

Course / Instructor Evaluation for Dr. Rob Maher  
ENGR 125CS, Fall 2006

I am taking this course because (check all that apply):

14 I find the subject to be interesting.

11 My advisor suggested I take this course.

17 I needed a Contemporary Issues in Science elective and this one fit my schedule.

14 Other:     (advice during summer pre-registration)    

*Please read each statement below and select the response that best matches your opinion.*

|  | <b>I agree</b> | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>I disagree</b> |    |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----|
| The course requires more time and effort than I thought it would.  | 9              | 12             | 11                | 1  |
| I often find myself not understanding the course material.   | 2              | 4              | 26                | 2  |
| I would definitely recommend this course to other students.  | 19             | 8              | 5                 | 3  |
| The course content matches the announced syllabus.   | 22             | 9              | 1                 | 4  |
| My quiz and essay scores are a good indication of my effort in the class.  | 16             | 13             | 3                 | 5  |
| The in-class video presentations are a waste of valuable class time.   | 5              | 7              | 20                | 6  |
| The course books are clearly written and appropriate for the course.   | 16             | 12             | 4                 | 7  |
| I would learn more if there were more assigned homework problems.  | 0              | 7              | 25                | 8  |
| The order of topics in the course is illogical and confusing.  | 5              | 7              | 20                | 9  |
| Honestly, I only do the reading assignments because I know there will be a quiz.                                     | 15             | 9              | 8                 | 10 |
| I can explain the scientific method and the engineering process.   | 17             | 13             | 2                 | 11 |
| This course is quite boring a lot of the time.   | 11             | 7              | 14                | 12 |
| I am not spending enough time studying for this class.   | 5              | 12             | 15                | 13 |
| Dr. Maher mumbles or enunciates poorly.  | 0              | 2              | 30                | 14 |
| When lecturing, Dr. Maher speaks too quickly.  | 1              | 0              | 31                | 15 |
| I often have trouble reading what Dr. Maher writes on the board.   | 1              | 5              | 26                | 16 |
| I would prefer the lectures to consist of a PowerPoint slideshow instead of using predominantly the chalk board.     | 3              | 8              | 21                | 17 |
| The lecture often starts late.   | 0              | 4              | 28                | 18 |
| The lecture often runs beyond 3pm.   | 3              | 3              | 26                | 19 |
| Dr. Maher acts irritated if a student has a question.  | 1              | 2              | 29                | 20 |
| Dr. Maher seems to care about improving student learning.  | 24             | 5              | 3                 | 21 |
| I can recall a time that Dr. Maher was rude or insulting in class.   | 0              | 3              | 29                | 22 |
| I'm sometimes pretty sure that Dr. Maher is unprepared for the lecture.  | 1              | 2              | 29                | 23 |
| If I needed to ask a question, I am confident that Dr. Maher would respond to a phone call or email within 24 hours. | 24             | 7              | 1                 | 24 |
| I visit the course web site regularly.   | 12             | 6              | 14                | 25 |

OVER PLEASE

Compared to other instructors at MSU, I rate Dr. Maher (choose one):

1 Worst instructor I've had so far

1 Among the worst

1 Below average

7 Average

14 Pretty good

4 Among the best

4 Top instructor I've had so far

Does Dr. Maher have any annoying mannerisms (e.g. frequently saying "ok?" or "you know?", or "right?", jingling pocket change, etc.)? Please describe.

*Spits sometimes. Uses "old school" slang. Pauses and waits too long for student response to obvious questions. Looks and acts like Lumberg from "Office Space."*

Would you commend Dr. Maher's teaching in any particular areas? Please describe.

