Course Evaluation
Dr. Colin Laroque
Geography & Environment Department
Mount Allison University

GENS 2411 – Geomorphology Fall 2010

Student Comments:

• Obviously very passionate about the subject – concepts were very well explained and material was very interesting. Use of images and figures to explain concepts was very helpful and being able to print notes ahead of time and write extra material in class proved to be very beneficial for me. Labs were also very fun and enjoyable – especially FBR and pipeline plant lab.
• Teacher explains concepts really well! Examples and pictures used really help as well! Very enthusiastic and funny, which makes it easier to stay awake. It would be nice to go out in the field for more than one lab. But the stimulated experiences were very useful.
• I enjoy the way the course is organized. Labs should be structured differently.
• Dr. Laroque makes class so interesting and enjoyable. I love how approachable he is and he is very knowledgeable about the course. His personal experiences help enrich the course. He makes coming to class exciting and fun. There needs to be more sections and more lab times to make sure students develop the skills they will need to succeed in their after university careers.
• Good explanation on various processes and land forms. It was nice to have a lot of pictures and diagrams to help one understand the course material. Liked that he incorporated humor in his lectures. It was mostly fun to be in class. Labs. I know it was because we had too many students in the class and it was not the prof’s fault but outdoor/hands-on labs would have been great.
• Flexibility in terms of how students’ overall marks were calculated. I felt forms of assessment varied from student to student. For instance, it seems some students were penalized more than others for the same mistake on reports. It also seemed that marks did not necessarily reflect the effort put in.
• The overcrowding resulting in not being able to actually go out and get to do the labs hands-on sucked but he made the labs fair and fun to the best of his abilities.
• Great photos and explanations of processes and definitions. Course was done on the fly because of inadequate preparation. Labs thrown together to accommodate everyone was a negative for me.
• Fair grader and was helpful when asked for assistance. Overall enthusiasm for course was question but understandable when you screwed him over by giving twice as many students. Also spent too much time on glaciers. Pictures on slide show’s would be very helpful.
• Dr. Laroque was great. Encouraged questions. The course labs could have been a lot better. Labs 1 and 2 were great but I did not enjoy Labs 3 and 4. Mt. A needs to provide more funding to Geography classes so that we can actually use equipment.
• Laroque is quite happy about teaching and that makes me excited about learning! All the personal photographs were good. This is the worst time slot for a class. An hour and a half. Right after lunch. Sometimes I’m just so sleepy. I am sorry for yawning so much but I could not help it! It was not your fault. That being said, we wrote a lot in this class which didn’t help. Maybe you should shout more often in order to wake us up. Or more movies!!!
• Prof Laroque really cares about his students experience in his course and constantly goes out of his way to make sure we understand the material and feel the marking scheme and testing is fair. When I needed him outside of class time for a lab, he was ready and willing to help, even though it was his lunch break. Very helpful and an amazing professor. Sometimes choice is good
and sometimes too much choice is bad. We were given a lot of say in how we wanted our work marked and what work we had to do. In some cases, it would have been best if he just told us how he wanted it done. Also, I know classes are getting larger, but I did miss the hands-on lab work.

