

Muehlenhaus, Ian Alexan
GEOGRAPHY
414 SocSci
MINNEAPOLIS

Instructor: Muehlenhaus, Ian Alexan
Instructor level: Instructor
Course: GEOG 3161 - 001

Class type: Lecture
Class size: 39
Term: Fall, 2006

Using Student Evaluation of Teaching Surveys

Student evaluations are useful as one component in the overall evaluation of instructional effectiveness. However, high ratings do not guarantee effective instruction, nor do low ratings always mean ineffective instruction. Peer evaluation of instruction, as mandated by the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Teaching Contributions, self evaluations, and reports of teaching activities and instructional development are among other important information sources that should be considered in the evaluation of teaching.

For personnel purposes, a small set of global questions is more appropriate than a larger group of specific questions (e.g., instructor's rapport with students or quality of textbook). The most useful single item is "overall teaching effectiveness." Student ratings of the instructor's knowledge of the subject matter are best interpreted strictly as impressions.

Research suggests that student evaluations are reliable, i.e., average ratings are reasonably consistent and do not change significantly from one offering of a course to another, provided that neither the student composition of the course nor the instructional methods have changed significantly. The response rate is important. Data from classes in which fewer than 75 percent of the students respond or in which there are fewer than 15 students may not provide reliable information.

Student evaluations are a valid measure, but are not synonymous with other measures, of teaching effectiveness. The correlation of global student evaluations with external measures of amount learned (e.g., final examination scores or course grades) is moderate at best.

Avoid using data from a single evaluation of a course. Data collected over time are necessary to verify the consistency of ratings of instruction and provide information about changes in ratings.

A range of student ratings is expected. Typically, ratings are concentrated at the higher end of the rating scale, with a long "tail" consisting of a few low ratings. However, different distributions sometimes may occur and call attention to the possibility of subgroups of students within the course.

Research indicates that average ratings may vary with characteristics (co-variables) such as class size, class format (e.g., lecture or discussion), course level, elective or required, and instructor experience. Ratings tend to be higher for smaller classes, for electives, for classes with a discussion format, and for classes taught by an instructor with more experience. These possible co-variables are important in selecting appropriate norms with which to compare an individual. However, appropriate norms cannot be provided until an adequate data base is accumulated.

Student evaluations tend, in general, to be consistent across certain student characteristics. Average evaluations usually do not vary significantly with age, sex, class standing, grade point average, or other indices of student ability. Little research has been done on the relationship between average ratings and the ethnicity of the students rating the course.

Student evaluation data are at least ordinal (rank). Therefore, the median is an appropriate measure of the central rating, and the frequency distribution and associated percentages measure the variability of the ratings. To the extent that the verbal anchors induce respondents to apply uniform differences between response categories, interval statistics such as the mean and the standard deviation are appropriate measures of the central rating and the variability in ratings.

Avoid drawing inferences or conclusions based upon small differences in ratings. Responses are assigned integer values, but statistics are reported with decimal precision. It is tempting but not justifiable to infer differential teaching effectiveness from small differences in average ratings. To obtain statistical significance, differences of 0.5 to 1.5 points may be needed. Moreover, statistically significant differences may not indicate important differences in instructional effectiveness, especially at the higher end of the ratings scale.

The results of your student evaluations of teaching are on the following pages. If there were fewer than 10 questionnaires, only the response counts are given; otherwise, the number and percent of responses to each choice are shown. These distributions and the corresponding graphs show you how your students answered each item.

The mean, median, and standard deviation also are listed for groups of 10 or more.

The mean is the average of the responses to an item based on a 1-7 or 1-5 scale. The values of all responses are added together and divided by the number of responses. The mean is a good measure for summarizing results if the distribution of responses approximates a bell-shaped curve.

The median indicates the mid-point of the item responses--the point at which 50% of the responses are higher and 50% are lower. The median is a better summary than the mean if the distribution is not symmetrical but appears to have a long tail at one end.

Sometimes the mean or median may hide important aspects of the distribution. For example, if 1/2 marked 1 and 1/2 marked 7, the resulting mean and median of 4 would mask an important fact: the variability of the ratings. The standard deviation is an index of variability or consensus among the responses; the lower the standard deviation, the greater the similarity of responses. The highest standard deviations indicate items for which the responses are the most spread out. Generally on a 5 to 7-point scale a standard deviation of 0.8 to 1.0 or less can be considered low.

In response to students' ongoing requests for information, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy appointed a committee of faculty and students to develop a set of ten questions to guide students in selecting courses. The results of these questions will give you an opportunity to review your results, regardless of whether or not you give permission to release results to students. Results are course and term specific and decisions to release these results are only made by instructors.

