

Astronomy 300 - Fall 2008 Mid-semester Evaluation

We'd like to get your feedback on how Ay 300 has been so far so we can improve it in the future. Please answer as honestly as you can. The survey is anonymous; however, we also intend to have a verbal discussion after completing this form about what you'd like to see in the class during the rest of the semester and in future years as well.

This form is also intended to serve as an example of the sorts of questions you might consider asking your students on your own midsemester evaluation. (Note, however, that this is significantly longer than what you'd have time for during a 50-minute section.)

Has Ay 300 been useful to you in your teaching so far? If yes, please provide some specific examples of content, advice, or activities you've found particularly useful. If no, give a brief explanation of why you feel it hasn't been helpful.

Circle whether you'd like to spend more, less, or the same amount of time in class each day (relative to what's been done in the semester so far) on the following. If you'd like to comment on our time allocation regarding something not on the list, write it in the blank.

Discussing past sections:	less	same	more
Jeff & Peter lecturing/explaining:	less	same	more
Class discussions (of <i>e.g.</i> reading or writing assignments):	less	same	more
In-class activities:	less	same	more
Planning next week's section:	less	same	more
_____:	less	same	more

Fill in the following table by checking the box if the description at left applies to the topic at top. Feel free to check more than one box per column or per row. If you want, you can provide a numerical ranking (1 being “least”, 5 being “most”) for the first three items.

	Section structures and planning	Teaching resources	Lecturing & boardwork	Group work & TALC	Worksheet design	Ethics & cheating	Classroom interaction	Demos	Writing homework, quiz, & exam questions	Grading	Review sessions
This topic is <i>important</i> for Ay 300 to cover											
Our treatment of the topic was <i>useful</i>											
I find this topic <i>interesting</i>											
We didn't cover this until after I really needed it											
I haven't yet had a chance to apply what was taught here											
I disagree strongly with Jeff & Peter's opinions on this topic											
I must have missed that section ...											

If you would like to further explain any of your responses, please do so here:

Which instructor of Ay 300 do you think would be more likely to ...

	Jeff	Peter
Star in his own TV show		
Win a Nobel prize		
Forget to call his mom on her birthday		
Go back ... to the future!		
Get drunk and belligerent at a wedding		

List any major flaws in the course so far. How do you feel that Ay 300 could be improved and made more useful to you and to future generations of GSIs?

Which Bond movie title do you most strongly associate with Peter?

- _____ *Dr. No* (1962)
- _____ *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977)
- _____ *Never Say Never Again* (1983)
- _____ *Die Another Day* (2002)
- _____ *Quantum of Solace* (2008!)

We'd like any comments you may have regarding our two-day "boot camp" before the semester started. Did it cover too much or not enough? Was it useful? Would there have been a more convenient time to do it? How can we make it more useful?

We have tried to cover most of the key topics as quickly as possible at the start of the semester. For the rest of the semester, we will spend most of the time talking about broader aspects of teaching (such as forms of learning and course design) and going over specific points in more detail (mostly in the form of in-class activities).

Please list any topics you would like to revisit:

Please list any topics we have not yet covered that you would like to see covered:

Please rate the course overall on a negative logarithmic flux scale where “0” indicates the brightness of α Lyrae, which is to be understood as a boring nearby star of very little interest to anyone (*i.e.* the course is awful), and “-10” indicates a spectacularly bright and awe-inspiring Galactic supernova (*i.e.* the course is awesome).

Make up a hilarious nickname for Jeff.

Finally, leave any general comments here. Alternatively, try to draw a perfect equilateral triangle freehand.