

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

Department: GEOG

Responsible Faculty: Elvin Wyly

Responses / Expected: 94 / 161

Wyly, Elvin K

University Module	Responses						Individual			Std Dev
	SD	D	N	A	SA	N	Mean	Med.	Mode	
Q1 The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.	0	3	10	46	34	93	4.2	4	4	.75
Q2 The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.	1	4	10	31	48	94	4.3	5	5	.89
Q3 The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.	0	4	5	20	64	93	4.5	5	5	.78
Q4 Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.	0	2	3	36	51	92	4.5	5	5	.67
Q5 The instructor showed concern for student learning.	0	1	8	23	62	94	4.6	5	5	.69
Q6 Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	0	1	11	26	55	93	4.5	5	5	.74

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

Wyly, Elvin K

Arts Instructor Questions	Responses						Individual			Std Dev
	SD	D	N	A	SA	N	Mean	Med.	Mode	
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	9	16	30	26	81	3.9	4	4	.98
Q8 High standards of achievement were set.	0	3	15	54	19	91	4.0	4	4	.71
Q9 The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	0	0	0	14	80	94	4.9	5	5	.36
Q10 The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	0	0	0	21	69	90	4.8	5	5	.42
Q11 The instructor treated students with respect.	1	0	0	18	74	93	4.8	5	5	.56

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

GEOG 250/URST 200 - 101

Arts Course Question	Responses						Course			Std Dev
	VP	P	N	G	VG	N	Mean	Med.	Mode	
Q12 Considering everything how would you rate this course?	1	2	10	28	52	93	4.4	5	5	.84

Responses: [VP] Very poor=1 [P] Poor=2 [N] Neutral=3 [G] Good=4 [VG] Very good=5

Wyly, Elvin K

Geography Departmental Questions	Responses						Individual		
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		SD	D	N	A	SA	N	Mean	Med.	Mode	Std Dev
Q13	The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.	0	1	1	31	50	83	4.6	5	5	.58
Q14	The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.	0	3	13	35	39	90	4.2	4	5	.81
Q15	The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.	0	0	2	23	51	76	4.6	5	5	.53
Q16	Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.	0	1	1	26	63	91	4.7	5	5	.56

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] Strongly Agree=5

GEOG 250/URST 200 - 101

Geography Departmental Question

		Responses						Course			Std Dev
		SD	D	N	A	SA	N	Mean	Med.	Mode	
Q17	For courses that had discussion groups or labs, the discussion groups or labs made an important contribution to the course.	3	10	13	29	36	91	3.9	4	5	1.13

Responses: [SD] Strongly Disagree=1 [D] Disagree=2 [N] Neutral=3 [A] Agree=4 [SA] 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: 73.40% (69 of 94)

- I wish all profs were as committed and enthusiastic about their fields as Wylly
- Amazing professor, very passionate and good teacher.

positive: Your passion in this class is contagious and very motivating for me to continue learning in this field

- negative: all the content you share is wonderful however I would recommend shortening your online notes or course contents. Once again great points, interesting content but trying to get to the point in a quicker way would be helpful from what I experienced.

Thanks for doing what you do! Students not \$student\$

- Happy person, communicates its joy and interest in the material very well. Great teacher

I would have liked the discussions to be more related to lecture material. For me, I found lectures and discussions to be on separate topics for the most part so I felt there was no correlation and I think I would have gotten more out of the discussions if it had been based on lecture material.

- I really like the course and appreciated that the teacher had political biases that they were not afraid to discuss. Thought I disagreed with him regularly.
- Awesome class!! Took this course to satisfy an elective and didn't expect to enjoy it so much! The lectures were such a treat to listen to, and really changed my perspective on a lot of things. Thank you so much!
- He was very clear about what he expected from us and challenged my thinking a lot. He was very helpful and his classes were very informative.
- Great choice in topics we are asked study.

I really enjoyed the atmosphere of this class and the diversity of topics covered. The links between disciplines were particularly important and interesting in my opinion. I also found the readings interesting and appreciated to discover or re-discover some thinkers.

