

Qualitative Course Evaluation Responses

What were the major strengths of the instructor/course?

Spring 2016 (Principles of Sociology)

- Instructors obvious interest, passion and opinions of topics discussed in class, and use of relevant examples. dope taste in music also adds respect points
- The instructional materials and the lectures were so good I barely had to study. The instructor was among the best I have ever had in my 5-year college career. I could tell he was really knowledgeable and passionate about the subject. It was a very interesting course covering a wide variety of social issues.
- Lectures are very straight forward and understandable. Always willing to stop and further explain something if a student asks him to do so. Love the different music videos and other videos that are shown that tie back into the material being taught in class. Also love that there can be some instances of debate throughout the semester.
- You could tell you really love sociology and knew the material well. You are very fair and gave a fair amount of extra credit. Also, loved the review sheets.
- He was always prepared for class and had the notes ready. he was very understanding of students needs and outside lives.
- provided many examples and outside influences to explain the material even more.
- knows what he is talking about, very smart, funny, includes everyone into his daily teachings.
- Brings new perspectives to students that I think completes a college experience. It asks you to challenge the way you view the world.
- He always stayed after to talk to students that wanted to either about what we learned or just tangents of what he had gone over. Great speaker and fun. Class was interesting and makes you think about this crazy world we live in.
- The audacity of Simon's teaching style is effective, lively, and at times humorous. From jumping atop a table to demonstrate concepts of deviance, to asking each and every student in the class to draw a picture of God in order to demonstrate cultural difference, Simon brings to the table a fresh perspective to teaching. His lectures are completely on focus, and he incorporates portions of his research into his teaching when needed.

Fall 2015 (Methods of Data Collection)

- Extremely intelligent and dedicated instructor. Obviously has a great understanding of course material and was able to explain confusing material in a manner that was easy to understand.
- I thought Simon knew the material very well and did a great job teaching it. I always looked forward to coming to class.
- I would say that the two biggest strengths of both the course and instructor would be; the easy to understand layout of course material and the conviction in which the instructor spoke with. It was easy to pick up what was being taught and to understand it with all of the examples the instructor related to each topic. Every PowerPoint was filled with great information and was very easy to follow and refer too when it came time for tests and writing papers.
- Being able to teach the information and expand on it while keeping everything in a timely manner.
- He knew the material he was presenting, and he always came to class with enthusiasm and always had examples to give to us when we had questions or just with explaining the material.

- Well put together syllabus and grading scale, stuck to course timeline. Explained what expectations were on exam.
- I like that we mixed it up, there was a lot of lecture but also hands on stuff.
- I had no problems or worries about asking questions.

Spring 2015 (Principles of Sociology)

- Instructor was easy to approach with questions and always seemed ready to assist students who did not fully understand the material; Lectures were clear and easy to follow; Spreading the project over the semester made the experience much less stressful.
- The instructor knew the material which really helped teaching tough material. He gave very good examples of the topics that were covered which helped learning the material very easy.
- He's very good at teaching the material to students. Though not difficult material to interpret, he still makes the material interesting and fun to learn. Great class atmosphere, and his tests/exams are always pertinent to the material that he taught over the said amount of weeks.
- did a great job at incorporating things we were talking about in class to situations happening in the world around us.
- The Instructor was easy for me to listen to. He was very knowledgeable and wasn't monotonous.
- made it comfortable
- Mr. Purdy was extremely knowledgeable and made the concepts of sociology relatable.
- Explained things really well, and applied it to real world situations. Helped me critically think about things.

Fall 2014 (Methods of Data Collection)

- You were great at being available to really help students. You can tell you are a teacher who really cares about seeing the students do their best and succeed.
- being involved and getting students to be involved.
- very well put together, impressive considering he became a new father in the middle of the semester.
- Although the material was very difficult in my opinion as I am sure it was for many others because this class was required for most of us and we had not taken a statistics class. I learned a great deal that I actually applied to my other classes with is awesome! Also I talked to other students who have a different prof. who teaches the same class. While comparing review sheets, yours was easily more difficult. As a class we moved at a faster pace, but learned more than the other class. You do a great job at giving lots of examples to back up the information on your slides, which is nice because some profs just read of the slide show and I feel like I am back in high school again.
- The instructor was enthusiastic and excited about the material and that made class much more enjoyable. He was demanding of time, but class was fun, so I did learn quite a bit. Very approachable and very fair to students.

