



Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

Subject: BIOL_SCI Biological Sciences
Academic Term: Fall 2013
Class Number: 12678

Enrollment: 15
Responses: 13
% Responses 86.67

Class: 101-6-20 Freshman Seminar Understanding Evolution, from Seaweed to Salad
Instructor: Norman Wickett

Demographic Questions

	Education & SP	Communication	Graduate School	KGSM	McCormick	Medill	Music	Summer	SCS	WCAS
Your School	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	13	0	0	0	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).	3	3	0	1	6	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	0	0	3	2	6	2	13	4.54

Core Questions

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction	12	0	0	0	2	2	8	5.50
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	12	0	0	0	2	4	6	5.33
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	12	0	1	0	2	4	5	5.00
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	13	0	0	1	3	5	4	4.92
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	13	0	0	0	2	2	9	5.54

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.	13	6	7	0	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.	13	0	0	2	2	4	5	4.92
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	13	0	0	0	3	3	7	5.31
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	13	0	0	0	4	4	5	5.08
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	12	0	0	0	0	3	9	5.75
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	13	0	0	1	1	1	10	5.54
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	13	0	0	5	3	2	3	4.23
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	13	0	0	10	2	1	0	3.31

Essay Questions

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

Norm is a great professor and very knowledgeable about evolution. He pushed students to teach each other about the important topics of the class, which was very cool. He also encouraged free thinking and an open classroom environment, which brought the students in the class closer together./Norm is really funny and he loves evolution. Interesting./He was so knowledgeable and really fascinated me with his discussions./Very enthusiastic, answered questions well, and posed interesting questions./He keeps it interesting and keeps us engaged. He doesn't just sit there and lecture which I really enjoyed. He wants us to learn and think for ourselves, but he's always there to help./Keeps discussion very interesting./Very engaging, had a lot of fun learning from him/I loved having class twice a week with Norm. I found him to be very interesting and a great professor. He would ask questions that really made us think about the topic of evolution in a new way./He is very knowledgeable and virtually able to answer all of our questions./Norm is great at making you think and struggling with the material

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

Professor Wickett went through some health/personal issues during the quarter, which caused some assignments to get pushed back and grading to be delayed. In spite of the difficulties, he remained cheery and fun throughout the class./None./No notable weaknesses/Could have called on the quieter kids more, since it was always a few students who spoke a lot more discussion and some students could have felt like they had no chance to speak./Although he is able to answer our questions, he often answers our questions with questions./Sometimes I struggled too much with the topic

3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

Nothing really strikes me./More instruction for writing papers would be nice./Less reading possibly-I say this because I felt that we went too quickly through many of the texts and I wasn't able to grasp the ideas better. Maybe two books instead of three, but being more detailed about the discussions about each book./No/I felt a little lost at times because I didn't have as strong of a background with learning about evolution as some of the other people in the class so I felt lost at times. Maybe some sort of background about evolution in the beginning would be helpful./A rubric for grading the essays may be helpful./I think he is doing good so far and I think his teaching style is definitely something that varies for each person. It is not my favorite but I can see it being very helpful for other students./no

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

It did. I chose to take this class because I was really interested in evolution, but didn't know much about how it worked. I left the class with a strong knowledge base on the topic, and I feel that I learned things that everyone should know, but not everyone does. In the future, I believe I will be able to hold intellectual conversations about evolution in the future because of what I learned in this class./There are many things I learned that I did not expect to learn./It absolutely did because it engaged me and fascinated me. Norm is awesome./Yes, it opened me up to new thought processes./Yes, we were always challenged to think about relationships between different organisms./Yes. The material was interesting and explained concepts in a way that was easy to understand. Discussion would make things clearer and take certain ideas further./I learned a lot because I was genuinely interested in what we were doing./Yes, the course had very great discussions. Though they often led to tangent topics, they were very helpful or kept us interested in continuing the discussions./Yes, I learned a lot about evolution and its processes but also about bigger concepts that matter even more

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

This course is excellent and Norm is a great professor. He cares about the well-being of all of his students, and taught the class in a fun and effective manner. I learned a ton and was not overburdened by work - I would definitely recommend the class and professor. I loved this course-I highly recommend it to all Freshmen./Interesting and thought provoking class/It was a very interesting and engaging course/Best class ever./Great course if you're going to be a science major, papers all focus on analyzing scientific articles. Challenging, but manageable. Class was great, Norm really knows how to keep discussions interesting!!/This course is great for people who are interested in science. I really enjoyed going to class because it was all discussion based./This class exceeded my expectations. Some of the readings were tough - mainly the scientific journals - but everything we read was actually really interesting. Having class with Professor Wicket was amazing. The 90 minute classes went by really fast and this was by far my favorite class of the quarter. The three papers that are assigned were not terrible to write, but were over really interesting topics. This class makes you think about evolution and life on earth in a new way, and is definitely a seminar I would recommend./Norm is a very great guy and he very amiable. The course is very heavy on reading and you should be fully prepared to discuss the readings. He is a bit tough on grading the papers, but I think he is course is probably one of the better freshman seminars./Prof. Wickett is the best. What a lovely seminar. Discussions were light hearted and engaging, readings were seldom overwhelming, there were only 3 assessments, and deadlines were very flexible and reasonable. Professor is also Canadian, which is amazing. I highly recommend this course./Norm is absolutely great and this was a good freshman seminar to take. the books were really interesting and easy to read because of that. The topic was really interesting and the discussions were relevant and usually kept my interest