Winter 2013 – Course Evaluations
Geomorphology – GENS 2411

Dr. Colin Laroque

Student Comments:

• Professor was well prepared, knowledgable, and willing to help.
• Very knowledgable about the subject material
• Great course, enjoyed it very much. The songs at the start of class are always nice and its upsetting when there isn't one. The enthusiasm is great!
• Very enthusiastic about what he was teaching. Loved his lectures
• Lots of good photos and videos during the lecture, making it much easier to visualize and understand the concepts.
• Transparency between professor and students was great- colin does not act above the students, and includes the students all aspects of the class. We always know what colin is thinking in regards to the class.
• Little things like music before class is helpful.
• Professor went out of his way to give "real world" examples wherever possible. Use of pictures/diagrams/youtube videos was a really good addition. Very encouraging of questions in class; eager to elaborate on any aspects of the lecture that people found interesting
• The course draws on more day-to-day events/natural occurrences than GENS1401 did. Makes it more relevant and interesting.
• Video clips are appreciated as they help break up the lecture. kept class lectures interesting and intriguing
• good use of videos and photos
• I found that having the slides on Moodle was useful for understanding what was going to be lectured on during the course. I also found that the music playing before the lecture was a good idea. Overall, I think that the teacher was very enthusiastic about the course and explained the course material in good detail.
• I really enjoyed having input on the value of test, labs and outline of the course. I liked that the notes were posted so when in class i could add details from the lectures
• you seem to enjoy teaching this topic which makes the learning process easier. the lab are fun, boring at times. textbook is good.
• The off on a tangent stories and explanations of concepts and pretty much everything not in the powerpoints are what really locked in the lesson.
• material was explained well, with lots of examples to explain
• liked the glacier material specifically
• enjoyed the videos- broke up the long class
• especially enjoyed videos featuring locals with accents
• liked that the labs were worth a lot- made the time put into them worth it
• labs were well coordinated with course material
• Very enthusiastic, used great examples, and told some good stories. Awesome!
• Awesome lectures, engaging and well prepared.
• Dr. Laroque was great. He was very understanding and accessible outside the classroom and his enthusiasm helped a lot. Especially because it was a morning class!
• The lecture materials are well prepared and consistent. This is helpful when studying as I have been able to apply my personal learning style easily without having to adjust to the prof's presentation preferences. The lectures where enjoyable to attend.
• prof is enthusiastic about the content and is hilarious
• The lecture materials are well prepared and consistent. This is helpful when studying as I have been able to apply my personal learning style easily without having to adjust to the prof's presentation preferences. The lectures where enjoyable to attend.
• always a joy to attend class
• Great class! Love the stories and the Ghost Glacier class!
• He is a good funny guy who really knows his stuff and if your slacking off in the course he knows and makes you feel bad which is good cause it makes you want to go
• You were an amazing professor! Your enthusiasm when it comes to the course made me excited to go to class
every Tuesday and Thursday! The information was interesting, and the workload was very good. You were also very accommodating when it comes to speaking with students and giving assistance!

- Thank you!
- Dr. Laroque is the man! He single-handedly makes a major in Geo/Enviro. Sci. worth it. His teaching style is very agreeable and engaging. My favourite part about his lectures are the pictures, because a good portion of them were taken by him or people with him, so you know he has hands on experience with what he's talking about. Also big shout out to Graham who is an awesome lab instructor and good luck to him in his PhD studies, I know your gunna kill it buddy!
- Colin genuinely cares about the student he teaches and its clear he loves what he does and doesn't consider his role as an educator as just a job. The experiential learning offered in this course is unparalleled by others i have taken thus far and i thank you!
- The use of the word sexy made the lectures very interested and interactive.
- His mid terms were very fair, and I only expect the same for the exam
- He is a wonderful prof
- Posting slides on moodle. Negotiating test makeup with students. Optional bonus points with food bank donation.
- solid bro
- Dr. Laroque is a highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable teacher. It is pleasure to come to his class each morning. His vast knowledge and experience is a very valuable asset to his teaching abilities.
- Love the music :)
- Funny, enthusiastic
- Lectures are interesting and beneficial to go to-
- Labs are more challenging than last semesters intro course- obviously- but are still fun
- I really enjoyed the enthusiasm that Dr. Laroque had during this course, it made me look forward to coming to class. I also liked how as a class we decided the format for evaluations in the first few lectures.
- The videos helped to visualize the topic, and helped keep me awake
- Professor Laroque is an amazing professor, he's extremely passionate about his subjects and it shows through his teaching. The course was well constructed and he takes the time to explain things thoroughly.
- Dr. Laroque is a likeable guy. He is approachable and connects well with students
- Great enthusiasm, Very interesting.
- Very familiar with the material and actually seemed interested and excited about it! Explained the material well, didn't just read off the slides word for word.
- Interesting lectures with a nice mix of videos, pictures, and slides. Colin is enthusiastic and fun - makes the course enjoyable.
- less labs
- Slides were too text heavy for the most part. Most of the time it was with unnecessary detail that could have been summed up in a sentence rather than a paragraph.
- A lot of focus on certain aspects (glaciers) and maybe not enough emphasis on other things
- I wouldn't change much except that I wouldn't have a pop geography lab. I would suggest having 2 midterms just because of the amount of material covered throughout the course.
- Rude and uncaring when meeting outside of class time. Refused fair marking on bonus questions.
- I think this whole let the students decide thing is great until a certain point. I find it frustrating sitting in class listening to people throw out ridiculous ideas about how the grading scheme or exam should be structured, especially when you already have a predisposed idea of how it should be and you try not to stray too far from that. I would suggest maybe creating your own scheme and then running it by the students and get their feedback. This way, you have student input but don't waste time with ridiculous ideas from the students.
- As well, I wish this course didn't overlap material as much with 1401. You should assume we know the material and either do a VERY brief review of it then build on that knowledge or just leave it out.
- The lab portion did not give constructive feedback on labs, so it was difficult to improve.
- A number of the labs seemed, not out of place, but that they didn't add anything to the material of the lectures.
- The lecture notes so not have fully on the internet, it takes away some of the incentive to go to class I felt.
- I think the material should be more in depth. It resembles too closely GENS1401, which makes lectures uninteresting and turns students away from attending class.
- Possibly to give a better idea of what will be covered on midterms, and finals. As there is lots of material and it
sometimes becomes confusing as to what exactly will be on these tests. It can be overwhelming at times.

