

Teaching Evaluation Summary (2009-2010 Winter)

Comment Summary

Instructor: Lipsick, Joseph
Subject: CBIO
Catalog & Section: 101, 01

Course Title: **CANCER BIOLOGY**
Enrollment: **30** Responses Incl Declines: **23**
(Declined: **4**)

1. Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

Strengths

- Intellectually-stimulating lectures. Course is challenging but I've learned so much!
- I like the humor throughout as the material is quite dense.
- He is a great professor. He really knows the material and gave us a lot of insight. I really enjoyed the lectures.
- Dr. Lipsick was very friendly towards the class and always had some humor in his slides.
- Very receptive to students
- Professor Lipsick's humor keeps the students' attention, and he does an excellent job of explaining genetic pathways and everything in general.
- Professor Lipsick was an excellent professor who created a comfortable atmosphere in the lecture hall every conducive to learning. He was always available for questions and genuinely wanted all students to do well. His lectures were well organized and interesting as well. He kept lectures interesting by incorporating recent stories and various cultural references. I wish he taught more undergraduate classes!
- Prof. Lipsick's passion for teaching shows in his willingness to go above and beyond helping students with their problems. He is approachable, friendly and very articulate. One of the best teachers I have had in my time at Stanford.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Professor Lipsick went too quickly through data analysis and techniques. Having no previous lab experience, it was sometimes difficult to follow these data, especially toward the beginning of the quarter. Also, while he is humorous, his voice is rather monotonous, which makes it easy to fall asleep in class.

2. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses, if any, of the textbook(s) and reading(s). What materials were most and least valuable? Why?

Strengths

- I liked reading the journal articles as a hands-on supplement to lectures. It allowed us to explore experiments.
- The readings were all very interesting. He put up lots of extra materials every week-- all of which were really fun to read, when I had the extra time!
- The scientific papers aided the lecture and provided extra insight into some of the concepts presented in lecture.
- Great book. Very readable and approachable while still being informational.
- The papers that were assigned in class felt very relevant to the course material taught during lecture. They not only helped reinforce the course's concepts, but helped students become more fluent with scientific literature.

Suggestions for Improvement

- The textbook was not as useful because it was really dense and not really relevant to lecture material.
- I didn't end up reading much of the textbook; I just focused on my lecture notes.

3. Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

Strengths

- The exams were quite lengthy but I guess that's to be expected with take-homes. Definitely need as many days as possible.
- The exams are difficult but interesting. I learned a lot from all the assignments.
- I thought the exams were a good difficulty and challenged our understanding. I liked how they were take-homes because in a class like this it is hard to have a test in class. It paralleled real-life situations where we are able to use resources to solve problems.
- Midterm grading was not the most fair. More partial credit could have been given, but the format was very nice.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Some of the questions on the midterm and final weren't very clear. I wish we were allowed to ask questions about the exams, because I felt like part of the difficulty associated with the questions was that you had to get into the mindset of the TA who wrote it in order to begin to answer it.

4. Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

Strengths

- It was a great course! I learned a lot and had an amazing time!
- It was challenging, and there were a lot of concepts, but it was one of my better biology courses.
- Fantastic class!
- The greatest course I have yet taken at Stanford.
- I loved this class. I had a couple minor issues with the exams, but overall it is the best class I have taken at Stanford. I feel like I learned so much from both the course material and the discussion sections.
- One of my favorite classes I've taken at Stanford!
- By far and away the most engaging biology professor I've had at Stanford. It was a pleasure to take this class. I consistently looked forward to discussion section and lecture. I can't say enough about how awesome this course is and how well taught it is by professor Lipsick.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Not all the TA's were equally knowledgeable about the material