College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University
Course Evaluation Response Summary
Semester: Fall 2005 Course Owner: PHYS
Course: PHYS 214 LEC 1 CID: 496941
Title: PHYSIII-OPTICS,WAVES&PARTICLES
Instructor: ARIAS, T
48 Responses, 85 Enrolled, 56.47% Response

Question	Mean	Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N01. How often did you attend lectures? about 25% or less; about 50% about 75%; about 90%; all or nearly all	4.08	48	3	4	6	8	27		
N02. Did the lectures stimulate your interest in the subject? not at all; somewhat; very much	3.85	48	1	1	16	16	14		
N03. Did the lectures help you learn the course material? not at all; somewhat; very much	4.15	48	0	1	12	14	21		
N04. Please rate the lecturer's level of effort and organization: poor; moderate; excellent	4.69	48	0	0	5	5	38		
N05. How effectively was the lecturer able to communicate? not at all effectively; satisfactorily; very effectively	4.70	47	0	0	3	8	36		
N06. How difficult were the lectures? too easy; about right; too hard	3.52	48	0	2	22	21	3		
N07. OVERALL rating of the LECTURES: poor; satisfactory; excellent	4.33	48	0	2	7	12	27		
N08. Did the homework assignments help you learn the subject? not at all; somewhat; very much	4.13	48	1	1	10	15	21		
N09. How difficult was the homework? too easy; about right; too hard	3.96	48	0	1	13	21	13		
N10. Relative to the homework, labs, and lecture coverage, please rate the difficulty and fairness of the exams: =too easy; = about right; = too hard	3.23	47	0	3	30	14	0		
N11. Was the text helpful in learning the subject? not at all; somewhat; very much	1.87	47	22	14	8	1	2		
N12. Were the course handouts (Lab Manual, notes, etc...) helpful in learning the subject? not at all; somewhat; very much	3.59	46	1	7	13	14	11		
N13. What was your primary means of learning in this course? Lecture; Recitation section; Textbook; Homework; Office Hours or Tutoring	2.91	47	15	3	5	19	5		
N14. What was your secondary means of learning in this course? Lecture; Recitation section; Textbook; Homework; Office Hours or Tutoring	2.89	47	10	12	5	13	7		
N15. Rate the level of support provided by course staff (TAs, LAs, and Lecturer). poor; satisfactory; excellent	4.07	46	0	2	11	15	18		

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N16. How would you rate this course compared with other science and math courses you've taken at Cornell? poor; average; excellent	3.80	46	1	3	14	14	14		
N17. What is your college? A&S; Engineering; CALS; AAP; Human Ecology; ILR; Hotel School	1.98	48	3	44	0	1	0	0	0
N18. What is your class? Freshman; Sophomore; Junior; Senior; Grad; Extramural	2.38	48	0	34	10	4	0	0	
N19. What grade do you anticipate getting in this course? A; B; C; D	1.92	48	15	23	9	1			
N20. What is your approximate cumulative GPA? 2.2-2.7; 2.7-3.2; 3.2-3.7; >3.7	3.76	46	0	1	21	12	12		
N21. How many semesters of high school physics did you take? none; 1; 2; more than 2	3.19	48	0	11	17	20			
N22. How would you characterize your physics background, relative to the demands of this course? none; weak; okay; strong	2.98	48	2	7	29	10			
N23. How would you characterize your mathematics skills (both pre-calculus and calculus), relative to the demands of this course? none; weak; okay; strong	3.25	48	1	3	27	17			
N24. What was your most important reason for taking this course? Course required for major; Subject matter was of interest; Course has a great reputation; Course required for grad/professional work; Other	1.23	47	41	3	2	0	1		
N25. How many hours per week did you usually spent on this course outside of lecture, lab and recitation sections? 2; 3-5; 6-10; 11-15; 16 or more	2.79	47	0	21	16	9	1		

Question	**%True**	**Count**	**True**	**False**
T01. I took AP physics in high school.	73%	44	32	12

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C01. Please write any comments about the lectures or the lecturer here.

84573. The lectures weren't hard to follow and the lecturer was very energetic about this subject. The lectures were always clear and organized. I feel that the level of difficulty of the homework was always much greater than the level of difficulty at which the material in the lectures was presented.

84643. Lectures were excellent but did not help at all in doing homework or exams -- too narrowly focused on the pre-written notes and absolutely no problem solving covered.

