# Faculty of Arts 2015W1 Survey

**Course:** GEOG 250/URST 200 101 - GEOG 250 101/URST 200 101  
**Department:** GEOG  
**Responsible Faculty:** Elvin Wyly  
**Responses / Expected:** 84 / 147 (57.14%)  

### University Module

**Wyly, Elvin K**  
**Responses / Expected:** 84 / 147 (57.14%)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Med.</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Std Dev</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>The instructor showed concern for student learning.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q6</td>
<td>Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.69</td>
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### *Arts Instructor Questions*

**Wyly, Elvin K**  
**Responses / Expected:** 84 / 147 (57.14%)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>A</th>
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<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Med.</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Std Dev</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q7</td>
<td>In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>High standards of achievement were set.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q9</td>
<td>The instructor was generally well prepared for class.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10</td>
<td>The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q11</td>
<td>The instructor treated students with respect.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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### *Arts Course Question*

**GEOG 250/URST 200 - 101**  
**Responses / Expected:** 84 / 147 (57.14%)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q12</th>
<th>Considering everything how would you rate this course?</th>
<th>VP</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>VG</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Med.</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Std Dev</th>
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### Geography Departmental Questions

**Wyly, Elvin K**  
**Responses / Expected:** 84 / 147 (57.14%)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q13</th>
<th>The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>39</th>
<th>71</th>
<th>4.5</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>.60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q14</td>
<td>The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q15 The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.


Q16 Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.


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: 82.14% (69 of 84)

- The course was a great introduction to urban studies! Dr. Wyly was very enthusiastic about the content of the course and I enjoyed having small discussions with him outside of class. The course website was a little confusing because of the vast information.
- Dr. Wyly is an amazing, passionate, intelligent, effective, and phenomenal instructor. I am glad to have taken this class with him and he has opened my eyes to so much. Dr. Wyly mentions about how others have the ability to teach this class instead of him but I do not think he gives himself enough credit for how amazing he is and how extraordinary he is. If someone else were to teach this class I do not think I would have enjoyed it as much. Dr. Wyly is truly an awesome lecturer and writer and I hope to take another class with him in the near future. Keep up the fantastic work you do!
- Extremely inspiring class! Would like to take another one with Elvin next year definitely!
- Elvin was an excellent instructor who presented course material that was not only exciting to learn, but he also presented it in an objective manner. He was extremely helpful during office hours, and I really enjoyed taking this class with him.
- This class should not be taken for its content. It is all over the place and seems to be about people and not what the course itself is named, cities. The class teaches about how people affect cities, and some history of some cities, but not about how and why cities are run the way they are, which was what I had expected. This course had the BEST professor that I had this semester, and I would consider taking another one of his classes not for its content, but simply to be able to communicate and interact more with the Dr. Wyly.
- The instructor was amazing, very passionate and very interesting lectures. However, it was unclear what exactly we were supposed to learn... we had a lot of case studies deviating from the subject and it was unclear what the main point he was trying to make was. Overall, these points were very interesting, but hard to find a common thread.
- He would not encourage student participation in class at all.
- professor's love for the subject was apparent in every lecture, lectures were well organized. got me excited about the subject material. it would have been nice to get the midterm scantrons back to see what questions we got wrong
- Very interesting teacher
- Dr. Wyly is an extremely passionate teacher that strongly inspires interest in urban studies, tying together course material with anecdotes and stories that tie together the complex relationships between the topics we studied in class. There were a few instances where instruction was rushed at the end due to time constraints, but each lecture always brings a wealth of thought-provoking information that goes beyond memorization and quantification.
- I like the content covered in this course. I do find it hard to take notes in class though, because there's so much information and stories and little tidbits here and there. But when I don't take notes I feel bad, so I'm not really sure how to go about with it. I think the presentation style you have is good though, I enjoy class and the different types of media you use to represent information.
- great teaching and course content. teaches you to think no to memorize
- Great class; although students didn't participate that much it was mostly because the professor was interesting to hear.
- The course is very well put together. There were times when I was confused as to what I should be learning but all subjects...
- touched were very interesting. I would definitely take the course again. The readings were a bit heavy and hard to keep up with. I only understood the readings after my discussions. Discussions are probably why I understood half of the course content.

