The 559 Survey

I really want to make 559 as good an experience for everyone as possible. I get very little feedback during the semester on how to improve things (and often its too late to make major changes). So unfortunately your comments will mainly help future students.

The standard evaluation form doesn’t ask specific enough questions to be really helpful for me in terms of improving the class. (although, there have been suggestions in the past that have been incorporated).

Please do the standard evaluation form, especially the numerical part, in addition to this form. The standard evaluation form must be turned in the same day as everyone elses, but you can turn this form any time. (preferably before the final exam)

To help keep things anonymous, please put your survey into an envelope. Bring the envelope to the final exam (or hand it in with your “regular” eval form).

I (the instructor) promise to:
   1. Not open the envelopes until after grades are turned in. The TAs might open the envelopes after the exam is graded so they can tally the numerical scores before they leave for the holidays.
   2. Not try to violate anonymity (I won’t try to figure out who wrote what).
   3. Read every evaluation carefully, and try to learn from it.

Most of the questions are to be answered on a 1-5 scale, but feel free to leave additional comments. (Numeric scores are useful for understanding the statistical trends, while your comments often have specific helpful ideas. Also, people tend to leave essay answers blank).

If there are things other than the questions that you want to comment on, please do (use additional paper if need be).

I really do appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on the class.

Thanks,

Mike Gleicher
It is useful for us to correlate your answers to this survey to the answers to the official evaluation. (normally this is easy since they are on the same page)

Did you fill out the official evaluation?  < > Yes  < > No

What were your responses to the following questions (if you didn’t fill out the official evaluation, answer what you would have filled out):

1. Usefulness of the instructors presentations  1  2  3  4  5
   < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

2. Instructor’s command of material  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

3. Instructor’s responsiveness to questions  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

4. Instructor’s enthusiasm  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

7. Would you recommend the course?  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

8. Would you recommend the instructor?  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Some statistics that are useful for us (note if you feel that answering these questions would violate anonymity, you don’t have to answer):

Before taking this class, how much C++ programming had you done:
1 = NONE
2 = very little  1  2  3  4  5
5 = I was already a pro  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Before taking this class, how many other upper level CS classes have you taken.
(if you’re an undergrad, this means 500 or above, if you’re a grad student count classes that you’ve taken elsewhere)  0  1 or 2  3 or more
< >  < >  < >

Comparisons with other Computer Science classes:

The MATERIAL in 559 was:  1 (less interesting)  5 (more interesting)
(compared to other CS classes)  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

The class itself (overall) was:  1 (less interesting)  5 (more interesting)
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >

The amount of work in this class was:  1 (less than other CS classes)  5 (more than other classes)
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Conceptually, this class was:
(this is about the material)  1 (easier that other CS classes)  5 (harder than others)
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >

What was your favorite CS class (so far) – 559 is a possible answer:

What could we learn from your other CS classes to improve 559?
**Lectures:**

How often did you come to class:  
5 - Almost always (unless I was sick or traveling or something):  
1 - Almost never (it was lucky you came today)

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Would you have preferred a MWF 3*50 minute class (rather than 2 * 75 minutes)?

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<th>5 – Yes</th>
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Would you have preferred that we used Powerpoint presentations rather than chalkboard?

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<tr>
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<th>5 – Yes – I prefer PowerPoint lectures</th>
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How useful were the lectures in helping you learn the material?

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<tr>
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<th>5 – very good</th>
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On average, how interesting were the lectures?

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<th>5 – interesting</th>
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If we had more “help sessions,” would you have come?

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<th>3</th>
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What topics should we have help sessions about?

What could we have done to make the lectures more useful to you?

What could we have done to make the lectures more interesting?

What could we have done to encourage more interaction in the class?

General Comments on the lectures:

**TAs:**

How often did you go to the TAs office hours?

