



Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

Subject: BIOL_SCI Biological Sciences
Academic Term: Spring 2014
Class Number: 32257

Enrollment: 91
Responses: 59
% Responses 64.84

Class: 109-0-20 The Nature of Plants
Instructor: Norman Wickett

Demographic Questions

	Education & SP	Communication	Graduate School	KGSM	McCormick	Medill	Music	Summer	SCS	WCAS
Your School	3	8	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	39

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	34	15	5	2	0	0

	a. Distribution requirement	b. Major requirement	c. Minor requirement	d. Elective requirement	e. Other requirement	f. No requirement
Your reason for taking course (mark all that apply).	45	1	0	2	2	7

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	13	11	13	12	5	1	55	2.78

Core Questions

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction	53	0	0	1	5	22	25	5.34
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	53	1	1	2	11	20	18	4.92
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	54	1	2	7	9	20	15	4.67
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	56	3	8	20	11	10	4	3.52
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	56	0	1	2	8	19	26	5.20

Time-Survey Question

	Total Response	a. 3 or fewer	b. 4 - 7	c. 8 - 11	d. 12 - 15	e. 16 - 19	f. 20 or more
6. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.	57	44	11	2	0	0	0

School and Department Questions

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
7. Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.	56	0	0	0	4	11	41	5.66
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	55	0	0	2	4	17	32	5.44
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	55	2	1	1	6	26	19	5.00
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	56	0	0	1	0	7	48	5.82
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	56	0	0	1	5	13	37	5.54
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	54	2	0	4	10	9	29	5.06
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	55	1	1	6	16	14	17	4.67

Essay Questions

1. What are the primary teaching strengths of the instructor(s)?

Really enjoyed the class and Wicketts enthusiasm./He was very interesting and very passionate about the topic./He is so upbeat and makes lectures as exciting as possible./Enthusiasm, explaining points clearly, providing a lot of examples/Many./Enthusiasm, knowledge./Wickett was really fun and made going to class enjoyable. I also liked how he would insert cool plant trivia into the lectures./Norm is a fantastic lecturer. He understands the demographic of the class in that most of the students are there for a distro requirement, but he genuinely wants kids to learn something and perhaps develop some interest in plants. He is really great./Enthusiasm. Humor. Clarity. I am a film major and I was able to understand this class, it was incredible./Norm is very passionate about the subject./He is enthusiastic and communicates the material very well. He's really interesting to listen to and makes lectures pretty fun./He is very good at keeping students interested in the topic, and at relating the material to everyday life./Does a good job making the subject interesting/enthusiastic, very knowledgeable. Amazingly organized powerpoints, without unnecessary detail.

PERFECT intro/distro class./His enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject./Enthusiasm for the subject/Norm is very sweet and has such a passion for this course which really shows in his teaching style/Norm is very knowledgeable and great at answering questions/He gets to the point without being dry. I didn't learn a bunch of useless stuff or hear too many irrelevant stories, but i was still interested and engaged./Professor Wickett was very enthusiastic about the class. He was very funny, always cracking jokes and making the class seem less boring or uninteresting. His enthusiasm was definitely his biggest strength./Makes content appealing to students, is entertaining and relateable, makes class fun. One of the best professors I have had at NU/Very Enthusiastic

Knowledgeable

Provides Anecdotes to supplement course material

Funny

Engages Students/Amazing slideshows with all the information from the test. Makes studying awesome and enjoyable. Norm also kills the game with plants, he knows so much./Loved his enthusiasm. Good teacher who is really interested in the subject./Norman is very enthusiastic about the subject. All of the info is on the slides but he is fun to listen to./Very passionate/wealth of material and examples to use to explain the topics/The professor was energetic, lively, and highly informative when lecturing in class. It eased the learning process and made the material all the more engaging./Enthusiastic, funny, good at making material engaging for students who aren't necessarily interested in it./He's hilarious, a great lecturer, and a cool guy/Straight forward

