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# CHEM-4181 (2007) - Final Course Evaluation

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[Analyze Results](#)
[Results](#)
[» Individual Responses](#)
[» Raw Data Export](#)

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[Results Overview](#)
[New Cross Tab Report](#)

### Filters

[New Filter](#)

### Options

 Show Responses:  
[Completes](#)


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## CHEM-4181 (2007) - Final Course Evaluation

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<b>Email Invites:</b> 0	<b>Visits:</b> 25	<b>Partials:</b> 0	<b>Completes:</b> 22 <i>(Does not include blank responses)</i>
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1. Rate YOUR INTEREST in the course topics (Instrumental Analysis Lab) before the course started



Very Low		0	0%
Low		5	23%
No Opinion/Neutral		8	36%
High		3	14%
Very high		6	27%
Total		22	100%

2. Rate how much YOU HAVE LEARNED in this course






Very Little		0	0%
Little		0	0%
Some		3	14%
Quite a bit		10	45%
A Lot		9	41%
Total		22	100%

3. Has this course INCREASED YOUR INTEREST in the subject?






Not at all		0	0%
A little		4	18%
Some		5	23%

Quite a bit		10	45%
A lot		3	14%
Total		22	100%

- 4.** Rate the DIFFICULTY of this course and the level of EFFORT needed to complete it, compared to other CHEM courses at CU.

Very High		8	36%
High		11	50%
Average		1	5%
Low		1	5%
Very Low		1	5%
Total		22	100%

- 5.** Should we keep using CLICKERS in the future? (If you have comments on the clickers, pls write on the last question)

Absolutely Not		2	9%
Probably Not		2	9%
No opinion		1	5%
Probably Yes		11	50%
Absolutely Yes		6	27%
Total		22	100%

- 6.** This semester we had 5 LECTURES on statistics and quality control, 2 on writing, and 4 on preview / preparation for lab experiments and Student Choice Exps. Should we change the BALANCE OF LECTURES of the course? MORE, LESS, HOW?

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- 7.** This semester we had 8 REQUIRED LABS. Are there any labs that should be IMPROVED? (pls say how) Or ELIMINATED? (say why) Or ADDED? (such as NMR or ICP-MS) Any other comments on the labs?

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- 8.** Do you have comments on the STUDENT CHOICE EXPERIMENTS part of the course? Should we change its length, organization, rules, etc.?

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- 9.** Do you have any suggestions for improvement for the LAB MANUAL and/or the COURSE WEB PAGE? (<http://cires.colorado.edu/jimenez/CHEM-4181/>)

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- 10.** Do you have (constructive) COMMENTS FOR JOSE to improve his teaching?

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- 11.** Do you have (constructive) COMMENTS FOR the TAs (Jesse, Patrick, or Paul -- please indicate who) to improve their teaching? Or any kudos for them?

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- 12.** Do you have any SUGGESTIONS for improving the course for FUTURE (2008 and later) offerings? Please comment on any aspects, including lectures, labs, project, presentations, reports, course web page, etc.

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[Edit & Review](#)[Invite & Deploy](#)[Analyze Results](#)[Results](#)[» Individual Responses](#)[» Raw Data Export](#)

### Results Overview: Open Ended Responses

Filter: No filter applied (22 Response(s) Returned)

[« Return to Results Overview](#)

[Print](#) | [Excel Export](#)

Display  Per Page

Displaying 1-22 of 22 Responses [Select Page: First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

6. This semester we had 5 LECTURES on statistics and quality control, 2 on writing, and 4 on preview / preparation for lab experiments and Student Choice Exps. Should we change the BALANCE OF LECTURES of the course? MORE, LESS, HOW?

