



## Course and Teacher Evaluation Summary for Instructors

**Subject:** BIOL\_SCI Biological Sciences  
**Academic Term:** Spring 2013  
**Class Number:** 33198

**Enrollment:** 95  
**Responses:** 72  
**% Responses** 75.79

**Class:** 109-0-20 The Nature of Plants  
**Instructor:** Norman Wickett

### Demographic Questions

	Education & SP	Communication	Graduate School	KGSM	McCormick	Medill	Music	Summer	SCS	WCAS
Your School	8	14	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	42

	a. Freshman	b. Sophomore	c. Junior	d. Senior	e. Graduate	f. Other
Your Class	34	20	7	4	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).	52	1	3	2	1	10

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Response	Average Response
Interest in subject before taking course.	12	20	18	9	6	2	67	2.75

### ***Core Questions***

	Total Response	1 Very Low	2	3	4	5	6 Very High	Average Response
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction	61	1	1	2	6	32	19	5.03
2. Provide an overall rating of the course.	59	0	2	7	17	20	13	4.59
3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.	61	0	1	10	22	18	10	4.43
4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.	64	1	11	23	17	5	7	3.55
5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor(s) in stimulating your interest in the subject.	65	1	4	4	13	24	19	4.72

### ***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.	65	50	12	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.	64	0	1	0	3	15	45	5.61
8. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.	63	0	0	1	10	23	29	5.27
9. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.	63	3	5	6	11	17	21	4.54
10. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.	63	0	1	0	1	9	52	5.76
11. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.	64	0	0	2	8	23	31	5.30
12. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.	64	3	4	4	13	17	23	4.66
13. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.	64	2	4	18	26	9	5	3.80

## **Essay Questions**

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

Thorough knowledge/He is definitely enthusiastic about the subject./Norm is very engaging and passionate. His lectures are fun and informative. I was really impressed that he learned many of our names, given the large size of the class -- this just goes to show that he is a great professor./Everything, Professor Wickett was an incredible professor in every way./Enthusiasm/Norm was very approachable and made lecture bearable to sit through./He's awesome, hilarious, intelligent, and the coolest person ever./Enthusiasm/Professor Wickett is extremely enthusiastic about his stuff and is able to get a lot of people interested too./Norm is a great guy. He always keeps lectures fun and engaging with jokes and general enthusiasm towards course material. He also really cares about his students and wants them to succeed./He's very enthusiastic./He was SUPER animated about the topic. His sense of humor made what could have been a seriously dry lecture pretty engaging./Ability to communicate ideas and concepts of the course/Norm is one of the best professors I've had. He is so excited about the topic and will truly make you interested in what we're discussing in lecture, even if you could care less about plants. He is also incredibly knowledgeable about the topic./Very enthusiastic, always knew that when I would go to class I was guaranteed to laugh at least once. Really good at relating to students and getting on their level./Great Enthusiasm, very engaging. Great guy. I liked how he kept lectures light and entertaining. Lecture slides added a lot to the class. Fun material too./Norm is very enthusiastic about teaching this course. He also ties the lectures together very well./He was very excited about the material and made learning interesting./Norm is the man! He is so enthusiastic - he can convince ANYONE that plants are awesome & that they should learn all about them. Also, office hours were super helpful./Very energetic and entertaining./Norm was extremely enthusiastic and approachable! He was willing to work with the students to better their understanding and grade, which was very much appreciated! He also made an effort to get to know our names which is an impressive task considering the size of the class./enthusiastic for a class that most would find boring/Norm loves plants, and it shows. He was always so enthusiastic and interacted well with the class to keep us all interested./Norm is awesome. Excited and very good at teaching with power points./Norm is super enthusiastic about plants and very funny./Norm is very enthusiastic, genuine, and entertaining./Norm was very clear and concise in his lecture. His powerpoints were very easy to follow and understand, and they basically included all the material that was on the test./Loves his class and uses good material and has interesting lectures/Norm is a great teacher who is very interesting and excited about teaching. He is such a character./Norm is SO enthusiastic about plants. It makes you excited about biology./norm is awesome. he's so funny and is very good about making the subject fun and relevant

