Physics 364 survey Bill Ashmanskas, fall 2010

Please take a moment between now and next Monday's lecture to provide feedback that may help to make this course better in future years. I will keep a cardboard box by the door during Monday's lecture and will collect all of the surveys together after class, so you can keep your suggestions anonymous if you prefer. Also, please remember some time during the coming month to fill out the official course review form via Courses in Touch online!

1. Was the range of material covered appropriate? Are there topics that you would add or remove? Was the balance between analog and digital appropriate? To see the list of topics covered in similar courses, you can follow the links from http://positron.hep.upenn.edu/p364 to last year's PHYS364, to Harvard's Physics 123, and to Berkeley's Physics 111.

2. Was the number of weekly contact hours (lectures + labs) appropriate? Would you change the balance between lectures and labs? Would you leave the labs in the evening or would you prefer a time slot during the day? What would you think of e.g. meeting twice a week from 1:30pm-5pm, with each session beginning with a 30-minute lecture (hence no separate lecture hours)?

3. Would you prefer a more traditional evaluation scheme, with one or two midterms and a final exam, or do you like the present model that puts most of the weight on week-by-week learning? Were the quizzes a helpful incentive for keeping up with the material? Can you suggest a better way to motivate people to read and to keep up?

4. Can you comment on which handouts were most or least helpful for learning the material? Is Bugg's book helpful? When the 3rd edition of Horowitz & Hill appears, do you recommend adopting it? Should the lecture notes be expanded a bit and the texts dropped altogether?
5. Was it helpful to have to turn in written lab reports, or did writing things down in lab interfere with learning? Would you prefer more written homework and less written lab work? Would you prefer for a larger fraction of the "lab" exercises to be simulation-based, so that you can work through them on your own schedule?
6. Do you have any other suggestions or feedback that you think will help to improve this course for future years?