

Course: GEOG 350 101 - Introduction to Urban Geography

Department: GEOG

Responsible Faculty: Elvin Wyly; Elvin Wyly

Responses / Expected: 28 / 65

University Module		Wyly, Elvin K									
		Responses					Individual				
		[SD]	[D]	[N]	[A]	[SA]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1	The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.	0	0	4	13	11	4	4	.69	28	4.3
Q2	The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.	0	1	1	12	14	4.5	5	.72	28	4.4
Q3	The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.	0	0	2	5	20	5	5	.61	27	4.7
Q4	Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.	0	0	1	10	17	5	5	.56	28	4.6
Q5	The instructor showed concern for student learning.	0	0	0	6	22	5	5	.41	28	4.8
Q6	Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	0	0	1	10	17	5	5	.56	28	4.6

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

Arts Instructor Questions		Wyly, Elvin K									
		Responses					Individual				
		[SD]	[D]	[N]	[A]	[SA]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q7	In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.	0	1	4	11	12	4	5	.82	28	4.2
Q8	High standards of achievement were set.	0	0	0	16	10	4	4	.49	26	4.4
Q9	The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	0	0	0	4	24	5	5	.35	28	4.9
Q10	The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	0	0	0	7	21	5	5	.43	28	4.8
Q11	The instructor treated students with respect.	0	0	0	2	26	5	5	.26	28	4.9

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

Arts Course Question		GEOG 350 - 101									
		Responses					Course				
		[VP]	[P]	[N]	[G]	[VG]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q12	Considering everything how would you rate this course?	0	0	2	9	17	5	5	.63	28	4.5

Responses: [VP] Very poor=1 [P] Poor=2 [N] Neutral=3 [G] Good=4 [VG] Very good=5

Geography Departmental Questions		Wyly, Elvin K									
		Responses					Individual				
		[SD]	[D]	[N]	[A]	[SA]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean

Q13	The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.	0	0	1	4	23	5	5	.49	28	4.8
Q14	The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.	0	0	1	7	19	5	5	.54	27	4.7
Q15	The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.	0	0	0	5	19	5	5	.41	24	4.8
Q16	Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.	0	0	0	6	22	5	5	.41	28	4.8

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

GEOG 350 - 101

Geography Departmental Question

		Responses					Course				
		[SD]	[D]	[N]	[A]	[SA]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q17	For courses that had discussion groups or labs, the discussion groups or labs made an important contribution to the course.	0	0	0	1	1	4.5	4,5	.50	2	4.5

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

Q18 - Please comment on course content, or any aspects, positive or negative, of your instructor's teaching, attitudes to students, class atmosphere, or any other matters affecting the quality of instruction that you consider worthy of note.

Response Rate: 82.14% (23 of 28)

- It is clear that the instructor cares about his students and is willing to help them outside of class time. He is very well-prepared for classes; however lectures tend to be a bit boring and there is very little variation from powerpoint presentations. His powerpoints also tend to be overloaded with information and a bit difficult to follow in class. Although this is in no way the instructors fault, the class was held in a room far too small for the amount of students enrolled in the course. There was often students lined up along the back of the room in chairs with no desks. I had to write my midterm without a desk, and during one lecture had to sit on the floor due to a lack of chairs. This classroom environment often made it difficult to learn.
 - Elvin held a couple class discussions this term, that was nice. But, he does use a lot of power points with a lot of information on them. Makes it harder to follow. His guest lecturers were really good.
 - An absolutely fantastic course and professor that I would recommend to anyone. Dr. Wyly did a wonderful job of synthesizing a lot of material and making it easily digestible. As a student not majoring in geography, I found that while the material was at times a little overwhelming, Dr. Wyly was clear and articulate in presenting ideas and made every effort to ensure that a responsible student could seek help or guidance when needed.
 - Great overall course and presentation of material. For me personally however, the quantitative aspect of lectures seemed to dominate. The course structure and powerpoints were very clear and this course taught me a lot of interesting content.
 - Elvin Wyly remains one of the best professors I've ever had the pleasure of having class with. He is very knowledgeable about his field of expertise and lectures in a way that keeps you interested and engaged.
- Wyly sets the sky as the limit for the student.
- endless resources, project options and feedback if one wants a challenge
- he is concerned about his students learning in the long term, and not just the short term, and tries to instill critical thinking on all levels.
- the beginning of the course is about understanding the epistemological problems in academia and geography.
- sometimes the class can be intimidating because there can be a lot of information to take in and not knowing what is 'relevant'
- there was a nice balance of not too much data in geo 3350

- I felt like the class was very theory-oriented and abstract, and I wish there were more case studies to exemplify what we were learning.

