



PHSC 11000 1 - Environmental History of the Earth - Instructor(s) - Mark Webster

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **98**

Number of Responses: **30**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
I learned about the geological and biological processes that shaped earth's history.
Environmental processes that led to various events/processes in Earth's history
I learned so much! I think the most valuable thing I learned was the order of geological eras. It helped me sort out the different geological events much more easily once I learned them.
The environment matters.
different geological time periods
I learned useful information about our world/earth and how this affects our everyday life.
different geologic periods, how mountains and continents are formed
Each of Earth's periods of geologic time and their relevance.
How to make assumptions from uncertainties and to think critically.
N/A
I learned a deeper appreciation for the rocks around me in daily life. I also learned generally how we think the Earth was in preceding centuries.
The history of the earth
looking at general geological features and being able to tell a story about how it came to be
Different geological processes and all the events of geological history
environmental history through paleozoic mesozoic and cenozoic
Learned about history of earth
Lectures are a must. Prof. Webster is an excellent lecturer and explains everything in an understandable way to non-science majors and with great humor too. He's helpful in answering questions after class too
different periods of earth's history
How the Earth came to be as it is today
I learned about the geologic history of the earth and briefly how it relates to modern day climate change

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The lectures were informative. The labs often felt like busy work.
Lectures were fantastic, labs felt slightly redundant
The lectures were so in depth and really fascinating. There was lots of use of cool pictures and fun themes to keep the lectures interesting too.
I just wanted to get the requirement done.
labs were great
Lectures were useful in helping us with information about lifestyles and environments. Labs heightened my knowledge of the significance of the environmental history of the earth.
lectures, lecture notes, labs
Lectures built knowledge and labs provided supplementary knowledge.
The labs were pretty interesting, just long. Lectures helped to understand the labs better where we could, for example, see real examples of fossils.
3 lectures a week, 1 lab a week, 1 quiz per week, 1 lab assignment, and a final.
The lectures gave us a lot of material to work with and the weekly quizzes made sure we understood the content. The labs introduced a lot of more specific information than the lectures and made us apply our knowledge a bit.
Lectures and labs
some parts of the labs were only tangentially related to lecture material. the lectures cover way too much material
Lectures helped a lot, the professor is a good lecturer and the slides are very clear. Weekly quizzes were helpful for reinforcing learning, though there were a couple of quizzes that covered way too much material. Labs were just busy work that extended upon the lecture material and you didn't need to know anything from the labs for the final. Though it was cool to examine the fossils and rock samples in labs. At the end of the day everything is just rote memorization for the final
lecture notes
Lectures (notes), labs
Lectures are the most important to attend. The labs were an extension of the course material
they didnt
Lectures were good, labs were a huge waste of time. Had to complete these super long packets where some of it was interesting/ useful to my learning but the vast majority was just busy work or questions that I did not have the information to properly answer
The lecture notes and take home messages were well organized. The grade of the quizzes and homework is generous.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.00	4.00	4.00%	4.00%	8.00%	56.00%	28.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.76	4.00	4.00%	16.00%	12.00%	36.00%	32.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.64	4.00	8.00%	8.00%	20.00%	40.00%	24.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.88	4.00	4.00%	12.00%	8.00%	44.00%	32.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.64	4.00	4.00%	16.00%	16.00%	40.00%	24.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.16	4.00	0.00%	4.00%	8.00%	56.00%	32.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.76	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	12.00%	40.00%	28.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Overall not a bad core class.
Very very memorization heavy, and it is often unclear what specific facts you need to know for a weekly quiz or the final. The stuff on the slides is put into lecture notes and posted on Canvas but it is unclear what you need to know from it.
Labs can be tiring and too technical at times. It's very independent work that you need to google a lot on your own
This class feels like it's just a bunch of memorization and busywork. The concepts aren't too hard but there are a lot of them and the labs are way too long.
It is supposed to be a physics course but we only talked about movement of the plates for the first 1/3 of the course, then the rest was on biology?
This amount of information presented made it very difficult to study for the final exam, even if you had attended lecture. Additionally, the types of content on the quizzes and labs were not necessary the same type of content on the final. I also found it hard to connect content from lecture to the labs, as much of the labs had to be googled or the TA would have to given extra information about it.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	24.00%	76.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	29.17%	70.83%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
The lectures were engaging and really well organized
The instructor contributed the most by being a really knowledgeable and passionate person. I loved learning from him because he loved teaching the subject.
His voice was charming.
labs were great learning
I believe the instructor made the slides very clear and easy to understand.
his passion for the subject
I think his passion for the subject really helped me see that aspects of it are important and interesting.
The lab
The lectures were helpful and the professor made them pretty interesting consistently.
Lectures for sure
Lectures
lecture notes
Lectures, with notes and take-home messages
He was very passionate about the topic and taught about interesting material.
Lectures are amazing. Lecture notes are very very well organized
The lectures were good, well-organized, clearly well rehearsed
His lectures were highly organized in a way that made review of content easy. He also repeatedly integrated certain concepts from previous lectures which helped to solidify certain ideas.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Make labs shorter
I can't think of anything.
n/a
make labs less hard
I belive the professor could do a better job of having a more interactive lecture.
Honestly, not much.
N/A
The labs could have been much better. There was very little engagement with any material besides the internet, I would've liked some more hands-on labs.
Cover less content and slow down the lectures, there's way too much memorization needed for the final.
maybe could be clearer with expectations regarding the finals? align weekly quiz with possible final content
Maybe make the level of detail less intense
Provide more help for the lab
Shorter labs that rely less on google search
N/a
Provide a more specific list of items that are going to be on the final or be more clear about the types of questions that will be on the finals and quizzes.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%	48.00%	48.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.48	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%	44.00%	52.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	4.00%	4.00%	20.00%	32.00%	40.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.92	4.00	0.00%	12.00%	12.00%	48.00%	28.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.04	4.00	4.00%	8.00%	4.00%	48.00%	36.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.12	4.00	0.00%	12.00%	8.00%	36.00%	44.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.36	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.00%	32.00%	44.00%	12.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.92	4.00	4.17%	16.67%	0.00%	41.67%	37.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.28	4.00	0.00%	4.00%	12.00%	36.00%	48.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.28	4.00	0.00%	4.00%	4.00%	52.00%	40.00%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Sapon
James was the TA. He led the labs for my section (section 4). The TA was very patient and he seemed very capable as well. He helped us put the lecture concepts into practice.
James. I forgot his last name. Give me the answers more.
Reuben. He was helpful
Daniel Zhou was extremely nice and helped our lab section to understand what was needed from us.
Daniel Zhou
Menna Jones
Menna Jones
James was a great TA during labs.
James Zhang
James Zhang was helpful and taught me a lot about the course material. I also felt like he graded fairly. Overall he was a good TA.
reuben ng. I wish he'd grade and return our assignments quicker; i'm going into finals and a handful of the most recent labs haven't been handed back. he's very kind, though
Reuben Ng
james zhang
James Zhang, helpful in labs, facilitated discussions.
Daniel Zhou
Menna Jones
Sapon
James
Anna Wisniewski. She was the sweetest and you could tell she genuinely cared about the topic and wanted to help us understand it to the best of our knowledge.
Sapon, he was great
Rueben Ng; He was always very helpful and willing to ask questions. However, he was very late in getting our lab reports back to us, to the point where many of us in the class did not know our grade until week 8. Additionally, we never got feedback on the last two labs to be able to review for the final. Overall, he was very