84650. One of the best classes/lecturers I've had at Cornell (and I'm a 5th-year senior).

84464. Prof Arias was probably the best lecturer I've had yet at Cornell. His notes and lectures were always great!

84460. Lectures were VERY clear and helpful.

84495. Very enthusiastic and a good lecturer, but somehow, the lectures don't seem to help a whole lot with the homework. I get confused about what's going on in lecture a lot.

84629. Prof. Arias is a great lecturer, but the material is often difficult to understand during lecture due to speed and mathematical nature of material.

84564. Need to talk about more physical phenomena rather than just the math behind the ideal cases. Beats, refraction, etc in more detail.

84632. Enjoyed them, especially experiments/computer demos

84501. Very good lectures, I learn a lot. my 2nd best lecture I have so far in engineering related courses in cornell

84440. Fantastic lecturer. Clear, energetic, and deeply knowledgable. Very good at breaking the material into basic, easy to comprehend pieces.

84610. Great lecturer - Arias is a great teacher

84658. Good lecturer, didn't like the material

84528. good inspiration

84503. Prof. Arias is amazingly organized, and can explain things in a very clear and precise manner. The lectures had some flow to them, and everything seemed to fall into place beautifuly.

84474. I looked forward to going to the lectures every Tuesday and Thursday morning. The lecturer was so excited about the material and always encouraged class participation and collaborative learning. He understood the material well and always made it interesting and relevant.

84562. Wonderful lecture, very informative and interesting. My favorite class since coming to Cornell, even though I am getting a bad grade.

84477. I thought the lecturer was very stimulating but it would be helpful if he held more office hours (because he explains things well)

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C02. Please write any comments about the homework and exams here.

84573. The homeworks are extremely hard for this class. I very often got help understanding the material from some people in my dorm that took 214 last year. I usually felt that I understood what was going on in lecture and then got completely lost doing the homework. The first prelim was extremely hard, of all the types of questions I had expected would be on the test it seemed that we got the most difficult version of each. The second prelim was much easier. It would be better if their difficulty level could be even out a bit.

84643. Homework was far too in depth in comparison to the exams. By far the most time consuming problem sets I've had in my Cornell career.

The exams were well written but poorly graded. The graders seemed to care more about algebra than physics. It was also very difficult to study for exams because they are so different from the homework.

84464. Great assignments which really helped to me learn and appreciate the material.

Exams were fair assessments.

84460. Homework was helpful but many of the problem sets were unnecessarily long and there was a lot of tedious algebra.

84495. Homework is often too difficult and lecture notes don't help (as well as assigned readings).

84629. Homework difficulty level was much too high in my opinion and was extremely time consuming due to mathematical manipulation.

84564. Not quite enough time to finish

84632. Homework had some interesting problems. . . good level of difficulty, but stimulated thought

84501. homeworks are a great source of learning. Exams are appropriate

84568. sometimes solutions came from some small mathematical trick or other hidden non-physics concept. this doesnt really help learn the physics of the course and lengthened the problem sets signifigantly.

84440. Homeworks were interesting and moderately challenging. I found the exams to be a bit on the easy side, but they did a good job testing the student's knowledge of the material.

84658. Very Hard

84528. long homeworks

84503. While most of the homeworks were decent, I think a couple were overly tedious and amounted to little more than busy work. Most questions were able to capture what we had learned in class, but some were just about repetitive algebra.

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The exams were decent (all two of 'em so far). They covered what we had learned in class, and didn't dwell too much on the subtleties of the subject.

84474. The homework was always very helpful in learning the material. The exams were usually a good reflection of what we had learned.

84562. Homeworks extremely helpful and the exams just right.

84579. It was hard to study for the final exam since there were no old finals to study from. The study questions were not nearly enough.

84477. Sometimes the exams had irrelevant questions, particularly the final exam with the question about the shape of the string as a function of F(z) and the heavy algebra that does not belong on a timed exam

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C03. Please write any comments about the course content/syllabus here.

84525. It is retarded and ridiculously annoying to have to hand in homeworks between 4:45 and 5:00 if they are not handed in during lecture. That is a stupid way of doing things, why cant you do what 112 does and have boxes that are locked and then the homework is picked up at 5:00? That way it is more convenient for students and TAs

84464. Seemed well organized and very appropriate.

84460. No complaints here...

84531. The orange textbook was completely useless. Consider saving students money by omitting it from the list of required materials, or at least making it optional.

84564. Get a textbook that is actually helpful. I couldn't even find what we were talking about in the Vibrations and Waves book. Why is that one required?

84501. appropriate

84658. I didn't like the material.

84503. I really wish we did something with optics, as that is the first part of the course name.

84477. it was comprehensive