



Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

Subject: BIOL_SCI Biological Sciences
Academic Term: Fall 2015
Class Number: 10053

Enrollment: 15
Responses: 11
% Responses 73.33

Class: 101-6-20 First-Year 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	11	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).	4	1	0	0	6	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	0	0	1	6	1	3	11	4.55

Core Questions

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction	10	0	0	0	3	2	5	5.20
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	10	0	0	0	4	4	2	4.80
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	10	0	0	1	3	4	2	4.70
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	11	0	0	0	8	3	0	4.27
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	11	0	0	0	2	7	2	5.00

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.	11	3	8	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.	10	0	0	1	2	3	4	5.00
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	11	0	0	0	2	4	5	5.27
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	11	0	0	0	6	4	1	4.55
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	11	0	0	0	0	1	10	5.91
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	11	0	0	0	0	6	5	5.45
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	11	0	0	2	3	4	2	4.55
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	11	0	1	4	3	3	0	3.73

Essay Questions

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

Norm is very knowledgeable about the material and clearly enjoys teaching and discussing it. He's super friendly and its very easy to ask him questions./He is knowledgeable about the subject and truly interested in it. All the classes are discussion based which allows for us to ask questions and explain our thoughts. He also prompts us to think for ourselves and asks us difficult questions. The books were also interesting to read./Very intelligent/knew material well
Always was in class and enthusiastic to teach
Engaged us by asking us specific questions and lead us to the right answers by using connections to previously learned material/subjects
Always willing to help and answer any questions/Norm is an amazing professor, he has such an interest in the subject and he really gets his students interested as well./He is very enthusiastic and conveys the material well./Norm is very enthusiastic about this subject. Norm also knows his plants./Norm is really great at answering any questions across a wide range of subjects! It doesn't matter too much if it was too related to what we were doing in class, he is super knowledgeable about almost everything and anything. Great guy and a great professor./Very interested in the subject so he is very enthusiastic when talking about the material.

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

None/I can't think of any weaknesses of the instructor but I didn't really like the scientific papers we read. I thought they were a little too difficult for us to read.
/None/None./There were not any./Norm is usually late on returning papers so it's hard to improve on the next paper without the previous comments./It takes him a while to get papers back, but that is only because he really does his best to leave helpful comments and criticisms./Sometimes what he wants from us is a bit unclear.

3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

None/To upload the final paper prompt a bit ahead of time so that we can start reading the papers and thinking about the subject/paper topic beforehand so there is not as much of a time crunch during actual finals week./Some of the classes bore on, maybe talking about some interesting current day connections or something like that./No./It would help to make papers due after the previous ones are graded.

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

The course challenged me to write in a new way which was hard for me. Norm really helped me progress with my writing style./This course definitely helped me understand evolution and the processes that drive it. It also exposed us to different viewpoints and allowed us to discuss topics as a class, which I think helped me learn even more./Yes. I have always had a basic foundation of understanding evolution but this class really got into the specifics of what drives evolution and why, on a macroscopic as well as microscopic level and I really enjoyed that. The level of detail was thorough but Norm made it very understandable and I really felt as if I learned in a different way than how I usually l/The course definitely helped me learn a lot about all the different aspects of evolution and the things happening regarding evolution today./Yes. He was able to make the material interesting and I learned a lot of new things./Yes./I definitely learned a lot about biology and evolution, but I also learned how to critically read papers and journal articles./Yes. There was some very interesting information in some of the readings that we discussed in class and was explained by Norm.

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

This class was amazing. Having a strong interest in biology will only enhance the experience, but all majors can enjoy this class. Norm is an amazing professor and really cares about his students!/Norm is really funny and makes you feel comfortable being in his class. If you have him you're going to laugh a lot. He is enthusiastic about evolution and biology. There isn't a whole lot of work which is good for a freshman seminar./I really loved this course, norm was amazing and it was a manageable work load./It was a very fun class and Norm is a great teacher./Norm is very enthusiastic about teaching evolutionary/ plant biology. Class is not too much work with 3 papers and a presentation. His grading style is vague and since he often grades papers late, it doesn't really help us much./Norm is an amazing teacher, very fun and knowledgeable. The course was interesting and had a very manageable workload./Norm is fascinating! He is super enthusiastic about teaching this course. He delivers difficult scientific concept in a way that everybody understands. He makes good jokes. It's sad to hear that Norm is not gonna do another seminar again because he is definitely good at it./The class has quite a bit of readings, including two books and scientific articles for every class, but they're definitely worth the read. Norm doesn't assign readings that are boring or insignificant to what we're doing./Interesting class. Some of the information is difficult to grasp in the form it is presented in but most of the time Norm gives explanations that clear things up.