

## 4. Comments:

- <sup>4.1)</sup> Please identify what you perceive to be the real strengths and weaknesses of this instructor and course.
- Clear intent on teaching and understanding. One of the most engaging and considerate classes I've been fortunate to take part in.
  - Dr. G's HC 70A is the best course I have ever taken in my college career. I came into this class The lectures, while lengthy, are full of valuable information taught in a logical, conceptual manner. The discussions, led by a phenomenal team of caring TAs, were based off of intriguing articles relevant to the week's subject matter, and the entire teaching team was always willing to spend time further reviewing material during section. I admire the compassion of the entire teaching team as well as their love of the material, which is clear in the way they instruct. I wish I could take this course again in person.
  - Dr. Goldberg created an environment in which learning was inevitable. He taught in a way that made everyone believe that they could understand the daunting concepts in the class, and in the end, everyone did understand.
  - Dr. Goldberg is clearly very passionate about what he teaches and how he can inspire students to feel the same way about the subject. However, I really struggled with the length of the classes, as it's hard to keep my focus for 2.5 hours during lecture, and even 2 hours during discussions. After a while, I tend to zone out as it's especially difficult to maintain my focus through Zoom learning. Also, I felt it was really hard to take notes during class as the lecture slides are created in a way where the flow of content is not clear, and there are just different pictures and graphs put on slides in a sort of unorganized manner. Also because the teaching is mostly discussion-based where students answer questions, I found it hard to translate those into notes to review later on. I think it is helpful to get students thinking about the questions to encourage more engagement with the material, but I would prefer if the material was delivered in a more typical lecture format sometimes. I understand this approach to learning is more active, but it did not suit my style of learning (personal issue, not so much about the course). Overall, the course material is actually very interesting and definitely encouraged me to think more about biotech and the recent boom of genetic engineering, but I struggled with the scientific concepts and definitely did not feel that this was a course designed for beginners (the last bio class I took was in 9th grade). I

found myself often very lost in class and having to spend extra time on the readings and textbook to only barely understand the basic concepts. Maybe I am just not a science person, but I truly found this to be a difficult course. That being said, Dr. Goldberg and the TAs are very passionate and clearly knowledgeable about the subject, which helped me stay positive and reassured throughout the quarter.

- Dr. Goldberg is one of the most intelligent professors that I have worked with thus far. I enjoyed how passionate he was about all of the topics we discussed, and I appreciate how he wanted to connect with his students to help them learn. However, I found that sometimes when we asked question, he sometimes made us feel unintelligent. This is shown as an introduction course, but it is not treated as such. Many students do not have a biology background, and Dr. Goldberg would sometimes act as if we were dumb for not knowing some of the topics off the top of our head. Also, some of the lectures were information dense, so if there is a way to break down the information that would be very helpful. Overall, very interesting course and a great teacher though.
- Dr. Goldberg loves teaching and loves all this students, it is indisputable fact like gravity or the fact we're made of DNA. His care and love translated so well into class, he spent time making sure each and every student understood lecture material. He encouraged us to seek him out in office hours; in fact, he wanted to see more of us which instructors so rarely do. I wish that everyone got to have a professor like Dr. G, to remember that there are people that truly love teaching and ARE GOOD at teaching. Dr. G was always clear with his presentations and lectures, never tested us on things we didn't learn about. It was clear he spent a lot of time working on them, and they were always updated with the latest information. The only weakness of the course (not the instructor) was that the lectures were really long, and even though the material was always stellar, it was quite hard to concentrate on a screen for nearly 3 hours, 3 days in a row; maybe if the lectures were spaced out a little more throughout the week, it would have been less tiring. And just because Dr. G was kind and encouraging, doesn't mean he never challenged us with hard questions! His oral exams were so new and fun, it really played with my public speaking strength that no other academic class has done before. It gave me new opportunities to learn. If you're reading this Dr. G, thank you so much, I have loved you and your class and will see you in the fall!
- Dr. Goldberg truly just wants his students to learn which is such a great aspect of a professor. He made me engaged and interested and I definitely learned something valuable from him.
- Dr. Goldberg was amazing. This class made me more interested in genetic engineering and genetics, and I am really glad I took this course with Dr. G. Thanks Dr. G for a wonderful quarter!
- Even though this class really tested my knowledge especially through the oral examinations and even gave me a little anxiety, I feel like I learned so much about many aspects of genetic engineering. Questions which test our knowledge and reasoning through designing experiments, considering the ethical issues, etc. really took my critical thinking to the next level. The constant emphasis on LEARNING and COLLABORATION was incredibly beneficial, and made for quite a memorable and productive experience. Even though this is my first year at UCLA, I feel as this class will stand out, and that's a good thing for sure.
- I thought the problem sets were really intense and more guidance on how specific or brief we should be would have been helpful. Other than that I really enjoyed the classes with guest speakers and loved the content we covered throughout the quarter since they built on each other
- Loved the class. Professor Goldberg was so kind and really cared that we learned the material. Although the class was online, everyone in the class participated and were given questions to help expand their understanding. One thing I did not like was that sometimes the class would continue for 2 and a half hours without any breaks. It was hard to stay focused for that amount of time. I really liked having the oral midterm and exam. It was uncomfortable in the moment but helped prepare me for future interview + oral presentations. Like getting asked questions on the spot. It was helpful to learn when to help fellow students in their answers and how to articulate an answer succinctly.
- Passionate, friendly instructor. Awesome class with very interesting information and effective format. The only course critique would be that with little to no bio background, a lot of the content can be quite