Would love to learn about transportation in cities and processes such as urban renewal, gentrification in greater depths! If possible, to have some case studies of cities that are not within North America wherever appropriate (example learning about transportation in cities in Europe and Asia, cross referencing these examples). Would also appreciate if the optional field trip could be conducted in week 2 or 3 as I missed the chance to participate due to International Welcome event. Enjoyed your class tremendously and thanks for sharing your knowledge with us (:

- Professor Wyly is incredibly engaging as a teacher and his passion for the content was evident. I enjoyed his interest and enthusiasm for the most part. Occasionally he seemed to go off on a tangent and spend too much time explaining details that we didn't necessarily need to know (ex. linear regression), but that was offset by the quantity of information provided. It seems that the course content has been accumulating for a few years, so although it is all relevant and interesting I think the course would benefit from a bit more focus.
- Wyly is the best! Lived up to his reputation. Looking forward to taking 450 next term.

Professor Wyly has a lot of enthusiasm about what he teaches, which can make his lectures interesting at times but he doesn't know how to bring it down to a student level of understanding. It is clear he really knows his stuff, but he makes a lot of references and uses a lot of words that I don't understand and I find it really hard to follow him and stay interested, even though the core concepts of urban geography intrigue me. I felt like I was missing a whole background of needed knowledge for the course. Perhaps Wyly can just simplify the material and concepts a bit to more of an intro to urban geography, which is what it is supposed to be. Also, more smaller assignments instead of one big project would be more effective for learning.

Elvin is SO passionate about his field of study and it inspires me every day just to walk into the same room as him! It's truly inspiring how someone could be so... passionate... about something, anything. I'm almost jealous of him, as a person. Unfortunately for me, I didn't like the topic of the course as much as I thought I would. But that's not Elvin's fault. I guess I'm pretty screwed as a real estate student who doesn't like urban planning.

Actual critical criticism:

- PPT is just a blob of text. (Hard to see. Really shouldn't use text smaller than size 28)
- Lectures are hard to follow along because where is this going??? (However this is offset since everything necessary is uploaded onto his fabulous course website, where it is made very, very clear)
- I wish there was more structure
- Textbook was very useless. And cost me quite a bit!!!

Thank you Elvin!

Some of the time, Prof Wyly uses a language/set of jargon that is very academic and often very specific to the discourse of the subject matter we discuss, which I admire very much and wish to attain myself, but sometimes made the understanding, and intake of information during lectures a bit difficult for me. I am not sure how I'd balance this though, as my exposure of this type of language through Elvin's lectures actually helped me improve the way I can engage in academic discourse. So, I guess it'd be something to keep in mind, but definitely not something to eliminate. Professor Wyly's greatest asset in my experience is his trust and respect for other individuals, it made learning and writing a much less intimidating process when he is so approachable.

Overall the course was very interesting and engaging, and the instructor was great, although it was difficult at times to keep up with the verbal explanations of the quotes on slides, maybe I should just change my note taking habits and switch to a computer. It would be nice if email correspondence was okay, even though in person is always better, it can be difficult to make happen with my busy schedule. I would have liked more assignments rather than one large paper. As this is an introductory course and many different topics are covered, more smaller assignments would have been an opportunity to explore more of the course material further.

- Elvin is an excellent professor. Never had a prof that cares so much about his students making himself so available for students. Really knows/loves his stuff. Interesting course.

Wyly's enthusiasm about the subject matter strongly encouraged my attendance and attention in class. The midterm was a bit misleading as to what we were expected to know, and what was actually on the midterm. Overall, enjoyed the class and would recommend the professor to other students.

- On another note, to improve attendance, instead of threatening with an attendance list, I recommend encouraging it with a surprise cupcake day. Watch it work.