2. What are the primary weaknesses, if any, of the instruction?

Never saw my test/question the effectiveness of the grading method of the class comes into question. Don't feel that the grading is fair/None./none/Enables you to get an A without ever going to class/Not that many./None/None. He did his best to get people to come to class, but besides make the tests significantly harder, he could not have done anything else./Teaches with a slideshow. Basically repeats what the slideshow says./The exam questions are not as explicit as they could be./nothing/Sometimes a little dull/Sometimes it's hard to talk to him because the class is larger and office ours don't always work out, but it isn't hard to send him an email and get an answer fairly quickly/He is a little unclear about what is for example and what is going to be tested - I would have liked to have spent my time focusing on other things besides the scientific names of trees if I knew I could have./He would sometimes get frustrated with the classes lack of enthusiasm in answering questions out loud./Great instruction - no complaints/N/A/Could be a little more lively, but that's tough considering the style of the class./Some people think it is a little boring so some students don't come to class. Not really a problem though. All the slides are online and it just makes it easier for the people who do go to class to get a good seat./Ambiguity in test materials/I feel like the pace of the class assumes we all had an adequate biology education in highschool. I, on the other hand, had a teacher who made me color in dna pictures. I was ill prepared for the class and couldnt keep up with my peers./None really, but the third / final exam seemed to have a lot of material that wasn't covered in lecture or didn't seem to be important in lecture. (I went to lecture every day.)/none

3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

None./none/Just 1 or 2 more videos would be nice to illustrate some of the plants we learned. Also, we went over many different types of plants, and it would be rewarding for me if we went more in depth into some of the plants, like more information about their uses, properties, cultural significance and stuff like that./None/It would be nice if we knew better what to expect on the first midterm. It was a lot more detailed than expected./If you want people to come to class, do not post slides or ask questions on the test that are not featured in the slides./Providing the students with the slideshows of notes made 80% of the class skip almost the entire quarter. While it's their responsibility if they fail, attendance rates could be improved by leaving out crucial information unless you actually go to class, or getting a strict attendance plan./Show more videos or anything that deviates from the slideshow and makes class worth going too. Maybe bring some plants to class./He could make longer questions or more clear, so students clearly understand what kind of answer he wants./The exams were very detail orientated, which made it hard to learn all the necessary info for tests./NA/It would be really cool if we could see some of the plants live, but I don't know if this is possible./More test preparation. Like study guides or maybe more guidance on exactly what material will or will not be on the exams./I wish more people came to class - is there a way to incentivize this without taking attendance? If so, I think the classroom vibe might have been slightly better./Not necessarily on instruction. But faster grading (if possible). Also, maybe more engagement in class and/or holding review sessions before exams./Nah/Really think it is good the way it is./Possibly a study guide/Please go over the latin roots and what they mean. Otherwise, they just become terms that are hard to memorize./It would have been nice to supplement the content with course materials other than the powerpoint slides. The interactive videos in class were quite helpful. I had hoped the class would integrate more interactive elements./no

4. Did the course help you learn? Why or why not?

Yes./yes i learned so much about plants/I learned a lot about fruits and plants/It was great introductory course for plant and people interactions. I enjoyed it very much, and I learned a lot./Yes plants are amazing/Absolutely. Great class. After this class, I hope I can take another distro with Norm./Absolutely! I knew ZERO about plants before I took this class. Now I understand the basics and actually have an appreciation for the cute lil things./No. I learned everything by myself using the slideshow. Barely went to class after the first midterm./Yes, it was very informative./yes, bc great lectures that were just challenging enough/Yes, the content was interesting and well taught/Yes/The course was very helpful. Very clear and straight forward with out an overwhelming number of technical terms/Yes, I know more about plants now than I ever thought I would. The power points are very detailed and a great study guide for the tests/It definitely did! It brought my attention to aspects of plants that weren't obvious, but extremely relevant to my life/No, but not because of the teacher. I was fairly uninterested in biology or botany before taking this course, I only took it as a distro./Yes - the course was very organized which facilitated learning/Great Class, I love Norm!/Yes. I was able to learn from the professor in class with complimentary material (lecture slides) outside of class./Yes, I learned a ton about plants./I really liked it. Never really thought much about plants but there is actually a lot of interesting stuff going on./Not really./It helped me learn a great deal about plants, for example, I didn't know bananas were berries./It certainly did. However, I felt it was more of a class that depended substantially on independent study./Yes, because I've never taken a botany course and I liked learning about something different that's completely outside my area of study./There were so many vocab words that I forced myself to learn/no. it was all cramming

5. Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.

