

# Teacher Utterances – Fall 2019

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## Frost

- (while talking about power, passive vs. generative/active elements): “. . . a trip to the Guggenheim; which was itself a generative experience. I was absorbing much power.”
- (same as above) “You guys know I like power (and it will be on the test)”
- “the time domain was by far the hardest . . . as shown by your exam scores”
- “. . . sure”
- “Resistors are just strong wires.”
- (when discussing how  $V_{aa} = 0$ ) “That sounds positively stupid. . . . But, . . .”
- “You can’t add  $R_2$  and  $R_1$ . Or, you can, but you’ll be wrong.”
- “No anime in my class. More banned than Nathaniel.”
- “His name was really Heaviside, which is unfortunate for him, but he’s dead.”
- (about  $H(-t)$ ) “This I would’ve called the Lightside step function, which is cute.”
- (quoting someone else) “The large text giveth and the small text taketh away”
- (in overtime) “And in the last negative-one minutes of class, . . .”
- “The claps are banned” (sorry Josh)
- “This chalk *sucks!*”

## Hakner

- “Thank god we’re not writing any kernel code because ... it’s a spiritual exercise.”
- “When it’s 6:00 on the 8th floor, it’s 6:10 down here, because it takes that long to get an elevator. That’s my version of timezones.”
- “The problem of the lost wakeup” (actually a real thing, but sounds like something out of a videogame to me)
- “The kernel is a troubled individual with neurosis and a fear of floating point numbers.”
- “This system call [mmap] is a gateway drug ... gateway to mind expansion.”
- (on entering the unit on memory): “You will either be enlightened or in the hospital.”
- (about pipes and dangling fds) “All of this is great, unless you screw it up.”
- (about pipes and sleeping processes) “woke ... I can’t say that, because it means something else today.”
- “I’m just accustomed to manly keyboards, like the model M.”
- (about news, I think) “I don’t listen to that serious stuff anymore. I only listen to sports. Everything else is too depressing.”
- “Are kosher Chinese food made by Jewish Chinese people?”
- (a definition of “mii-mii” (meme)): “an image of questionable humor value that you found on the Internet and you shared with other people to waste their time”
- (about code quality) “When you’re writing code your grandma might use ...”
- “... Jewish mahjong, not Chinese mahjong ...”
- “You didn’t have glasses when you took the picture. I’m going to draw glasses on your face. Is that okay?”
- “No, that thermostat’s a placebo. ... No, it does absolutely nothing. It’s just something you can push”
- “Is lavender the same as purple? My crayola box had only seven colors.”
- “there’s this collective sigh like the mets”

- (discussing an obligation of his for the class) “. . . will endeavor – key word – depends on whether I have a life or not”
- “have a much longer leash in a grad class”

### Fink

- (about globalism) “I think we should stop here, because there are a lot of ideas going on here. And I think this is part of the stickiness of what President Trump and the people associated with him say: it talks about a lot of things, but it doesn’t say much at all.”
- “The worst papers bar none are those which fall out in the ether of generality.”

### Wolf

- “For a physicist, a capacitor is any two lumps of metal.”
- “Physics is about describing behavior, not so much about what things are. There’s no goal here of understanding fundamental nature, just practical stuff.”
- (about holding an antennae parallel to the ground) “This would be good if you wanted to transmit to the center of the Earth or want to talk to God.”
- (about why chemistry is tolerable) “It allows me to be here and have cats, and nutella, and . . .”
- “I’m not late. It’s a new concept: break at the beginning of class.”

### Yecko

- “You shouldn’t be tired of it, you should be comfortable. Like, ‘Oh, I’ve seen this problem before!’ ”
- “What I’m saying is that most of your daily experiences are incoherent . . . Your light experience, of course”
- “The only reason we choose E and B is since we chose bad units, and we move rather slowly”
- “You cannot know too much about the complex unit circle.”
- “‘Hi, you have reached an imaginary number. Please rotate your phone by 90deg and try again.’ Yes, people actually did this.”
- (on specular reflection) “Speculate on that . . . or, if you will, reflect on that.”

- “The only thing harder than getting into Harvard is failing out of it.”
- “Nature does the hard work; we just do the measurements.”

### Mintchev

- “active homework pedagogy”
- (referring to the low blackboard) “suboptimal pedagogy”
- (again about the low blackboard) “Maybe I have to work on my core. That’s, uh . . . not a job requirement.”
- “You should also be motivated by an altruistic desire for math – uh, that is not a requirement.”
- “seems . . . reasonable”
- “(ding) I just got a text message . . . Kool.”
- (regarding standard ordered basis, or S.O.B.) “Some of my favorite terminology in this course is starting to appear.”
- (upon starting to talk about aliens) “That’s a very interesting place to stop. I was getting poetic.”
- “This is where the magic happens. I’ll spare you the magic.”
- “This very low-level, horrible thing we’ve just dabbled in.” (on using less-abstract linear algebra methods)
- “In some ways, this course is how happy can I be when you’re unhappy.”
- “If it were a guarantee of success then it wouldn’t be fun” (on proposing an offer to us to try to boost grades, then telling us he will only perhaps follow through with his proposal)
- “Somehow I’ve been going slower this semester. I don’t know if I should be apologetic to you or if you should apologize to me. Does anyone know the policy on that?”
- “. . . uhh, yea. ‘Learning’ very much in quotes.”
- (about learning) “Those who want to don’t need to go to school.”
- “You can strengthen the theorem by weakening the hypothesis.”
- (about the orthogonal complement of a subset always being a subspace) “. . . and that’s something to . . . behold.”
- “If you think you have it bad, I have to teach the freshmen on high speed this afternoon.”

- (about the freshmen being three sections behind with one week left of class) “You heard correctly, but there’s an update today.” (someone asked, “You’ll be updated, but will they [the freshmen]?”) “That’s a philosophical question for the Dean’s office.”

#### **Other/Unknown**

- Theodori: “Too much whitespace, not enough inspiration.”
- Jolie: “Students always think, ‘Oh, but it isn’t perfect, and I can only come in when it’s perfect.’ But that’s the whole point!”
- “It gets harder and harder to reply to emails on time.”
- Gabrielle Gorla: “I don’t like to micromanage. It doesn’t scale.”