Faculty of Arts 2017W1 Survey

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

Responsible Faculty: Elvin Wyly

Department: GEOG

Responses / Expected: 75 / 189 (39.68%)

University Module

Q1 The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.
0 6 8 25 36 75 4.2 4 5 .93
Q2 The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.
0 5 6 25 38 74 4.3 5 5 .88
Q3 The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.
1 1 3 21 49 75 4.5 5 5 .75
Q4 Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.
0 2 5 31 35 73 4.4 4 5 .73
Q5 The instructor showed concern for student learning.
0 2 6 17 50 75 4.5 5 5 .75
Q6 Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.
0 4 4 29 38 75 4.3 5 5 .81


*Arts Instructor Questions*

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.
2 5 4 37 20 68 4.0 4 4 .95
Q8 High standards of achievement were set.
0 2 10 34 25 71 4.2 4 4 .76
Q9 The instructor was generally well prepared for class.
0 0 0 18 56 74 4.8 5 5 .43
Q10 The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).
1 1 4 16 46 68 4.5 5 5 .79
Q11 The instructor treated students with respect.
0 0 2 16 56 74 4.7 5 5 .50


*Arts Course Question*

Q12 Considering everything how would you rate this course?
1 5 4 22 43 75 4.3 5 5 .95


Geography Departmental Questions

Q13 The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.
0 1 2 21 51 75 4.6 5 5 .61
Q14 The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.
1 1 2 33 38 75 4.4 5 5 .73
Q15 The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.
0 0 4 17 43 64 4.6 5 5 .60
Q16 Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.
0 1 0 22 50 73 4.7 5 5 .55

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


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: 73.33% (55 of 75)

1. Very enthusiastic teaching, made me interested in the content we were learning in class. You could sense the passion in urban studies when he lectures. However, this excitement leads to erraticness. Sometimes, it would be a better use of time to read and take notes on the slides myself, than to attend lectures, as everything that would be tested is explicitly on the slides anyways.

2. This course could easily be improved with better organization of slides and his website. Not using connect is fine, but the layout of his website is so busy and confusing that finding criteria sheets for progress is a headache. Trying to take notes off of the slides is mostly wading through fluff (although interesting and applicable) material to find key points. The slides are difficult to read in the back of the lecture hall because of the odd contrast of background color and text color and inconsistent size/font. It's a shame that following the slides and website is so difficult because he is a very engaging professor. Condensing the material on the slides would improve the course immensely.

3. The course itself was very good, professor very good, respectful and concerned about students education. His presentations were good however there was a lot of information to learn for the midterm and final, so would be better to summarize and put only important information in the presentation to make studying for the final easier. I would just suggest to lower the grade of the essay because there are so much to read, but I really like this class. I like to atmosphere in the classroom and how the professor present the material. The powerpoint are so nice.

4. One of the most interesting courses I've taken. Even though lecture slides are online, it was beneficial to go to class as well since Elvin explains the material more clearly in a very enthusiastic way. Office hours were also very helpful.

5. The course was badly planned with little of the course subject actually being taught. Though the class was about cities the majority of the lecture material was about photography, social justice, economics, and other middle related topics. Overall a disappointment.

6. This course was interesting, but in my opinion, the content they contained was overwhelming to look at in class. They were so dense, full of text. The black background of the slides, and the colourful text did not make them appealing to look at. The way the material was presented made it difficult to know what was examable.

7. The course was very interesting, but sometimes it would be very disorganized (I understand that urban studies can be very broad) but the course would kind of go off topic at times.

8. The attitude the instructor brought to class was great. He created a comfortable environment that induced interest in the material. The lecture slides, and the content they contained was overwhelming to look at in class. They were so dense, full of text. The black background of the slides, and the colourful text did not make them appealing to look at. The way the material was presented made it difficult to know what was examable.