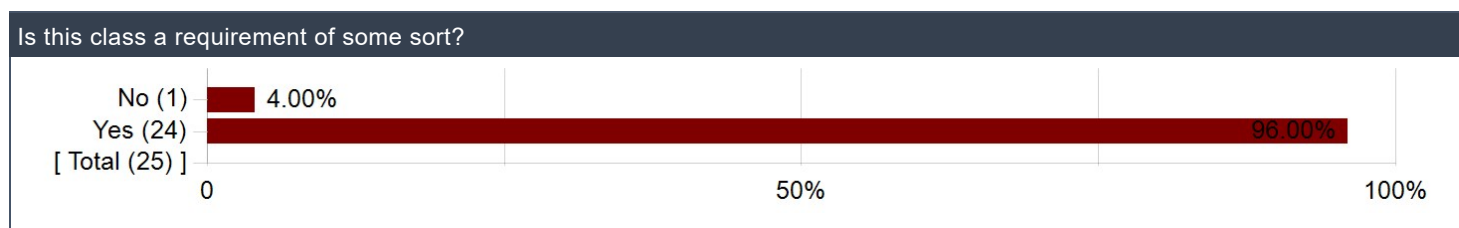
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.35	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	37.50%	37.50%	16.67%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	4.17%	45.83%	41.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	4.17%	8.33%	50.00%	33.33%	4.17%
Challenged you to learn.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	4.17%	50.00%	33.33%	4.17%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	4.17%	12.50%	45.83%	37.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.36	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	33.33%	45.83%	8.33%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%