- Really good class, I enjoyed all the lessons. Nevertheless, I would expect more participation of the students even if time is short.

- I really enjoyed the class, and the content presented. I still found it necessary to attend class despite the notes being available because I got a lot out of class that a computer screen simply can't. Elvin Wyly cares a lot about what he teaches and it makes students want to care more!

- I think Professor Wyly is very enthusiastic about the course and he does a good job about teaching the course. I feel like there is no wrong answer in his class and I really like that. It encourages me to speak my mind, voice my opinions and just be myself which is not the case for many other courses.

- Good, interesting class. However, parts of it were very abstract and difficult to take away much from

- Elvin is an excellent instructor - he inspires interest in the subject of cities, knows a great deal about related subjects, and integrates concepts from these subjects into a nice framework for thinking about cities.

- I really enjoy the class and the non-traditional teaching methods. I especially was inspired by the Grace Lee Boggs documentary. As for attendance I felt it was necessary but to ensure attendance I think making the powerpoints would be effective.

- Positive:
  Professor Wyly is very enthusiastic, and knowledgable with the course material. It definitely helps engage students to listen while he speaks!

- To improve:
  - Perhaps if Professor Wyly could be more clear on the most important topics and a few main key points within each topic, it would help him to be more organized. This would be especially helpful when trying to study for the midterm and final exams.

- The prof was extremely useful in connecting with students and being able to encourage learning through his enthusiasm with the subject. PowerPoint slides were effective and videos/clips helped reinforce all the material. In the future maybe make discussion sections more relevant to the topics in lecture.

- This was a very interesting class. Lectures can be more engaging and captivating if there was less writing in the power points.

- It was often hard to follow each slide in class. However, the slides were very informative and helpful when read on my own time.

- Elvin's passion and knowledge about Cities came across very clearly in classes. Lecture notes were at times wordy but the fact that they were available online was very helpful. I liked the fact that they were posted prior to class as that meant I was able to annotate during class rather than rushing to copy everything down. Maybe in future, a little lighter on the history and heavier on the current events would keep people in class. I personally find classes all the more compelling when I can connect them to the events I witness in my daily life.

- Positive:
  It was sometimes difficult to see the connection between lectures and discussion. Although I enjoyed the discussions, I would have liked to see more directly related to what the prof was lectured in class.

- It's possible to do well in this course without attending class, but doing so enriched the course experience. This course was not just a dry, systematic transfer of information as is often the case, but a rich conversation, where the instructor is fully engaged and passionate about the material. I thoroughly enjoyed this class and it was a nice change from my mostly technical course load.

- Attendance became a problem because the powerpoints were available online. I think the quality of the lectures were so good that its sad that people didn't attend that often. I think taking the powerpoints off the website until the time of the exam would be worth considering.

- It think things became less interesting as the term went on, which was pretty depressing.

- Personally not my cup of tea. Definitely seemed enthusiastic but he tends to ramble and squeeze as much content as possible. Seems kind of saturated and in the end, there really isn't a significant take-away from the course. Multiple choice seems to be dependent on how much you memorize and the powerpoints were long and dense. Also, I expected more on infrastructure and architecture in the course, but was disappointed because I was misled. Otherwise, the course was okay.

- I thoroughly enjoyed the material and course itself. I liked how notes from each class and extra notes from each lecture would be readily available on the prof's website, which really helped me to review material outside of class. Its saddening on how not many people show up to class because the lectures in class really help to in force the themes and topics we learn each class.

- Although quirky, I thoroughly enjoyed the content of the course and the professor. Discussing real life examples (particularly from the city we are located in) that relate to course content, was extremely valuable in my experience.

https://eval.ctlt.ubc.ca/etw/ets.asp?nxappid=BC2&nxmid=AssessmentResults_LoadDetail&survid=R5PYGPYH&directreport=1&chkindi=1&lsumview=0&bs… 3/7
The discussions could have been oriented in a way that would reinforce the concepts iterated from the lecture.