#	Response
1	I think that separate courses are necessary for a firm grasp of the subject, but more of the statistics and writing would be good. The lab previews were helpful, but not really necessary
2	More on statistics and how to write a lab at the beginning of the semester. Less of preparation for labs.
3	You should not change anything with lectures. You went over a lot of material that helped with lab write ups and calculations and presentations. The statistics and writing lectures allowed for better understanding and excel tricks that I wish other lab classes would cover.
4	Less lecture, most of the stuff could be handled during lab time.
5	I would do more preparation for the lab experiments. We didn't cover all the instrumentation in the fall semester, so it would have helped to have more background.
6	Yes. We need more real instruction on "How to get the right answer" How about sample excel sheets? We need to focus the class more on obtaining real data and competence with the instruments. This class doesn't really prepare someone for a job using these instruments. It however does a good job with preparing samples.
6	Most important we need more instruction on significant figures and propagating error. This is hardly covered in the lab manual and the TAs don't really know that much about it. We have over 800 calculations per report, surly we can not be expected to follow sig figs through each calculation using excel. Is there a more direct short cut? I found the TAs unable to help in this arena. Most people just rounded to 2 decimal places each time. I felt there was a lack of instruction in this area.
7	The balance seemed fine, but maybe the timing could be different. I think some of the statistical information would be better after having done at least one lab report. This way there would be something to compare and relate to.
8	The balance seems fine.
9	pretty solid balance, maybe spend more time on how to use calib curves, blank spikes, extr. efficiencies etc
10	I think the balance was just right, maybe more time in limits of detection and limits of quantization, at the beginning I felt that I didn't understand it, with time and with the amount of lab reports i feel more confident.
11	the balance seemed okay
12	Maybe not lectures, but maybe more information on how to do calculations and what those calculations mean for each experiment. A way this can be implemented maybe during the first hour of the specific lab.
13	I didn't feel the lectures were very helpful at all. I think it's information I could have learned on my own, or had already learned previously in other courses.
14	no
15	The balance was fine. Each important topic was given a fair trial.
	The five lectures on statistics were really very useful - I never really got all of that explained to me before - in a lab, they kind of just assume that you know what to do - so definitely keep those lectures I thought 2 on writing was plenty - especially because the lab manual gives good guidelines as well to follow for lab

16	report formats, etc. and as far as the 4 for lab experiments and SCE, I think those could be cut down a bit - previewing the labs isn't really that important since you read about them in the manual before class. However, I didn't really find the amount of lecture overwhelming by any means, and I would say that it was a fair amount of time to balance the days we didn't have lab.
17	Less on writing, more on student choice experiments, more on preview/prep for lab experiments....
18	NO, don't make changes, it's ok the way it is.
19	Yes, I would suggest having another lecture on statistics, one less on writing (which by the way knowing that the writing lab was available and where to go not to mention that bonus points could be added was useful and a great incentive). Lastly, I would keep the 4 lectures on the preview/prep for the remaining labs and our SCE but I would just do a little more emphasis on how important our SCE are and on time management.
20	I think More should have talked about what was wanted on the lab reports. Many of us were unsure what was expected going in.
21	I liked the lectures on stats and quality control and writing. However, I felt that some of the preview lectures were not really needed. Perhaps we could spend more time on stats. I think that's pretty important.
22	A little bit more time should be spent on statistics since these concepts can be confusing, and we need to understand them well in order to be able to apply them in our lab reports. Less time should be spent on experiment previews since I did not find them very useful, and pretty much all the information was in the lab manual anyways.

Display | 25  Per PageDisplaying 1-22 of 22 Responses | Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)[Products & Services](#) | [About Us](#) | [Support/Help](#) | [Zoomerang Forums](#)© 2007 Copyright MarketTools Inc. All Rights Reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms Of Use](#)



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7. This semester we had 8 REQUIRED LABS. Are there any labs that should be IMPROVED? (pls say how) Or ELIMINATED? (say why) Or ADDED? (such as NMR or ICP-MS) Any other comments on the labs?

