Course Evaluation  
Dr. Colin Laroque  
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Mount Allison University

GENS 2411 – Geomorphology  
Winter 2012

Student Comments:

- He keeps the class interesting. The lectures are not boring. I liked having the three smaller tests instead of the usual midterm and final. It broke up the work nicely and made it easier to study for. However, I felt the labs were a bit unorganized.
- Great class, great professor. Couldn’t have asked for better material. He was always enthusiastic and happy to take suggestions, very inclusive of the students. Looking forward to taking more classes in the future. A bit too much about glaciers. Could have been interesting to explore other things.
- Good videos, understanding. It’s all good!
- The labs were not intensive enough. The instructions were too general and when asked to write a couple paragraphs, I found that it really meant more than just a couple.
- Always very enthusiastic and humorous. Has a good connection to students. The textbook is pretty much useless though as it felt like tests were taken just from the slides. The videos were a very nice touch. Labs are interesting and it was fun learning how to use some of the equipment. I really enjoyed him as a prof and it is apparent he enjoys both his research and teaching. I am pretty-much glaciered out by now. All of those lectures moved very slowly. Volcanoes was a really cool section. Perhaps more effort can be put on improving the labs?
- His slides are great to study from. The course covers a wide range of material. The exam structure was favorable for our grades! Give more reference to the text and tell students the things to ignore in the text, i.e. formulas
- Laroque ‘n roll; rock ‘n roll! This prof is awesome. He takes the time to explain and demonstrate what he’s teaching, and he makes it work. This is the man who turned sedimentary into metamorphic. Maybe some more demonstrations with the chairs and tables.
- The best!
- Very good knowledge of the course, entertaining, makes the class less dry.
- Colin Laroque is frightfully sexy. On top of that, best teacher I’ve ever had. Keep it real Cee Doc.
- I appreciate the organization of the course material and found the labs fun. I enjoyed your sense of humour and the relaxed atmosphere in the class. I liked that we made our own tests. Maybe instead of an exam, you could have something like the Fundy Biosphere Project count for a midterm and the revised version count for a final. It would be nice to go outside more and change the routine of sitting in class for a slideshow. More of a hands-on experience.
- Awesome teacher, he cares to add lectures on processes students are interested in too. Keeps lectures interesting. I don’t think a lot of people sleep during this class 😊 A lot to learn on glaciers, but it was also nice to know how significant of a role they had into shaping our planet and still do today.
- Very knowledgeable! I feel like the lab assignments could be more hands-on. I liked the sediment lab because we actually got to do some things hands-on. Labs should be more hands-on to build up your knowledge rather than write about things and regurgitate info. Although, I do understand it is hard to do in the winter. I just kind of feel I didn’t learn anything from lab and that portion was a waste of my time.
- Talks in detail about material. Sometimes uses props. Good use of videos and diagrams (any visual teaching is great!). Exams were great (never said that about exams before). Maybe try to incorporate students more. Better explanations in lab.
- The guy's a beauty. Funny and keeps you entertained for the whole class. Downsides of the course: the labs would have been much better if there was enough equipment.
- Awesome! Videos were a great way to break up the class.
- Good use of media (youtube, photos). Enthusiastic, accessible.
- Colin is very approachable and enthusiastic, puts time and effort into helping each student. Great use of media and demonstrations to explain concepts. Really liked course structure (20%, 20%, 20% exams + 40% labs). Focused a little too long on glaciers. Labs took too long to mark – didn’t get our first lab back until we were doing Lab 5! Some feedback would be helpful for doing later labs. Labs were too long, disorganized and frustrating to be worth 5%. Just things like GIS lab we had to go three times because no battery, etc. Fundy lab was too long and intensive.
- Great personality and easy to talk to. If you put in the work, he makes it easy to get a good grade in the course. I appreciated all of the you-tube/video clips. I found they helped put everything into context.
- Enthusiastic; funny; helpful; passionate. He actually cares about his students and wants us to be successful. He makes us work for our grades and his enthusiasm makes this easy.
- Love the democratic system for test questions. Hilarious professor. Has a vested interest in us and we really appreciate that! Too many glaciers! Asked for more earthquakes and volcanos at the beginning of the course and got glaciers instead.
- The prof was very enthusiastic. Other profs should take Laroque’s example. The labs were fun and interesting. The lecture notes were great to have on Moodle and I liked that the class made up the syllabus.
- Enthusiastic, well-prepared, always available for questions. Great use of multimedia. Fundy Biosphere was the best lab. Differential GPS, we didn’t have enough time with the unit. Google Earth labs were fun but not useful to overall understanding of material.
- I appreciated the photos and videos that were included in the slideshow. I liked being able to help decide the syllabus/grading scheme. While I understand the challenge of creating labs for geomorph, I found these activities were redundant busy work and I feel that I learnt next to nothing by working on them.
- Colin Laroque is a great professor! He is very accommodating in terms of tests/exams and he makes the class material comprehensible and fun to learn.
- Knowledgeable. Passionate. Prepared well for lectures. Funny. Nice stories. Labs weren’t explained or prepared that well. I didn’t find they added anything to the course. After first midterm we moved far too quickly through material. Too much on glaciers.
- Powerpoints are great. Always know what is going to be on tests.
- Enthusiastic, approachable and engaging. Labs really weren’t that great or related to the class material. Didn’t feel that they helped me all that much.
- Well organized and prepared lectures. Used other methods of explaining concepts such as pictures and videos. Available for office hours and I went to talk with him. He was very helpful in answering my questions and offering suggestions to how I could improve my marks and better answer questions on the mid-term and final exam. Even though there was the incentive of having access to his slides only if we attended class, I think it could be useful to provide opportunities for bonus marks or participation for those who attend class on a regular basis and not just show up for the mid-term.
I really like you as a teacher. Maybe reconsider your choice of lab instructor... I’m sure he’s very smart, but he is also very rude, condescending and unapproachable. I know his job isn’t to make friends, but being the unnecessary asshole that he is, isn’t doing him (or the class) any favours.

