

## Final evaluation for Rachel Slocum Global Environmental Change (GEO 315) spring 2002

### Summary

13 Evaluations out of a class of 16

Comments: This was a great class. I enjoyed teaching it and the students were excellent. Though the readings and concepts were very difficult, I could tell from class discussions and the exams that almost all of the students engaged with the ideas. As one student wrote in his evaluation, "at times we came up with some great thoughts". I was very impressed with their effort.

1. Did you learn something important?

**Yes: 92%**

2. Did the class challenge how you are accustomed to thinking?

**Yes: 69%**

No answer: 23% (Because questions 1 and 2 as well as 3-5 were phrased as one question in the evaluation, some students responded only to part of it).

3. Did I present the material in lecture well?

**Yes: 69%**

No answer: 23%

4. Did I direct discussion in a helpful way?

**Yes: 77%**

5. Was I approachable?

**Yes: 54%**

NA: 38%

6. Did the syllabus follow a logical progression?

**Yes: 69%**

More or less: 23%

7. Did the class improve after the midterm evaluation?

**Yes: 46%**

No answer: 38%

8. Were the exams fair?

**Yes: 62%**

More or less: 8%

No: 8%

No answer: 23%

Full evaluation—answers with 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? Was what you learned useful to your understanding of social/environmental problems?

Yes 12

No 1

“I learned more from this class than any other I’ve taken. I’m very interested in this topic and Slocum’s course was great in teaching me the underlying (as in, not physical) factors of environmental degradation. My critical thinking skills shot up this semester...Class discussion was grueling at times, because the content is very heavy. But of all my classes, this one I enjoyed the most. Slocum allowed us to work our way through the material slowly and at times we came up with some great thoughts...This class challenged the way people think about problems, and the content was very dense. But to me, she did all she could to get the point across.”

“I have to say, that you did an excellent job with these two classes (student took both offered), and they sparked my interest so much that I have actually considered perhaps someday returning for school to study geography further. Either way, we covered issues in both classes that I will always consider more carefully in the future. After 4 years at SU, it was nice to finally take two classes that were challenging as well as enlightening.”

“I always thought that nature and society were two separates, but I see how closely linked they are.”

“I think I learned a great deal and it did change my ideas of social and environmental problems very much...Unfortunately I am still at a loss as to what to do about them...”

2. Did the class challenge how you are accustomed to thinking?

Yes 9

No 1

NA 3

3. Did I present the material in lecture well (powerpoints, web, videos, lectures)?

Yes 9

No 1

Mostly: 3

(More effective with debating assignments, powerpoints sometimes not detailed enough)

“Everything was well organized once you learned how to work the computer. The room sucked but there’s nothing you could do about that.”

“Very, very good”

“The powerpoint presentations really help as did the videos. Points in lecture were explained clearly”

4. Did I direct discussion in a helpful way?

Yes 10

More or less 1

No 1

NA 1

“The positive to this class was that the professor did an excellent job in trying to get the students involve, trying to encourage them”

5. Was I approachable for questions etc.?

Yes 7

No 1

NA 5

6. 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 9

More or less 3 (too many changes)

No 1

7. Was there any improvement in the class after the midterm evaluation?

Yes 6

No 2

No answer 5

“There was tremendous improvement in the class after the midterm. The reading load was reduced which made it easier to focus on a topic and really understand it, rather than try and cram all of the information into one class.”

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

Yes 8

No 1

More or less 1

No answer 3

9. Aside from being too difficult and too much, is there anything else you'd like to say about the readings generally or about specific readings? The load was about right but it got repetitive

Readings presented both sides but too much  
Very informative and interesting  
Boring

“The readings toward the end were more interesting, yet the earlier ones were necessary as a basis for the arguments concerning later material.”

“The compilation of so many articles was interesting to see all the different points of view”

“Her [reading] assignments were huge, sometimes more than 40 pages for one night. These readings were often very scientific, and dealt with content we had no idea about. But once we went through them in class, I for one felt I understood them a lot better.”

“I like Haraway—she is creative and exploratory and has a solid world view”

“Some of the readings were redundant...However, al in all, the readings seemed to be relevant to the class discussions.”

10. Were there topics or assignments that you would have preferred/not preferred?

No 5

NA 5

Yes 3 (less on environmental racism, more hard science, global warming, more on Love Canal)

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

Keep the discussion

More feminist stuff and varying perspectives

Lessen the reading load

Make the content more related to social science issues

Make powerpoints more thorough

“Maybe less reading but overall it was a good class.”

“I don’t think I would change anything. The discussions were informative and good. I’m just waiting for my parents to say something is unnatural so I can jump all over them.”

“Slocum was a very good professor.”

“Students were encouraged to question the topics and the instructor which made it really helpful in understanding issues from different perspectives”

“I would recommend Slocum to a friend if I thought that person could handle high critical thinking and class participation.”