However I sometimes found the class redundant or uneasy to follow for diverse reasons:

- I found it really hard to find the useful informations on the course website as there are things written everywhere

in different colors, font sizes, sometimes moving. It was the same for the slides in lectures. The profusion of colors, quotations and so on made the slides very heavy and not efficient. What is more nearly everything was written on the slides so the teacher basically repeated it during lectures, making it hard to be motivated to follow the class as we could have the same content at home. I suggest that writing only the key concepts, key words and authors on the slides might improve motivation and stimulation. It would probably make the class more challenging by asking students to take more notes by themselves but it would be more interesting in my opinion.

- In the course website the instructor gives some guidelines: "avoid the temptation to try to use all the fancy fonts and technical wizardry of the software. (I could have written these guidelines in a 72-point dingbat font that flashes and bounces back and forth, but just because something is possible in a pull-down menu in a software package doesn't mean that it's a good idea.)". I felt that the website and slides did not follow these guidelines and it could have been better with simpler slides.

- Lectures were very close to Phillips' textbook. Thus reading the textbook before coming to class made it very redundant. But I felt that the teacher had a lot more things to say about the topic so he could follow less the textbook and go in depth on aspects that are not explained in the textbook.

Similarly, I sometimes had the impression that an idea on which we spent 40 mn in class could have been more effectively summed up in 10 mn without repeating too much.

- The last comment is about discussion questions. I think it could be better that the TA asks his own questions, instead of being imposed some questions. I saw that we all found discussion questions not challenging nor stimulating and I could see that the TA had deeper questions in mind that we could have done instead. The current questions often drove us to have superficial discussions not adding perspective to the class.

- Good course that taught an interesting aspect of Geography. Liked the prof's energy and overall positive class environment.

Professor Wyly is an extremely engaging professor who shows true interest in teaching, and care for the well-being of his students. I have never had prof who prepared for lecture's as well as him- with such detailed slides (resembling any textbook in depth and breadth) including photos, maps, videos, sound clips, etc. I loved the variation in material used as well; for instance case studies and documentaries highlighted. I enjoyed his willingness to connect with the students in the class through showing popular media that was connected to in class topics. I have never taken a geography class or an urban studies cl**** and this field is very much outside my realm of study, however due to his engaging lectures, his passion for the topic, and the variety of content included into the duration of the course, I was fully absorbed in the course. It felt like I was learning about the political science, economics, and the geography disciplines that I always wanted to but never had the chance within my degree requirements all in one course! He takes lots of pride in his work, and it is greatly noticed by the students!

- One thing I felt that could be more effective is the outline format. Although very organized, many fellow peers and I got confused when seeing the discussion readings bulleted above the week's topics. It felt a little counter-intuitive at times. Although the website was very thorough in content and very organized, I did find it a little difficult to navigate at times due to the extensive amount of information. Sometimes I feel like the messaging could be made a little more concise (although I do love having some background knowledge).

I also loved the walking tour component at the beginning of the term. It was fascinating and such an optimal way to get oriented with the course and him as a professor.

I really appreciated the fact that we were able to re-submit our final paper. It was such a rewarding learning experience to be able to get strong feedback, and work on strengthening our paper (marks aside). This was the first time I have gotten the opportunity to do so in 5 years at UBC, and it was greatly appreciated.

Just as a side, in my honest opinion, I feel the textbooks were not 100% necessary, nor effective. I found Professor Wyly's lectures far more comprehensive and enjoyable- and effective towards my greater understanding of the course material.

* Inappropriate words were found and removed from this response.

I have nothing but wonderful things to say about Elvin. He is incredibly knowledgeable, engaging, and extremely approachable.

- The walking tour at the beginning of term was very interesting, and a great way to dive into urban studies right here at home!

Thank you, Elvin, for such a wonderful class.