Elvin's city is life, Elvin's city is love, Elvin's city is best city, Elvin's city is my city.

Great class with great prof, with GREAT chance of success. Not a do nothing and get 100% but do something and get 100%, meaning tutorial=20%, exam is exactly as told, essay given multiple chances to re-submit. However to fix attendance and get more people to come to class I believe incentives are probably the best. Whether you want to do clickers or to simply save some exam questions that won't be given in powerpoint but through lectures thus causing students to attend class to achieve the optimal marks. The poem says it all join Elvin's city.

I feel slides should have more detail, since it is hard to jot down what Elvin is saying, so being able to go back and look at slides is crucial

It is sometimes confusing on what is needed to know, as it seems some of the material is not related at all, therefore causing studying difficult as there is a lot of information to take it. Perhaps more focus on what the key concepts are and how they relate to the other material should be outlined/highlighted as class progresses.

The tutorials don't really relate to much to class material, perhaps they should help reinforce the lecture material? Maybe this is where we can build those connections between the material. Many of the readings for the tutorial were very dense and difficult to grasp the concepts, however elvin's summaries were very helpful.

Elvin lectures very well and makes class interesting, which draws in most of the attendance.

This is so far the best class I've taken at UBC. A broad-based, interesting class that can be linked to a number of professions and programs. Prof. Wyly was both passionate and engaging and I felt I got a lot out of the class that I'll actually be able to apply. The discussions were interesting and definitely bolstered my understanding of readings. I've recommended this class to a few friends because I found it incredibly interesting and valuable.

This class has less structure than others that I'm used to. This made it unclear initially what was expected of students and what was even being taught... Despite this, the class is very interesting in it's own way. Videos are really awesome and informative. A lot of things are touched on briefly. Honestly, I didn't actually understand what the course was about until the midterm...

The discussions could have been oriented in a way that would reinforce the concepts iterated from the lecture.

Elvin is one of the most inspiring professors I have had at UBC. His passion for teaching and urban studies really shows in his lecture examples and availabilities for students to contact him.

- The only critique I have would be that the textbook City Lights readings were very similar to lectures and I didn't feel like I was learning more from them. Also that the lecture slides were kind of overwhelming with all the quotes and maybe would be more effective if they were put on separate slides.

I found this class actually quite interesting as I took this as an elective. Although I would say it may be a challenge to encourage more students to come to class, I would say as a student who comes to every class, it is still very helpful for Elvin to post the slides up beforehand. I like how he has a separate website besides connect so that access to the website is not interfered by a system crash. In addition, I feel that Elvin really cares for his students and is very passionate about the course. Visualizations and videos strongly influence are learning and help further stress the importance on certain topics within the course. May I also suggest more in class discussion in addition to the discussion sections to spark more ideas amongst ourselves.

Enjoyed the prof, he was very enthusiastic about the course, its clear he loves cities.

- Didn't really enjoy the readings for discussion groups, especially as it wasn't on midterm material.

Overall, enjoyed the course.

Overall the course was fantastic and highly interesting. As an engineer, I am taking it as an elective and will recommend it to many friends. The discussion groups bring together a valuable mix of engineers, arts students and all others, to take a great approach at discussing urban issues. In response to Elvin's question about attendance, I would argue that those who show up to class obtain far more understanding of the topic through Elvin than through the slides. In other words, the slides are not enough to provide the important contextual elements that bring success in the exams.

To answer your concern over attendance, I know of some professors who include attendance as a part of the students' "participation mark". To record attendance, it'll be efficient to use iclickers but oftentimes, students can just bring others' iclickers and check in for them (shh it's a secret). Another effective way that was used in my CONS 200 course was to have detailed powerpoints, but when you post it onto connect, you can remove some slides. That way, it would 'benefit' the students present, and in a way, put the absent students in a disadvantage.
Hope this helps!

