

**Geography 2011W1 Survey
2011W1 2011**

**University of British Columbia
Arts**

Course: GEOG 250/URST 200 101 - GEOG 250 101/URST 200 101

Department: GEOG

**Responsible
Faculty:** Elvin Wylly

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 41 / 93

University Module

Wylly, Elvin K

Individual

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.	4	4	.88	41	4
Q2 The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.	4	4	.87	41	4.1
Q3 The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.	5	5	.74	41	4.5

Choices / Values: Strongly Disagree=1 | Disagree=2 | Neutral=3 | Agree=4 | Strongly Agree=5

University Module

Wylly, Elvin K

Individual

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q4 Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.	4	5	.78	41	4.3

Choices / Values: Strongly Disagree=1 | Disagree=2 | Neutral=3 | Agree=4 | Strongly Agree=5

University Module

Wylly, Elvin K

Individual

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q5 The instructor showed concern for student learning.	5	5	.87	41	4.3
Q6 Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	5	5	.95	41	4.3

Choices / Values: Strongly Disagree=1 | Disagree=2 | Neutral=3 | Agree=4 | Strongly Agree=5

Arts Instructor Questions

Wylly, Elvin K

Individual

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q7 In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.	4	4	.66	38	4.1
Q8 High standards of achievement were set.	4	4	.76	40	4
Q9 The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	5	5	.51	41	4.7
Q10 The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	4.5	5	.67	38	4.4
Q11 The instructor treated students with respect.	5	5	.63	41	4.5

Choices / Values: Strongly Disagree=1 | Disagree=2 | Neutral=3 | Agree=4 | Strongly Agree=5

GEOG 250/URST 200 - 101

Arts Course Question

Course

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q12 Considering everything how would you rate this course?	4	5	.97	41	4.2

Choices / Values: Very poor=1 | Poor=2 | Neutral=3 | Good=4 | Very good=5

Geography Departmental Questions

Wyly, Elvin K

Individual

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q13 The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.	5	5	.77	41	4.5
Q14 The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.	4	5	.91	41	4.3
Q15 The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.	5	5	.89	35	4.3
Q16 Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.	5	5	.59	40	4.5

Choices / Values: Strongly Disagree=1 | Disagree=2 | Neutral=3 | Agree=4 | Strongly Agree=5

Geography Departmental Question

GEOG 250/URST 200 - 101

Course

	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q17 For courses that had discussion groups or labs, the discussion groups or labs made an important contribution to the course.	3	3	1.13	41	3.3

Choices / Values: Strongly Disagree=1 | Disagree=2 | Neutral=3 | Agree=4 | Strongly Agree=5

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: 58.54% (24 of 41)

- Very good teacher.
- Elvin Wyly is everything a professor should be. He is passionate about his field and really loves what he does. The fact that he even gives his cell phone number out to students so they can call him for help is incredible. Great guy who does good work.
- Very good class, inspiring, passionate professor, however no clear goal to achieve, expectancies were blurry, maybe more of a defined track for students would help.

this instructor is over the top. his website is too much for a second year class. I have never cared less when I log on to the website. I believe students want the necessary information and supplementary information sperate. the course syllabus is packed full of useless stuff that many student don't even look at. The majority of student want simple to find and simple to understand information about the class. anything extra should be the choice of the student. The papers that are provided for the assignments are too long and I feel deter me from really looking into different areas of the course. I feel the philosophy of "less is more" should be dumped all over this course. I would not recommend this course to anyone in the state that is in now.

- Photos and presentations are beautiful and interesting! The class may be small compared to my other classes but his class presentations are lively and I learned a lot from it.

He was very unhelpful regarding any advice or responding to questions relating to the course material or course work. His email replies were lazy and lacked any thought whatsoever. Lectures were mostly pointless as he spent 80 % of the lecture discussing things not related to the course content.

- Elvin is a fantastic instructor whose passion for the subject really shines through in his lectures. The most inspiring and genuine professor I've ever had, I wish I could take all classes with Elvin.

The class atmosphere was very interactive, instructor encouraged questions and he narrated interesting stories that were relevant to the lecture material. The instructor used a variety of sources to illustrate his main points with great use of graphs, images, documentaries. The explanation of concepts was clear most of the time.

Negative- At times the use of too many sources resulted in an overload of information.

- Elvin was great. He's clearly very passionate about Urban studies and anything to do with cities, and his enthusiasm is a joy to be around. Although the class wasn't really what I expected, and I didn't enjoy all the subject matter (I felt some of it was too abstract and I didn't really know what to do with it), I still went to almost every class. He actively encouraged independent thought, and I loved how he emphasized that he was more concerned with HOW we thought rather than WHAT we thought. His projects were definitely stimulating and took time and effort, but that is what university is for. Elvin even said we could give him a call on his cell phone if we had any questions, and encouraged discussion and questions; I appreciated his intellectual honesty when he didn't know the answer to a question. He was also extremely humble, often saying that he really didn't know very much (which I think most really good profs would say, because if they said the opposite they most likely wouldn't be a good prof. But at the same time

I'm pretty sure he knows a great deal about a lot of things!

A great guy to have as a teacher and be around in general!