- I feel that class participation through a discussion would have been beneficial, as the scratch pad feature ended up being unprofessional at times, as I am sure you noticed. Otherwise an excellent and thought provoking course.

The course material is interesting but the presentation slides and content presented each lecture is a little too much. I would have hoped for a more concise outline/coverage of the material as studying from the lecture notes/slides is a little tough due to the sheer amount of content on each page.

One of the best courses I have taken at UBC.

Overall an amazing, well constructed course with an effective instructor.

- Dr. Wyly also used discussion boards to get students involved during lectures, which was really engaging and useful.

Urban studies should be a major in the department of Geography.

- This was my strangest course. Some of the lectures were the best that I've ever seated while others were some of the hardest to stay focused to. Maybe it was because some classes felt too general and therefore giving the lecture little depth. The fluctuation between good and bad resulted in an average course for me, even though Dr. Elvin Wyly is a great presenter.

- I think that Wyly is an excellent professor who shares his strong interest for his class to his students and makes it interesting for his students too. Class atmosphere is very well, he keeps all his students engaged and interested in coming to class and listening to his lectures.

- Wyly is the most passionate professor that I had this semester. His interest in "cities" helped to spark my own interest in the topic. His class notes online were a fantastic resource.

- Really appreciated his enthusiasm, made the class more appealing

- Awesome Prof!

- Lot of Ameri-bashing and left wing love

- Lecture slides are difficult to read in a class setting as they are filled with text, similar to a textbook. Concise wording on the slides would be more helpful for taking notes, especially when the professor goes through them very fast in class.

- Overall the course was great! It has sparked my interest in Urban Studies and inspired me to study above and beyond what the course requirements were. The only trouble I had was the layout of the course website, I found the schedule a bit hard to follow in it's layout. Besides that, this course is one of my favorites I have taken at UBC so far!

- Some of the course contents were what I considered to be "reaches". A lot of social problems are manifested in cities but I did not see the tangible and direct connection to these problems to cities themselves. I think a little more quantitative analysis of cities could of been helpful.

- Fantastic course overall I would say just leave main points out of the online slides so people who did not attend would rethink to come.

- Wyly is a very passionate professor which made for interesting lectures on a wide range of topics. Definitely one of the best courses I've taken at UBC

- Elvin can rearrange his website for more clearer glance, now it is hard to track down anticipated information.

- Thank you for giving such good lectures; it really got me thinking and I would leave lectures wondering about the topics shared in classes! :)

-Great Course

- Prof is really availble and values student growth over institutional development.

- A good class overall. Makes me interested to continue studying cities in the future

- This was my first Urban Studies class. Found this class to be very ambiguous. I felt every lecture was different and didn't really connect with each other. The topics of each lecture were taught with the expectations, students had previous knowledge of the subject. However, is an AMAZING professor. I wasn't interested in everything he had to say, but it seemed like every class he found some way to engage students. I found his knowledge to be an inspiration for myself to further educate myself on global issues. Thanks Elvin!!

- Lovely professor! So awesome and compassionate! I just wish he would write things in point forms, but that's his choice.

- This was my favourite class this term. The interdisciplinary approach, idiosyncratic powerpoints and course website, and clear passion and breadth of knowledge Elvin displayed made every lecture different and interesting.

- Due to all of slides will be posted, some people do not attend, but i think the lecture is pretty good and worth coming.

- Though the availability of the powerpoint presentations online made skipping the class an option, the content of the lectures and the way they were taught, made it so I had no interest in missing it. Elvin Wyly really cares about what he is teaching and it definitely shows. Overall this is a wonderfully interesting course taught by a wonderfully interesting professor!

- Although there is a student-professor interaction, it is very limited. Normally, the questions asked wouldn't provoke further thoughts and would only require short answers .

- Student contribution was limited and class seemed more of a dictation of facts rather than a learning environment.