- Coming from an engineering background, I'm used to studying for tests and midterms concretely, rather than study everything and hope for the best. I feel like there should be more tests involved throughout the course to get a feel for how to study for the final exam. Lectures are strictly listen and take notes; for a class that's 80 minutes long, (in the after noon), without any engaging activities students may miss a lot of key points due to tiredness.

- Elvin was so far one of the best professors I have ever had in my academic life. His openness to listen to students, to consider our thoughts, and to help us build our own opinions were things I found amazing about him.

- I also found him really up to date about the topics he brings to classes. He seems like a live newspaper, or an encyclopedia! I'm really glad to have chosen such a good course in my exchange experience. It absolutely added some really important knowledge for my career as a civil engineer.

I liked this course a lot and found it to be very different from other courses I have taken. I think Professor Wyly is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about what he teaches. He is very available for students during his office hours. The class material was also very interesting and brought in many different disciplines together. I liked how we studied a lot of theory and also got a lot of examples.

However, what I struggled a little with the course was the way lectures were only Professor Wyly lecturing for the whole hour and a half. He never asked students for questions, sometimes overlooked students who had questions. I guess this was because he has so many interesting things to talk about but at times, it gets hard to pay close attention for such a long period of time. He speaks a lot, sets out a lot of information, and goes really fast without any interaction with students in between.

Also, although the powerpoints were extremely helpful and contained a lot of interesting things, it was sometimes hard to keep track of the train of thought, or argument of each lecture. This was the case in the first few lectures, but I found that towards the middle of the course, I got used to this style and the outline given in the beginning of every lecture powerpoint helped me a lot to keep track of how the lecture progressed.

Elvin is an incredibly charismatic professor, and was a shock to the system after the myriad of engineering professors I've had over the last 4 years. Although I can't attribute it directly to Elvin (as this is the first non-Engineering course I've taken at UBC, besides ENGL 112), I really felt as though my understanding of society and larger issues had been broadened. The lecture material was engaging, the large amount of both historical and current-day examples made it relatable, and I genuinely enjoyed this course.

The only negative that I have is not related to Elvin or the course in any way. I just can't help but feel frustrated by the majority of academic discussion and writing. It seems as though what you think has no value, you're only able to regurgitate previous research done by other scholars. And to hear class after class and in the majority of readings that (and I'm paraphrasing) "we can definitively say that we know that X is not related to Y" or "in conclusion, we cannot explicitly say much about subject Z other than to say that more research and study is required". It seems like academic literature is forever caught in a circle of unwillingness to venture into the unknown and express opinions. My biggest regret is probably not having talked to Elvin personally about this (as I'm sure he'd have a thing or two to say about it!); however for this reason, I'm left with the distinct feeling of being turned off of ever pursuing further study in fields like these.

To close, this was a phenomenal course and I learned more than I could have ever expected. It's made me more aware of what goes on around me in the city, and I enjoy that. Thanks for a great semester in Geog 250, and I look forward to seeing the world in a different way now.

Would like to see more activities with student participation during lectures. Sitting through one for 1.5 hours straight can get tiring, so I'm sure future students would appreciate the occasional variety.

If you are considering introducing iClickers, rather than just using them for attendance, you should ask a few multiple choice questions relating to the lecture contents at the end of each class, so that we get practice for the exams.

If you do not decide to use iClickers, it instead would be helpful to have sample multiple choice questions available on the course website.

Coming into this course I thought it was going to be more about Urban planning and less about the phenomenon of urbanization. While this was disappointing I still found the class to be kind of interesting sometimes. Elvin is very enthusiastic about the subject matter, its just that the subject matter wasn't what I expected it to be. I enjoyed that he brought many of the lectures back to Vancouver as it helped me get a better understanding of the city. The lectures themselves were very long and featured little interactivity, and the while the PowerPoints featured good points were very vibrantly coloured, this distracted somewhat from the content. Instead of using gradient text boxes with purple and yellow text just use black and white. Elvin was usually available. The assessment was fair but the paper's possibilities are extremely broad. For some students this might be a good thing but it makes it hard to understand exactly what is required. He responded quickly when I emailed him about my paper which was helpful. Overall I would recommend this class to a friend if they knew that the subject matter was about urbanization and stuff like that rather than urban planning.