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<th>0 – never</th>
<th>1-2 times</th>
<th>3 or more times</th>
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How helpful were they?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 – not useful</th>
<th>3 – ok</th>
<th>5 – very helpful</th>
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Other comments about the TAs:
The Textbook (The Shirley et. Al. Green “Tiger” Book)

Overall, what did you think: 1 – Terrible 3 – Average 5 – Great
(for a CS textbook)
< > < > < > < > < >

How often did you do the readings? 1 – Never 3 – Usually 5 – Always
< > < > < > < > < >

How often did you do the readings: 1 – Never 3 – Usually 5 – Always
< > < > < > < > < >

Before the lecture: < > < > < > < > < >

After the lecture: < > < > < > < > < >

For an exam, homework or project < > < > < > < > < >

Did you find the book helpful in learning the material?
1 – No 5-extremely valuable
< > < > < > < > < >

Was the book easy to understand? 1 – No 5-Very understandable
< > < > < > < > < >

Was the book too theoretical? 1 – No – a good mix 5-Yes – Way too theoretical
< > < > < > < > < >

If there was an optional second text that provided more depth, or more detailed explanations, would you have consulted it? 1 – No 3 – Sometimes 5 – Yes, I would have bought it
< > < > < > < > < >

Do you have any comments on the book itself?

Do you have any comments on the role of the book in the class?

The secondary text (OpenGL Red Book)

Did you: < > Buy a copy < > Read it online < > not use it at all

Would you encourage future students to buy a copy?
1 – No, it’s a waste of money 5 – Yes, everyone should have it
< > < > < > < > < >

How valuable was reading it as a text to learn the graphics concepts?
1 – Terrible 3 – OK 5 – Great
< > < > < > < > < >

How valuable was it to use as a reference for OpenGL programming?
1 – Terrible 3 – OK 5 – Great
< > < > < > < > < >

Other comments on the Red book or its use in class?
Class Website

Overall, how was the class website?

1 – Terrible  3 – OK  5 – Great

Comments on its structure? (how easy was it to find things that you needed, …)

Did you look at the sample code / tutorials?

1 – Never  5 - Often

How useful were the tutorials and sample code?

1 – Not helpful  5 – Very helpful

Comments on the tutorials and sample code?

This semester, there were very few additional readings on the website. Would you have liked more?

1 – No, I don’t want more to read  5 – Yes

This semester, there were very few online demonstrations given on the website (there were a few about convolution and color theory at the beginning). Because of the visual nature of graphics, online demonstrations can be a good way to learn things.

Would you have found more online exercises valuable?

1 – Unlikely  5 – Yes

What materials could we have made available to students in the class (via the web) that would have been helpful?

How could we have improved the class website and web materials?

How do the website and class materials for this class compare with other CS classes?
**Programming Environment:**

Would you have preferred to have this class use Java?
(even if C++ was hard for you, you might have liked the opportunity to learn C++)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wouldn’t have mattered</td>
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<tr>
<td>No – I was happier it used C++</td>
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Would this class have been easier for you if this class was in Java?
(this is a different question – maybe)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No, Java wouldn’t be easier</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes – doing the projects/assignments in C++ was a pain</td>
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If we allowed you to use any programming language/environment you wanted for this class, what would you have chosen?

**Programming Assignments:**

As you probably recall, we had a number of programming assignments in the class to give you practice with the mechanics of using the tools before you had to do projects.

Did you find the programming assignments helpful?

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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes – I’m glad I got the mechanics ironed out before the projects</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No – it just seemed like busiwork</td>
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How useful was the sample code for learning how to do the basic machinery of the assignments?

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very useful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretty useful – it helped me</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not useful – it was easier to figure stuff out myself</td>
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What could we have done to make the programming assignments more useful?

How can we make it easier for people to learn the mechanics (like user interfaces and image I/O) required to do projects?

**Written Assignments**

Did the written assignments help you understand the topics (or help you realize that you needed to learn more to really understand the topics)?