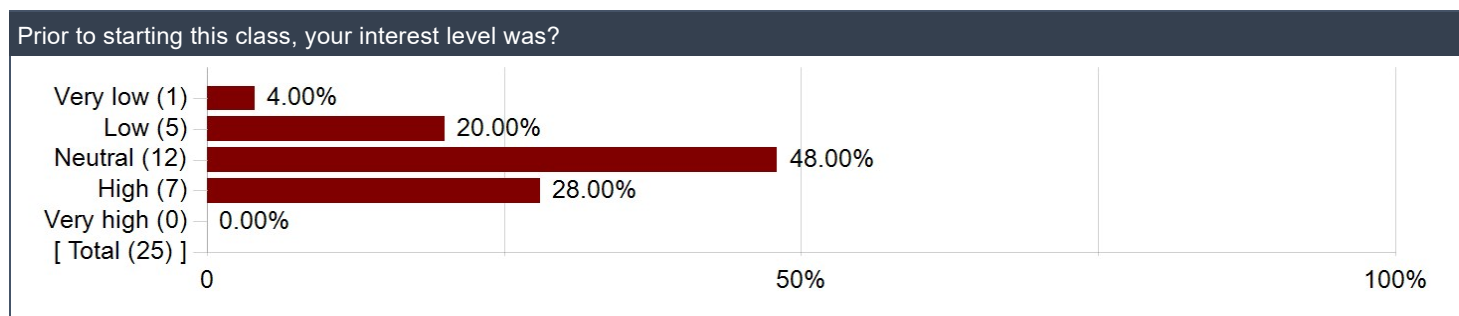
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	3.30	4.00	13.04%	17.39%	17.39%	30.43%	21.74%	0.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

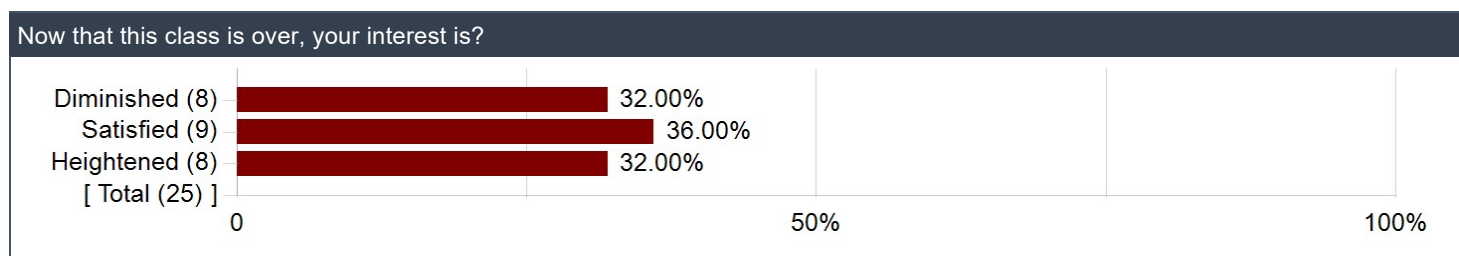
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



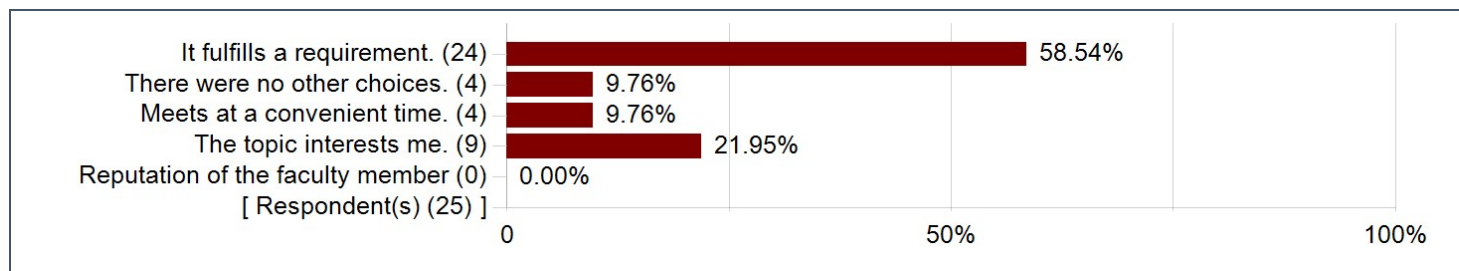
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