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

occasional unorganization/The required textbook is never used./There were none./na/He didn't always respond to questions via email very promptly./None/Sometimes went too fast/None/He acts like a college kid (I think in an attempt to relate to students) and it brings the intellectual level of the class down and is distracting./None that affected the course or classtime./Tests were graded very strangely. Norm would give people As or Bs and for some reason the other person grading them would give people Cs or Ds and Norm would have to correct them. Basically, Norm should grade all of the tests./None that I can think of./I often felt misled. Professor Wickett made it seem as though the class would be super easy and it actually wasn't. Also, he likes to give hints to stuff that will be on the test, and then sometimes they aren't on the test (or perhaps just a small portion of the test), and instead something completely different is there that I wasn't as prepared for. So that was kind of frustrating. Also, I wasn't a huge fan of the formats of the test. Since they were open ended short answers, I would often answer with something that was technically correct, but I often got points off because it wasn't what the question had "implied" or I didn't hit on all the necessary vocab associated with the question. So I struggled with that./The class is a lot of memorization so where he only goes thru a slide for a few seconds, there can be a ton of info to know on that slide for the test./None/It moves quickly, but this wasn't a huge problem once I got used to it/Sometimes he goes on tangents./It wasn't at first clear what the structure/content of the tests would be./none really, it's kind of a boring subject to begin with/It was unclear what was necessary for the exams. The answer was absolutely everything, and it seemed unreasonable how much detail was necessary. The exam questions were very ambiguous and when my friends and I went into his office hours to go over our tests he would tell us that our answers were essentially right but he would also be looking for this one other part. But the question didn't really explain that./none/None/The power points were not clear and not well done./Sometimes Norm rushed through the powerpoints because of time./Does not prepare you very well for the exams/The class was a little boring but then again the material wasn't very

interesting to begin with./I didn't find any weakness in instruction./n/a

### **3. Can you offer suggestions for improvement?**

not really/Preparation for tests could be more clear./I think review sheets with key terms and concepts to know would be helpful for each midterm./DEFINITELY DON'T DO THIS COMPETITION ANYMORE SHOULD HAVE JUST LEARNED MORE MATERIAL OR GONE OVER MATERIAL IN MORE DEPTH, I LEARNED BASICALLY NOthiNG FROM THIS COMPETITION/The book was unnecessary and I am disappointed that I spent the money on it. The powerpoints are great and they are all you need to study./No, Professor Wickett really had a great grasp on how to teach this class./na/No/Maybe a bit more clarification on what slides are irrelevant to the exams/Just teach the class, and be laid back about it if you want, but don't go out of your way to make excessive jokes about alcohol and drugs to appeal to the immature freshmen./The book could be more related to the course material. I'm a person that learns really well from textbooks, but I struggled often to get the assigned one to aid in learning the lecture material. I think I could have done better in the class with a better book./Don't even make us buy the textbook./No/Don't downplay the simplicity of the material or course so much. Perhaps work with different formats for the test./Somehow make it so it isn't just 3 tests and straight memorization./No/no/NOPE/nope/Nope/The tests should be multiple choice./Make sure to explain all concepts thoroughly./try to structure the lecture so that it is more relevant to the way we are supposed to answer the exam questions/I would explain the concepts better instead of just relaying them on the powerpoint./Norm is awesome, no improvement!/n/a

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

I learned some basic information about plants/The course has new and interesting information about botany./Yes, this class greatly increased my knowledge on plants and plant biology./yes, he made material interesting/Yes, Norm made an effort to make the material relevant to students./Yes, Norm made it fun/It helped me memorize/Norm did a great job communication course ideas. His slides were usually really clear and were a great tool to studying for exams. However, due to the nature of the course, I often memorized things just for the tests and forgot them soon after./I learned some things I definitely wouldn't have had occasion to know otherwise. I honestly hope some of it sticks--it's kind of cool stuff to know./Yes. Every topic was made interesting and the exams were good evaluations of knowledge/Yes! I actually learned quite a bit about plants that I would have never learned before./Yes, the course was very transparent in terms of the information we had to learn, so it really helped me memorize the concrete things we needed to know, rather than cloud my mind with unimportant details that I would probably forget immediately after I took the tests./Yeah, overall I found the material rather interesting, and the lectures added to my interest./Yeah it made me memorize facts which helped me learn about plants./The lectures and slides were very useful./I learned much about plants and now I see and appreciate plants more than I ever did./I learned so much in this course. He ties everything together really well so the material sticks with you/Yes, about plants./yes, made a lot of real world connections to plants we use everyday and see everyday/Yeah, I did learn a lot about plants, but I'm not going to ever apply it./yes, because it was a very well taught class in a subject that i have never learned about before/Yes. I learned a lot about how different plants adapt to climate. Norm explained the basics very well./No because there was no homework so I only learned the material during the week of the exam./The course definitely helped me learn because the material was very interesting and Norm really made the lectures cool./Yes because professors engagement during classes made me listen and remember stuff that were explained in a cool way/Yes but not too much. I know more about plants./I learned all about plant life, things I never knew before!/this course made me interested in plants and taught me just how important they actually are(and how cool they are too)

