



Enrollment 15
% responding 107%

	<i>excellent</i>	<i>very good</i>	<i>good</i>	<i>fair</i>	<i>poor</i>			
	5 %	4 %	3 %	2 %	1 %	\bar{X}	SD	N
1. The instructor(s) were consistently prepared with well-organized lectures	13 81%	3 19%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.8	0.4	16
2. The instructor(s) presented material clearly	8 50%	7 44%	0 0%	1 6%	0 0%	4.4	0.8	16
3. ...at a pace not too fast	8 53%	3 20%	3 20%	1 7%	0 0%	4.2	1.0	15
4. ...at a pace not too slow	9 56%	4 25%	3 19%	0 0%	0 0%	4.4	0.8	16
5. The instructor(s) encouraged questions from the class and	8 50%	8 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.5	0.5	16
6. The instructor(s) displayed sufficient knowledge of the material covered	11 69%	4 25%	1 6%	0 0%	0 0%	4.6	0.6	16
7. The instructor(s) showed great enthusiasm for the subject	14 88%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.9	0.3	16
8. The instructor(s) was helpful when students had problems	12 75%	4 25%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.8	0.4	16
9. I learned a significant amount in this course	7 44%	8 50%	1 6%	0 0%	0 0%	4.4	0.6	16
10. I felt adequately prepared to take this course	9 56%	3 19%	4 25%	0 0%	0 0%	4.3	0.9	16
11. This course covers topics in a reasonable depth	5 31%	9 56%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	4.2	0.7	16
12. The amount of work expected for this class is reasonable	10 63%	6 38%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.6	0.5	16
13. The TA for this course is helpful								
14. Overall, this is an excellent course	5 31%	11 69%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.3	0.5	16
15. Overall, the instructor is an excellent teacher	10 63%	6 38%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4.6	0.5	16
16.								
17.								
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20.								

BIM 202 – Biology for Engineers, Winter 2009
Instructor: S. Yamada
Course Summary

- I really liked the course and felt like I learned a lot. I think it would be helpful for us to have started looking at data/doing problems earlier on. The first couple of weeks where we covered more basic material were helpful but for a lot of us it was really important to get used to looking at actual data – maybe the essential basic material could be covered throughout the course as the techniques, etc. were relevant?
- I really enjoyed this course. I have learned about the science which describe biology and how to interpret data. I would recommend that the exams be re-evaluated. I had a difficult time matching my interpretation of the exam question to that which the professor intended.
- Con-The course objectives are heavily geared toward understanding scientific papers, namely the figures in the scientific papers. Sometimes I felt that the tests contained questions that were very open-ended yet the correct answer required different kinds of questions to be asked. The pros are that the teacher is very enthusiastic and will always continue to explain until all students understand. Outside of class he will also give full attention. It is clear from his approach to students that he desires everyone to succeed.
- I liked this course a lot and the information provided was and is very helpful in my research. The professor had a good background about most topics. The lectures were good but did not cover some of the topics to a deeper extent. It was very helpful that the professor provided supportive, information about these topics. It would be ever more helpful if the professor could provide supportive information (papers) to all of the topics so that interested students have an easier access to it.
- The course was not relevant to my research and covered many things that were covered in my undergraduate biomed: I am not sure it was useful for me to have taken the course other than for prelim prep. The course was very well taught and I really liked the experiment based approach to teaching and evaluation.
- I think the class material (PPT) needs to be more words to explain the photos and pictures because I am always confused by the photos and pictures without any explanation.
- The instructor was a great teacher (very enthusiastic) and the amount of work required was very reasonable. My one complaint would be with the vagueness of the test questions. Many times multiple answers could seem correct.
- Strengths- I liked that the lectures were pre-prepared so we could have slides at lecture. Pace of class was good. Good exam style.
Weaknesses- Need to be sure exam questions are very clear to obtain desired answers. Sometimes easy to have wrong interpretation.

- Instructor was very good at setting aside time to help students. He was always available when needed. The speed that the material was covered with was often very fast so at times we finished lecture with at least 30 minutes left. I just felt he could have gone a little slower during lecture especially over critical topics. Lastly, the exams were fair but often the questions were very difficult to interpret and it was hard to pinpoint what was being asked on a particular question.
- Professor Yamada is one of the best teachers I have had so far at UCD. He is excited about the subject, welcomes discussion in class and addresses questions.
- The final and midterm samples as well as exam questions were sometimes unclear. Instructor has hard time accepting alternate possibilities to open ended questions. The homework questions were not representative of midterms. Grading of exams was very yes/no type. No openness to alternative answers.
- Professor Yamada is extremely enthusiastic and passionate about teaching. He showed the concern to ensure that all students understood the material. He is extremely fair and receptive to feedback and questions. Overall, I like the style of the course in that it reinforces analytical thinking more than memorization. This worked for me but I could see how it would be difficult for a student who does not have a strong cell biology background. Such a student might need more explanation of concepts during lecture.
- I thought the course was excellently organized and taught. I think it merits mentioning that the test questions did not always measure the students' knowledge of the material in the class but a greater understanding of biological concepts. There were many questions where information was implied or just expected to be known and I don't think the professor always realized how much of a disadvantage the students with less of a biology background had. I am even a student who did very well in the class so I have no axe to grind here. I would be happy to further explain my thoughts after the quarter. (I realize that I have very distinctive handwriting so it shouldn't be hard to figure out who I am.)
- I felt that this was a good class. I have taken a lot of biochemistry courses in my undergraduate work so I may not have learned as much as others who have not. I appreciated the instructor's response to a class suggestion to go over interpretations of experimental results by reviewing old exams. I encourage this for future classes. Instructor was kind and approachable.
- I thought this course was excellent. The logic-based approach to interpreting data gave me a much better platform for engineering in biology than a survey of medical/cellular constructs; I feel confident that applying the methods learned in this course will allow me to understand biological information that I encounter later in my career, even concepts not explicitly discussed in class. This was one of the best courses I have taken as a grad student. The only weakness is that the tests are graded

very discretely; good logic was not rewarded with partial credit. This seemed out of step with the intent of the course.