized.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	2	7	8	17 of 20	4.35	.7
Percent	0	0	11	41	47			

CHEM-601, Introduction to Laboratory Instruction, Fall 2006 **Final Instructor Evaluation - Narrative Responses** **HAROLD B. WHITE – Instructor**

Question: Comment on the instructor.

Very nice and helpful

He does a good job of using group activities to get students to participate, despite the fact that some students were not that interested in participating.

The instructor has a good hold on the course and knows how to involve the class and bring out a healthy discussion, on relevant matters.

He made the students think and truly cared about the subject matter.

I think this course needs an understanding professor, i.e. the prof. who knows the difficulties that TAs might have. And I believe that Prof. White has a lot of experience in this area. Besides, his classes weren't boring, which means he knows how to apply all the theoretical knowledge on teaching.

Dr. White is an extraordinary instructor who has presented various styles of teaching, classroom "troubleshooting", and reasons for student misconceptions of scientific theorms. Overall, I found this class extremely helpful.

I learned a lot from this course, even though I will not become a teacher in future probably, I know how to communicate with people who are thinking differently from what I learned in this course.

was very helpful in some tough situations during the semester.

He is a very responsible teacher. He loves his students and his job.

He encourages class participation very much, and I think it is helpful.

Dr. White made a mundane class more interesting.

Provide more chances for presentation.

The Professor gives interesting lectures and the information and knoweldge are useful for the new TAs.

I liked the way in which the class was conducted. A student-based learning class. Dr. White was mostly a facilitator in discussions not necessarily the leader.

Very energtic and enjoys his teaching

Question: Identify or describe some thing(s) that Professor White does particularly well.

he teaches in a very understandable and acceptable way.

He is good at encouraging group activities and incorporating these activities into the course material.

1. makes students comfortable. 2. Approachable. 3. knows the subject.

The questions he posed at the beginning of class made the students think and want to know about the material. He made students challenge their understanding of concepts.

Since prof. White didn't teach us, I can't say how he is in his classes. He was a very experienced advisor, who knew a lot about teaching. For this course, I think that's most important thing. May be he uses different methods when he teaches biochem.

Stimulates students to think outside of the box and presents many different alternatives to a standard "chalk and talk" lecture. Dr. White also was very helpful and reassuring. He even set aside the first half of each class to listen to our encounters in the lab. This served as a great platform to not feel alone in the crazy world of being a T.A.

Good teaching skills. He is an excellent mentor.

he tries to get the concepts in through problems

He can have a chat with his students outside the class. And in class he always want to encourage all the students join into the discussion.

He is good at making students think. In his class, we have to think very hardly.

He Conveys learning with the Socratic teaching method. He gets the class involved and this makes the overall atmosphere better.

Ask the students to share their experiences about the TA jobs. This is really helpful.

He is good at facilitating discussions. He is good at putting together innovative lectures and using new teaching styles.

Introducing topics, and getting the class to reevaluate their educational conceptions.

Question: Identify or describe some way(s) that Professor White could improve his teaching (and your learning).

In the case of this course, he could try to draw more connections between the topics and their implications for new teaching assistants.

All fine.

The discussion of what happened in the previous week's laboratory could be improved if the other students and instructor gave more insight on how situations could be handled.

He could tell what he thinks about the problems we face in labs. He usually writes them down to chalkboard and we discuss, but sometimes I was not sure what I should have done. Basicly it would be good if he gives his opinion on problems we face, so that we don't face the same problem again or at least know what to do. Because we would be confident when we do the way prof. White says.

I think Dr. White's approach to this class was excellent. I cannot think of anything that I didn't find innovative or helpful.

8:00am is too early to get up.

I think his teaching is good. I learn a lot from this course

Maybe he could provide more information for us, such as the experiences he collected from senior TAs, rather than just make us thinking and thinking.

No improvement needed he does a great job.

His pronuciaton is not very clear.

Maybe some more learning materials that could be seen on video.

Classes in understanding our students and their learning experience should come sooner, rather than later.

CHEM-601, Introduction to Laboratory Instruction, Fall 2006
Final Instructor Evaluation - Numerical Responses, HAROLD B. WHITE – Instructor

4648 - I would recommend Dr. White as a teacher to other students

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	2	7	9	18 of 20	4.39	.7
Percent	0	0	11	38	50			

3425 - The instructor demonstrated thorough knowledge of the subject matter.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	1	7	10	18 of 20	4.5	.62
Percent	0	0	5	38	55			

3426 - The instructor presented the materials in an interesting way.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	0	11	7	18 of 20	4.39	.5
Percent	0	0	0	61	38			

3427 - The instructor encouraged class participation.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	0	1	17	18 of 20	4.94	.24
Percent	0	0	0	5	94			

4333 - The instructor was helpful if you sought help outside of class. (Don't respond if you didn't.)

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	2	5	4	11 of 20	4.18	.75
Percent	0	0	18	45	36			

4334 - Overall, the instructor was effective in facilitating your learning of the material in this course.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	0	11	7	18 of 20	4.39	.5
Percent	0	0	0	61	38			

3430 - I would recommend this instructor because of his/her teaching to others considering taking this course.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	4	7	6	17 of 20	4.12	.78
Percent	0	0	23	41	35			

4332 - The instructor's lectures were well organized.

Scale text	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Dev.
Scale	1	2	3	4	5			
Total	0	0	0	8	10	18 of 20	4.56	.51
Percent	0	0	0	44	55			