

Term 1 2008 Faculty Evaluations
2008W1 2008

University of British Columbia
Arts

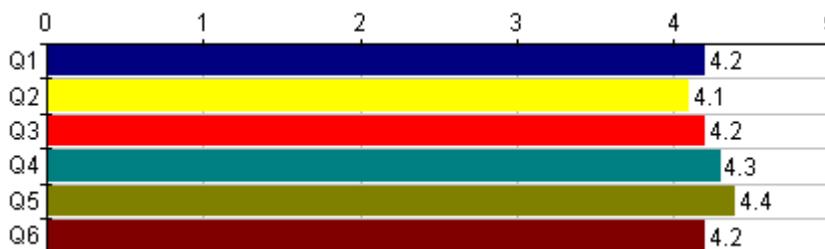
Course: GEOG 250/ URST 200 101 - Cities

Department: GEOG

Instructor: ELVIN WYLY

Responses: 66

Category Instructions: Based on a 5-point scale, where 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree, please rate your instructor on the following:



Survey Results

WYLY, ELVIN K

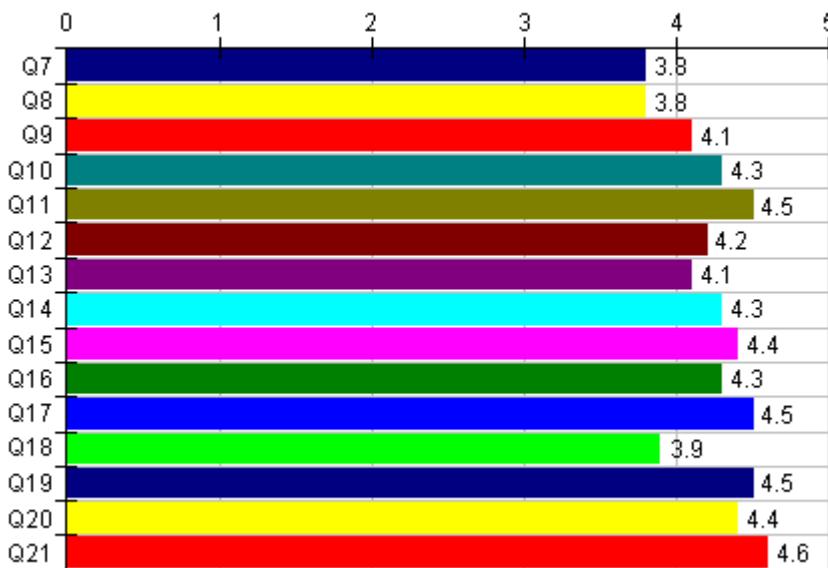
University Module

	University Module	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	2	8	28	28	4	4,5	.78	66	4.2
Q2	The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.	1	4	6	30	25	4	4	.91	66	4.1
Q3	The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.	1	2	13	20	30	4	5	.94	66	4.2
Q4	Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.	0	0	4	35	27	4	4	.59	66	4.3
Q5	The instructor showed concern for student learning.	0	1	5	28	32	4	5	.69	66	4.4
Q6	Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	0	1	8	31	26	4	4	.72	66	4.2

