

Teaching Evaluations

Greg Lusk

These course evaluations provide evidence of my ability to clearly deliver material, across a range of topics, in an engaging environment. In the last two courses, the students unanimously agree that my teaching was effective, with 81% strongly agreeing in the most recent course. Individual qualitative feedback from students provides evidence that my course preparation results in a clear presentation of course material. Students suggest that the environment I create effectively facilitates student understanding.

Science and Technology Studies 197: Biology and Society

Colby College, January 2017 (co-taught with Melissa Charenko)

*Quantitative evaluations from **16 of 20 students** in my course. College statistics are from 1183 responses.*

Overall, the instructor's teaching in this course was effective.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	81%	19%	0%	0%	0%
College	67%	26%	4%	2%	0%

The instructor's organization skills (including planning, preparation and productive use of class time) were effective.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%
College	63%	27%	7%	3%	1%

The instructor's communication skills (e.g., presentation of material, facilitation of discussion, and clarity of expectations) were effective.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	63%	31%	6%	0%	0%
College	61%	29%	6%	3%	1%

The instructor was open to questions and willing to help outside of class time.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	69%	25%	6%	0%	0%
College	73%	20%	6%	1%	0%

The instructor's assessment of student work was prompt, consistent, useful, and substantive.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	69%	31%	0%	0%	0%
College	62%	26%	9%	2%	1%

I found this course challenging and intellectually stimulating, and I learned a considerable amount.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%
College	58%	34%	6%	1%	0%

The workload and pace of this course seemed appropriate.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%
College	50%	38%	8%	3%	0%

Selected student comments on Biology and Society:

Comments on Organization:

“Everything we did in class felt like it had a purpose, which I have rarely experienced.”

“Very creative and interactive classes and discussion, obvious that planning and preparations were done ahead of time.”

“Most organized class I have taken. You both are so prepared.”

Comments on Class Discussion:

“I was surprised & impressed with how involved/vocal everyone was in class.”

“In-class activities and discussions were extremely productive and made participating in class feel natural.”

“I appreciated how they were willing to be flexible with schedules for the sake of discussion, but at the same time kept the class sufficiently structured.”

Comments on Classroom Environment:

“The group activities were great because we got the chance to inform each other a little bit and made the class feel closer with one another.”

“Greg did a phenomenal job of leading the class, bringing ideas together, and making it a fun and engaged learning environment.”

“Greg was extremely effective in communicating the material in a way that made sometimes obscure scientific concepts feel valuable and important to our every-day lives.”

Comments on Evaluation and Willingness to Help:

“Feedback on assignments was detailed, clear, and very helpful for future assignments.”

“The comments on our assignments were very helpful!”

“They were both very willing to answer questions after class.”

“You were always upbeat and energetic, open to comments from everyone, and great at furthering discussion and promoting free thought, as well as willing to talk outside of class and give help to those who needed it.”

Comments on Course Content and Outcomes:

“You made me think a lot about the interactions between biology and society, and helped me to stretch the boundaries of where I believed one discipline ended and another began.”

“You challenged my thinking in the classroom and outside for the readings.”

“I honestly learned a lot more from readings and discussions than I was expecting to.”

“Being a bio major, I mostly just thought about bio before, but now I feel like I view things differently...I think about the effect and perspectives it could have on different groups.”

Science and Technology Studies 297: Views of a Changing Planet

Colby College, January 2015 (co-taught with Melissa Charenko)

Quantitative evaluations from 7 of 8 students in my course. College statistics are from 1136 responses.

Overall, the instructor's teaching in this course was effective.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	57%	43%	0%	0%	0%
College	61%	30%	5%	3%	1%

The instructor's organization skills (including planning, preparation and productive use of class time) were effective.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	57%	43%	0%	0%	0%
College	56%	31%	8%	4%	1%

The instructor's communication skills (e.g., presentation of material, facilitation of discussion, and clarity of expectations) were effective.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	57%	43%	0%	0%	0%
College	54%	32%	8%	4%	1%

The instructor was open to questions and willing to help outside of class time.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	71%	29%	6%	0%	0%
College	69%	24%	6%	1%	1%

The instructor's assessment of student work was prompt, consistent, useful, and substantive.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	57%	43%	0%	0%	0%
College	56%	31%	10%	2%	1%

I found this course challenging and intellectually stimulating, and I learned a considerable amount.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	57%	43%	0%	0%	0%
College	56%	35%	8%	2%	0%

The workload and pace of this course seemed appropriate.

	Str. Agree	Agree	Neith. Ag/Dis.	Disagree	Str. Disagr.
Lusk	29%	57%	14%	0%	0%
College	47%	41%	6%	5%	1%

Selected student comments on Views of a Changing Planet:

“Both Greg and Melissa created a comfortable classroom environment in which it was easy to contribute.”