- Dr. Laroque is funny which makes it easier to pay attention. He also assigns fair and reasonable assignments. He is also approachable and not too intimidating. Sometimes Dr. Laroque goes too quickly through course material and it is hard to keep up.
- He is very nice and helpful in office time. He likes what he teaches but was unfortunately frustrated this year with the complication with numbers and labs. He is a little boring in class lectures. Slides are very packed with information and hard to follow. Less text on each slide would be nice.
- Passionate about geomorphology. Sometimes class is really boring, with just notes, hopefully you can liven it up.
- Good teacher. Slides are a bit too wordy – perhaps simplify even more.
- The use of power point and putting things on Moodle was particularly helpful. The lack of hands-on lab component was a real let down, as it seems so pertinent with a course such as this one.
- Good at connecting material with the real world. Knew a lot about the subject. Told lots of great stories. Wanted to make everything fair for every student. Slides have sometimes too much information. Note taking was a challenge because of the speed of presentation.
- Entertaining lecturer, has the ability to make just about anything interesting. Dr. Laroque is also excellent at breaking down concepts and simplifying them for a better understanding and grasp of the idea.
- Dr. Laroque prepares very well and presents the material so that it is easy to understand. Too many notes in class, it is hard to write them all down and also have time to learn the material as it is being taught.
- Dr. Laroque is awesome. His enthusiasm shows through in his lectures and class is enjoyable. Good use of pictures of land forms. Too much about glaciers. I think that this class really needs actual weekly labs, so if the class size increases, the number of lab sections has to increase. I would rather the mark breakdown be the same for everyone – decided upon by the class with maybe a few options (lowest lab mark doesn’t count or something). Too much text on the slides.
- Sense of humor. Verbal teaching is nicely concise but power point notes are not which makes it hard to keep up note taking. I usually paraphrase notes as I go but still struggle at times.
- Care to detail with material = good enthusiasm, lots of pictures. The labs were good, though more clearly set parameters for the assignments would be helpful.
- The professor’s experience and stories from experiences play a large role in this course where a large portion of the material was understood at a greater level and this was transmitted to the student. The level of choice for the labs and exams was greatly appreciated. Spend less time on glaciers! (Although they are very interesting just not for 3 weeks straight!)
- The pictures were helpful in class – helped reinforce and picture what was said. You should choose the percentages of what your marking on – don’t leave it to the class because it sucks for half the students. You should put less on the slides and explain more in class – very boring just being read to. I focus on writing the slides not listening to you. Maybe put pictures in the power point. Back to the first point, have more labs, worth less, maybe a second midterm or a formal lab report to split marks up. Seem enthusiastic about the course – it would be more fun for us!
- Was available to answer questions. Considered students opinions about test formats, labs. Slideshows became repetitive, making it hard to focus. Would be helpful to do more things aside from slideshow.
- Makes class interesting, makes clear explanations on difficult concepts. More hands on work.
• Great professor and an amazing level of enthusiasm for the course and for the academic well being for the students… Keep it up, we appreciate (and benefit) from all the accomplishments you have made.
• Knew material, presents well, talks from his own experience. Finds common ground with the students. Took what he need available to him and made the class work. Labs that are relevant to both learning and beyond. Makes shit interesting. He is great.
• Interested (in course) and interesting despite my initial concerns about labs I really enjoyed them and actually felt that the labs were reinforcing stuff learned in class – applying knowledge i.e. Fundy and Banff labs. Most other labs like bio seem to have nothing to do with the actual class. Good pictures. Good power points. Good availability (office hours, appointments, etc.)

  Thanks. Diversity in subject matter covered? Maybe explain why some processes happen, still confused about some things that I know have been explained repeatedly.
• Great teaching. Great course. Very open and understanding. Nope.
• The labs ended up being great considering how quickly you had to adapt. You were obviously frustrated at the beginning of the year by the limitations of the class size. I felt you could have dealt with it better in class. It seemed that some days you did not want to be teaching this course as it was not going the way you’d planned. That being said, the second half of the course was great and the labs were a lot of fun and were very pertinent to the course.
• Great at explaining things. I loved all the examples and analogies.
• Laroque is wonderful. He listens to his students and helps us to understand our material the best way he possibly can!
• Great teacher! Very compromising and appropriately difficult. Made the best in a tough situation (large class size).
• The professor’s knowledge and enthusiasm about the subject matter, his genuine interest in the students and their progress, his friendliness and accessibility, his patience when explaining concepts in class, etc. This sense of humor and personality definitely make the class even more interesting. Class size was way too large. The fact that we could not hold labs takes away from the subject matter and the ideal field experience. The course material (power point slides) were super charged with text, and the prof went through them REALLY quickly, sometimes giving students double the work in having to make them catch up on missed notes after having attended the class. More diagrams could have been used to explain concepts in class. There might have been too much material for the semester.
• I think Dr. Laroque did very well considering the department screwed him over and tripled the class size at the last minute. I know it was impossible to do hands-on labs or hands-on use of instruments, but in class demonstrations would have been nice.
• Interesting, entertaining.