

Summary of student responses to question “Please comment on the effectiveness of this instructor” in evaluations of Physics 140

Below is a summary of characteristic student responses to Question 912 “Please comment on the effectiveness of this instructor”. This open-ended question was added to the regular Physics 140 course evaluations during both semesters that I taught the class last year – Winter 2013 and Fall 2013. Only responses that have more specifics, details, and examples than just “Good professor” or “Excellent instructor” were selected. There are literally dozens and dozens more comments that simply say “Very effective” or “Outstanding” without any additional information; they all have been omitted.

Original spelling and punctuation are preserved in all student responses. The emphasis (bold font) is mine.

I suspect that, had I not already determined to major in Mechanical Engineering before the beginning of this class, learning from Professor Popov would have convinced me to pursue a career in physics in some form or another. Professor Popov brought to bear on the class **a level of competence and genuine enthusiasm that I have never before seen in an instructor at the University of Michigan**. He constantly challenged his students and showed a genuine interest in our continued success. **Give this man a raise**. He's earned it.

YURI!!!! THE BEST WAY TO BEGIN YOUR DAY!!!! Going to miss this next semester, nothing like physics in the morning. Yuri is **truly the epitome of a good professor** - someone who makes a "boring" entry level class interesting and engaging. You can truly feel how much **he cares** about every one of his students and how they do in the class. He **manages time well** and is very clear, **I really can't even begin to describe how good he is**. Well done.

Dr. Popov is **a man of his profession**. Though I admittedly did not always have interest in the material, Dr. Popov made lectures engaging - and even somewhat enjoyable. Furthermore, from my own personal experience, Dr. Popov is willing to go out of his way to help a struggling student. I would not ask for a better physics instructor.

Dr. Popov is **awesome!** He's a great professor and you can tell he has a very good understanding of everything he teaches. He had great demonstrations and was very good about answering questions. He is **the best professor I have had in my three semesters at Michigan**.

I thought the course overall was **very well done** and everything we did seemed to **have a purpose and relate to itself**. Time was never wasted and Yuri treated us with respect.

Dr. Popov makes great use of i-Clicker questions in class, and always makes sure to stop to answer questions. On top of that, he's **just a real chipper guy**, and he really did make physics one of the best ways to begin my day :)

Excellent. **Strong passion** for the class.

Professor Popov is a good instructor. He does exciting demos, has **a sense of humor that brings the material alive**, and goes through the physics problems done in class **in a clear, simple way that makes it easy to understand**.

Yuri is an **engaging, interesting**, and highly knowledgeable professor. Physics 140 was definitely the best way to begin my day.

Professor Popov was great. He explained concepts **clearly**. He was **very positive and enthusiastic**.

Yuri was **my favorite Professor** of this semester and even the year! He always made sure that Physics 140 was the best way to begin your day!

The best physics instructor I have ever had.

Dr. Popov was the best part of this course. He was **enthusiastic, fun**, and just an **all around amazing** professor. **Finally a physics course I enjoyed**.

Professor Popov was an **absolutely fantastic teacher**. His style was great and he did a good job of keeping us engaged as well.

He was very enthusiastic, which was a great way to make a very difficult subject more enjoyable. **High energy** allowed me to pay attention better in class, thus learning more.

I felt that the instructor was very effective. He was **passionate about the material**, had a very deep understanding of concepts, responded to questions **clearly and instructively**, and was very respectful towards students. The PowerPoints were excellent, and he was very good at presenting the material in an interesting way (not just reading off the slides).

Yuri did **an excellent job grabbing and maintaining students' attention** and taking the time to answer questions whenever they arose.

BEST EVER. You should use him as a draw/ example class for potential students, he's **that good**.

The professor is **really passionate and professional**.

Great Instructor, **clear** and did **lots of in class examples**. I also really liked the demos he did. Smart guy.

Great guy, great humor, great looks.

Clearly loves physics, **passion for teaching** was evident and helpful. Great professor.

He is **a delightful person and an excellent lecturer!** I wouldn't have wanted anyone else instructing us!

I absolutely loved Professor Popov. He provided **incredible instruction** and made the class **very enjoyable**.

He was **very articulate** and helpful.

He is probably **the best professor I've had so far**. He was very good at communicating the material and was fun to listen to. The demos we saw in class were interesting and really cool. He was extremely effective.

Dr. Popov always asks if there are questions, and makes an honest effort to effectively answer each one.

Yuri is a **very energetic instructor** and this makes it easier to learn from him than some other professors. He does a nice job of encouraging us to learn from each other through the iClickers and closely follows the textbook so students can get multiple points of view on the same topic.

Fantastic lectures and sample problems. Clicker questions really helped build knowledge from a basic level and encourage students to attend class. Yuri legitimately cares about his students and wants to help them understand - thank you!!

One of the **better** professors I have had at the university thus far

Yuri Popov is an excellent instructor who is always willing to listen to students' questions and teaches the class with **great enthusiasm and effectiveness**. Overall **an incredible professor!**

Yuri was **an excellent instructor**. He presented the material in a manner that was **easy to understand**. He spent time on difficult problems and always made sure to ask if we had any questions.

Yuri Popov is the man. I wish he taught 240 as well, because I know it won't be as fun.

Yuri was enthusiastic about the material he teaches. It's easy to learn from a professor that **loves to teach**.

Thank you for **a fun semester**. It truly was the best way to start a day.

Dr. Popov rigorously tests students' understanding of the material. He works hard to correct common misconceptions and promote clear analytical thinking.

Yuri is an excellent and **very talented teacher**.

Yuri is my favorite professor. He **makes things interesting**, while covering class material in a **timely fashion**, working out several examples in class, and engaging students. If he teaches a 240 section, I would take it.

Dr. Popov was **incredible**. He instilled an interest in physics in me that has never been there before.

Yuri Popov is a **terrific professor!** Definitely the best class to begin the day!

Yuri Popov was an **exceptional instructor**. He explained everything well and always knew how to answer questions when they came up.

Dr. Popov is **one of the best teachers/professors I've ever had**. He is great at teaching the material while also making the lectures interesting and fun to be at. I would highly recommend Dr. Popov to any student.

Best Teacher NA

He is energetic and concerns himself with making sure everyone understands, going so far as to ask "any questions?" More than just once... Or twice... Or three times... **He's going to get questions asked.**

He explains the material very well and is really helpful. He knows the course really well and **knows what we will struggle with**. Although it was a hard class he helped me learn physics better than my high school teachers. It shows that he puts a lot of effort into teaching and his demonstrations. I **recommend him to all of my friends** because he is such a great teacher.

Dr. Popov is an excellent instructor. He **loves what he teaches**.

I thought Professor Popov was a **very clear and organized instructor**; his lectures were **easy to follow**, and I liked his set up with the clicker questions, and doing problems to show us the method, and then having us do problems in class.

I liked his **enthusiasm**. He was able to keep **most of the class engaged**.

Very effective. **Always energetic, always fun**, great teacher, easy to ask questions, wants to see us succeed!

I thoroughly enjoyed professor Popov's lectures. He simplified the material in a way that everyone can understand and was very enthusiastic in all lectures. His office hours were very helpful and he always encouraged students to participate and ask questions. It really seemed like **he cared about everyone's success**.

He was great, physics wasn't my strongest course but it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be with him as my professor.

Excellent professor, **clear and concise explanations** of subject matter. Very easy to understand, **genuinely cares** that students learn the material.

I think **everyone enjoyed the class**. Yuri was **an effective communicator** and teacher.