- This class provides a very interesting overview about cities and the urban environment. In terms of content and material, i think it is appropriate for the course level and subject matter. The professor provides interesting personal insights that make this course a fun one to attend. My only slight complaint would be the layout of the online schedule, in particular the reading schedule for discussion sections are a little confusing. Other than that, i think this course is a perfect introduction to urban studies/urban geography. Highly recommended!

- My favourite course at UBC so far! I appreciated Wyly's enthusiasm for the material, as well as teaching in general.

- I thoroughly enjoyed the the content of this course and appreciated the organization and discussion classes that followed.

- Elvin Wyly is super cool, inspirational and overall an amazing professor. I took this course not having the slightest clue what it was about and it was weird in the way that it was so interdisciplinary but that's what made it so awesome! I loved the mixed media presentations and the enthusiasm of the professor. I recommend this class to all my friends and really loved going to lecture. It's my favorite course that I have taken and I can truly say that it expanded my mind. Sometimes it was hard to keep track of where the point was being made but most of the time the notes were easy to take because of the careful text size choices and layout of the slide presentations.

- Unreal course! This course should be mandatory for all ubc students as it connects students to the developmental process and structures of cities that we live in. E. Wyly is a passionate, emotional, funny and creative professor, whom by taking this course has legitimately made me smarter and more intune with the development of the city I love, Vancouver.

- Please continue to provide students with the powerpoints ahead of class. As somebody who comes to class, I appreciate the ability to have the powerpoint open on my computer, and takes notes on top of it from content the teacher says in class. Giving the powerpoint out only after class takes away from the learning ability of the students who want to learn; the students who come to class. Please don't punish the students who come to class because of the actions of those who choose to skip.

- I am deeply impressed by Dr Wyly's knowledge, enthusiasm and engagement in the course material. Great class!

- I really enjoyed this course. Wyly is an extremely passionate prof and inspired me to explore a career in city government. My favorite part of the class was the great selection of films and video clips. My only suggestion would be to put less content on the lecture slides as it is difficult to focus on the lecture when there is so much there to read.

- II really enjoyed our teaching style. You spoke with such knowledge about and enthusiasm for the subject material during every lecture. I attended all but two lectures. There was a pretty low attendance turn out for lectures, but that made it easier for me to feel comfortable learning. I

- Very interesting lectures, lots of content covered. Lectures with slides, videos and audio engaged students. Really enjoyed the case studies and looking at how ideas apply to Vancouver, perhaps we could have done more case studies and had more discussion in lecture

- I really liked this course!!! Wyly is energetic, enthusiastic, and wants to help you understand the material in the course (which is very relevant to the world today). This was one of the few classes I looked forward to each week. Don't miss the lectures! Wyly uses videos and other media to engage the class, an listening to him talk about the material make it stick in your head so much better. The only complaint I have is that I wish he'd tell us which days classes would start early with a video, so I know when to get to class (since I have to get across campus to get to the geo building). Definitely my favourite class at UBC so far. 5/5 stars!

- I found Dr. Wyly very passionate about the course content. Often I thought about issues in class at home after like the Grace Lee Boggs doc. And the evolution/history of cities. One thing that could be improved is a sort of unifying theme throughout the class in order to tie all the content together. I understand how it helps us change the way we see cities but it felt like each class touched on something completely different.

I find Professor Wyly to be a genuine, compelling, passionate individual and these qualities manifest themselves in the quality of his instruction. His PowerPoint's were somewhat overwhelming but contained tons of valuable information. He is super helpful and approachable in and out of class time. His helpful and accommodating approach for papers set students up for success and takes the stress and pressure away, making writing them enjoyable and educational.

- I really enjoyed this class. Only class I took that I felt was designed to enable student learning and individual discovery, compared to other classes which you are forced to focus on grades and doing what you are told. I found some lectures were very relatable to my own personal life; again, this is something that is very rare in other classes.

- One criticism I had was that I did not feel the Discussion section functioned as it was designed to. I think that there were simply too many students to have any meaningful discussions. A lot of people were too shy to put their opinions out there.

- Great class that covers a variety of relevant topics!