9. Really great lecturer! Was engaging, knowledgeable and well prepared for class. Was always eager to help students whenever and however he could. I
I really loved how passionate Prof. Wyly was when teaching. You could really feel how passionate he was for the subject and that enthusiasm was heavy and it would be good if there were clear and concise bullet points of the topics of the day to make studying for the exam and pulling out clear. as well, the black background and coloured text on the lecture slides was very hard to see wherever I sat, and as well they are somewhat text better use of my time which is quite scarce as a university student. another compromise for the people who do want to read and have the time to read the nal essay or anything like that. if there were bullet points that were to concisely convey the information that is required to learn, it would be a much courses, and I cannot nd certain information that will help in completing assignments because there is so much text on the website. the text, although I think that having his own website was confusing, especially in the way that it was set up. I cannot nd certain aspects that are imperative to the major) but this was one of my favourite UBC courses. Discussion sections (with TA) were very quiet... not sure if I had a bad block or if t he class was many people thought the lectures were difficult to follow. I personally loved them and enjoyed how engaged the prof was with the material. Clearly interested in student learning and passionate about urban geography. I really appreciated having access to course slides as lectures did move quickly and there was too much text to copy by hand. I enjoyed the humour, story-telling and videos included as well. I am not a geography student (psych major) but this was one of my favourite UBC courses. Discussion sections (with TA) were very quiet... not sure if I had a bad block or if t he class was simply 1st/2nd year students who did not bother with the reading. So at times it was difficult as I would be the only one to contribute. I enjoyed the assigned articles and the City Reader, but I did not like the City Lights textbooks (especially given the price of the current edition!). I do not feel that it contributed to my understanding as much as lectures or other readings, and thus did not justify the price tag.

Lectures are long so its hard to stay focused, switching between talking and videos is good! Also lectures didn’t match up with discussion topics which caused me some confusion. Otherwise a good course, very interesting and the prof showed much enthusiasm and passion towards the subject matter!

Interesting lecture.

Interesting class, good professor, but I found the discussion sections pointless and just something extra I had to do every week.

I thought this course and its content were really interesting. The instructor was very knowledgeable in what he was teaching and I thought a lot of what was taught was very relevant to the present day. The instructor brought a good presence to the atmosphere, and always kept class interesting. Overall, I had a positive experience in this course and I have nothing negative to say.

I think that having his own website was confusing, especially in the way that it was set up. I cannot find certain aspects that are imperative to the courses, and I cannot find certain information that will help in completing assignments because there is so much text on the website. the text, although pertaining to the course and would be really interesting if I had the time to read it, is not getting read because it will not help me gain further insight into the nal essay or anything like that. if there were bullet points that were to concisely convey the information that is required to learn, it would be a much better use of my time which is quite scarce as a university student. another compromise for the people who do want to read and have the time to read the text is to put it underneath the bullet points. as well the site is confusing in the layout, and the dates and requirements of the project topics are not clear. as well, the black background and coloured text on the lecture slides was very hard to see wherever I sat, and as well they are somewhat text heavy and it would be good if there were clear and concise bullet points of the topics of the day to make studying for the exam and pulling out information in writing the paper easier.

I really loved how passionate Prof. Wyly was when teaching. You could really feel how passionate he was for the subject and that enthusiasm was
I really enjoyed the course. I thought Elvin was very enthusiastic while teaching and made the course enjoyable. He is very passionate. I appreciate the multiple deadlines for the essay portion of the course, that's very helpful to get feedback. I do wish that the syllabus was shortened, it was hard to find the information needed for the essay bit, though. But overall I would definitely take a course by Elvin again. Really good.

I really appreciated Elvin's passion for cities! It was evident in every lecture, and his openness and authenticity in sharing personal stories or experiences really humanized and enlivened the topics we explored. I also enjoyed most of the videos he shared, in that they showcase multiple perspectives, and I appreciated the effort he's put into gathering them all! In relation to personal experiences/views, though I appreciate the honesty I think the anti-Trump content was a bit much at times, even if based on facts.. and can at times hinder objective thinking about political issues.. Along those lines, the present examples for the course were heavily focused on the US. Though I recognize that Elvin is from the US and likely has a lot of knowledge about American cities and that the US is a prominent country on the global stage, perhaps more examples from Canada and/or other cities in the world would further enrich the lectures! Appreciative for the times this was already done!