#	Response
1	NMR would be a great addition to the course.
2	NMR!!! That is one of the only instruments i will actually use. The HPLC lab was very difficult to get to work, and it was very long.
3	NMR would be interesting to learn.
4	Do something with NMR and get rid of the HPLC lab.
5	I would improve the HPLC lab, it was extremely time consuming and gave poor results...plus it smelled up the entire lab!!!
6	I don't think the labs are useless but there is not enough time to really get used to the instruments. We should learn about GC then mass spec, and then put them together. I think writing the lab report got in the way of learning to use the instruments. I think the class should meet more often and be worth more credits. The more lab reports we turn in the more it seems to take away from actually learning any real skills. Lab reports and "obligations" sometimes feel like busy work. I found many of my partners not caring and it affected the outcome of my data. I think the p chem labs should be done away with and instrumental labs should focus on the majority of undergrad lab work. When I graduate it would be nice to have real skills. The writing to my surprise did help a bit too.
7	I think NMR is an important tool in the chemistry world. I'm not sure if it is more important than one of the other labs though.
8	The labs seemed fine, but they need to be improved in the sense of what is specifically needed in the lab write-up.
9	HPLC was too noisy, maybe find replacement experiment. also 2 PAH labs were somewhat repetitive
10	I think most of them need improvement, speccially the HPLC one. I also think that ALL TA's should know about each lab, not only about the ones that they are monitoring or they are grading.
11	The labs should be rewritten so that they actually have the right procedures.
12	Most labs were pretty pertinent to the course, and evaluated most environmental concerns. I believe it would be helpful to add a NMR lab, because it was one instrument I personally was interested in learning with hands-on experience.
13	The Gc-MS labs. I didn't feel they were very well organized, and the TA's didn't seem to know totally how to work the computer system.
14	HPLC sucked, so did the fluorescence lab
15	I would like to see the addition of an NMR lab. I feel it is an important technique that students should be well versed in.
16	yes, I think adding an NMR lab would be very interesting, not to mention it is a very useful instrument to know about. As far as the other labs go, I found them all to be interesting and useful.

17	Required labs were almost perfect, but maybe more time for write-ups. 1 a week was pretty brutal.
18	Labs are ok. Just need few improvements
19	I must say the labs were a lot of work. I felt that some of the labs could have been handled better if the instruments worked. However, I stringly feel, as i have wroked in an organic lab, that NMR should be added. I would recommend taking out ASV and adding NMR. I believe, in my experience at least, that NMR is used a lot more than ASV.
20	An experimnet that uses NMR could be useful. Also, I don't think that detecting PAHs in cigarette smoke using HPLC/absorbance/fluorescence gives meaningful results.

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**Filter: No filter applied (20 Response(s) Returned)**[« Return to Results Overview](#)[ZPRO](#) [Print](#) | [Excel Export](#)Display  Per PageDisplaying 1-20 of 20 Responses [Select Page: First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

8. Do you have comments on the STUDENT CHOICE EXPERIMENTS part of the course? Should we change its length, organization, rules, etc.?

#	Response
1	It would be nice to have more time perhaps, but obviously that would be difficult to arrange. Encouraging a wider range of methods could give more lab time for each group.
2	Make the proposal due earlier. Give more time to prepare so the time in the lab can be maximized.
3	I had fun with the SCE. I liked how the lab was available for groups on days other than their specific lab day.
4	This was my favorite part of the course. Keep it how it is.
5	Give more guidance for choosing a project. It is very disappointing to try and spend 3 weeks on a project and have absolutely no data to give during a presentation...other than report failures. Make sure that the instruments actually can test for the compounds being analyzed.
6	I found it difficult to find a topic I could care about. Most students didn't find any results and I think that is testament to the uselessness of the projects. Again, I think really learning how to use the instruments with competence should be the main goal. Also, I found the previous inst. analysis lecture from last semester to be utterly useless. That was just an exercise in temporary memorization. Also the instructor knew nothing about what he was teaching and only regurgitated from the text.
7	I also think that by having more time to work on the student choice experiment would allow the students to learn more about dealing with problems and approaching them from different angles.
8	No, they seemed just fine.
9	they were fun, good length, good org, good rules. gives chance for creativity and scientific identity
10	I really like this part of the course. I think the organization can be improved, maybe a little bit more guide. So that we don't get a lot of "oh my things were below the limits of detection" and we get more results.
11	The SCE's were handled very well by the TA's. Its organization was also well done. It was a nice experience to come up with our own experiment and overall great experience from lab time to giving a presentation
12	They were great. I learned a lot. Even if I was scared to death of the long presentation. I think it helped prepare us for the future.
13	no
14	The students choice experiment was interesting, but there was no chance of most of us finding anything. Stop us if we have no chance in detecting anything.
15	I think it would be a good idea to get people to determine their LOD's before hand, so that they can interpret any results they may get. Other than that, I think having three weeks to complete the experiment was good because it gave people flexibility
16	This was well done....
17	Everything is ok with this part. Maybe just extending TA hours to monday and friday.
18	Just like I said above, it's important to stress the factors involved in our SCE (i.e. time, sample prep, instrument analysis, and working well with your partner)
19	No, I was okay with it. Perhaps a few more days in lab would have helped some on us.



