Course: wl.202420.ME.59700.124.14760: Distributed Energy Resources

Instructor: Kevin Kircher *

Response Rate: 11/26 (42.31 %)

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1 - What about the environment, activities, and structure of this course are helping your learning?

Response Rate	11/26 (42.31%)

• I greatly enjoy the lectures. Dr. Kircher does a great job lecturing the material and discussing details with the students. He always takes the time to answer questions and make sure that people truly understand the material which is super helpful for learning. The homework also helps to reinforce concepts, but they do seem a bit easy for a graduate level class.

• The approachability of the professor and TA is very helpful. Further, great collaboration between students helps!

• Lecture nots, videos, and homeworks are all helpful

• Regarding the semester project, additional structure and guidance can help. The course is well organized overall. It would help to have at least one week between homework to be abe to work on them.

• The in-class examples and homework help a lot to understand the materials.

• Derivation of the equations and providing real world examples is very helpful for the homework.

• I enjoy that the course explains all of the concepts from the ground up and does not assume that all students have the same learning background. This makes the space a better learning environment.

• It is really helpful. I hope that I could took this course more earlier.

• The flexibility to follow the material online is great.

• I absolutely love the learning experience offered by this course! The collaborative environment, interactive activities, and organized structure make it much easier for me to grasp the concepts. The best part is that we get to hear from guest speakers about hot topics related to this course, which gives us an understanding of what the market and researchers are interested in. Additionally, real-world tours provide us with practical insights into how things work in the real world. The group work opportunities are also fantastic because they foster teamwork and help us apply what we have learned.

• I like how Dr. Kircher seems very understanding of students and genuinely wants them to learn.

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2 - What specific suggestions do you have for changing the environment, activities, or structure of the course to better help your learning?

Response Rate	10/26 (38.46%)

• I am a big fan of the fact that all the material to do the homework effectively is in the lecture slides, but also the homework doesn't seem to go super deep into the concepts. It is a balancing act, but I do think the homework could ask more nuanced and deeper questions since the content in lectures is already very well organized.

• N.A. This is a great course already.

• nothing

• It would help to have at least one week between homework to be able to work on them.

• The office hours are limited and the solutions are only available during office hours bothers me. I really hope a least the homework grading instructions are more specific.

• I think for the coding portion of the class specifically, maybe spending more time in the code that will be posted for the homework to understand what else is going on with the code that we are not "adding ourselves"

• No. It's good

• Give more time to work on a homework. Weekly homeworks are a bit tough as graduate students.

• I can't think of any specific suggestions for improvement. The course, as it is, has reached a level of perfectness that I find highly effective and enjoyable.

• The assignments sometimes seem a bit irrelevant to the lecture material. For example, every assignment has had a derivation problem, which in the beginning were helpful to understand some of the fundamental modeling; however, the latest few assignments have felt like more of a math exercise than deepening an understanding of the course material. I would honestly enjoy dedicating more time to the coding aspect, perhaps even diving into some of the surrounding architecture used around the specific model functions so that we can better understand the holistic approach to developing these simulations, even if they're simple.

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3 - What are some things that your instructor does well, e.g., something you hope that the instructor will continue to do in the class in the future?

Kevin Kircher

Response Rate	11/26 (42.31%)

• Dr. Kircher does a great job at speaking very clearly and effectively during lectures. As mentioned before, I am also appreciative when he takes time to discuss details and questions from students to dive deeper into the material.

• Take doubts in great detail.

• answering all questions

• The professor and TA answer questions promptly.

• The lecture is easy to understand and well-explained. It will be nice if the material can include more regarding how industry model the DERs.

• Keep matlab code examples in the slides which are very helpful for the homework and the plots on the slides are also very helpful to see what the results we are trying to get are. I also think your homework style is very friendly, especially for me who also has 4 other classes including senior design.

• Professor Kircher does a great job being passionate about the topics that he is talking about which makes it a more enjoyable learning experience.

• I like the structure of course material.

• Prof. Kircher's structuring of the course is immaculate. Everything is well organized and he amply prepares in advance for the class.

• Honestly, I think Professor Kevin is a great instructor! The way he explains the course material is amazing. I really hope he continues to teach like this in the future. The slides he uses are so clear and easy to follow, and I appreciate that he always cites every source of information he presents. Even the most complex topics become so much easier to understand with his guidance. I have been struggling with some of these concepts for years, but thanks to this course, I finally feel like I am making progress.

• It seems Dr. Kircher is very attentive to how the course could vary material in future iterations. This is the only change not mentioned so far which would probably improve the course.

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4 - Do you have a suggestion(s) for improving the course (a criticism alone is not helpful; instead, provide some feedback that would help your instructor improve the course)?	
Response Rate	7/26 (26.92%)

• Since the class is structured such that homework is the bulk of the first half of the semester before the project takes off, I would suggest strengthening the homeworks to force students to dive in the deep end beyond course materials. Maybe the buildings homework could be a 2-week assignment where students have to roughly model a building of their choosing? That way students can get practice at parameter identification and model tuning since many assumptions would have to be made.

• Maybe a discussion of the homework and the approaches student take to solve homework can be discussed. I.e., rather than make homework right or wrong, make it more open ended which are discussed every next lecture for more application based learning

• The homework released date is too closed to deadline, especially homework 3.

• I think that trying to have more standard deadlines for assignments (i.e 1 week from when it is posted) will help reduce some stress on some quick homework turn arounds.

• I think the homework is too simple for students who are already quite familiar for materials. But I also understand there are students who had hard time to solve the questions. If there are extra questions in hw, it will be great opportunity to learn and train the course material.

• None at this point except getting more time on the homework

• I was just thinking that it would be awesome if our course could include more site visits to different locations. After that trip we took to the DC house, I really saw the value of experiencing real-world examples like that. It just makes everything we learn in class come to life. I was also thinking that integrating more video content, like on YouTube, could be really helpful for practical applications. Seeing simulations of the concepts we discuss could provide a deeper understanding of the course content.

5 - Is there any other feedback you would like to provide to your instructor(s)?	
Kevin Kircher	
Response Rate	6/26 (23.08%)

• So far this is a great class with a good environment for learning. Keep up the great work!

• I really enjoy the class so far. Thanks!

• Continue to be passionate about what you're teaching, it really helps!

• I just want to say thank you

• none

• Professor Kircher's teaching style has truly made this course enjoyable and rewarding. I must say that his approach is exceptional, and I am grateful for the inclusive environment he has created. It has allowed me to have valuable learning experiences. Professor Kircher has a unique ability to simplify complex topics, which has improved my understanding of the material. He is also incredibly kind and supportive, and always listens to his students. In my experience, he is the best instructor I have ever had the pleasure of learning from. I cannot thank him enough for the positive impact he has had on my academic journey. Thanks to his dedication and effective teaching methods, I am excited to continue learning from him throughout the rest of the semester.