The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.  
0 3 4 16 18 41 4.2 4 5 .89

The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.  
0 1 3 17 20 41 4.4 4 5 .72

The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.  
0 0 6 11 24 41 4.4 5 5 .73

Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.  
1 1 4 13 21 40 4.3 5 5 .93

The instructor showed concern for student learning.  
0 0 6 10 25 41 4.5 5 5 .74

Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.  
0 0 5 12 24 41 4.5 5 5 .70


In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.  
0 1 10 20 7 38 3.9 4 4 .73

High standards of achievement were set.  
0 0 6 23 11 40 4.1 4 4 .64

The instructor was generally well prepared for class.  
0 0 0 8 33 41 4.8 5 5 .40

The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).  
0 1 2 8 29 40 4.6 5 5 .70

The instructor treated students with respect.  
0 0 1 7 33 41 4.8 5 5 .47


Considering everything how would you rate this course?  
0 1 3 15 22 41 4.4 5 5 .73

Geography Departmental Questions

Q13 The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.

0 1 1 13 25 40 4.6 5 5 .67

Q14 The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.

0 0 5 13 22 40 4.4 5 5 .70

Q15 The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.

0 0 2 6 27 35 4.7 5 5 .56

Q16 Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.

0 0 2 10 28 40 4.7 5 5 .57


Geography Departmental Question

Q17 For courses that had discussion groups or labs, the discussion groups or labs made an important contribution to the course.

0 0 1 2 1 4 4.0 4 4 .71


Q18 - Please comment on course content, or any aspects, positive or negative, of your instructor’s teaching, attitudes to students, class atmosphere, or any other matters affecting the quality of instruction that you consider worthy of note.

Response Rate: 85.37% (35 of 41)

Wyly is the best professor I’ve had at UBC. Love his teaching style! Wish more professors could be like him.

I took URST 200 with Wyly and was a bit disappointed when the first half of GEOG 350 was largely a repetition of URST 200. Also the midterm was way too easy. Multiple choice questions for a 300 level midterm is a joke. I understand why Wyly doesn't like putting essay questions on the midterm but maybe short answer questions would be a bit more challenging than multiple choice.

- Studying guide would be helpful. If the professor is just going to repeat whats on the slide, why doesn't he just record his lectures?

Professor Wyly is a great, enthusiastic teacher. Having never taken an urban studies class, he offered a great introduction, and was clearly very excited by the course content. He was very organized and prepared for lectures, and he returned papers within a week of students handing them in - very impressive! Some of the statistical-based lectures were hard to sit through, but I guess it was an important aspect of the course to have a bit of an understanding of different models/ways of analyzing data. All in all, good course and great prof.

I think that this class would benefit further from a discussion group than the GEOG 250 course, which I also took this semester with Dr. Wyly. The subject material is different and more complex. The fact that the written project is worth 40% of the grade is also terrifying and I have found it made me procrastinate it more, because it needs to be one of the best essays I have ever written if I am to do well in this course. This is in part because the midterm grade was quite challenging. I think your teaching style is good but perhaps leaving time to clarify confusing aspects of your lecture at the end would be beneficial.

Professor Wyly was a great professor, with a contagious passion for urban geography. With his Powerpoint presentations and class notes up on his website, it was always clear as to what the class was going to learn - each lecture. While the class notes were quite long, they were all great examples of writing to learn from. Even
though the Powerpoint outlines and class notes had most of the information from the lecture, I made sure to go to all of Prof Wyly's lectures because they were all so interesting.

- Great class! Could utilize some moments in class for peer-to-peer engagement.
- The course was fair. There were many opportunities for submissions, and it worked well with my learning.
- To increase attendance, maybe provide supplementary readings that are handed out in class only?
- IClicker attendance wouldn't be a bad idea. As someone who attended class on a regular basis, I would have appreciated getting points for that.

The course was very content heavy -- I feel like not all of this information needed to be relayed to us. But I did like how he tied many lessons to the Vancouver setting; I've grown up here my entire life, so it was interesting.

- learning about how Vancouver came to be and about some of the history that you can't necessarily find very easily on Wikipedia etc.

Very inspiring instructor and enthusiastic too. Extremely willing to help students and while I did not submit my paper early, I really liked his paper due date policy. Outside of class and through email, he was a great help.

- Lectures tended to go a bit over the time usually, which after long days or before other commitments could be a bit frustrating.