20	It would be helpful if students were required to meet with TA/professor to discuss their prospective SCE so that any pitfalls can be identified better (such as LOD, etc.).
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Display  Per Page

Displaying 1-20 of 20 Responses    Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

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**Filter: No filter applied (19 Response(s) Returned)**[« Return to Results Overview](#)[Print](#) | [Excel Export](#)Display  Per PageDisplaying 1-19 of 19 Responses | [Select Page: First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

9. Do you have any suggestions for improvement for the LAB MANUAL and/or the COURSE WEB PAGE? (<http://cires.colorado.edu/jimenez/CHEM-4181/>)

#	Response
1	Some revision is necessary. Sometimes the directions were contradictory (i.e. asking for LOQ or LOD without replicate blank measurements)
2	The manual was good.
3	No suggestions.
4	The lab manual was straight forward and I never went to the web page.
5	The labs need to be written into a form that is clear and understandable, I was usually always confused before going into lab even after reading them several times.
6	The lab manual needs to be more focused on how to arrange data and get answers. For example, 1. measure blank. 2. measure samples 3. samples-blank = answer (and explain why)  logical steps are not written out and sometimes it takes several labs to even understand the "method" and reason behind the labs.  Also, an example of an excel sheet including sig figs and propagated error would be useful. this example should include everything including lod, loq, etc...
7	Often, the TA's provided us with changes to the experiments, if these changes are to take the place of the old procedures etc. the lab manuals should be changed as such. Other than that, the lab manual was very helpful throughout the semester.
8	In and of themselves they are fine.
9	pretty thorough already, good amount of discussion ?'s too
10	Lab manual needs to improve only in that each lab needs a little improvement.
11	The lab manual can be written better as far as instructions on procedure goes. Jesse came up with a great way to follow.
12	I didn't use the web page at all. And I can't think of anything that should change with the lab manual.
13	n0
14	The lab manual was perfect for obtaining information. I never once used the website.
15	no, the manual was nice and straightforward.
16	I think the manual is ok. Just readjust some of the procedures to make them more clear
17	Printng it front to back
18	no its all good
	I thought that th Lab Manual was very well organized and helpful. However, more information should be included

19 | about what calculations, statistical analysis, and discussion points should be made in the lab reports.

Display  Per Page

Displaying 1-19 of 19 Responses    Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

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[Edit & Review](#)[Invite & Deploy](#)[Analyze Results](#)[Results](#)[» Individual Responses](#)[» Raw Data Export](#)

### Results Overview: Open Ended Responses

Filter: No filter applied (18 Response(s) Returned)

[« Return to Results Overview](#)[Print](#) | [Excel Export](#)Display  Per PageDisplaying 1-18 of 18 Responses Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

