

## Form A: Course Evaluation - Student Comments

Faculty	: Science	Session	: 2016 Teaching Period - T1
School	: Sch Biol, Earth and Environ Sci	Enrolled	: 113
Course	: GEOS1701- Environmental Systems, Processes and Issues	Repondents	: 92
Survey Description	: Evaluate the Course GEOS1701	Survey Type	: ONLINE (25 May 2016 - 09 Jun 2016)
Survey Alternative	: Evaluate the Course GEOS1701	Administration Date	: 10 Jun 2016

## The best features of this course were

- introduced current issues
- varied content
- the field trip
- good logical flow and integration of a huge amount of varied topics
- interesting content
- good examples make what were learning feel relevant
- It introduces many geographic knowledge in the class and should be very useful for the students
- interesting topics
- The teachers (particularly Rob and Dave), the field trip!!, and the workbooklets we must complete in the Labs (which helps study because we get to keep them and if we do get a wrong answer, it is gone over during the class so you can get the correct one). The content was so interesting, especially about the soils and climate! I am definitely doing more GEOS courses throughout my degree because of this course and its teachers.
- Interactive course.
- Covered a wide range of topics that were all applicable and relatable to everyday life.
- Labs were interesting encouraging me to research different topics
- Interactive labs and engaging field trip
- Lecturers were engaging
- lecturers were amazing, very engaging and taught subject very well
- Loved the course content, good first year subject. Liked having various lecturers that are all passionate about their topic. Liked the field trip and interactive components.
- lab and field trip
- Assignments and course structure
- i liked the geology aspect and teachers are enthusiastic
- The content was very interesting and tied in well with the labs.
- the lecturers are pretty nice
- How interactive each of the lecturers are.
- field trip
- The many mini assignments is a good system
- Engaging and interesting. Good lecturers all semester and labs
- The field trip, the lecture material, the lecturers! The lab pracs
- The field trip
- Content was broad and interesting, the lectures were enjoyable to go to.
- providing full general information and knowledge about geography, especially highlight natural disasters nowadays and management ways which can be applied in many countries.
- The labs were extremely fun, and very interactive
- field trip
- Engagement with the lecturers
- Interesting topics
- Well spaced out weighted assessments - no single major assignment
- Lecturers were very approachable and the course content was interesting. I loved the field trip, it was really informative and I think it was such a great idea
- the broad spectrum of topics and environmental information we learnt
- Almost everything was excellent about this course. The content was interesting, the course was extremely well structured, the lecturers were very passionate and I thoroughly enjoyed taking this course.
- Lecturers were funny and engaging loved the course and its content
- Interactive labs. Class discussions. Assessment model good
- The field trip and file strip report
- How active lecturers were on Moodle - lots of extra resources
- I like the content material and the lecturers for this course as they try to make it interesting for us. It is good that there is a wide range of assessments that test all different areas so everyone has an opportunity to do well, and that some assignments were quite different, such as the interactive lab and the debate, which got us all thinking differently. The field trip was a good component too as it allowed us to get a taste of what it would be like being out in the field, and gave us more knowledge when writing the report.
- Fun field trip, interesting labs
- Interesting and engaging subject matter. I found the course encouraged cooperation with other students which helps get to know everyone and also help with the retention of what was being taught.
- The new changes of the course is better than the previous version, it was much more interactive with students, as well as it was student focus and was able to speak through all lectures
- Field trip and report writing process was interesting and informative

- - Wide range of topics
- The field trip
- The lectures were good, very slowly and easily paced
- Labs seemed a bit pointless to be honest as they are not examinable
- - having different lecturers who each brought their own unique knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject area
- - the content was interesting
- The field trip report was fun to research and write up. The lab was a very interactive environment with was nice and there were lots of people there to answer all the questions i had.
- The interactive nature of the course.
- Labs- interesting and helpful
- rob brander
- the way lectures were given
- the range of topics covered
- interactive labs and interesting lectures
- Content was engaging, informative and interactive. Labs were interactive and enjoyable. The lecturers were engaging and excited about the content.
- I felt like the course content was paced well throughout the semester and that the labs tied in well with the course contents
- The field trip was really enjoyable and helped put the theory we had learned into practice. I also thought that having lots of small assessments was helpful as it allowed us to make mistakes and get feedback on our work without risking too many marks.
- The labs, a lot of practical and interactive features.
- Lectures were engaging, lab assessments had evenly distributed weightings, demonstrators were very helpful when there were questions to be answered
- The field trip!
- Broad overview of a lot of environmental aspects. I enjoyed the lectures most.
- interesting lectures, like doing hands on practical component of soils
- field trip was good
- things were explained really well in labs in what we were required to do
- The labs, the lecturers were really good.
- The field trip and interesting course material
- The interactive labs and assessments.
- Field trips and some of the labs
- the interesting topics that were covered. The lectures were engaging.
- The lectures. I really liked how the lecturers would always refer to real life examples making the information easy to remember and applicable.
- field trip and the lecturers
- interactive labs
- The lecturers were all of a very high standard.
- Good overall course structure and communication to the students.
- The interactivity of the labs and the field trips
- Interactive labs and field trip
- The assessments were great. The lab assignments were really insightful and helpful with my understanding of the content.
- the field trip! and the professors teaching the course as they were really enthusiastic teaching their content. the content of the course and the assessments were well planned and organised.
- Field Trip and Report
- Lecturers talked with students in a friendly manner, smaller lectures and classes made me feel more involved rather than lectures of 300 people in other subjects
- The lectures from Scott Mooney were very interesting.
- Content well explained, great examples
- Really great lecturers; engaging and knowledgeable
- Covered wide range of topics
- The lecturers, they were great
- The course outline was very well structured and the learning outcomes were emphasised, helping to further our understanding of the topics
- Field trip
- could notice the importance of climate change and minimise the impact of it
- Practical activities in the labs; enthusiasm of the lecturers
- The field Trip and the lectures. Both were very interesting and informative.
- many activities during the labs which made it less boring
- Coastal systems!
- The Field Trip and practical component of the labs
- The field trip is awesome and the lecturers all have their own teaching styles which are attractive actually.)
- The field trips, change of scenery helps learning and is far easier when out in the field rather than looking at slides flashing by.
- My favorite experience was the field trip, it was an informative and fun day out and i felt experiencing the escarpment environment firsthand really helped my performance/understanding in the related report assignment.
- i also really enjoyed the interactive/game style/real time quiz we did as a class in the first lecture.
- i complained about having lots of small 5% assessments at the time but it is reassuring to slowly be building my mark up over the semester/less stressful than having a 40% report due in plus u learn more when u do these tasks in increments than writing up a big report in one night.
- I was amazed how the labs, field trip and lectures all tied in together so fluidly to help us understand concepts fully and from different angles. The field trip, in particular, was really great! Seeing all the vegetation and natural processes working together in such different landscapes was really neat and helped me grasp the content a lot better. I liked how we investigated the soils ourselves in a lab afterwards and now know a proper method of classifying vegetation. I enjoyed all three lecturers and think it is neat that they all work on different projects with their own specialist niches. This course taught me a lot and it was interactive as well as fun!! I really liked it.
- the overall variety of tasks and learning styles including the computer aspects with nearmap and google earth as well as the geocaching. the hands on practical side involving the soil testing was fun and provided information that is useful.

- shorter labs (3 hour labs=hungry)
- tutorial as well as lab
- either less content or more stress on whats important. any given lectue can introduce about 3 new terms, a whole bunch of graphs and fomulas and lists and its hard to tell whether something is a small point or vital information
- labs are often highly repetitive and lengthy, with information in prelabs covered again in class, questions looked over in detail and large amounts of time given for activities most people finish fairly quickly. most labs could have been about 1 1/2 hours long.
- weights given to assessments seem unequal. 5 percent for the feild trip notes or an in class worksheet feels odd when the climate change lab is 5 percent and the feild trip report only 10. also, assessments were frequent and time consuming given that they only make up 50 percent of the grade
- It is very difficult for some international students to follow up the class because some knowledge is too academic for us to understand.
- less dirt
- I cannot think of a fault with this course.
- N/A
- Higher weighting for 5% task
- N/A happy with course
- beginning of course seemed crammed/rushed
- One 2 hour lecture a week instead of two 1 hour lectures
- more information about lecture
- Improving the field trip to make it more interactive
- no recommendations
- The labs dragged out for a long time and this sometimes got a bit boring (e.g. when we worked through questions and then spent an equally long/ longer time going through the questions we had already worked through)
- labs
- Reducing the amount of information for each lecture.
- Maybe a bit too much content to be covered
- Another field trip
- Making the field trip on a weekday
- Have a more personalised assessment on what you think are the most important management issues
- give more details in lecture note as it is hard to take all of notes in lecture because we need to understand and listen more than focus on taking notes
- COuld be improved by not having large lectures but instead small class room like structures to make it much more interactive
- less content
- Final exam could be weighted less - 40%
- Lecturers being more open to answering questions during lectures
- a more thorough syllabus or learning outcome
- The map reading lab could be a little bit more engaging.
- Maybe shorten the field trip
- Having less emphasis on issues and hazrads associated. Less on biogeography
- Making the 5% assignments less work. For their weight they took up a lot of time, especially the first climate change one
- Since some assignments required a lot of work, it would have been better if they were worth more than 5%
- Some of the 5% lab assessments were really long, having 6 of them in a semester was a bit much. Combined with other subjects the load felt a bit heavier. Having some of the shorter lab assessments, with the question papers would be preferred.
- The course was difficult for the timetable to encourage people to attend lectures possibly have it on the same day as the labs, as this could make it more convenient for others
- Making the labs more important- having them contribute to the final exam and having more relevance to the overall course
- Some labs we barely did anything and we just listened to talking for 2/3rds of the lab
- But overall a fun course- Rob was very friendly and approachable
- There were a lot of the lectures personal opinions talked about in the lectures. I never quite felt like I was fully learning anything just skimming the surface of a lot of things. I would have preferred if we honed in on less topics and had more information about them presented to us. Also i feel like the labs could have been only 1 or 2 hours rather than 3. In the labs we also went through everything 3 times, once before we started, once when we did it and then again after we had finished. It felt unnecessary to go through everything so many times.
- Being less ambiguous in some of the assessments
- possibly in the first few weeks where it is content heavy, maybe we could fit in another lecture just for the first couple of weeks
- more hands on labs
- reducing repetitive sections of a lab
- Labs could incorporate more group work
- Potentially having set out-of-class study sessions towards the end of semester in preparation for the final exam. Other than that, I enjoyed it very much and found it very beneficial!
- Some of the lab intro talks were really long and boring, perhaps it would be better to have a compulsory pre-lab that explains the background information for the lab and asks a few questions. This would probably ensure students had a better background when starting the lab because I think people tend to tune out during intro talks.
- Maybe having practice questions at the end of lectures.
- Limiting the amount of group work
- Less week by week assesment, larger assignments such as the field trip report was more beneficial to my development in scientific writing and geographic research
- The labs are quite long and got quite repetitive in content combined with the lectured. I would have preferred to do some independent research on some of the topics rather than the very structured point by point work through of the lab tasks. I also question the effectiveness of the debate. It seemed very rushed
- would have been good to have known the sorts of question we would have gotten for the field trip, difficult to distinguish what information was important or not on the day
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- More field trips and labs
- N/A
- More flexible times. It is often difficult to make it to the lectures if there is only one time slot that is compulsory to attend.

- more practical and perhaps the field trip not on the weekend
- Availability of past exam material for studying for the final exam.
- More condensed lab times, as it seems that the material could be covered in less time.
- shortening the labs to 2 hours, as productivity and attention span usually drop into the third hour of a lecture like lab
- More emphasis on long course content in lectures
- Final exam weighing less
- not having 50% for the exams.
- N/A
- Perhaps less focus on programs with some features accessible only on laptop/tablet (eg Google Earth) to account for people without them
- Possibly more organisation and coordination, but not even that much of an issue, organisation was still satisfactory.
- There were some assignments which were harder to understand what was meant to be done, example: The report to Donald Frump.
  - Make labs shorter and more relevant
  - Cover less Lecture material/ make it less dense - especially in the first few weeks
- should have more homework or questions
- N/A
- More field trips. I found going out and engaging with the environment we are learning about really enhanced my learning.
- shorter lab times as we often finished tasks early or become less focussed after the first 1.5-2 hours
- would be happy to have all handout versions of the lectures
- Perhaps more on hands labs. Labs were computer based and I found the labs a bit repetitive.
- having practice exam questions or past papers to study off of
- If the mapping lab/google earth lab were not so similar
- Shortening the length of power points, these can be far too long in some lectures and is quite overwhelming. However the lectures are the most interesting out of all my subjects.
- some labs felt they dragged on
- overall a good course
- It is a lot of content, so a mid-semester quiz might actually be a good way to not let it all pile up for the exam.
- If the lab is arranged at afternoon time, that will be better for us to manage times
- by including more practical hands on aspects the experience and learning would be improved.