(One note about discussion groups: I think discussing the articles/textbook readings done for lecture that week, in discussion group might be helpful (instead of doing another reading). There is a lot of readings for this class, and too much can overwhelm students and cause us to just try to finish without really engaging as much as we could if we had more time to focus on a quality/focused reading of an article.. This would help us engage more with the lecture content too.)

Overall, I enjoyed having Elvin as a prof. He's the MOST accessible prof I've ever had... even giving us his home and cell numbers! Thanks for caring about us students and instilling in us an interest and hopefully passion for cities, Elvin! Keep taking those photos! They're great.

I have nothing but positive things to say about Elvin - in fact I am quite sad I won't get to converse with him about everything on a weekly basis after the end of the semester. Extremely intelligent and compassionate and insightful, Elvin is one of those quirky, brilliant professors that voices that systems and underpinnings of the world that you see but are usually ignored, and does things outside the box. Not only did he put emphasis on interdisciplinarity (which, philosophically is how I view the world), he balanced scholarship and referencing really well with his insightful and grand ideas. It takes a ton of courage to continuously fight to lead, and think outside the box, and seek out truth and exploration over bureaucratic systems, and I think this should be extremely encouraged, especially at UBC. I loved how learning wasn't about just finishing a course, but building a world to explore and take outside the class - there was something magical about the class that made learning possible. I'm going to miss it, and I think it could serve as a model for more courses at UBC.

My only critical comment was that the aesthetic of his site/powerpoints are difficult to digest/aren't inviting (being very text heavy), and the grading, although refreshingly not the focus of the course, bred a little uncertainty, which may be remedied by creating more opportunities to contribute to grades throughout the semester.

He is a really interesting person and a good professor, he is willing to conduct knowledge outside of lectures that based on daily life, love him.

Great prof and great class, you can really tell he cares about what he teaches

Good style of teaching, fun to interact with in class, but due to long lecture slides it feels as if we only skim through section and do not effectively get through the entire power point within class time. This means I had to go over the slides again after lecture to make sure I didn't miss anything important, which proved very time consuming.

Fantastic course, with a professor who is clearly passionate about the material and engaged with his students. I will consider taking any other courses offered by this professor/department.

Elvin's amazing, simply a legend. Love the emotion, enthusiasm, and the informality he puts into some of his lectures, which is why I'm still highly disappointed at myself for missing a total of 5 lectures (7.5 hrs worth of lecture!!!) Powerpoint can be messy, but that's why one goes to lecture and not just rely on uploading PPTs in his clicks. I think having iclickers in this course would be beneficial. Even though some people say that those who go to class will do better in the course, that's just a extremely general generalization in my opinion. I think iClickers will help engage some of the people in class since a few of the people I know feel a bit sleepy and not engaged during lecture time (despite the enthusiasm he has!! sigh... oh well). It'll also help with the problem with attendance I think. I think iclickers are one of those small nudges and things that can make students take a course/their learning a bit more seriously. It doesn't have to be worth too much, clicker participation can be worth like 5% of the entire grade.

Another thing that I wish Elvin would allow would be office hour appointments via email since his office hours (Tues + Thurs morning (super early morning to before 11am) and afternoon (~1:30ish to before 3:30)) didn't work well for me. Only the morning one works well for me, but I almost always have a hard time sleeping, which is why I'm not a morning person. I know he doesn't like emails (or at least not receiving emails for this class since cases tend to be simple), but I kind of wished he had a bit more office hours. Loved the few chats and help I've gotten from him. Wish I had chatted with Elvin more.

Overall I think the course is absolutely fantastic. 20/10 would recommend to anyone and everyone!! Very relevant in my opinion, and I absolutely love the fact that Elvin allows us to re-submit an edited version of our independent project since he believes (if im correct) that writing is a continuous process, always refined and improved; writing is a conversation. Wish every geography course is like that.