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

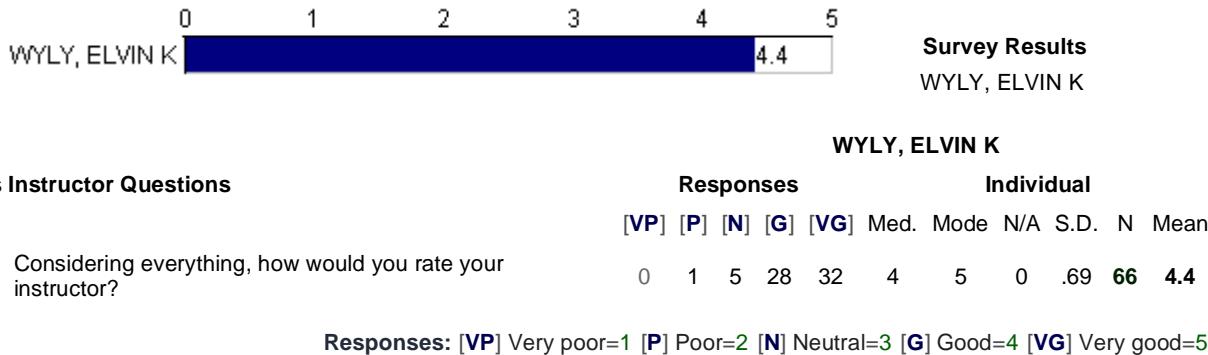
Survey Results

WYLY, ELVIN K

**WYLY, ELVIN K**

Arts Instructor Questions		Responses					Individual					
		[SD]	[D]	[N]	[A]	[SA]	Med.	Mode	N/A	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.	2	2	16	34	12	4	4	0	.88	66	3.8
Q8	High standards of achievement were set.	0	2	16	39	9	4	4	0	.69	66	3.8
Q9	Intelligent and independent thought by students was encouraged.	1	0	10	33	21	4	4	0	.77	65	4.1
Q10	The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.	0	0	5	29	18	4	4	14	.62	52	4.3
Q11	The instructor was generally well-prepared for class.	0	0	2	28	36	5	5	0	.56	66	4.5
Q12	The instructor was readily available to students either through regular office hours or by appointment.	0	0	9	27	20	4	4	9	.69	56	4.2
Q13	The instructor communicated at an appropriate level for the class.	1	2	10	32	21	4	4	0	.85	66	4.1
Q14	The instructor was articulate and communicated effectively.	1	2	4	30	29	4	4	0	.83	66	4.3
Q15	The instructor attempted to answer all questions in class to the best of his or her ability.	0	0	2	33	31	4	4	0	.55	66	4.4
Q16	The instructor established good rapport with students in the classroom.	0	1	3	38	23	4	4	1	.62	65	4.3
Q17	The instructor demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the subject.	0	2	3	23	38	5	5	0	.72	66	4.5
Q18	As a result of the instructor's effort, you became more interested in the subject.	1	8	9	28	19	4	4	0	1.02	65	3.9
Q19	The instructor communicated interest in the subject matter.	0	1	5	20	40	5	5	0	.70	66	4.5
Q20	Assignments and tests for the instructor were returned within a reasonable time.	1	0	4	24	36	5	5	0	.74	65	4.4
Q21	The instructor treated you and other students with equal respect.	0	0	1	23	40	5	5	1	.52	64	4.6

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



Q23 - Please comment on 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.

Faculty: WYLY, ELVIN K

Response Rate: 66.67% (44 of 66)

- I took a course similar to this at UVic (a human geography course, with similar content) and I found that Wyly was a MUCH more effective. I hope to be taking more classes of his in the future.
- Very enthusiastic about the topics presented into the course. Inspired the class to go the extra mile when learning course material.
- Prof. Wyly is a knowledgeable and good instructor for URST. Future improvements can be made by more interactive classes. Reading slides to students can easily lose the students' attention sometimes.
- Class is too big to encourage student participation. As a result it becomes a 1 hour 20 min monologue which tends to become quite boring. I am impressed with the knowledge you possess, but there has to be a more interesting way of presenting it to students. Maybe bring in less sources and focus on a few. Like the pictures you took that are always included in the slides/notes.
- Great teacher, make a boring course interesting. Excellent lectures and lecture notes.
- The first 3 or 4 classes were not enough related to the subject of the course. They were too much broad and often I didn't see the interest of such subjects. But then, subjects became more interesting.
- Excellent Professor. Perhaps, more case studies and less theory would be valuable for the course, although the theoretic aspect of the course goes with the nature of urban studies.
- The instructor was well organized and was ready to teach with full enthusiasm all the time. Although I would appreciate if he can provide paper based syllabus. I understand that putting everything online becomes convenient. But as a new student to UBC, it was hard for me to find the course syllabus.
- Professor Wyly has a great amount of enthusiasm regarding urban studies, and that made his lectures all the more interesting. He was very happy talking about each of the subjects, and it definitely made the class atmosphere welcoming

He's a very fantastic speaker (very fluid, articulate, engaging).

- But, there one really fucking annoying student who also had some really bad joke to shout out or a question that was really off base, irrelevant, or that just suggested he was significantly retarded and the prof would either respond to his comment or stupid joke or try to make sense of his retarded question. It would really break up the flow and I always would wish the prof would just dismiss his comments and questions (so he wouldn't be encouraged to continue) or just deal with them after class at least. His patience was unnecessary and (which is unusual) may have done more harm than good.