*Nothing in particular.*

*He cares.*

*Has an English teacher help with essay grading—knows his limits.*

*I like how clear the subject matter is presented: no gray areas.*

*Get off the space kick.*

*Dr. Maher is very educated and experienced at the content he presents. He seems to have a much higher understanding, but always teaches it in a way that is not hard to comprehend. I am a business major and I don't seem to have any problem fitting in this class.*

*I would commend his seemingly genuine concern with students learning from his lectures, assignments, and homework. He is also very available to reach out of class.*

*Association to applicable concepts, i.e., good examples.*

*I like how he explains things so that everybody can understand.*

*He makes it very easy and interesting when he relates engineering problems and ideas to everyday life and reality.*

*Makes assignments and class announcements very clear; answers all questions.*

*Presentations, videos, lecture with images, class participation.*

*He knows what he is talking about.*

*His activities are usually very interesting, i.e., digital memory.*

*His all around knowledge of engineering systems, and how he makes it easy to understand.*

*The books used for the class are all really good and complement each other, even though they are all of different reading levels.*

*Very good at explaining things.*

*I really like the web site info.*

*All around good.*

*Very friendly, makes the environment more relaxed.*

*Puts up with our \$%&\*...that's commendable*

*He is professional looking with his briefcase*

*Relates subject to everyday life.*

*Keeping engineering topics interesting for non-engineers*

In what areas should Dr. Maher seek to improve as an instructor? Please describe.

*Often too tolerant of class disturbances.*

*Maybe a more difficult curriculum, more difficult class stuff. I did expect a slightly more difficult (though provoking) assignments.*

*None, just bring new material to class. Buildings are boring.*

*Grading the essays with more leniency. Instruction is fine, but the severity of penalties on the essays is inappropriate.*

*The grading on essays is far too strict. I get B's & A's in other classes and here I get D's.*

*It was difficult to understand exactly what he wanted for the first essay. I'm not used to having the thesis being so direct.*

*Respond faster to disruptive students, people talking in the back. It is difficult to focus with that kind of noise.*

*Maybe with assigning and grading essays, the 3 point system is a little harsh, but they are easy enough to do. For not being an English class I am impressed with assignments, I do feel that they help me write.*

*Social skills, interacting with students more. This is intro to Engr, so if you want students to continue on, it might help to build relationships with your students.*

*Explain what technical writing is before assigning an essay, not after the essays have been graded and returned.*

*Get a better paper grading system.*

*I personally find the course somewhat boring, its hard to be motivated to go to class, really don't feel as though I've learned anything. I'm going into graphic design though, so I'm generally interested on why things look nice, etc., not what works best so that could be a factor...*

*Connect with students more when discussing an idea and share insight more thoroughly.*

*Better assignments and paper topics.*

*Being more clear about the scores on essays, i.e., what a 2.2 equals percentage wise.*

*I believe the grading rubric is a little strange and at times unfair or a little too hard.*

*Quit thinking of yourself as an English teacher because you most definitely are not. You make suggestions to papers that make them grammatically worse.*

*Clearly define what he wants students to write about and maybe change his grading scale for essays.*

*Know what this class is trying to accomplish and then teach that. Change how essays are graded.*

*I feel as though I am having to lower the level of my writing in some cases to receive a good score. I learned about topic sentences & using 3 separate body paragraphs in middle school, but have since been taught that it's ok, even good, to be less structured if you can.*

*More interesting readings. I do not like the essay grading.*

*A better method to distribute homework, more definite reading deadlines, i.e., "next week" may mean Mon, Wed, or Friday.*

Any other comments/suggestions about this particular course (ENGR 125)?

*It is a good class. I'm impressed with it being a first time class.*

*2/3 of semester on skyscrapers were enough to drive anyone insane.*

*Enjoying it!*

*Good class, lot's of fun.*

*Interesting topics discussed. Hands-on (practical learning).*

*Some readings are irrelevant.*

*Excellent wardrobe.*

*This is a really good, basic engineering course. It could be used as a required class for freshmen engineering majors.*

*Meets expectations.*

*The writing assignments seem to concern theoretic ideas but require technical discussion. For example the first essay about technology and its negative effects is a very philosophical question. Outside of examples it was a difficult discussion, especially in one page.*

*Too many random topics or subjects are covered in this class at once. I think more time should be focused on the engineering process in general. I don't really find myself learning anything useful in engineering, just about random topics like skyscrapers and aluminum can. I feel like I'm learning useless information.*

*Goal of class?!?!*

*Still not sure what the point of this class is. What does this have to do with engineering? I am glad I took this class because it showed me how much I would hate being an engineer and I can make changes, like my major.*

*Read a book going over the specific steps of the engineering process.*