This course was exactly what a distro requirement should be like. As I understand it, their purpose is to get students to take a variety of courses outside of their concentration to expand the way they think, but too often they're tedious and interesting. This class, though, never felt tedious or uninteresting, and most importantly, it really did change the way I viewed the world. We never really pay attention to plants, but they really are fascinatingly diverse and incredibly important! Being a senior locked in the humanities world, I wasn't excited about taking my last natural sciences distro, but Professor Wickett's hilarious teaching style and way of sharing his passion made me want to go to every class. There was no homework outside of studying for exams, and I never needed to worry about my grade, which left me the chance to really enjoy what I was learning. Thank you for this course! It was a great way to finish up my time at NU./Wickett is the man. You'll learn a lot and be really interested. Fun distro but not easy/Professor Wickett is awesome! He's really funny and makes bad joke that you still laugh at (sometimes, they are even good jokes). He's clearly enthusiastic about teaching the course and is genuinely interested in involving the students! Fun

course./na/this is a pretty easy science distro. You can easily get a B+ with almost no effort besides 2-3 hours of cramming before the tests. If you want an A you actually have to go to class./Definitely take this class as a distro. You have to study for the tests, but the professor is so chill and super enthusiastic. He made going to class really fun./Super easy distro! Never have to go to class. 3 midterms, no final./NORM IS THE BEST. He makes class fun and engaging and he wants you to do well. The class is actually really interesting and as long as you memorize the slides you'll be fine. Overall great class./He is a great professor and a great person in general. His lecture slides are very organized and the test is fair. He is very friendly and has a great Canadian sense of humor. One of the coolest professor I have ever met here./Great course. Definitely should take it if you have any interest in plants./Great class, the separate sections went just enough into detail for a basic bio class and still related to each other, very enthusiastic instructor although if people don't come to class he complains./This is the best distro in weinberg that i have ever taken. the material is so interesting and its all tests so not that much work. the tests are also easy. wickett is really knowledgeable and laid back and gets you interested... easy A or A-/Norman Wickett is the best professor! take this class!/Norm was awesome, fun, and engaging. The course was a little harder than expected, you actually have to pay attention and go to class to get an A. It's not an easy A like everyone said. That being said, Norm is awesome and definitely worth a science distro./The class is pretty fun and easy and it's easy to get an A even if you don't go to class (but I would encourage going because Wickett is a fun teacher). Just know that for tests you have to basically memorize the powerpoints./Norm is a really knowledgeable and enthusiastic professor, even if you have no interest in plants he makes class interesting. The course is pretty straight forward with 3 non-cumulative midterms that aren't too hard if you attend lecture./Fantastic course - Norm is the best./NORM WICKETT ROCKS. I am a film major and needed to take a science class, but I attended every single class I could. Norm is literally the only guy that could make someone interested in plants, and I actually learned some pretty useful stuff. You can't just skip class and read the slideshow notes if you want to do well, though, you actually have to come to class and listen. He explains things so clearly even I understood it./Material is sorta interesting and Norm is a great guy, but one didn't need to go to class to get a successful grade. Class was pretty boring and it was easy to skip because Norm posted the slideshows online and if you gave yourself a few days to learn the material, you could do well on the tests./Way too hard for a distribution requirement. A lot of memorization. Wickett is funny and was very easy to meet with outside of class, but the class was extremely hard./The course was far more interesting than i thought it would be./YOU NEED TO STUDY. LOVED the prof. he obviously knows what he's doing. Good distro.GREAT LECTURER/great fun class but tests are hard, so not necessarily an easy A/I was looking for an easy science distro and while the class was interesting and well taught, it was way harder than other science distros are./If you put in the time to memorize the facts, you'll be fine/Seriously greatest professor ever. He made the class really interesting/I had no interest in plants going in, but I needed the distro and the the professor made the class as painless as possible for those not extremely interested. It was always fun, he doesn't take his class too seriously. I feel like I learned a lot overall, even though I didn't always go to class. There are three tests, non cumulative, that make up your entire grade. Each test was straightforward, and every answer can be found in the lecture slides on blackboard from the section. Everything is easy to understand, and you will do well if you are willing to read the powerpoints and do some memorization./I loved plants! Norm is seriously the best teacher I've had so far and this was a good distro for me. There are 3 tests that make up your grade so don't take them lightly. This is a fun and somewhat easy distro but it wasn't as easy for me as people made it out to be, I still had to study quite a bit for the tests while other people never went to class and could basically memorize the slides. Norm puts the slides up before class so you don't "have" to go to class but I found it very beneficial and there are extra slides that aren't posted online./I was dreading this class but Prof. Wickett actually made biology interesting. The only criticism I have is that he provided a lot of information that we weren't tested over, so I spent a lot of time studying the wrong information for tests./This class was actually pretty interesting and Norm is adorable. He's so nice and he really wants you to enjoy the class. GO TO CLASS CAUSE HE GETS SAD WHEN NO ONE'S THERE. There's no reading and the tests are pretty easy so definitely a good distro/FANTASTIC DISTRO ABSOLUTELY WOULD RECOMMEND!!!! I feel like I learned a ton about plants that I can actually use, such as knowing about GMOs in my food. Professor Wickett is an amazing lecturer and can make a seemingly boring class very interesting. There is basically no workload and the tests are straightforward if you can memorize./This is honestly a pretty good class to take for your science distros. Norm is awesome. He actually made plants interesting and you can tell he really loves what he is teaching. The tests are harder than you expect them to be; it felt like he didn't always ask questions on what felt significant in class. Overall, it was a good class that I'd recommend./It was a good course, I would definitely recommend it for a distro. Professor Wickett posts all the slides online so if you have to miss a class or two it's not a huge deal. The exams aren't very difficult, but they're the only grades in the class so you do need to study pretty hard for them./TAKE THIS COURSE. ALL OUTSIDE CLASSWORK IS OPTIONAL. The exams are taken directly from the lectures, which are posted online. Also, Norm is extremely entertaining and approachable, so going to lecture is enjoyable (even though it is not necessary to do well in the class)./Norm is the man. He made a class about plants interesting and amusing which I didn't think was possible/The course was really great overall. Much more interesting than I thought. I think that the professor is really great and passionate about plants and teaching about plants. He wants you to learn without it being like a boring monotonous class. Jokes are always included in lecture. No book. I actually learned a lot. I would recommend this class to

