

Course Evaluation - Instructor Interface

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Course Name: GEOL3030: ELEM OCEANOGRAPHY

Call Number: 56-110

Period: 12:20P-01:10P MWF

Semester: Spring 2014

Instructor: RAILSBACK

Evaluation Start Date: 14 Apr 2014

Evaluation End Date: 29 Apr 2014

University-wide standard question results:

1. **Was this course required for your degree?** [AVG: 1.23077 STDDEV: 0.43853]
 1. [10: 76.9%] No, not required
 2. [3: 23.1%] Yes, required
2. **On average, how many hours per week did you devote to this course outside of class?** [AVG: 2.15385 STDDEV: 0.55470]
3. **Assignments and activities were useful for helping me learn.** [AVG: 4.38462 STDDEV: 0.65044]
 1. [0: 0.0%] Strongly Disagree
 2. [0: 0.0%] Disagree
 3. [1: 7.7%] Neutral
 4. [6: 46.2%] Agree
 5. [6: 46.2%] Strongly Agree
4. **This course challenged me to think and learn.** [AVG: 4.61538 STDDEV: 0.50637]
 1. [0: 0.0%] Strongly Disagree
 2. [0: 0.0%] Disagree
 3. [0: 0.0%] Neutral
 4. [5: 38.5%] Agree
 5. [8: 61.5%] Strongly Agree

Course Evaluation

5. **Concern for Students.** In a positive learning environment, an instructor shows respect and concern for the intellectual development of students. How well does your instructor do so?

AVG: 4.69231

STD DEV: 1.10940

- o 1: 7.7% Strongly Disagree
- o 0: 0.0% Disagree
- o 0: 0.0% Neutral

- o 0: 0.0% Agree
- o 12: 92.3% Strongly Agree

6. Preparation. Effective teaching requires that the instructor be well prepared for each class. How well prepared was your instructor?

- AVG: 4.76923
STD DEV: 0.59914
- o 0: 0.0% Strongly Disagree
 - o 0: 0.0% Disagree
 - o 1: 7.7% Neutral
 - o 1: 7.7% Agree
 - o 11: 84.6% Strongly Agree

7. Course Organization. A well-organized course provides the student with a syllabus that outlines the course topics and assignments and clearly defines how the student's grade will be determined. How well was this course organized?

- AVG: 4.76923
STD DEV: 0.59914
- o 0: 0.0% Strongly Disagree
 - o 0: 0.0% Disagree
 - o 1: 7.7% Neutral
 - o 1: 7.7% Agree
 - o 11: 84.6% Strongly Agree

8. Examinations. How well did the examinations reflect the assignments and material presented in the course?

- AVG: 4.38462
STD DEV: 0.76795
- o 0: 0.0% Strongly Disagree
 - o 0: 0.0% Disagree
 - o 2: 15.4% Neutral
 - o 4: 30.8% Agree
 - o 7: 53.8% Strongly Agree

9. Overall Rating: Instructor. Taking into account the many qualities that contribute to good teaching, your instructor was an effective teacher.

- AVG: 4.69231
STD DEV: 0.63043
- o 0: 0.0% Strongly Disagree
 - o 0: 0.0% Disagree
 - o 1: 7.7% Neutral
 - o 2: 15.4% Agree
 - o 10: 76.9% Strongly Agree

10. Overall Rating: Course. Taking into account the many qualities that contribute to a good course, this course made a significant contribution to your understanding of the Earth and its processes.

