

**Course and Teacher Survey 4**  
**Fall 2005**

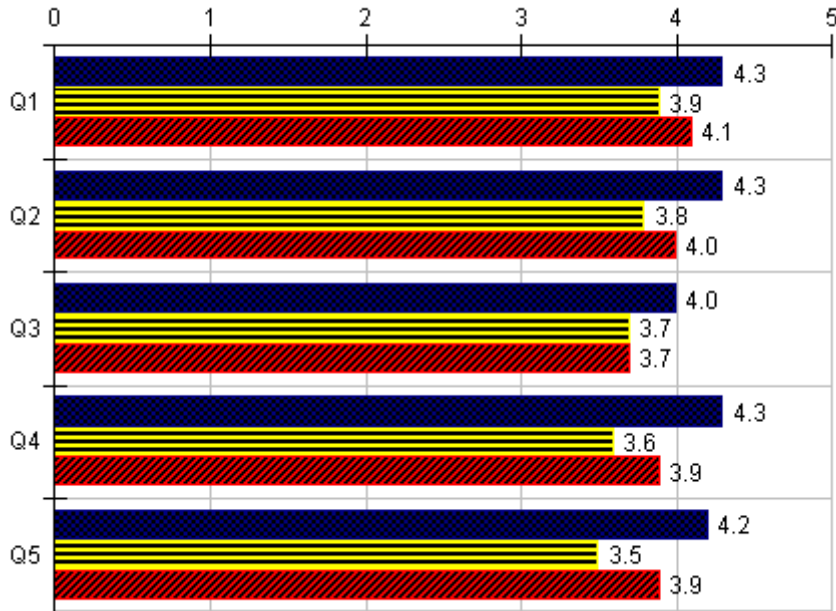
**University at Buffalo**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