Elvin is super nice and the class is really fun. It inspires me for a geography major and I'll definitely take GEOG 350 next year!
I'm sorry I called you thanksgiving eve, but your help meant I got a great grade on the exam. Thank you.

The website needs a redesign, though that would require immense effort and time on your part- or money to pay a dev.

This is not much of a problem if you do not mind being reached by phone for question about said website.

Great course, it prompted me to think critically about aspect of my home city which I took for granted.

I very much enjoyed this course! It took me a few weeks to figure out what information to focus on in lectures (how much detail, how the lectures were structured), as there is not really an overarching theme or concept taught in this course, rather, the course attempts to create a strong, diverse foundation in some of the aspects of urbanity. The powerpoints were shown too quickly sometimes, and contained a great number of quotes that made me confused as to what from the slides was important to the course. Each lecture was its own incredibly engaging, fascinating performance - Professor Wyly is incredibly passionate, knowledgeable, open to new ideas, charismatic, understanding, and reasonable. He really does care about the student experience, putting in large amounts of time outside of class (what an incredible walking tour of the city!) and making himself available by many means. He approached the subject matter with great care, passion, knowledge, and humility - simultaneously being very academic about a topic, while never letting go of the human-ness of it all. Wonderful use (perhaps the best I have encountered thus far) of incorporating relevant, current material in the lectures, and working all of the lecture information together into a seamless, enthralling experience. A bit more structure at the beginning of the term, or a more evident over-arching theme for the course would make the material more easily approachable. Also, more continuity between lectures would add value to the course. The midterm exam was very fair, the choice of material on the test was very justified, and nothing surprising. I wish that the discussion was more relevant to the material from the lectures - there was a big disconnect; the discussions (which otherwise hold great potential) were not relevant to the coursework. This would let us develop our own opinions and interpretations on the material presented in class, not just the readings!

Thank you Professor Wyly! I really hope that the Urban Studies department grows so that I can take more specific courses about various topics in the city. Also, your website is IMMENSE. Seriously, I sat down one day and spent about 4 hours going through some of the material, and I don't even think I covered half of it. You sure have a lot to say! I thoroughly enjoyed this course, and would recommend it to anyone and everyone.

Elvin used a variety of media to help explain concepts and ideas in interesting ways. Going into the course, I thought it would be based more on the technical aspects of a city, instead, it was based more on the human and social aspect which too is important, but I hoped to learn more about the services that kept a city running. Nevertheless, Elvin was an effective professor and communicated the subject matter in a professional matter.

Professor showed a lot of enthusiasm for the subject and really made class interesting. Group discussions were also really interesting. I got the chance to hear what other thought about the topics.

Dr. Wyly was an entirely breath of fresh air. Regardless of your faculty Dr. Wiley has something that many great instructors lack. Dr. Wiley is more of what I would define as a mentor and not only did he present the material well, he was able to motivate the critical thinking required to tackle concepts, and also to provide emotional context to the material. Given the emphasis on objectivity (positivism as we learned) it is entirely necessary to obtain a subjective and human response to the content of the course. We need to realize how human many if the problems presented in the course are and we must always maintain compassion amidst the judgements we deal, whether they be on our fell man near or far. Dr. Wiley is a not a lecturer, not a professor, he is a mentor and he further taught me what few other mentors in my life have been able to taught me and that is the value of human life. I took this course just as an elective on a list and I wasn't expecting this kind of experience. I would highly recommend the content to be taught to everyone. Students educated on sociology make for good citizens

Professor Wyly is truly passionate about urban studies and this carries through in his engaging lectures. He effectively incorporates multimedia into his lectures, a walking tour, and emails informing students of relevant events and lectures. He demonstrates genuine caring for students' learning, encouraging participation and establishing a friendly class atmosphere. His philosophy on academic integrity ("neurogovernance"), collaborative discussions ("barn-raising"), and editing (the writing process is challenging for all of us) effectively demonstrate an understanding of and care for the student experience. It's a great class!

