



Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

Subject: BIOL_SCI Biological Sciences
Academic Term: Winter 2013
Class Number: 31995

Enrollment: 26
Responses: 13
% Responses 50.00

Class: 378-0-20 Functional Genomics
Instructor: Norman Wickett

Demographic Questions

	Education & SP	Communication	Graduate School	KGSM	McCormick	Medill	Music	Summer	SCS	WCAS
Your School	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	7

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	0	1	5	3	4	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).	1	4	0	1	3	4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	1	0	2	2	5	3	13	4.46

Core Questions

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction	11	0	1	1	0	3	6	5.09
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	11	0	1	1	1	6	2	4.64
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	11	0	0	2	4	1	4	4.64
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	12	0	0	0	7	0	5	4.83
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	12	0	0	0	2	2	8	5.50

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.	12	1	5	5	1	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.	11	0	0	0	1	3	7	5.55
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	11	0	0	1	2	3	5	5.09
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	11	1	1	0	3	4	2	4.27
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	11	0	0	0	0	0	11	6.00
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	11	0	0	0	3	0	8	5.45
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	11	0	1	3	1	4	2	4.27
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	11	1	0	2	3	3	2	4.18

Essay Questions

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

Professor Wicket was a cool guy, and I liked how he was more "in tune" with the students. It created a more lax atmosphere, and it made me enjoy being there and learning./Though the instructor is a young professor. He has both broad and deep understanding of this subject and can answer all the tricky questions students ask. It is very interesting that he tries to make hundreds of jokes for one class. Also I really appreciate that the instructor can explain very complex principles in a much simpler and easier way./He is very interested in the class and wants to ensure he teaches material that the class is interested in./Really interested in topic and tried to make class relevant./Very engaging lecturer; enthusiastic about the material and did his best to break down complex ideas/processes into smaller, simpler pieces./Enthusiastic, lots of good, big ideas for coursework. Sought a great deal of student input. Wants to build the class around seeing and understanding actual data./Explained things well in class and office hours./Super knowledgeable & enthusiastic.

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

Sometimes professor Wickett went off into tangents that didn't really apply to what we were learning, but they were a nice break./The test he gives is too writing intensive./Definitely some growing pains this year especially with the cameo of the flu. And the project that never failed to appear until the very end.../Trying to do too much. Adjusted appropriately over the course of the quarter./None.

3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

This class was the first being taught in a while, so maybe a better idea of the schedule would be good. Sometimes also criteria for assignments were a little loose./Easier tests, less writing would be better./Limit the class to students with more of a background in biology. The first few weeks of the class were review for me, more so than most classes. Also, try not to let graduate student dominate the conversation. By not requiring people to raise their hands, there were a few grad students who would always talk and were not aware that students behind them were trying to participate as well./This is my suggestion to Norm to suggest to next years grad students: form a reading group to go over the articles that are 'optional'./Involve actual data and hands on projects earlier in the quarter. Perhaps give all students the option between a data-based project or review paper for the final assignment./Since this was the first time it was taught, course was a work in progress, so there were a lot of on-the-fly changes to the syllabus. But the instructor made them as smooth as possible and was always extremely prepared.

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

The course did help me learn. The group project was really useful, and it was a nice way to put what we learned in class into use./Yes, a lot! Even for a graduate, this course is challenging us intellectually. So we need to really read these assigned documents and textbook carefully in order to answer or ask some questions in class. It is a small class, so most of time we can all involved into discussion. And the instructor can pay attention to individuals./Kind of, I felt like I was learning basically the same thing but in a disorganized manner./Yes! I now know more about the cannabis genome than I care to know./Yes. Genomics is intimidating, esp if you are considering delving in on your own. I learned a lot in this course and feel pretty confident in my ability to continue exploring the subject and applying it to my research./Yes. Introduced a great deal of primary literature from a wide variety of genomic disciplines and study organisms. Covered the basic principles of genomics well and introduced complex ones (like graph theory based assembly approaches) in an understandable way./I learned a lot in the class./Yes -- it was a really valuable introduction to functional genomics.

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

This class was awesome! I didn't really expect much going in to the class, but Professor Wicket is an awesome professor, probably my most favorite at NU./It's really good for the first time the class is taught! Could be more organized (more timely uploads of lectures to Blackboard) but it's not too bad. Prof listened to our input and incorporated it into class. A LOT of dense reading, but lectures were helpful in simplifying the readings. I also liked the interaction between grad students and undergrads. Certainly learned a lot about genomics, as i came in knowing next to nothing.

Recommend, but be prepared for serious work. Prof is super approachable and is very good about answering questions. and love his goofy jokes./Norm is a nice guy, just doesn't have an awful lot of experience teaching yet. the material was surprisingly dry, more on techniques and research methods than anything. tests were fair./Only after the class, the genomics hard papers are not that challenging any more. I have been struggled by myself for a long time to read these papers with ease but in fact having such a class is the resolution./I felt confused during the whole course, the lectures were structured nicely, but I felt like I could never keep up./Good over view class. The professor is great and there is not too much work, just keep up with readings so you can participate in class./This class definitely went through some growing pains this year but I see it being great in the future. Wickett is awesome!/Professor Wickett was enthusiastic and fun in the classroom. He encourages discussion and makes the classroom a comfortable environment to ask questions and share opinions./This was the first time that this class has been taught in while, and some kinks need to be worked out. That being said, Professor Wickett is the most AMAZING biology professor I have ever had. He is a really great communicator and made class really really enjoyable. If you every have a chance to take a class with him, no matter what it is, please do./This is an excellent course, introducing the fundamental concepts underlying genomic research, and providing concrete examples of how genomic data is generated, and how it can be interpreted to gain meaningful insights into disease, crop breeding, and evolutionary history./This was a great course that provided a valuable introduction to functional genomics.