#	Response
	10. Do you have (constructive) COMMENTS FOR JOSE to improve his teaching?
1	Give back the stats homework so we can see how we did. Other than that did fine.
2	You are doing a wonderful job!
3	Be more available outside of class.
4	Try to make the lectures more lively...they were kinda boring to listen too.
5	Jose did just fine. The clickers are a bit pointless.
6	I learned a lot! I liked it when Jose came to our lab section and asked questions about our experiment. It was nice to get another perspective on the instrumentation from someone else who knows about it.
7	Can't think of any.
8	get involved in the lab part more, maybe pop into lab every once in a while. mostly TAs takin the spotlight and teaching initiative
9	nop, I really liked his way of taching and also that he uses powerpoint so well, I liked the presentations a lot and the demos from online.
10	He did a great job. More detailed instruction on how to handle statistical data would be helpful.
11	Jose was great!
12	nope
13	Do not randomly call on people in class.
14	not really, I thought you did a good job explaining things and i enjoyed the lectures.
15	He's alright. No problem with his teaching.
16	No, I found him to be very organized, ready and able for class. This professional manner definatley kept me intersted in the lecture part of the course
17	nope, I really enjoyed the casual enviorment. It helped me approach him more often and obtain his help. He also did a good job on making stats part interesting and relevant.
18	I thought that the slides and lectures were very well organized and clear.

Display  Per PageDisplaying 1-18 of 18 Responses Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

[Home](#)[Create Survey](#)[My Surveys](#)[Support/Help](#)[My Contacts](#)[My Account](#)[Log Out](#)

## CHEM-4181 (2007) - Final Course Evaluation

[Edit & Review](#)[Invite & Deploy](#)[Analyze Results](#)[Results](#)[» Individual Responses](#)[» Raw Data Export](#)

### Results Overview: Open Ended Responses

Filter: No filter applied (19 Response(s) Returned)

[« Return to Results Overview](#)

[Print](#) | [Excel Export](#)

Display  Per Page

Displaying 1-19 of 19 Responses [Select Page: First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

11. Do you have (constructive) COMMENTS FOR the TAs (Jesse, Patrick, or Paul -- please indicate who) to improve their teaching? Or any kudos for them?

#	Response
1	Jesse works really hard. He was there all the time, and was always willing to help. Paul is the man, and it is sad he left. Patrick knew what he was doing, but he was not that outgoing. Didn't seem to care if we learn or do well.
2	Jesse is awesome. He seems to care about students' understanding and is willing to explain concepts. His enthusiasm is contagious.
3	Paul-You are the best TA I have had in a long time. Sorry to hear you left.
4	Grade the labs the same way...its too hard to change a lab report style based on what TA is grading it...come up with one grading rubric for how to grade all labs, just not your own.
5	They would need to improve nothing if the manual showed real examples to getting answers.
6	All of the TA's were great. All very knowledgeable about the topics and were very helpful with answering questions.
7	Can't think of any.
8	sometimes a TA would disappear for up to hours at time, especially when we needed to ask them ?'s or needed solutions. They should have to stick around for the full 6 hours or at least until they are absolutely no longer needed in the lab
9	Need to know more about all of the instruments, not the ones you are just monitoring.
10	With the number of students taking the course, they were VERY helpful. I really appreciated the way they were patient with my questions and took time to help students understand the concepts of using the different instruments.
11	Jesse was awesome. He knew the topics and instruments very well, and I felt that everytime I talked to him I learned something new. He was very helpful. I felt Patrick was usually flaky with his help and experiments. And the Paul was very personable, but he wasn't helpful with the experiments and use of the instruments, I felt as if I was always trying to walk him through it rather than him helping us learn.
12	Jesse is often wrong when explaining things....when asked a question he doesnt know he just made up some stuff.
13	I would like to give kudos to all three TAs for being easily available and ready to answer any questions i had. I would also encourage them to get together and create a standard syllabus. Too many times i was dinged for points that another TA would not have taken off.
14	everyone was really helpful and available, which was awesome.
15	They are alright. I'd just liked to have my reports back sooner.
16	I enjoyed and appreciated the time and effort both Jesse and Paul took to go above and beyond in helping me and fellow classmates understand the material and instruments alike.(i.e. what's a matrix spike, LOD, or how the HPLC worked)
17	I think they did a good job in helping explain the procedures and techniques necessary, but it would have been better to get reports back in a more timely fashion.

