

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.”