

MIDTERM TEACHING EVALUATION ME338A, WINTER 2010

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- What is your background?

46% ME 38% Civil & Environmental 8% BioE 8% Mat Science

- What is your background in continuum mechanics?

23% none at all 69% a bit, e.g., from other classes 8% strong, e.g., research related

- I am taking this class...

to strengthen my mechanics background, required, to be able to read literature want more comprehensive understanding in continuum mechanics, tensor notation, tensor analysis, bio cell mechanics, complementary to finite element course, research related, background for strain gradient plasticity / crystal plasticity, something outside my depth, understand principles to extend research on finite element method

- The content of this class is ...

14% too complicated 79% about right 7% too easy

- The presentation of the material in class is ...

100% well-organized 0% needs to be organized better

- The format of the class I prefer is ...

15% blackboard only 77% blackboard & handouts 0% slides only 8% slides & handouts

- The teaching pace is ...

20% too fast 80% about right 0% too slow

- Do you feel engaged / encouraged to ask questions?

22% yes / often 64% sometimes 14% hardly ever / not at all

- What could we do to engage you more?

I feel that the lectures are too close to the handouts, I think lectures are pretty good, more direct links to what the equations really mean although you generally do that already, homeworks are really helpful but could be longer, clear derivations of equations, I spend too much time trying to write everything down, more challenging homeworks and more applications, additional problem sessions, terminology and symbols are overwhelming, I don't have a strong grasp on what is going on so I don't ask, possibly more examples, talk a little more about applications, I enjoyed the class about former PhD research

- What would you like to change in this class?

I like the homeworks, especially homework 2, when there are examples, they are great! I like that this class introduces us to tools of continuum mechanics. I don't really care for application because I already have an idea from my own background. Homework 2 was really confusing because I have no background in the biology side of things. Maybe give more examples during the derivation of equations. some students don't have a great background in tensors so it can be challenging to follow the math and the concepts together, don't know what else you can do about this without boring those who are better prepared,

- What would you like to cover in the last two weeks of class?

nonlinearities, how to approach nonlinear problems, examples on how to use mechanics, computation to solve a problem, actual implementation of continuum mechanics in a model / numerical solution, mechanics of materials computations (elasticity / elasto-plasticity), using MATLAB, expressed in tensor notation to give us more practise integrating this into things we've already learned in other courses, applications, e.g., mechanics, topics related to continuum biomechanics, the heart stuff seems really cool, I'd like to be exposed to some interesting applications, some exercises to get sense of physical meaning and implications, J2 flow theory and crystal plasticity, numerical implementation I hope to catch up, looking at a body with complex geometry and tracking deformations, more applications and research opportunities, ways of transition to traditional and extended finite element method

- Comments to Serdar

nice guy, very willing to explain everything, sometimes I am kind of confused about his notation on the board, I like how you approach presentation of material in a stepwise, logical way The handouts are really helpful, I think both lecturers do a good job! your handwriting on the blackboard is very neat but you tend to use styles of writing variables which can sometimes be difficult to understand, clear explanations in detail are good during office hours, thanks for your recommendation, you are a smart guy, we are not familiar with technical terms, so it would be helpful to use much less technical terms, it is helpful when you provide general overview but typically lectures are manageable to follow

- Comments to Ellen

very responsible instructor, introduces the content well organized, maybe this class could have more fun! It's always clear what's important. Could you stress some things over others? The handouts are really helpful, I think both lecturers do a good job! you sometimes block what you are writing on the board so it can be difficult to look, listen, and write all at the same time, but the notes help in that regard, nice and well organized content, lectures are great until now but a little fast sometimes, maybe unify notation with Serdar, when using a term from before, like divergence, could you take a second to remind us what it is? lectures are well organized and generally clear to follow