

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

6.033—Computer System Engineering

Handout 42—May 23, 2002

Feedback Opportunity

Since 6.033 has a number of unusual features, we traditionally ask for some additional feedback, beyond that acquired for the course 6 *Underground Guide*. Here is your opportunity to influence how the subject is taught to future generations. Don't be bashful; we listen to every comment, and over the years, many changes in 6.033 have come directly from suggestions made here.

Circle your recitation instructor:

Amarasinghe Balakrishnan Ernst Kaashoek Morris Saltzer Teller Witchel

and your teaching assistant:

Bhattacharyya Bauer Chambers Freedman Gnawali Salz Vandiver Yip

The readings: If you particularly recall one or two papers that we should definitely delete from the reading list, which were they, and why?

If you particularly recall one or two papers that future students should not miss, which were they, and why?

Class notes: How useful were the chapters by Saltzer and Kaashoek? (Use a scale of 5 = essential, 1 = worthless) _____

Which chapters need the most work to make them more useful?

How helpful were the practice problems and solutions in studying for the quizzes? (Use a scale of 5 = essential, 1 = worthless) _____

There are some ideas that were not mentioned in lecture or in the class notes, but explored only in those practice questions. Did you discover any of them, and if so, did you find that was an effective way to learn about those ideas?

The lectures and recitations: On some topics the lectures followed closely the style and organization of the class notes, while on other topics they instead pursued only selected points, sometimes from different perspectives. Which style did you find more useful?

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The quizzes: Was coverage appropriate? Impossible to study for? Questions unfair or not on the material covered? Too long or too trivial?

The design projects: One was solo, one was a team effort. Were they useful? Too hard? Too vague? How could we improve them?

What did you think of the in-class presentations for design project 2? How would you change them?

The weekly assignments: Did you find the one-pagers useful in getting you to read the papers? Did you learn anything from your TA's grading?

Did you find the hands-on assignments useful? Which, if any, of the hands-on assignments should we dump; which, if any, improved your insight and understanding?

Did you find the tutorials useful? Should they be longer? Shorter? More often? Should they be optional?

Time spent on 6.033: Estimate the time you spent on readings and one-pagers _____hr/week; reading chapters _____hr/week; hands-on assignments _____hr/week; design project 1 _____hours; design project 2 _____hours. Rate the total 6.033 workload on a scale of 5 (drastically too high), 3 (about right), 1 (absurdly low): _____

The teaching Staff: How effective were they? Did they meet your expectations? Use a scale of {10 = great, ..., 1 = awful}.

regular lecturer (Kaashoek) _____

regular lecturer (Morris) _____

guest lecturers (Ernst., Saltzer) _____

recitation instructor _____

teaching assistant _____

Teaching style: Different instructors have different styles. What did you like most about your instructor's style? What did you like least?

The bottom line: Did you learn anything in 6.033? {10 = a whole lot, ..., 1 = very little} _____

Other comments: what can we do to improve 6.033?

To protect against potential conflicts, we will not read your feedback until after the final grade meeting. If you would like more time to think about it, feel free to take this handout home and mail it to Prof. Kaashoek, M.I.T. room NE43-522 (or email your comments to kaashoek@mit.edu).