For additional information about evaluating and improving teaching, visit the Office of Measurement Services homepage at:

<http://www.ucs.umn.edu/oms/>

Student Evaluation of Teaching - Form C-SR

Items	Options	Responses		
		No.	Pct	
1. How would you rate the instructor's overall teaching ability? Mean = 6.5 S.D. = 0.7 Median = 6.7 Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Exceptional	7	20	61
		6	10	30
		5	3	9
	Satisfactory	4	0	0
		3	0	0
		2	0	0
	Very Poor	1	0	0
2. How would you rate the instructor's knowledge of the subject matter? Mean = 6.8 S.D. = 0.4 Median = 6.9 Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Exceptional	7	26	79
		6	7	21
		5	0	0
	Satisfactory	4	0	0
		3	0	0
		2	0	0
	Very Poor	1	0	0
3. How would you rate the instructor's respect and concern for students? Mean = 6.8 S.D. = 0.7 Median = 6.9 Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Exceptional	7	28	85
		6	4	12
		5	0	0
	Satisfactory	4	0	0
		3	1	3
		2	0	0
	Very Poor	1	0	0
4. How would you rate the physical environment in which you take this class? Mean = 6.2 S.D. = 1.0 Median = 6.6 Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Exceptional	7	18	55
		6	6	18
		5	6	18
	Satisfactory	4	3	9
		3	0	0
		2	0	0
	Very Poor	1	0	0
5. How much would you say you learned in this course? Mean = 6.4 S.D. = 0.7 Median = 6.4 Responses to item = 32 (97%)	An exceptional amount	7	15	47
		6	15	47
		5	1	3
	Amount expected	4	1	3
		3	0	0
		2	0	0
	Almost nothing	1	0	0

Student Evaluation of Teaching - Form C-SR

Items	Options	Responses		
		No.	Pct	
Did you take this course as an elective or as a requirement?	Requirement	5	16	[REDACTED]
	One of several	11	34	[REDACTED]
	Elective	16	50	[REDACTED]
Grade point average	3.51-4.00	7	22	[REDACTED]
	3.01-3.50	19	59	[REDACTED]
	2.51-3.00	3	9	[REDACTED]
	2.01-2.50	1	3	[REDACTED]
	1.01-2.00	0	0	[REDACTED]
	.00-1.00	0	0	[REDACTED]
	na	2	6	[REDACTED]
Year in school	Freshman	0	0	[REDACTED]
	Sophomore	6	19	[REDACTED]
	Junior	19	59	[REDACTED]
	Senior	6	19	[REDACTED]
	Grad/Prof	0	0	[REDACTED]
	Other	1	3	[REDACTED]
Is this course in your major?	Yes	16	52	[REDACTED]
	No	15	48	[REDACTED]
Age	20 or less	8	38	[REDACTED]
	21-25	11	52	[REDACTED]
	26-30	1	5	[REDACTED]
	31-40	1	5	[REDACTED]
	More than 40	0	0	[REDACTED]
Gender	Female	15	71	[REDACTED]
	Male	6	29	[REDACTED]
Ethnic background	African-American	0	0	[REDACTED]
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0	[REDACTED]
	Asian or Pacific Islander	1	5	[REDACTED]
	Chicano/Latino/Hispanic	0	0	[REDACTED]
	Caucasian	18	95	[REDACTED]
	Other	0	0	[REDACTED]
Course delivery method	Classroom	30	97	[REDACTED]
	Distance	0	0	[REDACTED]
	Combination	1	3	[REDACTED]

Student Evaluation of Teaching - Form SR (Student Release) Questions

Response frequency distributions and their associated percentages follow for each of the ten student release items. Courses for which less than 75% of the class responded to these items may not provide reliable information to guide student choice. Authorization to release these results for presentation on the WorldWide Web is course and term specific and will only be provided if instructors authorize the release of this information to students.

Items	Options	Responses		
		No.	Pct	
1. The instructor provided a ____ structured learning environment. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Highly	14	42	████████████████████
	Moderately	18	55	██
	Minimally	1	3	██
2. The instructor emphasized: Responses to item = 32 (97%)	Many topics	7	22	████████████████
	Balanced	24	75	██
	More depth	1	3	██
3. Course Guide and course syllabus were accurate in describing learning activities Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	30	91	██
	No	3	9	██████
4. Instructor stimulated me to think critically about the course material. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	33	100	██
	No	0	0	
5. Instructor set high expectations for student performance in the course. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	32	97	██
	No	1	3	██
6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	30	91	██
	No	3	9	██████
7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	32	97	██
	No	1	3	██
8. In class learning activities contributed to my learning. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	31	94	██
	No	2	6	██████
9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term. Responses to item = 33 (100%)	Yes	31	94	██
	No	2	6	██████
10. I would take another course with this instructor. Responses to item = 32 (97%)	Yes	31	97	██
	No	1	3	██

Yes No

- 3. The Course Guide and course syllabus accurately described the learning activities that occurred during the term.
- 4. Instructor stimulated me to think critically about the course material.
- 5. Instructor set high expectations for student performance in the course.
- 6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course.
- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Great prof - I enjoyed the class and learned a ton!

Great prof - covering many course topics rather than a few

Yes No

- 3. The Course Guide and course syllabus accurately described the learning activities that occurred during the term.
- 4. Instructor stimulated me to think critically about the course material.
- 5. Instructor set high expectations for student performance in the course.
- 6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course.
- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Ian is without question the best professor I have had in my college career. This course was extremely informative, and I left it feeling confident in my knowledge of Europe.

