



Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

Subject: BIOL_SCI Biological Sciences
Academic Term: Winter 2012
Class Number: 26852

Enrollment: 12
Responses: 9
% Responses 75.00

Class: 104-6-20 First-Year Seminar Unders Evol: Seaweed to Salad
Instructor: Norman Wickett

Demographic Questions

	Education & SP	Communication	Graduate School	KGSM	McCormick	Medill	Music	Summer	SCS	WCAS
Your School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	8	1	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	1	0	1	6	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	0	1	2	3	2	1	9	4.00

Core Questions

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction	8	0	1	1	1	5	0	4.25
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	7	0	0	0	3	4	0	4.57
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	9	0	0	0	5	1	3	4.78
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	8	0	0	0	2	5	1	4.88
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	9	0	1	0	3	4	1	4.44

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.	9	1	5	3	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.	9	0	0	2	3	1	3	4.56
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	8	0	0	0	1	7	0	4.88
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	9	0	0	1	3	5	0	4.44
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	9	0	0	0	0	6	3	5.33
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	9	0	0	1	2	2	4	5.00
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	9	1	0	3	0	3	2	4.11
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	9	2	0	0	3	2	2	4.00

Essay Questions

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

Enthusiasm for the material. His pressing nature in discussions./Encourage thinking indepth/He used a variety of audiovisual sources. There was always a powerpoint. Occasionally we got to see clips and documentaries. He was also very quick to respond to emails and extremely helpful with all questions./Interest in the subject matter/He made me actually take an interest in the evolution of plants, something that prior to this class i would have never thought would be interesting. Tries to make class as entertaining as possible and has some decent techniques that allow him to do so. Get the class involved in groups and forces you to think critically. Made a class about evolution not too bad for someone with little knowledge on the subject./Knows his subject material very well and is very interested in his subject material./He's good at inducing discussions/He was a really nice guy : great teacher who had a great course organization. Great class and good method of teaching

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

At times the discussions didn't really take off, I'm not sure why./Not clear on instruction sometimes/none./Has favorites, grades too harshly when one tries really hard it doesn't help. He wasn't clear about how to write scientifically and just tears papers apart./None/he's not prompt on returning papers/Class became a little boring sometimes

3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

I didn't really like the first book, second one was great./Not much/no/Teach how to write scientifically. Don't expect high-level scientific writing from freshmen./I know our class was not very interactive, but anything to help students feel more comfortable speaking in class early on in the quarter would help increase participation./none/Field trips would be awesome in this class

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

Yes, I gained a better understanding of evolutionary concepts and how to deal with scientific papers./yes helped a lot to write scientific papers/Yes. I learned much more than I expected in a topic that didn't really interest me at all. All of the readings, with the exception of scientific articles, were very engaging and the questions that were raised in discussion were extremely though provoking./Yes, covered many topics on evolution/Yes the course helped me learn a lot about evolution and different types and factors of evolution without overwhelming me too much information. Learned the important concepts of evolution required to critically analyze scientific papers. Helped me learn how to analyze scientific papers without necessarily understanding all of the techniques of experimentation going on in the articles./Yes, the combination of books, articles, and in class discussion helped better our understanding of the material./yes/Yes, the combination of papers and readings were great.

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

This was an interesting course, but not for the faint-biology-hearted. There is a strong emphasis on evolution, and thus a background in biology will help greatly. The scientific papers can be difficult, and I can see if you've never dealt with them before it would be overwhelming. On the other hand, here's your chance to get use to them. They're also not emphasized all that much class, more in the papers. This is a good course if you want to learn how to read and wright about scientific papers./A lot of texts to read and papers to write. But definitely helpful/I strongly believe a freshman seminar is an opportunity to take a class that about a topic that

you would never have taken otherwise. I was most certainly uninterested in biology, would never take this topic outside of the freshman seminar, but while I was in this class, I found it fascinating and interesting./The course was almost too challenging. The instructor treated this class as if it were your only class. Too much reading and not enough instruction on the scientific writing expected./Fun course. Good times. Hard rhymes. All the time./Definitely a surprise class in that I went in not expecting much and came out actually enjoying it. Some topics of plant evolution can be dull, but Dr. Wickett makes it enjoyable and interesting to learn about. Some discussions were entertaining including my favorite in which we discussed the evolution and hybrids of cannabis Sativa and cannabis Indica plants. Overall if Dr. Wickett teaches a class you are somewhat interested in I suggest taking it./I highly recommend this seminar, as it helped me not only understand evolution more, but also understanding scientific articles. Norman is also a great teacher who is engaged and interested in the plant biology and evolution./it was interesting/Great class. The teacher was great though the grading was not clear. But it was a great class I learned a lot.