anyone looking for a distro that is not too difficult and actually interesting./NORM IS THE MAN. Easy class. 3 tests, no final during finals week. All info you need (except for bonus points) is found on the slideshow./I have a newfound appreciation for plants. never look at cucumbers the same way again/Great class to take as a distro requirement. Definitely recommend it./A slightly harder science distro- the midterms are a little tricky. He has some questions that are based on class "plants of the day" that he doesn't post online. Come to class if only to hear Norman, but most of the info is on the slides. Don't buy the textbook./exams are very difficult, the teacher was interesting/I found this class to be considerably engaging, especially since I did not have total confidence early on that I would enjoy the course content. Norm makes learning about plants fun and worthwhile! It was a great and fascinating class./Norm is a funny, enthusiastic prof who made me enjoy a subject I wouldn't normally like. Pretty easy distro. Only 3 exams and no cumulative final, but you really have to study for those exams. No homework./Straightforward science distro. I don't get why people say this class is hard--if you study the slides and go to class--you will do well. Go to the first 5-10 minutes every class to learn the plant of the day. Don't buy the book--you don't use it. Very manageable as long as you study slides a few days before the exam./This course is amazing!!(but not an easy A)/I thought it would be an easy A but that definitely wasn't the case. the tests were really hard./Prof Wickett is funny and keeps class as entertaining as possible (for a class about plant biology). Not a bad distro if you do the work. Tests are challenging but totally do-able.