

Summer 2009 Evaluation Comments

8429 SSPC 410 — Instructors: Trish Malone and Kevin Preister

Field Course in Social Ecology and Public Policy

All Campus Question

1. *Based on your experience, how do you rate this instructor's teaching effectiveness?*
Scored on a scale of 1-7, 1 being low: 6.33

The following questions are scored on a scale of 1-7; 1=disagree, 4=neutral, 7=agree

2. *Your instructor shows respect for students.* 7
3. *Your instructor is helpful when you have difficulties.* 6.33
4. *Your instructor is fair and impartial in dealing with students.* 6.67
5. *Your instructor's class presentations are well organized.* 6
6. *Your instructor appeared interested in the subject.* 7
7. *Your instructor presented the material in an interesting manner.* 6.67
8. *The material was presented at an appropriate pace.* 5.33
9. *Your instructor is able to stimulate your thinking.* 7
10. *The expected level of performance was made clear to you.* 4.67
11. *Your instructor makes effective use of examples and/or illustrations to clarify the material.*
6.33
12. *Tests and other assessment devices effectively measured your understanding of the material.* 5

Essay Questions

1. What did you anticipate when you came into the program?

- I expected it to be small like 10-15 maybe 20 students. Didn't realize it was only 3. (Expected to get good one-on-one opportunities). I anticipated that we would be working in the community in some way but it was unclear. But it was ok, I was hopeful & willing.
- I anticipated learning effective methods of fieldwork in an applied anthropological setting. We do hands on work in a community and attempt to shape public policy in a way that is truly effective.
- Faculty mentored field experience. Lots of feedback on work. Ideas about a better approach to policy making.

2. What new thing did you learn that was particularly meaningful for you?

- I learned the process, by doing. How to get myself out there, where to go, different areas and objects to look for that are key, and what they mean to community or what that says & didn't say. Conversation skills, interview skills, presentation practice.
- Talking to strangers. Also that policy makers should go to the people rather than have people go to policy makers when something is wrong.
- The high potential for contributing meaningfully to the emerging field of social ecology.

3. If you were recommending other students to the program, what points would you make?

- It's a good program that teams the importance & significance of relationships, networks and new people 'work' in a community. It's fun you get to actually talk with real people, give real results, and become part of a community you wouldn't have otherwise.
- Rigorous but stimulating, gain practical work experience, meet new people, see a community with different eyes, fun working environment.
- The chance to see communities in completely new eyes—that is with eyes targeted on action and improving community life for a whole range of people.

4. *How has the program affected your education pathways?*

- It has encouraged me to go deeper and explore more opportunities like this. Has created/pushed me to realize some of my passions in this field by seeing and working with people that are doing it.
- It probably makes me consider anthropology as a career path rather than gearing only towards graphic design (I'm an anthro/graphic design double major)
- I am much more inclined to pursue anthropologically focused graduate work than before. Community directed studies have risen on my educational priorities.

5. *Was the four-week length of the program too much or too little and why?*

- In theory it was a good length but I think for what we wanted or the expectations that I had for accomplishing the full process it was too short we weren't able to get a lot of real depth. It was a good way to start off though—a good taste/beginning.
- There is a lot going on in these 4 weeks. One can always do more in a community and it's only natural to run out of time.
- Too little. 6-12 weeks is probably more appropriate to ___?___ for more in depth understanding of the policy and engage in rigorous issue management training.

6. *Are there things you particularly liked about this course or the way the instructor taught it?*

- I liked how we were encouraged to get out there, with no expectations really. And how it was ok, and we talked and brought something out of it. I liked shadowing, learning from “experts.” The opportunity to work close with people of such merit.
- Meeting people in informal settings. It's a new concept for me in terms of anthropology.
- Yes. Kevin & Trish are amazing, professional (?), committed people. Role models to me. The course instilled in me voices of inclusion & participation I will take with me into so many different contexts, organizations, social settings, etc.
- Having Jim come in and adding his perspective to the course/process.

7. *Are there things you would like to suggest to your instructor to improve this course?*

- Perhaps more reflection in terms of breaking it down like we had to do to start organizing for the presentation to pull out key findings. How to go further with those issues to identify them helped realize what we didn't know and needed to go further with.
- They should advertise the course no later than January (for the summer following). Maybe thinking about "focus" policy for class sooner. To use big table rather than desks for collaboration/reflection/class time. Also to use a rug on the floor!
- Spread the readings out more to be tied to specific lectures.
- Teach around a table, not confining, hierarchically arranged desks
- Develop a policy focus in first week
- More one-on-one feedback time. Honest & thorough feedback on written & practical work
- More intense coaching—possibly conducting an interview with us?

8. *Any additional comments?*

- Trying new teaching strategies that better facilitates group collaboration, like a big table in the middle, desks felt confining—need to make room a comfortable and less hierarchical place to facilitate more free flowing conversations and relationships and break down barriers for all, students and trainers.
- For the first time I have felt a drive and passion to go in a direction with a career.
- Thank you! I have really enjoyed working and learning from you both!
- It was an awesome experience and changes the way I see communities in general!
- Excellent. A profound month in my life
- A rug would be (rug from some ____?____ country, preferably tibet)