Actual example of a "joke":

Guest speaker: "...so he decided to put his life behind him."

Idiot guy: "So he killed himself?" [smug smile on face]

Speaker: "Umm, sorry what?"

IG: "Did he kill himself?" [intonation suggesting that he thought speaker wasn't confused but simply didn't hear him]

Speaker: "Um...no he, well no, he just...[etc]" [confused by mental inadequacy of the student]

Wyly really needed to do something to discourage this guy from talking and asking questions (at least during class). Not once were any of his questions or comments beyond that level (I may have some bias but I'm pretty confident in that statement).

Man, I really hated that student. He was always perv-ing on girls too.

Oh, also, Wyly was very, very helpful and engaged with students after class, if they had questions.

Prof. Wyly is a fantastic presenter. Each lecture he was able to present a concept, both sides of an argument, evidence, and bring it all together in a conclusion. He has a clear passion for and a deep knowledge of the subject. I enjoyed learning from his lectures, notes, and projects.

Once again, the problem lies with Mr. Wyly's lecture notes. Seeing as we are explicitly told to utilise the notes in studying for exams, it does not help that each lecture note file is the size of a 10 page essay, filled with enormous amounts of footnotes and references. Furthermore, his multiple-choice questions on exams are very complex, moreso than I believe they should be, and are ambiguous on occasion.

- In the case of assignments, we were told that we could expect our papers (both of them) to be handed back within a week. I have not seen my first paper since I handed it in a month ago. I am not sure what the TA's are up to, but it does not help that I have absolutely no idea what my standing in the course is and that I have no feedback to learn from.

He is still a very engaging instructor and is interested in everyone's opinion.

- For the most part I enjoyed this class and felt that it was taught at a high level by a passionate and knowledgeable instructor. Professor Wyly's style of teaching really emphasizes the idea of an academic conversation.

- Elvin is the only prof I've had in university who knows how to properly use PowerPoint - for pictures, diagrams, and limited text - I really appreciate that. He also is very encouraging with any student comments and questions, and is very helpful outside of class. One suggestion I would make is to try more class discussions or pause at points during the lectures to ask if there are any student questions or comments to add.

Felt as if he wasn't able to stay on topic and would often go off on tangents.

- Too many quotes and references to other works which were not made relevant to course material.

Lecture notes long-winded, made it hard to stay interested in the subject matter.

- The professor is passionate about his subject so it is a pleasure to listen to him ! And he really seems to listen to us.

Professor Wyly communicated interest in his students. Although all the lectures were done through powerpoint presentations, I feel that he made an effort to classes interesting by including videos. However, I felt that some lectures included too much technical data that made it somewhat dry. Overall, he made the course very interesting and really encouraged students to actively express their views and thoughts on topics.

- Class lectures extremely boring, notes were way too long and too much to read. Not an effective teaching style.

- The instructor's interest in the course material was clearly shown and made it more fun to learn.

- Good prof overall.

- The voice is loud and clear even sitting at the back of the room, but the over head slide is hard to read sitting at the back.

- Instructor showed great enthusiasm and interest in the course material and thus the interest was transferred onto myself. I thought the instructor was very pleasant and overall was very effective.

- It appears that the most important aspect of urban studies is what other people say in the field of study. Lectures full of quotes that don't necessarily add value to the lecture

- I thought the class was well-informed on the subject of Urban Studies, thus I have nothing more to add.

- Great prof.

- The lecture notes on the website were way too long and didn't communicate subject very well. Prefer slides will detailed notes if required.

- I think the notes that are available for download online should be more like the in class lecture notes. I liked how interested he is in the material.

One of the most caring and friendly professor I have ever seen.

- Thumbs up to Geog department for picking this professor!!!

- He certainly conveyed a lot of enthusiasm in the content of the course through his lectures, which were loaded with information. Information was presented clearly and in an organized manner, and for the most part was easy to follow.