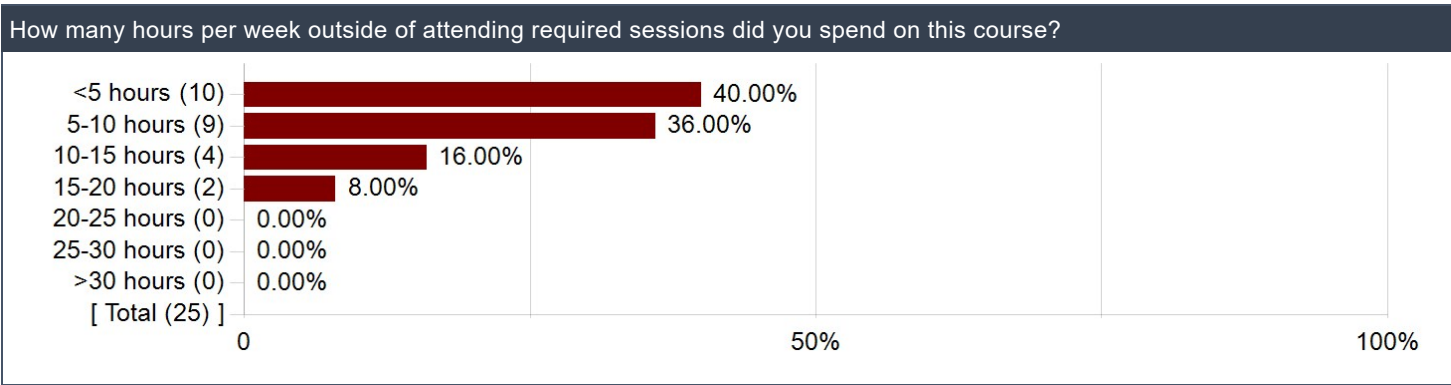
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



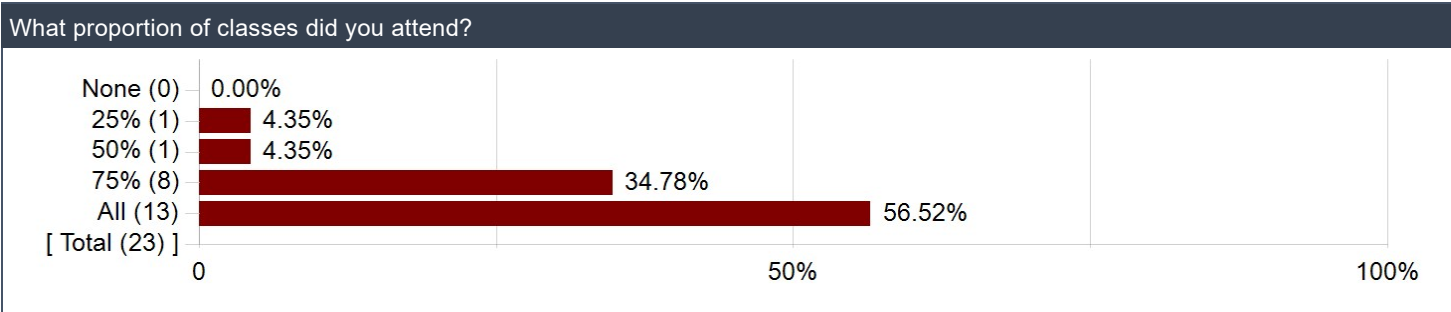
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Not difficult if you attend lectures and do work
It was not a particularly difficult course, but it was very intellectually stimulating.
none needed but there is a ton of work
Not too difficult aside from certain labs with scarce information.
It can be hard at times, but it is interesting enough that it is ok. I have no background in PHSC.
Relatively easy, though harder than the other PHSC I took.
it is a lot of material for a core class, and you're expected to memorize all of it (even the smallest details are fair game for quizzes/tests)
Content is not difficult but there is just a lot to memorize for the finals. The memorization for the quizzes is manageable but the final is a whole other level, it was significantly more than the memorization needed for my core courses in biology, which is already a memorization heavy subject. Labs were mostly fine and graded generously but it was often unclear what the questions were asking for. Asking the TA during lab sessions for clarification helped but the labs are always so long that they cannot be finished within a 1 hour and 50 minutes lab session, so you're on your own after that (outside of office hours). The professor is very knowledgeable and is clearly passionate about the subject but the amount of memorization needed makes it hard for students to feel the same way
was ok throughout the quarter but was unclear about what would be on the final. final would include scientific theory, oxygen level, temperature, diversity, paleozoic vs. mesozoic evolutionary fauna, PETM, snowball earth
Initially not hard, but detailed information accumulates as the course progresses
It's a lot of time. I recommend it to seniors that have more time to take this class
so much content but no experience needed
So much busy work for no reason. I really enjoyed this course until we had to fill out the packets every week.
There is no background needed. The expectations for finals/quizzes are not super clear so succeeding in this class takes a lot of effort as studying everything in depth is necessary. There is also a lot of rote memorization of dates or numbers, so if you struggle with that maybe don't take this class. The labs are more observation based and the more you ask your TA the better because there some things that were not discussed in class but were crucial in answering the lab questions.