- I thought this was one of the most interesting courses I've ever taken. I enjoyed the amount of intellectual stimulation that Prof. Wyly's lectures provided. What a great lecturer, if only all my classes could be taught by Prof. Wyly!

I really enjoyed the teaching style of the professor and his slides. It made it so that I could actually LISTEN to the professor rather than trying to listen and type/write frantically at the same time - as a "non-multitasker" such a situation would have made it a significantly less enjoyable class...

- Additionally, I remember this one activity where the class read an article in-class together and discussed it as a group, I found this to be a different experience than the discussion groups but informative as it opened up the floor to ALL the students and provided an opportunity to listen to the different voices in the class.

I appreciate that the notes are readily available online but I also really enjoy coming to class.

Personally, attendance marks are usually not worth that much if they are part of a course mark and they have never impacted my attendance.

- I think it's really cool how accessible office hours are (though I have never been before, perhaps I will on Thursday).

I really like how the main opinions on a given issue are all presented and there isn't necessarily an answer to everything, and the emphasis is on what type of questions are being asked rather than the answers.

Could have used more student-teacher interaction during lectures... although I know this is difficult with a lecture hall of 100+ students.

- His emotion and passion really created an interesting and engaging experience, it's clear that Elvin is a passionate man.

- As a student from another department this was a fabulous introduction to the discipline of Geography. If I could go back in time I would minor in GEO instead of SOCI because of how great this course was. Prof. Elvin Wyly is so clearly passionate about his work which is conveyed by his energetic demeanor in lecture. I really enjoyed the content of this course as it covered a wide range of subjects and I felt that I actually learned something new each class. However, I wish the PowerPoints were less text heavy per slide as they become tricky to study off of because you miss information if you're not "playing" the ppt. As someone who takes notes on the computer this is my only real grievance with the course, which is saying something. Overall GEO250/URST200 is a fantastic course worth taking not just for stimulating lecture but to be in the room with a Prof who actually deeply cares about his students.

The amount and quality of information delivered was excellent! Dr. Wyly is knowledgeable, passionate, and an extremely competent lecturer. There was plenty of supplemental information of the website to not only elaborate the concepts discussed in class and in readings, but to also inspire plenty of interest in the perspective of urban studies. Dr. Wyly is also very approachable. Speaking to him during office hours was an absolute pleasure; his

- passion for the topics and questions of urban studies diffused to me. Lectures were invigorating; plenty of information could be acquired in lecture verbally and visually through his words and through many forms of media that he would share (his powerpoint presentations, photographs, videos, audiofiles, films). Class participation was interestingly not a key part of most of his lectures (perhaps against many contemporary teaching philosophies) but when he wanted to incorporate student opinion and perspective, he used a very efficient 'scratchpad' method in class to which everyone could contribute to in interesting and humorous ways. I also admired how successful he was at demonstrating how relevant urban studies is to the challenges human societies face today.

No clue if these responses are actually confidential, but whatever. I attended all but two classes this term, so I can say that my attendance record was very good. Despite this, I didn't really get too engaged in class, because I don't know what it is, his voice, the subject material, or the powerpoint slides, but this class just seems bland and dry. Also I didn't like the instructor's (Elvin) bias/opinions, because he's teaching a class and I'm supposed to follow him and learn, but he likes to add opinions, such as that's so sad (when talking about Amanda Todd who committed suicide) and many others, and if I disagree, I just sit there listening to nonsense. I like how he highlights/bold the important terms/words/ideas. Fluent at English AND talks fluidly, which is a good trait when I'm listening for 1.5 hours. Sometimes rambles too much. Sucks that he's only available Tuesday/Thursdays though. I was never a fan of teachers/professors working part time. Yes, I understand that people say that attendance isn't necessary, but powerpoint slides are only part of course; the words that come out of the instructor's mouth is pure gold, so you don't want to miss gold, therefore powerpoint slides should stay where they are.