- Professor Wyly, administered many interesting topics throughout the duration of this course, his delivery of the material is enthusiastic and powerful !

Several comments:

1) I thoroughly enjoyed the class material- very interesting. However, there was a lot of material covered and I found the material to be a bit sporadic at times and wasn't really sure how the course was structured (besides in terms of temporal scales, focusing on the past and ending looking at the future)

2) I think that the fact that Prof. Wyly gave us the opportunity to hand in papers and get feedback on them was excellent, but instead of giving optional deadlines, I would have preferred an actual deadline of some kind, maybe deadlines for paper outlines, or just a paper draft deadline that was NOT optional.

- 3) I think that Prof. Wyly is probably a brilliant mind, so he expects the same of his students. He tends to go off on tangents (I love that he's so enthusiastic about his material though!), and sometimes I found it a bit hard to follow and actually absorb all of the information he presented to us.

4) Also found that I wasn't really sure what I was supposed to really get out of the course, or what was considered 'important' when I was going in and looking back at the material. Because the PPTs were very dense, and the book chapters were as well, it was definitely difficult to pick out highlights from both.

Honestly loved the course and Elvin Wyly is a professor who clearly cares about his students and it shows how passionate he is about his work. I took this course on recommendation and I'm glad I did.

Man, this guy loves Urban Geography. One of the most passionate profs I have had throughout my tenure at UBC. Really thought-provoking and relevant, lecture. Sometimes the hard core numbers and data were a little tough to focus on, but I understand its importance, overall a really good course, with a guy who deeply cares for the subject.

Elvin is one of the most energetic professors I've had at UBC (if not the most). I really appreciated his enthusiasm and passion for the subject, it makes the course much more engaging for me as a student and I wanted to attend his class! My only complaint is that the lectures are long and contain a lot of content; it was sometimes difficult to stay focused the whole time, especially because the course was later in the day. I'm

- conflicted because on the one hand all of the material that Elvin presented was interesting and important, but on the other hand, more chances for participation/discussion could've made the course all the more engaging.

One side note, I did not find the Pacione text to be very interesting or helpful.

Professor Wyly has been one of the most inspiring instructors I have had the pleasure of learning from. He is passionate about his work and makes the subject exciting to learn. Furthermore, his concern for student learning is evident, providing every opportunity for us to ask questions whether it be by appointment or even over the phone. The teaching was dynamic, lectures were always well prepared and relevant to current events.

- The only improvement that could happen is perhaps showing examples of previous topics for the final project. I felt that the open ended nature of the project made it difficult for me to choose a topic early. The previous examples of projects did help greatly, though! Overall, I would recommend Wyly as an instructor and this course in a heartbeat. I've learned so much and been able to connect course material to other classes throughout the term. Wow!

This course was definitely an eye-opener on many different issues regarding urban geography. It provided a very good overview, and Professor Wyly used his immense amount of knowledge to tie different topics and

- examples together. The only concern I would have is that a few of the lectures contained material that was quite heavy, or had lots of calculations presented at once, which made some topics more difficult to understand than others.

You can tell Professor Wyly truly cares about his students and their learning process. His consideration of all students' comments as interesting insights and important revelations was refreshing.

In regards to his questions on powerpoints & attendance:

I attended almost all classes and was compelled to do so because of interest, and because the topics might be well discussed in the lecture notes, but it is much easier to have a class as a frame of reference for these concepts/notes. Professor Wyly has entertaining lectures with great stories and tons of energy and you know he cares about his students so you don't want to miss class.

In terms of making the powerpoints more effective, I wonder if there is a way to make the lecture notes reflect the meatier chunks of the powerpoint. Sometimes the wordy powerpoints distracted me from what the professor was saying as I tried hard to write everything down (or at least read it). I would have preferred simpler (less wordy) powerpoints. That being said, they do seem to reflect Prof Wyly's style, and in that case I would say lecture notes posted online could be more similar to the powerpoints in terms of content. Keep the current lecture notes, but check for any info missing from the ppt and insert it into the lecture notes. I prefer studying from the notes but find that I miss a few key points by doing that, but studying 2 very complete sources for each lecture seems a bit much.