

**California Institute of Technology
Department of Computer Science
Computer Architecture**

CS184a, Fall 2000

Feedback Questionnaire

Wednesday, November 29

Please, answer the following questions to provide me with feedback about the course so I can figure out how to tune it in the future.

Return the questionnaire at the end of class or to Cynthia Brady (256 JRG) [today if at all possible]. Questionnaire's will be treated as anonymous submissions. I will ask Cynthia to hold them for me until after I've assigned grades.

Questions start next page.

[Syllabus attached for reference.]

1. For those that dropped:
 - What background were you missing?
 - Where did you get lost?
 - Any ideas what it would have taken for this class to have worked for you? (*e.g.* larger critical mass of students taking it simultaneously? accessible TA? — I've heard a few hypotheses, but don't suspect I've heard them all; and everything I have now is very anecdotal.)

2. What pre-requisites would you recommend for students in the future?
 - exist at Caltech?
 - course(s) needed to impedance match with Caltech curriculum?

3. Overlap – does this class material overlap with other classes at Caltech? What and how?

4. Coherence and structure of course – Obviously, I thought this was a very logical and structured approach to the material. How well did it come together for you? (1="you're kidding, right? I thought it was a scattered set of unrelated topics.", 10="yes, I can see we're just a few steps away from a scientific, principled approach to machine organization.")
What didn't come together for you?

5. Pace of class – material covered in this 10 week term should have been covered in how many weeks?

6. Detail/Depth Coverage in Lecture: (1=Too Superficial, 5=Just Right, 10=Too Detailed)

7. Lecture Conveyed Intuition: (1=Didn't get any, 5=Right on, 10=It was all obvious to begin with, wasted too much time on)

8. Breadth of Topics: (1=Too few, 5=Just Right, 10=Too many)

9. Best Lecture(s):
(any comments on why appreciated)

10. Worst Lecture(s):
(any comments on why appreciated)

11. Assignments: I know the assignments need to be engineered better. I'd like to get a bit more precision on where things were.

Assignment	Value	Hours	% grunge	comment
logic				
arith				
ucode				
instr				
compute				
wiring				
interconnect				
retime				

(value: 1=I just did this for the grade, 10=It really brought home the key points being made in the class)

12. Reading Quantity: (1=Entirely Inadequate, 5=Just Right, 10=Way Too Much)
13. Reading Level of Difficulty: (1=Too Trivial, 5=Just Right, 10=Too Technical, or assumes too much)
14. Worst aspect of course (needs improving most)?
15. In general, what needs improving?
16. General Comments: