**Course Evaluation**

**Dr. Colin Laroque**

**Geography & Environment Department**

**Mount Allison University**

GENS 2421 – Weather and Climate  
Winter 2011

**Student Comments:**

- Your jokes and enthusiasm were appreciated to keep the class atmosphere positive, fun and engaging. Don’t just lecture off your slides...
- Great teacher, no matter what course you take with him. No complaints about wardrobe or hairstyle!! Textbook really wasn't necessary. A little more instruction during lab time would have been nice.
- Very good teacher, explains things well, and I like that students have a choice regarding evaluations. The slides were helpful to have on Moodle. I really liked this class. I didn’t even open the textbook, I do regret buying it. The labs were not all consistent with what we learned in class and some were not very helpful. The teacher and lab teacher should coordinate more.
- Explained things well with the use of diagrams and using personal examples from experiences. Enthusiastic about the material and always tried to keep our attention. More ways for students to improve their grades – more quizzes, etc. I know it means more work as a teacher but it would help me as a student since I do not do well on exams and midterms.
- Slideshows are well prepared and clear. Dr. Laroque makes lectures more entertaining with his humour and colorful examples. He is very accommodating to students and understanding. The labs could match up to lectures better, especially towards the end of the material. More outdoor/hands-on labs would be nice.
- Great prof. Really funny person. He knows what he is talking about which makes the topic really interesting.
- Adds personal experience when lecturing. Helps visualize material better. The course in the 1.5 time slot is very long. I find it hard to keep focused on what is being taught.
- Labs were good – helped understand some difficult concepts. Lectures were awesome. Really enjoyed your talks.
- I like the slides etc. being available so we can listen and avoid copying notes instead of paying attention. Take out the map lab! It was brutal and difficult to do well on, or at least change some parts of it.
- Dr. Laroque is a great Prof! I love his jokes and he always makes class interesting. I think it’s important that he gets student input for tests and he truly listens. He respects his students and shows a great passion for this course. The labs were very fun and interesting. Great term! I think there should be greater feedback on lab marking schemes.
- Dr. Laroque is very knowledgeable and enjoys the topics and more importantly the students. Dead Fucking Sexy. More hands on work, labs are great but I feel Dr. Laroque could add more to class by increasing the lab aspect and being more visible in the labs. No more sexyness!! Please!!
- Very funny and keeps students engaged during lectures. I like how carefully he explains things ... good speed with the slideshow. Labs were interesting, although sometimes hard to follow. I thought my toes were going to fall off during the snow lab because I didn’t have good boots... warn people to bring them ahead of time!
- Funny, sexy man. Can’t ask for much more in a prof.
- More explanation of lab material.
I liked the lab aspect because it gave us hands-on learning. I found Graham marked a bit unfairly and didn’t explain things well.

Easy to talk to. Interesting lectures. Nothing really.

Very enthusiastic and easy to listen to and learn from. N/A.

Captain Doug was a very good addition. Simulated tornado/trailer park was fun. Labs were fun and made you think. Labs/Midterms were marked fairly. Maybe try to not always use slides. Lab instructor sometimes came off as condescending (Graham).

Dr. Laroque is very enthusiastic about the subject which makes it easy to listen in class. Posting on Moodle is great. Labs were pretty good, Graham explained things well and answered questions. Textbook fits the course well – expensive but not a waste of money. Great prof. Wind chill lab sucked a little bit … but that was due to the weather, not the lab itself.

Great enthusiasm. Thanks for including the diagrams with the posted slides. More videos please. My poor, 90 lbs lab partner almost died in the windchill lab – it was pretty unnecessary. Maybe including 1 or 2 small assignments from the textbook would better reinforce class material.

Very enthusiastic. Well spoken. Adds humour to the lectures. Cares what students think/gets their input ____ tests. Doesn’t talk down to the students. Lab could be pretty dull at times. Getting a set of speakers for the lab for the less exciting days would be great for keeping people awake.

Enthusiasm from instructor was very important, especially on topics that were less exciting. Midterm structure was very manageable for the information we had covered in class. Textbook was a great aid to the course. The labs did not correspond with much of the material in class. They were graded much too specifically, when elements were not discussed in the course or the lab. I did not like the structure that the lab instructors approached the labs with, and I do not fell like they added to my knowledge of the course.

Very knowledgeable about the material and a very good speaker. Dead f*ckin’ sexy but needs a new haircut. The sweaters.

Valuable: good layout of material, class, text and labs overlapped nicely. Outdoor labs were engaging. Wandering around Sackville for air moisture was fun. Your sense of humour and personal stories made the class engaging i.e. grandma and wall lightening. Areas to improve: perhaps to get the class involved in lectures, do not provide as much information on slides, poses, good to say that slides are going to be online at the beginning of the term and you can emphasize four students to use these so then you can go through material quicker.

Colin has good anecdotes that he tells in conjunction with his lectures. He’s very personable and feels more like a friend than a prof (good thing). Have more guest speakers – they’re great!