daunting and overwhelming, especially when combined with lengthy lectures (even though they are very very interesting). Really appreciated the collaborative nature of the course, which allowed me to actually learn the material and better understand it, and definitely helped with the difficulty as well. Overall, challenging but exciting course!

- Personally felt lectures were long and could have been shorter. The workload was also somewhat heavy.
- Professor Goldberg is a fantastic guy but absolutely terrifying lecturer when he's asking questions about the quizzes and you forget things. It takes a few weeks to get over it especially when you're used to watching lectures at 2am for your other classes but you get over it quick enough. Maybe just maybe dial it back a little when doing lecture after a quiz, otherwise fantastic course, taught by a very organized, very personal professor. Professors who care like Professor Goldberg are rare and must be treasured. I hope he gets to see this, because aside from being terrified every so often, I loved the course and hope that his back feels better.
- Professor Goldberg was always concerned with students comprehending the course! The material is dense and difficult for a non-life sciences major, but with time spent reading and listening to the lectures it was possible to finish.
- Professor Goldberg's greatest strength is his love for his students and profession and this was obvious in the way he taught us. He gave us every opportunity to do well and succeed and his greatest worry was whether we learned the material or not. I loved having Professor Goldberg and will miss him!
- Strengths: Professor Goldberg cares immensely about his students, and it shows in everything that he does. He has made this course a learning EXPERIENCE, rather than just a simple course. Every assignment given is intentional and with the sole purpose of learning, rather than an emphasis on the grade. I have expanded my awareness of science literature as a result and have a newfound confidence in understanding complex topics within the fields of genetics as a non-biology major.

Weaknesses: Professor Goldberg is truly one of the best professors at UCLA; my only comment is that he is sometimes passive aggressive towards students as a result of caring so immensely. That being said, its been a pleasure to learn from him and I have nothing but gratitude and kind words for him

- Thank you so much, you are truly an amazing professor!
- The course has definitely required a lot of constant effort with weekly quizzes and readings, but I feel like I have never learned so much in a class. I love the design of the class because the open-note quizzes are relatively low stress but designed so difficultly that you have to really understand the material to complete them well.  
The one thing I didn't like about the course was that the lectures are too long to maintain strong attention, and often the Professor and assistants forget about giving us breaks - so it's hard for students to be focused.

Dr. G is one of the best professors I have encountered at UCLA.

He is very knowledgeable about genetic engineering, and it's such a cool opportunity to get to learn from someone who has such extensive experience in the field itself. He also brought in so many notable guest speakers, all of which were very enjoyable lectures.

Dr. G is very concerned about student learning and is willing to use his own methods, that are often outside of the norm / not used in most classrooms, to help students learn best.

- The design of this course is incredible
- The instructor is clearly very passionate about the course material and that makes it a very engaging class. I really enjoyed his teaching style and feel like it allowed me to retain the information much better than I normally do. I can't really think of any weaknesses.
- The lectures were too long- class was supposed to be 3:30 until 5:50 but the Professor ended at 6:00 every time, and sometimes didn't give us a break in the middle, so it was often hard to pay close

attention for all 2.5 hours twice a week. But the lectures were really well prepared and made sense and I felt like I learned a lot from the course.

