

Student Evaluation of Teaching - Form SRT Form - Official End-of-Semester Evaluation of Teaching

1. 1. What did the instructor do that most helped your learning?

Dr. McLoon was one of the best instructors I have ever had. He presented difficult material in an interesting and easy to understand way. I appreciated his lecture "notes" in addition to the slides, as it made it easy to take notes and follow along with the lectures. I enjoyed the current research lectures and research paper assignments.

Everything! He carefully went through concepts and maintained high expectations that will pay dividends to me when I go to medical school next year.

He made himself available every week at coffee hours and was approachable to ask questions.

He presented the material in a consistently clear and logical manner. Difficult multiple test questions provoked more intense study habits.

I really liked the review sessions, it was a nice basic summary of everything that was expected of us on the exam.

Lecture slides were good, lot's of information on them to study for test.

McLoon set the bar very high for us, which helped motivate me to meet his high expectations.

Posting slides

Prepared lectures that focused on the important sections of the readings, answered questions.

Provided strong experiments that provided justification for the statements that he was making. Had a clear enthusiasm for the subject material, which rubbed off on students.

Provided thorough lecture slides and notes to use as study material. Was readily available weekly at office hours/coffee hours if you had questions about any of the material or just to socially chat. Although the lecture material was difficult, McLoon made sure to keep the atmosphere of the class pretty light, which was helpful in lessening stress.

The paper discussions helped drive home some of the concepts presented during lecture.

The powerpoint slides Dr. McLoon made always had concise text as well as pictures when necessary. He did a very good job at creating slides that included information that was necessary for the course. Not too much or too little information on them.

The slides that were comprehensive and summed up the entire lecture were very helpful.

The way you presented the materials was very clear to me. I was able to understand the material and you tested on what you taught. Which is always a good thing. The coffee hours were a great thing to have! Definitely made you more approachable!

2. 2. What could you have done to be a better learner?

I am not under evaluation.

I could have read the book more. I recorded and listened to the lectures a couple times before the exam.

I could have started studying for the exams more in advance.

I could have studied more frequently throughout the semester.

I could have taken advantage of those coffee times more, but it was hard to get to class because I do not live on campus.

I could have taken better notes during lecture

I struggled to keep up with the readings. I could have tried to do more on that however the book was very dense.

Kept up more frequently with readings in the book.

Read the book more thoroughly. I followed the advice of previous students and did read the book however I didn't have the time to really absorb the information.

Read the book.

Read the chapters before class.

Studied more and opened the book

There is so much material covered in this course that it is important to be constantly studying if you want to be successful. I wish I would have studied more consistently throughout the course rather than just the 2 weeks leading up to each exam. The exams are difficult, and "more than one of the above" will haunt you forever. I liked Dr. McLoon's advice to treat every question like 4 separate questions and evaluate each answer choice individually. Going to each and every class is extremely important - I don't know how I would have survived if I had missed even a single lecture.

This is the most self serving question ever; I am evaluating the course, not my involvement.

Utilized the office hours/coffee hours more to ask questions.

3. 3. Additional Comments

Although it's a hard class, you can tell that professor McLoon recognizes the difficulty and grades fairly based on how well the class performs as a whole.

Consider having more discussions on original research. It would be beneficial if these discussions were moderated by an experienced faculty member.

Dr. McLoon is an amazing professor. Definitely one of the greatest professors I have had in college. He get the course information across in an interesting and understandable manner. He also tries to help the students prepare for life after graduation. He is always giving us great advice about what we should/could be doing to achieve what we want.

Dr. McLoon is brilliant. One of the best neuroscience professors at the U. He was not intimidating and did not feel the need to prove that he was smarter than us (like many science professors tend to do). He was humble and good-humored.

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3. 3. Additional Comments (cont.)

Good course and interesting subject matter!

Great class and a great professor.

Please heed the warning that the exams are challenging. Although they are multiple choice, they require a deeper knowledge than the typical 'recall a keyword' style multiple choice exams.

Thanks for the coffee hours Dr. McLoon.

The professor was great but the class was hard, there was so much to know over the course of the semester! Maybe a study list of the all the different growth factors and proteins and such would have been helpful.