- The instructor's excitement for the course material was encouraging for students.

awesome prof, fair, knowledgeable on many levels, communicated further readings for those interested in a particular area of the course, assignments were great as they were not conventional essays and thus encouraged creativity which makes them more fun and equally educative, great energy when standing in front of the class, the website organized by the prof was a big help and clearly organized which made it easy to keep track of course material, grading procedures, assignments, and extra stuff

Professor Wyly was a very engaging and energetic professor. His intense love of the subject matter and of cities is so obvious and it is very contagious. What is most appreciated, is his desire for his students to succeed. I did feel that the

- class was a little too big to engage in any great discussion, but being a 200 level course as well has having a separate discussion section explains that.

- Class size was too large for classroom

- Elvin is such an inspiring speaker and made it easy to learn. He is passionate about the subject matter and creates a very positive atmosphere for learning.

very interesting class. two major projects seemed like a lot especially with the short time of the course. especially when the - students have a full course load and families and jobs. perhaps an essay question on the midterm and one major assignment might be better.

As far as the actual act of teaching goes, one of the best & most dedicated profs I've had. Actually puts effort into teaching!

- Imagine that! WONDERFUL lecture notes, interesting powerpoints, creative & inspiring project options, fair & manageable course organization... so on & so on.

Professor Wyly is fantastic at what he does and it is inspiring to see someone so outrageously excited by the material he is lecturing on.

- DARK CLASSROOM MAKES FOR SLEEPY STUDENTS

Mr. Wyly was always in a positive and delightful mood and always made the effort to welcome us. During his instructions he would always include enthusiasm which helped me learn. He would make sure to walk around the classroom, which is effective for other students. At the end of class he would always end by saying "I look forward to seeing you next class." By saying this he demonstrated his care for his students.

- Professor Wyly was great. His enthusiasm sparked a keen interest in the subject matter and made his lectures both interesting and informative.

- I would take another class with Prof. Wyly in a heartbeat. His interest in the subject created a great class environment. His class was the perfect introduction to Urban Geography.

An excellent professor- very passionate about what he teaches. He is also very knowledgeable and involved in his field. It is - refreshing to have a professor who obviously cares a great deal about what he is teaching and who tries so hard to get students involved and interested.

- Made me interested in urban studies.

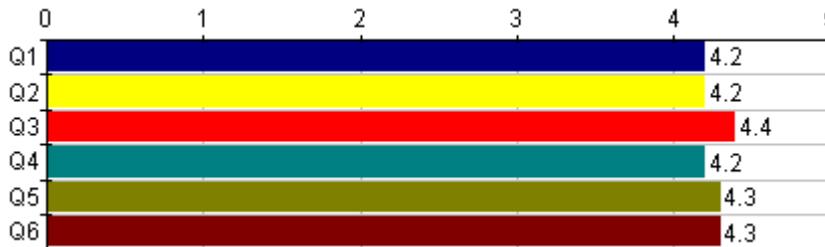
Subject matter was interesting; however, the classes simply consisted of the teacher reading directly off an essay he had written ahead of class. All in all, interesting, but extremely hard to stay awake through the long and tedious lectures. End result, it really made me want to skip class and I did not do as well as a result.

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University of British Columbia
Arts

Course: GEOG 350 101 - Introduction to Urban Geography **Department:** GEOG
Instructor: ELVIN WYLY **# Responses:** 33

Category Instructions: Based on a 5-point scale, where 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree, please rate your instructor on the following:

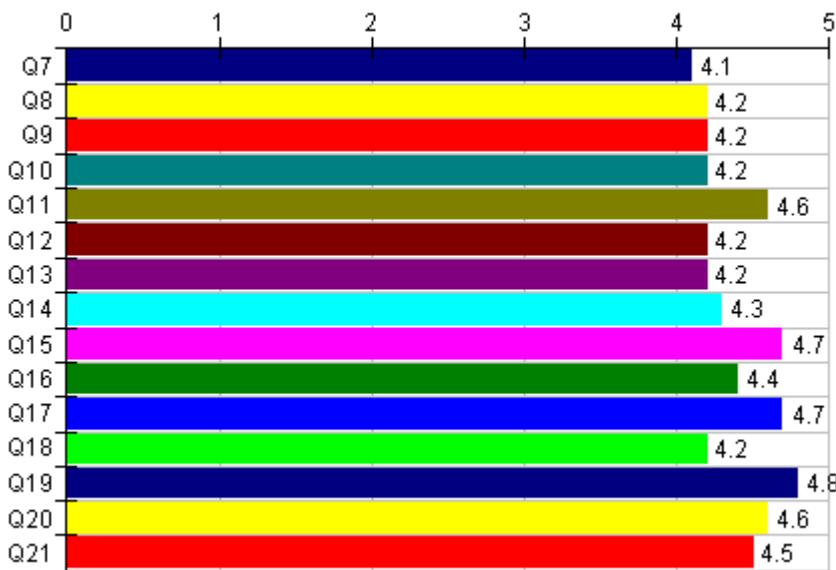


Survey Results
WYLY, ELVIN K

University Module		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	1	4	17	11	4	4	.74	33	4.2
Q2	The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.	0	2	4	14	13	4	4	.86	33	4.2
Q3	The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.	0	0	4	13	16	4	5	.69	33	4.4
Q4	Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.	0	1	5	13	14	4	5	.81	33	4.2
Q5	The instructor showed concern for student learning.	0	1	4	13	14	4	5	.79	32	4.3
Q6	Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	0	1	4	12	16	4	5	.80	33	4.3

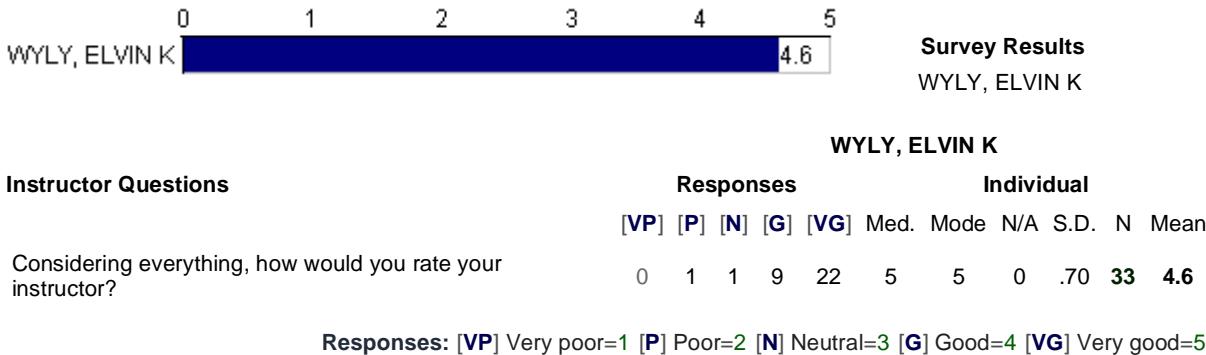
Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

Survey Results
WYLY, ELVIN K

**WYLY, ELVIN K**

Arts Instructor Questions		Responses					Individual					
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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.	1	0	4	18	9	4	4	1	.83	32	4.1
Q8	High standards of achievement were set.	0	0	4	19	9	4	4	1	.62	32	4.2
Q9	Intelligent and independent thought by students was encouraged.	0	1	3	16	13	4	4	0	.74	33	4.2
Q10	The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.	0	1	4	13	11	4	4	4	.79	29	4.2
Q11	The instructor was generally well-prepared for class.	0	0	2	8	23	5	5	0	.59	33	4.6
Q12	The instructor was readily available to students either through regular office hours or by appointment.	0	1	4	14	11	4	4	3	.78	30	4.2
Q13	The instructor communicated at an appropriate level for the class.	0	3	1	16	13	4	4	0	.87	33	4.2
Q14	The instructor was articulate and communicated effectively.	0	1	2	15	14	4	4	0	.73	32	4.3
Q15	The instructor attempted to answer all questions in class to the best of his or her ability.	0	0	2	7	24	5	5	0	.59	33	4.7
Q16	The instructor established good rapport with students in the classroom.	0	0	3	14	16	4	5	0	.65	33	4.4
Q17	The instructor demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the subject.	0	0	2	5	25	5	5	0	.57	32	4.7
Q18	As a result of the instructor's effort, you became more interested in the subject.	0	2	5	11	15	4	5	0	.90	33	4.2
Q19	The instructor communicated interest in the subject matter.	0	0	1	6	26	5	5	0	.49	33	4.8
Q20	Assignments and tests for the instructor were returned within a reasonable time.	0	0	1	12	20	5	5	0	.55	33	4.6
Q21	The instructor treated you and other students with equal respect.	0	0	1	13	17	5	5	0	.56	31	4.5

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



Q23 - Please comment on 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.

