

2009 – Spring Term – GEO360: Geography of North America

Quantitative rankings

Rating Scale:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Undecided | Agree | Strongly Agree |

| 33 Students, 1 section | Number of responses in each category | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Question | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Avg |
| 1. Clear student learning objectives | | 1 | | 9 | 1 | 3.91 |
| 2. Class well prepared & organized | | 1 | 1 | 9 | | 3.73 |
| 3. Communicates material clearly | | | 3 | 6 | 2 | 3.91 |
| 4. Displays interest in subject | | | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4.73 |
| 5. Summarizes/emphasizes important points | | 3 | | 6 | 2 | 3.64 |
| 6. Stimulates thinking about subject | | 1 | | 6 | 4 | 4.18 |
| 7. Provides opportunities for outside contact | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4.40 |
| 8. Expresses concern about student progress | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3.90 |
| 9. Provides useful feedback | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4.10 |
| 10. Clearly indicates how evaluated | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4.00 |
| Total of 10 questions | 0 | 9 | 12 | 51 | 35 | 4.05 |
| 15. I have put a lot of effort into this course compared to other courses. | | 2 | | 7 | 2 | 3.82 |

Student comments

| Comment on aspects of the instructor's teaching style that helped the learning process | Comment on aspects of the instructor's teaching style that could be improved upon to help the learning process |
|---|---|
| 1) Great guy and a great teacher. Knows what he is talking about. I love the 10PM deadlines... gave me time to ask any last minute questions in class and then go home and finish. | 1) As I said, he is a great teacher, but he tried to cram a little too much into the semester. Already have a great teacher, so just tweak the curriculum and this will be a great class. |
| 2) He is very interested in the subject and willing to look up information that he doesn't know right off hand. I really enjoyed the use of interactive maps and data in map form that allowed me to see the trends across the country. | 2) I know there were many reasons for it, including this being a new class, but it would have been nice to have more information about the projects and paper at the beginning of the semester. I know that not everyone would have enjoyed it, but I particularly liked the beginning of the semester when we covered each region in a day and went through each part of the region. I kind of like monotony when it is structure in my learning. |
| 3) Relates with students. Understands material and can relay the vital information in an intelligent way. | 3) The presentations went on for too long. I think it would be beneficial in the future to have group (2-3 people) presentations because 33 presentations go too long. Also, after a few weeks the material seems to be repeating day after day. Perhaps you combine regions and compare 4 regions at a time. On one day, you compare the physical geography while the next class you compare the 4 regions' economies, etc. In addition, maybe for one day you look at Google Earth so that people can understand what a zoomed-in bird's eye view looks like. |
| 4) The maps at the beginning of the class are very helpful to get a sense of spatial thinking. | 4) The class was overall very fair. The first test was challenging b/c many of the students were not prepared for the type of questions given on the first test. I believe it would have been more helpful for the professor to give more examples of possible exam questions. |

Ryan Kirk, Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Elon University.

GEO360: Geography of North America -- End-of-Semester student evaluations.

All comments are reproduced verbatim; nothing is left out.

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|---|---|
| 5) The teacher expressed concern for the students' progress in the course. | 5) I could definitely tell that he was a new professor. His back injury definitely threw him off course a little and the class never really got back on track, which is understandable. The daily class activities could stand to be a little more organized and more consistent. |
| 6) Kirk is a very cool person and his class was of a different breed. Most professors at Elon aren't as nice or as understanding as he is. He's also very patient and always willing to answer any questions. | 6) Consider implementing more direct student participation activities. |
| 7) I enjoyed how you broke the class material into regions. Working on the final project throughout the semester was also helpful. | 7) |