Biology Department/York Federation of Students
Course Evaluation Questionnaire

Course: BIOL_4160 3.0 (Photosynthesis) (fall, 2008)  Instructor(s):  Roger Lew
Tutorial/Lab Assistant:  Maryam Moazami

Please answer all questions as accurately and honestly as you can. Write your additional comments in the space(s) provided. Do not sign this form. The instructor will ask a student representative to collect the forms. Circle only one response per statement. A rating of 1 represents the least positive response and a rating of 5 represents the most positive response.

Motivation:
1. I took this course because it was:  
   Required (4)  Elective (16)

Rating of the Course:

2. The course fulfilled the description given in the syllabus
   least 1 (4) 2 (3) 3 (2) 4 (10) 5 (8)  mean 4.30

3. The required textbook(s) were useful
   least 1 (2) 2 (3) 3 (11) 4 (3) 5 ( )  mean 2.79

4. The required readings were useful
   least 1 (1) 2 (4) 3 (9) 4 (4) 5 (6)  mean 3.70

5. The grading system was fair
   least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 (4) 5 (16)  mean 4.80

6. I feel I learned a great deal taking this course
   least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 (1) 4 (8) 5 (10)  mean 4.47

7. The course content was interesting
   least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 (4) 4 (11) 5 (8)  mean 4.20

8. Rate this course overall
   least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 (1) 4 (11) 5 (8)  mean 4.35

Comments:  What did you like most/least about the course?
- Most: The lab component was most useful and helped you have a greater understanding; Least: Nothing
- Interesting content, great access to resources posted via the internet (course website, online reserves etc.)
- Flexible marking scheme; molecular biology aspect (though was difficult)
- Really enjoyed Dr. Lew's lectures. Entertaining and educational!
- Most: small class, great interaction, interesting; Least: Material was hard to visualize sometimes
- Most: I look at plants differently now!
- Course content was interesting, however, due to strike workload was too heavy towards end of term
- Nice professor. Interesting lab stuff
- The lecture is interesting
- The instructor made the lecture interesting; the course material is very boring (least), everything else was fine
- Most: Lectures were straightforward and test reflected what was discussed in class; Least: Some labs took too long...but were interesting (no more chloroplast isolation...)
- The evolution of photosynthesis component
- Two lab reports, variable weighting of tests etc.
- The extra material covered in lecture, and also the material that connects to other biology courses

Comment on the Marking Scheme:

Rating of the Instructor:

9. The instructor's command of the course material was extensive
   least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 (1) 4 (7) 5 (12)  mean 4.55

10. The instructor's presentations were well organized
    least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 (3) 5 (17)  mean 4.85

11. The instructor explained difficult or abstract concepts well
    least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 (2) 4 (5) 5 (13)  mean 4.55

12. Graded material was returned promptly
    least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 (1) 5 (19)  mean 4.95

13. The instructor was available and willing to answer questions
    least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 (1) 5 (19)  mean 4.95

14. The instructor was able to stimulate interest in the course
    least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 (1) 4 (4) 5 (15)  mean 4.70

15. Considering all factors, rate the instructor
    least 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 (2) 5 (18)  mean 4.90

Comment on the abilities of the instructor:
- Great very excellent lecturer
- Wealth of knowledge on the topic, makes class fun and interesting, great sense of humor! Overall wonderful professor.
- Sometimes the 'main point' of the lecture gets lost in the discussion.
• Very good lecturer. Lots of knowledge on the subject.
• Dr. Lew is Great! Very interactive and made the course interesting.
• Excellent choice of words when explaining the difficult/new concepts.
• Very nice and helpful. But the notes on the blackboard is a little bit messy.
• good.
• The instructor made the lecture interesting.
• Very enthusiastic.
• Great instruction during class.

Laboratory:
16. The laboratory assistant was an effective teacher 1(1) 2( ) 3(3) 4(5) 5(11) 4.25
17. The lab was an effective learning experience 1( ) 2( ) 3(4) 4(7) 5(9) 4.25

Comment on the laboratory experience:
• Some labs were too long (going beyond 3 hours), TA was very good
• more molecular biology?
• Good lab experiments. A lot of waiting however. Labs often ran overtime
• Too long sometimes
• Good and interesting
• I enjoyed isolating chloroplasts
• Repetitive
• Should give some instructions on the instruments that we used in the lab

Retake:
18. Ignoring any degree or professional requirements, would you have enrolled in this course knowing what you now know? YES (20) NO ( )

Advice to Prospective Students Thinking About Taking the Course?
From the students….

• Keep good lab notes so you can do your lab reports easily
• It’s a good course that has a lot of material to learn but the evaluations are fair; overall great course, highly recommended
• If you are lost with the lecture, read background info from books
• A lot of the chemistry can be seen in Advanced Biochemistry. So you might want to take that course at the same time.
• Ask questions. Dr. Lew is incredibly helpful and knowledgable, and an overall friendly fellow.
• I would recommend it. I had never taken a plant course and I found it quite interesting.
• Assignments and labs are a good way to increase your mark!!
• Take it, but don’t leave everything for the last minute!
• Don’t rely on crib sheets for the exams.
• Ask the TA for their specific demands on the lab marking scheme so that no unnecessary marks will be lost on format.
• You should have a lab notebook to record what you had done in the lab.
• Clarify any problems with lab procedure, questions or calculations well before the write-ups are due.