

Hi everyone,

Thanks for your thoughts last week. I find in this group the greatest diversity ever in interests and different expressions of what you value in the class. I list below all the statements along with a few responses in italics purple.

Thanks

Pete

Hi Pete!

I find your class really interesting in content and it's a nice break from my other classes that are really homework intensive. My life is hectic with midterms right now so getting to take a break and read for a bit is a nice way to mix up the heavy work load. Also, your energy makes coming to class a lot more enjoyable and I like hearing from guest speakers.

I am excited for our project. However, I am nervous about the actual implementation as I want to meet expectations. Therefore, I feel as though there is a lot more pressure to complete certain tasks that are quite daunting given our current skillsets. I know we have the passion and drive because we want to help and make a difference but I am feeling very pressured.

This class is cooler than I think since we are making our own prototypes and test them to see whether it works or not. This class has increased my ability to make stuff by myself (our group).

I really enjoy the guest speakers. I hope we are able to have one each week.

I am excited for our group project, although I know it's going to be tricky and frustrating. But as a professor once told me if you aren't frustrated then you aren't designing.

I'm a little confused on the schedule of the course. I think Polylearn is an easier software to follow. The website seems a little cluttered and I sort of have to dig around to find what I need to know. The frequent changes in location of class/lab is a little challenging, mostly because I have other classes right before and after this class. Assignments could be clearer. I'm also balancing a job with all of this so I can be a little stressed with project progress. I would prefer our group presentations stay brief.

I feel the class is going well.

I enjoy working with the solar panel & cooker!

I am loving this class so far!

I love my group & I am learning so much – by doing! As a POLS major, I don't do much hands-on classwork, so this has been great. I am learning about things (like diodes, soldering, etc.) that I really didn't even know existed. I also feel so excited to be doing such meaningful work. Thank you!

I'm feeling good about our project because we have a plan to start an experiment & talk w/ our contacts.

I was a little overwhelmed with our project mainly because we didn't really know where to start. However, now we understand the project better and we're making progress.

I think the class rocks, but I am kind of worried about how I'll do. I'm crazy stressed about my startup business this quarter and not putting in the effort that I think it deserves.
Thanks Pete!

I've never taken a class quite like this so I'm just going with the flow. The only thing I have questions about is how the grading is going to end up because we have only had one assignment so far.

I feel like this class has a lot of miscommunicating. The lab leaving & the teaching not meeting at the library before SEF to name two. Nevertheless I'll try my best to get an A.
P.S. This class is a little stressful.

- I like how the quiz was (seemed fair)
- I wish you used Polylearn => other website is confusing
- A better class schedule/timeline So due dates are clear.
- Extra Credit Please! 😊

I am really enjoying this class. The reading is doable and interesting. My group is great too and we're proud of our progress. It's interesting to also compare the knowledge from this class to that in ES351.

"Great Class!" written on an advertisement card for The Resilience Project... a student-driven research project about how people experience adversity, and how they maintain or regain physical and emotional wellbeing! See politicalscience.calpoly.edu/resiliency

I really like my group & our project. I think we are on the right track! Sometimes the readings are really long & I feel overwhelmed.

I have really enjoyed this class – it is a welcome break from the traditional college material. I'm excited about the project that I'm working on and really can't complain.

I'm enjoying the class because I'm learning to be more confident in terms of public speaking, expressing my ideas, and inspiring me to think of cheap, scalable and impactful ideas I could pursue as I grow.

I like the lecture more than the lab. The lab is too unstructured. Wish we used Polylearn.

Overall, I really like this class. The lack of structure was difficult to get comfortable with in the beginning, but now it's alright. I don't think I've ever been respected so much as a student / person from a professor other than Pete.

Seems like there is no lecture. Would be great to hear about appropriate technology.

Class is fun and entertaining. It is a good balance of work and discussion.

I just want to start out by saying this exercise you are having us do to write down what is on our mind is very thoughtful and I think every class should do this. That being said I think this is my favorite class I have taken at Cal Poly. I like the loose structure and the fact that you put the responsibility in our hands and leave it up to us to do our work and create our project. From just taking this I have almost reconsidered changing my major to be something more meaningful. I am a business major currently and although I have good intentions to better the earth and help those in need, I don't know if learning about business is the most effective use of my time.

Hey, thanks so much for this thought. I think it's great if you change your major to find something more meaningful. However, I don't think it's necessary to change your major in order to find a future that is more meaningful. Sustainability is too broad and universally important to exclude any field. I mean... I'm a physicist. When I switched into sustainability studies from nanotechnology some people thought I was nuts... or just said, "yes, you can make better solar panels." My mom said, "Pete you're a physicist, you were born a physicist." I responded that I'd use physics as my tool to contribute to the new field... probably the best decision I've ever made. Full disclosure: I used to think business people were evil... just trying to make money. Then, I spent a year at Berkeley in 2006 – 2007 as I switched fields. I worked closely with ERG (Energy and Resources Group). But they closely collaborated with the Goldman School of Public Policy, The Boalt School of Law, and the Haas School of Business. Through interacting with these students I came to understand the need to make the business of global sustainability work and that any effort couldn't make sense if it didn't also make dollars and cents. So, certainly change your major if you wish. However, changing your major isn't necessary. We all bring different tools to the game and we need the diversity of skills.