The lecture slides had good content but there were way to many graphics and words. It would be easier to follow if the slides were more straightforward!

- Presentations are too vivid to take a look, and these should have same design and layout.

Instead of using iclickers to take attendance, perhaps you could incorporate them as a way to create discussion. By asking questions and having students answer them with an iclicker and afterwards having a discussion about why answers were right or wrong or why people chose to answer a certain way. :

And this could also be used as a bonus for attendance/participation marks.

- Professor Wyly showed great interest and enthusiasm for the course content. He also brought a positive energy and wealth of knowledge to lecture.

Wyly is very passionate about his teaching material which makes the class definitely more approachable. He is always willing to answer questions and provide assistance when asked, and is always looking for ways to better the course. Though I don't particularly share his passion for cities, Wyly made this class very interesting and overall I really enjoyed it.

- The prof was very interesting in lectures but it would be nice if now and then comments and questions from the class would be taken

The course is well structured and the powerpoint complement. I wish some of the video can be made online too, as Elvin utilizes a lot of media beyond the powerpoint (behind the password protected section).

Also, I love the 3 round submission for the papers, it really is good on developing our skills in academic writing – when is a paper ever just completed once and forgotten about?

- I think there is value in coming to class as Elvin fills in the narrative on the slides and makes the knowledge stick better, but the comprehensive notes means that studying is easier – there is no easy way to have both.

Finally, I wish there was less supplementary readings as the amount is quite a bit for a course. It is helpful that most of the material is summarized in lecture though.

Using Iclickers in class would be your preference. Anyone that misses class for their personal reasons misses out on learning the material. However, a way to integrate Iclickers with satisfying everyone is to take attendance and give 3 free absences. I come to class so I would appreciate an attendance mark. Also Iclickers could give you feedback on what portions of your material are being truly understood. I liked this course and the only negative comment I have is you talk a lot and sometimes it is confusing to read slides with so much information on them.
Professor seems passionate about the course, which makes it a lot more interesting! Good Professor who seems to care about student's performance. Sometimes it's difficult to know what to study as there is a lot of information on powerpoint slides.

Interesting subject material and one of the most obviously passionate professors I've had. The amount of information available to students in slides, lectures, and online material was impressive, and made it easy to learn the material in my own way and at my own pace. Prof. Wyly's love of visually stimulating slides (and his website) with multi-colored writing and font sizes was quite annoying. Please stick to more boring-looking slides. While I am very supportive of such critique, the consistent critique of the capitalist system didn't really challenge my views and rather than engage me, it often made me shut off. Without meaning to sound too harsh, this seems to be a symptom of most geography and sociology courses I've taken.

I really enjoyed this class. I though the last few lectures about weird creepy internet spying and what not was really interesting. Stuff I have never thought about. I did not like some of the stuff in the very beginning it was a bit dry, but needed to be there. lecture slides are too dense, but at the same time one does not have to worry about not having all of the classroom material not available. Dr. Wyly seemed to really care about the students and how well we did, he was extremely willing to help out with projects. more then any prof I have had so far.

there was a racist video i did not like though, i understand what the point was, but it was vague in the surrounding concept, and made some people in the class probably uncomfortable (judging off of body language around me).

Your powerpoints are crazy, man. Text on text on pictures on text on pictures on tables on text. It was really hard for me to follow in class what the main points were and what the takeaways from each slide were. You have a lot of information you want to share but sometimes it is too much. I would suggest that having main points on the slides and then speaking on these main points rather than writing every little nitty gritty detail out in the slides. I think this would help class both engagement AND attendance because people would have to come to class to get the detailed information rather than just basic points that would be posted online on the slides. Other than that, I appreciate that you are so passionate! I think you should channel that passion into innovating a unique teaching style that doesn't follow the typical standing-in-front-of-a-class speaking-off-lecture-slides-for-an-hour-and-a-half style that is so painfully popular amongst profs. The most useful and engaging classes (where I choose to show up rather than following a mandatory participation guideline) are the ones where profs come up with a way to teach material other that this. Facilitating class discussions more often could also benefit this class, I think!

* Inappropriate words were found and removed from this response.

Dr Wyly is an incredibly engaging and intelligent instructor. His course content is thorough and there is ample opportunity to learn about the subject matter.