**Course:** PHY 107 SEN - GENERAL PHYSICS 1

**Department:** PHY

**Instructor:** Surajit Sen

**Resp. Rec'vd / Expected:** 49 / 125



**Graph Legend**

- PHY 107 SEN
- PHY Courses
- All Courses

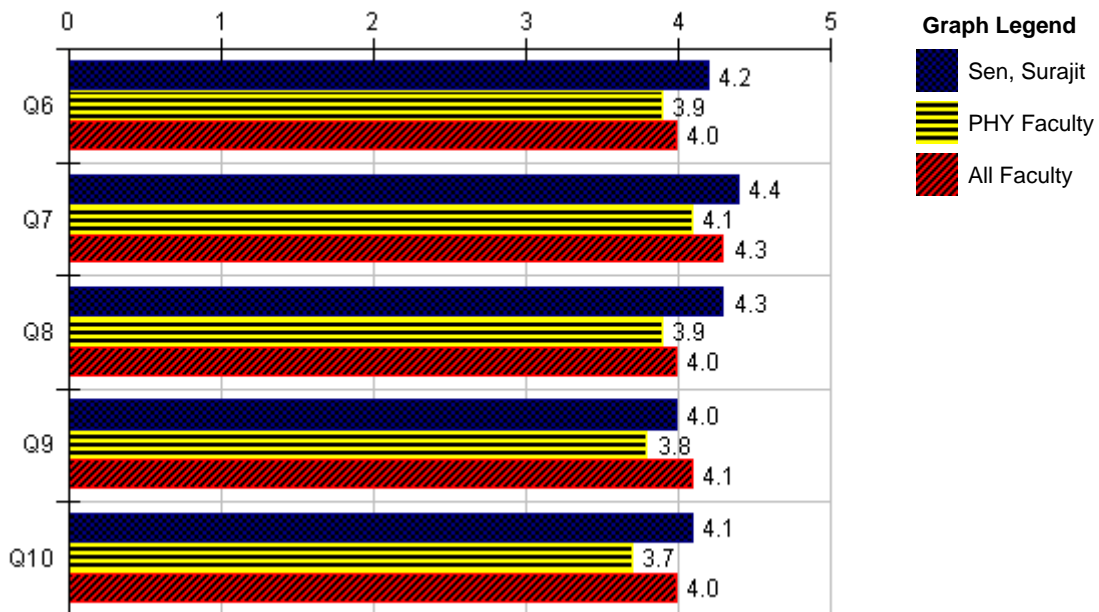
**CAS-UBCATS Course Survey**

- Q1** The syllabus helped me understand the goals and expectations of this course.
- Q2** The various elements of this course combined well in helping me learn (for example, class assignments, texts, readings, laboratory assignments, email, course website, and internet access).
- Q3** The added classroom technology (for example, computers, videos, and slides) helped me learn.
- Q4** This course improved my analytical thinking, creativity, technical skills, or competence.
- Q5** I would recommend this course to other students.

PHY 107 SEN		--- Comparisons ---			
Course	Mean	PHY	All		
N	Mean	Mean	Mean	-/+ <sup>1</sup>	-/+ <sup>1</sup>
45	4.3	3.9	4.1	+	=
45	4.3	3.8	4.0	+	=
44	4.0	3.7	3.7	=	=
45	4.3	3.6	3.9	+	=
49	4.2	3.5	3.9	+	=

Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 117 / 1,381 2,400 / 28,045

<sup>1</sup> This Course compared with others: [- -]=0-10th [-]=10th-25th [=]=25th-75th [+]=75th-90th [+ +]=90th-100th Percentile



**CAS-UBCATS Instructor Survey**

	Sen, Surajit		--- Comparisons ---			
	Individual		PHY		All	
	N	Mean	Mean	-/+ <sup>1</sup>	Mean	-/+ <sup>1</sup>
<b>Q6</b> The instructor provided feedback (for example, exams, papers, and discussions) that was timely, fair, and constructive.	45	4.2	3.9	=	4.0	=
<b>Q7</b> The instructor seemed to enjoy teaching the subject and working with students.	45	4.4	4.1	=	4.3	=
<b>Q8</b> The instructor organized class time well.	45	4.3	3.9	=	4.0	=
<b>Q9</b> The instructor taught at a level that I was prepared for.	44	4.0	3.8	=	4.1	=
<b>Q10</b> I would recommend this instructor to other students.	49	4.1	3.7	=	4.0	=

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 117 / 1,388 2,430 / 28,385

<sup>1</sup> This Individual compared with others: [- -]=0-10th [-]=10th-25th [=]=25th-75th [+]=75th-90th [+ +]=90th-100th Percentile

**Question: Please comment on the elements of the COURSE you found particularly effective.**

**Response Rate: 22.45% (11 of 49)**

- 1 The use of examples posted by the instructor, as a lot of questions in books do not seem to address the method of solving the questions they are asking.
- 2 The course was well planned and the use of the online homework system, Mastering Physics, is a great way to broaden our understanding.
- 3 the textbook is one of the best ive used in any subject
- 4 none
- 5 Dr. Sen is the best college professor I've had.
- 6 Assignments, well organized recitations. Assignments given gave me a lot of practice on problem solving, helped me to understand the theory and how to apply it.
- 7 a must for anyone in the sciences.
- 8 i enjoyed the online hmwk assignments.
- 9 Mastering physics was very helpful in understanding the material. The format took some time to get used to however, getting instantaneous feed back was the most helpful feature of the program.

- 10 The effective elements of this course were the real life examples and the video demonstrations describing the concepts.
- 11 I found the mastering physics particularly effective in learning the course material.