“We got feedback from both professors very quickly, and it was helpful.”

“I think that sometimes the evaluations were a little bit too detailed.”

“I thought the feedback was great.”

“Sometimes the reading seemed like it was unevenly spread night to night (having to read a whole book in one night, but just one or two articles another).”

“Greg and Melissa were great. They were both well-spoken and passionate about this field, and they were very approachable.”

“This was a great course!”

“I really liked Greg overall. There are no words to describe him because he is just an amazing teacher. Not only is he engaging and open, but he is one of the nicest and intelligent individuals that I have ever met in my Colby career...everyone should take Greg and Melissa’s course.”

“I enjoyed this class. I think it was an interesting look at environmental change--one that focused on social issues relating to change, not just the science behind it. I think that using fiction and film was a great lens through which to prompt students to really imagine what our world might someday look like, and envision the types of challenges we might have to overcome. I think the reading and viewing material was very good, for the most part. I also think the class activities were balanced well, and the main thing that I would have liked would have been a less directed class discussion. I think discussion might have flowed a little bit better if students were more encouraged to bounce ideas off each other, rather than try to find the answers that guided the class in the pre-planned direction. But overall, I think this class was a great, especially since this was the first time it had been taught.”

History and Philosophy of Science 211: Scientific Revolutions II

University of Toronto, Summer 2014

Quantitative evaluations from 13 of 34 students.

Note: This was the first year of online course evaluations and they were not mandatory or incentivized. Hence, the number of students completing evaluations was low across the school.

Scale: 1 - Not at All 2 – Somewhat 3 – Moderately 4 – Mostly 5 - A Great Deal

I found the course intellectually stimulating:

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	4.2	4.0	5	1

The course provided me with a deeper understanding of the subject matter:

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	4.2	4.0	5	1

The instructor (Gregory Lusk) created a course atmosphere that was conducive to my learning.

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	4.0	4.0	5	1.3

Course projects and/or assignments provided opportunity for creativity and creative thinking.

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	3.8	4	4	1.1

The instructor (Gregory Lusk) generated enthusiasm for learning in the course.

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	3.9	5	5	1.4

The course stimulated new ways for me to think about the world.

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	3.9	4	4	1

The course instructor encouraged students to think about the subject matter from multiple perspectives.

	Mean	Median	Mode	Stand Dev.
Lusk	4.2	4	4,5	0.8

Selected student comments on Scientific Revolutions II

Please comment on the overall quality of the course:

“Good.”

“Informative and helpful.”

“The instructor was good. He gave good assignments and did not overburden us with unnecessary work.”

“Greg Lusk deserves his PhD. Great prof, easy to follow, provided opportunity for further discussion, and extremely easy to approach.”

“Concise, thorough, engaging. Materials were interesting, class discussions were insightful. Assignments were liberal and allowed students to further conduct research of topics that were of their interests. Tests were fair. The frequency of work kept students on their toes. Guest lecturers was greatly appreciated and very effective.”

“The instructor was always helpful.”

Introduction to Logic

Ohio University 2007-2008

Mean values of responses provided. Evaluations for 2008/09 were not received by the instructor and hence are not reported.

Evaluation Question	Fall 2007	Winter 2008	Spring 2008
Overall Rating of the Course	4.19/5	4.0/5	4.29/5
Clarity of Instructors Oral Delivery	4.29/5	4.48/5	4.05/5
Instructors Enthusiasm for the Course	4.52/5	4.48/5	4.29/5
<i>Overall Rating of Instructor</i>	<i>4.63/5</i>	<i>4.71/5</i>	<i>4.43/5</i>

Selected student comments on Introduction to Logic

“Mr. Lusk is one of the best professors I’ve had. He is incredibly knowledgeable of his subject and possesses the rare quality of being able to inspire his students and motivate them to come to class. He does a wonderful job explaining the material and working with the students to help them learn. Mr. Lusk is confident, enthusiastic, and approachable. He keeps things interesting. Stay great!”

“The class is very comfortable and nobody is afraid to ask questions. I’ve learned a lot but we still have fun. This is my favorite class and the one where I’ve learned the most.”

“Mr. Lusk is by far one of the best professors I have had at the University. His overall enthusiasm for the course was passed on to his students. I have never dreaded going to this class because of Mr. Lusk.”

“Friendly. Wise. Open to comments. Helpful. Reliable. If the professor was not so enthusiastic I would not have enjoyed the course! Instructor presented information well and was always there for questions and support.”

“He can relate ideas and theories to students with ease and in a very helpful manner. He takes time to make sure each student really knows what’s going on. He is very knowledgeable on the subject matter...Greg is great!”

“Greg is always optimistic and upbeat, but has knowledge at the same time. He can answer any question. Coming to Greg’s class every day was fun because we laughed and learned. He’s a nice person and a great instructor.”