However, the assessment (midterm, paper and final) does not match Wylys style of teaching. Instead of a multiple choice midterm [which honestly I think is more suited to 100 or 200 level courses], there should be consideration for other styles of assessment such as group projects or discussions. Going from Wylys GEOG 250 to GEOG 350 seems like more content but much less engaging. Having tutorials in 250 was an excellent way of expanding our knowledge around the subject area and looking at it from many different view points. It seems like 350 is a step back from this.

I would love to have more class discussions especially as Dr Wyly is so informative and has a lot of great information to share! Given the topic is such a current and relevant issue to our lives it makes me sad that we don't have the opportunity to have more interactive learning.

If the assessment matched Wyllys engaging personality and excellent notes - he would by FAR be the BEST Professor at UBC. This is the kind of class where participation and attendance should be encouraged (and assessed?) and Wyly would probably find himself with two dozen eager students to shadow him!!

Professor Wyly is an excellent, very enthusiastic and passionate educator. His lectures were always vibrant no matter the topics and brought materials together in a way I don't think I could have connected. I must admit it was overwhelming at the start of the course, specifically because I hadn't planned on taking it, but when things became clearer I noticed a growing interest in the subject. The paper was a great opportunity to assess my standing with the course as I did not do well on the midterm. The fact that we were allowed resubmissions for these papers ( and two deadlines to CHOOSE from, an actual option to choose, very rare) made this course that much more of a joy in the middle of a very hectic semester. I am more than overjoyed that I seized the
opportunity to submit on one of the deadlines because the feedback I received for my paper was extremely constructive, very detailed, and helpful. His slides are very detailed and clear however I found it difficult to recall details about some of the figures used as I wouldn't have a chance to get down everything he would say. The nature of the slides did however make it easier to skip class (which I did a few times towards the end of the semester mostly because the class was later in the day and I was getting stressed with other subjects that didn't offer flexible deadlines :) ) Professor Wyly stood true to something that he told us at the start of the semester. He wants us to learn. When this became evident throughout the semester I felt less intimidation and more motivation to get on top of things. It became as though this rush of knowledge was no longer rushing towards me but boosting me up. Regardless of how I do on my final or how I did on my midtem I'm truly grateful for this course and professor Wyly. Thanks professor!

Professor Wyly is very knowledgeable and full of interesting information and perspectives - he puts his soul and personality into his teaching. Even though he provides the students with all the lecture slides and lecture notes online, I fell that coming to class enriches the learning and the material a lot, and when Professor Wyly has explained something in class; you remember it.

Overall great class. Professor was enthusiastic and knowledgeable. His clear interest in the translated well to the classroom and allowed for a more engaging atmosphere. I sometimes felt overwhelmed by the statistical data and amount of information provided in class. I really appreciated the amount of information and detail that was provided outside of the lectures through the website. However, the website was at times difficult to navigate, and confusing. I often felt that while the information was provided somewhere on the website I had to search for a while to find it. It seemed like it could use a bit more organizing but was overall a very useful tool.

In the same vein as this, the description of the term project was sort of confusing and it would be helpful to have a clearer description of the assignment.

As far as the desire to ensure attendance, I feel that if people have the desire to learn they will come. If some students are not attending classes it is their own loss of education and not much can be done about it by the faculty. Instituting iClickers will not deter most truant students and they seems like more of a headache than they would be worth.

One of the best aspects of this course was the walwalking tour of Downtown that Elvin did at the start of the semester. He clearly has an extensive knowledge of his subject. Sometimes though, he tries to pass on too much of this information all at once!

I think having two submission dates for the term paper is a great idea and really appreciated it. Elvin is the weirdest teacher that I’ve had in my UBC career so far... But that is also what makes him my favourite.

Overall I will say, Professor Wyly made the lectures so interesting that I am happy to have taken his class.

I have never met a man more passionate about geography than Elvin Wyly. He is one of the few people I’ve met who truly cares about the progress of his students and wants everyone to learn to the best of their ability. His passion for urban geography is clearly displayed in his engaging lectures, and makes me WANT to learn more and push myself do better. Thank you for this amazing class!

less content in the slides and midterm questions would help make information less overwhelming

Professor Wyly's intricately crafted lectures truly captures the interdisciplinary spirit of urban geography!

Dr. Wyly is a highly effective instructor with remarkable enthusiasm for his subject and teaching. He set clearly defined expectations for his students and was generally very helpful and as accommodating to students’ needs as he could be.

Even though I have satisfied all my elective credits, I hope to be able to take another class with him.

Loved the energy the professor brought to the class!