

Student Comments

Environmental Studies 303: Human Ecology and Sustainability

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R Green notes:

The students really didn't spend much time commenting on the blended format of the course, which I think would have been ideal for this exercise. I'm pulling comments (representative of both positive and negative) of what they did say. The vast majority of comments are about work load and which readings/assignments they did or did not like or find useful because I always ask students to comment specifically on that. I didn't include those comments.

COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS WHO TOOK ONLINE BLENDED COURSE:

"I felt like I got a lot out of the discussions. The way you set up discussions forced students to deeply think about their responses, which was extremely helpful. I was pushed to contribute in these discussions much more than in a classroom setting."

"I would have liked to see a lot more communication and "live" lectures. I felt very disconnected from the course, professor, and other students; I believe that more [frequent] group online webchats for those unable to meet in person would have helped me feel more engaged."

"I found that video lecture very engaging and informative. I liked all the video lectures, and would encourage more for future classes."

"As many online/on-campus meetings as possible! As I said before, I found it very hard to connect to the class/material with so little interaction between myself and my peers/professor. I would definitely recommend that all existing meetings are mandatory, and perhaps even add a few more!"

"I like classroom settings so I enjoyed coming to the class meetings. Keep that component mandatory with the option for online/class meeting."

"The organization was well done as the modules made it easy to follow along. I really enjoyed the course and can tell a major goal of yours is to create the best experience for both you and the students. I do not see this a lot in online classes and really appreciate it!"

COMMENTS ON LARGE BLENDED COURSE:

"I feel like we were encouraged to learn and not just get good grades."

"Mini discussion groups and participation points worked great with 70 [students]. Very impressed, it felt like a small class setting."

"I think I would have gotten a lot more out of this class if it was a small (<30 people) class because I felt like discussions were rushed and I never really had time for input."

"Green is a fabulous professor and truly inspires her students to think deeply and intellectually. She expects a lot of reading and a lot of high quality papers. I appreciated this because I learned a lot."

"Breaking into groups allowed myself and others to input our opinions and thoughts that maybe we wouldn't have been able to share with the entire class."

OTHER COMMENTS:

"This format works best for me because I feel I can more easily express my understanding of knowledge or opinions in a written format, in addition to being a complete introvert. I only wish that WWU offered more online classes to cater to different learning styles."

"I like the video lectures. I've been watching you using my smart phone on the bus."

"I have a hard time sitting through 50 minute lectures, so it's nice to be able to pause you or play you a second time. I can even take you to the beach."