AVG: 4.61538

STD DEV: 0.65044

- o 0: 0.0% Strongly Disagree
- o 0: 0.0% Disagree
- o 1: 7.7% Neutral
- o 3: 23.1% Agree
- o 9: 69.2% Strongly Agree

Comments:

There are 11 comments for this course:

A. Of the topics covered in this course, which did you find most interesting?	B. Of the topics covered in this course, which did you find most challenging?	C. Please give one or more examples of something that you think your instructor did well in this course.	D. Please make any additional comments or suggestions you may have for improving this course.
I found the topic of ocean circulation to be the most interesting. Railsback went into great detail as to how currents form and what effects they have on the world.	The topic of El Nino was the most challenging to me, although this challenge was due to the inherent difficulty of the concept and not to Railsback's instruction.	Railsback is one of the most knowledgeable and entertaining lecturers I have seen. His lectures are very thorough in their explanations of oceanic concepts and are masterfully designed to ensure the class is able to see the interconnected nature of all the concepts covered in class.	Overall, this class is fantastic. Although the homework exercises are difficult, they really do encourage students to fully understand and interpret the concepts

			covered in class. Railsback is an excellent professor, backing up his entertaining delivery with a vast wealth of knowledge and the desire to help his students understand the course to the best of his ability.
Learning about marine life	Ocean currents	Had fun teaching and kept me interested with funny remarks	Some contents are a little too in depth.
life in the oceans	chemical oceanography	Very well prepared, and super insightful of the topics. Also engaged students very well	the assignments can be very tricky however one or two of them were simple.
Marine biology	Tides wear a bit tricky and probably the most challenging for me personally	Enjoyed the course and the professor was available for questions and was willing and always accessible for questions and help.	[No answer given by student]
Marine ecology	Waves	Very helpful and nice to students	Tests are pretty detailed and

			ask questions about seemingly smaller points
Most interesting I found that the biology of the ocean most interesting.	Most challenging I would say to synthesize everything he has taught us into some of his questions for exercises.	Railsback is always well prepared for class, knows the material, and is always looking up/updating his slides with new knowledge. For instance any question a student may ask he always has something to add and a good, educated reply.	Railsback is an amazing teacher with tests that have tricky questions which make the student think. It is not an easy A, but more a thinking certain way kind of class and test. The material he covers is relevant and well thought out.
Perhaps, being ourselves animals, we have a natural tendency to favor our biological brethren over our non-biological environments. Thus, I found myself most engaged during the biological oceanography portion of the semester, and for purely un-academic reasons. Intellectually, though, my favorite aspect of the course was the interconnectedness. From the very beginning of the course, Dr. Railsback informs his students that the course will be an integrated, almost systems-theoretical approach to oceanography, and he follows through with astonishing grace and ability. Dr. Railsback makes many appropriate references to pertinent material, always keeping	I found that the chemical oceanography section to be the most challenging. Chemistry is a highly esoteric subject, truly understood by very few and truly appreciated by far less. I acknowledge that chemistry is a valuable	As already remarked, Dr. Railsback did a phenomenal job connecting the various aspects of this course. But that's not what makes this course stand out, not by a long shot. It is a very rare pleasure to witness anyone who so gracefully balances infectious enthusiasm and youthful charisma with the ability to be such a seasoned expert capable of taking issues seriously. Dr. Railsback's multi-faceted expertise, his wit & wisdom, confer to his classroom an unprecedented level of sophistication without risking intimidation, which	No, this has been an -- if not THE -- ideal classroom experience.

tangential factors in mind, and in the end, confers to his students a holistic understand of the world's oceans.	subject of study, but I do so begrudgingly.	results in one of the most productive and enjoyable learning environments of which I have ever had the honor to be a part.	
Physical oceanography- waves	Chemical oceanography	Clearly organizing lecture topics and offering access to lecture powerpoints with key information and figures	[No answer given by student]
The global warming portion was great.	Being able to remember everything	Railsback is a fantastic teacher, enough said.	None!
The way the tides work.	The way the tides work was also the most challenging.	He was well prepared for class.	[No answer given by student]
[No answer given by student]	[No answer given by student]	Presented material clearly and answered questions as asked. Provided a website with various assigned readings and downloads if important lecture diagrams and materials. Always available to meet with students. Made class fun!!!	[No answer given by student]

Number of students in this course: 37

Number of evaluations for this course: 13