



Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

Subject: BIOL_SCI Biological Sciences
Academic Term: Fall 2012
Class Number: 13193

Enrollment: 15
Responses: 9
% Responses 60.00

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	9

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	9	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).	6	0	0	0	4	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	0	1	0	2	5	1	9	4.56

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	0	0	0	5	3	5.38
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	8	0	0	0	2	3	3	5.13
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	9	0	0	1	0	6	2	5.00
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	9	0	0	0	2	3	4	5.22
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	9	0	0	0	1	3	5	5.44

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	3	4	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.	9	0	0	0	1	2	6	5.56
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	9	0	0	0	1	4	4	5.33
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	9	0	0	0	1	3	5	5.44
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	6.00
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	9	0	0	1	0	2	6	5.44
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	9	0	0	1	2	3	3	4.89
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	9	0	1	2	4	2	0	3.78

Essay Questions

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

Very dedicated and communicates the subject well to his students/Norm is definitely a very approachable professor and easy to relate to. He is also great at providing feedback for papers and helping you improve your writing skills./He is very enthusiastic about the material and about teaching the material to his students. He also prompted interesting discussions in class./Very enthusiastic about the topic. Norm is fun and easy to get along with, so coming to class and chatting about evolution was something I looked forward to./knows the material really well and has a passion for what is taught/He knew what he was talking about and is really experienced with plant research. He's funny and keeps students interested./He definitely has some super psych skills because he delivers the material in mind-blowing ways. It was so awesome. He knows how to start discussions very well and his advice for writing the papers makes it feel like he's also a professional writer./Very good at conveying concepts in a way that everyone can understand. Very friendly and relatable and tells fun stories.

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

Might ramble sometimes but always to interesting and related topics/I was confused about what Norm wanted out of our papers from the first day through turning in our final paper. Many of the comments I got on papers I turned in contradicted each other, so in the end I remained unclear about what was needed. Also, reading research papers and writing essays on them got dull after a while.../sometimes how his questions are asked are confusing / not too clear/He assigned readings that were really difficult and that we never discussed. The essays were hard and there wasn't enough instruction on what to do for them./none/Asks too many basic questions & creates awkward pauses, since the class tends to over think them.

3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

More punctual return of assignments./More clarity in what is needed out of our essays. Norm could even have a full class on how he wants us to write our papers, and maybe look over some examples of old successful essays./Explain the essays more and actually talk about the readings./noperz

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

Yes, because it helped spur an interest in the subject of the course and caused me to want to intrinsically learn more about the subject./This course definitely gets you prepared for a major in the sciences and you really get to learn a lot about questioning everything and understanding even the smallest details./Before this course I knew a little about the evolution of plants, but not that much. The class taught me in depth about plant evolution and a little about animal evolution./Yes, I learned to think about biology and evolution in a different way, about both evolution in a historical sense as well as how it impacts issues today./it did! good criticism on writings and good at explaining concepts/Yes, I learned a lot about plant evolution. It was more interesting than I expected./Absolutely! All of the information was new to me so it was a really enjoyable experience./Yes - the class tended to complain reading scientific papers, but delving into them was the most educational part of the class.

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

A very interesting and engaging writing course which developed my scientific writing and critical thinking skills./I think this class is a great gateway into science majors, especially biology. This seminar is relatively more difficult than other seminars because of the dense science material, but it prepares you for what you are likely to expect in the future as a science major. Be prepared for a lot of critical thinking and exploring the world around you./I enjoyed the professor and he made

the class a lot more interesting, but I was not as interested in the material as I could have been. Overall, I enjoyed the class but some of the paper topics were not the most interesting./Interesting class, but the essays are a pain. There aren't too many of them, so they're completely manageable, but they're definitely boring. Norm isn't super prompt on returning assignments and I was confused about what he wanted out of our assignments. The actual time we spent in class was interesting though, and I looked forward to it./norm is the best! he loves what he teaches and is genuinely interested in making us like the class and learn. he's really easy to get in contact with and replies to emails quickly./This class was fine. The readings were interesting and the discussions were fun. The essays were more difficult than the essays written in other seminars, because this is a science based class and you had to learn how to write essays in a scientific format. Norm is a good teacher and he genuinely cares about his students, which was refreshing./There can't be a better freshman seminar. Especially thanks to the professor. He makes the material incredibly interesting, and he's just a fascinating guy. You'll never want to leave the class./A fun class with interesting discussions and stimulating research papers.