Prof. Wyly is a (strong) contender for the title of best lecturer at UBC. Great ability to weave contemporary discussions within the class themes, supported by excellent - though at times overwhelming given the amount of content - PowerPoint aides. A plus for the slide content is the fact that they are readily available on the website, which makes them an excellent study tool. Wyly is also one of the most well-spoken professors at UBC, laying out and adhering to a professional matter.

However, there is a drawback to his lecture-intensive style of teaching. Because of his amazing skill in covering a wealth of knowledge in the limited amount of time the class meets for lectures, there is not enough student involvement during the lectures. I attended the class regularly, and must have heard only three questions being asked during lectures throughout the entire term. Arguably, this is what tutorials are designed for. But the focus of the tutorials always reflected supplementary readings - not questions that might have come up from the major themes discussed by Wyly during lectures. I think Prof. Wyly would benefit from taking the time to pause (breath!) during his lectures, and engage students directly - ask questions and opinions about the material. Otherwise, this has been one of the most impressive courses I've had the pleasure to enroll in at UBC. A job well done!

Good clear explanations
Elvin has a great motivation towards his course, and shows a great enthusiasm in the subject. He covers a diverse range of topics which are all interesting.

I do see a large flaw, though. It is regarding the teaching method, being that the powerpoints used are plainly just covered in text. Within these lectures, reading off the slides seems to be a big method of teaching, which does nothing to help the students. Since the powerpoints are all online, what gives the students incentive in coming to class if they can read them at home? What is the benefit of being overwhelmed with a wall of text?

The course has the potential to become much greater if the teaching method within lectures is fixed, which can be done through switching to a different style of powerpoint using bullet points and expanding off those.

Overall, the course was excellent, and Professor Wyly provided an inspiring array of perspectives and materials on urban life. My biggest critique is that despite his emphasis at the start of the course on not holding a course that consisted mainly of his voice and his opinion, the opportunities for quality inter-student engagement were limited largely to the one-hour discussion group. Within the lecture period, Professor Wyly did set up a few small-group student discussion activities based on provided questions, but I felt that the format of these small group activities made for discussions that were more focused on finding an acceptable answer to the questions given than creating our own questions. Some alternatives I would have found helpful include taking more hands in class, reserving ten minutes at the end of lecture for questions and feedback/discussion from the whole lecture group, and allowing for small group activities that are more open-ended. I feel these alternative activities would help to enhance student learning and analysis of material by introducing a variety of opinions and encouraging students to wrestle with ideas and find their own opinions through that exploration.

Overall very good class, would recommend, nothing jumped out to me as negative.

- when Prof said he would cry throughout the semester, I thought he was joking only to find out he was not
- really passionate and emotional, which made me want to learn and be interested in all of the content!
- the structure of the course, with the flexible deadlines was a wonderful thing, and i wish my other courses had this!!
- lectures were actually very entertaining while really thought-provoking and intriguing at the same time. the use of multimedia was really appreciated, especially in such long lectures.
- at times, i seriously wondered what course i was even in.
- but i must say that i never had a class like this and i thoroughly enjoyed all of prof's teachings!!

Very politically correct.

The detailed lecture slides made it easy to review the information after the lecture.

- elvin is very passionate in what he does and it shines through

Professor Wyly is very passionate about the subject matter of this course. However, he, and therefore the class, is dreadfully unorganized. I wanted to take an interest in the course material but the structure of the lectures and especially the course website made it essentially impossible to do this. It seemed as though the professor had so much that he wanted to tell us that it severely hindered the ability for students to grasp the concepts presented. Lecture slides contained paragraphs of information along with overlapping photos that made it very difficult to read. Although I understand that this course is an introduction to the discipline, we seemed to jump between topics with no apparent flow or reason. The course can be summarized by a quick view of the website. It is overflowing with text and photos but there is little to no organization and makes the process of finding specific information a frustrating challenge. It is hard to criticize Professor Wyly because he is incredibly passionate about his work, but he and the course are in dire need of reorganization, otherwise the discipline will suffer.