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

Wickett is the best! Take this class if you can. It is relatively easy but does require that you put in some work. Be careful with the first exam- he'll tell you its all life cycles but there is so much more than that on the exam! Otherwise, everything was really clear./It was a great course overall. Still not easy. don't underestimate/Great distro. Norm is a funny guy who actually makes plants interesting./The tests are deceptively hard and can prevent this class from being an

easy A. Beware./Professor Wickett is the best!! He's funny and very enthusiastic about plants. His tests are fair- just make sure you memorize all of the slides./Easy A, learn by heart material yet interesting, Norm is a pretty damn good professor for this intro class, excited, considerate and knowledgeable/Harder than you'd think for a 100 level distro. There's no real room for error but the material isn't that bad./TAKE THIS DISTRO. Wickett's great, there aren't a lot of hoops to jump through, and you'll end up learning some stuff along the way without it being too painful./This class was incredible. A class that definitely requires studying to do well, but Norm is an incredible professor who makes you excited to go to class, and learn the material./very enthusiastic and awesome dude/There's no reason to go to class because everything is posted online, but definitely not an easy A--tests are much harder than expected. That said, great distro for a busy quarter because you really only have to cram the night before each exam./Norm is a great professor. The exams were a little more difficult than expected, so don't blow it off as an automatic 'A'./Norm is the man. Funniest professor ever. Made at least one pot reference per class. The guy gets it. Best science distro ever./This course was straight memorization, I know more about plants than I wish I did so that makes me angry. During exam times you need to study your notes and lecture slides meticulously, write down everything Norm says. Norm is funny, not a bad distro./Took this class thiking it was going to be relatively easy, but the first midterm was HARD. As long as you study a decent amount though, you'll be fine. Norm is a great professor! Super chill, and loves what he's teaching/This class was great. The professor is enthusiastic about plants and he made the class fun. As long as you remember a lot of what he says in class and on the notes, the tests are okay. I definitely recommend this class as a science distro./not an easy a!!!!!! that being said, wickett is GREAT AND HILARIOUS. surprisingly one of my favorite professors - definitely one of the most memorable classes i've taken at northwestern so far. he's so funny and actually manages to make this topic interesting!! you can skip this class if you need to, great for a science distro but you really need to work to get an a. i'd definitely recommend it./Norm is awesome. He is so enthusiastic and absolutely hilarious and really does make you somewhat interested in a boring topic. He is just a really cool, great guy and the class is not very hard. Just know the slides. He really wants students to do well./This is a great class to take for distribution credit. Norm is a fun guy who truly wants his students to succeed. If you come to class and really read the slides, tests shouldn't be too much of a problem./Loved this class. Really easy, not a burden, fun to go to. Okay to skip sometimes. Highly recommend it. Norm is fantastic, enthusiastic, and engaging./Norman is an amazing professor, but the course is based on only three midterms and ended up being quite a challenging grade altogether. I'm not going to say it's a hard class, but you should go to lectures and you do have to put in effort for a grade. Not the easiest science distro, I'd recommend something else if you're just looking for an easy class./This dude is super enthusiastic about plants, which makes for a really entertaining lecture. He def played favorites in class though..he would just randomly give 10 bonus points to a kid who answered a question. If you're genuinely interested in plants, it's an AWESOME class./Great distro to take! Norm is so chill--it's a great time. However, DON'T buy the book whatever you do! I'm a person that self-describes as learning from textbooks well. I usually read them cover to cover in classes even if I don't really need to, but this one was not helpful at all. Don't waste your money./Prof Wickett has made an awesome course for a distribution requirement. It was genuinely enjoyable and contained interesting knowledge without taking itself too seriously./Prof. Wickett is a great professor and really enthusiatic about plants which helps to make the class more interesting. This class is easy but not that easy. It does require studying in order to get an A/Norm is literally the greatest. Take this class only because he teaches it...and because it's actually interesting. Even if you don't care about plants, he will make you want to care. It isn't a particularly easy A, but you'll do well if you actually put in the work./It was a great course--tougher than expected even with the curve, but a decent distro that got me a grade that I'm satisfied with./Interesting class, definitely requires effort and time for the tests. Only 3 tests and besides studying for those a couple days before you do not have to put in any other work. Norm is the man. He's really cool really approachable and works with you./For a science distro, this class isn't that bad. Plants are boring but Norm is really cool and makes lecture somewhat bearable. Three exams, no final/....FAIR WARNING.....This is a decent class and the professor is engaging and funny. You will learn some interesting stuff about plants that you otherwise would have never known.That being said, it is not as easy as the Professor makes its out to be. I had hoped to take this class to finish a science distro and perhaps get a nice GPA boost. Instead it only ended up hurting my GPA and leaving me frustrated. I didn't like the short answer formats of the test and I often felt mislead about what would and wouldn't be on tests. Either way, I would recommend seeing what other distros are available before taking this class. Unless you're really into plants, then go for it./This class is alright. Its basically straight memorization for the 3 tests and theres no final. Norm is really enthusiastic but the tests are very difficult. Definitely not an easy A./Professor Wickett was great!/Good distro. Not an easy A but you can work for it. Need to study slides though. Don't waste money on textbook/I wanted to learn about plants and I did./harder class than you would think, need to study all the slides a lot for tests, ta is a really tough and unfair grader, meet with him for extra help/NORM IS THE MAN! Take this class even if you think you have no interest in plant biology. You definitely don't need to buy the textbook, but that being said, the class isn't easy and you shouldn't blow it off. Make flashcards for the exams - if you learn how to study for them, you'll be fine. My grade on the 2nd one was 20 points higher than my grade on the 1st./This class was easy if you take notes and go to class and study for the tests. You learn a lot of cool things about plants./This is a good distro! KNOW EVERYTHING ON THE SLIDES and you'll do really well! Norm is great and super fair but A LOT OF MEMORIZATION IS NECESSARY!/I learned a