One of the best courses I have taken at UBC. It was a refreshing break from technical courses and very informative. The instructor was very enthusiastic and wanted students to succeed in his class and get the most out of it.

- Although the instructor says that the readings are short, I found them to be very long and it was difficult to keep up with reading the book, notes and slides as well as the weekly discussion readings. I think that was also clear in the lectures since the professor seemed to talk the whole 50min, basically eliminating any sort of opening for discussion or questions to be asked/answered either by the instructor or the students. I think adding that into the lecture would have made it more interactive.

- It is a big classroom and sometimes it is hard to hear what you are saying. I guess microphone is essential, and sometimes it is also hard to see the in class videos because of the bright lighting. However, in general lectures were pretty interesting.

- Dr. Wyly is a very passionate, emotional professor. He makes the classroom environment comfortable for students. One thing I would recommend is fixing up the slides. They are extremely hard to look at with huge blobs of text on them and pictures over pictures.

- Pro. Wyly is very professional in his field, and he is always passionate, immersed in his lecture. I learnt a lot from his class
- So much bias on so many topics

While I did find the course very enjoyable, I think it would benefit from several things.

- 1) From the outset, make it clear that this is not a course on urban planning, but rather a course on how cities work and the social aspects that shape them. Outlining this at the start of the course would have made the first few weeks much easier to interface with. It took me a while to break out of the mindset that this was a course on how to build cities, rather, this is a course on how to study cities.
- 2) We get it Wyly, you like to talk....a lot... Is there any way you could perhaps work in a few more questions/discussions into the lectures? Also, I really liked the way you used Padlet as part of the lectures, USE IT MORE!
- 3) I liked the use of videos in class, really helped put human faces to ideas.
- 4) Maybe this is my inner Vancouverite speaking, but I would have liked to see more discussion of the issues facing Vancouver today/explicitly linking concepts and themes to Vancouver. As well, I feel that having the muni election during the term was a missed opportunity to see many of the process we learned about in action.
- 5) Random idea, but you start the year with a walking tour, what about ending the year with another walking tour? See how 4 months of class changes peoples' perspective.

All together a very good class. Would definitely consider taking another course with Wyly. URST 200 inspired me to take GEOG 350 next term.

The professor brought a great enthusiasm to the class, he gave us very informative lecture ever week. However,

his slides were too detailed, with a lot of quotes from books. It was very hard to read, and also hard to grasp the main argument he is trying to make. It was nice that he summed up all points at the end of the lecture and nicely put them into a conclusion, though. It greatly helped me to revise the lecture. I could see that he was a very emotional person, which I am not against about, but he sometimes cried in the class. I sometimes left the lecture depressed. And I sometimes felt I was watching his show or drama... I don't know whether professor does that on purpose to grab an attention from students, or he is solely sad, but I don't think it's nice to cry in front of all students because it upsets us, and sometimes it is just... pathetic when he does that multiple times over the course. I thought it was nice to interact with students while he gives lectures, because often times he was the only one who was constantly talking, and it almost was like "professor's show-time of his interests"... it would be nicer if he was more engaging into students. Sorry for many negative comments, but I really think he is a good professor, who is very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and cares about students, and I appreciated it, and I thought if he improves a little bit, he will be a even greater professor, I hope you don't get offended by my comments! Thank you so much professor Elvin!

This professor is not JUST passionate about teaching his class, he's passionate about education. Absolutely brilliant course, with well structured class lectures and intriguing material. The prepared discussion questions thoughtfully highlight important parts of the reading efficiently, and I learned so much from this one course.

Positive: Great teacher, passionate about the course, very respectful and always available for help, great lecture slides

Negative: Could encourage some more class participation instead of just lecturing for the entire time (But maybe that's what he wants the discussion section for), Assignment outline for the essays could be much more clear. The outlines were a bit confusing and all over the place at times (But maybe he wants to show us we have a lot of freedom for the choice of topic)

The content is too general. And the powerpoint often has too many words which makes it distracting while listening to the lecture.