

Update your question

Current question: Did Sophia Chabysheva (and possibly John Hiller) openly discuss her views on how and what was being taught in Phys 3033, during Fall 2015 itself (i.e., while the class was in session)? If so, can you elaborate on what she (or they) said? And, how frequently did she (or they) do so?



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There was one instance where Dr. Chabysheva described Yi-Zen's Phys 3033 course as an 8000 level course and told us the material we were covering would be what one would see in a mathematical/theoretical physics PhD program. Otherwise there were several times throughout the semester where she would ask if we've covered a specific topic because it would come up in the classical mechanics course (for instance finding eigenvectors) but in this context it seemed appropriate to me. Other than those times I can't recall Dr. Chabysheva discussing Phys 3033.

I also had a conversation with Dr. Hiller (initiated by me) about the course because I was curious about the scope Phys 3033 when he taught it. He expressed an opinion on Yi-Zen's course being too difficult and didn't want it to be taught like that.

I hope this can help and if anything is unclear I will answer followup questions.

18 Apr 2016, 06:44 for **Did Sophia Chab...** Make public Reply to sender

There was at least one day in the Fall 2015 PHYS4001 class in which Dr. Chabysheva openly discussed her views to the class on how and what was being taught in Phys3033 during Fall 2015. While I do not recollect exactly what was stated to the class, the substance of it was a few minute criticism of the difficulty of the PHYS3033 course and the failure of the course to cover the material needed for the PHYS4001, PHYS4011, and PHYS4021 courses. While not stated to the PHYS4001 class as a whole I did hear Dr. Chabysheva make other comments to myself and other classmates about the difficulty and the content of the PHYS3033 Fall 2015 course. I do not wish to overstate the frequency of such comments, but I am confident I heard Dr. Chabysheva make comments such as: "This problem should be nothing compared to what you are doing in Dr. Chu's course", "Or that material should be for an 8000 level PhD course", on at least a few occasions. I myself did not personally speak with Dr. Hiller during this semester, but I did speak with two other students in the PHYS3033 course who spoke with him and reported him criticizing the PHYS3033 course on the basis of difficulty and content.

18 Apr 2016, 05:16 for **Did Sophia Chab...**  Make public  Reply to sender

I'll start by saying Dr Chu, Dr Chabysheva, and Dr Hiller are all incredibly talented educators whose teaching opportunities should not be limited by the opinions of others. As for Analytical Methods (Phys 3033), the material in the course was openly discussed a couple times a month in Dr Chabysheva's Classical Mechanics course. I'll point out that the quality of instruction was never questioned, rather it was our (the students) ability to handle the material. Discussion began when a majority of the Classical Mechanics class had trouble with a relatively simple calculus topic. This material was covered in Analytical Methods in the years previous to Dr Chu's class. Dr Chabysheva remarked that the material in Dr Chu's course was close to that of a PhD level mathematical physics course, and that he (Dr Chu) was pushing too hard of a topic. At the time, I often agreed with Dr Chabysheva, blaming the difficulty of material for my struggles rather than my own lack of ambition. After getting through the course, I am extremely grateful to Dr Chu for having put in the extra effort in order to teach us a quality Analytical Methods course. The topics discussed have come up numerous times in my other undergraduate courses, and I owe my increased GPA to Dr Chu.

I am not aware of any involvement of Dr Hiller.

If you're taking into consideration the opinions of students, know that mine is to keep Dr Chu as the Analytical Methods instructor, and allow him to teach the course using his own material.

18 Apr 2016, 03:22 for **Did Sophia Chab...**  Make public

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