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<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No, they were pointless busywork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes, they were helpful</td>
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Comments on the written assignments?
Working with a partner

If we had allowed you to work with a partner on the programming assignments and first two projects, would you have?
1 – definitely no  
5 – definitely yes

If we required you to work with a partner on the projects, would you have preferred it?
1 – definitely no  
5 – definitely yes

Comments on collaboration in this class?

Projects

Do you prefer many small projects, or a few big projects?
1 – many small projects  
5 – a few big projects

Do you prefer:
1 – projects that specify exactly what must be done 
5 – open ended projects that you define yourself
(note: in my mind, Project 1 was “2” on this scale, and Project 3 was “4” on the scale).

Do you prefer:
1 – projects where you start from scratch 
5 – projects where you extend example code
(there is clearly a tradeoff. Usually working with example code means your final result is more interesting since you didn’t have to spend time with basic stuff.)

For fairness, we typically require all students to do the same project. However, in the future we might give students a choice. For example, providing a completely specified projects or an open ended choice. What do you think of this?

Any general comments on the types of projects we give in class?
The Specific Projects from this class

For Project 1 (Image Processing), did you:
Enjoy doing the project?     1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Feel like it helped you learn the concepts?    1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Think it did a good job of accessing your skills?   1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Thought it was clearly specified and fair?    1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
What was good about the project that we shouldn’t change?

What was bad about the project that we should change for next year?

For Project 2 (Roller Coaster and Curves), did you:
Enjoy doing the project?     1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Feel like it helped you learn the concepts?    1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Think it did a good job of accessing your skills?   1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Thought it was clearly specified and fair?    1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
What was good about the project that we shouldn’t change?

What was bad about the project that we should change for next year?

For Project 3 (Graphics Town), did you:
Enjoy doing the project?     1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Feel like it helped you learn the concepts?    1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Think it did a good job of accessing your skills?   1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
Thought it was clearly specified and fair?    1- No    5- Yes
< > < > < > < > < >
What was good about the project that we shouldn’t change?

What was bad about the project that we should change for next year?

Any other thoughts on what we should do for class projects in 559?
# Class Topics

For each of the topics in the class, I am curious how interesting you though the topic was, how important you thought the topic was, how well you thought the topic was presented, and how much time you think we should devote to the topic in class. The answers to these questions are somewhat independent (an uninteresting topic might be really important, ...). To save space, these are only 3 point scales.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Interesting 1-Boring</th>
<th>3-Interesting</th>
<th>Important 1-Useless</th>
<th>3 - Important</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Vision:</td>
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<td>Human Vision:</td>
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<td>Sampling</td>
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<td>Raster Algs.</td>
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<td>Transformations</td>
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<td>Viewing, Hidden Surfaces</td>
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<td>View, Hidden</td>
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<td>Subdivision Surfaces</td>
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Well covered: how well do you think the topic is covered in the class.

How much time: would you have preferred we spent more or less time on the topic than we did this year.

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<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>How well covered by class 1-badly</th>
<th>3-well</th>
<th>How much time should we spend 1-less time</th>
<th>3 – more time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human Vision:</td>
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Would you have preferred: 1 2 3 4 5

1 – Fewer topics in more depth
3 – Class was just about right
5 – More topics in less depth

What was your favorite topic in the class?
General Questions

Do you think you learned a lot in this class?  1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Did you enjoy this class?    1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

On average, was the pace of this class  1 – Too slow 3-just right 5 – Too fast
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Do you think this class gave you a good background in the foundations of computer graphics?  
1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Do you think the topics in this class were conceptually hard?  
1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Did you have a sufficient mathematical background for this class?  
1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

Did this class make you interested in learning more about computer graphics?  
1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

This class was a lot of work, but hopefully, you learned a lot from it.  
Was the effort you put into this class worth it?  
1 – No    5 - Yes
< >  < >  < >  < >  < >  < >

What should we keep about this class? (e.g. what is good and should not be changed)

What should we change about this class?

What was good about the professor’s teaching?

How could the professor improve his teaching?

Any other comments.