RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

17. Please give a written statement (in the space provided below) of your opinion of the teacher and course. Be sure to provide a complete explanation for your answers to questions 8 and 13 on part 1.

8. The professor really challenges us to learn the concepts well.

13. This course does well in teaching necessary concepts for Elec.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The course could have been much better if it were little more organized in terms of due dates. We ended up having two extra classes and having due dates for projects, homework, exams on the same week throughout the semester. Spreading out workload will definitely help.
Initially the projects were underspecified, but they got much better as the course went on. The tests were really hard, but graded fairly, so they ended up being a good learning experience.
Kartik is an excellent professor. He is truly dedicated to the class and demands the most of his students. Bravo.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The teacher is very knowledgeable about the subject matter and was always approachable with questions. I appreciate his honesty in teaching methods and desire to see us learn even if it resulted in a fair amount of work. I would encourage the professor to revise or change completely the PowerPoint slides or many of them are unclear or not helpful.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The course material was interesting, but the disorganization of the course overall made this a frustrating experience overall. Kartik was very receptive to our requests for change, and change did occur (especially with clearly specifying project specs), but the following still need work:

- Lecture key points, pace
  on the one hand, we were behind
  - talk a bit slower for key things, but with fewer details?
  - personally, I have to write things down to learn them, even w/ slides, let us have time to read, process
  info

- Labs: pace evenly through semester, clout projects at end
  - we spent probably 2 hours in lab dealing with
    Tjulix and computer setup for every hour we spent
    actually getting work done. It made what should have been a concise project into an enormous exercise in frustration.

Yes, it’s hard to take over an existing course, but
A) Take the time to decide how you’ll teach material you clearly know, actually detail of
   - and on projects, know what we have to complete

B) Don’t be afraid to modify course lecture notes, etc. to suit your style.

Send out assignments when you say you will, don’t be 4 days late.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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I greatly enjoyed the material in this class and, on the whole, found the lectures interesting as well.

My main problem with the course was the organization—keeping to the schedule is important when one is trying to squeeze in four projects, six or seven homework assignments, two or three tests, and a final into a single semester. The original schedule seemed workable; what ended up happening would be we'd have weeks where there wasn't much going on, and then weeks where we'd have a homework assignment and a project due, and then a test within a couple days.

Also, generally tests at 3 hours or more become take-homes—it's difficult to find times during the week where an entire class of students is available for 3 concurrent hours. And this usually cuts into major homework time ... we're first semester junior ELECs. It's possible to be relatively good about working on homework all week and still have stuff left to do Thursday night.
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Rice should seriously consider getting something less clumsy than the Xilinx suite. The interface is by far the worse that I have yet seen for anything. The errors don't make any sense. It was the worst part of the class.
Rice University Course/Instructor Evaluation

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There are a lot of concerns about our professor's organization. He had a lot of trouble keeping up with our project and giving necessary guidelines. However, it was Dr. Kartik's first time teaching this class & having to handle both lab & theory components. He improved a lot towards the end of the semester but definitely needs to keep his organization on-check for future years.

Also, he tended to go over really
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The instructor is very dynamic and clearly showed a strong desire to make us understand the material, was very approachable.

In terms of the course, following the rules were at many times difficult and the examples were not sufficient.

The project took too much of the time resource for this class but the organization improved towards the end.
I think he is an excellent professor for teaching this material. The only thing is sometimes he started explaining subjects that were tangents and didn't always relate and had me confused. But many tangents provided me information.

Also for the class as a whole it would be nice to go a little faster.
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Kartik worked very hard to improve the quality of this course. We had lobbies hours at least 5 days a week, so help was always available. Before the midterms, we had extra review sessions with food paid for by Kartik. I wasn’t really interested in the course, but I learned a good amount and didn’t fail.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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This course was basically a much better organized version of 220 — in fact, I'd do away with 220 and just keep this since it covers all the basics as well without all that comp sci. junk we don't need to know.

Anyways, the course was organized well, I learned a fair amount, and the instructor was definitely great, mostly because he was very open to helping and caring about us as students. He did drive everyone a bit, but nothing too bad. It was mostly about small details in what we were working with.

Overall, good course, good teacher, but a pain because I don't find it to be the most engaging material in general.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The project and homeworks were fine, adding more sample problems before a test would help. The tests are definitely challenging. Having slides is good, but teaching straight from slides makes it so that people don't have to pay too much attention.
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Dr. Mohanram is a very approachable professor. While the homework and project are not bad, the exams were difficult. I personally do not like the PowerPoint lecture style. From my experience at Rice, I had a difficult time learning material from PowerPoint slides. This, of course, is Dr. Mohanram teaching the course. I know that by next year, the course will definitely be improved.
Really nice guy. I would probably enjoy this class a lot more if I had an interest in the material.

Overall, Kartik is a very good professor. I haven’t been challenged this much by a class since Elec 241. The tests were very hard for me, but my problem-solving skills have definitely improved because of them.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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Overall, it was a pretty good course, although a little rough because it was the first time you've taught it. Looking over the slides more in advance (since you were using someone else's slides) would have helped.

Much more detail and organization is required for the project. There were major issues with not enough computers, not enough laboratories, and conflicting instructions.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION
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I think Dr. Mohanram has a lot of potential as a teacher. He is just a little inexperienced. He is very approachable for help with homework and concepts. However, this was his first time teaching the course, so the class was organization problems with the class. There were organization problems with the class, and a few project requirements and homework. The Dr. Mohanram's class challenged me and the exam pushed me to extend my capabilities. All in all, I really enjoyed the projects and the class as a whole.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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Good class overall. I appreciated that the exams were challenging. It encouraged me to think hard about what we learned.

I wished that the course followed the book more closely rather than just powerpoint slides. Also, the instructor could have posted homeworks earlier sometimes.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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Good course. Kartik is a great guy. He is very approachable and always willing to talk and help. It’s hard to understand the material many times though, and I wish that Kartik had looked at Dr. Jumps notes more if he was going to use them as a teaching tool. Sometimes, I found the homework and/or project really underspecified and confusing, and I like how Kartik asks for feedback. The tests are hard but doable - they really evaluate how much you understand rather than having you regurgitate information. (It’s great that Kartik knows the names of all the students in the class, too.) He seemed to rush through some topics at the expense of others, though.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The professor taught the material in a very effective way. He was always willing to work out examples to clarify the material. For these reasons, I feel the class and the professor were very good.
RICE UNIVERSITY COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

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The projects were good but could have been better explained in the initial documentation.

The tests and homeworks were challenging and well planned.

Overall the course was well taught, but I think Kartik would do well to abandon Jumps notes and just teach, since he seems to know the material really well.