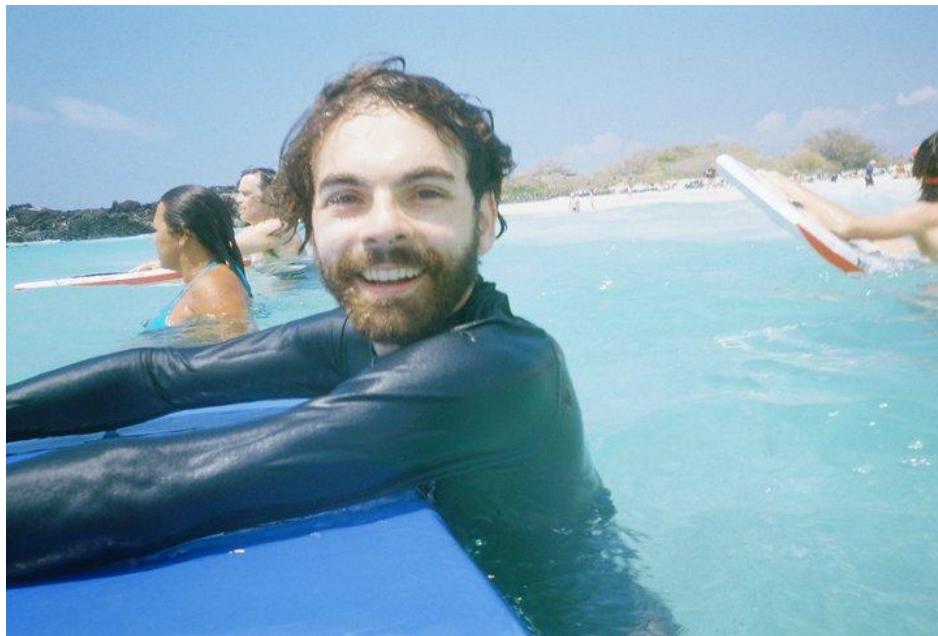


Homework 0

I really like the idea of injecting a little personality into the otherwise fairly impersonal setting of a large lecture class. We'll be filling out this same homework and putting our answers online. This homework is mandatory, but all answers are completely confidential, and you may skip any and all questions that you wish to skip.

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Mini-Biography

Where'd you grow up? What has been your academic path?

(e.g. Did you live in the same time throughout your entire upbringing, or did you move around? If so, where? Have you attended other schools? Are you enrolled at Berkeley or some other school?)

I grew up in a wholly unremarkable suburb of a suburb of Houston called Seabrook. It was moderately soulless, very hot, and there were a lot of bugs. Despite this, for some reason, my parents decided that Seabrook was a good place to live for my entire upbringing. From there I escaped and attended UT Austin, which was a much better place. Nowadays, I'm finishing up my PhD here at Berkeley, after which I will be "Dr. Hug."

How'd you decide to take/teach EE40 in the summer?

I've been meaning to teach a summer course for a long time, but never had the opportunity until recently. Sometime in the last couple of years, it became clear to me that I find teaching more fun and more fulfilling than the research side of graduate school. Scientific research is fun, too, but the modality of interpersonal interaction is just so much more preferable and natural to me than the relative solitude of technical research, and you still get to manipulate and utilize the same interesting ideas. I'm particularly interested in EE40, which, out of the 5 core lower division courses, seems to need the most work. I'm piloting a number of changes that I hope you'll like.

What are your hobbies?

My first love is unexpected absurdist public performance. Next in line is sitting around and making jokes with joke geniuses. Right below that is meeting and charming random strangers. There's also the requisite gamut of nerdy activities, like coding up utilities to mine data from eBay and other websites (e.g. Starcraft 2 beta key prices vs. time or finding the city with the best weather between 36°N and 40°N), reverse engineering bacterial signal transduction systems, reading modern fiction, German/Euro board games, and exploiting glitches in online games. Also awesome are all board sports, especially surfing, as well as motorcycling and other similar weird ways of getting from point A to point B. Sometime this summer, my roommate and I are going to take a paragliding class. I'll keep you updated.

What are some of your talents and skills?

Logistics, rapid adaptation, improvisation, sneaking into things, cumin/turmeric/cayenne/black pepper black bean burritos, writing party invitations, handling crises, and hopefully teaching.

Have you done anything you consider remarkable? Has anything really memorable

happened to you? (e.g. travel, climbing Kilimanjaro, being on a reality TV show, overcoming adversity or illness, winning a Starcraft tournament, surfing Waimea, etc.)

Going out to Ocean Beach on a day bigger than I'd ordinarily go out and catching an awesome overhead A-frame from exactly the right spot was pretty good. Being nearly killed by some waves while standing on some rocks on an offshore island in Hawaii and figuring I'd probably be killed was also pretty cool, at least when the waves stopped trying to grind my bones into the sea and I realized I was still alive. I'm also pretty proud of getting front page newspaper coverage dressed as a snowman during the student government debates at UT Austin, and the comedic empire I once ruled in Austin was pretty great.

What other commitments do you have during the term of the course? (e.g. classes, part time jobs,

long commutes, volunteer work, sports, student groups, etc.)

Research and helping to manage undergraduate research assistants. Longish commute (from the Mission in the city).