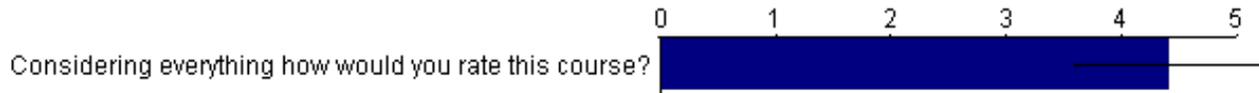


Course: GEOG 350 101 - Introduction to Urban Geography

Department: GEOG

Responsible Faculty: Elvin Wyly

Category/Section: *Arts Course Question* / Course Question



[E] Very poor=01 | [D] Poor=02 | [C] Neutral=03 | [B] Good=04 | [A] Very good=05

KEY	Questions	Statistics				Frequency					Response	
		Mean	Med.	Mode	S.D.	E	D	C	B	A	Rec.	Exp.
	Considering everything how would you rate this course?	4.4	5	5	.81	-	1	3	8	17	29	74

Category/Section: Geography Departmental Question / Course Question



[E] Strongly Disagree=01 | [D] Disagree=02 | [C] Neutral=03 | [B] Agree=04 | [A] Strongly Agree=05

KEY	Questions	Statistics				Frequency					Response		
		Mean	Med.	Mode	S.D.	E	D	C	B	A	Rec.	N/A* Exp.	
	For courses that had discussion groups or labs, the discussion groups or labs made an important contribution to the course.	4	4	3,4,5	.82	-	-	1	1	1	27	24	74

*N/A responses indicate that the participant felt they did not have the information or experience required to respond to a question.

Question: Please Comment

Response Rate: 72.41% (21 of 29)

1 Great enthusiasm, though a bit more organization could be helpful. E.g. power point slides could be a bit better arranged in terms of note-taking. Also, a minimal framework of required readings, or at least a hierarchy for the recommended readings would be useful: an article or two that cover the basics/overall idea, then the rest as supplemental. The opportunity to revise and resubmit papers is great, something you would expect from advanced-level courses.

2 Great teacher who is extremely passionate about the subject matter and gives engaging lectures!

3 Excellent Professor, and very interesting course.

Professor Wyly takes the idea of teaching seriously and really cares about urban geography as a discipline and has much respect and high regard for the students in his class. That said, his method of teaching is highly unorganized and unclear. A typical class lecture goes something as follows: "Alright, so here is the relevant SAS info on (insert topic). Now you can use this information, or use a different programme or, in fact, create your own programme" Ok, so now that this is clear, let me go on.." The problem is, while Wyly makes it known that we will not have to know or work with any complex statistics in the class, he will nonchalantly refer to his SAS programme in reference to the lecture for that day or some obscure formula without explaining what it is, how it is

4 relevant, or how to use it etc.. Often I have felt left in the dark and wondering whether I missed some memo stating I had to have a knowledge of basic stats in order to take the class successfully. On top of this the T.A for this class (who I have had in the past), perhaps should have an assessment or go through a training session again. As a student who is a geography major and who does consistently well, I have heard more complaints about this T.A (Rosenman) than any other. I wish to stress that this is not some personal grudge about bad marks etc.. I find this t.a's marking highly inconsistent and one gets the sense that it is based on how she is feeling that day. Several students raised questions about her arbitrary requirements (i.e for a 5 page paper you must

have exactly 13 sources) in front of the class. I really think this should be looked into.

Interesting subject, good teacher, he is very approachable and fair.

5

I suppose this isn't his concern, but I do think he should get the students who talk in class while he is speaking to not interrupt him.

6

Access to course materials was excellent. Passionate teacher. Learning outcomes vague and I felt I was in a lecture series rather than in an intro class building core knowledge.