- I think that he needs to be sent to Hawaii to learn more about volcanoes he needs to see the world so he can
teach about it at mta! favorite teacher at mta
- That one trial run of the ghost glacier class was awesome, both in an actual class to take and of course as
punishment for non-attendees, I stand behind that style of class.
- This classes labs were at times difficult to complete and at other times somewhat boring.
- The only thing i did not like what the small group of people that decided the grade breakdown decided. With only
one midterm and it being worth the same amount as the final so it did not leave much room to save your grade if
you didn't do so well.
- more emphasis on volcanoes, they're pretty sweet and i wish we could have learned more about them
- Didn't like that markers for labs were inconsistent
- To many glaciers... also the power points get hard to sit through some times.
- Slides could be a bit wordy, otherwise perfect!
- I could not write all of the notes down since he went so fast through the slides. was hard to pay attention and try
to write some of the notes too.
- Most of the lab assignments for this course seemed irrelevant to the course and didn't help me to better
understand geomorphology at all.
- As well, some of the lecture slides have too much text and material was rushed over.
- The labs didn't seem as relevant this semester and many of them just seemed like busy work.
- Although it's an easy way to get a good grade it didn't help to further my understanding of the material we were
learning in class.
- I found there was little feedback on labs and tests, which is highly valued by students. We want to know what to
do next time to improve, and by providing more feedback I feel this would be a good improvement.
- My only complaint is that I did not enjoy how some of the lab topics were given to us before we did lectures
about them in class (ie. volcanoes)
- Other than that great semester, thanks!
- This may be the last time I get to take a class with Dr. Laroque :( completely unsexy.
- Larger budget, field trips perhaps, more relevant labs
- We don't usually need the textbook for your classes and this time you decide to use it on the midterm - not cool.
the labs are boring and feel more like a waste of time then helpful, the students don't always learn anything.
- Overall great! Maybe have some kind of participation points or something for attending class? Another way of
ensuring students come to lectures..
- All in all he is a very good professor, however I found that he put a lot of information on slides and then also
talked while I was trying to get the info written down on my notes. The biggest issue was that huge was saying
different (althogh related) things than were on the slide, making it very difficult to take good notes because I did
not know whether to copy down the slide info or what professor Laroque was saying. So, it would be great if he
could write less on slides and then we would be able to get both the slide info and what he says, or say what is on
the slides when they are up.
- I know it is a factor of the numbers and resources, but I would have appreciated differently structured labs,
perhaps less Google Earth, focused more on what we were discussing in class, and feeding into the learning more
directly. I loved the soil sorting lab, hands-on applications of the different aspects we cover, where possible,
would be great!
- Not a tuesday thursday class
- I understand that it's difficult to do anything different than midterms and finals with a large class, but the class
can be very difficult for people who perform better through different forms of assessment (presentations, papers,
projects, etc)
- More guest speakers to understand the practical side of geomorphology would be great.
- I feel that the labs could have included more detail on what was expected of us. It was hard to know what to
include when answering some of the lab questions. I was not sure of what readings to do and so this could have
been shown on the syllabus.