lot from this class because the professor taught plant material in an interesting and thoughtful way./this class can be an easy course if you go to lecture and put time into studying NOT the night before the test/This class is not an easy A. Norm is a hilarious professor, but technically you really don't have to go to class - most of us just did to listen to him. For the exams you just needed to memorize everything. The problem is that the grading was weird and the exam questions were ambiguous so it was just unfair how much they expected us to regurgitate./Norm the canadian is an incredibly fun teacher and the class is not very hard. Definitely take as a distro requirement/Super easy distro class. You don't really need to go to class to get a good grade on the tests. Just review and memorize all of the powerpoints and you will be solid. I would recommend going to class though because Norm is the most amazing person ever. Super funny./Norm is AWESOME! So enthusiastic and funny. However THIS IS NOT AN EASY A. The tests are not MC so they are very very very hard. You do not have to go to class because his powerpoints are on blackboard. If you are not interested in this class, do not take!/This course was a great distro. Just make sure to go to lectures and review powerpoints for tests. Norm is a great professor./The material is easy to understand but the exams are a little tricky. Professor Wickett did not prepare as well to do well on exams. First portion of exam was completely unnecessarily way to test our knowledge and it took too much time to connect the concepts with definitions. It is not exactly an easy A, I would say it requires continual studying and visiting professors office hours. However, material is interesting and professor makes it quite easy to remember with his interesting lectures. Make sure you take notes of what he says during the lecture because there will always be bonus questions including stuff that are not in lecture slides and it is a good way to gain extra points./I mean, let's be real, this class is about plants. Unless you want to become a botanist or something you will never be able to apply what you learn in this class to your major or anything else in your life really. BUT this is a GREAT science distro for all of you non-science people. The professor was funny and engaging and he was sympathetic about how a lot of us are just taking it as a painless science distro. And I really appreciated that he tried really hard to get us to be excited about plants, which is a hard task. The first midterm was a little tricky because life cycles can be confusing, but the next two were really fair. As long as you study the day before you'll be fine. It's not absolutely mandatory to go to class because he puts up the powerpoints on blackboard, but I would recommend it. But seriously this is probably one of the BEST science distros out there, DO IT./Norm is great but the class is HARD. Definitely not an easy A. I studied for hours only to get below average every time. DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE AS AN EASY SCIENCE DISTRO. It's boring and the exams are graded very harshly - all short answer. You need to fully understand concepts to do well, you can't just memorize everything and get away with it./If you take this course, TAKE IT WITH NORM. He's so awesome, and makes you excited about plant life. The class is really easy though, just make sure to study!/Norm is awesome and made me actually enjoy coming to class hear about plants - something I never thought I would say. Nonetheless, his tests are a little unnecessarily tricky -- its one of those classes where its pretty easy to get a B, hard to get the A./the class is fun and easy. Going to class is very enjoyable because Norm makes lectures fun!/Norm is great. hands down, one of the best professors at northwestern. it's so nice. only thing is, this class is harder than expected. definitely not an easy a. i studied a lot and still struggled in this class./such a sweet guy i love him, he loves what hes teaching about