- Perhaps the course could dedicate a larger proportion of the material towards urban policies, a deeper insight into urban planning and urban affairs in general from the perspective of public policy makers.

- nil

- The best course I have ever taken. This was due to teachers' interest in the field which he managed to transfer to most students in the class. It is a challenging course to teach since it reaches so wide, but I think it is possible to structure the lectures a little better. You don't have to tell about everything Elvin!!! Still the mix of theory and story telling works out very good and makes the course very interesting. Contemporary processes in the cities are well covered and the basis of the course is well laid out. Of the course material I think it would be fair to present a little more nuanced view of polarization and globalization processes. EU (maybe except the UK) and Asian scholars' view on this issue are in general more critical to the reality and representations of these developments. 90/100 right back atcha

- I really like the "firm but optional deadline" rule. I think it really gives students who want to improve on their work and who want the detailed feedback to do better an opportunity to. The videos and audios shown in class were all very interesting and overall I think that I have learned a lot from this course. Before taking this course I had never heard of the political machine and now when I'm reading the newspaper or watching the news I hear it everywhere! Also thank you for encouraging us to vote!

- Very engaging, clear, teaching! You could tell he was passionate about the material, knew it inside out, and wanted the students to do well

- I really enjoyed this class, especially the way you made all the notes available to us before the class. That way I did not have to scramble while simultaneously listening, writing, and trying to identify the most important points. It also allows proactive students who read the notes beforehand to get a lot more out of the lectures because its reinforcing and highlighting important aspects of what we already know. All in all, one of my favorite courses this semester as you/the professor were always energetic and genuinely interested by the subject material which was apparent. I can only hope GEOG 350 will be as good.

- The teacher has a real passion for the subject which shone through every day in lecture. It made a topic that I otherwise wouldn't have found that interesting very compelling.

- Prof. Wyly was irreverent, engaging, passionate and knowledgeable as an instructor. His style made class lecture entertaining and his personal website serves as a valuable resource. The breadth of material covered in the course is large and he refines it to important points to make learning simpler.

- His flexibility with course content to make it relevant to present day events is also refreshing and adds an element of anticipation to each day's lectures. Knowing that he is flexible, it is fun to go to class wondering how recent events may have influenced his lecture for the day.

- I thought that Professor Wyly was great and the primary reason for that is his passion for the material that he is teaching. However, I found that sometimes he became overpassionate which then became overwhelming because it coincided with an increase in reading material. Also, the website, although a great tool for students, made assignments difficult to find. Personally, I feel it would have been nice to have project outlines that didn't include pages and pages of writing to them. That said, I do understand that he was simply trying to be helpful and appreciate that. I think that the best part of this course was the emphasis on applying what we were learning and the worst was a combination of the final exam and the discussion. The former had unreasonable expectations with the amount of material a student should consult but I don't know how that question will be presented or marked so, as always with these surveys, I must make a comment on the course before it is truly finished (how ever I realize there are reasons for doing this). Finally, I felt that the discussion wasn't that useful and would have preferred if we discussed the material we were reading for class and the lectures rather than the projects so that we could further our understanding of urban studies. The article that was recommended for reading for the discussion course was great but we were not provided with an opportunity to put that into practice. Overall great course, and the professor has inspired me to care about cities. Thank you!

- Professor Wyly was a joy to have. One can easily see his passion for cities and his knowledge of the subject is extraordinary. He sometimes gets too into it at times that I got lost a few times, but it's just because his love for cities just oozes out of his pores. Excellent professor and great class, had a lot of fun.

- I was very happy to undertake this course! Urban studies is a topic that interested me greatly! Having a professor so enthusiastic about a subject increased even more this interest!

- I went into this course expecting to drop it, and after the first day I knew I had to stay in. Elvin treated all the students with respect and showed such genuine passion for cities that he made me feel smart just listening to him. As a first-year engineering student, I was daunted by his high expectations, but everything in the course was manageable, and I was really inspired by this course.

- I appreciate Elvin's enthusiasm and passion for the subject and I feel like he really truly knew what he was talking about and communicated it effectively. My only issue with the class itself was the number of documentaries we watched in class - I think we could have just watched those at home in some way and actually learned something in class. But besides that, Elvin's teaching was

very enjoyable and the content of the course, although very broad and sometimes disjointed, was interesting.

I loved this class, thank you for a great semester! Elvin was absolutely great, one of the most engaging and interesting teachers I've

- ever had. He seriously made me consider changing majors to geography. A slight tendency to ramble but I didn't mind since his "rambles" are relevant and interesting.

Professor Wylie is a very well learned and very intelligent professor. However, at times I think this detracts from his ability to engage at a level that is appropriate for the class, the approach to some of the major questions and concepts were sometimes approached at an extremely high level in my eyes. Which is something that I respect greatly, but thought it confused me as a student. The first half

of the course seemed like a philosophy course in the sense that it attempted to find meaning as to how urban studies should be approached and was very unexpected and found confusing at times. Perhaps it is the nature of the subject matter that seemed to

- focus more around concepts that physical case studies made the subject more difficult. By adding more case study centred analysis, this could perhaps ground some of the concepts more solidly in the students minds (at least in my mind it would :))

Overall it was a very solid course with plenty of enthusiasm and knowledge provided by a lecturer who is clearly a leader in his field.