Form SR (Student Release) Questions

A summary of your responses to these questions will be provided to your instructor. At the written request of your instructor to the Office of Measurement Services, summary results will be accessible on the Web for students to use in making well-informed course selection decisions.

1. The instructor provided a: (mark one)

- Minimally structured learning environment
- Moderately structured learning environment
- Highly structured learning environment

2. The instructor emphasized: (mark one)

- Covering fewer course topics in depth
- Balancing breadth and depth in course topics covered
- Covering many course topics rather than a few

Yes No

- 3. The Course Guide and course syllabus accurately described the learning activities that occurred during the term.
- 4. Instructor encouraged me to think critically about the course material.
- 5. Instructor set high expectations for student performance in the course.
- 6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course.
- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Ian is a very good teacher. His style almost seems like he is talking to you about a subject, not lecturing at you. Very accessible style. ~~He~~ Always excited.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

I think Ian did an amazing job of covering a wide variety of topics in a complete manner. Also, I felt welcome to speak & ask questions & that he genuinely cared about my progress & concerns about the material. I enjoyed his class I would definitely take another course with him.

Form SR (Student Release) Questions

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2. The instructor emphasized: (mark one)

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- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

The teacher's enthusiasm for the subject matter and talking about was apparent -- even though it was a 9 am class, I enjoyed being there. The teacher had an overall positive and supportive attitude at all times. He encouraged the students to participate, and made the classroom a very non-intimidating atmosphere. Also, the lectures & slides were well organized, plus, thanks for posting lectures online, it was ideal for reviewing the material and maps. At

Out Words

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

I thought that Ian was an outstanding teacher. He was so enthusiastic and knowledgeable about all aspects of the subject he was teaching. I really liked how his bot were organized, and I really respected him as a person. I can't do class more and made more effort to do well because he was my teacher.

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- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Ian was very knowledgeable concerning the material, but he covered it a little too quickly. The course seemed a little rushed. Overall, he did a very good job!

10. I would take another course with this instructor. Cut Here

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

I thought the books & movies were a good fit for the topics being covered. I mean, everyone likes movies. plus, La Haine is awesome

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2. The instructor emphasized: (mark one)

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Yes No

- 2. The Course Guide and course syllabus accurately described the learning activities that occurred during the term.
- 4. Instructor administered me to think critically about the course material.
- 5. Instructor set high expectations for student performance in the course.
- 6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course.
- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instructor you received.

- This was one of my favorite classes this semester.
- I liked the variety of teaching methods - lectures books & movies.
- Also the online notes were beneficial so that I could concentrate on the lectures instead of constantly writing.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

THE MOVIE "LA HAINE" IS GREAT I THINK YOU SHOULD KEEP IT IN THE COURSE.

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- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Really enjoyed the class. The readings were interesting and applicable and the lectures were probably the most interesting I've had at the U. Would highly recommend the course and prof.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

This course was great.
Ian's an amazing professor - does he teach other classes? I'd take another class regardless of what it was!

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- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

This was by far my favorite class this semester. I had such enthusiasm for the topics; he kept class very interesting and entertaining. Very open to student concerns and feedback! Great class!

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

- Exceptional knowledge of subject matter
- brought personal experience into discussion
- very respectful of student's

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 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instructor you received.

- Great Enthusiasm
- Very Helpful
- Easy to Listen too
- Answers questions
- Highly recommend him
- Great reviews
- Overall, 1 of best teachers I've had at UWEC or UM-TL

Please comment on this course and the instructor you received.

I took this course last Spring (2005) and learned nothing. This semester I learned a great deal, felt that the way information was presented to us made it enjoyable, the films and books both were great supplements to the lecture. The papers and exams, I felt appropriately tested my knowledge.

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- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Try to make the syllabus more
Day to Day than Week by Week.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Loved the course.

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- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Interesting course & great teacher.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

I thought this was a really good class - better than I expected!

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- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

I am is a very good teacher & is very knowledgeable. He has a great personality & sense of humor. I enjoyed him!

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Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Very knowledgeable on the subjects discussed,
made the topics relatable to students
Very interesting. Fun class

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- 6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course.
- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

The instructor was great, I loved the course it was very interesting. What I loved best was his enthusiasm + the freedom that he allowed us in writing our papers, I felt like my opinion was valuable in my papers + while speaking in class

Cut Here

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

He was a fun guy to listen to lecture, and seemed to really have a passion for Europe and what he was teaching.

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Yes No

- 3. The Course Syllabus and course syllabus accurately described the learning activities that occurred during the term.
- 4. Instructor stimulated me to think critically about the course material.
- 5. Instructor set high expectations for student performance in the course.
- 6. Instructor used a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the course.
- 7. Instructor provided me with timely and helpful feedback about my performance.
- 8. In-class learning activities contributed to my learning.
- 9. I attended almost all of the class sessions during the term.
- 10. I would take another course with this instructor.

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

There is nothing that I can complain about only complement
great instructor, good job

Please comment on this course and the instruction you received.

Excellent Prof