18	No its all good on that front too.
19	Jesse was great! He was almost always in the lab and was very knowledgable about the instruments and techniques.

Display  Per Page

Displaying 1-19 of 19 Responses    Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

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[Edit & Review](#)[Invite & Deploy](#)[Analyze Results](#)[Results](#)[» Individual Responses](#)[» Raw Data Export](#)

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**Filter: No filter applied (17 Response(s) Returned)**[« Return to Results Overview](#)[Print](#) | [Excel Export](#)Display  Per PageDisplaying 1-17 of 17 Responses [Select Page: First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

12. Do you have any SUGGESTIONS for improving the course for FUTURE (2008 and later) offerings? Please comment on any aspects, including lectures, labs, project, presentations, reports, course web page, etc.

#	Response
1	Maybe recruit 'guest' TAs that work with a given instrument on a regular basis to discuss its operation, or at least write a crib sheet for operating a given instrument.
2	NMR! More flasks are needed. Every lab had standards, and we always needed 3 or 4x the amount of flasks.
3	Go over a few student labs so that they know what is expected. Paul assigned a point value system for his grading that was helpful.
4	Make the lab reports shorter.
5	The main problem with the class is that you can spend 15 hours getting the right answer and still get a bad grade. Someone can spend 10 minutes just making up answers and get a good grade because they "wrote" their report correctly. This seems counter productive. Emphasis should be placed on getting the right answer. TAs never really check for the right answer, it would be too much work, so there is less motivation to care about accuracy. Also, if we cut down on the quantity of reports, we could increase the quality. People should be required to rewrite their reports and average the 2 grades. This would force people to write correctly and get the right answers. Also, time is a constraint in life as it is so making things busy work oriented makes people not care. For example, p chem lab was a complete waste of time and people eventually just "faked" the answers and wrote a lot of nonsense and got A+ because they turned in 20 page papers involving nothing, but they were still 20 pages so they got an A. Less reports = better reports.
6	Something that I think would be incredibly helpful and that would increase the knowledge of each student would be to combine part of the instrumental lecture (4171) with the lab 4181. If these courses were taught side by side, I feel everyone's understanding of the instruments would be much, much better. Learning about limits of detection, noise etc and then applying these aspects physically to the instrument would be great!
7	Can't think of any.
8	good course overall, challenging but not a course that is over stressing. maybe switch the experiments up a bit
9	More time with the lab reports pchem lab does two weeks but if this is not possible just avoid doing what happened this year that we had to turn in two lab reports at once, one time.
10	Instead of having the lecture time, I think I would model the course like the Bio Chem labs, where they have a small lecture at the beginning of each lab, rather than having a whole lecture section. It made it very hard to sign up for other classes that were only offered during the time, and we were hardly ever there.
11	nope
12	I would like to see more points given to someone obeying lab safety. For example, wearing goggles, accurately measuring volumes (eye level), wearing gloves while pouring acid, etc.
13	it would be nice to have gotten some lab reports back sooner (i don't think i have gotten all of mine back yet) - so i guess it would be nice to have online grades, or something where one could monitor their grade process (also, like for example we never got any kinds of grades back for the SCE stuff - proposal, etc.)
14	N/A
	Providing more time on the due dates of the lab, I would suggest a 9-10 day turn around meaning the tuesday

15	labs are due the following thursday, the wednesday labs due the following friday, and the thursday labs due the following monday; this way you get a week (M-F) where you can go to office hours BEFORE the labs are due (a week goes by fast, sometimes you need a little more time to fully grasp the material and data)
16	I liked the class in general, except for the tedious write ups. They were killer. If all TAs graded on the same scale it would be easier too. Each TA had different requiremnts. I got several points off on many labs due to that inconsistency. Some TAs wanted tables and some didn't. This should not be the case.
17	I think that some lectures should be included about how the instruments we use work.

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