

Course Information		OUC														
Course: BIO 295 002		172201														
Courses evaluated: BIO 295 002																
Title: Special Topics in B Undergraduate Course																
Responses= 7 Enrolled= 13 Resp. Rate= 53.8%																
#	Question	Mean	5	4	3	2	1	NA	BL	StDev	SEM	Nq	Dept N	Dept Mean	Dept StDev	
1	The instructor stated course objectives/outcomes	4.1	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	1.1	0.40	7	2,280	4.4	0.8	
2	The instructor was receptive to students outside the classroom	4.7	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.18	7	2,184	4.3	0.9	
3	The instructor explained material well.	4.3	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	1.1	0.42	7	2,249	4.2	1.1	
4	The instructor was enthusiastic about teaching the course	4.7	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.18	7	2,272	4.6	0.7	
5	The instructor was prepared for class	4.1	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	1.5	0.55	7	2,249	4.5	0.8	
6	The instructor gave useful feedback.	4.4	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.30	7	2,248	4.1	1.0	
7	The instructor consistently treated students with respect	4.4	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.30	7	2,265	4.5	0.8	
8	Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher	4.3	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	1.1	0.42	7	2,257	4.2	1.1	
9	The course readings were valuable aids to learning	4.0	4	1	0	2	0	0	0	1.4	0.54	7	2,163	4.1	1.0	
10	The course assignments were valuable aids to learning	4.1	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	1.5	0.55	7	2,227	4.2	1.0	
11	This course improved my knowledge of the subject	4.7	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	0.5	0.21	6	2,252	4.3	0.9	
12	Overall, this course was excellent	4.0	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	1.5	0.58	7	2,258	4.1	1.1	
13	The instructor established a welcoming learning environment for students from all populations.	4.5	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	0.5	0.22	6	616	4.4	0.8	

Note: Results based on low response rates may not reflect the true class mean. Dept mean is for all undergraduate, or all graduate courses, offered by dept and is weighted by class size.

Question	Response
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	I thought that Ms Sorger explained her expectations of the class very well. She created a positive atmosphere that encouraged us to think critically about the material.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	The course was taught at an appropriate level for students new to the subject, but was also interesting for those who were already familiar with the topics.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Fun lectures, good discussions, I would have liked some further depth but it wasn't possible with the variety of skill levels represented.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	She went out of her way to answer the questions we asked at the end of each class. She provided lots of examples to help solidify the material. Sometimes it seemed like she wasn't entirely clear on exactly what a particular topic or definition was.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	The format of the course (lectures, case studies, guest speakers, etc.) kept the classes fresh and different each time. I did not find the outside reading material particularly helpful.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Dr. Sorger is a good professor. She is really good about making sure she completes all the objectives she sets for the course. She is also really good at challenging her students, and letting them find answers on their own. Ultimately, I think I grew as a student and a professional through this course.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	This course and the way it is organized is very helpful for providing a good background of ecology, evolution, and research.

Would you like to nominate your instructor for an Outstanding Teacher Award? If yes, why?	Yes. She loves working with undergraduate students, is open to constructive criticism, and achieves the goals she sets for herself and the class.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Dr. Sorger is a shining example of why a PhD is not enough to teach a course. She made countless errors that could have been prevented if she had a halfway decent training in education. She *required* us to write a question at the end of class. This promoted students to withhold the questions that would help them better understand the material so that they could get their daily participation points. When these questions were asked, half of the time the answer was "I don't actually know." The class is only once a week - if you can't answer the question fully, explain the concepts that led to the question. Though the student might not get their question answered, they will have gained valuable knowledge about the material they were unclear on. If a student didn't understand something, the instructor repeated what she previously said. That is literally the first thing they tell you not to do as a teacher. Though her ability was lacking, Dr. Sorger is very enthusiastic about helping others learn and I'm sure if she channels that spirit into improving her abilities as a rookie professor, she could soon teach effectively.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	I was really intrigued in this class' course description, but was ultimately let down. As it turns out, my ecology and evolution courses both taught the same material using the same examples. The class offered nothing new for students who had taken either class. While I enjoyed being tested on identical material (cuts study time in half!), I wouldn't have taken the class if I had previously known this. Additionally, the readings from The Beak of the Finch (assigned book) were never really discussed in class. We answered homework questions based on the book but other than that, nearly zero discussion. There was no discussion. In a very small class with material that revolves heavily around opinion, I was very surprised at the complete lack of discussion. There are currently many different definitions of speciation; all of which have been applied to science. Some species are differentiated by extremely small differences while in other species, large differences don't merit a new species. This is something that I would've loved to discuss with the class. What's everyone's opinion? We heard Dr. Sorger's, sure? cool. But we're in a room full of rising scientists and we never got to hear what they think.
Other comments	For a 2 credit hour elective class, you should choose between a large final project OR an exam; not both.
Would you like to nominate your instructor for an Outstanding Teacher Award? If yes, why?	No.

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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Professor Sorger is extremely organized and I am very impressed by how she structured the class! I really enjoyed reading the book that she assigned to us and thought it was more effective and interesting than a textbook. She takes a lot of time to get our feedback and I really appreciated her doing so because that shows that she respects our opinions. She is passionate in teaching the course and so I also feel quite motivated to learn about the topics in the class.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	As a new course, I think it is very well structured but there could potentially be modification to it as well. I think each topic covered in class could be spread out in more lectures so that we are not as pressed on time and we can also go into more detail on each topic. A unique feature of the class is the numerous guest speakers from various science departments. I think having the guest speakers really enable the students to get an insight of what research is like; it is a great and essential aspect of the course!
Would you like to nominate your instructor for an Outstanding Teacher Award? If yes, why?	Yes! Professor Sorger has been an inspiring teacher to her students and her interest in the subject has also helped us to become more engaged. She is the most prepared professor I have ever had and I can see that she puts in a lot of effort in trying to perfect this new course. She is receptive to student's questions outside of class and is flexible in adjusting her schedule to meet with the students one-on-one. I truly enjoyed her class and I hope that she can continue to teach more classes!