Professor Wyly is a great instructor and has a true passion for what he studies and teaches. Unfortunately, I did not attend as many classes as I would have liked to given my demanding work schedule and the timing of this class, but I thoroughly enjoyed the material that was incorporated into this class and would recommend it to anyone. I took this class for self interest as an unclassified student, and although most of the students probably had to take it as part of their program requirements, it was engaging and insightful. Elvin Wyly clearly has a love for the subject matter and is not afraid to instill that upon his students. Great job.

7

8 Very interesting material, the presentation was excellent, I enjoyed the visual materials (photos), thank you!

While the professor showed great enthusiasm for the course material, an overwhelming amount of information (some of which seemed unrelated) including names of authors and titles of publications cluttered the core learning content. Breaking up this content through different channels of communication would be beneficial. Also it would help to update notes before class so students can come to class prepared. Overall great prof who is incredibly knowledgeable, helpful and clearly cares for students learning.

9

-enjoyable course, but, the professor needs more slides during his presentation. A course in urban geography should be visually stimulating. For myself, there is an expiration time on slides of around 5 mins, spending any longer on one slide becomes visually exhausting.

10

Professor Wyly is obviously very passionate about both the subject matter and teaching. His enthusiasm and energy allowed the lectures about drier subject matter (statistics) to still be engaging and interesting. He very clearly wants his students to do well, and sets up his lessons, papers and exams in order to help us achieve. I thoroughly enjoyed Professor Wyly's class and look forward to taking courses he is teaching in the future.

11

Elvin was a great teacher. He clearly outlined what we needed to learn and I really support his way of marking and teaching style. He stresses that learning is about communication and that people should be allowed to talk about their marks in order to understand the subject matter well. Great teacher!

12

Course was generally very interesting, though very heavy on statistics which I wasn't expecting and at times found difficult to understand and connect to concepts of urban geography. Highly detailed website provided great amounts of guidance on projects. Prof Wyly is evidently very passionate about his field and this was apparent in his lectures which made them all the more interesting.

13

Professor Wyly is one of the happy-go-luckiest professors I've had at UBC and it is very refreshing. He is passionate about what he teaches and it really makes all the difference for students. His personal/course website is quite an impressive collection of his work, useful outside links/resources - and his lecture notes are very well put together (a definite sign that he cares about what he teaches). Overall, an excellent course AND professor, and definitely sparked an interest in me in urban geography.

14

Wyly is very invested in his class and field of study. It was great to have someone teaching who was passionate about the subject matter.

15

16 I feel the course website is really confusing, perhaps a reorganization of the website would be beneficial.

16

17 I took a chance in picking this course but the instructor's excellent website was key in showing that he had a deep passion for the topic. And his passion for the topic translated into a great class atmosphere and motivated me to attend every class

17

Professor Wyly is truly an inspiration. I have never felt so comfortable in a classroom. I only wish that there wasn't so much of a focus on the raw mathematics behind the process. I felt like the class lost its focus and effectiveness when formulae were explained for almost a third of the class. I think it's very important to understand HOW things work, but I feel like the application of the math was under explained. This is only the smallest suggestion in a course that was otherwise one of the most wonderful classes I have taken at UBC! The notes and course outlines were INCREDIBLE, and really inspired my desire to go into the subject matter in my future.

18

Elvin is a very knowledgeable professor who has great achievements in his field of study. The content he covers are interesting; however, there is a lot of words in each lecture (paper) to read in order to take the main points of the lessons. For a 300 level course, I think the projects would have been better if he had provided more guidance...I think he assumes that each student knows how to do research really well, which is not the case.

19

Perhaps I only felt this way because I hadn't taken Geography at any level above grade 9 before, but I felt a little lost with the projects sometimes. I felt a little more guidance would have been nice. I understand and appreciate the flexibility allowed and I LOVED being able to revise and resubmit but perhaps incorporating a session either in class or out, devoted to what is expected with regards to the projects would be good.

20

I completely understand the importance of introducing students to urban research methods, but at times presenting these methods was painfully boring. Perhaps a dramatic case study before presenting the method would make learning the method more interesting.

21