Teacher really loved the material and interested in what he was teaching. Labs were not always relevant to course material which was difficult. TA (Graham) should give more information about how to do the lab and be more helpful with questions. Didn’t really like format of first midterm.

Professor Laroque is a great teacher. He knows his stuff and presents it in a comprehensive and fun way, which makes it easy to learn and understand.

On-line notes and good lab sessions.

Great class; don’t change a thing!

Having the guest speaker was a nice touch. The second last lab was a bit too long though all other labs were well designed.

Excellent lectures, engaging. Good range of materials. Enjoyed the guest speaker. Labs were appropriate and tied in fairly well. Keep posting notes but maybe remove key words/definitions to help engage class.
• Was obviously really interested in teaching the material, made it enjoyable to learn. Loved hearing the pilot talk about his job – a great guest speaker. Love the movies, clips and experiments – the tornado! Was really nice to actually do some real labs. Liked the choice we have in testing and marking schemes. PS: I like the hair! Great course! Thank you!
• Liked the labs! Graham and Geoff (or the “Elven Prince” as we call him – he looks like he should be coming out of the Lord of the Rings) were both very good. I’m not a huge fan of one hour and a half classes – I get sleepy! But you did well to keep me interested with your jokes and stories. That said, MORE MOVIES!! We love movies. Thanks for being in the pilot! That was great. More movies. Bring in more pilots!
• Drop dead f***ing sexy! Laroque is funny, approachable and made coming to class worth it because you never know what he would do next. Awesome prof! Labs were fun, lab instructors are great. I did not like the air pollution lab – no explained well and too much math. Would have liked to get outside more often during the labs like in 1401.
• Laroque – great professor and great ____ and great learning experience. Nice range of topics covered. DID NOT LIKE LABS – doing the same calculations 16 times does not teach us anything. Didn’t always reflect what we were doing in class. Boring. Geomorph labs allowed us to use our accumulated knowledge and apply it to a situation, didn’t feel I had that opportunity in Weather and Climate.
• Very enthusiastic about the weather and very clear.
• Great visuals for explanations. Thank you for posting the slides it makes learning easier and fun! Guest speaker was great! Thanks for a great semester! Lab instructions – please be more patient, some of this material is new to us! A little more explanation and general instruction would be helpful!
• Dr. Laroque is very enthusiastic about the course material. Brings in real world examples which help understand the material/concepts. Your photographs are great!
• Interested in subject matter! Easily accessible, nice and funny and approachable. I dunno
• Thoroughly enjoyed the sexy definitions and the jokes about hairstyles in class. Your enthusiasm and excitement in the subject made the class very interesting and fun. I liked that you brought in Captain Doug and switched up lectures every once in a while too. The summary notes at the end of each lecture really helped also. Not too much to improve, maybe slower through the slides.
• Powerpoints.
• Dr. Laroque is simply wild – he’s funny, a little wacky and a great lecturer. The material itself could get a little dry sometimes, but a little “Dead Sexy” talk and all of the students would wake up again. Thanks for some great courses! Dr. Laroque is improving with age, no more needs to be said.
• Humour makes classes very amusing. Use of diagrams in slides was appreciated seeing as the textbook was very expensive and not all students purchased one. Labs were a good way of putting learning into practice and my TA Graham was very helpful. The session with the pilot was very interesting – having it late in the semester allowed us to understand what he was talking about. Deviate a little from material in textbook to provide other explanations or examples rather than same ones as in the text. Sometimes info was simply read from slides, which was rather dry.
• Humour, approachability, random stories of interest and movies make it very engaging. Kind, friendly and flexible also very conducive to learning. I liked the textbook! Overall awesome course and I will recommend you as a prof!! Keep up the hilarious exam questions. They make my day! Labs were not super amazing but not too bad either. My favorite was the snow lab. I don’t know but some fun, random trivia type quizzes (not for points so you don’t have to mark
it) would be cool. Cloud types, weather fronts, sexy levels, albedo, climate change, cycles, storm types, etc... (with pictures)

• Dr. Laroque is very enthusiastic about material covered (especially thunder storms!) It made the material all the more engaging to have this shared interest and energy! The labs were well laid out to correspond with lectures (for the most part!). My favorite labs were definitely the hands-on out of the classroom labs (snowflake lab was great). The lab instructions explained things very well, and were very helpful. I was wondering if more time could be spent on global climates – when we reached it at the end of the term, I wished there was more time to explore how climate changes are measured through pollen, tree rings, etc... And it is so pertinent to the person! But maybe that’s just me! Thanks for a great term! 😊

• Easily accessible. Approachable. Made course material interesting. Went through slides too fast in class. It was ok though because he posted them on Moodle.

• Really liked enthusiasm, comfortable atmosphere. Like that final isn’t cumulative. Like that we discuss content and format of tests and exams! (Helps with courses like this with so much information).

• Keep notes on Moodle – how you’ve done this semester... nice when students with regular attendance don’t get penalized.

• He is very committed to his student’s initiatives! He was easy-going and open to input. Great guy! The labs didn’t always tie into the class material.