Biology Department/York Federation of Students

Course Evaluation Questionnaire

Course: BIOL_4160 3.0_(Photosynthesis) (fall, 2013) Instructor(s):__Roger Lew_____
Tutorial/Lab Assistant:___Chris Powe_____

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** (3) **Elective** (15)

Rating of the Course:

	least			*most positive*		**mean**
2. The course fulfilled the description given in the syllabus	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(1)	**4**(3)	**5**(14)	**4.72**
3. The required textbook(s) were useful	**1**(2)	**2**(6)	**3**(4)	**4**(3)	**5**(2)	**2.82**
4. The required readings were useful	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(1)	**4**(1)	**5**(16)	**4.83**
5. The grading system was fair	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(1)	**4**(1)	**5**(16)	**4.83**
6. I feel I learned a great deal taking this course	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(2)	**4**(5)	**5**(11)	**4.50**
7. The course content was interesting	**1**( )	**2**(1)	**3**(1)	**4**(8)	**5**(8)	**4.28**
8. Rate this course overall	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(2)	**4**(4)	**5**(12)	**4.56**

Comments: What did you like most/least about the course?

- *Most: Professor is animated; Least: Content is dry.*
- *Most: This course really fills in the blanks in my biology study; Least: Too many physics and chemistry related topics in the course, making it hard to understand when students don't have strong background.*
- *Most: Great labs; they were fun and I feel I learned a lot; Least: Little bit dull, though perhaps that's just because I'm not into plants, more human physiology.*
- *Most: The professor's interest in the course and his well thought out explanations of difficult concepts.*
- *Most: Content, flexibility in regards to weighting, textbook isn't that much use; Least: Isn't a full year course.*
- *Most: Lecture notes are posted in depth.*
- *Most: There was no [Powerpoint] presentation and the grading scheme is very good.*
- *Most: Prof was excited to teach, which made the course interesting; Least: Too early in the morning.*
- *Most: --; Least: The 8 AM start time.*
- *Most: The style of his lectures: engaging, used the board, explained well; Least: The textbook.*
- *Most: The insights on the applications of enzymes of photosynthesis into the real world, such as measuring blood alcohol with NADPH; Least: The sometimes dry content.*
- *Most: Lectures / lecture notes were very informative and interesting.*
- *Most: Interesting material, knowledgeable instructor, made lectures interactive and more interesting; Least: Textbook was very boring, not very helpful.*
- *Most: Prof, TA, topic; Least: Labs were fun but it was a bit hard because the manual wasn't as good.*
- *Most: I enjoyed pretty much all aspects of the course. The lectures and applications were amazing and the organization of the material was impeccable; Least: The lab was a little bit scattered at times, and slightly unfocussed as to what we were finding.*
- *Most: The music before lectures.*
- *The lecture content and the explanations.*

Comment on the Marking Scheme:

- *It is very good to have a flexible marking scheme.*

Rating of the Instructor:

9. The instructor's command of the course material was extensive	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(1)	**4**(1)	**5**(16)	**4.83**
10. The instructor's presentations were well organized	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(1)	**4**(2)	**5**(15)	**4.78**
11. The instructor explained difficult or abstract concepts well	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**(1)	**4**(5)	**5**(12)	**4.61**
12. Graded material was returned promptly	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**( )	**4**( )	**5**(18)	**5.00**
13. The instructor was available and willing to answer questions	**1**( )	**2**( )	**3**( )	**4**(1)	**5**(17)	**4.94**

14. The instructor was able to stimulate interest in the course **1**( ) **2**( ) **3**( ) **4**(3) **5**(15) **4.83**

15. Considering all factors, rate the instructor **1**( ) **2**( ) **3**(1) **4**( ) **5**(17) **4.89**

Comment on the abilities of the instructor:

- *Very good instructor, always trying to engage the class.*
- *Should stop scaring students by using [standing on] a chair to point at slides –Use a laser pointer!*
- *He should continue teaching the class this way because he makes it interesting.*
- *Awesome!*
- *Good job.*
- *Very good professor! Gets you thinking outside of the box.*
- *Awesome!*
- *Dr. Lew is perhaps the best lecturer I have seen, with an enthusiasm and presentation skills matched by few.*

Laboratory:

16. The laboratory assistant was an effective teacher **1**( ) **2**( ) **3**( ) **4**(4) **5**(14) **4.78**

17. The lab was an effective learning experience **1**( ) **2**( ) **3**(1) **4**(7) **5**(10) **4.50**

Comment: What did you like most/least about the laboratory experience?

- *Most: TA is very helpful; Least: Purpose of experiments was not clear.*
- *Most: The labs focus on something that I will never explore in molecular biology; Least: Most of the time, I don't get good results…*
- *Most: TA was great, experiments were new and apparatus worked (for the most part)' Least: Repetitive in isolation of spinach chloroplasts.*
- *Most: Was able to use equipment that was never used previously; Least: Could have experimented with species other than spinach.*
- *Most: Learned how to do chloroplast isolations –I do them in my dreams now; Least: Relevance to course material wasn't noticeable.*
- *Most: The new techniques that we learned; Least: We mostly used spinach; I would prefer to use a wider range of plants.*
- *Most: The labs were well organized and easy; Least: The pictures for the lab report were hard to distinguish (too many graphs).*
- *Most: Hands on which was useful in helping understand the course; Least: Lots of labs had waiting times and sometimes might not work out due to technical difficulties (aka, computer programs).*
- *Most: Mirrors what is learned in lecture; Least: Protocols could be more clear in some aspects.*
- *Most: Organization; Least: Lab tech, computer equipment.*
- *Most: It allowed us to apply the principles learned in lecture to understand first-hand what occurs in the photosynthetic processes.*
- *Most: Flexibility to "experiment" in different ways (by choosing different starting materials); Least: Large group sizes. Prefer 2 people per group if possible –more "hands-on".*
- *Most: Very helpful TA.*
- *Most: TA.*
- *Most: The environment was relaxed and provided a great opportunity to learn and interact with concepts, as well as talk to the prof and TA; Least: The results were always a bit off from the expectations, which would not have been so bad except the expectations for the lab were not always very clear.*
- *Most: Restriction enzyme digestions.*

Retake:

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

Advice to Prospective Students Thinking About Taking the Course?

From the students….

- Keep up with readings. So much more to photosynthesis than you think. Professor and TA are both awesome.
- Please reconsider your knowledge background before taking this course. Not recommended if you are just from a pure molecular biology background.
- Understand the material! Don't worry about memorizing; it won't help you if you don't have a good grasp of the underlying principles.
- Read notes and make sure you understand all diagrams and you will succeed.
- An understanding of the knowledge is required for this course. Examine previous tests as they display the nature of the questions. Memorization is key, understanding is essential.
- Read notes in depth.
- Mixture of biology and chemistry but it is an easy course if you work hard.
- It was a great course –something so different from our regular bio courses.
- This is not your typical York University course. This is a course that requires you to think outside of what you normally would, and apply what you learn. If you want to learn a new way of seeing photosynthesis, biochemical pathways, and a new understanding of scientific progress, as well as have a great lecturer, this course is for you.
- Other students should enroll.