Really like his course website too. So rich in content. Again, 20/10 would recommend the course. Thank you so much Elvin!

Elvin was an extremely enthusiastic and energetic prof, which made attending class interesting and engaging. His use of not only powerpoint presentations but also documentaries and other media forms kept class refreshing. You can tell that Elvin has a passion for urban studies and cities, and it comes through clearly in his lecturing. It was definitely a more enjoyable 1.5 hour lecture, and had a way of making you want to know more about what he was talking about, specifically for his case studies.

During the first lecture, helot only showcased this energy and enthusiasm, but he showcased vulnerability. He told students that there were going to be hard parts of this course that dealt with heavy material, and that there may be points where he or other students gets emotional. This vulnerability was
extremely appreciated and honest, I don't think I've ever encountered a professor at UBC who has been so open not only with their passion, but with emotions as well. It is refreshing and welcome.

That being said, there are times when Elvin goes on tangents that can be quite long and irrelevant to the course, which is unfortunate due to the sheer amount of content that is covered. His powerpoint slides can also be quite dense. These two combined can make note taking a little difficult, but thankfully he posts slides online well in advance in order to alleviate this. Other than those two points though, there were very few negatives about the course or Elvin's teaching style.

Elvin was an amazing professor, his lectures were a massive joy to attend!
Elvin made taking URST 200 very interesting and I often look forward to attending his lectures.
Elvin is without doubt the most passionate and brilliant prof that I have ever had.
His lectures were a joy to attend and I thoroughly enjoyed the course.

His level of trust in his students is greatly appreciated. I also greatly appreciated being able to submit more than one draft of my essay and the format of the exams.
I could not recommend this course to fellow geography students enough - always the highlight of my week.

Elvin is one of the best profs I ever had!
Elvin is a passionate instructor who inspires interest in urban studies.

Elvin is an extremely passionate educator of urban studies. Although this class was not what I expected I still enjoyed it very much because of the teaching style. Elvin really sparks your interest in the class even if some days are dry. Coming to his lectures was not a chore and his mixed use of media to teach is very effective.

Elvin Wyly's passion and dedication is unrivalled.

Dr. Wyly is a wonderful professor who gleams with passion about what he teaches. He is very approachable and open-minded, and always tries his best to keep class interesting and relevant to the real world. However, I felt that the tutorials seemed a little unhelpful, since most tutorials resulted in very few people talking, and there were little connection to the lectures.

Dr. Wyly is a passionate teacher who wishes to spread his love for and knowledge of cities to his students. However, the course focused too heavily on urban theorists which made the material dry. The course would be very interesting if less emphasize was made towards memorizing the names and theories of famous urbanists, and instead focussed on the people and infrastructure in cities.

Coolest professor I had.

Awesome prof! Very passionate about his course material, which is engaging.

A very interesting class indeed, not only grabbed my attention throughout the semester at the same time providing me with an actual interest in the subject.
### University Module

| Q1   | The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn. | 0 0 2 3 5 10 | 4.3 4.5 5 .78 |
| Q2   | The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.       | 0 0 0 5 10   | 4.5 4.5 .50   |
| Q3   | The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter. | 0 0 0 1 9 10 | 4.9 5 5 .30   |
| Q4   | Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair. | 0 0 1 2 6 9 | 4.6 5 5 .68   |
| Q5   | The instructor showed concern for student learning.                | 0 0 0 2 8 10 | 4.8 5 5 .40   |
| Q6   | Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.                  | 0 0 0 3 7 10 | 4.7 5 5 .46   |


### Arts Instructor Questions*

| 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. | 0 0 3 4 3 10 | 4.0 4 4 .77 |
| Q8   | High standards of achievement were set.                            | 0 0 1 5 4 10 | 4.3 4 4 .64 |
| Q9   | The instructor was generally well prepared for class.              | 0 0 0 1 9 10 | 4.9 5 5 .30 |
| Q10  | The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment). | 0 0 0 2 7 9 | 4.8 5 5 .42 |
| Q11  | The instructor treated students with respect.                      | 0 0 0 1 8 9 | 4.9 5 5 .31 |