- This class was definitely one of the best I've taken at UCLA. It's funny that it was probably my most challenging class this quarter in terms of new content but there was no concern about getting a good grade because Dr. G is focused on facilitating learning rather than fostering competition/stress. Also, the discussions were great— they were scary sometimes but did a great job helping me absorb the subject matter. Clearly, everyone working on this class cares deeply about the material and the students which was so nice and validating, especially during covid.
- This instructor is incredibly rude, and it makes for a terrible and hostile learning environment. I, and many other students, enjoyed the material but despised going to the class. Never have I seen an instructor interrupt their students this much, and speak to them so condescendingly when they answer a question wrong. Dr. Goldberg would ask a question, and interrupt the student he called on within two seconds if their answer did not start with the exact word he was expecting. What he says when he interrupts you is so rude, that I've had to turn off my camera while I cried. The world will continue to turn if Dr. Goldberg simply lets you finish your thought before interrupting you. Oftentimes, students are often saying the RIGHT answer. He just interrupts you too soon to understand that.

In addition, Dr. Goldberg could do with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion class. He has no idea how to create safe spaces for his students of color or for non-males. He thinks throwing out a few buzzwords about how slavery is bad does the trick, but it doesn't. His implicit biases are too clear.

Finally, there is absolutely no reason on Earth this class should be 5 hours a week. Two 50 minute sessions are enough. The movies shown every Thursday are useless. Skip that session entirely. After that, Dr. G's lectures should be 50 minutes. Skip all the stories and lecture to get the material across CONCISELY.

- This is a class that is incredibly dense, with very complex processes, and a high learning curve, but Dr. Goldberg is a master at his profession as a genetic engineer and is an incredible teacher, able to make this class the most learned from course I've taken at UCLA thus far, even with the massive drawback of online learning. Dr. Goldberg and his amazing teaching assistants are definitely a shining gem of UCLA and the entire MCDB department.
- This is a great class! I just enrolled in it by chance, but I think it will be one of the best classes I take at UCLA.  
I think the best part of this class is the guest lecturers, they add a lot and make the class very interesting.  
The one thing I don't like about this class is how long it is. Even with an interesting subject and a great professor, 2 and a half hours is just a bit too long to stay focused. I think 2.5 hour thursday lectures with media/guests are fine, but I would have been happier if the tuesday lectures were shaved down a bit.
- This is by far the best class I have taken at UCLA and I would recommend it to students of all majors. While I was a little intimidated when Dr. G called me out to answer a question, he was very helpful walking students through the correct answers. This was a unique, but beneficial learning experience. I learned so much in this class and it helped give me a better idea of what I want to do in my future career. Dr. G was very supportive throughout the quarter and cared so much about each student's learning. I am grateful for his unique teaching method and glad I got to take a class with him. I wish he taught other classes.
- This is the best class I have ever taken! Everything about it was amazing and I truly appreciate Dr. Goldberg and the fact that he wants to teach this amazing class. I have never felt more open and safe in a class before! Every part of the class was well thought out and I never felt like I was behind or I couldn't ask for help even if I did fall behind. He was truly one of the best teachers I have ever met and made me fall in love with the subject. I hope other kids will be able to take this class because this was one of the best classes with the best teacher and TAs.
- This was my favorite course I have taken so far at UCLA. The instructor is very engaging and friendly.

He always voices how much he cares about us students and is so passionate about the material. The guest lectures have been a highlight and inspire me to pursue this field. The class has a perfect balance of science and ethics, and is not a biased view of material. The group assignments have taken a lot of stress away and allowed me to dive into material, fully understand material, and become passionate about learning more. Every time I learn something new in this class, I'm so excited to run and tell my family (also in the science field) all about it. Thank you so much for continuing to teach an amazing class despite the circumstances and technical issues.

- Without a doubt, one of the best classes I have ever taken in my life. Dr. Goldberg was absolutely amazing. I just wish more classes could be like this.
- it may be helpful break the lectures down to more time a week but for less hours, it was sometimes hard to stay engaged for 2.5 hours. Overall, I loved the professor! his passion and knowledge was very visible and rubbed off on all the students