Too many powerpoints with bulletpoints. It was hard to stay awake during the class. I would have liked to see the material integrated with things that were happening more in the news and such.

Well done class overall

You don't really need to read the book. I was very successful in the class and just took detailed notes in class, and used my notes, the posted lecture slides, and posted notes to study. Guest lecturers were difficult to learn from. I always found I did poorly on exam questions on material covered by the guest lecturers.

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1. 1. What did the instructor do that most helped your learning?

Dr. McLoon provided plenty of supplemental material to understand his lectures and study for the exams.

Genuine interest in my future/course performance.

He gives clear, concise lectures that are easy to follow and understand. He is also very approachable and helpful in office hours.

He made sure we understood what he was talking about, checked to make sure we didn't have any questions, and had office hours that were great for when we are available.

He posted both lecture notes and powerpoints online.

He provided really good presentations that presented the material clearly.

He was very helpful in all aspects of this type of class. He really went out of his way to help anyone with questions.

His lectures were not boring.

Posted lectures online and included old exams to study from

Spoke very clearly during lectures. Kept the atmosphere light by making jokes and side comments. Was very

knowledgeable about the subject matter and very approachable. Provided time outside of class to meet and greet.

Steve is a very clear speaker, great with eye contact and enunciation. That makes such a difference! He was always positive following exams- he congratulated people who did well but also encouraged those who didn't do well and told them that there were still plenty of chances to make it up. He really seemed to care. The availability of lecture notes (notes, not slides!) was very helpful to me for taking good notes in class.

Steven did a wonderful job at presenting intricate and difficult material in a simple way that made it easier to comprehend in its entirety. He was engaging, passionate and extremely knowledgeable.

The instructor has very clear and helpful powerpoint slides. He also explained concepts very well in class.

The instructor prepared very useful yet not too overwhelming study notes. I like the way in which the class was organized; I rarely got lost in the course because the instructor provided clear explanation throughout the lectures. In addition, the little sense of humor and friendliness of the instructor enhanced my attention in the class. For me, all of these contributed to a better learning of the course.

The instructor's lectures were wonderful. The notes and powerpoints provided presented the information clearly.

Very helpful and available for questions

concise powerpoint presentations illustrating the relevant topics

loved the blog!

presented the subject matter in a clear and interesting way.

2. 2. What could you have done to be a better learner?

Better kept up with the book

Don't procrastinate.

I could have read along in the book.

I could have read the book more often and spent more time reviewing for the exam

I could have prepared farther in advance for exams by reading before lectures.

I didn't read through the chapters until later before the exam. I should have kept up with the reading.

I probably should have read more of the textbook.

I wish I had made more of an effort to go to office hours. I studied my notes and read the book, but still had trouble with exams. I know that Steve is great at explaining things, but I simply didn't take the time to ask him my questions in person. If I would have, I think I would have done better in the course.

If I had worked more efficiently throughout the semester, I could have studied right after every lecture of the class. It was really helpful to do revision after the lecture without any delays. Besides, I could have learned more by taking advantage of the coffee hours set up by the instructor. Reading textbook helps to increase my understanding of the course. However, a lack of time and sometimes my lack of motivation deterred me from persistently taking all the above actions.

Kept up on the readings

NA

Read the book

Read the book before lectures. Gone into more office hours.

Read the text before class.

be a little more prepared for class

reviewed my notes more often.

3. 3. Additional Comments

Dr McLoon is one of the best professors I ever had. In fact, this course is one that I enjoyed the most throughout my school years at the university. Not only I learned a lot about the course, I gained some insights about life and career through

Dr McLoon. He is easy to approach and is ready to help if one has a problem.

Excellent class, superb teaching style, I want to know more about neural development

Excellent professor. One of my best experiences in a challenging class to date because of him.

Favorite Neuroscience professor thus far!

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3. 3. Additional Comments (cont.)

For a 4000-level course, I was very disappointed by the exams. Yes, they were difficult- but that's not what I'm complaining about. I am complaining about how the exams tested not our understanding of the material but rather our ability to memorize. Questions were based off of details from the notes, not on trends or themes or anything involving higher-order thinking. This came as a shock to me, because I was under the impression that upper-division courses were supposed to encourage that kind of analysis. This is a fantastic course, I learned a lot, and Steve McLoon is one of the best professors I have encountered here at the U of M. However, if another student asked me if he ought to take this class I would tell him "Yes, but only if you're good at memorizing." That is my only complaint. Other than the exam content, I was very happy with the course. Thanks for a great semester!

