

Final evaluation for Rachel Slocum GEO 105 World Geography, Spring 2003

31 evaluations completed out of a class of 32

Average grade: 86

Comments: This class went exceptionally well. The students were very good and appeared interested in the material. Based on evaluations from GEO 105 in the fall, I had made the tests easier, slowed down the lectures and tried to improve the powerpoints. I also added time for discussion.

1. Did you learn something important and did they challenge how you were accustomed to thinking?

Yes: 84%

2. Did I present the material in lecture well? Did I direct discussion in a helpful way? Was I approachable?

Yes: 74%

3. Did the syllabus follow a logical progression?

Yes: 97%

4. Were the exams fair?

Yes: 71%

5. What would you change or keep about the class?

29% thought the class was good as is and would not change anything

35% remarked favorably on some aspects of the class (content, powerpoints, videos, webpage, discussion) but also advised me to change some elements.

Full evaluation with student comments

1. Please tell me your thoughts on the positive and negative aspects of this class. For instance: Did you learn something? Were these important ideas to learn? Did they challenge how you were accustomed to thinking?

Yes, I learned new, important ideas and/or they challenged how I think: 26

No, not new or not worth it: 1

Other: 2 (informative but you need to present both sides, new ideas but same point over and over)

“I learned more three dimensional concepts than what I believed I was going to when I took the class. Instead of maps and statistics, I was presented with the culture, struggles, ideologies, history and politics of nations and people within these nations. A lot of what I learned challenged initial perceptions or beliefs that I had. For example, the circumstances that forced women into prostitution in Thailand and how women were seen as worthless in Mexican maquilas. It’s harder to judge people or whole groups after you learn about their unique situations.”

“The main thing I learned in this class is how dominant the US economy is compared to the rest of the world. I never knew that all these third world countries were suffering because they weren’t getting tariff benefits, morphine shipments, land rights or food supplies that the US had imposed over that government/economy. I always used to look at those poor families on National Geographic with their 8 kids and be disgusted with how they were living. I never knew the US had such a negative impact on those people by forming NAFTA or the World Bank so that government gives us money instead of their citizens. I am very happy I learned things like this because I’m sick of looking at these foreign pictures and thinking why they have to live like that. Now I know and I’m glad I’m not a complete US citizen.”

“...this course has challenged my perspective on how the world works.”

“Nearly everything we learned challenged the opinions I had before taking this class, which was good! I walked out of lecture everyday so confused, it seemed, but everything always added up and I feel I have a good understanding of all the material covered which was all important to how we should view ourselves and the world.”

“I guess my whole life I’ve been interested in politics, foreign policy and all that nerdy stuff. Yet, every policy, bills, legislation I read about was always from a US point of view. Thanks to this class I learned stuff about the affects our country as well as the World Bank and IMF have on the less powerful nations of the world. Moreover, I learned how neoliberal ? and many others

are around the world. We see the world in the form of statistics, bottom lines and supply and demand. Now I look at how people are affected, the inequalities that are allowed to exist and am more skeptical of policies. I am appreciative of this new outlook I have gained”

“...The biggest positive that I got out of this class was to look more deeply into things. For instance the National Geo pictures. This is something that will remain with me even after this class.”

“I felt that this class was very influential to me!”

“Many cultures and countries have stereotypes associated with them that are false, and I’m glad that I’m no longer as naïve about these issues as I was prior to Geo 105.”

“I learned how to look at things in a better perspective. In many instances my opinion completely changed. I liked learning about different cultures but how to change my stereotypical thoughts. I really took from the lecture about pity.”

2. Did I present the material in lecture well (powerpoints, web, videos, lectures)? Did I direct discussion in a helpful way? Was I approachable for questions etc.?

Yes, material presented well, means were helpful and I was approachable: 23
Material well presented or good discussion but somewhat dry: 10
Lectures were sometimes difficult: 3

“yes to all the questions. I enjoyed the lectures even though it was a lot of writing but the way you structured them made it more understandable.”

“videos were fascinating”

“...the professor was always striving for discussion and was easy to approach for questions.”

“you were VERY helpful sending back questions I had by email, and very prompt.”

“Rachel was very organized and presented the information in a very logical format. All powerpoints slides, videos were synergized with the lecture topic. Rachel was very approachable for questions; I commend her on her availability. I would always want to meet with her before exams to recap material, Rachel never refused.”

3. Did the syllabus follow a logical progression that you could understand? If not, please explain how it was not as organized or logical as you expected.

Yes, logical: 30

Not quite logical: 1

“the syllabus followed a logical progression that connected many parts of the world and unified the many causes of change to make solutions easily visible.”

4. Were the exams fair? Did you do well in the class? If not, why?

Exams were fair: 22

Fair but hard b/c multiple choice had multiple answers: 6

Too hard b/c of multiple answers to multiple choice: 3

“I understand wanting to provoke thought—and you did a great job about that, but exams I felt should have been curved.”

5. What would you change about the class? What would you keep?

It was good as is: 9

Keep powerpoints, videos, webpage, discussion: 9

Good content: 2

Advice for changes

Add flair: 6

More discussion: 6

Get rid of the book: 1

No research paper: 1

Make it MWF/shorter lecture: 2

Add more papers so we can express views and learned knowledge through writing: 2

Be less biased: 4

No powerpoint in class, only on the web: 1

Change tests: 3

“I loved the class. Rachel did a great job on emphasizing Neoliberalism and capitalism in other countries. As an engineering major at Syracuse ready to graduate, I am glad I took this course. It is giving me a better perspective of how society functions and how I can become a better global citizen. I honestly can't say anything bad about this class because I enjoyed it. Every aspect from the duration of the class, the lectures, and the exams were ideal. I think Rachel made this class extremely relevant to our lives, urging us to participate in class and asking us to put things into context and give her feedback. She is an asset to the Geography department and a true educator.”

“Yes expose injustice but don't gloss over the viewpoints you happen to disagree with please”

“The information was taught in a way that was a delight to learn about.”