**Question: Please comment on course improvements you would suggest.**

**Response Rate: 16.33% (8 of 49)**

- 1 get rid of the online homework, which has questions which are beyond the level of the class. the online program also causes problems when entering answers, which in turn, misleads the student, and then causes the focus on physics to drift.
- 2 Eliminate the paper homework system and focus on the online assignments, as they are much more useful and informative. The instant feedback and corrections are fantastic tools to explore each assignment topic.
- 3 Classroom time was a waste of time. Too many high level homework assignment questions - played no role in helping prepare for exams. No worked examples in class.
- way, way to fast paced for a physics 1 class.
- 4 The next class should not have to do the mastering physics. All the problems were repetitive and were just plain time confusing.
- 5 Less intensive online preparation required.
- Give more simple assignments that make theoretical foundations clear; then assign complex assignments such that student can apply several of the mastered theoretical foundations. Several assignments took me a lot of time but I have not learned much from them. They were too specific. Forget the slides; write out material on projector or blackboard; that requires more attention from student and in the end, teaches student considerably more than reading slides. Slides are easy and lazy. Mastering Physics is a good idea, but there is an important factor forgotten; it's a 'lazy' approach. Ppl think they can just try typing out solutions. In the end, you learn far more solving a problem on a piece of paper; they are no 'lookups' thus it forces you to study more. I know, its more work for instructor to grade it, but in the end results I'm sure are better (long term results).
- 7 The mastering physics grade should account for a large portion of the grade. I spent on average 3 hours per week doing the problems as a result I believe this should correlate to a large percentage of the final grade.
- 8 slow down the teaching pace

**Faculty: Sen, Surajit**

**Question: Please comment on how effective the INSTRUCTOR was in teaching this course.**

**Response Rate: 40.82% (20 of 49)**

- 1 the instructor is very effective and reasonable, and understands that students need to learn the material before they can basically understand concepts to become proficient in physics. he is very supportive and inspirational to the students (he is not on an ego trip).
- 2 Dr. Sen is an extraordinary professor that I will look for in the future during course registration. I am already looking for his name in the Spring '06 semester beyond. His approach to each topic is passionate and that sparks interest more than just the material alone. He is also one of the most available professors I have ever met, going beyond what I expected of any instructor to provide guidance and assistance.
- 3 He's a great guy and really funny. Does things that gives us breaks when we need it.
- 4 Outstanding teacher!
- 5 Instructor did not help with problem solving at all (in class). going to class became pointless. I learned 95% of the course material from the T.A.'s. In my opinion, this is not acceptable.
- in my opinion the instructor was not effective.
- 6 Professor Sen is an excellent professor and a really good teacher. I enjoyed attending each of his lectures. He really helped me understand the course. It would help though if there was only one form of homework, either mastering physics or written. Two homework's a week was a little hard to manage. Another thing I would like to mention is the difficulty level of the mastering physics. During the first half of the semester each mastering physics homework would take me hours at least. During the second half the difficulty and the size was much more manageable.
- 7 He did a fair job and was able to teach the class in a calm setting without the hurriedness to get the material done. That was it was easy to soak in the material and learn it rather than constantly keep learning new things.
- 8 Very

- This instructor knows how to present material such that students are interested; theoretical and practical aspects covered. The exam approach (2 hour exams) was excellent. This way I did not have to worry about running out of time. The exams verified if concepts were understood - no senseless, killer-exams. MasteringPhysics is OK, but I learned way more doing exercises on the paper; I also learned considerably more in the class (math, chemistry) in which instructor was not using slides, instead wrote material on the board.
- 9
- 10 I liked the instructor a lot! The hw he assigned helped us a lot to perform in the tests and also to get better grade in the class
- 11 Very good at helping students to understand difficult material and made a difficult class enjoyable, also gave out necessary homework to try and make students learn material.
- 12 Always very helpful and available for questions
- 13 funny guy
- 14 he is a good teacher and provides ample examples.  
He only showed on the slides and explained it.
- 15 It would be better if he solve the problem on by one so that we understand. But his exams are easy than his homework.
- 16 The instructor was very effective. Just one comment. I would have liked to see the slides up on UB learns a little quicker so that I could have them to follow along with in class. Sometimes (very few actually) slides were not up till a few minutes before class.
- 17 not give homework over weekends.
- 18 Made the course as interesting as it could have been  
I felt that the use of mastering physics was more of a consumption of time and less effective than the homework examples out of the book. I feel that I would have been able to understand the concepts much easier if mastering physics was used much less, and more problems from the book were assigned. I feel that I would have been able to grasp the concepts in less time if more book problems were assigned. The instructor did make use of working on example problems in the lecture for many of the topics.
- 19
- 20 Dr. Sen was a great teacher. He was always enthusiastic well teaching class and he made the material interesting. He would always find some way to make the lecture funny at times, so the class wouldnt be too boring.