

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%

Sample of written comments for 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.”