Great class. The lab component could have been more organized and in sync with the learning material.

Teacher was very enthusiastic about teaching and always had some sort of anecdote to enhance the learning experience. The labs need to be improved-some were very boring, others were really hard and very time consuming with a large focus on the work at the end of the course which is a bad time for the majority of the work to be concentrated.

Great sense of humour, knowledgeable and enthusiastic about what you were teaching.

Awesome course, awesome professor. The labs seemed a little shaky and were not overly interesting.

This class “rocks”! The sediment lab was kind of sucky and made me feel like my mouth was full of sand without any of the fun of going to the beach.

Approachable, friendly, knowledgeable, sexy scale. Lovely speaking voice. The hair, my god.

There is a good reason for why Dr. Laroque receives such high praise on his course reviews. He genuinely teaches material and wants his students to do well. His research and his interest in the subject lend strength to his lectures but his primary concern always appears to be instructing which makes his course outstanding. There is a good amount of material to learn which might be overwhelming or near impossible in the hands of another professor, but Dr. Laroque offers as many explanations as he can so students can understand.

Very enthusiastic. The videos were extremely useful in furthering my understanding of the material. Feedback on labs was not very helpful if things were wrong.

Dr. Laroque is a great Prof! He really respects his students and encourages us to ask questions. And his use of video makes processes easier to understand. I didn’t like the Fundy Biosphere reserve lab. I also didn’t like how no labs were actually done in the designated lab time.

Likes what he teaches. Very good at explaining concepts.

Laroque is the next Jerry Seinfeld. Amazing class. Interesting subject. Very enjoyable.

Really easy to understand course material – Laroque is clear, uses lots of pictures and examples, and makes it funny too! Awesome professor and a really cool course. The labs were okay, but could have been a little more interesting - it was kind of easy to slack off on them.

Overall knowledge and ability to explain any confusing concepts. Getting Aa and pahoehoe stuck in my head! (I suppose that’s a good thing!).

Very enthusiastic! This helped integrate course material into every day experiences. Videos were awesome and very helpful. Labs need to be prepared better and more organized.

Colin is more than a university professor. He (along with the rest of the Geography Dept.) is a Sherpa in the mountainous pass (or fail...) that is Mount Allison. Fewer labs, please and thanks 😊 More rants. Thank you.

Liked that notes were on Moodle, made studying way easier. I also liked the videos. You’re my favorite professor!! Way too much on glaciers; which severely dulled the entire course by a lot. Also, the textbook was unnecessary and the biosphere lab was way too much work for just one lab component.

There is a reason why you are one of the best profs at Mt. A and it is because you care about your students and when you care about teaching it inspired us to learn. By far my favorite teacher and the reason why I changed my minor. Only complaint is the labs need more funding!

Always in a good mood.
Fantastic! Love the idea of posting evaluations on-line for everyone to see. Great idea and more profs should do it! Love the pictures, videos, stories and jokes. Keeps class interesting and worth showing up for. Learned lots and apply it regularly to real life. Not a fan of letting the students choose the format of the course exams. Great idea to listen to feedback, and it’s very accommodating to all learning types, but it’s not pushing all students, mostly just keeping them in their comfort zones.