Faculty: WYLY, ELVIN K

Response Rate: 54.55% (18 of 33)

- Very passionate about the subject.

Dr. Wyly was very clear in his instruction and lectures. He tried to the best of his ability to always answer student questions and address the interests of the students, encouraging discussion in class if students seemed particularly interested in the topic. He was also very helpful when it came to planning essays and giving feedback and advice for writing. I thoroughly enjoyed the class.

The professor was very well prepared for class. His lecture notes amounted to top-quality articles, and the lectures themselves were expertly delivered. Overall, Wyly is one of the most well-read and articulate professors I have ever met. His lectures can feel a little too jam packed, however, and sometimes class discussion is hampered because of this.

An incredible teacher. He made the topics interesting. Showed videos occasionally too. Showed respect for the students. Was very responsive to questions and took the time to answer them properly. Assignments and the midterm were marker very quickly. Quick responses to emails too. He obviously really cares about his students.

I found the Professor Wyly to be a very enjoyable teacher. I felt that he was incredibly knowledgeable and interested in the subject, which in turn made me more interested in the subject. He was also extremely willing to help, and showed an interest in any question that was posed, making it easier to ask questions both in and out of class. Overall, a very good professor.

Brought lots of energy and passion to every class: helped inspire interest in the subject.

set strict deadlines for paper because the lack of due date makes us procrastinate even more

power point presentations should be used to summarize lecture into bullet points, not a place to post up huge amount of text from books.

good use of youtube in the lectures!!

Elvin, great use of concise PowerPoint presentations. Perhaps you could encourage a little more in-class discussion time or periodically ask students for questions or thoughts during the lectures.

I thought he was very enthusiastic which made the class more interesting.

Professor Wyly made me very interested in the course material. The projects that were assigned were difficult to prepare and write but as a result I was more aware and knew more about the topic. I found the projects very interesting and I received a lot of feedback on my paper. I find his deadline assigning interesting and reasonable for students who would like to receive feedback on their work. Overall, I think he did a very good job of assembling this course.

Elvin was always very excited in his lectures and his passion for the subject was transferred to the students. He was also helpful in office hours and answered questions over email.

Marking of assignments was done very quickly and comments were good.

Best teacher I think I've ever had! So engaging and passionate. So knowledgeable. I would recommend him for any

- award/position he is willing to accept! I am completely reconsidering what I want to do with my life because of what I learned in his class.

students should participate more in class

asking questions or discussion can help

very knowledgeable prof

very good class in general

Elvin is an incredibly brilliant urban geographer, and his enthusiasm for the material is infectious. However, I had some issues with this class. First the good: His term paper marking/deadline structure is brilliant, hands down the most progressive structure I have ever seen. It encourages prompt submission, but takes away the stress of meeting deadlines (to a degree), thus giving his students a better frame of mind to pursue creative thought, which is what academics SHOULD be about. His case studies and lecture material is very interesting, and his enthusiasm and understanding of the material make for an exciting course. Now for the bad: Why this course was labeled as an "introduction" to urban geography, I do not know. I have taken introductory urban geography previously at another institution and it was far more understandable than the content in this course, some of which was familiar, some of which was not. I found that the course material was taught at a level that was slightly too high for an introductory course, regardless of its academic year. This in turn led to frustration and a loss of enthusiasm for the material, simply because I felt too much of it went over my head. Secondly, the focus on quantitative methods was too predominant, and I would have preferred to have seen a more mixed bag of qualitative vs. quantitative. Essentially I found that the course felt more difficult than I had anticipated, which resulted in my feeling discouraged for much of the semester. This obviously isn't very conducive to free and open thought on my part. Overall I thought that Elvin did an excellent job, was respectful and kept the material interesting, but this was countered by a level of instruction that I feel was more difficult than necessary for an intro course.

- He showed true passion for his material and tried to inspire everyone to feel that as well. He was always well-prepared.

- I was captivated by his enthusiasm and I really really appreciated his website. His lessons had a LOT of information, and I was always really slow in taking notes and retaining all the info.

Prof. Wyly was a perfect introduction to one of my first urban geography classes. Even though the course content was

- sometimes challenging, he always made an effort to make sure the students understood. I definitely would take another class with him.