

## 2010 – Winter Term – GEO360: Geography of North America

(Note that this was an experimental course labeled GEO374 at the time of offering, but GEO360 is the permanent course label)

### Quantitative rankings

Rating Scale:

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

27 Students, 1 section Question	Number of responses in each category					Avg
	1	2	3	4	5	
1. Clear student learning objectives			1	5	18	4.71
2. Class well prepared & organized				6	18	4.75
3. Communicates material clearly			1	5	18	4.71
4. Displays interest in subject				3	21	4.88
5. Summarizes/emphasizes important points				8	16	4.67
6. Stimulates thinking about subject			2	6	16	4.58
7. Provides opportunities for outside contact			4	7	13	4.38
8. Expresses concern about student progress		1	2	10	11	4.29
9. Provides useful feedback				7	16	4.70
10. Clearly indicates how evaluated			2	7	14	4.52
<b>Total of 10 questions</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>4.62</b>
15. I have put a lot of effort into this course compared to other courses.			2	10	12	4.42

### 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) Kept the class short which was good. 3 hours is way too long. Didn't know what I was in for but ended up learning a lot of useful interesting stuff in an efficient manner. Emphasizes important points in class but also deemphasizes not important points. Obviously you're very interested in this subject so that helped and it was good you didn't beat certain topics to the ground like most teachers.	1) Good job
2) Very enthusiastic, good use of maps and data, grouping together on project was good. Great use of technology.	2) We do not all know Excel as well as he does!! And 20% of a project grade should not be based on formatting.
3) Dr. Kirk is a student's teacher. He understands how we feel, and he adapts his style to the class feeling. He demanded a lot in 3 weeks. I've never had a teacher give me this much work and not be mad at him/her. I didn't mind doing the work because I learned a lot.	3) The book was miserable. The chapters contained way too much fluff, so the chapter summaries were brutal. Also, not getting grades back as rapidly posed some issues when trying to gauge teaching styles to what the prof. is looking for.
4) Dr. Kirk has great extensive knowledge of the course	4) Struggled with the amount of work at the end of the semester.

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.

material. Shows enthusiasm for the course.	An extensive paper and a final for a class not just a Winter Term class is a lot if not spaced out.
5) I like how he is really laid back. The class is very interesting. I think his is very approachable and he works well with students.	5) Some of the grading on maps was a little ticky-tacky but otherwise he was awesome.
6) <not answered>	6) <not answered>
7) I liked the use of maps, powerpoints, and group activities. Statistical analysis was neat as well.	7) More clear on how midterm and presentation will be evaluated.
8) Test setup is good.	8) Don't give the outlines. A "300" level class as you put it does not need dumb busy work. If you don't read it will kill you on the test. Also its winter term we don't need to go this in depth at all. No matter what level it is.
9) Good powerpoint slides. The open class discussions are very engaging and stimulate outside of the box thinking.	9) Possibly lessen the reading and do less work for Part 4.
10) He was extremely well prepared for class and had a consistent learning structure.	10) Somewhat monotonous presentations and large paper assignment
11) Love coming to class, and one of the nicest professors at Elon	11) Chapter summaries seem like busy work and paper is difficult for someone outside major.
12) He was very clear about what we needed to learn. He made things interesting and stimulated my thinking on the subject.	12) He could have given us less work. The reading synopses took forever. He could have emphasized what we were supposed to take from readings.
13) Enthusiasm. Very clear on instructions/what he wants.	13) Less emphasis on group work. Less time spent on group presentations.
14) Good on identifying what you wanted students to know.	14) <not answered>
15) <not answered>	15) <not answered>
16) Very good powerpoints. I learned more from your lectures than from students.	16) Space out assignments. Nightly reading – fine. Notes due next day – excessive.
17) I really enjoyed all aspects of this class. Very clear and straight forward. I always knew what was going on and was rarely confused.	17) Sometimes the presentations were a little repetitive.
18) Great class and great instructor	18) <not answered>
19) <not answered>	19) <not answered>
20) <not answered>	20) <not answered>
21) <not answered>	21) <not answered>
22) <not answered>	22) <not answered>
23) <not answered>	23) <not answered>
24) N/A	24) N/A
25) N/A	26) N/A

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