### Arts Course Questions*

| Q12  | Considering everything how would you rate this course?             | 0 0 1 3 6 10 | 4.5 5 5 .67 |


### Geography Departmental Questions

| Q13  | The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class. | 0 0 0 3 6 9 | 4.7 5 5 .47 |
| Q14  | The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom. | 0 0 0 6 4 10 | 4.4 4 4 .49 |
| Q15  | The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class. | 0 0 0 2 7 9 | 4.8 5 5 .42 |
| Q16  | Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.        | 0 0 0 1 9 10 | 4.9 5 5 .30 |

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

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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: 60.00% (6 of 10)

1. I thoroughly enjoyed this course and every class had great topics - the subject matter was really interesting and made students think about cities from different perspectives. Wyly is also a commendable scholar and I had studied his papers at my home university in Melbourne which was an added bonus. My biggest critique however was the Ibis website that was used. I felt that the website whilst useful was hard to adjust to due being quite outdated. I would have benefitted if announcements were made on Connect.

2. Very passionate professor who inspired the class with his enthusiasm. However, his powerpoints are very dense with writing. I think condensing the information on the slide and speaking more would not only benefit the lectures (as people won’t be so stressed about all the information on the slide and listen to the great things you say!) but at the time of the year when attendance drops off, more students will feel the need to come to class because there is less information on the slides and more will be learnt by listening to him. The slides have so much information that it feels valid to skip class and read the slides because you feel you get the same information. Despite all this, the teaching style and with video, images, graphs and anecdotal experiences really help make this class great.

3. Very engaging and well presented course. Great to see such passion from a lecturer.

4. Professor Wyly is an excellent instructor with vast knowledge about the subject. He made the classes very intriguing and was very reasonable and understanding with submissions.

5. Mr. Wiley was one of the most interesting, passionate, and inspiring professors I have ever had. I was excited to come to class to hear him lecture and genuinely appreciate his passionate approach to the topics we explored. Will definitely try to take another one of his courses.

6. I really enjoyed this class, especially the parts on community and technology in the city. If there is one thing I wish were better is having a clearer connection between the topics and a clearer outline of the topics covered. Sometimes I had difficulty connecting what was discussed to the idea of cities.

But overall, thank you for this course - I especially appreciate how available you were outside of classes!
Course: URST 200 L1B - Cities
Responsible Faculty: Elvin Wyly

Department: GEOG

Responses / Expected: 7 / 7 (100%)

Wyly, Elvin K

University Module

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Geography Departmental Questions

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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: 71.43% (5 of 7)

1 Lectures are well-paced but lack of student interaction can make some of the lectures boring.

Prof. Wyly is very natural and can be engaging when he's speaking in lecture halls. His slides and website on the other hand need a lot of work. The slides have way too much text on them to even be able to take notes in class and it's just confusing to use them when studying for the midterm. The font, size, and color of the text need to be *consistent and easier to read from anywhere in the lecture hall. Same goes for the website. Otherwise, he is a really good prof. He's well informed on current events, and easy to listen to.

Overall the class was really interesting and offered a lot of points to think about in the context of cities, and more broadly. The midterm exam seemed extremely fair, and the essay project was a really interesting way to engage independently with the course, especially as opportunities for revision were offered to both encourage more critical thinking about the subject and give feedback on future improvement. I'd definitely recommend this course to other students looking for an interesting elective!

I really enjoyed Wyly's lectures. They were highly informative and engaging and I appreciated the breadth of topics explored. I liked that the project had numerous deadlines but I did not appreciate the fact that students who submitted for the early deadlines got substantially low marks in their first submission (<70% marks on all the papers submitted in the first deadline, even by students who have 90%+ marks in the midterm). There is an extent to which you should improve your paper but there needs to be a level of respect for the student submitting the paper because had that student submitted the paper along with the exam, they likely would have gotten a fair mark based on their actual work.

5 Hard to know what was needed to know for the midterm and exam and I struggled with succeeding due to that.