I wish there was more structure in the class. Most of the time everyone seems confused on what's going on.

School is stressful & getting ready for graduation has been harder than I thought. I'm mad at Cal Poly for only given 7 grad tickets / person.

A little stressed because I'm in 20 units, but am enjoying the class so far!

Thank you Pete for being such a great resource!

I like the class but it feels very unstructured at times which is hard when I have so much other work to do. It is hard to know what deadlines are coming up and how to do really well in this class and with our projects.

Nothing is wrong. I enjoy working on my project.

I've enjoyed Pete's class, it's been an adventure so far and I'm having fun. I think this is a great opportunity to learn something that I can apply to my life. After collecting trash for a week I am astonished by the waste I create from using paper towels while on campus. I think because of this class I have a greater appreciation for resources I take for granted. And I see problems with the way in which we consume. I am motivated to think of solutions. I want to be motivated and empowered enough to create real, visible change.

I really love the class – lab time is the most fun because it's the most hands on and I'm really excited about the ISEC project! The readings are interesting my favorite ones are sustainable technological innovations like the USAID awards one.

Class is going great & I am enjoying it.

Group project is going well & lots of fun.

Maybe we could see previous class examples & see how they helped the community?

Super. You have access to all previous classes via a link at the top of the main class website.

I'm really enjoying this class, but it is a lot on top of all the other responsibilities I have going on. I feel like this quarter is going too fast and there's no time to catch my breath.

I'm really enjoying the format of this class because it feels like self-directed learning. I think this is the best way to teach because students are self-motivated to learn more than required.

This is a super interesting & meaningful class to me. I like the way it is right now. There is a lot of reading but manageable. I just think that this class could be more organized (have deadlines on website).

I think there are many different topics in this class which is interesting to see. I like to see most of the topics. However, there are a lot to take in. I wish we can discuss a bit more regarding the readings and the significance of a product and how it is appropriate to the target area. Also, it would be helpful to have some time to work with group members.

But in general, I really like my project and wish I can focus it more.

I feel like I was pretty lost in this class at the beginning of the quarter without a sense of direction. After this week's lab, I finally feel like my groups project is making sense to me + we have found our groove.

I am excited to begin actually building my team's project.

In the beginning of class I felt confused by the timeline/website, but have figured it out now!

- Lack of clarity on assignments => prefer PolyLearn integration
- Upset we haven't talked about Ethics, Racism, Colonialism, + duty of care for projects being sent abroad.
- Identifiable learning outcomes.

These are very good feedback, thanks. I'll save the middle one last. I've never had so many students request that I use PolyLearn. When I set up the class, PolyLearn was far too difficult to manage. I will try to look into it now to see if I can make it work. This may not happen for this quarter. In my physics classes, there are identifiable outcomes because I know what it means to be proficient at physics. I'm not sure about global sustainability. I also don't trust anyone who claims they do. For example, look at the world bank. It's not clear if their participation in "development" has been beneficial to the world's vulnerable. I'm sure I know far more about this field than when I started the class in 2006. However, in 2006, I thought I knew more about the field than I think I know now. We as a society are struggling to figure sustainability out. I don't trust our structured, modular way of organizing knowledge and the hierarchical education pedagogy to serve us well. No, I think I don't have identifiable learning outcomes for you. You will have to find the meaning in the class that you can, and identify what you've learned to the rest of us.

Ethics: This is the "design and build" appropriate technology class. In the fall, we have 391 dedicated to identification of "development models". However, in my opinion, ethics should be a central focus of every class we take, as I think it is for our 392 class as well. However, we can bring more explicit attention to the subjects you bring up. I'll bring this up for discussion in class Wednesday.

My life is going great. With graduation right around the corner, I can't wait to start the next chapter of my life. The job search has been rough, but I know I will find a company/position that I am happy with.

This class has been exciting so far. The readings are interesting and the lectures are collaborative and open to discussion. I hope the group projects turn out well.

I was hesitant about this class and initially was going to drop it due to the late lab, but I really love my project. I feel like this class makes me think extremely different, especially culturally. Although the interventions seem random, it is extremely life changing. Intervention 1 made me a recycling and compost pro! I am now taking zero waste measures.

Feeling broke and burnt out because of the last quarter's full load. Excited to get hands on and build a project from scratch. I am a bit worried about my job prospects after graduation but I know everything will work out fine.

The website's format is still confusing to me. A more clear "this is due today" section would be helpful.