Great class!

Great professor. Funny, engaging.

He is the best professor I have had at the University of Minnesota!

He really was helpful and very informative about the subject and what we could do to further our education.

I really enjoyed the class--it definitely increased my interest in neuroscience, especially in the field of development, and has helped me to make some decisions about what I would like to study in the future.

I think the course could have more exams so less content can be provided and tested more thoroughly. The discussion papers I feel are applicable and helpful in understanding course topics. However, I think in order for people to truly read and comprehend them, report forms should be completed individually. In addition, thank you for being a terrific professor this semester and providing advice on graduate school admissions to the class.

Steve was a great professor. He was very dedicated to the class and willing to help students to succeed. His lectures were well organized and easy to understand. He demonstrated a real passion in the material, which helped motivate the class.

Steve was awesome

Thank you!! You've been a great professor! Thank you!

To encourage reading the book more, include direct citations and references from said material.

While this class was a huge challenge for me, I really enjoyed the class and learned a ton. You were a fantastic teacher as well

very easy-going and easily approachable. Loved the small talk before lecture.

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1. 1. What did the instructor do that most helped your learning?

Great lecturer. Told us what he believed, and why, before a section if he disagreed with literature.

He provided us with lecture notes in addition to lecture powerpoint slides.

His outlines which accompanied his lecture slides were most helpful in studying.

Posted the slides before class so that students could follow along during lecture.

Professor Mcloon's Lectures are well prepared. His lecture is very clear, and his slides are in logic order and you can follow well through the slides

The instructor really identified with the students, which motivated me to immerse myself in the material. He made the material more real and interesting by talking about the investigators that contributed to findings presented in class as well as researchers on campus who do similar work. He is the best professor I have ever had and i am so grateful I took the course.

The lectures were clear and easy to follow and the review sessions before the exams really helped tie all the material together nicely. The material was well chosen and stimulated my interest in developmental neuroscience. Overall, the course was enjoyable, but also challenging.

The notes provided online were really helpful

Was a very good lecturer - made it easy to come to class and stay active in the learning process.  
provided slides and notes on what was presented in class.

2. 2. What could you have done to be a better learner?

I could have kept up with the material each week instead of cramming the material into several days of study.

I have put more time studying on a weekly basis.

I wanted to participate more in the blog. When I initially heard the concept, I was thrilled, but it seemed cumbersome to look up. Perhaps in the future, if you could add a link from the website, that would be great!

Read before lecture.

Read the textbook prior to lecture.

Spend more time analyzing the notes

Studied everyday for at least 2 hours a day.

record lectures and post onto moodle so that we can review what was SAID as well as what was shown.

3. 3. Additional Comments

2 tests plus a semicomprehensive final and 3 small assignments makes for a tough class.

I loved the blog!!!

I really liked the way you presented the material. You were really engaging and interesting.

I thought the course was very interesting. The material covered was relevant and up-to-date. I thought the instructor was clear, easy to understand and follow. I also thought he did a wonderful job of being available to help and showed a sincere concern for us and our futures!

Overall I was very satisfied with the course. However, the expectations for the discussion reports were a bit ambiguous.

Maybe spend some time at the beginning of the year specifying exactly what should go into each report.

Professor Mcloon is a great teacher. It triggered my interest for developmental neuroscience. From his lecture I can tell he spent a lot of time to prepare it. Very nice slides and I ll keep them for my future career. I suggest you record his lecture. You learn so much from his lecture. It is a shame if you are neuroscience major and don't take his class. The class is hard but if you study you will get a good grade. He really cares if we understand the material. Take his class!!!

Some of the lectures were a bit lengthy, but we always managed to get through the material we needed to get through one way or another. The discussion papers really helped put what we were learning about into perspective.

Thanks for the cartoons.:) Probably my favorite or second favorite class in school so far.

The exams are multiple choice with very tricky questions. It could have been better if we had essay questions to explain the point view.