What do you suggest to improve the course?

Spring 2016 (Principles of Sociology)

- Having more small point assignments.
- I would personally recommend trimming down the amount of content covered, even though it is an introductory course.
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Fall 2015 (Methods of Data Collection)

- The wording on exams could get a little confusing and wordy sometimes.
- More help from the teacher with regards to the group research project would be helpful.
- More time to work with groups on large research project.
- I would've liked more examples for the writing portions of the project. I've never written a paper like this before and often felt unsure about how they should be written.

Spring 2015 (Principles of Sociology)

- When he was asked to put up the power points a little early instead of a day or two before, he listened and started doing so.
- Even though my class interacted a lot and he did a lot of responses amongst students, I can see that with a larger class size that this may not be possible.
- Don't make the exams worth as much or do more in class assignments
- I enjoyed the discussions, and would like to see more of them.

Fall 2014 (Methods of Data Collection)

- Maybe combining the group project with the paper so that each student actually does carry out the project, and each student turns in a paper explaining what they did.
- Sometimes the sections could go at a fast pace which can make it difficult to grasp certain concepts. I think that we could possibly focus on the more difficult chapters more in depth.

Please Comment on the Grading Procedures in the course?

- fair and well defined
- Very fair and straight to the point. Best grading professor I've had so far in the sense that he got the grades up on elearning as quick as the day of.
- Straight Forward as laid out in the syllabus
- I was very satisfied with the grading procedures in this course for two reasons. One reason being that assignments were always graded very quickly and it was easy to keep up with your grade in the class. This helped me in that it was motivating to continuously see grades and also because I always knew what was needed to keep my grade up where I wanted it to be. The next reason I was very satisfied with the grading procedures was because they were always fair. You seemingly always received the grade that you earned which was a very motivational tool in completing the work on time and to the best of your ability.

- I think that he was very fair in how he graded his exams, if something (a question on his exam) may have seemed unfair, he would talk about it with us and try to give us as many points as possible as long as we worked with him to understand what he was trying to ask us.
- Good, although I would rather have the in class opportunities be worth more. I can see how that would cause some students to slack off on the tests. But if you put in your time in class and try the points you do give should be enough to help your grade.
- Very fair and understanding of students. I never had a problem with the grading, even if I did I knew I could talk to the instructor about it.

What other comments do you have?

- Awesome professor, was a joy being in his class. Hopefully we cross paths in another class later down the line in my time here at Western!
- I enjoyed taking this class, I didn't think I would be able to make connections, but I've actually learned a lot while taking this course.
- He will be a very favored and loved professor, even if he is teaching a hard ass class, he will make it overall a better course.
- You rock, Simon! Thank you for your additional readings for this summer. They will wrap up my learning contextually, and provide the break with an excellent summer reading list.
- One of the best Professors I have had yet.
- I do not particularly enjoy these types of classes, but the instructor made the material very clear and helped me to understand the principles being taught. I had a much more enjoyable experience than I expected.
- I don't normally mark these surveys with such satisfaction but I can honestly say I couldn't have been more pleased with a college course than I was with this one. I would most definitely recommend this class and professor to anyone and would love to see Instructor Purdy as my Instructor in future courses!
- I didn't know what sociology was before class. After taking this course, I learned a lot and will take a lot from it. I'm glad that I took the class and I really enjoyed it.
- Because of the way Simon present Sociology to me and made it a great learning experience, I have decided to pick up a minor is Sociology.
- I really enjoyed all the topics that we talked about, and it was a good learning environment.
- I wasn't sure how much I would like this course, because 'methods of data collection' sounds somewhat boring. However, it wasn't actually that bad.
- I had no idea Methods could be so interesting and creative. I was pleasantly surprised!
- The course subject isn't really my cup of tea, but the instructor did a great job of making it interesting and relevant!
- Just wanted to say Thanks for the class this semester! I really enjoyed it and it gave me pause to think and allowed a better self-evaluation. The voice to actually verbally express my own prejudices, evaluate them and further think about how I see the world sometimes. Nice job!!! I have seen in my years where younger academics such as yourself look at guys like me and immediately go on the defensive challenging everything. You did not do that I appreciate that and helps to conclude that you will continue to be a "conscientious" educator and social scientist. Good for you!!!! We need more of that today.